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A New Study Looks at Asian Americans in the Law

New Study: Progress for Asian American Lawyers in Some Areas, but They're Underrepresented Among Equity Partners, U.S. Attorneys, Law Clerks

According to data produced in collaboration by the American Bar Foundation, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and several law schools, Asian American lawyers have made great strides in some areas but are underrepresented in others. For example, 6% of active federal judges are Asian American, up from 3.4% in 2016; the number of Asian American general counsel at Fortune 1,000 companies went to 45 in 2020 from 19 in 2009; and the number of Asian American and Pacific Islander law students has been increasing after it hit a 20-year low in 2017. However, only 4% of equity partners are Asian American (compared with 13% of associates), only one of the 93 Senate-confirmed U.S. attorneys is Asian American, and Asian American representation among law clerks has remained about the same for 25 years. [Reuters](#) highlights additional findings, including what some survey respondents said about racial discrimination they've faced and about why they decided to become lawyers.

What if the Move Away from U.S. News Rankings Isn't Such a Big Deal After All?

Though 12 of the top 14 (T14) law schools in the United States have recently announced they're withdrawing from the U.S. News & World Report rankings process, some law school deans and others have expressed a bit of skepticism regarding how widespread and meaningful this trend will become. Sounding that note more colorfully is columnist Vivia Chen, who calls this news "a big nothing burger." Why? T14 schools know their place in the hierarchy is secure even without the rankings, but the situation among schools in the other tiers is more volatile and competitive, Chen writes—and many prospective students still turn to the annual rankings when choosing where to apply. In an opinion piece for [Bloomberg Law](#), Chen shares which two T14 schools have yet to withdraw and some thoughts on the reliability and marketability of the rankings.

Employees Feeling Stuck Doing the Same Thing? Encourage Them to Be 'Serial Specialists'

What happens when employees who specialize in a particular area get bored with what they're doing? Mike Bechtel, chief futurist at consulting firm Deloitte, suggests tapping into this desire for change rather than letting it lead to quiet quitting—or actual quitting. By building internal career paths where workers can move laterally among different skills and technologies, he explains, you cultivate "serial specialists" who can adapt to changing needs rather than focusing on one thing until they burn out. In an interview with [Fast Company](#), Bechtel offers this and other takeaways from his firm's annual Tech Trends report, released last week.

Law Firms Plan Big Rate Increases for Next Year but Also Offer Discounts

After two years of rate increases that didn't keep up with inflation, many law firm leaders are planning rate increases of 7% to 8% next year—a bigger increase than one Wells Fargo

Legal Specialty Group senior consultant has seen in 15 years of tracking. However, the rate increases may be part of a strategy that also includes increased write-offs and discounts: In a recent survey, 75% of law firms in North America reported that they increased write-offs in 2022, and another 27% of North American law firms said they offer discounts to their clients. Learn more about the latest law firm economic trends at [ABA Journal](#).



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