



US LEGAL INDUSTRY FACTS AND FIGURES

ALM Media Properties

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U.S. Legal Industry Facts and Figures

How many lawyers are in the U.S.?

- There were **1,245,205** licensed lawyers in 2011, according to the American Bar Association, but not all of them were actively practicing law. A significant but unknown number maintain their licenses while working in other fields.
- **561,350** lawyers were employed in business or government as of May 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This excludes solo practitioners – i.e., those self-employed lawyers who are neither in a partnership nor receiving a company or government salary.
- **139,551** lawyers work in the nation’s 350 largest law firms, according to a 2012 survey by ALM’s *The National Law Journal*.

Where do they practice?

The most recent reliable study, conducted in 2000 by the American Bar Foundation, found the following distribution of “practice settings”:

Private Practice	74%
Government	8%
Private Industry	8%
Retired/Inactive	5%
Judiciary	3%
Education	1%
Legal Aid/ Public Defender	1%
Private Association	1%

Which law firms are the largest?

- Ranked by gross revenue in a 2012 report by ALM's *The American Lawyer*.

Baker & McKenzie	\$2.265 billion
DLA Piper	\$2.247 billion
Skadden	\$2.165 billion
Latham & Watkins	\$2.152 billion
Kirkland & Ellis	\$1.750 billion

- Ranked by number of lawyers in a 2012 report by ALM's *The National Law Journal*:

Baker & McKenzie	3,805 lawyers
DLA Piper	3,746 lawyers
Jones Day	2,407 lawyers
Hogan Lovells	2,253 lawyers
Latham & Watkins	2,014 lawyers

How diverse is the legal profession?

According to the 2012 Diversity Scorecard study by ALM's *The American Lawyer*, 13.6% of all attorneys in large U.S. law firms are minorities.

The study identified the most diverse law firms, based on their percentage of minority lawyers and minority partners, as:

1. Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith
2. White & Case
3. Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy
4. Munger, Tolles & Olson
5. Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle

How much do lawyers earn?

Median total compensation, according to *ALM Legal Intelligence's* 2012 Survey of Law Firm Economics and 2011 Law Department Compensation Benchmarking Survey:

Law firm new associates	\$ 110,618
Law firm associates	\$ 135,550
Law firm partners	\$ 336,160
Corporate in-house counsel	\$126,900

Firms with highest average compensation per partner, according to 2011 report by ALM's *The American Lawyer*:

Wachtell	\$4,460,000
Quinn Emmanuel Urguhart & Sullivan	\$3,420,000
Sullivan & Cromwell	\$3,220,000
Cravath	\$3,100,000
Paul, Weiss	\$3,095,000

What were the largest verdicts awarded in the past year?

- \$150.4 billion wrongful death case, *Middleton v. Collins*, won by Craig M. Sico and Cliff Alexander, Sico, White, Hoelscher & Braugh LLP
- \$2.3 billion intellectual property case, *Pacesetter Inc. v Nervicon Company*, won by James A. Gale, Feldman Gate PA.
- \$1.5 billion toxic torts case, *Allison v. Exxon Mobil*, won by Peter G. Angelos and H. Russell Smouse, Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos.
- \$.9 billion intellectual property case, *E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company v. Kolten Industries, E.D.*, won by Brian C. Riopelle, McGuire Woods LLP and Michael J. Songer, Crowell Moring LLP.
- \$576.9 million intellectual property case, won by Christopher J. Banks and Benjamin P. Smith, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

How much “pro bono” (volunteer) work is done by U.S. lawyers?

The 200 largest law firms contributed a total of 4,892,937 hours of pro bono work last year, according to 2012 Pro Bono Survey by ALM’s *The American Lawyer*. This averages out to 54.3 hours per lawyer.

The firms with the highest Am Law Pro Bono Score, a calculation based both on average per-lawyer hours and on the percentage of lawyers contributing 20 hours or more, are:

1. Jenner & Block
2. Paul, Hastings
3. Covington & Burling
4. Hughes Hubbard
5. Millbank Tweed

How advanced are lawyers with the use of technology?

Facts about company legal departments, from the 2011 In-House Tech Survey by ALM’s *Corporate Counsel*:

- 60% of departments surveyed say mobile devices are now being used in lieu of laptops when traveling; 89% still offer lawyers company BlackBerrys, but 33% supply iPhones, 9% Android phones and 7% iPads.
- 40% of departments expect lawyers to answer every message they receive, regardless of the time or reason.
- Only half of corporate law departments have a formal security policy for mobile devices.
- About three-quarters permit lawyers to bring digital files from home on electronic devices.
- 35% require e-billing by outside counsel.

Facts about large law firms from the 2011 Am Law Tech Survey by ALM’s *The American Lawyer*:

- 65% of firms are using cloud computing services, which run remotely on a vendor's infrastructure, and the area of highest usage is e-discovery/litigation support with 63% reporting this use.
- 93% of firms supply lawyers with tablets such as the iPad.
- 99% use videoconferencing and 97% use Web conferencing technology. Over three-quarters have dedicated videoconferencing rooms.
- 65% of firms publish blogs and 75% use social networking technology.

What do legal experts believe to be the most important Supreme Court decisions in the U.S. in 2012?

- National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius upholding the Obama administration's health care reform law.
- Arizona v. U.S. found that federal law preempts most provisions of Arizona's anti-immigration law — with one key exception; the immigration checks provision does not immediately conflict with federal law.
- Miller v. Alabama overturned a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for juvenile murderers.
- Miller v. Frye and Laffler v. Cooper extended Sixth Amendment protections to the plea bargain process and allows defendants to sue their lawyers for ineffective assistance if they mishandle plea offers.
- U.S. v. Alvarez overturned a federal law — the Stolen Valor Act — that made it a crime to lie about having earned a military honor.
- Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church v. EEOC found that the First Amendment's "ministerial exception" bars employment discrimination lawsuits when the employer is a religious group and the employee is one of the group's ministers.
- Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders found that strip searches do not violate the privacy rights of individuals arrested for minor offenses.
- Maples v. Thomas ruled that an Alabama death row inmate should not be penalized for missing a crucial appeal deadline when the error was caused by his pro bono lawyers from Sullivan & Cromwell.

- U.S. v. Jones ruled that law enforcement's warrantless installation and use of a GPS device to track a suspect's vehicle violated privacy rights protected by the Fourth Amendment.
- Sackett v. EPA found that property owners have the right to judicial review of orders by the Environmental Protection Agency to stop development of land that may be protected by the Clean Water Act.

What do legal experts consider the most important Supreme Court decisions in U.S. history?

- Marbury v. Madison (1803) – The court says that it has the power of judicial review.
- Brown v. Board of Education (1955) – The court struck down separate but equal and ordered integration in the nation's schools with “all deliberate speed.”
- Miranda v. Arizona (1966) – The court affirmed the right of the accused to protect themselves from self-incrimination.
- Roe v. Wade (1973) – Justices strike down bans on abortion and affirm women's autonomy.
- US v Nixon (1974) – Finding against the president, the court states unequivocally that no man or woman is above the law.

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