



THE STANDARD IN ATTORNEY
SEARCH AND PLACEMENT™

ATTORNEY SEARCH

THE 2010 BCG ATTORNEY SEARCH GUIDE TO AMERICA'S TOP 50 LAW SCHOOLS



Yale Law School Harvard Law School Stanford Law School Columbia Law School New York University School of Law University of California–Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law University of Chicago Law School University of Pennsylvania Law School University of Michigan Law School Duke University School of Law Northwestern University School of Law University of Virginia School of Law Cornell University Law School Georgetown University Law Center University of California–Los Angeles University of Texas School of Law Vanderbilt University Law School University of Southern California Gould School of Law Washington University School of Law–St. Louis Boston University School of Law Emory Law School University of Minnesota Law School Indiana University School of Law–Bloomington University of Illinois College of Law University of Notre Dame Law School Boston College Law School University of Iowa College of Law The College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law The George Washington University Law School Fordham Law School University of Alabama School of Law University of North Carolina School of Law University of Washington School of Law Washington and Lee University School of Law Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law University of California–Davis School of Law University of Georgia School of Law University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School University of North Carolina School of Law Wake Forest University School of Law Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School George Mason University School of Law University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law University of Maryland School of Law American University Washington College of Law Tulane University Law School University of Colorado School of Law S.J. Quinney College of Law Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law



The 2010 BCG Attorney Search Guide to America's Top 50 Law Schools



The 2010 BCG Attorney Search Guide to America's Top 50 Law Schools

BCG Attorney Search

175 South Lake Avenue, Suite 200

Pasadena, CA 91101

800-298-6440 (*toll-free*)

213-895-7300 (*tel.*)

213-895-7306 (*fax*)

contact@bcgsearch.com (*email*)

Visit our website at www.bcgsearch.com for more information on our services and products.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted without the express written consent of the publisher.

While the publisher has endeavored to provide accurate and up-to-date information, it makes no representations or warranties with respect to the contents of this book. BCG Attorney Search may not be held liable for any loss or damage resulting from use of the information herein.

CONTENTS

4	Introduction
5	Decoding Law School Rankings
11	Decoding Class Rankings—What Should the Recruiter Look For?
15	Law Review Participation
21	Yale Law School
30	Harvard Law School
41	Stanford Law School
51	Columbia Law School
61	New York University School of Law
70	University of California—Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law
80	University of Chicago Law School
87	University of Pennsylvania Law School
96	University of Michigan Law School
105	Duke University School of Law
115	Northwestern University School of Law
123	University of Virginia School of Law
133	Cornell University Law School
142	Georgetown University Law Center
154	University of California—Los Angeles
163	University of Texas School of Law
172	Vanderbilt University Law School
181	University of Southern California Gould School of Law
189	Washington University School of Law—St. Louis
198	Boston University School of Law
205	Emory Law School
213	University of Minnesota Law School
221	Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington
228	University of Illinois College of Law
236	University of Notre Dame Law School
244	Boston College Law School
253	University of Iowa College of Law
261	The College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law
271	The George Washington University Law School
282	Fordham Law School
290	University of Alabama School of Law

- 297 University of North Carolina School of Law
- 305 University of Washington School of Law
- 313 Washington and Lee University School of Law
- 321 Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law
- 328 University of California–Davis School of Law
- 335 University of Georgia School of Law
- 343 University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School
- 350 University of North Carolina School of Law
- 359 Wake Forest University School of Law
- 367 Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School
- 375 George Mason University School of Law
- 383 University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
- 391 University of Maryland School of Law
- 399 American University Washington College of Law
- 411 Tulane University Law School
- 420 University of Colorado School of Law
- 428 S.J. Quinney College of Law
- 437 Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
- 445 Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

INTRODUCTION

Raw data is just noise. Only organized and contextualized data can provide meaningful information.

The 2010 BCG Attorney Search Guide to America's Top 50 Law Schools is a comprehensive overview of America's top 50 law schools as identified by the 2009 U.S. News & World Report.

The purpose of this guide is to provide readers with updated and current information that is useful and easily accessible. This meticulously compiled guide is a product of BCG Attorney Search, the leading search and recruitment company for attorneys. BCG Attorney Search is owned and operated by Career Mission, the largest conglomerate of organizations in the world dedicated to helping attorneys find jobs and enhance their careers.

In our guide, we aim to provide law firms with objective information about the best law schools. Our hope is that this information will prove useful in understanding the grading systems of top law schools and the various academic programs and journals in which students at these schools participate. Whether you are a recruiter, recruiting coordinator, hiring partner, or prospective law student, deciphering the grading and ranking systems of various schools can pose a challenge. This publication attempts to demystify these classifications and to provide the reader with objective information and a greater understanding of how to interpret resumes, transcripts, and cover letters.

In short, the 2010 BCG Attorney Search Guide to America's Top 50 Law Schools provides:

- A comparative reference to the top US law schools.
- An explanation of the grading systems used by America's top 50 law schools.
- Information about each school's publications.
- Information to help guide potential employers in making informed hiring choices.
- Information regarding each school's faculty, class size, academic honors and awards, moot court and clinical programs, entering-class GPA and LSAT scores, and post-law school employment statistics, as well as a few facts that convey the overall atmosphere at each school.

In our endeavor to bring to our readers the best and most current information, we have gathered and analyzed data from the website of each law school and the NALP Directory.

There has been a marked change in grading systems adopted by top law schools. Stanford Law School had a numerical grading system but now will be using a new system - which will award grades of honors, pass, restricted credit and no credit. Harvard Law School will also switch from the letter-grade system to an honors/pass/low pass/fail system.

We hope you find this guide useful. We have done our best to provide you with consistent information about each of the top 50 law schools. Your comments and suggestions, as well as updated information, are always welcome.

DECODING LAW SCHOOL RANKINGS

Separating the grain from the chaff is never an easy task. At the end of the day, nobody is completely happy with the millers' efforts. So it is with law school rankings in the United States. Then why do it? One reason is to "rank for quality and for best value," according to U.S. News & World Report.¹ We use these rankings as a starting point to provide you with useful information to compare and assess the top US law schools.

For potential law students, this information will help you make the most informed choice about which law schools to apply to and perhaps attend. For recruiters, we have compiled this information to help you hire the best attorneys who fit the needs of your firm or business.

The rankings of law schools by U.S. News & World Report are based on a weighted average of 12 measures of quality indicators. These indicators are quality assessment (weighted by .40), selectivity (weighted by .25), placement success (weighted by .20), and faculty resources (weighted by .15). Specialty rankings are based on nomination by legal educators at peer institutions. These rankings are based on two types of data: expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students. Statistical indicators fall into two categories: inputs, or measures of the qualities that students and faculty bring to the educational experience, and outputs, or measures of graduates' achievements linked to their degrees.

While there has been a sea change in law school rankings, The U.S. News & World Report has also concurrently modified their methods of ranking law schools. Previously, only the full-time entering student data used to be considered for the variables of acceptance rate, median undergraduate grade-point averages, and median LSAT scores. However, this year, the full-time entering student data has been combined with 2008 class admissions data for both full-time and part-time students to arrive at the rankings.

A school's rank reflects the number of schools that sit above it; if three schools are tied at 1, the next school will be ranked 4, not 2. Tied schools are listed alphabetically to find their numeric order like.^{2,3}

Identifying Talent

So how does one identify the "best" talent from the pool of law school graduates? The 2010 BCG Attorney Search Guide to America's Top 50 Law Schools aims to help answer this question. You'll have at your disposal the key markers that tell you how well a student has performed relative to his or her peers at other top law schools.

One way to decipher comparative achievement is to look at the honors distinctions an attorney may have earned, namely *summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *cum laude*, or honors. We'll tell you what these designations really mean, because they differ from law school to law school. You might also check to see if your candidate was a member of any honors societies, such as the Order of the Coif or the Law Review. But a caution is in order here. Alike those for attaining graduation honors, qualifications for making law review differ depending on the law school, so consult our guide to determine what these honors signify.⁴

Other important factors in identifying top law schools and top graduates include the average median undergraduate GPA of a law school's entering class, the average median LSAT of the entering class, and the acceptance rate of the entering class.

RANK

1

YALE LAW SCHOOL

MAILING ADDRESS¹

P.O. Box 208215
New Haven, CT 06520-8215

MAIN PHONE

203-432-4992

WEBSITE

<http://www.law.yale.edu>

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

203-432-1678

ADMISSIONS PHONE

203-432-4995

CAREER SERVICES PHONE

203-432-1676

Overview^{2,3}

Located in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Law School is one of the world's premier law schools. It offers an environment of excellence and educational intimacy in the form of a world-renowned faculty, small classes, limitless opportunities for clinical training, and strong encouragement of public service. Small by design, the law school's impact on the world is measured by its accomplished graduates and its ongoing scholarship and outreach through numerous centers and projects.

For students, the experience is unparalleled. The faculty-student ratio supports a vast array of courses and opportunities for independent research and student-organized seminars. Students get practical training by representing real clients in clinics starting in their first year.

Throughout, a spirit of collaboration reigns. All first-term courses are ungraded, and subsequent classes are graded Honors/Pass/Low Pass. Among the school's graduates are US presidents and Supreme Court justices, and among its far-reaching projects are the Information Society Project and the China Law Center.

The Lillian Goldman Library of Yale Law School has a good collections of printed legal materials. The collections are complemented by access to a growing array of online sources, as well as the strong interdisciplinary collections housed nearby at more than twenty-five other campus libraries, including the Sterling Memorial Library and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The newly renovated law library is to support the needs of twenty-first-century legal researchers by integrating access to print and online sources throughout the library.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁴

6.8:1

Admission Criteria⁵

The following LSAT and GPA data pertain to the fall 2008 entering class:

	LSAT	GPA
25 th -75 th Percentile	169-177	3.81-3.97

BCG Attorney Search

www.bcgsearch.com

Century City | Chicago | Houston | Los Angeles | New York | Newport Beach | Washington, DC