

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**Section of Legal Education
and Admissions to the Bar**

**ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions
to the Bar Will Collect Additional Employment
Information from Law Schools in its Annual
Questionnaire**

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The Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has accepted the recommendation of its Questionnaire Committee to amend the Annual Questionnaire that all ABA-approved law schools submit, to include additional information on employment and placement of graduates. This additional information will be displayed by the section in the *ABA/LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools* and on the Law School Admissions Council website.

In a recently issued statement to deans and career service officers at ABA-approved law schools, the Section wrote:

Concerns have been raised by various organizations and individuals about the sufficiency and correctness of currently available law school placement data. During the past year the Questionnaire Committee has engaged in an extensive effort to gather information on this issue from deans and career services officers as well as from national and regional pre-law advisor associations, various law school professors, the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the ABA Law Student Division, and a number of students or recent graduates who are members of advocacy groups concerned with transparency of law school placement data. In developing its proposals, the Committee's objective was to collect and provide correct data that will be sufficient to assist law school applicants in making decisions on whether to go to law school and which school to attend, and to assist current law students and recent graduates in making employment decisions.

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As to job data, the 2011 Annual Questionnaire will request from law schools information on their graduates' employment status, employment types and employment locations. It will also request additional and new information on whether a graduate's employment is long-term or short-term. Finally, it will ask how many, if any, positions held by their graduates are funded by the law school or university.

New data will also be collected in the spring of 2012 (soon after February 15, 2012, the traditional nine-month-after-graduation date), for the graduating class of 2011, including whether the graduate's job is part-time or full-time; whether the job requires bar passage; whether a J.D. is preferred for the job; whether the job is in another profession; and whether the job is a non-professional one. Definitions for these categories will be developed this coming fall. However, rather than wait until August 2012 to collect these new data, our plan is to collect those data from the schools soon after February 15, 2012 and display the data on our website in the late spring/early summer.

The Section believes that the collection of this new information will bring additional transparency to the data reporting system employed by the Section, and offer very helpful information to assist prospective law students and graduates in making very important decisions about law school attendance and careers.