Black Law Student Survey

Lawyers of Color surveyed nearly 50 current law students from different parts the country attending different types of law schools. We asked them questions on a range of topics from their experiences with microaggressions to the amount of their student loan debt to their job prospects. Here are the results.

• How often do you experience microaggressions at your law school?



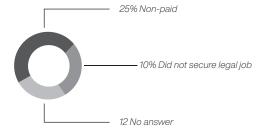
[About half of respondents said they experience microaggressions at law school at least weekly.]

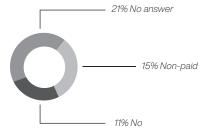
• When you finish law school, how much will you owe in total undergraduate and law loans?



[About a third of respondents said they had over \$150,000 in student debt. Seven have more than \$250,000..]

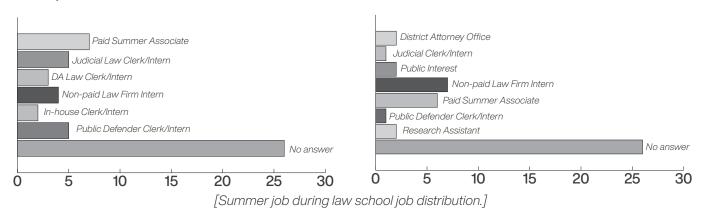
- Did you secure a legal job after first year?
- Did you secure a legal job after second year?





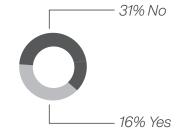
[More than half of respondents did not secure a paid legal job following first or second year of law school.]

• If you secured a legal job following your first year of law school, what was your employment status in that position?



- Do you feel you receive adequate faculty and administrative support from your law school?
- Is there adequate black faculty at your law school?





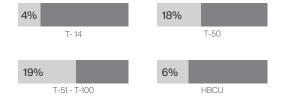
[Only half of respondents feel they receive adequate faculty and administrative support from their law schools.]

[Most respondents don't feel their law schools have adequate black faculty.]

How do you intend to pay your student loan debt?







[Nearly a third of respondents said they have no idea how they are going to pay off their student loans.]

[A few respondents attend T-14 law schools. Most of the respondents attend law schools ranked in the second and third tiers.]

- When you entered law school, were you aware of the employment numbers your school submitted to ABA?
- Are you now aware of the employment numbers your school submitted to ABA?









[Many law students do not pay attention to their law school's employment placement figures.]

- How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted your employment prospects?
 - My Summer Associate program was cancelled, but I received a job offer for after graduation and summer stipend.
 - My initial in house internship was cancelled, which forced me to find a new summer opportunity. (both are paid summer positions)
 - My pay decreased 15% and instead of being paid for 10 weeks, I'm being paid for 5 weeks. I still have my position, but I'm worried that I missed out on 5 additional weeks of experience that other students are receiving.
 - My internship turned from a paid opportunity to an unpaid opportunity.
 - It has made my 10 week in person summer program a 4 week virtual program.
 - It cancelled my employment prospects. I withdrew applications to prevent bringing something home to my elderly father.
 - I was unable to do my original summer job. With my current position in the clinic I am unable to meet with clients, go to court, or do some of the presentations that the clinic usually does. However, I still feel that I was able to gain a lot from my position.
 - I was not able to intern this year with a firm. I wanted to get court experience and the courts weren't open.
 - I had to move to a different City.
 - I chose to take summer classes instead of pursing summer employment because many firms suspended summer positions.

[While less than 5 sighted no difference, 20 said they were negatively impacted either through things like job opportunities being put on hold or positions being reduced or rescinded.]