

Suffolk University Law School's

Intellectual Property S.T.E.M. Professionals Survey



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Rethinking Education of S.T.E.M. Legal Professionals

As a national leader in the education of S.T.E.M. legal professionals, Suffolk University Law School launched this survey to assist S.T.E.M. legal professionals, their employers (current and future) and law schools across the country in understanding the demographics, motivations and treatment of this specific population.

Our international economy is increasingly reliant on intellectual property. Discoveries in life sciences, high technology, engineering and mechanics save lives, improve healthcare, protect citizens, create new markets and jobs, and entertain us. S.T.E.M. legal professionals are highly sought after employees.

Whether their titles are patent attorneys, tech specs, patent agents or science advisors, these S.T.E.M. professionals are the human capital necessary to understand the power of inventions and how to protect as well as monetize them.

The goal of this survey is to educate all stakeholders involved in supporting the innovation economy in the area of understanding and protecting intellectual property. By polling current S.T.E.M. legal professionals, we've first and foremost taken a step towards identifying and creating a stronger community for them. Further, the data collected will assist those considering law school, those in law school as well as their employers and educators in understanding the financial, logistical and educational concerns of S.T.E.M. legal professionals.

I invite you to review our data and reach out to us with your feedback. As a result, we will be creating our updated survey for next year and with your input, more refined information will be collected and distributed to all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

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Survey Methodology

- The survey respondents were those identified as technology specialists, patent agents, patent engineers, science advisors or other S.T.E.M. related professionals working at a law firm or in-house legal department. All respondents were located in the U.S.
- The survey included 22 questions. Branching logic resulted in some respondents answering fewer than 22 questions.
- The focus of the survey was S.T.E.M. professionals in law school or contemplating law school. Practicing attorneys were not included.
- The survey was conducted as a digital online questionnaire.
- All of the data was collected between February 2019 and April 2019.
- We received a 15% response rate.
- The survey respondents were identified using IP Watchdog's Top Patent Firm listing for 2018.

Key Findings

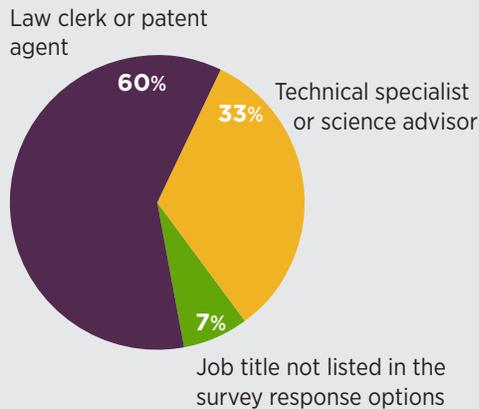
From the survey results, we were able to identify the following key findings:

- Over 70% of employers paid either full or partial tuition for respondents, with 55% paying full tuition;
- Upon graduation, approximately 70% of respondents expected to receive advanced standing at their current law firms; and
- The most cited reasons for choosing a law school was location and proximity to work.

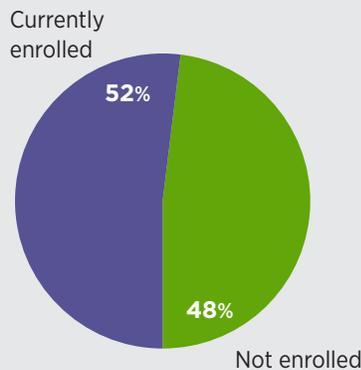
Survey Results

Respondents and Law School

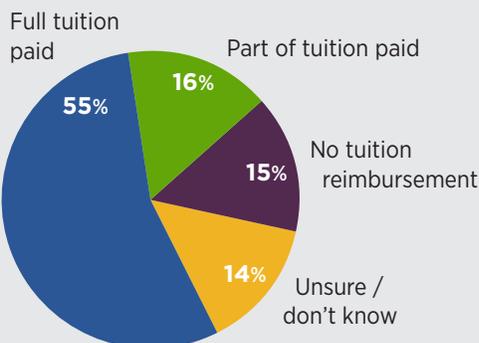
Respondents' Job Titles



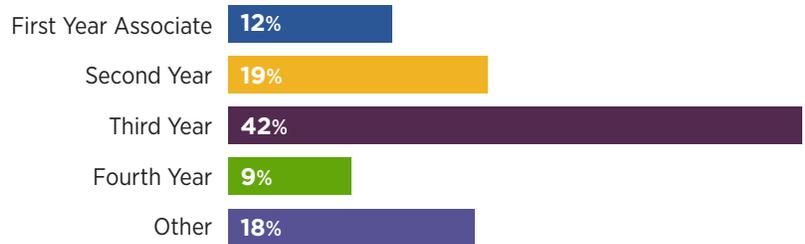
Respondents' Enrolled in Law School



Employer Payment of Law School Tuition



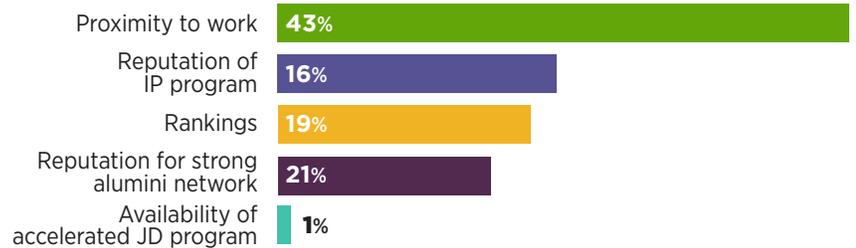
Expected class year in law firm upon graduation



Decision in choosing law school

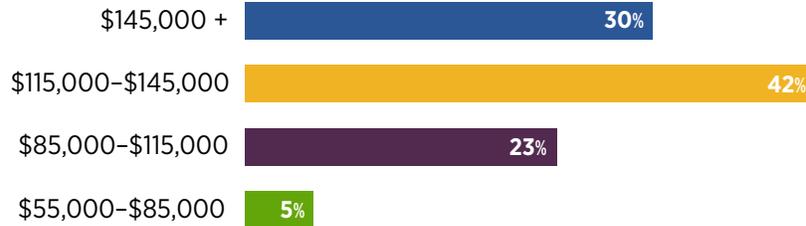


Decision in choosing night program



Respondents' Current Job Position

Salary Breakdown

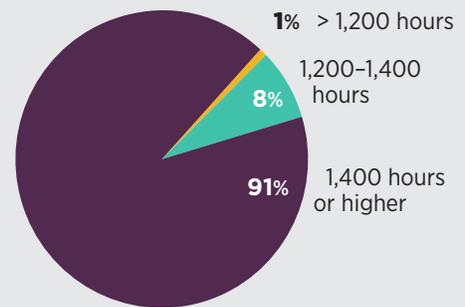


Billable Hours Requirement



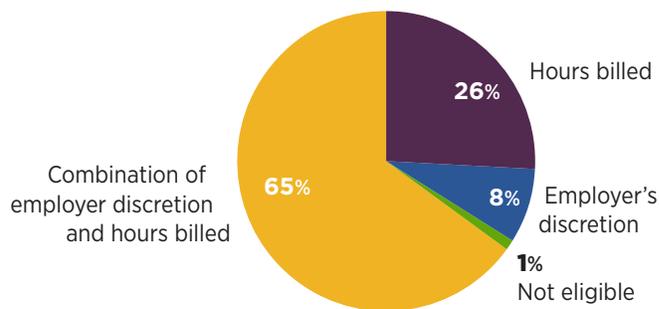
Of the **86** percent of respondents with a billable hours requirement, the breakdown of hours required was as follows:

Amount of Hours Required



Annual Expected Bonus from Current Employer

The basis for awarding a bonus was contingent on:



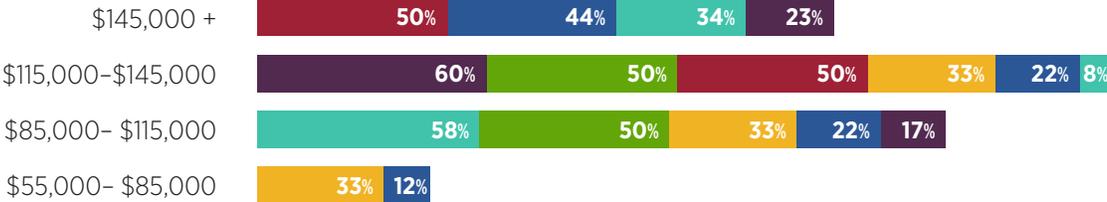
Demographics of Respondents

Respondents by Region

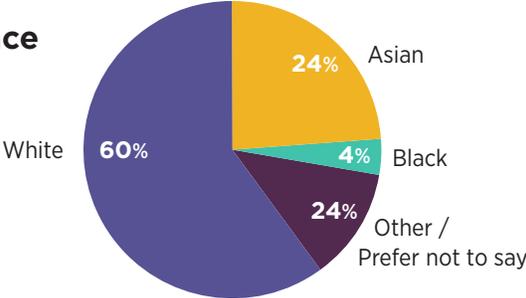
Law Firm Headquarters of Respondents



Salary Breakdown by Region



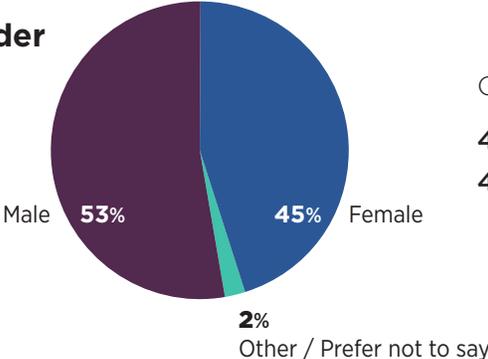
Race



Respondents who elected to disclose where they went to law school indicated they were attending:

- Boston University School of Law,
- California Western School of Law,
- DePaul University College of Law,
- Fordham University Law School,
- Suffolk University Law School, and
- University of Houston Law Center

Gender



Of the 89 answering the gender question breakdown

- 47 Male
- 40 Female
- 2 Other / Prefer not to say