

### **Law Firm Rankings 2013: The Best Law Firms for Diversity**

*Vault Career Intelligence*, 2012

<http://www.vault.com/wps/portal/usa/rankings/individual?rankingId1=36&rankingId2=36&rankings=2&regionId=0>

The 25 Best Law Firms for Diversity ranking determines how well each firm performed based on representation of minorities, women, and GLBT attorneys. In the overall rankings, the firms Carlton Fields (score of 9.176), Ropes & Gray LLP (8.893), and Littler Mendelson P.C. (8.781) have been the top 3 firms in both 2012 and 2013. In Diversity for Women, Carlton Fields (9.132), Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (9.099), and Littler Mendelson P.C. (8.874) fill the top 3 ranks. The top 3 firms for LGBT Diversity are Jenner & Block LLP (9.372), Carlton Fields (9.245), and Ropes & Gray LLP (9.140), and the top 3 Diversity for Minorities firms are Carlton Fields (9.151), Ropes & Gray LLP (8.708), and Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P (8.595).

### **Financial Experience & Behaviors Among Women**

*Prudential*, 2012

[http://www.prudential.com/media/managed/Pru\\_Women\\_Study.pdf](http://www.prudential.com/media/managed/Pru_Women_Study.pdf)

According to the 7<sup>th</sup> biennial Prudential Research Study, 38 percent of women remain optimistic about the U.S.'s economic prospects, even though 70 percent of women (compared to 65 percent of men) were hit hard by the recession. Fifty-three percent of women (either single, married, or with a partner) are primary breadwinners, and women are more likely now than in the prior generation to be single. However, almost one quarter (22%) of women who are married or living with a partner report making more than their spouse, and more than one third report earning relatively more as a result of the challenging economy. Women in California are more likely to be breadwinners (28% vs. 22%). On average women earn less than men (\$51k median income vs. \$57k). While nearly one fifth (18%) of white women are homemakers, nearly half of African American women (47%) and more than half of Asian women (55%) are employed full-time.

### **Ranking Midlevel Satisfaction**

*The American Lawyer*, 2012

[http://www.americanlawyer.com/PubArticleTAL.jsp?id=1202512157508&Ranking\\_Midlevel\\_Satisfaction&slreturn=20120804105928](http://www.americanlawyer.com/PubArticleTAL.jsp?id=1202512157508&Ranking_Midlevel_Satisfaction&slreturn=20120804105928)

The annual Midlevel Associates Survey sought to find out how third-, fourth-, and fifth-year associates ranked their satisfaction at their firms, ranking their firms on a scale of 1 to 5 (lowest to highest). The ratings were based on the following factors: associate relations with partners and other associates, satisfaction with the level of work, training and guidance, the firm's policy on billable hours, management's openness towards firm strategies and partnership prospects, the firm's attitude toward pro bono work, compensation and benefits, and the respondents' inclination to stay at their firms for at least two more years. The firms Nutter McClennan (4.835), Paul Hastings (4.640), and Cozen O'Connor (4.619) were the top ranked firms for 2011. According to the survey, midlevel associates in California are the most satisfied out of all the states, with an average satisfaction score of 4.740.

## **Does Race Matter in Educational Diversity? A Legal and Empirical Analysis**

*The Educational Diversity Project, 2012*

<http://www.unc.edu/edp/>

The Educational Diversity Project's ten-year study addresses the following two empirical questions: (1) Do students differ by race upon entering law school? (2) Do any differences contribute educational benefits to students, institutions, or society? By surveying approximately 6,500 incoming law students at 50 law schools, the study used extensive quantitative and qualitative empirical data to prove that a racially diverse student body did provide educational benefits. Ninety percent of students agreed that other perspectives enhanced critical thinking and that diversity in the student body helped abilities work together, and 75 to 94 percent agreed that a racially diverse study body challenged students to think about different viewpoints. In addition, 63 to 86 percent of students agreed that the benefits of racial diversity in law schools extended after graduation. Given the fact that students of different races view the world with different perspectives, interaction between diverse students encouraged richer interactions and produced positive educational outcomes. Therefore, law students do benefit from diversity on campus, and law schools should focus efforts on increasing diversity on campus.