

# FALL 2009 THE AMERICAN LAWYER

An ALM Publication

## Student Edition

### 2009 The Summer Associates Survey National Rankings

## Season Of Uncertainty

**IT WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR** for law school students as firms cut back on programs because of the recession, but interns who grabbed a spot ranked their summer jobs highly. The rankings below are based on feedback from 4,804 law students at 124 law firms. Scores are based on responses in nine key subject areas, including the interest level of the work, how much of it was “real,” training and guidance, interactions with partners and with full-time associates, how well the firm communicated its goals, how accurately the firm portrayed itself in interviews, how it rated overall as a place to work, and the respondents’ inclination to accept a job if one were offered. All responses were scored on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest score.

2009 Rank	2008 Rank	Firm, Location	Overall Score	Respondents (Response Rate)
10	63	Drinker Biddle, <i>Philadelphia</i>	4.820	33 (89%)
11	8	Morgan, Lewis, <i>National</i>	4.819	99 (94%)
12	71	Paul, Hastings, <i>National</i>	4.814	99 (89%)
13	14	Ropes & Gray, <i>Boston</i>	4.810	176 (82%)
14	83	Patterson Belknap, <i>New York</i>	4.789	10 (67%)
14	54	Vorys, Sater, <i>Columbus</i>	4.789	11 (85%)
16	18	King & Spalding, <i>Atlanta</i>	4.750	34 (61%)
17	6	Willkie Farr, <i>New York</i>	4.726	41 (75%)
18	106	Robins, Kaplan, <i>Minneapolis</i>	4.722	14 (100%)
19	140	Dorsey & Whitney, <i>Minneapolis</i>	4.704	50 (91%)
19	41	Sheppard, Mullin, <i>Los Angeles</i>	4.704	33 (87%)
21	65	Carlton Fields, <i>Tampa</i>	4.701	23 (100%)
<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Akin Gump, <i>National</i></b>	<b>4.681</b>	<b>61 (92%)</b>
23	11	Holland & Hart, <i>Denver</i>	4.672	16 (100%)
24	50	Covington & Burling, <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	4.664	67 (87%)
25	152	Dewey & LeBoeuf, <i>New York</i>	4.663	65 (77%)
26	31	Alston & Bird, <i>Atlanta</i>	4.654	59 (72%)
27	91	Quarles & Brady, <i>Milwaukee</i>	4.651	14 (67%)
28	42	Foley Hoag, <i>Boston</i>	4.649	12 (67%)
29	120	K&L Gates, <i>National</i>	4.638	41 (71%)
30	84	Michael Best, <i>Milwaukee</i>	4.633	20 (95%)
31	60	Orrick, <i>National</i>	4.632	63 (94%)
32	101	Wilson Sonsini, <i>Palo Alto</i>	4.628	44 (77%)
33	154	Patton Boggs, <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	4.616	15 (58%)

### 2009 The Summer Associates Survey Methodology

BY TOM BROUCKSOU

## How We Rank the Firms

Close to 5,000 law students rated the law firms where they spent the summer of 2009.

**THIS YEAR’S SUMMER ASSOCIATES SURVEY** garnered responses from 4,971 interns at 151 firms, 124 of which qualified for the National Rankings chart. The survey was conducted from early June to mid-August. Surveys were distributed through the firms’ recruiting coordinators, whom we contact in the spring about participation. Eligible summer associates are first- and second-year law students (classes of 2010 and 2011) clerking at firms for at least three weeks during the summer. Respondents are guaranteed anonymity.

Firms included in the National Rankings chart are those from which we received at least ten completed surveys. Individual offices listed on the Results by City chart are those from which we received at least five surveys. To determine scores for individual questions, we average respondents’ answers on a firmwide basis for the National Rankings chart and on a citywide basis for the Results by City chart. All question averages are rounded to two decimal places. Scores for firms are calculated from those rounded question averages, then rounded to three decimal places.

The average of nine job satisfaction questions is used to determine a firm’s overall score on both charts. Those questions asked how interesting the work was, how much “real” work was assigned, how the training and guidance measured up, how positive interactions with partners and with associates were, how well the firm communicated its goals and expectations, how accurately the firm portrayed itself in interviews, and the respondents’ inclination to accept a position if one were offered. The respondents were also asked to rate the firm overall as a place to work.

Firms designated as national have no more than 45 percent of their lawyers in any single region of their home country. Firms designated as international have at least 40 percent of their lawyers working outside their home country.

For detailed reports on each firm that qualified for the national rankings, please see [americanlawyerstudentedition.com](http://americanlawyerstudentedition.com). Firms that wish to be included in next year’s survey should contact us at [associates@alm.com](mailto:associates@alm.com). Many thanks to all the firms and summer associates who participated in the survey.

**AKIN GUMP RANKED  
#22 NATIONALLY (OUT OF 124 FIRMS)**

## The Local Talent

**SUMMER ASSOCIATES AROUND THE COUNTRY** ranked the firms where they spent the summer. Only those offices with at least five respondents are included here. The information on this chart pertains only to the firm's office in the indicated city. All responses were scored on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest score.

	Rank in City	Score for Office/City	Respondents
<b>California</b>			
<b>Los Angeles</b>			
CITY AVERAGE		4.476	
Pillsbury Winthrop	1	5.000	5
Bingham McCutchen (Santa Monica)	2	4.978	5
Paul, Hastings	3	4.890	19
Winston & Strawn	4	4.800	5
Gibson, Dunn	5	4.784	32
Orrick	6	4.702	6
Kirkland & Ellis	7	4.684	13
Skadden	8	4.644	5
Bingham McCutchen	9	4.634	7
Sheppard, Mullin	10	4.622	11
<b>Akin Gump</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4.551</b>	<b>7</b>
Foley & Lardner	12	4.536	11
Irell & Manella	13	4.487	13
Katten Muchin	14	4.467	5
Jones Day	15	4.422	6

**#1 in D.C.**

	Rank in City	Score for Office/City	Respondents
<b>District of Columbia</b>			
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>			
CITY AVERAGE		4.591	
<b>Akin Gump</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.972</b>	<b>12</b>
Bingham McCutchen	2	4.969	7
King & Spalding	3	4.946	8
Paul, Hastings	4	4.933	15
Gibson, Dunn	5	4.912	28
Ropes & Gray	6	4.897	13
Crowell & Moring	7	4.892	30
Alston & Bird	8	4.781	8
DLA Piper US	9	4.778	7
Kelley Drye	9	4.778	5

	Rank in City	Score for Office/City	Respondents
<b>New York</b>			
<b>New York</b>			
CITY AVERAGE		4.445	
Crowell & Moring	1	4.920	7
Morgan, Lewis	2	4.912	22
Kasowitz, Benson	3	4.903	15
Gibson, Dunn	4	4.868	34
Bingham McCutchen	5	4.859	7
Bryan Cave	6	4.822	5
Ropes & Gray	7	4.818	56
Paul, Hastings	8	4.792	31
Patterson Belknap	9	4.789	10
<b>Akin Gump</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.744</b>	<b>20</b>
Willkie Farr	11	4.720	39
Dewey & LeBoeuf	12	4.711	58
Sheppard, Mullin	12	4.711	5
Morrison & Foerster	14	4.700	10
Covington & Burling	15	4.689	5

	Rank in City	Score for Office/City	Respondents
<b>Texas</b>			
<b>Dallas</b>			
CITY AVERAGE		4.549	
Gibson, Dunn	1	4.844	5
<b>Akin Gump</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.828</b>	<b>9</b>
Alston & Bird	3	4.711	5
K&L Gates	4	4.644	5
Haynes and Boone	5	4.548	28
Thompson & Knight	6	4.511	12
Jones Day	7	4.491	12
Locke Lord	8	4.373	10
Baker Botts	9	4.283	18
Andrews Kurth	10	4.260	6

**#2 in Dallas**

	Rank in City	Score for Office/City	Respondents
<b>Houston</b>			
CITY AVERAGE		4.288	
Baker & Hostetler	1	4.773	6
Haynes and Boone	2	4.546	13
Bracewell & Giuliani	3	4.460	24
Baker Botts	4	4.456	16
Andrews Kurth	5	4.411	16
Locke Lord	6	4.320	15
Thompson & Knight	7	4.260	6
<b>Akin Gump</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.222</b>	<b>10</b>
Jones Day	9	3.828	9
Pillsbury Winthrop	10	3.600	5

## AKIN GUMP RANKED TOP TEN IN PARTICIPATING OFFICES

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