

SUPPORTING ASPIRING LAW STUDENTS

Insights for Supporting Aspiring Law Students Interested in Big Law

Key Insights: What Law Students Said



8.4% of 1L respondents reported learning of Big Law recruiting timelines from their undergraduate prelaw advisor or career services offices.



28.7% of all 1L respondents chose a school with strong Big Law placement outcomes.



57.4% of 1Ls at highly selective law schools said they chose a school with strong Big Law placement outcomes.

- **Few 1L respondents report learning about Big Law recruiting timelines from their undergraduate institution.** Only 8.4% of respondents reported learning of these timelines from their prelaw advisor or career services office. This suggests an opportunity to increase awareness of Big Law recruiting practices earlier in the prelaw-to-practice journey.
- **Interest in Big Law careers influences enrollment decisions in multiple ways.** Respondents cited strong Big Law placement outcomes (28.7%) and hosting networking events with large law firms (18.1%) among the reasons they chose a particular school.
- **Big Law interest varies based on law school selectivity.** Students at highly selective law schools were much more likely (57.4%) than those at other schools to indicate that strong Big Law placement outcomes influenced their enrollment decisions.

Why This Matters

- **Every aspiring law student is unique.** These future lawyers enter the journey with varying levels of access to career information, professional networks, and knowledge about law school and the legal field.
- **Early information and guidance shape students' pathways into the legal profession.** Various advisors, pathway programs, career advisors, mentors, and other stakeholders can provide insight that affects how students evaluate schools, where they apply, and how prepared they are once they enroll.
- **Effective guidance influences access, preparedness, and long-term success.** You play a critical role in helping students make informed law school choices and identify schools that can support their academic and career goals.
- **Professional preparation starts before law school.** Your thoughtful guidance ensures that students are informed and know how to connect with their law school's career services office, better navigate Big Law recruiting timelines, and successfully transition into the legal profession.

Key Considerations

These factors can help you provide the most effective guidance to your students.

1. Know Who You Are Supporting

- Get to know your students to better identify who may have **limited access to resources, opportunities, or professional networks**, and look for ways to fill the information gap.
- Encourage early curiosity about career planning, the various sectors of legal employment, and how the choice of law school connects to professional outcomes.

2. Start the Career Conversation Early

- Ask students: What career paths are they considering? What type of support will they need to reach those goals?
- Work to normalize students' uncertainty. Encourage them to explore their legal education possibilities but emphasize that career development begins *before* and continues *during* law school.

3. Help Students Ask the Right Questions of Law Schools

- Work with students to develop questions they can ask law schools at forums and fairs, during tours, or via email. These might include:
 - When do students typically first engage with career services?
 - What career guidance is offered before and during the first year?
 - How does the school guide students on accelerated recruiting timelines, creating a résumé, preparing for interviews, and understanding different legal employment sectors?
 - How accessible and proactive are career services throughout law school?
 - What were the top employment sector destinations of a law school's most recent graduating class?
 - What types of employers hold informational or networking events on campus?

Key Takeaway

Those who support aspiring law students play a critical role in shaping access to law school opportunities and the legal profession. **Early, informed, and equity-centered guidance** helps students choose schools where they can thrive personally, academically, and professionally.

[Download the report](#) to learn more about how accelerated recruiting timelines are affecting the first-year experience.

