

Top 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions after Fall On-Campus Recruiting

1. Do most students obtain their positions through on-campus interviews?

No. Usually about 5-10% of the class obtains their positions through on-campus interviews. Most students obtain positions through our job postings, participation in internships and clinics, or their own networking efforts.

2. When do the medium and smaller firms (and everyone else) hire?

Medium and small firms, and most other legal employers, do not hire on a specific schedule. They hire people when they have a need. Often, these employers hire law clerks during the school year, and those positions continue into the summer. Some post summer positions with the CDO during the spring. Some, but by no means all of these employers offer their law clerks permanent employment after graduation.

3. How do I find jobs at firms/organizations that are not part of fall recruiting?

There are many ways to find positions at these firms/organizations.

- Many medium and small firms, government organizations, non profit organizations, and corporations post law clerk positions on the CDO's web-based recruitment system, Symplicity. Contact the CDO for your login information.
- Students can research firms/organizations using Symplicity, LEXIS or WestLaw and send targeted letters asking for information/possible jobs.
- Students can NETWORK to meet attorneys who are practicing in areas in which they may have an interest.

4. What do you mean by networking to find a job?

The majority of all positions are obtained by informal means. This means that the majority of your job search time should involve networking. Networking may include conducting informational interviews, attending conferences and seminars, participating in programs through the CDO, using alumni contacts, and letting everyone know you are in law school and looking for a job.

Please refer to the "[Networking, Job Postings, and Targeted Mailing](#)" *handout (available on the CDO website and in the CDO Library) and NALP's "The How – Tos of Informational Interviewing" brochure (available in the CDO Library).*

Also consider contacting legal professionals through:

- Friends and family
- Bar associations
- Suffolk's Advanced Legal Studies continuing education courses
- Professors
- SULS Alumni Career Advisory Network and Alumni Directory

- Your undergraduate school
- LEXIS and WestLaw Career Databases
- Career Development Programs and other Suffolk programs

5. If I take a position at an organization/firm as a student, but have no interest in working there after graduation, will this help or hurt me?

Gaining substantive legal experience will always help you. Whether you are gaining writing, research, or advocacy skills, it will build your resume, your confidence, and your professional network. Also, even though you may not want to ultimately practice within the government, or in a small firm, these employers offer experience in many different practice areas and the skills you develop will be marketable elsewhere.

6. I need to make money. Do these positions pay, and how much?

There is no set salary for most employers. Many students who work as law clerks during the school year make an hourly salary, usually between \$12.00 - \$25.00 per hour. Some government or non-profit organizations may not have the resources to pay you. However, there are several funding sources through which a student can be paid. The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service will have information on outside funding sources.

7. How important is it to gain legal experience while in law school?

Very important. You have three or four years to figure out what type of lawyer you want to be and where you want to practice. You should use every opportunity (summers, school year internships and clinics, and law clerk positions) to gain experience, exposure to practice areas and various geographic regions, and make important contacts.

8. If I want to practice here, will working out of state for a summer hurt my long term chances of getting a job in Boston?

Not necessarily. While it is important to make contacts within the Boston legal community, it is as important to develop strong legal skills. Speak to a career counselor to weigh the pros and cons of your unique situation. Keep in mind, you also have the academic school year to gain experience in Boston.

9. If I plan to practice outside of MA, will working in Boston during the summer hurt my marketability in other cities?

Not necessarily. Again, it is important to make contacts where you want to work, but great experience is as important. That said, we highly recommend that you spend some time working in the location where you want to practice. The CDO has developed a number of resources for job searching in a wide array of legal markets around the country. And, the SULLS alumni base is extensive and wide-spread throughout the country. You simply must consider casting a broad geographic net to maximize your chances of landing a satisfying summer or full-time position.

10. Will I get a job?

If you follow the CDO recommendations, it is highly likely that you will be able to secure employment throughout law school and beyond. Usually nine months after graduation, most graduates are employed.