

The 100 Best Law Firms For Minority Attorneys

By Jake Simpson

Law360, New York (May 19, 2015, 8:56 PM ET) -- For the first time ever, Law360 has ranked the 100 best U.S. law firms for racial minorities, based on the firms' minority representation at the partner and nonpartner levels and their total number of minority attorneys.

These firms buck the trends of the 2015 Law360 Minority Report, which found that while racial diversity has improved at U.S. law firms over the past 15 years, minority representation at all levels of the law firm hierarchy — and particularly among partners — falls far short of law school graduation rates for attorneys of color. Almost every firm in the Top 100 exceeded the overall average among U.S. law firms of 14 percent minority attorneys and 8 percent minority partners.

Leading the way is Palo Alto, Calif.-based Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC, where 26.11 percent of all attorneys and 20.11 percent of equity partners are minorities. New York-based immigration boutique Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP comes in second, matching its ranking on Law360's list of 100 best law firms for women.

Top 100 Firms For Minority Attorneys

Rank	Firm	Rank	Firm	Rank	Firm	Rank	Firm
1	Wilson Sonsini	26	Cooley	51	Mitchell Silberberg	75	Jones Day
2	Fragomen Del Rey	26	Fish & Richardson	52	DLA Piper	77	Cohen Milstein
3	Sughrue Mion	28	Greenberg Traurig	53	Arnold & Porter	78	Rumberger Kirk
4	Atkinson Andelson	29	Nossaman	53	Covington & Burling	79	Rutan & Tucker
5	Adelson Testan	30	Lewis Brisbois	53	Debevoise & Plimpton	80	Patterson Belknap
6	Sterne Kessler	31	Brinks Gilson & Lione	56	Hinshaw & Culbertson	81	Zuckerman Spaeder
7	Fenwick & West	32	Archer Norris	57	Kelley Drye	82	Latham & Watkins
8	Ropes & Gray	32	Akin Gump	58	Thompson Coe	83	Wilson Elser
9	Knobbe Martens	32	Holland & Knight	59	Hanson Bridgett	84	Farella Braun
10	Kenyon & Kenyon	35	Akerman	60	Kasowitz Benson	85	Skadden*
11	Morrison & Foerster	36	Ogletree Deakins	61	Baker & McKenzie	86	Sullivan & Cromwell
12	McDermott Will	37	Haynes and Boone	62	Jackson Walker	88	Step toe & Johnson LLP
13	Novak Druce	38	Cleary Gottlieb	63	Fitch Even	88	Jenner & Block
14	Carlton Fields	39	Michelman & Robinson	64	Sidley Austin	89	Richards Kibbe
15	Finnegan Henderson	40	Gordon & Rees	64	Foster Pepper	90	Buchalter Nemer
16	Procopio Cory	41	Sedgwick	66	Susman Godfrey	91	Foley & Lardner
17	Munger Tolles	42	Pillsbury Winthrop	67	FordHarrison	92	Cadwalader Wickersham
18	Orrick Herrington*	42	Bowman and Brooke	68	Baker Botts	93	Cox Smith
19	Shutts & Bowen	44	Best Best	69	Allen Matkins	94	Cox Castle
19	Paul Weiss	45	Chadbourne & Parke	69	Andrews Kurth	94	Dentons
21	Paul Hastings	46	Irell & Manella	71	Reed Smith	96	Winston & Strawn
22	Littler Mendelson*	47	O'Melveny & Myers	72	Quinn Emanuel*	97	Crowell & Moring
23	Manatt Phelps	48	Jackson Lewis	73	Sheppard Mullin	98	Strasburger & Price
24	Gardere Wynne Sewell	49	Perkins Coie	74	Gunster	99	Carroll Burdick
25	Kirkland & Ellis	50	Squire Patton Boggs	75	Hogan Lovells	100	Schiff Hardin

*Some attorneys at the firm declined to self-identify a race

Methodology: Law360 surveyed 289 U.S. firms, or veins with a U.S. component, about their overall and minority head count numbers as of Dec. 31, 2014. Only U.S.-based attorneys were included in the survey. Firms are ranked based on three factors: 1) the percentage of partners, both equity and nonequity, who are minorities; 2) the percentage of nonpartners who are minorities; and 3) the number of minority attorneys at the firm.

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.