

The 25 Best Law Firms For Black Attorneys

By Jake Simpson

Law360, New York (May 25, 2015, 9:26 PM ET) -- The three largest employment law firms in the U.S. headline a group of 25 firms that have significantly more black attorneys than the industry average, particularly at the partner level, according to Law360 data.

The firms in the top 25 average 6.6 percent black nonpartners and 4.4 percent black partners, well above the overall averages of firms that submitted data for the 2015 Law360 Minority Report. The average U.S. firm has just 3.5 percent black nonpartners and 1.6 percent black partners, and blacks are the most poorly represented racial minority at U.S. law firms, according to the survey data.

These firms buck that trend, led by BigLaw employment boutiques Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC and Littler Mendelson PC, which rank first and second respectively. Black attorneys comprise more than 5.2 percent of partnerships and 3.3 percent of equity partnerships at both firms. Fellow BigLaw employment giant Jackson Lewis PC is also ranked in the top 25, as is midsized employment boutique Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete LLP.

Top 25 Firms For Black Attorneys

Rank	Firm	Rank	Firm	Rank	Firm
1	Ogletree Deakins	10	Marshall Dennehey	19	Parker Poe
2	Littler*	11	Gruber Hurst	20	Hinshaw & Culbertson
3	Bowman and Brooke	12	Reed Smith	21	Whiteford Taylor
4	Fitch Even	13	Jackson Lewis	22	Frankfurt Kurnit
5	McGuireWoods	14	Constangy Brooks	23	Cozen O'Connor
6	Thacker Martinsek	15	BuckleySandler	24	Adelson Testan
7	Cleary Gottlieb	16	Carlton Fields	25	Venable
8	Covington & Burling	17	Mitchell Silberberg	*Some attorneys at the firm declined to self-identify a race	
9	Baker Donelson	18	Bryan Cave		

Methodology: Law360 surveyed 289 U.S. firms, or vereins 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 black; 2) the percentage of nonpartners who are black; and 3) the number of black attorneys at the firm.