

TAB Q1 2015 Research Update

[Diversity Numbers at Law Firms Eke Out Small Gains – Numbers for Women Associates Edge Up After Four Year Decline](#)

February 2015

NALP

Women and minorities are making small gains in the partner ranks at law firms. Minority associate numbers have increased for the fourth year in a row to 21.63%. Women associates have increased slightly this year by less than a percentage point to 44.94%. While that increase is very slight, it is significant in that the percentage of women associates has only decreased since at least 2009. The report includes a geographic breakdown of women and minority attorneys and the range of representation nationally is wide. For example, while more than a quarter of partners in Denver are women, they come in at only 12% in Salt Lake City. A similar disparity exists with minority partners - while there is less than a percent of minority partners in Raleigh/Durham, nearly 30% of partners in Miami are minorities. The report is based on survey results from 110,000 attorneys nationwide.

[Women on US boards: what are we seeing?](#)

February 2015

Ernst & Young Center for Board Matters

Ernst & Young released a report by their Center for Board Matters on gender diversity on the boards of S&P 1500 companies in 2014. The report shows that gender diversity on boards is very slowly increasing. The report notes that 51% of the boards that have increased female representation have also increased in size, indicating that companies are adding seats to the board for female representation instead of replacing male members on the board. Women directors tend to be younger and on more boards than their male counterparts. Over the past 10 years, the percentage of women on S&P 1500 boards has increased by 5 percent.

[Diversity As A Law School Survival Strategy](#)

February 2015

Aaron N. Taylor

Saint Louis University - School of Law

New research indicates that the modest increase in Hispanic and African American law school enrollment between 2010 and 2013 has been mainly at less prestigious law schools. The study broke up ABA accredited law schools into five categories based on median LSAT scores. The study defined law schools' level of prestige by median LSAT scores. The study shows that there has actually been a decrease in enrollment of these two groups at law schools with higher median LSAT scores. Of the 36 elite law schools in the study – those with the highest median LSAT scores – only 10 saw their percentage of minority students increase.

[Law School Diversity Index](#)

March 2015

U.S. News & World Report

University of Hawaii – Manoa tops U.S. News & World Report’s list of diverse law schools. Thirty three percent of the law school’s students are multiracial. University of the District of Columbia comes in second with 38% African American students and University of San Francisco rounds out the top three with 19% Hispanic. The survey methodology included data collection of black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, multiracial and white students. Even though, as seen above, one school may have a larger percentage of a single minority group than other schools, the index is based on how diverse the school is overall and how much diversity students will encounter from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

[White Colorism](#)

March 2015

Lance Hannon

Social Currents

New research about what the author dubs “white colorism” came out from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. The research indicates that interviewers perceived lighter-skinned blacks and Hispanics as being more intelligent than darker-skinned blacks and Hispanics when all other factors were equal. The study analyzed data on 223 interviews of black and Hispanics by white interviewers. The interviewees with lighter skin tones were significantly more likely to be rated higher on the intelligence scale. The study controlled for education levels, vocabulary, political knowledge and demographic factors.

[Women of Color Remain Severely Underrepresented in US Workforce and on Boards](#)

March 17, 2015

Catalyst Inc.

Recent Catalyst data shows that women of color make up roughly 16% of the S&P 500 labor force and that percentage drops dramatically in higher ranking positions within the companies. Less than 3% of the women executive and senior level managers at these companies are African American, Asian or Latina. Representation of women of color on the boards of these companies is also around 3% (as related Catalyst [research](#) shows).

[The Best Law Firm For Diversity](#)

2015

Vault

Vault released its newest rankings of the best law firms for diversity. The rankings are based on associate survey results on a variety of diversity issues. Ropes Gray took first place for overall diversity and individuals with disabilities, Littler Mendelson for minorities, Schiff Hardin LLP for women, and Foley Hoag LLP took first place for LGBT attorneys.