Help Wanted: An Empirical Study of LRW Hiring

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Study Design

- Study focuses on the 61 professors hired since 2010 by the 29 schools ranked by U.S. News in its 2019* ranking of legal writing programs (and still working at those schools).

*The 2019 rankings came out in March 2018.
Study Results

Gender

- Male (37.7%)
- Female (62.3%)
Study Results

Local or Non-Local Hire

- Local (39%)
- Non-Local (61%)
Study Results

Local or Non-Local Hire: Large Markets

- Local (12/80%)
- Non-Local (3/20%)
Study Results

Local or Non-Local Hire: Other Markets

- Local (26.1%)
- Non-Local (73.9%)
Study Results

J.D. From Top 20 School

- Yes (42.6%)
- No (57.4%)
Study Results

Judicial Clerkship Experience

- Yes (50.8%)
- No (49.2%)
Study Results

Legal Practice Experience

- Yes (93.4%)
- No (6.6%)
Study Results

- 1-3 years: 16
- 4-6 years: 18
- 7-10 years: 10
- > 10 years: 8

Legal Practice Experience
Legal Practice Experience

• Experience practicing law is not valued in podium faculty hiring:
  • “One 2010 study of hiring at top-tier law schools since 2000 found that the median amount of practical experience was one year, and that nearly half of faculty members had never practiced law for a single day.” (New York Times, 11/19/11)
We don't need more conservatives on elite law school faculties. We need more lawyers. By which I mean people who have actually practiced law. And that doesn't mean a couple of years after a Supreme Court clerkship at some DC appellate shop drafting amicus briefs, or in the DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel "discovering" legal principles on behalf of the President. . . . That means actual lawyering, with clients, contracts, documents, deadlines, senior partners, judges, and all the other things about being a lawyer that can be great and terrible and often in the same day. It would be a step ahead if the faculties teaching law students actually understood what most of their students will be doing with their careers.
Study Results

LRW Teaching Experience

- Yes (77.0%)
- No (23.0%)
Study Results

- All Hires (12.2)
- Entry Level Hires (7.28)

Average years out of law school
Coming Attractions