



National Law School Student Study
N=232
Field Dates: 4/25/24-5/24/24

Q1. Are you currently attending law school?

Total	232
Yes, and attend a private law school	60.5%
Yes, and attend a public or state law school	39.5%

Q2. Which age category do you fall into?

Total	232
21-23	22.6%
24-26	49.7%
27-30	27.2%
31-34	0.6%

Q3. Are you currently enrolled in law school...?

Total	232
Full time	90.4%
Part time	9.6%

Q4. From the dropdown box, please select the law school you are currently attending. (Individual Schools Grouped by Rank)

Total	232
Top 14 Schools	8.2%
16-50 Schools	18.4%
51-100 Schools	26.5%
101-196 Schools	46.9%

Q5. Are you...?

Total	232
1L/First Year	26.5%
2L/Second Year	33.3%
3L/Third Year	38.0%
4L/Part Time	2.2%

Q6. From the following list, which of the following best describes your intended area of law practice after graduation? (Multiple Responses Accepted)

Total	232
Animal Law	0.3%
Admiralty (Maritime) Law	2.0%
Bankruptcy Law	7.4%
Business (Corporate) Law	21.3%
Civil Rights Law	11.2%
Commercial Litigation	6.4%
Constitutional Law	7.1%
Corporate Law	25.0%
Criminal Defense	19.1%
Criminal Prosecution	11.8%
Education Law	6.3%
Entertainment Law	8.6%
Environmental and Sports Law	3.5%
Family and Juvenile Law	16.3%
Health Law	6.3%
Immigration Law	8.0%
Intellectual Property Law	11.4%
International Law	5.1%
Labor (Employment) Law	10.5%
Military Law	4.4%
Personal Injury Law	13.9%
Real Estate Law	10.6%
Securities Law	6.4%
Tax Law	2.4%
Other	13.1%

Q7. Generally speaking, do you think the First Amendment, which deals with freedom o

Total	232
An outdated amendment that can no longer be applied in today's society and should be changed	2.3%
An important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in today's society	94.9%
Unsure	2.8%

Q8. Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion regarding free speech under law

Total	232
The First Amendment should be interpreted to extend the widest protections to speech, even speech considered offensive or hateful by some	62.4%
The First Amendment should be interpreted to exclude speech considered hateful or offensive by some	33.0%
Unsure	4.6%

Q9. Which of the following comes closer to your opinion regarding the faculty members and school administrators at your law schoo

Total	232
They do a good job encouraging free speech and intellectual diversity	62.4%
They need to be doing a better job encouraging free speech and intellectual diversity	26.7%
Unsure	10.9%

Q10. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Law schools should try to expose students to faculty with a wide range of ideological perspectives."

Total	232
AGREE	94.3%
Strongly agree	57.4%
Somewhat agree	36.9%
DISAGREE	4.9%
Somewhat disagree	2.4%
Strongly disagree	2.5%
Unsure	0.8%
Net Diff AGREE vs DISAGREE	89.4%

Q11. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Law schools should NOT accept students who hold perspectives considered by some to be offensive or disgusting."

Total	232
AGREE	27.0%
Strongly agree	6.0%
Somewhat agree	21.0%
DISAGREE	68.3%
Somewhat disagree	35.1%
Strongly disagree	33.2%
Unsure	4.7%
Net Diff AGREE vs DISAGREE	-41.3%

Q12. Have you felt intimidated in sharing your ideas, opinions or beliefs about the law in class because they were different than those of your professors?

Total	232
OFTEN	34.0%
Frequently	10.3%
Sometimes	23.7%
NOT OFTEN	64.8%
Rarely	39.5%
Never	25.3%
Unsure	1.2%
Net Diff OFTEN vs NOT OFTEN	-30.8%

Q13. Have you felt intimidated in sharing your ideas, opinions or beliefs about the law in class because they were different than those of your classmates?

Total	232
OFTEN	49.6%
Frequently	18.7%
Sometimes	30.9%
NOT OFTEN	49.9%
Rarely	28.8%
Never	21.1%
Unsure	0.6%
Net Diff OFTEN vs NOT OFTEN	-0.3%

Q14. During your time in law school, have you felt pressured to participate in a political activity or demonstration that you disagreed with out of concern for academic or social consequences?

Total	232
OFTEN	15.5%
Frequently	3.0%
Sometimes	12.5%
NOT OFTEN	83.2%
Rarely	13.0%
Never	70.3%
Unsure	1.3%
Net Diff OFTEN vs NOT OFTEN	-67.7%

Q15. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The LSAT exam is an unfair way to evaluate prospective law school students. Schools should disregard the LSAT when considering applicants."

Total	232
AGREE	53.5%
Strongly agree	23.6%
Somewhat agree	29.9%
DISAGREE	43.5%
Somewhat disagree	23.9%
Strongly disagree	19.6%
Unsure	3.0%
Net Diff AGREE vs NOT DISAGREE	10.0%

Q16. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The bar exam is an unfair way to determine if a prospective lawyer should be permitted to practice law. The bar exam should be eliminated in favor of another type of evaluation that is fairer."

Total	232
AGREE	56.9%
Strongly agree	19.5%
Somewhat agree	37.5%
DISAGREE	34.5%
Somewhat disagree	19.8%
Strongly disagree	14.7%
Unsure	8.6%
Net Diff AGREE vs NOT DISAGREE	22.5%

Q17. Thinking about when you start practicing law, which of the following do you believe is more important?

Total	232
Ensuring that the client you represent gets a winning or favorable result	28.3%
Ensuring that the work you do advances a more socially just and equitable legal system	68.9%
Unsure	2.9%

Q18. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Total	232
I could NEVER represent a client who I believe is guilty and has done something wrong	14.2%
While I might believe my client is guilty or has done something wrong, I could represent them out of duty to the law and our legal system	79.7%
Unsure	6.1%

Q19. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Total	232
I could NEVER represent a client who has different political beliefs than me	3.4%
Even if I strongly disagree with the political beliefs of a client, I could represent them out of duty to the law and our legal system	89.7%
Unsure	6.9%

Q20. Which of the following is closer to your opinion regarding Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the Supreme Court decision that overturned the constitutional right to abortion in America and returned the decision to voters and legislatures at the state-level?

Total	232
The decision was based more in politics than in law	73.3%
The decision was based more in law than in politics	18.1%
Unsure	8.7%

Q21. Which of the following is closer to your opinion regarding National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius, the Supreme Court decision that upheld large parts of the Affordable Care Act as constitutional, including the individual mandate to purchase health insurance?

Total	232
The decision was based more in politics than in law	45.9%
The decision was based more in law than in politics	32.6%
Unsure	21.5%

Q22. It has been about two years since the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. You may recall that the draft decision was leaked beforehand. Chief Justice John Roberts immediately announced an investigation into the source of the leak and news reports have said at least one law clerk is among the suspects. While the findings have not yet been officially released, which statement comes closer to your view?

Total	232
If true, it is entirely justifiable for a law clerk to have leaked this draft opinion. The overturning of Roe v. Wade was a monumental ruling that impacts millions of Americans and they have a right to know.	28.7%
If true, it was wrong for a law clerk to have leaked this draft opinion. While we may have severe disagreements on issues like abortion, this leak by a clerk - if true - is unprecedented and shatters the norms of our justice	66.0%
Unsure	5.3%

Q23. Generally speaking, which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion regarding the practice of law?

Total	232
Criminal law practitioners should extend special sympathy to perpetrators of crimes. Oftentimes these people are facing difficult circumstances and systemic injustices that cause crime.	28.5%
Criminal law practitioners should extend special sympathy to the victims of crimes because the rule of law is paramount and people are entitled to basic rights of safety and security.	52.5%
Unsure	19.1%

Q24. Which of the following comes closer to your own personal opinion?

Total	232
America and its public and private institutions should pursue a color-blind society where all individuals are treated the same regardless of their gender, race, religion, or ethnicity.	41.6%
America and its public and private institutions should recognize systemic racism in society, and support members of disadvantaged groups even at the direct expense of members of advantaged groups.	50.1%
Unsure	8.3%

Q25. If the election for President were held today, for whom would you vote among the following candidates?

Total	232
Joe Biden, the Democratic candidate	26.7%
Donald Trump, the Republican candidate	16.6%
Robert F. Kennedy, an Independent candidate	16.4%
Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate	2.9%
Cornel West, an Independent candidate	1.6%
Would not vote	8.2%
Undecided	27.6%

Q26. With which political party are you affiliated?

Total	232
Republican	18.8%
Democrat	39.7%
Independent or not affiliated with a political party	34.2%
Some other political party	1.3%
Not registered to vote	2.9%
Prefer not to answer	3.1%

Q27. When it comes to your political beliefs, would you say you are...?

Total	232
LIBERAL	45.1%
Very liberal	18.8%
Somewhat liberal	26.3%
MODERATE	34.9%
CONSERVATIVE	19.0%
Somewhat conservative	14.8%
Very conservative	4.2%
Prefer not to answer	0.9%

Q28. Please select the race or ethnic group that is closest to your identity.

Total	232
White or Caucasian	59.3%
Hispanic or Latino	13.8%
Black or African-American	9.9%
American-Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.3%
Two or more races/Multi-race	4.1%
Other Race	0.5%
Prefer not to answer	2.6%

Q29. What is your gender?

Total	232
Male	38.2%
Female	58.2%
Identify as something other than male or female	2.6%
Prefer not to answer	1.0%