

NU law school posts high placement numbers

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Trent Anderson, director of law school programs at Kaplan Education Center, said the dwindling job opportunities scared many prospective law students away from the legal field.

During this time, he said, the number of students applying to law schools dropped by 25,000 per year.

To find national trends in the legal field, Kaplan Education Center, nationally recognized for test preparation programs, started doing surveys of pre-law students. For the 1995 survey, Kaplan randomly selected 479 pre-law students who enrolled in the Kaplan LSAT preparation program before the 1996 test.

Results from the survey showed that 84 percent of pre-law students thought the job outlook was as bleak in 1995 as it was two years before, when it hit an all-time low.

But perception isn't necessarily reality, Anderson said. In fact, the 1995

NALP statistics show the employment rate for graduating law students rose from a 1993 low of 83.4 percent to 86.7 percent in 1995.

Negative media publicity about the legal field was one of the explanations Anderson gave for the misconceptions about the job market. Also, he said, many pre-law students have little access to information about jobs and minimal contact with people in the legal field.

UNL law students don't seem to share the same concerns about having jobs when they graduate.

"I have wanted to practice law since junior high school, and I'm not worried about getting a job now, because I know there is plenty of work available for lawyers," said Bill Ouren, a first-year law student from Omaha.

Another student credited the UNL law school's reputation and job placement rates as reasons why he wasn't worried about having a job.

"The jobs outside the legal field that these graduates are getting are professional jobs. They aren't flipping burgers or pumping gas somewhere."

SUZANNE KIRKLAND
Director of career services, NU College of Law

Pete Barlow, a third-year student from Provo, Utah, said the law school career services center helps students get in contact with prospective employers.

The center offers job search seminars and job posts on bulletin boards, computers and in newsletters. In addition, it posts job listings, internship opportunities and placement newslet-

ters from other universities.

For second- and third-year students like Barlow, the career service sends resumes to law firms, schedules on-campus interviews with law firms and plans interview trips to other cities.

"The law school taught me everything I needed to know to market myself," Barlow said, "and they opened a lot of doors for me."

Officer saves life, receives award from LPD

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"It's out there for everyone to see and it's positive," he said.

This was the third year NAPO gave the Top Cop awards. The awards were meant to complement the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C. which honors deceased officers.

Peterson, the first LPD officer to receive the award, said when he went to receive the award, he realized how lucky he was.

The other nine officers receiving awards had either been seriously injured during their heroic action or were near retirement, he said.

"I kind of felt out of place, but fortunate."

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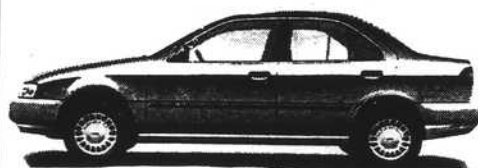


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