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What is Big Law?

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Big Law is a term that refers to the biggest/largest high revenue law firms in the United States. They are corporate offices and have multiple locations across the nation and globally. These offices are usually located in major cities such as the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, and Dallas.

Big Law Firms Ranked By Revenue:

Kirkland & Ellis
Lathan & Watkins
DLA Piper
Baker McKenzie
Dentons

Pros:

High Salary
Experience

Cons:

The long hours

How to get into Big law?

The most common pathway to a big law job is through being a summer associate during law school. In order for this to happen, students need to go through the On-Campus Interview (OCI) process. Students usually in the top 10%-15% of their class and with other academic credentials are the top contenders of summer associate positions. Law is an industry based on prestige, so law school ranking is another factor that plays an important role in the associate application process. Law Firms only visit certain schools for OCIs, most of which are regional or top-ranked schools.

On-Campus Interviews (OCI)

OCIs are the process in which law firms visit law schools to interview students as potential summer associate candidates. These summer associate positions are important as they lead to jobs at those firms post-graduation. They are mostly aimed at students in their second year of law school, though some are available to first years as well. Students bid on a number of firms based on their preferences and a set system determines which firm they interview with.

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References

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