

The 2026 NLJ 500: Ranked by Head Count

The NLJ 500 is the National Law Journal's survey of the 500 largest law firms in the United States covering the previous calendar year.

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Methodology: The NLJ 500 is the National Law Journal's survey of the 500 largest law firms in the United States covering the previous calendar year. Data is collected from firms at the same time as the Am Law financial numbers. ALM sent surveys this year to more than 900 law firms to determine the 500 largest U.S.-centric firms by headcount. Firms smaller than No. 350 are divided into two tiers instead of earning individual ranks.

Lawyer totals are based on the average number of full-time equivalent (FTE) attorneys for Fiscal Year 2025. For firms that did not participate in the survey, ALM research estimates lawyer counts based on information that is available on firm websites and collected in ALM's Legal Compass database as of Dec. 31, 2025. Those numbers are reduced by 5 percent to estimate average FTE lawyers.

In the case of a tie of total lawyers, firms are ranked by their total number of partners, and ties at that level are broken by total number of equity partners. Equity partners are defined as lawyers who earn more than half their compensation from firm profits rather than from salaries. "Other" lawyers are non-partner and non-



associate-track attorneys, such as of counsel. Temporary and contract attorneys as well as non-lawyer billing professionals and staff at firms are not included in these head counts. A firm must have more lawyers based in the U.S. than in any other single country to be included on this list.

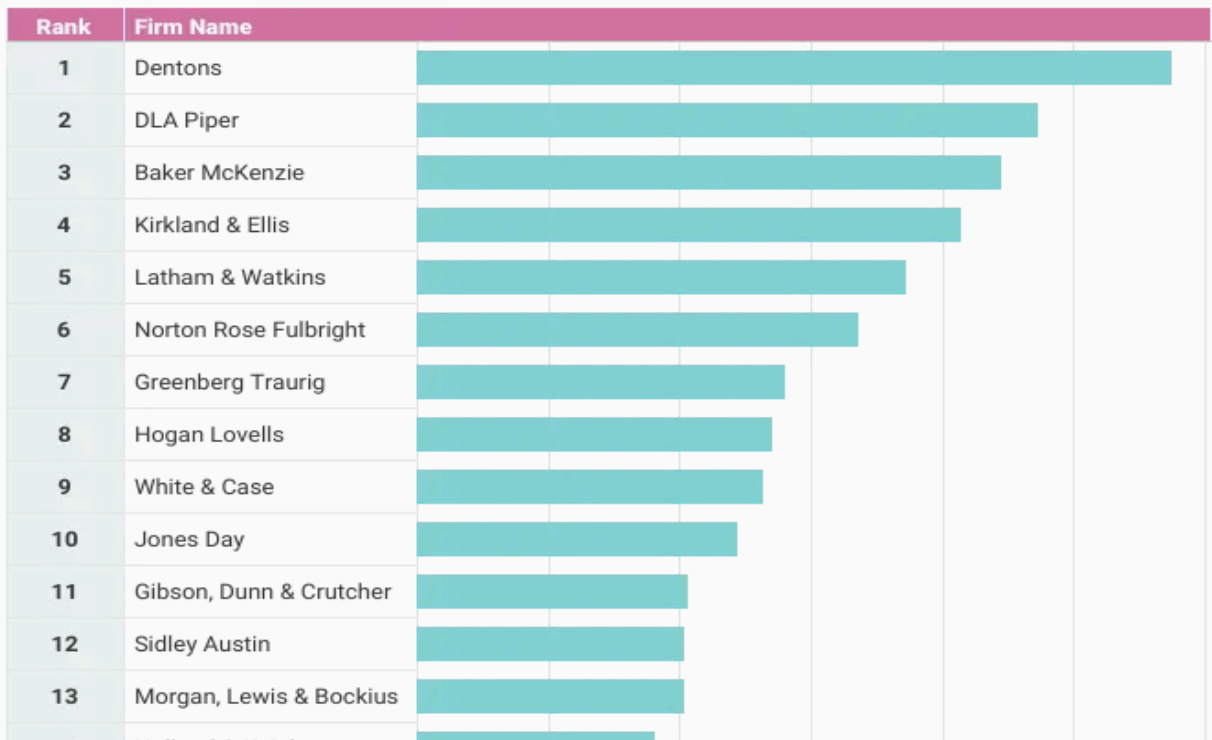
The data is presented below in a sortable graphic and table. The full 2026 NLJ 500 report can be found [here](#). For more ways to analyze the data, go to [Law.com Compass](#).

THE NLJ 500: NATION'S LARGEST FIRMS

2026

Nation's Largest Firms
Tier II (92 - 119 Attorneys)
Tier III (60- 91 Attorneys)

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Nation's Largest Law Firms

2026 RANK	2025 RANK	FIRM NAME	2026 LARGEST U.S. OFFICE	2026 TOTAL ATTORNEYS	% Change	2026 TOTAL PARTNERS	2026 EQUITY PARTNERS
1	1	Dentons	New York	5757	-2.9%	1957	881
2	2	DLA Piper	New York	4737	-1.9%	1333	336
3	3	Baker McKenzie	Chicago	4451	-3.1%	1435	587

2026 RANK	2025 RANK	FIRM NAME	2026 LARGEST U.S. OFFICE	2026 TOTAL ATTORNEYS	% Change	2026 TOTAL PARTNERS	2026 EQUITY PARTNERS
4	4	Kirkland & Ellis	New York	4145	8.3%	1823	595
5	5	Latham & Watkins	New York	3724	3.9%	970	566
6	6	Norton Rose Fulbright	New York	3358	2.1%	1108	534
7	8	Greenberg Traurig	New York	2810	6.3%	1395	331

Tier II (92 - 118 Attorneys)

2026 RANK	2025 RANK	FIRM NAME	2026 LARGEST U.S. OFFICE
351	382	Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll	Washington
352	337	Motley Rice	Mt. Pleasant, SC
353	323	Harter Secrest & Emery	Rochester, NY
354	331	Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti	Madison, NJ
355	394	Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton	Raleigh
356	371	Ward and Smith	Raleigh
357	370	Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz	New York
358	364	Hill Ward Henderson	Tampa
359	373	Spilman Thomas & Battle	Charleston, WV
360	375	Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass	San Francisco
361	392	Abrams Fensterman	Lake Success, NY
362	397	Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp	Los Angeles

TIER III (68 - 91 Attorneys)

2026 RANK	2025 RANK	FIRM NAME	2026 LARGEST U.S. OFFICE
425	463	Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Cole & Bierman	Miami
426	441	HeplerBroom	Edwardsville, IL
427	402	Foster Swift Collins & Smith	Lansing, MI
428	406	Lewis Thomason	Knoxville, TN
429	445	Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro	Seattle
430	428	Kanner & Pinaluga	Boca Raton, FL
431	447	Musick, Peeler & Garrett	Los Angeles
432	416	Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer	Woodbridge, NJ
433	437	Zelle	Dallas
434	469	Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey	New Haven, CT
435	442	Scopelitis, Garvin, Light, Hanson & Feary	Indianapolis
436	448	Harness, Dickey & Pierce	Troy, MI

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