

Roughly 40% of all graduates provided optional salary data. All categories reported increases in average salaries except state/local government. The average increase was 7.6%. The lowest salaries for small firm private practices has remained steady in recent years, although more of these firms find that a higher starting salary or early partnership consideration may be necessary for recruitment and retention.

As mentioned in last year's report, dissatisfaction with a "first-

come-first-served" interview sign-up procedure led us to discard it for this year. In its place we instituted a "bid system" which, in effect, auctioned off interview spaces. A few minor complaints or problems surfaced, but most students and employers were well satisfied. Because manual record keeping was a problem some changes for 1982-83 will be made. They are intended to correct book-keeping problems, however, and should not change the theory of the process.

STARTING SALARIES

| | Range | 1981 Ave. | 1980 Ave. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Private Practice | | | |
| Small firms (less than 12) | \$13,000 to \$21,000 | \$15,500 | \$14,500 |
| Large firms | \$16,000 to \$37,500 | \$25,000 | \$22,000 |
| Government | | | |
| Federal | --- to \$20,700 | \$20,700 | \$19,000 |
| State/ local | \$12,000 to \$20,600 | \$18,600 | \$18,600 |
| Business/corporate | \$15,500 to \$34,000 | \$21,700 | \$19,000 |
| Public Interest/Service | \$13,200 to \$18,600 | \$15,800 | \$15,500 |

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The Gargoyle has noted the increased interest of the practicing bar in law office economics. Firms are weighing the merits of competing copiers, considering advanced word processing equipment and sending documents by private mail to help hold down costs. Are you neglecting another substantial cost of doing business, your staff? We offer the following memo as a suggestion to control the spiraling costs of absenteeism.

To: All Personnel

Re: Absenteeism

It has been brought to the attention of the management that the attendance record of this office is a disgrace to our gracious benefactor, who, at your own request, has given you your jobs with so fine a firm. Such frequent absenteeism makes it

necessary for us to revise our policies: The following changes are in effect as of today ...

SICKNESS: No Excuse ... We can no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof; if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: (For an Operation) We no longer allow this practice. We wish to discourage any notions about surgery. We believe as long as you are an employee here you will need all of whatever you have and you should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are, and to have anything removed would certainly make you less than we bargained for. Operations already contracted for which cannot be cancelled with-

out penalty will, manifestly, require a downward renegotiation of salary.

DEATH: (Other Than Your Own) This is no excuse ... there is nothing you can do for the decedent. We are sure that someone else with a lesser position can attend to the arrangements, if any. However, if the funeral can be held in the late afternoon, we will be glad to let you off one hour early, provided that your share of the work is enough ahead to keep the job going in your absence.

DEATH: (Your Own) This will be accepted as an excuse, but we must insist upon two weeks' notice, as we feel it is your duty to teach someone else your job.

ALUMNI! ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM LSW*?

(*Law School Withdrawal)

Symptoms of this often misdiagnosed disease include:

- “Hearing” bells every 55 minutes, at which time your mind goes blank for the next 15 minutes;
- Compulsively underlining case reporters with yellow highlighter;
- Procrastinating on major projects until December and May;
- Wondering where you’re going to get a student loan to pay off your student loans;
- Giving equal time to both sides in briefs;
- Wishing senior partners would explain projects to you on a blackboard.

Although it’s hard to completely cure this disease, one of the most effective treatments (said to alleviate many of the symptoms and create a warm feeling of nostalgia instead) is to stay in touch with your law school regularly. Experts say once a month is about right.

How can you be assured of the proper amount of contact with the U.W. Law School? Fortunately, the treatment is easily obtained: Subscribe to *The Advocate*. Reading the law school newspaper every month provides just the right dose of law school news, trivia, gossip, pictures, and cartoons — just the thing to cure the LSW blues.

And of course you’ll enjoy *The Advocate* even if you’re not suffering from LSW!

Subscriptions are just \$5 for the 1982-83 school year. Fill out the form below and send with your check for \$5 by August 30 to *The Advocate*, U.W. Law School, Madison, WI 53706

Enclosed is my \$5 check (made out to The Advocate) for a subscription to the Advocate for 1982-83.

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____