

Freshly Minted Lawyers Face A Grim Economy

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Law School Graduates Facing Grueling Job Market

Law students are being forced to shelve their plans of joining large law firms and are instead seeking opportunities in government or public interest groups.

The New York Times reports that some of the nation's top firms have cut back significantly on hiring, including the Philadelphia-based Morgan, Lewis & Bockius—which cancelled recruiting entirely for the first time in 136 years. Similarly, Bloomberg reports that Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, the top-grossing U.S. law firm, trimmed the number of law students it plans to hire next summer by about half.

“Our expectation, and we have been upfront and honest about this, is that our summer program will be less than half of what it was this year,” said Skadden recruiting partner Howard Ellin in an interview with Bloomberg. “It reflects lower demand in the industry.”

The Times notes that top universities such as New York University, Georgetown and Northwestern have all confirmed that interviews have decreased by about a third to a half of what it was a year ago.