

TWO VIEWS

LAW SCHOOLS EXPECT APPLICATIONS INCREASE, BUT GRADS' JOB DATA SHOWS DECLINE

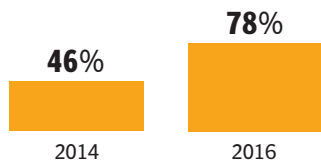
78%
OF ADMISSIONS OFFICERS ARE CONFIDENT THEIR 2016 APPLICATION NUMBERS WILL INCREASE.

THERE WAS A **7.6%** DECLINE IN LAW FIRM JOBS SECURED BY THE CLASS OF 2015.

TWO STUDIES THIS FALL INSPIRE VERY DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS of the state of the legal profession, at least in its opening stages.

OPTIMISTIC LAW SCHOOL APPLICATIONS INCREASE

Percentage of admissions officers



A KAPLAN TEST PREP SURVEY FOUND law school admissions officers more optimistic that law school applications would increase for 2016. Buoyed by estimates of an increase in applicants and predictions that “60 or 70” of the top-tier schools (by *U.S. News* rankings) would see enrollment growth, 78 percent of the 111 law schools participating in the survey expressed confidence that they would be among those showing an increase in applications. That compares to only 46 percent of those responding to a 2014 survey.

BUT IF MORE STUDENTS ARE APPLYING to enter law school in 2016, their predecessors seem to be finding fewer jobs upon graduation. Statistics from the National Association for Law Placement show a 7.6 percent drop in law firm jobs secured by the class of 2015. NALP reports a decline of more than 3,000 jobs found by graduates, though a decline in the number of graduates left the overall employment rate at 86.7 percent, the same as the previous year.

FIND MORE DATA AND OTHER PRACTICE STATS AT ABAJOURNAL.COM/LAWBYTHENUMBERS.