

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley Law FAR Form Workshop

July 22, 2013

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM



Do I *really* want to be a law professor?

- Responsibilities of a Legal Academic
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Service
 - General Contributions to Profession
- Relative “weight” placed on each depends on:
 - The institution
 - The type of position
 - “Ladder” / Tenure-track; Clinical; Legal Research & Writing; Adjunct
- Other Considerations
 - Course Load
 - Publication Expectations
 - Salary / Benefits
 - Possible Relocation Requirements
- If you’re currently not sure, or not sure which combination appeals most to you, it’s still ok to continue thinking about it



What are my Chances (I)?

The Aggregate Numbers

- Total Number of Listed AALS Faculty
 - 11,000 (approx)
- Number of New Hires each year at AALS schools
 - Asst. Prof: ~ 150 (approx; declined to under 120 in 2012-13)
 - Lecturers / Instructors: Not reliably tracked
- Number of Applicants (2012-13)
 - 752 (Filing FAR; low by historical standards)
 - 740 (Registering for AALS hiring conference; Approx)
- Unconditional chances of placement
 - Tenure Track: A bit under 15%
 - Not Tenure Track: Not Reliably Tracked
- Some years have been more challenging than others
 - More applicants...and/or...
 - Fewer slots
 - (2013-14 is likely to be down on slots a bit too)



Historical Perspective (Tenure Track Hires)

New Assistant Professor Hires (by year)

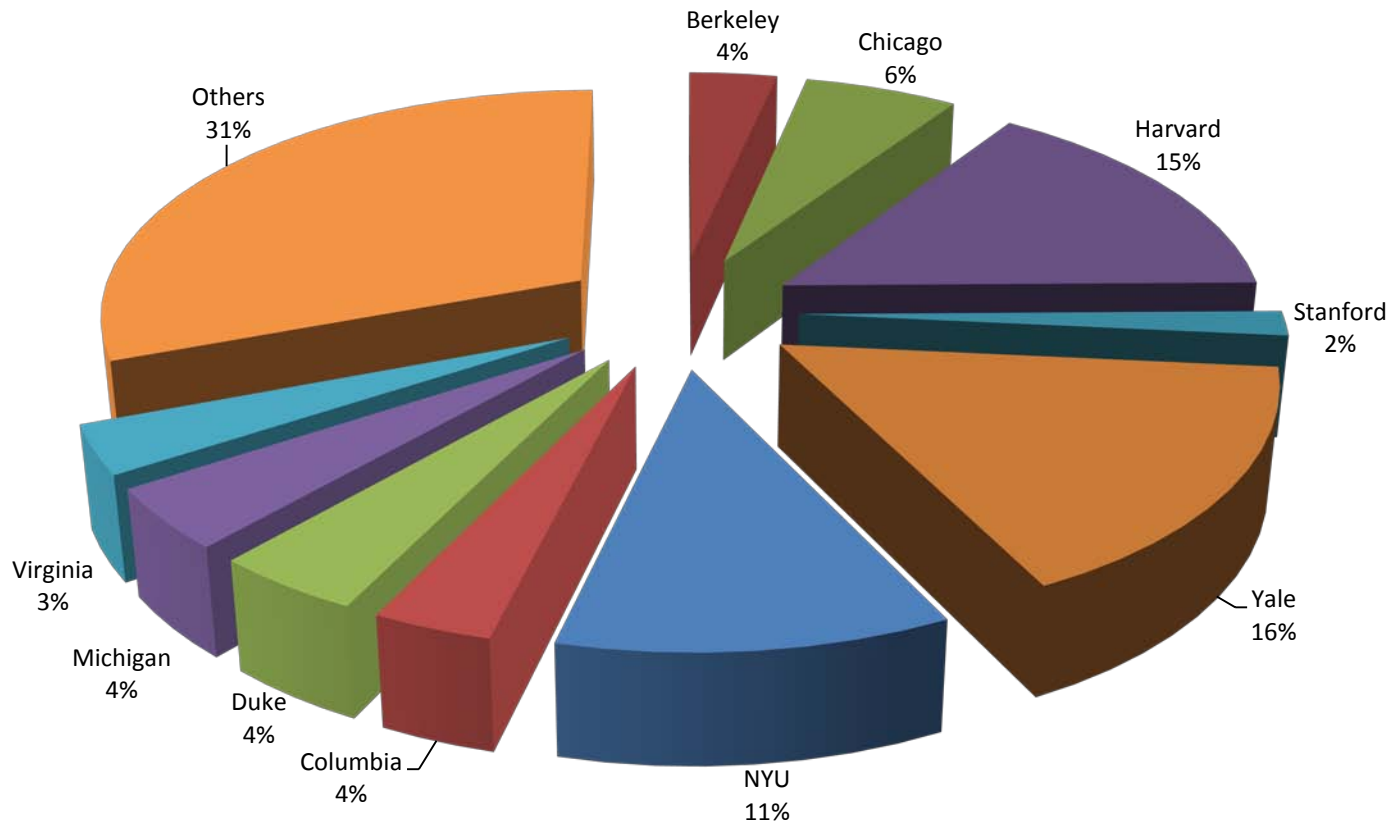




What are my Chances (II)?

Berkeley JD Recipients

2013 Hires (by JD Granting Institution, as % of Total Hired)

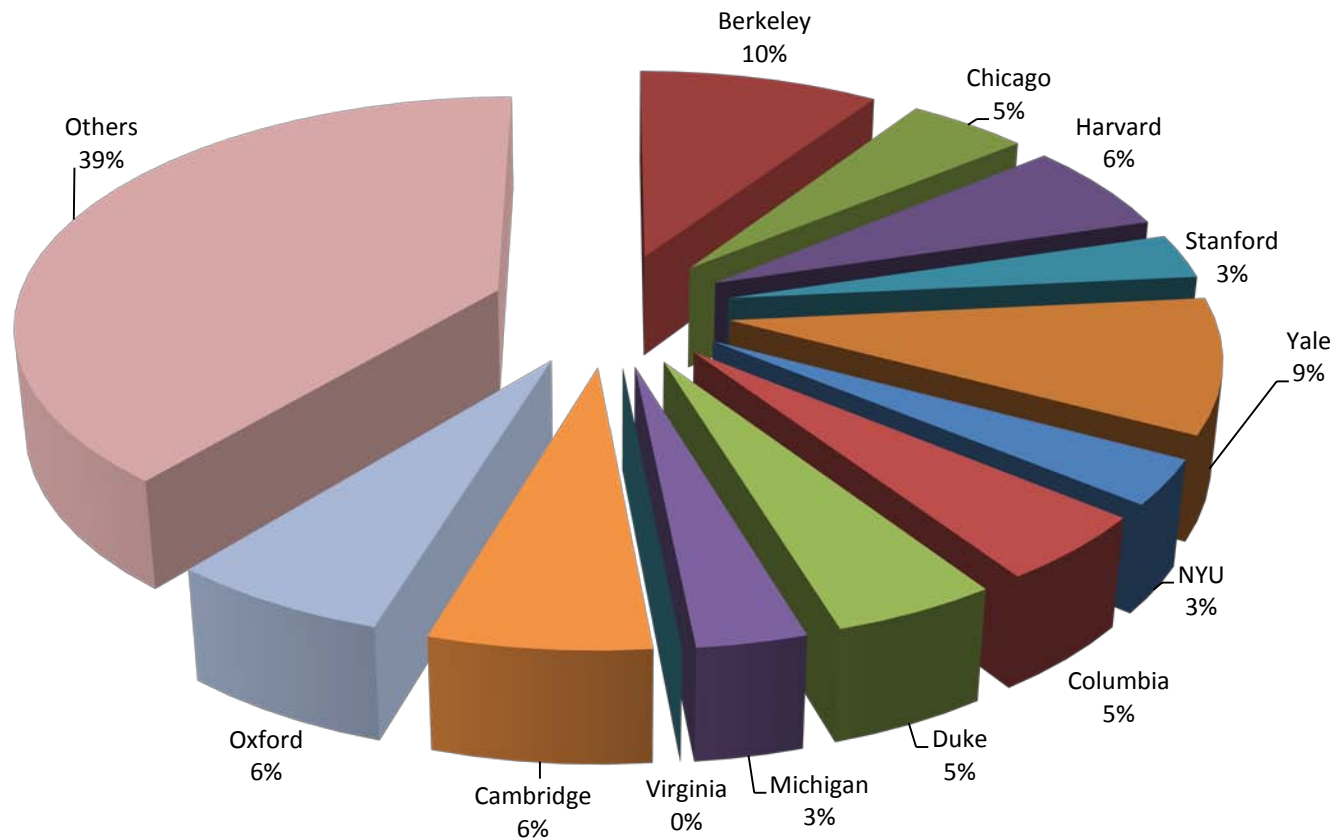




What are my Chances (II)?

Berkeley Masters / PhD / JSD Recipients

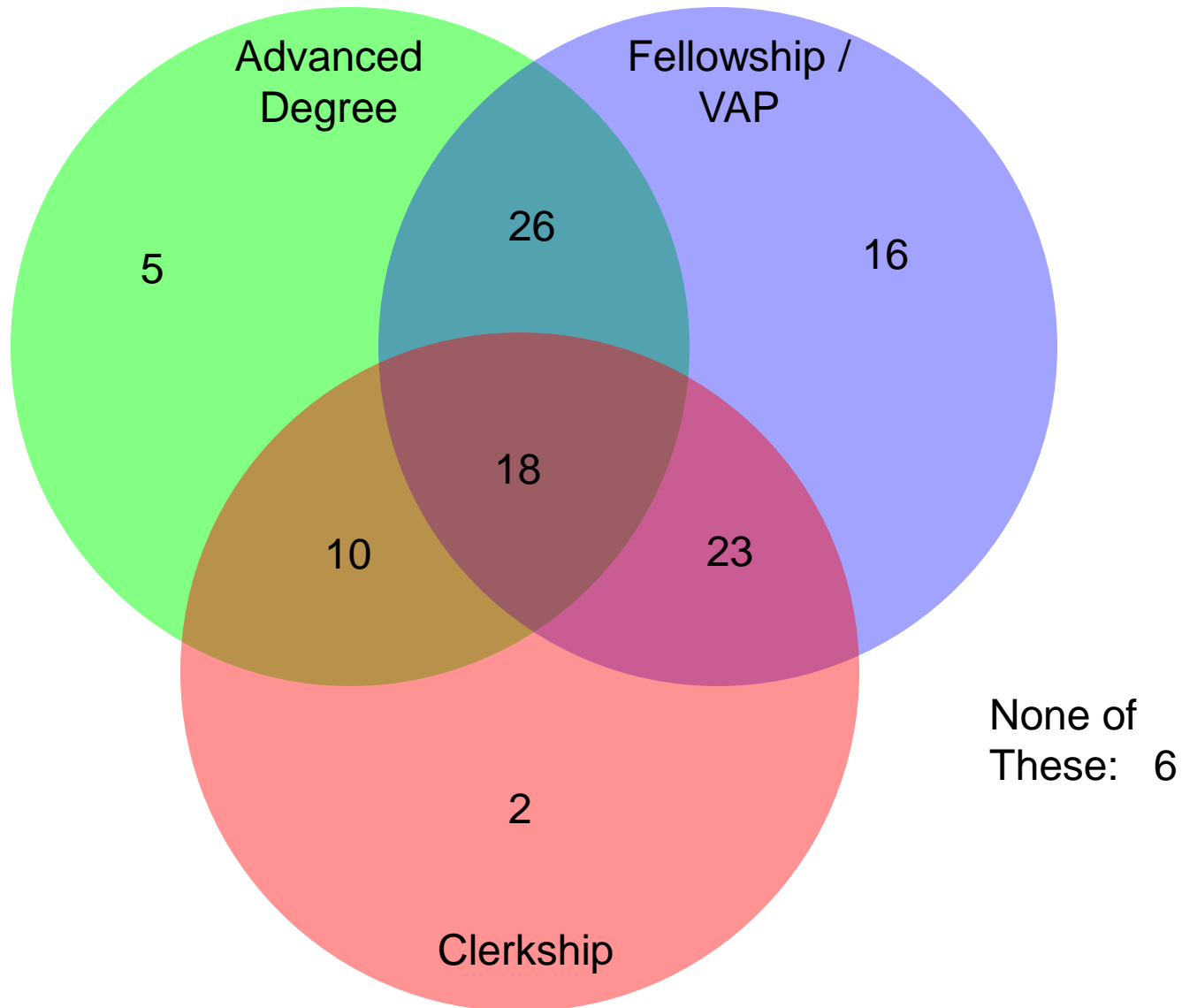
2013 Hires (by PhD/Masters Institution, as % of Total Hired)





What are my Chances (III)?

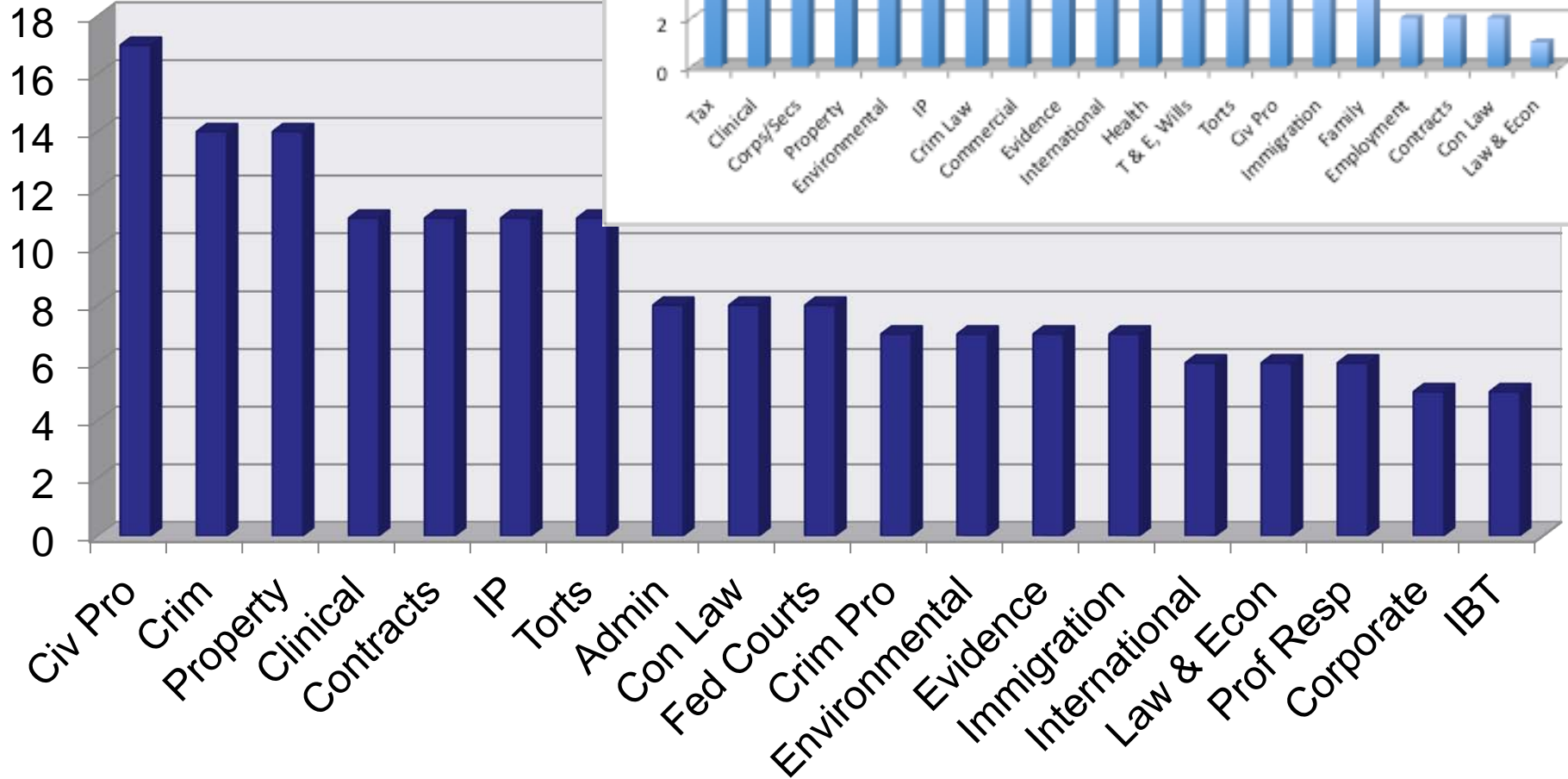
Candidate Credential Breakdown, 2012-13



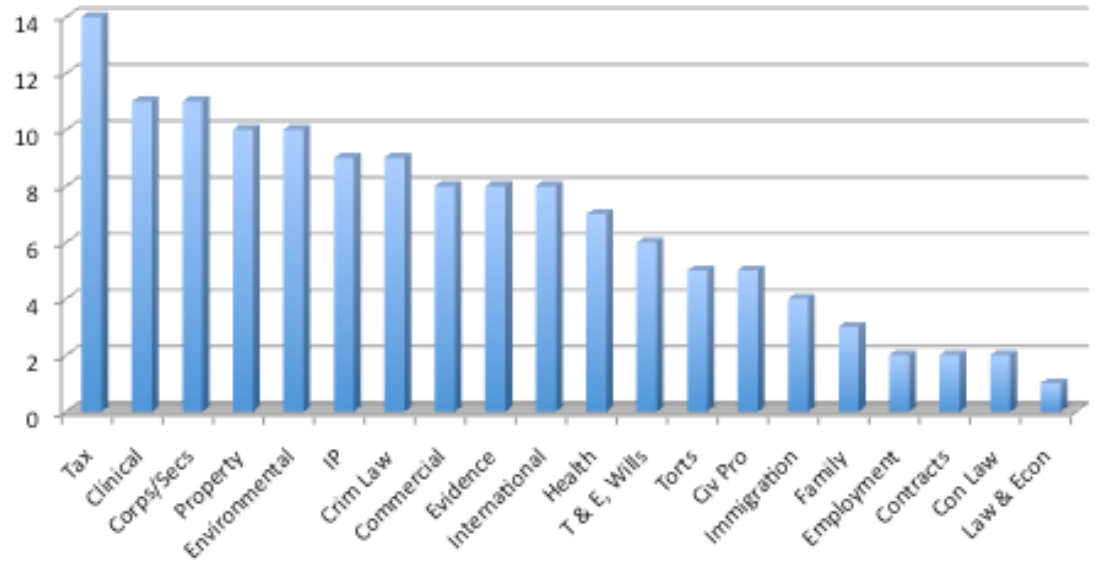


Listed File By New As

Most Pop



Reported Active Searches

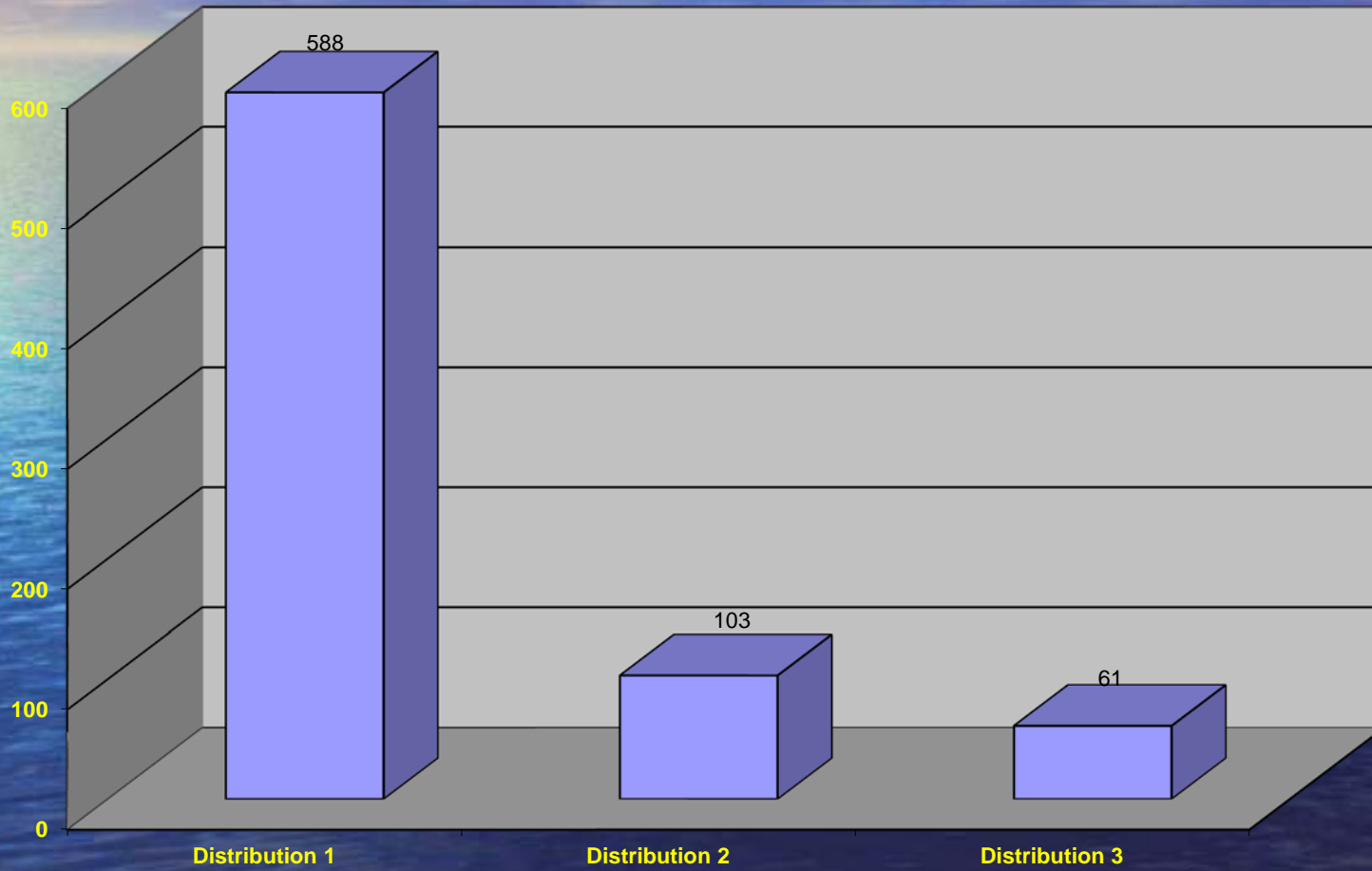


Overview of Hiring Process; Important Milestone Dates



The All-Important First Distribution

FAR Submissions (2012-13 application year; 752 Total)





Preparing for the process I: If you plan to try this fall...

- Update your CV
 - Inventory all scholarly publications / papers / works-in-progress
 - Inventory all academic awards / honors / fellowships
 - Contact Your Law School Registrar for information on law school class rank, confirming awards if necessary, etc.
 - Line up your likely recommenders / references
- Register/Fill out the FAR (and add updated CV)
 - <http://www.aals.org/frs/recruit.php>
 - Be timely (→ earliest distribution deadline)
 - Be savvy & realistic about teaching interests (“Slot” versus “Curricular Fit”)
 - Strive for balance in specificity and flexibility in your responses
 - More publications? Sneak them in in “Comments” Section



Preparing for the process II: If you plan to try this fall...

- Prepare a “packet” to send out (letter, CV, pubs, 3-5 page research agenda)
 - Email preferable; snail mail okay
- Actively contact likely recommenders
 - Beyond lending their name, they can/should also write; call; send spam...
 - ** BE SURE that your recommender is going to speak highly of you **
- Develop your “spiel”
 - In what area(s) will you do research?
 - On what current project(s) are you working?
Contributions?
 - Which project will the topic for your “job talk” be?
 - As the fall approaches, prepare to moot the talk for recommenders



10 questions you will probably hear

1. Why do you want to be a law professor / teach?
2. What is your job talk going to be about? (Expect follow-up questions)
3. What classes you would most like to teach? Why those classes?
4. What are your future research plans?
5. Why are you leaving (not going into) law practice?
6. What kind of public service activities are you engaged in?
7. How would you go about teaching [*insert course / doctrine / case here*]?
8. Where do you see yourself in ten years? (As scholar; as citizen?)
9. What was your favorite class (or professor) in law school and why?
10. What are your personal interests and hobbies?



Preparing for the process III: If you plan to wait a year or more...

- Cultivate relationships with faculty
 - Research assistantships
 - Note advisers
 - Small seminar-like settings
 - Affiliations with research centers / clinics
- Develop an area of research / teaching that...
 - You can become passionate about;
 - Is intellectually interesting but not over-explored by others;
 - Lends itself to your developing particular skills;
 - Schools are likely to demand
- Contemplate getting some experience teaching
 - TAs / GSAs within the university or law school
 - CLE seminars (if you're currently practicing)
 - Lecturing / Adjuncting (perhaps, but probably in small doses)

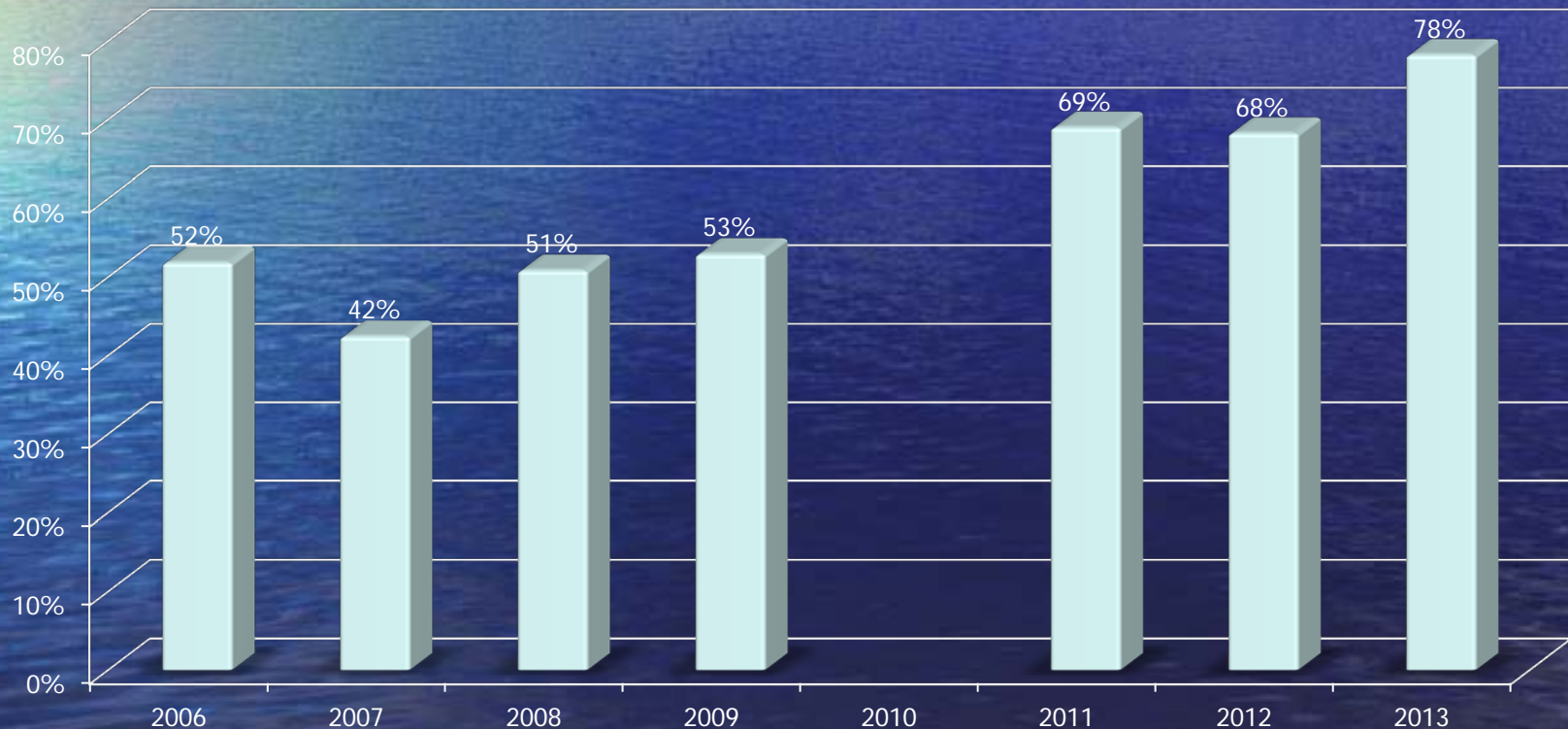


Waiting for a year (or two, or...)

- Law School Fellowship and “VAP” programs:
 - NYU, Columbia, Northwestern, Harvard, Columbia, Texas, Chicago, Stanford
 - Many other schools have more modest or *ad hoc* programs
- “Portable” Fellowships
 - Allow you to spend a year affiliated with a school of your choice (you need to procure office / staff privileges, however).
- Adjunct Professor / Lectureship Positions
 - Can be helpful for those not sure if they would enjoy teaching (but limited research / service possibilities)
- Other Graduate Degree Programs
 - Masters; PhD; MD; MBA; JSD programs

The increasing significance of pre-market fellowships / VAPs

Percentage of Assistant Professors hired out of a fellowship or VAP





Some Helpful Resources

- Boalt Career Services Site on Academic Careers:
 - <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/careers.htm>
- Faculty Appointments Chairs:
 - Prawfsblawg:
<http://prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg/2013/07/hiring-committees-2013-2014.html>
- Job Market Advice / Gossip / Blogs
 - Brian Leiter: <http://leiterlawschool.typepad.com/leiter/advice-for-academic-job-seekers/>
 - The Faculty Lounge: http://www.thefacultyounge.org/law_school_hiring/
 - Prawfsblawg: http://prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg/getting_a_job_on_the_law_teaching_market/
- Uncloaking Law School Hiring: A Recruit's Guide to the AALS Faculty Recruitment Conference
 - <http://www.aals.org/frs/jle.php>
- AALS Aggregate Statistics (since 2001)
 - http://www.aals.org/resources_statistical.php



Reminders / Upcoming Events

- Remember to attack & conquer the FAR before the 1st distribution deadline (Aug 14)
 - Send drafts to faculty advisers for feedback
- Boot Camp Event: August 9
 - Time/Location
 - 9:00 – 4:30 (tentative)
 - Location: Boalt Hall, Room 132
 - Program:
 - Countdown to an Academic Career.
 - Nuts and Bolts of the “Market Year”
 - What Appointments Committee Members Look For
 - Mock AALS Interview
 - Mock Job Talk
 - What I Wish I Had Known Then