



CDO: Law Firm Research Tools

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Even though the BigLaw law firm hiring season is still months away, some of you have told us that you would like to use this period before classes begin to start the process of researching potential Summer 2021 employers. So, we are sending along some links to law firm research tools even though we know many of you may prefer to wait, which is an entirely reasonable strategy.

However, as we look to the beginning of the academic year, we expect that firms will start holding networking events and/or information sessions. Sometimes they will be in collaboration with student organizations or research centers or the CDO. They will continue throughout the fall semester. Their purpose is for you and firms to get to know one another in advance of the actual application/bidding processes, which will take place a few months from now. For those of you who are ready to engage over the next few weeks, the below resources may help you choose the ones you want to attend and help you get the most out of them.

To help you make sense of what may seem to be overwhelming amounts -- as well as sources -- of information about law firms, we have two videos: one to help you decide what is important to you in a firm and how to find it, and the other on how to learn more about individual firms.

If you want to know what other students have found to be important factors in choosing an employer, or if you have a sense of what you're looking for and want to find firms that meet your criteria (or make sure your list of employers is complete), watch [How to Develop a List of Employers](#) (approx. 20 min.).

If you know you are interested in a certain firm, and want to find out more about it (to decide whether to bid, to prepare for your interviews, or to decide whether to accept an offer), watch [How to Research an Employer](#) (approx. 20 min.).

We also have two written resource guides to assist you in your research process: 1) a quick [one page summary](#) with links to the most popular sites students use; and 2) [a more detailed guide](#) that is organized by research inquiry (e.g., how to research firms that work in a particular practice area).

Keep in mind that some of the resources identified in our guides, such as [Chambers-Associate](#), [Vault](#), and the [American Lawyer](#) magazine, purport to go deeper than firms' marketing materials through surveys, reviews, and rankings. However, you should remain as circumspect with surveys and rankings as you would with statements on a firm's own self-serving recruiting webpage. We recommend that you take some time to understand their methodology and think critically about their conclusions.

It is too early to know exactly which employers will be participating in the Winter Interview Program (WIP). However, the list of employers that participate in Berkeley Law's on campus interview programs has been quite stable over the years, which means that last year's list of EIW employers will serve as a good proxy for expected WIP participants. You can find a list of "EIW 2019 Schedules -- Sorted by Location" in the **b-Line Documents Library** (click on Resources from the b-Line homepage).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of the private sector counselors for answers to your employer research questions (or anything else for that matter).