

# THE MISSISSIPPI BAR

**2010 ECONOMIC SURVEY**  
**December 2010**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
What is your type of employment? .....	2
What is the structure of your firm? .....	3
What is the size of your firm? .....	3
How long have you been a licensed attorney? .....	4
Annual compensation – Secretary .....	5
Experience .....	5
By sole practitioner .....	5
By 2-3 attorneys .....	6
By 4-5 attorneys .....	6
By 6-10 attorneys .....	7
By 11-19 attorneys .....	7
By 20+ attorneys .....	8
Annual compensation – Legal Assistants .....	9
Experience .....	9
By sole practitioner .....	9
By 2-3 attorneys .....	10
By 4-5 attorneys .....	10
By 6-10 attorneys .....	11
By 11-19 attorneys .....	11
By 20+ attorneys .....	12
Annual compensation – Associates .....	13
Experience .....	13
By 2-3 attorneys .....	13
By 4-5 attorneys .....	14
By 6-10 attorneys .....	14
By 11-19 attorneys .....	15
By 20+ attorneys .....	15
Personal annual income from practicing law in 2009 .....	16
When you charge on an hourly basis, what is your standard hourly rate .....	17
On average, how many billable hours do you have per year .....	18
What types of advertising/marketing do you or your firm use .....	19
Do you think the legal profession in your area suffers from a negative image in the eyes of the public .....	20
In the past five years, do you think that the professionalism among lawyers has .....	20
Do you get any personal satisfaction from the practice of law .....	21
In an average month, how many hours do you spend on civic/community work .....	22
Compared to last year, on the whole, are the economic circumstances of practicing law .....	22
With regards to your own activities, the quantity of work is .....	23
How many work days in 2009 did you take for vacation time .....	23
The percentage of fees that were uncollectable in 2009 was .....	24

## INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Mississippi Bar Economic Survey was administered electronically in October, 2010. The previous economic surveys, performed every two years, were mailed to a randomly selected sample of Bar members representing approximately one-third of the membership. In an effort to expand participation and enhance the accuracy of the information obtained, the survey was made available to all Bar members through a link emailed to them. As with all new processes, there were some unanticipated issues involving the entry of data and the ability to skip some questions. These were addressed and noted for future surveys, and did not affect the integrity of the survey results as a whole.

The questions for the survey were suggested by the Mississippi Bar. All technology questions included in previous surveys were eliminated. The accounting firm of Grantham Poole was responsible for the administration and tabulation of the survey and its results.

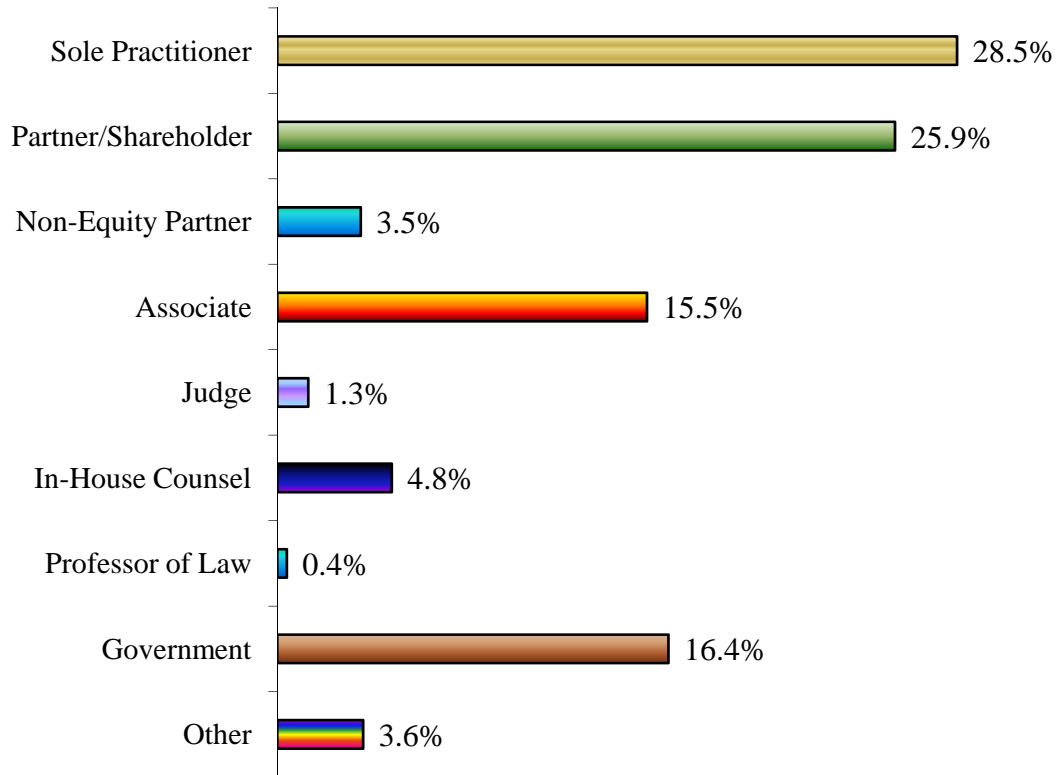
A total of 817 members responded to the survey representing a participation rate of 13%. Of the responses received, the largest percentages were from Hinds county (31%), Madison county (13%) and Harrison county (8%). Although a full third of the responders had practiced 26 years or more, the survey does represent all levels of experience with answers being spread fairly equally amount the age groups. Other general characteristics noted in the results included the following:

- 74% of the respondents were male
- 95% of the respondents were Caucasian
- 94% of the respondents work full-time in the practice of law
- 57% graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law; 26% graduated from the Mississippi College School of Law; 17% received their law degrees from other institutions

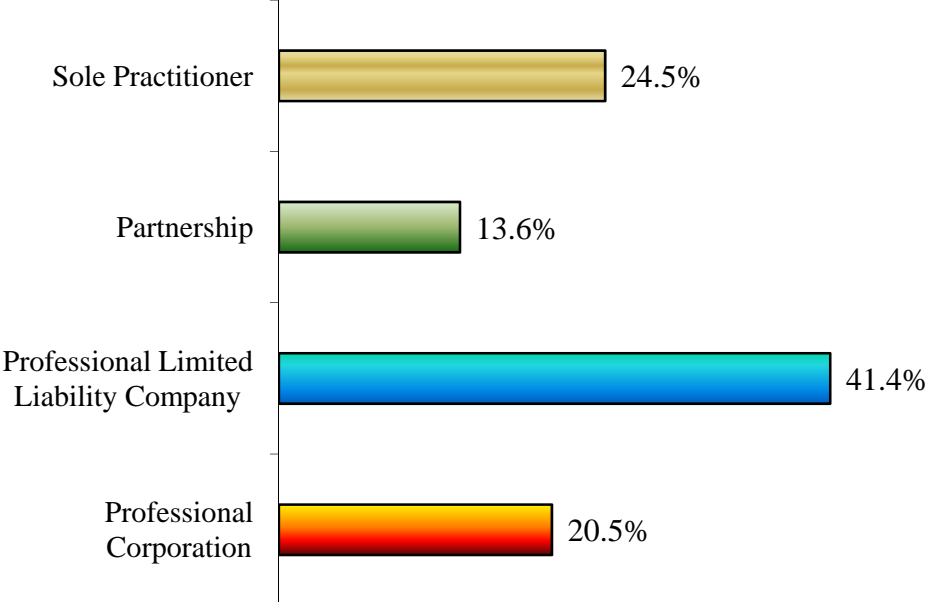
The charts that follow illustrate the answers to questions relating to firm structure and size, income and salaries, hourly rates and billable hours, marketing and personal satisfaction with the profession.

Thank you for your participation.

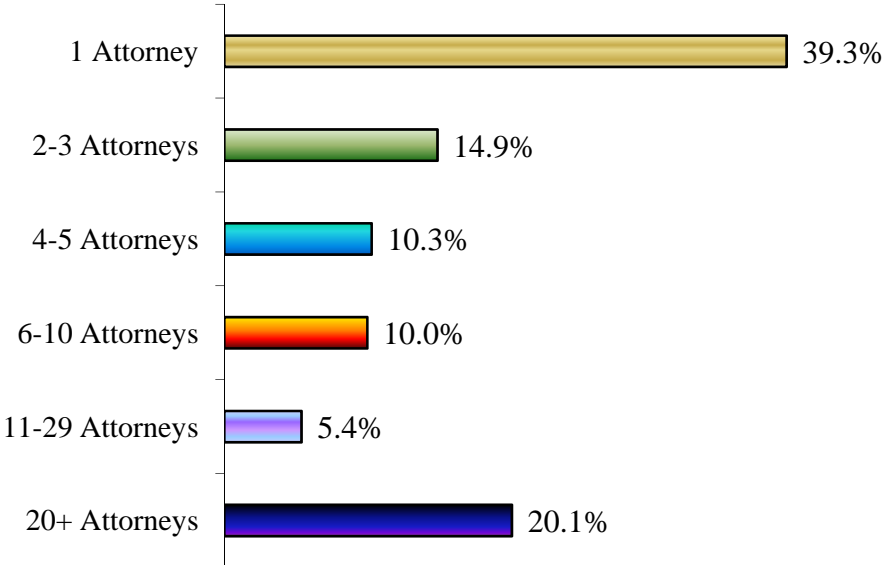
## WHAT IS YOUR TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT?



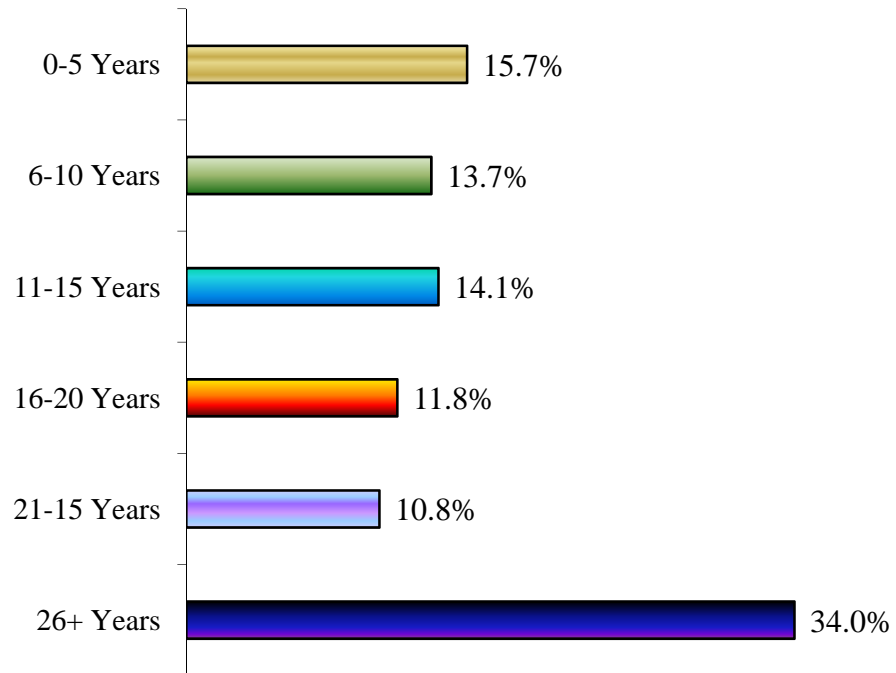
**WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR FIRM?**



**WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR FIRM?**

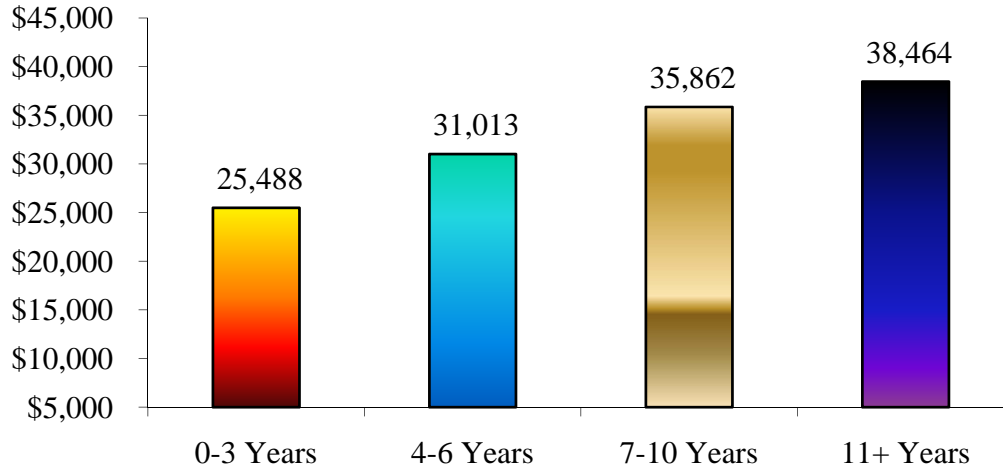


## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A LICENSED ATTORNEY?

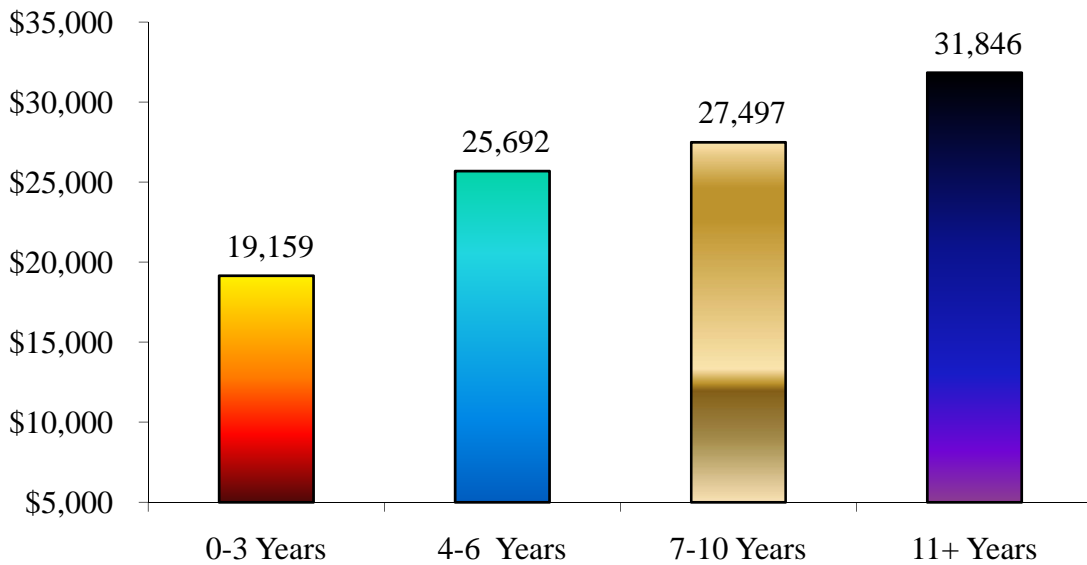


## COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES IN 2010

### 2010 Secretary Annual Compensation by Experience

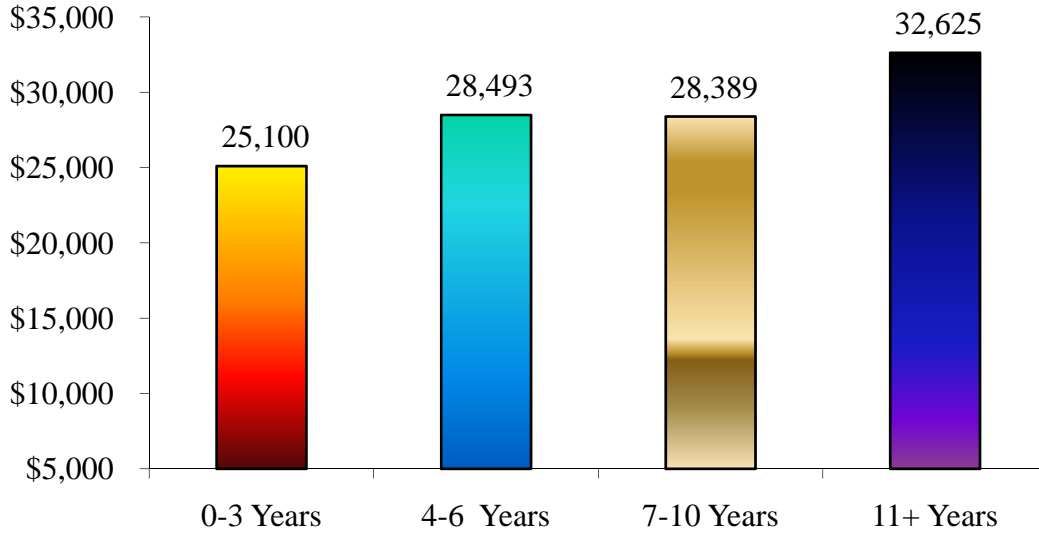


### Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm Sole Practitioner

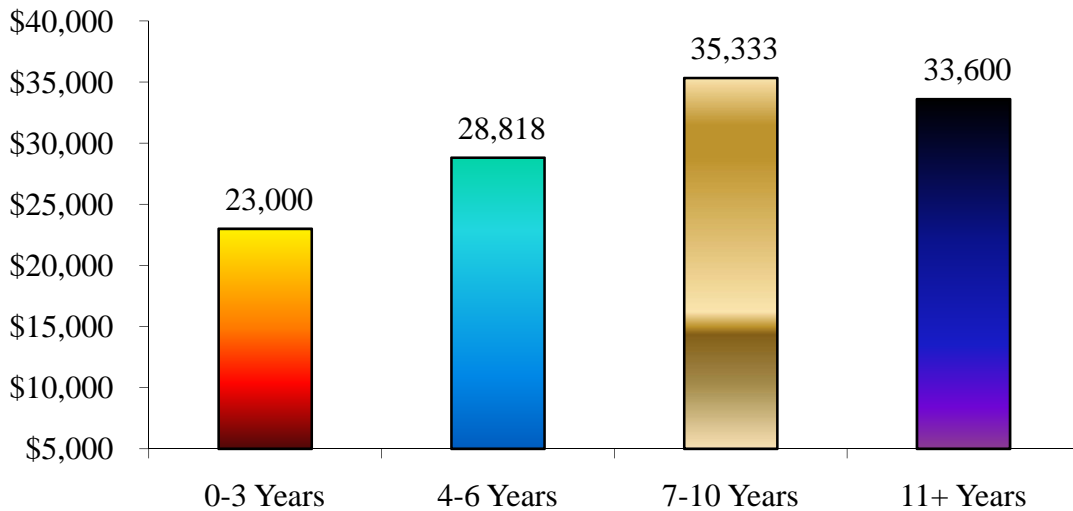


**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES IN 2010  
(Continued)**

**Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm  
2-3 Attorneys**

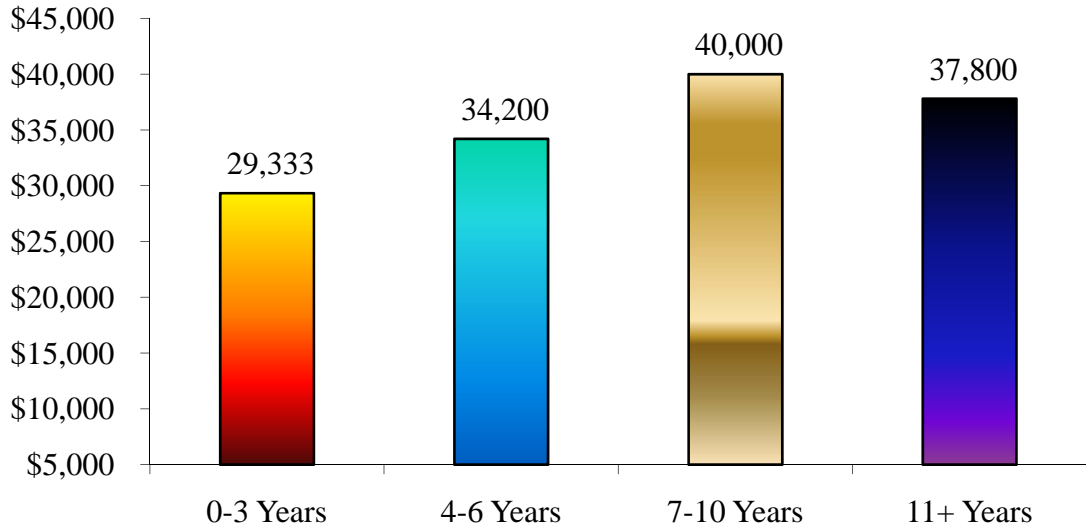


**Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm  
4-5 Attorneys**

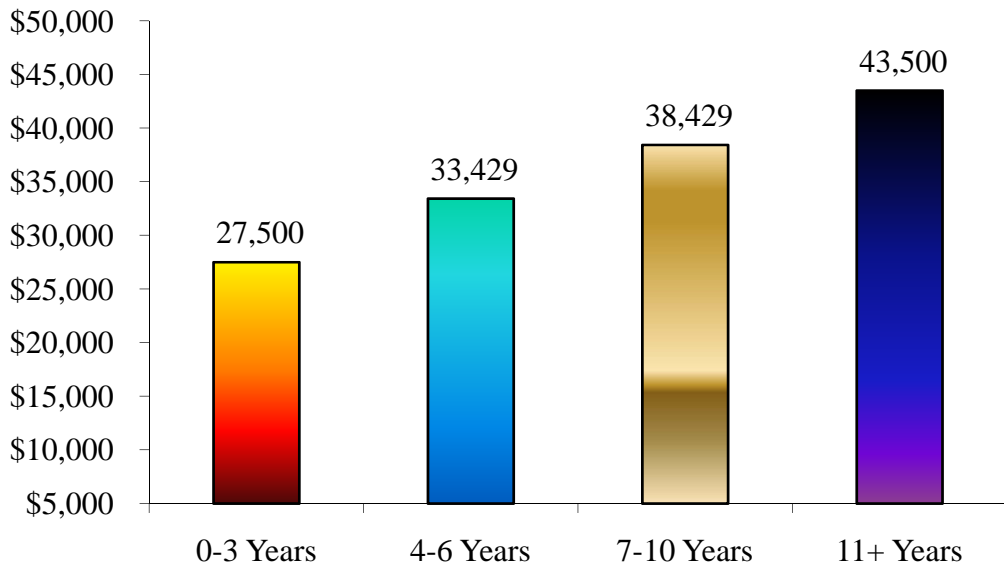


**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES IN 2010  
(Continued)**

**Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm  
6-10 Attorneys**

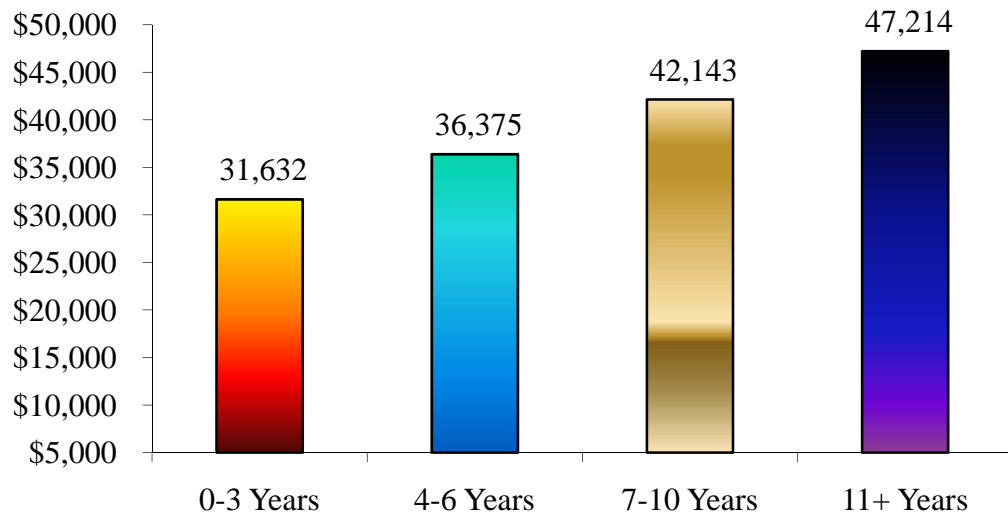


**Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm  
11-19 Attorneys**



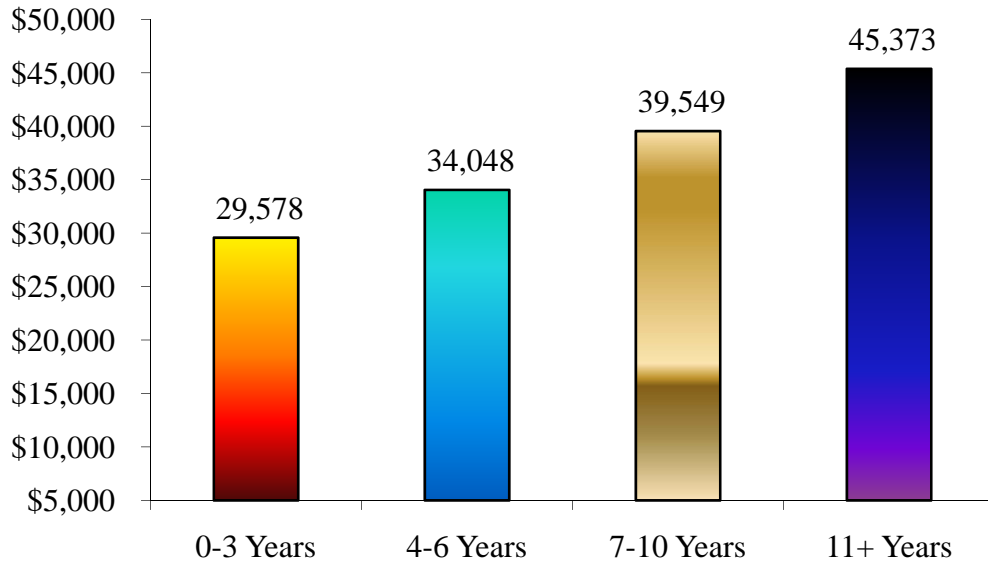
**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES IN 2010**  
**(Continued)**

**Secretary Compensation by Size of Firm**  
**20+ Attorneys**

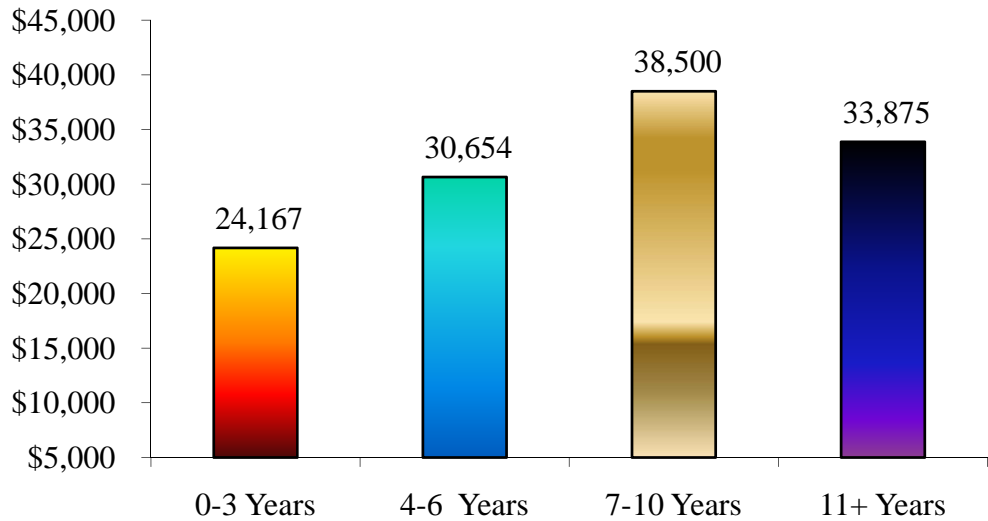


## COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN 2010

### 2010 Paralegal Annual Compensation by Experience

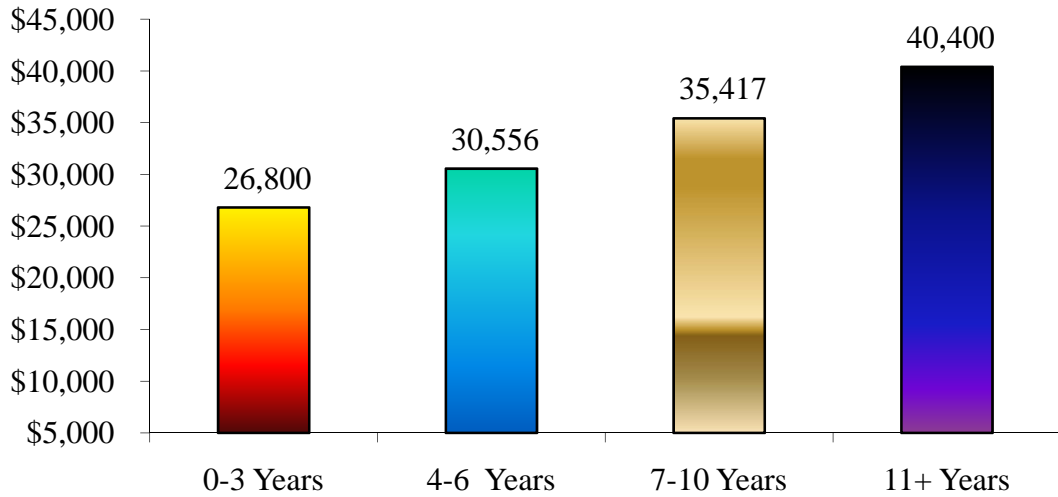


### Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm Sole Practitioner

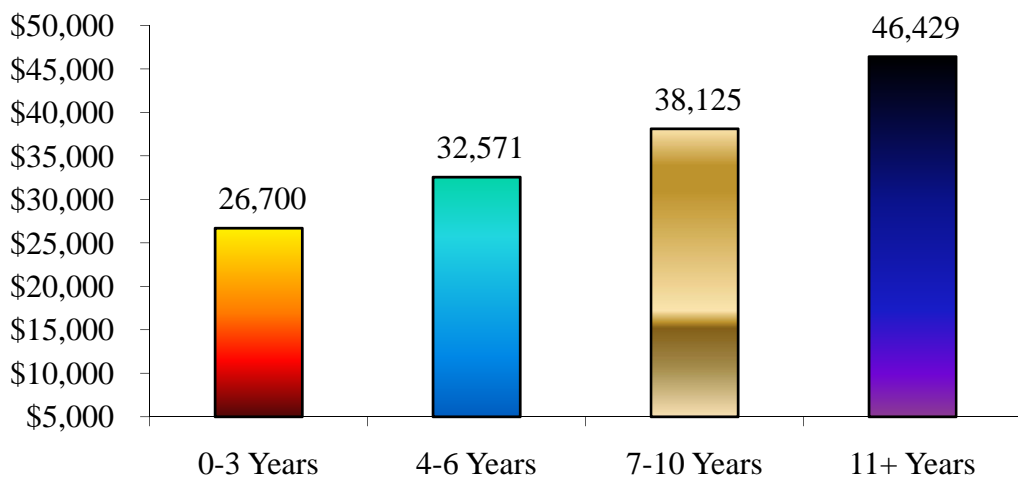


**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN 2010  
(Continued)**

**Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm  
2-3 Attorneys**

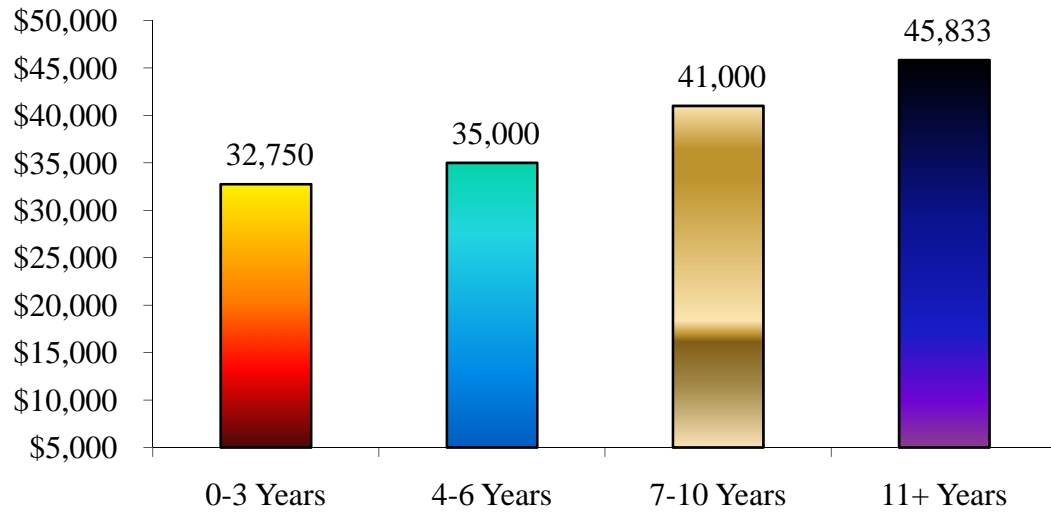


**Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm  
4-5 Attorneys**

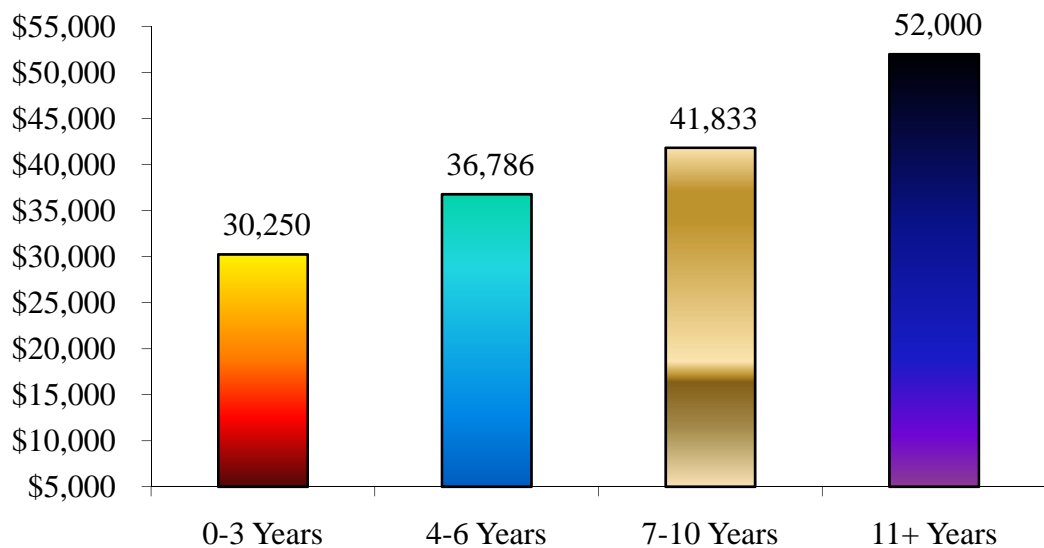


**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN 2010  
(Continued)**

**Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm  
6-10 Attorneys**

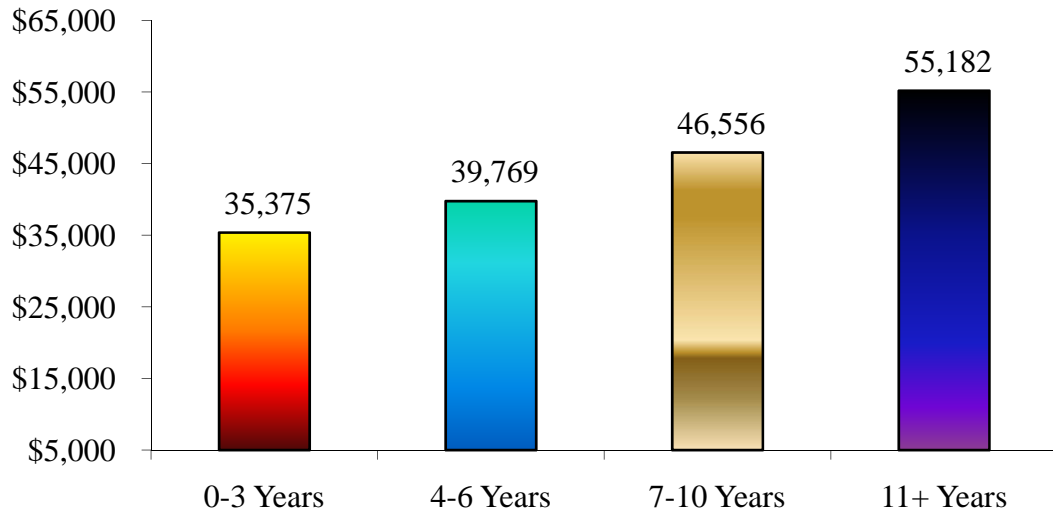


**Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm  
11-19 Attorneys**



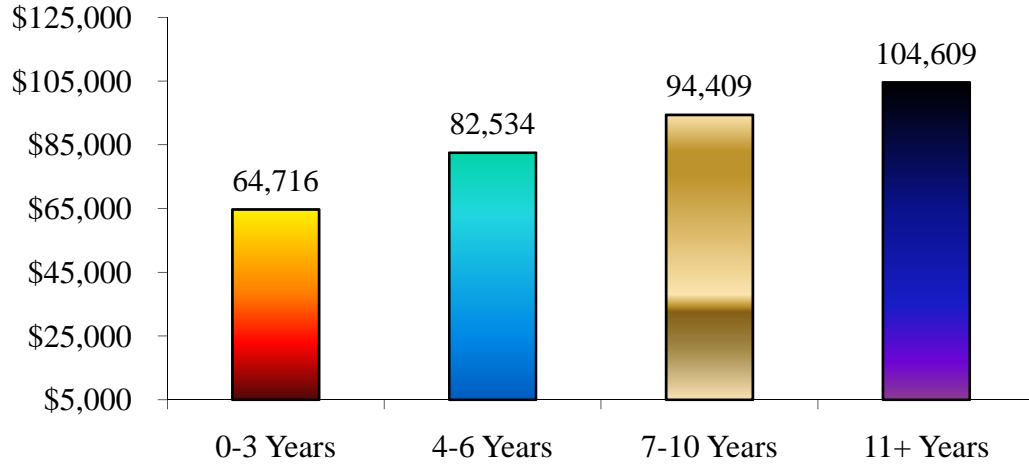
**COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN 2010**  
**(Continued)**

**Paralegal Compensation by Size of Firm**  
**20+ Attorneys**

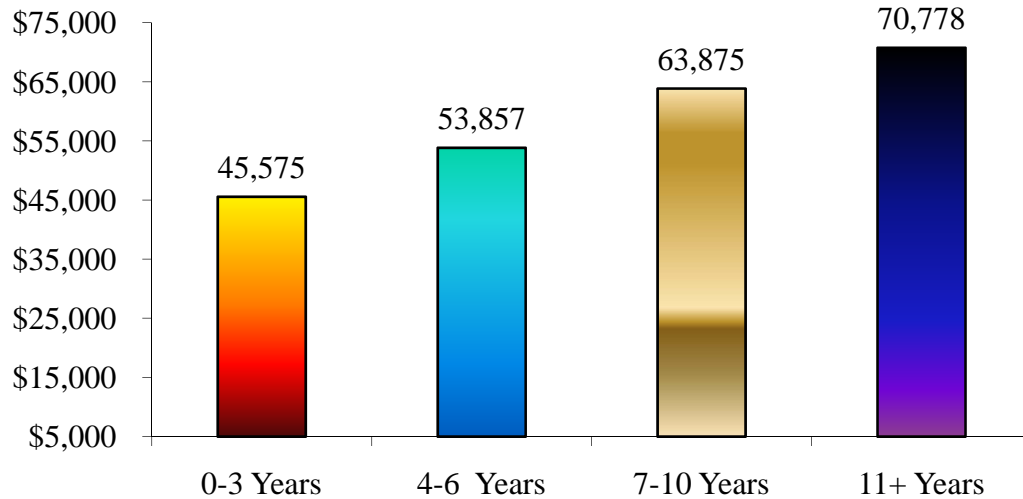


## COMPENSATION FOR ASSOCIATES IN 2010

### 2010 Associate Annual Compensation by Experience

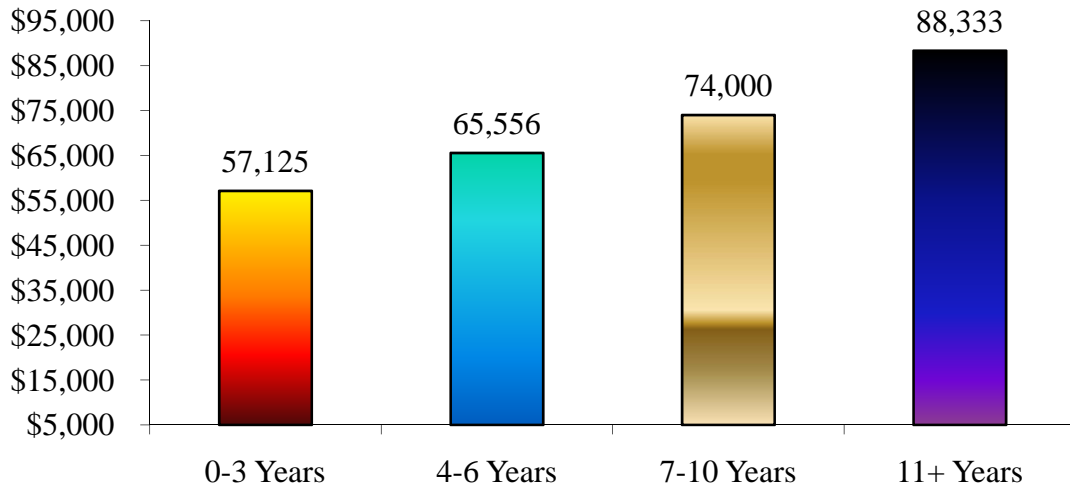


### Associate Compensation by Size of Firm 2-3 Attorneys

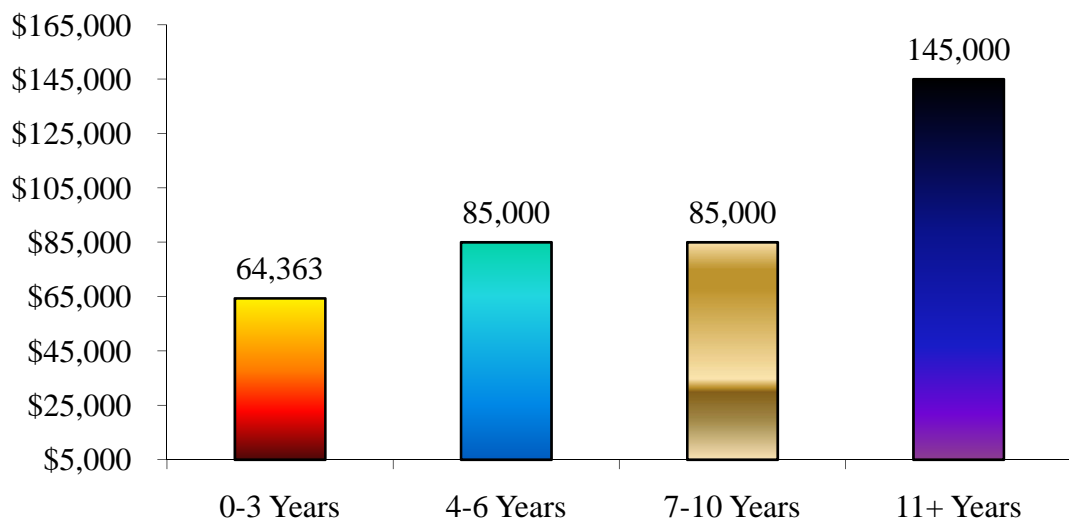


**COMPENSATION FOR ASSOCIATES IN 2010  
(Continued)**

**Associate Compensation by Size of Firm  
4-5 Attorneys**

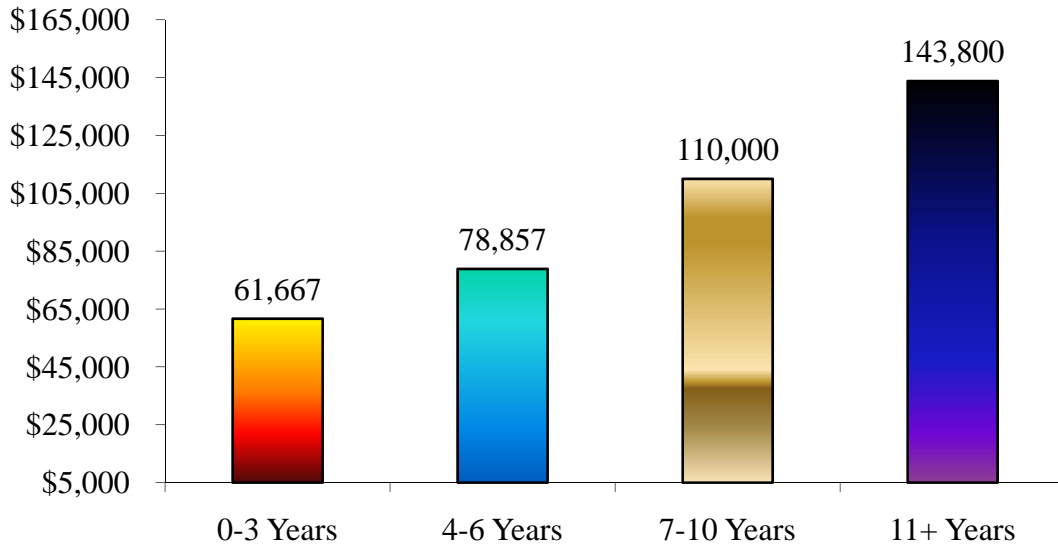


**Associate Compensation by Size of Firm  
6-10 Attorneys**

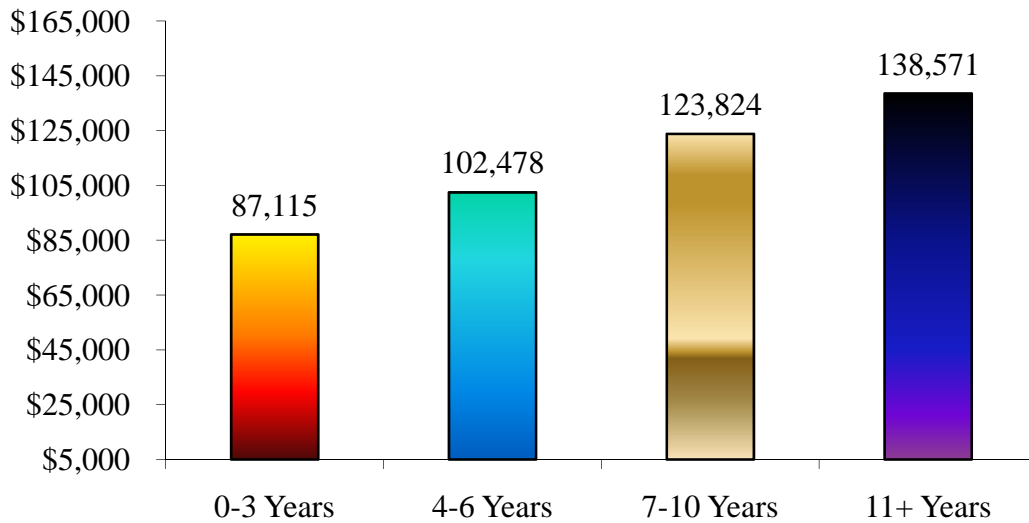


**COMPENSATION FOR ASSOCIATES IN 2010**  
**(Continued)**

**Associate Compensation by Size of Firm**  
**11-19 Attorneys**

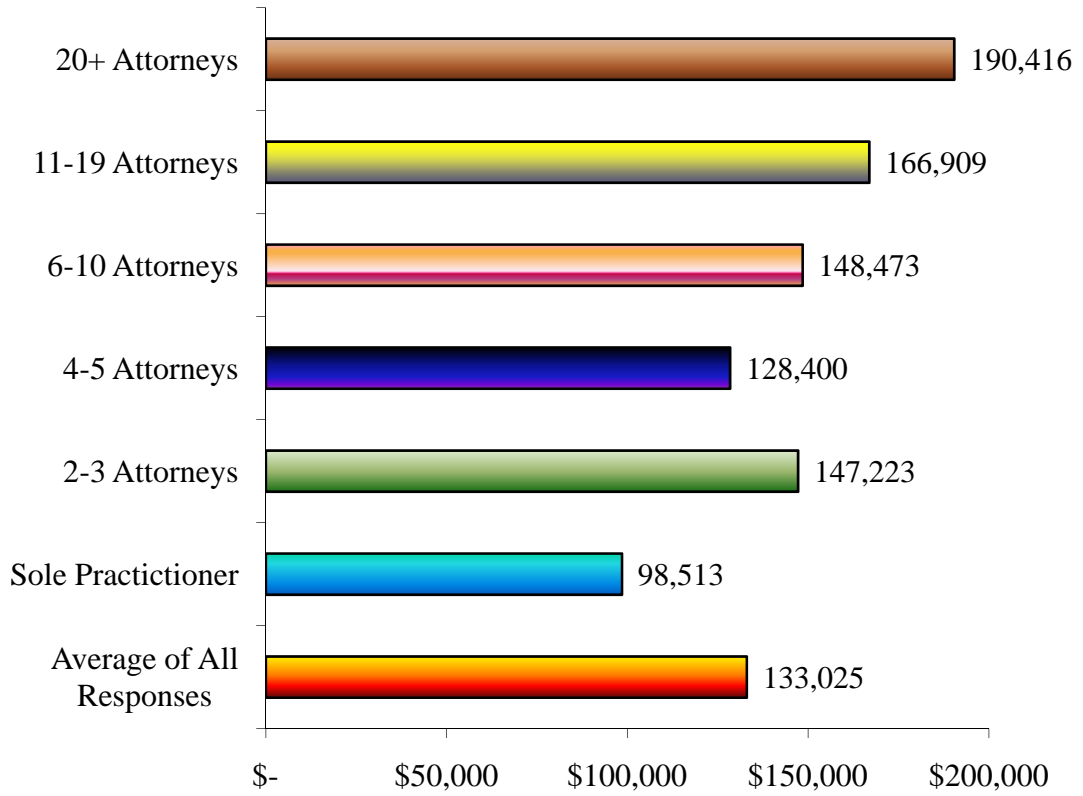


**Associate Compensation by Size of Firm**  
**20+ Attorneys**

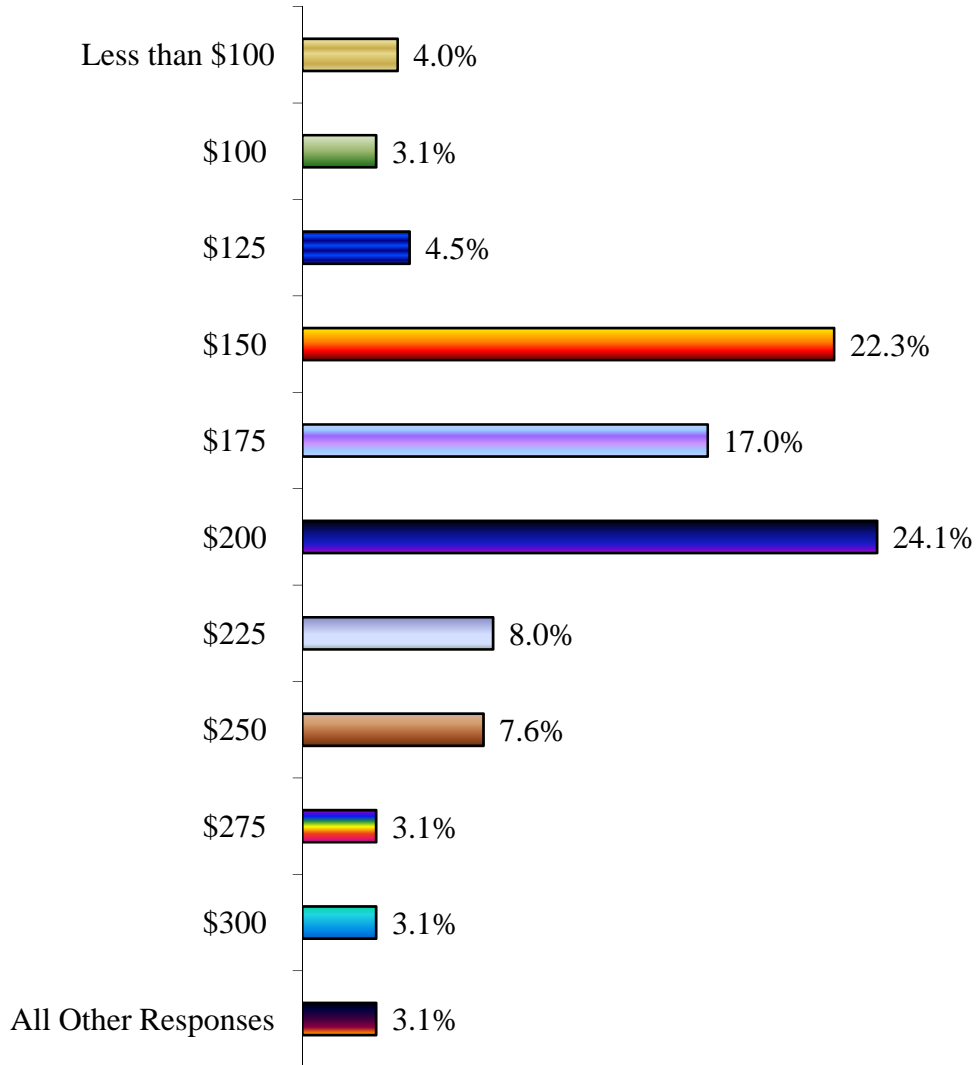


# PERSONAL ANNUAL INCOME FROM PRACTICING LAW IN 2009

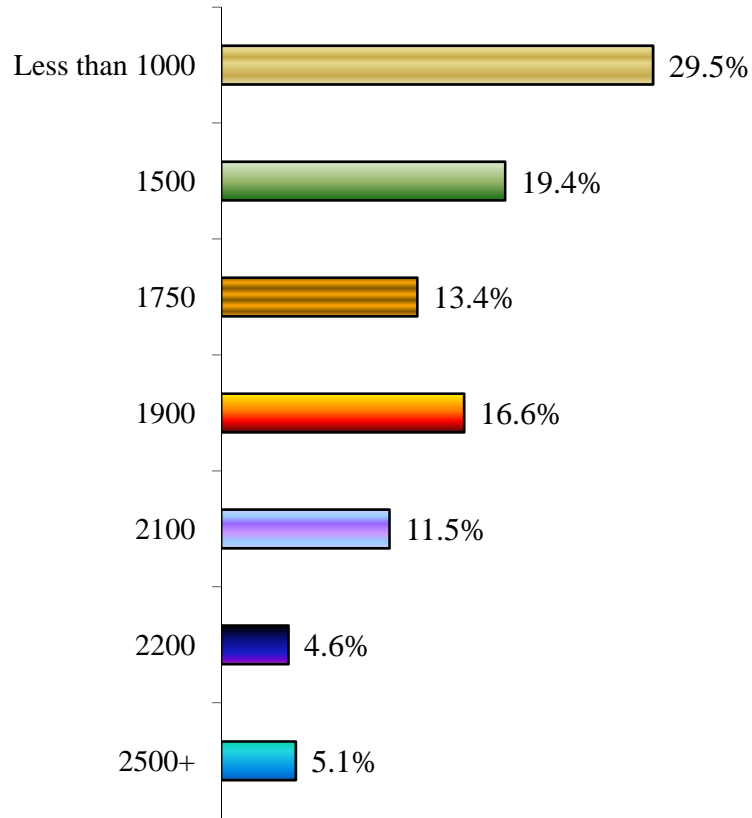
## Annual Income By Firm Size



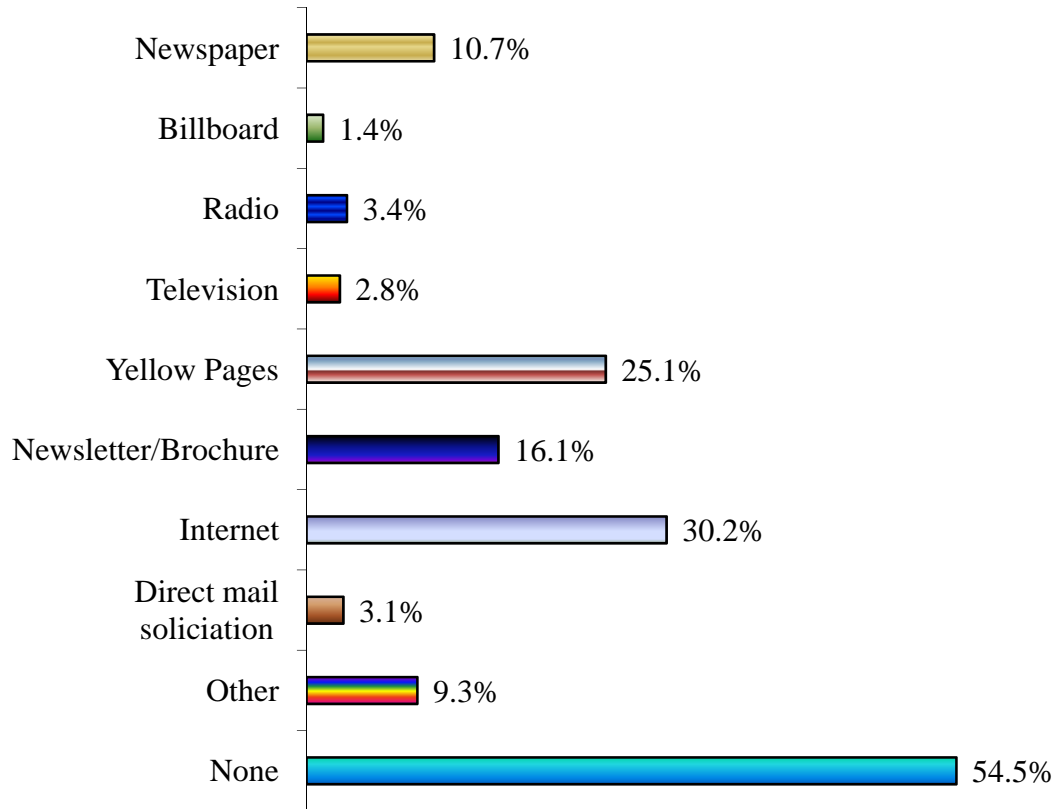
**WHEN YOU CHARGE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, WHAT IS YOUR STANDARD HOURLY RATE?**



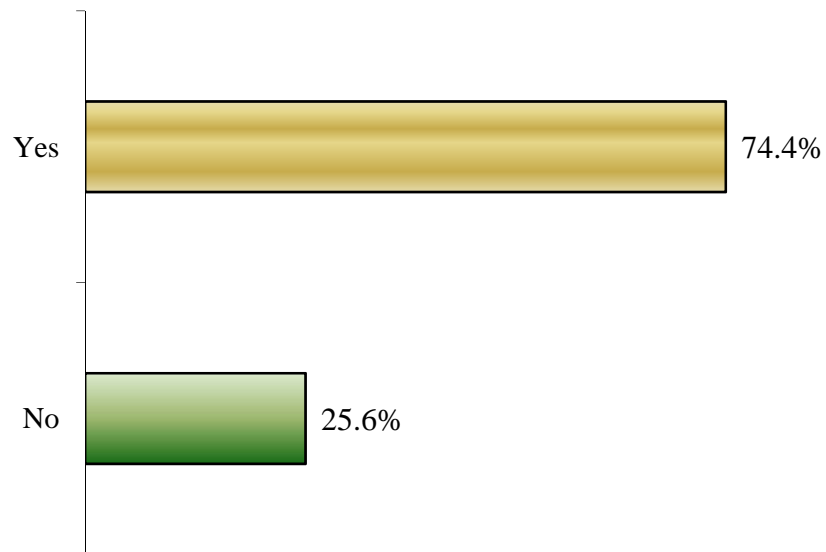
**HOW MANY BILLABLE HOURS DO YOU HAVE PER YEAR?  
(On Average)**



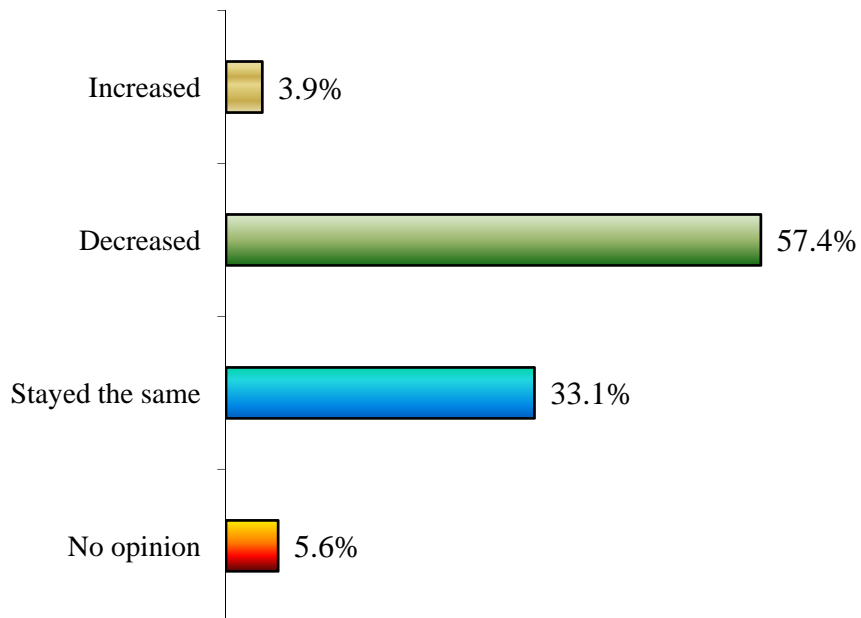
**WHAT TYPES OF ADVERTISING /MARKETING  
DO YOU OR YOUR FIRM USE?**



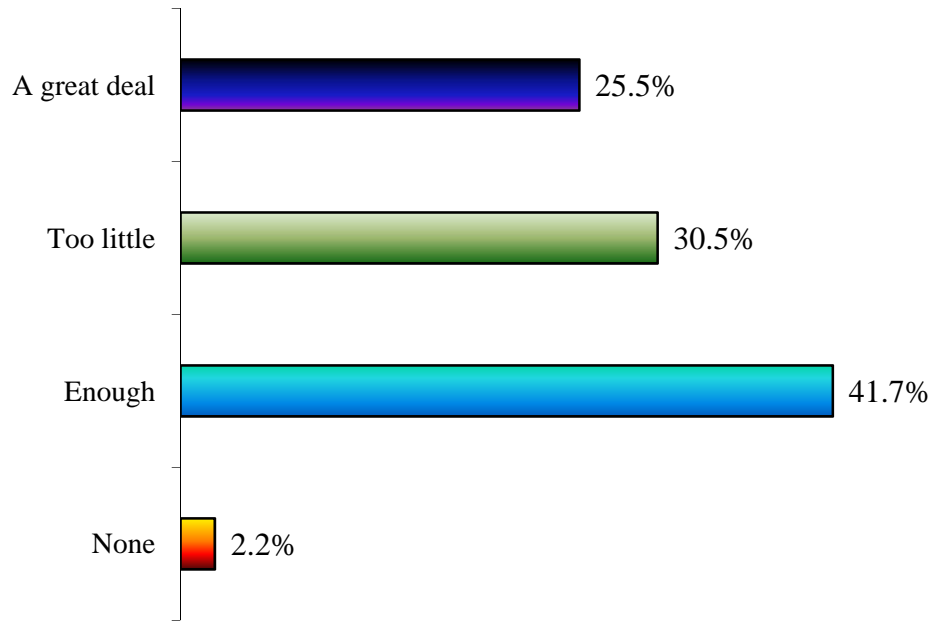
**DO YOU THINK THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN YOUR AREA SUFFERS FROM A NEGATIVE IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC?**



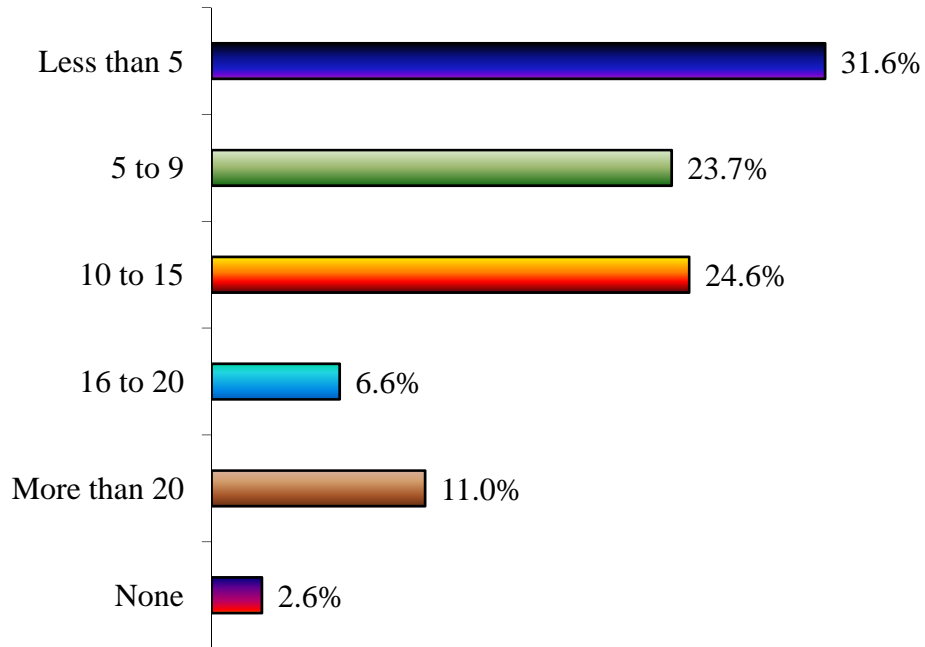
**IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, DO YOU THINK THAT THE PROFESSIONALISM AMONG LAWYERS HAS.....**



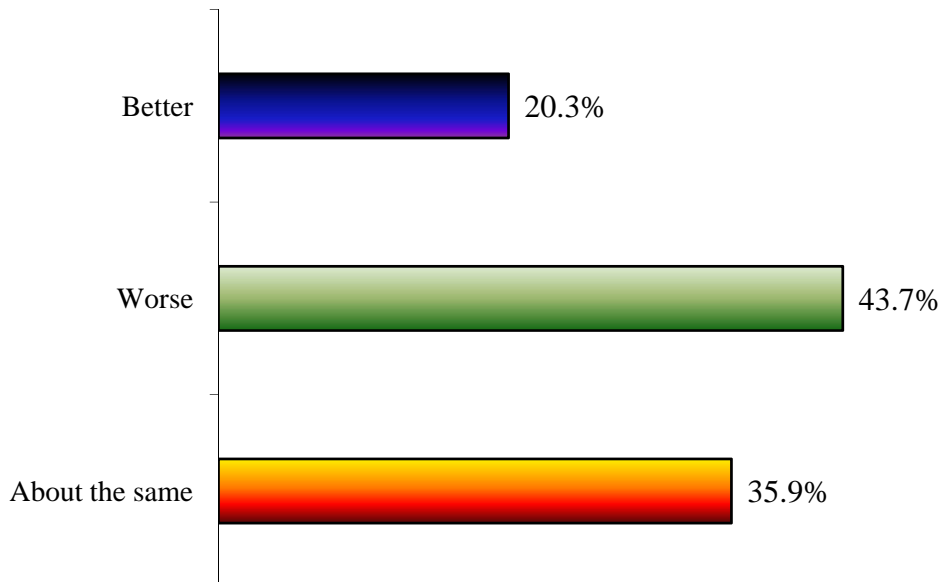
**DO YOU GET ANY PERSONAL SATISFACTION FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW?**



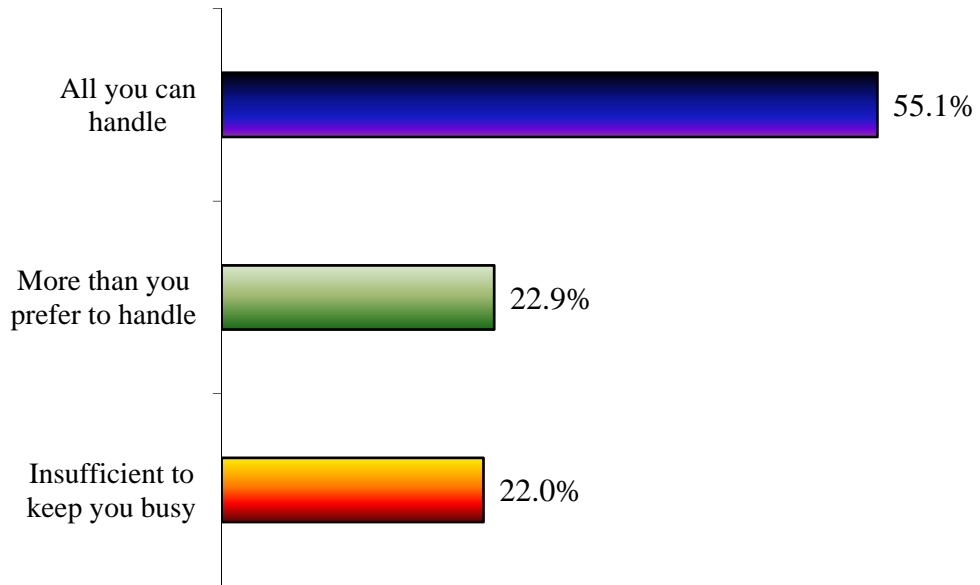
**IN AN AVERAGE MONTH, HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU SPEND ON CIVIC AND COMMUNITY WORK?**



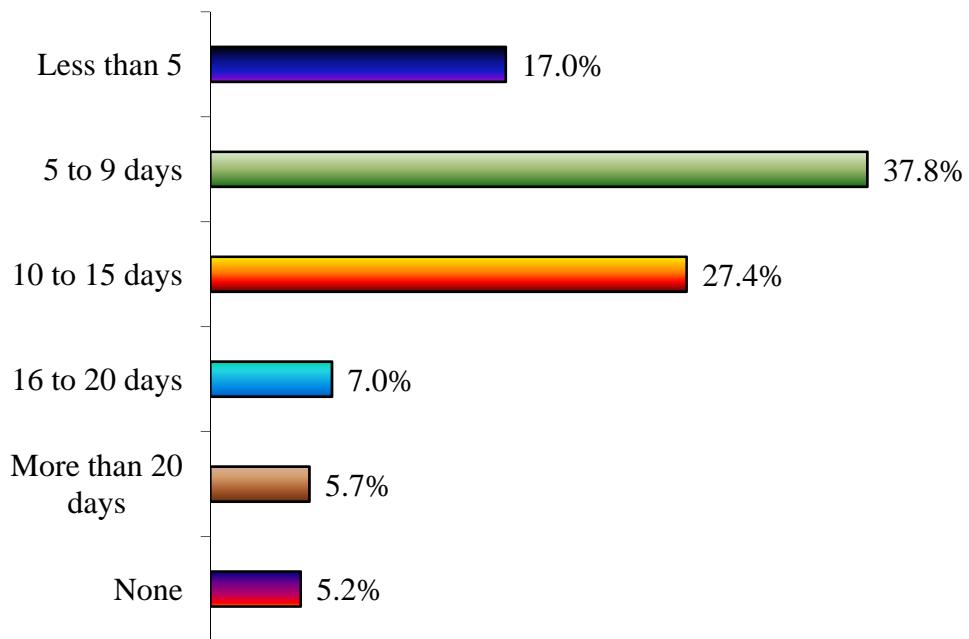
**COMPARED TO LAST YEAR, ON THE WHOLE, ARE THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF PRACTICING LAW?**



**WITH REGARDS TO YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES, THE QUANTITY OF WORK IS:**



**HOW MANY WORK DAYS IN 2009 DID YOU TAKE FOR VACATION TIME?**



**THE PERCENTAGE OF FEES THAT WERE UNCOLLECTABLE IN 2009 WAS -**

