

The 2009-2010 Helmholtz rankings

Introduction, Explanation, and Theory behind the Rankings:

These rankings are a rough measure of what people in a position to know (lawyers, judges, and academics) think of a particular school along with the numerical quality of students at a particular school. The two main components of these rankings are the assessments (by both practitioners and academics) and the numerical statistics of the students attending any given school.

This is basically the USNWR rankings without the statistics such as expenditures per student, bar passage rates, library resources, etc., and the percentages subsequently tweaked to account for those lack of statistics. I chose to include (in a much smaller proportion) the numbers from last year to cut down on the year to year fluctuations a little bit. The calculations were then scaled to give Yale a 100.

Peer Assessments:

The academic assessments are waited to a higher degree than practitioner assessments. Historically, the response rate is usually around three times greater for academics and compared to practitioners. I think the lawyer/judge assessment can be useful (hence me including them in my calculations) but (1) the response rate worries me and raises concern of self-selection in regards to which practitioners choose to participate and (2) I think the academic peers are in a better position to know the quality of a particular school. Additionally, the lawyers and judges almost always give higher marks across the board.

Job Prospects:

This isn't necessarily a ranking that is largely or directly concerned with job prospects. However, it could be argued that the assessment scores do play a part in these prospects as well does, and to a lesser part, the numerical quality of students. Job prospects are so difficult to objectively measure that I think any ranking system that attempts to do so (at least in the way that USNWR goes about it) will be flawed and not really give an accurate picture.

GPA v. LSAT:

I entertained the idea of not even including GPA, but thought it would throw the balance too far off for schools like SLS and UCB. I think LSAT scores give us a better idea of the overall student quality and the test itself creates more of a level playing field. The students from the Ivies and the Tier 4 undergrads all take the same test. For GPA, somebody getting 4.0s in a community college is counted the same as somebody who was getting 4.0s from CalTech. I know that some people have difficulty with standardized tests, and this does introduce some problems into gauging potential individual student success by using the LSAT. However, I still believe that when looking at the student body as a whole, the LSAT gives us a better idea of the level of students.

Bar Passage:

It's taken for granted that High LSAT \neq Success in law school, and Prestigious law school \neq Success in the legal field. In regards to bar passage rates, it's not as easy to compare schools as one might think. USNWR only considers bar passage rates in the primary jurisdiction, also it seems like a pretty common opinion that all bars are not of the same level of difficulty to pass. A hypothetical example in regards to primary jurisdiction bar measurement: the lower 35% of Case Western grads stay in Ohio and the rest are dispersed in the bigger cities such as Chicago, Washington D.C., NYC, etc.. Case Western's bar passage rates will be determined by how the lowest 35% of their class performs on the bar. Now consider Cleveland State, a school in which 99% of their students stay in-state. There's certainly a decent possibility that CSU will have a higher bar passage rate than CWU, even though CWU might be the better school. Now all those stats might be hypothetical, but it still carries my point of it being much less black and white than it might seem. It's for this, among other reason, that bar passage rates were not included in my calculations.

Value of LSAT:

I'm not treating the LSAT as an indicator of how well somebody will practice law. I'm really only using it for an indicator of which schools the best students choose to go to. Think of LSAT points as financial assets. If 5000 people have \$2000 to spend on a laptop, it might be useful to me to see which laptop was the purchased most often by the 5000 people. Assuming they had many choices to choose from (184 or so) and that they did their research on RAM, screen size, hard drive, etc., it would be useful to me to see which laptop was purchased most often. While the most-purchased laptop isn't necessarily the best, I have to make an assumption that a large group of the purchasers made a well-informed choice that

was the best for them. Now transfer that over to choosing a school. Somebody with a 170 has a lot of choices in schools. Seeing where that one person decides to go might not be that helpful, but seeing where hundreds of people with 170's choose to go is. Again, we need to make the assumption that a substantial amount of the people researched their choices adequately before choosing which school to attend.

My rankings are not meant to be prescriptive of how schools ought to be assessed, rather it is a descriptive account of the assessment of schools by professors, lawyers, judges, and students along with the numerical quality of the student body at particular schools. The tiers are distinguished by every 25th percentile. The precise formula for the rankings is located at the bottom of the page.

Rankings

(2010 USNWR) Rank /School Raw Score

Tier 1

(1)	1. Yale	100
(2)	2. Harvard	99.8
(3)	3. Stanford	98.6
(4)	4. Columbia	96.9
(6)	5. Chicago	96.4
(5)	6. NYU	95.3
(6)	7. UC-Berkeley	95.0
(9)	8. Michigan	94.0
(10)	9. Virginia	93.8
(8)	10. Penn	92.3
(10)	11. Duke	91.7
(13)	12. Cornell	91.1
(14)	13. Georgetown	90.9
(15)	14. Texas	89.6
(10)	14. Northwestern	89.6
(15)	16. UCLA	87.4
(17)	16. Vanderbilt	87.4

(18)	18. USC	83.7
(19)	19. WUSTL	83.4
(28)	20. George Washington	82.6
(20)	21. Emory	82.4
(30)	22. North Carolina	82.3
(20)	23. Minnesota	82.2
(26)	24. Iowa	81.4
(26)	25. Boston College	81.3
(30)	25. Washington & Lee	81.3
(20)	27. Boston	81.2
(23)	28. Notre Dame	81.0
(35)	29. Wisconsin	80.9
(23)	30. Illinois	80.5
(39)	31. UC-Hastings	80.3
(35)	32. UC-Davis	80.0
(28)	33. William & Mary	79.7
(35)	34. Ohio State	79.3
(23)	35. Indiana	79.0
(30)	35. Fordham	79.0
(30)	37. Washington	78.9
(40)	38. Wake Forest	77.6
(43)	39. Arizona	77.4
(45)	40. Tulane	77.0
(35)	41. Georgia	76.9
(51)	42. Florida	76.3
(30)	43. Alabama	75.6
(45)	44. Colorado	75.4
(41)	45. BYU	75.0
(45)	46. American	74.7

Tier 2

(55)	47. Arizona St.	74.6
(43)	48. Maryland	74.5
(41)	49. George Mason	74.2
(45)	50. Utah	73.0
(52)	51. UConn	72.9

(49)	52. SMU	72.7
(55)	52. Case Western	72.7
(77)	52. Oregon	72.7
(49)	55. Cardozo	72.3
(65)	56. Missouri	72.1
(61)	57. Villanova	72.0
(65)	58. Temple	71.7
(71)	58. Miami	71.7
(52)	60. Florida St.	71.6
(71)	61. Pitt	71.5
(61)	62. San Diego	71.4
(65)	62. Kansas	71.4
(59)	64. Tennessee	71.3
(65)	65. Baylor	71.1
(55)	66. Kentucky	70.8
(59)	67. Houston	70.5
(52)	68. Cincinnati	70.3
(61)	68. Brooklyn	70.3
(77)	70. Chicago-Kent	70.0
(55)	71. Pepperdine	69.9
(T3)	72. Nebraska	69.7
(71)	73. Oklahoma	69.6
(61)	74. Lewis & Clark	69.5
(77)	74. Rutgers-Camden	69.5
(85)	76. Santa Clara	69.4
(87)	77. Rutgers-Newark	68.8
(77)	78. Seton Hall	68.7
(87)	78. Indiana-Ind	68.7
(87)	78. Loyola Ch	68.7
(77)	81. Denver	68.5
(77)	82. Richmond	68.3
(94)	82. Catholic	68.3
(65)	84. Penn St.	68.2
(87)	85. Marquette	68.1
(94)	85. St. Louis	68.1
(71)	87. Loyola Mary	67.9
(77)	88. Seattle	67.7

(77)	89. New Mexico	67.5
(65)	90. Georgia St.	67.3
(75)	90. LSU	67.3
(87)	90. DePaul	67.3
(94)	90. Arkansas Fay	67.3

Tier 3

(94)	94. Northeastern	67.2
(75)	95. UNLV	66.9
(87)	95. South Carolina	66.9
(100)	97. Hofstra	66.8
(T3)	98. Hawaii	66.6
(T3)	98. Syracuse	66.6
(87)	100. St. John's	66.4
(98)	100. Louisville	66.4
(100)	102. Gonzaga	66.2
(85)	103. Buffalo SUNY	66.0
(100)	104. Maine	65.9
(T3)	105. Howard	65.8
(T3)	106. Michigan St.	65.5
(T3)	107. Wyoming	65.4
(T3)	108. Loyola NO	65.3
(T3)	108. Vermont	65.3
(T3)	110. Mercer	65.0
(T3)	110. Missouri-Kansas City	65.0
(T3)	112. New York Law	64.8
(T3)	113. Wayne St.	64.7
(T3)	114. UMiss	64.6
(T3)	115. McGeorge	64.4
(T3)	115. Creighton	64.4
(98)	117. San Francisco	64.3
(T3)	118. Texas Tech	64.2
(T3)	119. Drake	64.0
(T3)	120. West Virginia	64.0
(T3)	121. Stetson	63.6
(T3)	121. Arkansas-Little Rock	63.6

(T3)	123. Montana	63.5
(T4)	123. Williamette	63.5
(T3)	125. Cleveland St.	63.1
(T3)	126. South Dakota	62.8
(T4)	127. Valparaiso	62.7
(T4)	128. Suffolk	62.6
(T3)	129. Albany	62.5
(T3)	130. St. Thomas MN	62.2
(T3)	131. Franklin Pierce	62.1
(T3)	131. Memphis	62.1
(T3)	133. Idaho	61.9
(T3)	134. North Dakota	61.8
(T3)	134. Toledo	61.8
(T4)	134. Baltimore	61.8
(T4)	134. Tulsa	61.8
(T4)	138. Hamline	61.6

Tier 4

(T3)	139. Quinnipiac	61.5
(T4)	139. Duquesne	61.5
(T4)	139. Washburn	61.5
(T3)	142. Akron	61.4
(T4)	142. Southern Illinois	61.4
(T4)	144. Pace	61.3
(T3)	145. Samford	61.2
(T4)	146. Dayton	61.1
(T4)	147. CUNY Queens	60.9
(T3)	148. William Mitchell	60.8
(T3)	149. Chapman	60.1
(T4)	149. John Marshall	60.1
(T4)	151. Widener	59.5
(T3)	152. Southwestern	59.4
(T4)	153. South Texas	58.8
(T4)	154. New England	58.6
(T4)	155. Cal Western	58.4
(T4)	156. Roger Williams	58.3

(T4)	157. Capital	57.8
(T4)	157. Northern Illinois	57.8
(T4)	157. Nova SE	57.8
(T3)	160. Ohio Northern	57.7
(T4)	161. Campbell	57.6
(T4)	162. Golden Gate	57.4
(T4)	163. Northern Kentucky	57.4
(T4)	164. Florida Int	56.8
(T4)	165. Miss. College	56.5
(T4)	165. St. Mary's TX	56.5
(T4)	167. NC Central	55.9
(T4)	168. Texas Wesleyan	55.8
(T4)	169. Oklahoma City	55.6
(T4)	170. Thomas Jefferson	55.5
(T4)	171. W. New England	55.3
(T4)	172. Touro	54.9
(T4)	173. Detroit	54.7
(T4)	174. Whittier	54.4
(T4)	175. Texas Southern	53.9
(T4)	176. St. Thomas FL	53.4
(T4)	177. Ave Marie	52.7
(T4)	177. U of DC	52.7
(T4)	179. Regent	52.6
(T4)	180. Florida Coastal	52.4
(T4)	181. Cooley	52.3
(T4)	182. Southern	51.9
(T4)	183. Appalachian	51.7
(T4)	184. Barry	50.8

The formula:

34% - 2010 Peer Assessment Scores
17% - 2010 Lawyer/Judge Assessment Scores
10.625% - 2010 25th Percentile LSAT
10.625% - 2010 75th Percentile LSAT
6.375% - 2010 25th Percentile GPA
6.375% - 2010 75th Percentile GPA
06% - 2009 Peer Assessment Scores
03% - 2009 Lawyer/Judge Assessment Scores
1.875% - 2009 25th Percentile LSAT
1.875% - 2009 75th Percentile LSAT
1.125% - 2009 25th Percentile GPA
1.125% - 2009 75th Percentile GPA