# CAREER SATISFACTION

Career satisfaction was measured on a five-point scale with 1 = very dissatisfied and 5 = very satisfied. Satisfaction data is presented by gender, total years admitted to practice, type of employment, area of practice, and level of employment.



### Career Satisfaction by Region – 1 to 5 Scale

**Gender:** Oregon attorneys rated their legal career satisfaction at 3.7 with males at 3.6 and females at 3.7. These ratings compare to 3.6 for all respondents, males, and females in 1998. The regional data indicates higher satisfaction ratings among females than males.

### **Career Satisfaction by Gender**

Career Satisfaction	Oregon	Portland	Tri- County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
All Respondents	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6
Male	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5
Female	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9

**Total Years Admitted to Practice:** For Oregon, the career satisfaction ratings by total years admitted to practice range from 3.5 to 3.7. In 1998, the ratings ranged from 3.4 to 3.8. Regional data exhibits greater variability.

#### **Career Satisfaction by Total Years Admitted to Practice**

(1=Very Dissatisfied, 5=Very Satisfied)

Years Admitted	Oregon	Portland	Tri- County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
0-3 Years	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.6	2.8
4-6 Years	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
7-9 Years	3.6	3.8	3.3	3.4	4.0	3.5	3.4	4.3
10-12 Years	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.7	4.0	2.9	3.6
13-15 Years	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.7
16-20 Years	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.5
21-30 Years	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6
Over 30 Years	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.9	4.0

**Type of Employment:** For career satisfaction by type of employment, judges/hearings officers reported the highest ratings for Oregon (4.1) and in most of the regions. Private practice reported the lowest satisfaction ratings for Oregon and in most regions.

## Career Satisfaction by Type of Employment

Type of Employment	Oregon	Portland	Tri- County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Private	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
Private Non-Profit	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	4.0
Government	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7
Corporate In-House Counsel	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Judge/Hearings Officer	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.6	4.4	4.2	4.7	n/a

**Area of Practice:** For Oregon, career satisfaction ratings by area of practice ratings range from 3.3 to 3.8. Regional variations exist.

## **Career Satisfaction by Area of Practice**

Area of Practice	Oregon	Portland	Tri- County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Type of Employment -	– Private							
Bankruptcy	3.3	3.5	3.3	n/a	3.6	3.0	3.3	n/a
Business/Corporate – Litigation	3.6	3.7	2.0	3.7	3.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business/Corporate – Transactional	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	4.0	n/a
Civil Litigation – Defendant (excludes Insurance Defense)	3.5	3.6	n/a	n/a	3.2	n/a	3.3	n/a
Civil Litigation – Insurance Defense	3.6	3.6	2.7	3.3	4.6	4.0	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation – Plaintiff (excludes Personal Injury)	3.6	3.9	3.5	n/a	3.4	2.8	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation – Plaintiff – Personal Injury	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3
Criminal – Private Bar	3.4	3.9	3.0	4.1	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.2
Family Law	3.5	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2
Real Estate/Land Use/ Environmental Law Tax/Estate Planning	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.8	4.3	<u>n/a</u> 3.7	n/an/a
Workers' Compensation	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.8				n/a
General (no area over 50%)	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.4	3.8
Other	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.6	n/a	3.2	n/a
Type of Employment - Criminal – Public Defender	- <b>Private I</b> 3.7	Non-Profit o 3.9	<b>r Governm</b> 3.6	ent 3.2	4.1	3.6	3.2	n/a
Criminal – Public Prosecutor	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5

Level of Employment:	Career satisfaction ratings by level of employment has a
	much greater range of ratings than any of the other analy-
	ses of satisfaction. For Oregon, part-time lawyers due to lack
	of legal work have the lowest satisfaction rating at 2.6. This
	was also true for most of the regions where data was avail-
	able. Retired lawyers reported the highest satisfaction rat-
	ings for Oregon at 3.9.

# Career Satisfaction by Level of Employment

Level of Employment	Oregon	Portland	Tri- County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Full-Time Lawyer	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.6
Part-Time Lawyer by Choice	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.3
Part-Time Lawyer due to Lack of Legal Work	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.0	3.0	n/a	n/a	4.7
Retired	3.9	5.0	4.0	n/a	4.3	1.7	3.0	n/a