



The Afternoon Docket

Reuters

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[Yale, Stanford yield to summer associate recruitment 'creep'. Other top law schools resist, for now.](#)

Stanford and Yale Law are moving up their law firm summer associate recruiting programs by a month to June, and while most competing schools say they aren't following suit, law firms show [no signs of pulling back on early hiring](#).

The move by Yale and Stanford, which share the No. 1 spot on U.S. News & World Report's law school rankings, is part of steady creep in which law firms have sought and received ever-earlier interview schedules for summer associate positions.

More top news:

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- [Musk, Tesla shareholder to propose a stay of pay ruling during appeal](#)
- [American Airlines settles 'rogue' ticketing lawsuit against Kiwi](#)
- [Judge to consider barring drug allegations from 'Rust' trial](#)
- [Jamaican dancehall star Vybz Kartel mounts final appeal over murder conviction](#)
- [Who could feature in a Russia-U.S. prisoner swap?](#)
- [Genetic test maker Invitae files for bankruptcy protection in US](#)

Career Tracker

[Law firms' profits rebounded in late 2023](#)

Law firms ended 2023 on strong financial footing after a sluggish start, according to the latest Thomson Reuters Law Firm Financial Index . The profits, fueled largely by rate growth and increased demand for countercyclical work, rose year-over-year among both large and midsize law firms in the fourth quarter following a dismal 2022. Overall, law firm demand was up nearly 2% year-over-year, but it varied significantly by practice, Karen Sloan [reports](#).

Lawyer productivity, however, continued its recent slide, with lawyers billing an average 115 hours per month in the fourth quarter of 2023. That's the lowest figure since at least 2005. [Find out why.](#)

More from the legal industry ...

[Threats to federal judges](#) have more than doubled since 2021 ... The ABA asked the federal judiciary to [drop the term "court-appointed master"](#) ... Hogan Lovells [generated record revenues](#) and partner profits in 2023 ... A team of more than 30 people [joined Hogan Lovells](#) from Orrick ... The South Carolina Supreme Court [ruled](#) that the state's NAACP branch [can train volunteers who are not lawyers](#) to give limited legal advice to tenants facing eviction ... A federal court [dismissed most of a lawsuit](#) brought by Judge Pauline Newman, 96, over her [suspension](#) from the Federal Circuit ... Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, which [shuttered](#) last year, was hit with a class action claiming it [unlawfully used pension contributions](#) to help run the firm ... Manatt, Phelps & Phillips was [sued for allegedly botching a client's lawsuit](#) ... The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New Jersey said it will continue to [randomly assign cases among its judges](#) rather than directing large cases to just one or two judges ... Two Republican U.S. senators have [requested more information about diversity policies](#) adopted by three federal judges in Illinois.

Moves:

In New York ...

DLA Piper [added](#) Joo Kim from Cadwalader as a partner to its structured finance practice ... McGuireWoods [added](#) former FINRA director Jackie Wells as of counsel to its securities enforcement and regulatory counseling practice.

In Washington D.C. ...

U.S. Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary Bridget McGovern [joined](#) Squire Patton Boggs' public policy practice as a partner ... Lowenstein Sandler [added](#) Elinor Ramey to its private client services and tax groups from Steptoe ... Cozen O'Connor [hired](#) veteran aviation attorney Patrick Rizzi as a partner for its transportation and trade practice from Hogan Lovells ... DLA Piper [hired](#) David Solander from McDermott Will & Emery as a partner in the investment funds group ... Fox Rothschild [recruited](#) partner Keeley McCarty from Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton for its federal government contracts and procurement practice.

In Chicago ...

U.S. Attorney's Office's former criminal chief Matthew Madden [re-joined](#) McDermott as a partner in its litigation practice group.

In Houston ...

Former head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission David Applebaum [joined](#) Baker Botts' energy litigation practice group as a partner.

In Dallas ...

Baker Botts [hired](#) financial restructuring partner Travis McRoberts from Squire Patton Boggs for its corporate department.

In Philadelphia ...

Troutman Pepper [hired](#) life science attorney Melinda Rudolph in its health sciences transactional practice group as a partner.

In San Francisco ...

Michelman & Robinson [added](#) Locke Lord attorney Elizabeth Tosaris as a partner in its regulatory and administrative law practice group.

And finally ...

Willkie Farr [launched](#) an office in Munich, naming Georg Linde as the managing partner in Germany ... **Saul Ewing [named](#) partner Alfred Coleman chair of the firm's transactional department** ... Duccio Mortillaro [joined](#) Fox Rothschild as chair of the firm's new Italy practice group.

[Is the M&A boys club waning? A new study says yes](#)

A trio of law professors looked at more than 10,000 deals offers some encouraging news about the increased prevalence of women lawyers working on notable transactions. [Jenna Greene](#) in her latest column digs into the findings, which are based on deals at six major law firms including Cravath, Shearman and White & Case. [Read more.](#)

In other news ..

[Fear of famine](#) grows in Gaza and pressure mounts on Israel not to attack Palestinians' [last refuge](#) ... Democrats [picked up a seat](#) in the House ... Surf City USA is now on the [frontlines of Trump-era politics](#) ... Do not read too much into [Biden and Trump verbal stumbles](#), experts caution ... Here's [more election news](#) and seven other [House races to watch](#) ... Ukraine says it sank a large [Russian landing warship](#) in Black Sea ... Russia detained a German it said was [traveling with cannabis gummies](#) ... India security forces [fire tear gas at protesting farmers](#) on drive to Delhi ... And Philippine [rescued pets look for love](#) on dates this Valentine's Day.