

Researching Potential Employers

After you have an idea of the qualities you are looking for in a potential employer, you can then identify which employers have these qualities by researching the market.

Identify Target Employers

Narrow your focus and identify categories of employers who meet your particular needs.

For example:

- State government agencies that deal with energy issues in Boston
- Legal Services organizations in Chicago
- Federal district judges in New Mexico

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After you have categorized types of employers that you are interested in, the following resources will help you identify and research individual employers:

-NALP Directory of Legal Employers: NALP, the Association for Legal Career Professionals, publishes the most widely used directory in legal recruiting. It includes information on more than 1,600 employers nationwide. Published both in print and online, this directory includes indexes by location, practice area, and office size. NALP also publishes a First-Year Hiring Index, which is a popular resource for 1L students seeking summer firm employment. This is a list of NALP members who hired 1L students the previous summer, and are likely to do so again. www.nalpdirectory.com

-Employer Websites: Employer websites are a great source of information with bios on attorneys, background information, press releases, and descriptions about the overall structure of the employer.

-Martindale-Hubbell Legal Network: The Martindale-Hubbell Legal Network offers a comprehensive list of law offices all over the world. You can search the database for alumni from a specific law school, all law firms in a particular city, firms with a particular practice area, and more. www.martindale.com

-Vault Online Career Library: Vault offers carefully researched and continually updated “insider” information on more than 3,000 companies and 70 industries. The Vault Career Library is a collection of more than 80 career guides and employer profiles, including well-known titles such as the Vault Guide to the *Top 100 Law Firms*, *Vault Guide to Government and*

Non-Profit Legal Employers, and Quality of Life Rankings. It also covers a wide range of industries from accounting to venture capital. For this website, you need a login and password. Contact your career services office to access these materials. www.vault.com

-PSLawNet: PSLawNet, NALP's Public Service Law Network Worldwide, is a network of more than 190 law schools and 11,000 law-related public interest organizations in the U.S. and around the world. Through its online database, PSLawNet provides a comprehensive clearinghouse of public interest organizations and opportunities for lawyers and law students. Users can perform customized searches of public interest opportunities around the world, ranging from short-term volunteer and paid internships to full-time jobs, fellowships, and pro bono opportunities. For more information on how to access this database, contact your career services office. www.pslawnet.org

-Equal Justice Works: Equal Justice Works organizes, trains and offers helpful tools and resources to public service-minded law students. It is also the national leader in creating summer and postgraduate public interest jobs. www.equajusticeworks.org

-Leadership Library on the Internet: The Leadership Library on the Internet is a personnel contact database that enables you to reach nearly half a million individuals at more than 40,000 leading U.S. government, judicial, business, professional, and nonprofit organizations. You can search and download information through Yellow Books. There are 14 Yellow Books online: Judicial, Law Firms, Corporate, Congressional, Federal, State, Municipal, Federal Regional, Financial, News Media, Associations, Government Affairs, Foreign Representatives, and Nonprofit. For more information visit your career services office. www.leadershipdirectories.com

-HG.org: HG.org's legal directory is great for finding information about law firms all over the world under search terms such as client, location, and practice area. The directory lists exhaustive reports on each firm. The website's Legal Employment Center provides information on writing effective resumes and research tools to help the job search. www.hg.org