

LEADERBOARD

Methodology

Law firms come in all shapes, sizes and skill sets. But there is a group of well-rounded firms that emerges to form an elite. These firms are prestigious, active in a wide variety of practice areas, handle significant public transactions and continually work to implement socially responsible business practices.

Our ranking, the Law360 Pulse Leaderboard, seeks to draw out the firms that are hitting the mark in all of these areas, with metrics powered by Law360 Pulse's surveys and data as

well as data from LexisNexis companies Intelligize and Lex Machina, and Metabase, a LexisNexis news database.

The assessment is designed to measure the relative performance of law firms against their peers. It evaluates firms across three pillars: prestige, social impact and practice footprint.

Each of the three pillars is composed of multiple measures, described in detail below. The Law360 Pulse Leaderboard includes the 100 firms that received the highest scores.

Prestige

Social
Impact

Practice
Footprint

Detailed Methodology

Firms are evaluated in each of three pillars: prestige, social impact and practice footprint. For two pillars – prestige and social impact – Law360 Pulse used the scores they received for our Prestige Leaders and Social Impact Leaders rankings.

The practice footprint pillar evaluates firms based on data from Intelligize and Lex Machina, covering firms' work on public mergers and acquisitions, registered offerings and federal district court litigation.

Once all pillar scores are determined, each pillar is equally weighted to determine a final composite score.

Firms were assigned a score of zero for a pillar if Law360 Pulse could not obtain sufficient data for the firm for that particular pillar. To come up with a Leaderboard score, we added up the three pillar scores and divided by three. Scores were then sorted in descending order, with ties sorted alphabetically, and firms received a corresponding rank.

Firms that did not provide sufficient information for Law360 Pulse to score a particular pillar, or that might see a reduced score due to insufficient information, are marked in the Leaderboard.

Pillar Descriptions

Prestige

This pillar's score is the score obtained by the firm in the **Law360 Pulse Prestige Leaders ranking**, published in December 2022. Firms obtained a score of 0-100, based on an evaluation of their relative performance in four categories: financial strength, attractiveness to attorneys and law students, the awards they have won for their legal work, and positive media representation. Additional details on the methodology are available [here](#).

Social Impact

This pillar's score is the score obtained by the firm in the **Law360 Pulse Social Impact Leaders ranking**, published in November 2022. Firms obtained a score of 0-100, based on an evaluation of their relative performance in five categories: pro bono service, racial and ethnic diversity, gender equality, employee engagement and responsible business. Additional details on the methodology are available [here](#).

Practice Footprint

This pillar score examines the footprint law firms have made in the litigation and transactional spaces over a three-year period, according to data from Lex Machina and Intelligize. All data covers a three-year period from Oct. 1, 2019, to Sep. 30, 2022. Firms are scored based on an evaluation of their relative performance in four categories: geographic reach in litigation, litigation depth and breadth, completed public deal value and completed offerings value. All metrics described below are brought onto the same scale using percentile rank normalization before being combined into a composite score. All metrics have equal weight in the composite score.

Litigation footprint

Data includes all civil federal district court cases filed between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sep. 30, 2022, except for prisoner petitions, Social Security cases and cases identified as associated member cases of multidistrict litigation. Data was last pulled from Lex Machina on Oct. 20, 2022.

Geographic reach: The number of federal court districts where the firm appeared in litigation over the three-year period. Each district is weighted depending on the total number of cases filed in that district. If a firm has at least one case in that district, the weighted score for that district is awarded to the firm. The weights associated with each district a firm has presence in is added together for the final score and the scores are percentile-ranked.

All-around depth and breadth: Firms are percentile-ranked in 10 case types to assess firms' relative activity in each. The case types are antitrust, consumer protection, contracts, copyright, employment, insurance, patent, product liability, securities and torts. We then average the firm's percentile ranks across the 10 case types, creating a score that reflects the firm's overall depth and breadth of litigation practice.

Transactions footprint

Data is derived from Intelligize's SEC filings database. The Intelligize data covers law firms representing a target, seller or acquirer in completed public deals with a disclosed value of \$1 million or more, and law firms that counsel issuers on registered offerings. We look at deals and offerings completed over the period between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sep. 30, 2022. Data was last pulled on Oct. 14, 2022. Activity during that time period by law firms that have since been acquired are credited to the acquiring firm.

Completed public deal volume: The total value of all public mergers or acquisitions with a disclosed value of \$1 million or more in which the law firm acted as counsel completed over the three-year period is percentile ranked.

Completed offering volume: The total value of all completed registered offerings in which the law firm counseled issuers over the three-year period.

Scoring Model



In future years, we will continue to develop this new standard in response to how industry ideas of prestige are changing. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future iterations. Reach out to surveys@law360.com with your thoughts.