



The Law360 400: Tracking The Largest US Law Firms

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Law360 (July 26, 2021, 10:02 AM EDT) -- As much of the U.S. emerges from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic that upended the world last year, law firms are taking stock of how much their business and their bench strength were affected by the unprecedented pressures of a global health crisis.

Many of the largest U.S. law firms successfully rode out the economic uncertainty, and some even continued to build up their ranks in 2020, further widening the industry's size gaps, according to Law360's annual tracking of the largest law firms in the country.

At the top of this year's Law360 400 leaderboard, the largest five firms each held onto their positions from last year: Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, Greenberg Traurig LLP, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP and Jones Day. Kirkland & Ellis and Latham & Watkins both grew their headcounts significantly from the previous year.

Tie-ups in the first half of 2020 also brought two newcomers into the ranks of firms with more than 1,000 U.S. attorneys: Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP.

Still, some firms did reduce their headcount with **layoffs and furloughs** in the early days of the pandemic, or saw attorneys leave or pursue other opportunities amid **ongoing struggles** with work-life balance amid stay-at-home mandates.

When sizing up the Law360 400 firms, **we found a slight drop** in overall headcount compared with last year, about 1%.

But now BigLaw is largely rising from a defensive crouch and jumping into **one of its biggest hiring booms** in recent years. Many firms are experimenting with remote work, allowing attorneys to fulfill roles from any one of a number of their offices, and even experimenting with how often they require lawyers to be physically present in the office at all.

The Law360 400 features the largest U.S.-based law firms and international firms with a U.S. component as measured by domestic attorney headcount. As the pandemic pressures ease, and many firms aim to **fully reopen their offices by the fall**, the leaders of these largest law firms will face the new challenge of accommodating a workforce of attorneys who can now demand more flexibility in how and where they work, and a potential boon in being able to hire the most qualified attorneys no matter their location.

The Largest U.S. Law Firms		LAW360®	
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Rank ▲	Law Firm ▲	Total U.S. Attorneys ▲	Total U.S. Partners ▲
374	Abrams Fensterman*	110	67