ANALYSIS OF US NEWS LAW SCHOOL RANKINGS FOR FRANKLIN PIERCE LAW CENTER FROM 1992-2007



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From: Jason Becker
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Background

Since 1992, the U.S. News & World Report (US News) has been ranking the top law schools that specialize in the study of Intellectual Property (IP). This ranking is determined by votes from Senior IP Professors from across the country. Primarily, I have focused my research on where Franklin Pierce Law Center (FPLC) has ranked each year from 1992 through 2007. During the first 3 years of the rankings (1992-1994), only the top 5 IP law programs were listed. Since 1995, the top 10 IP law programs have been listed.

The US News publication also produces a ranking of how ABA accredited law schools rank overall. This ranking has drawn many criticisms, but I have looked at where Franklin Pierce Law Center has ranked each year since 1992. The US News rankings separate schools into tiers (typically there have been four or five tiers). Currently, there are 184 ABA accredited schools that are ranked. Based on this total population, I have determined what quartile (25% of the group) that FPLC has been ranked in each year.

Summary of US News IP Rankings from 1992 through 2007

From 1992 through 2007 (16 year period), Franklin Pierce Law Center has consistently ranked within the top 7 IP law programs in the country. During the period of 1992 through 2003, FPLC was ranked consistently within the top 5 IP law programs in the country. In that same period, from 1997-1999 (3 years), FPLC was ranked as the #1 IP law program. In both the 2004 and 2006 rankings, FPLC fell to its lowest rank of 7th. As of 2007, FPLC has jumped back up to 4th in the rankings, tied with Duke University, Columbia University, and Cardozo-Yeshiva University.

Additionally, FPLC is only one of two schools (George Washington University) to be included in every US News IP ranking from 1992 through 2007. During this 16 year period, FPLC has an average ranking of 3.5 (George Washington has an average of approximately 2). Since 1995, only the University of California-Berkeley (UC-Berkeley) and George Washington University (GW) have a higher average ranking than FPLC. UC-Berkeley did not appear in the IP rankings until 1996, but has been ranked as the #1 IP program 9 times. Since 1992, GW University has ranked as the #1 IP program 4 times. FPLC has ranked as the #1 IP law program 3 times, and Columbia University has ranked #1 once. See **Supplement 1** on page 5 for a graphical breakdown of FPLC's rankings from 1992 through 2007.

A comprehensive list of other schools that have appeared in some but not all of the top IP law rankings include:

- Columbia University
- New York University
- Stanford University
- University of Houston
- University of California- Los Angeles
- Boston University
- Santa Clara University
- Cardozo School of Law-Yeshiva University
- John Marshall Law School
- DePaul University
- University of Texas-Austin
- George Mason University
- Duke University
- Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago Kent)

Summary of US News Law School Overall Rankings from 1992 through 2007

Overall, US News has continuously ranked Franklin Pierce Law Center between the third and fifth tiers of its law school rankings. In most rankings, schools have been ranked in four tiers. However, during the 1994 and 1995 rankings, schools were ranked in five tiers. This does not affect how we can break down the rankings into quartiles because the total population in each year of the rankings has always been similar. It appears that FPLC falls consistently between the third and fourth quartiles each year with quartile one being the highest. See **Supplement 2** on page 5 for a graphical illustration showing that FPLC has ranked between the 3rd and 4th quartile in all 16 of the US News law school rankings.

1992 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
1993 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
1994 – Quartile 4 (Tier 5)
1995 – Quartile 4 (Tier 5)
1996 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
1997 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
1998 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
1999 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
2000 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
2001 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
2002 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
2003 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
2004 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
2005 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)
2006 – Quartile 4 (Tier 4)
2007 – Quartile 3 (Tier 3)

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS
LAW SPECIALITIES: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
1992-2007

1992
1 George Washington University
2 New York University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 Columbia University
5 University of California-Los Angeles

1993
1 George Washington University
2 Columbia University
3 New York University
4 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
5 University of California-Los Angeles

1994
1 Columbia University
2 George Washington University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
3 New York University
3 Stanford University

1995
1 George Washington University
2 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
2 Columbia University
4 Stanford University
5 New York University
5 University of Houston
7 John Marshall Law School
8 Boston University
9 Chicago Kent - ITT
10 George Mason University

1996
1 George Washington University
2 Columbia University
3 Stanford University
4 University of Houston
5 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
6 University of California-Berkeley
7 New York University
8 University of California-Los Angeles
8 Boston University
10 John Marshall Law School

1997
1 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
2 George Washington University
3 University of Houston
4 Columbia University
4 John Marshall School of Law
4 University of California-Berkeley
7 New York University
7 Stanford University
9 University of Texas-Austin
10 Cardozo-Yeshiva University

1998
1 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
2 Columbia University
3 George Washington University
4 New York University
4 University of California-Berkeley
6 Stanford University
6 University of Houston
8 John Marshall School of Law
8 University of Texas-Austin
10 Santa Clara University
10 University of California-Los Angeles

1999
1 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
1 University of California-Berkeley
3 George Washington University
3 Columbia University
5 University of Texas-Austin
5 New York University
7 University of Houston
8 Stanford University
9 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
10 Santa Clara University

2000
1 University of California-Berkeley
2 George Washington University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 University of Houston
5 Santa Clara University
6 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
6 Depaul University
6 John Marshall Law School
9 Columbia University
9 New York University
9 University of Texas-Austin

2001
1 University of California- Berkeley

2 George Washington University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 University of Houston
5 New York University
5 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
7 Stanford University
8 Santa Clara University
9 Boston University
9 Depaul University

2002
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 George Washington University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 New York University
5 University of Houston
5 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
7 Columbia University
8 Stanford University
9 Santa Clara University
10 Boston University

2003
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 George Washington University
3 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 New York University
5 University of Houston
5 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
7 Columbia University
8 Stanford University
9 Santa Clara University
10 Boston University

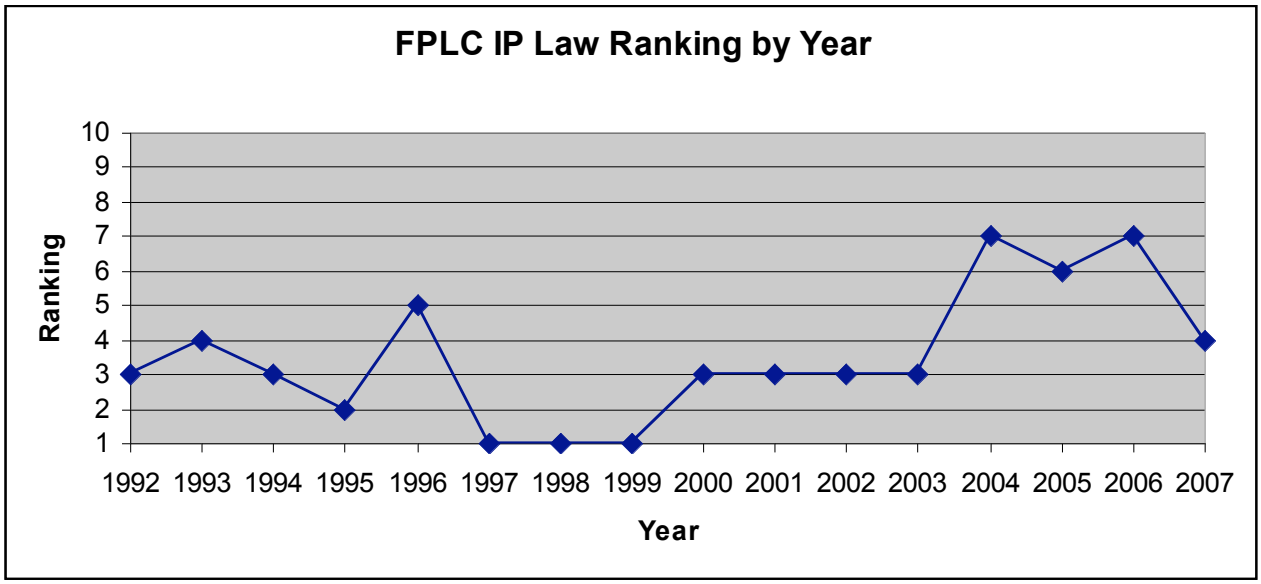
2004
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 George Washington University
3 Stanford University
4 Duke University
5 New York University
5 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
7 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
8 Columbia University
9 Depaul University
9 University of Houston

2005
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 Stanford University
3 George Washington University
4 University of Houston
5 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
6 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
7 Columbia University
8 Duke University
8 New York University
9 Boston University

2006
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 Stanford University
3 George Washington University
4 Santa Clara University
5 University of Houston
6 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
7 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
7 Duke University
9 Illinois Institute of Technology
10 Columbia University

2007
1 University of California- Berkeley
2 Stanford University
3 George Washington University
4 **Franklin Pierce Law Center**
4 Columbia University
4 Duke University
4 Cardozo-Yeshiva University
8 Santa Clara University
9 University of Houston
10 Boston University

Supplement 1



Supplement 2

