THE IMPACT OF

STUDENT LOANS

ON ATTORNEYS

90% of early-career lawyers have student loans, averaging $130,000, according to a 2021 ABA and AccessLex survey.

Full details and report are coming to ambar.org/debt.
Student loan debt makes it harder for recent law grads to...

**BUY A HOUSE**
Over 55% with $100k-$200k in student loan debt postponed or decided not to buy a house compared to 40% with no balance.

**SAVE FOR RETIREMENT**
Over 70% with $100k-$200k reported they were unable to save for retirement. Around 50% of those with less than $100k reported the same.

**START A FAMILY**
45% of early-career lawyers with $100k-$200k in student debt, vs. 21% with no balance, postponed or decided not to have children.

**FEEL OPTIMISTIC**
About 1/2 with $100k-$200k reported feeling depressed or hopeless. Just 1/4 of those with no balance reported the same.

**HAVE PEACE OF MIND**
About 3 in 4 with $100k-$200k reported high anxiety or stress. Only 1 in 4 with no balance reported high anxiety or stress.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
1 in 3 with student loan debt, compared to just 1 in 5 without, took a job less focused on public service than they were intending prior to law school.

---

**AN ADDED LAYER OF DIFFICULTY**
Navigating life with law school debt is often harder on lawyers of color. Black young lawyers are far more likely to carry high levels of debt, and 44% saw their student debt increase since graduation compared to just 27% of all young lawyers.