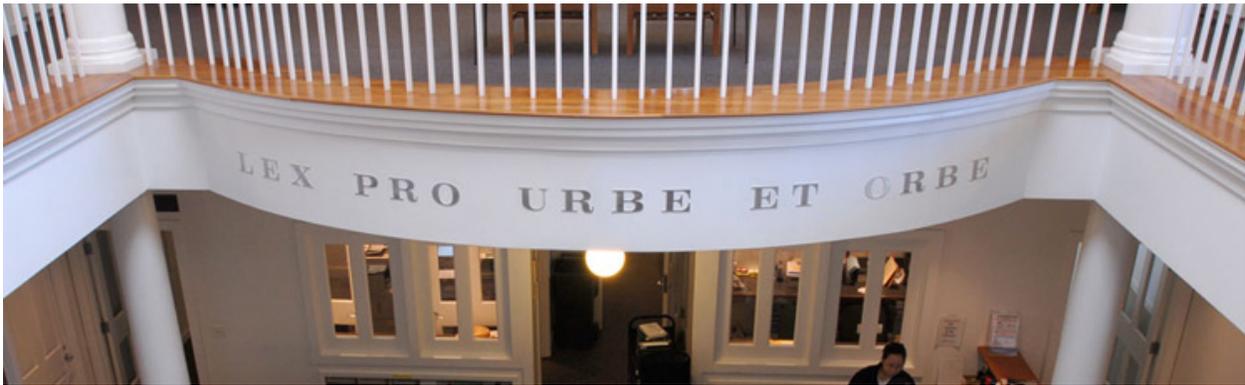


VLS Impact on the State, Region, County and Town



Vermont Law School's impact on the state, Windsor County and the Town of Royalton and nearby communities has been huge – in dollars contributed to the local and regional economies through jobs and purchases of services and supplies as well as in the numbers of VLS graduates who have made their careers in the state in the public, non-profit and private sectors.

For instance, the law school in the last fiscal year employed about 145 faculty and staff (as well as a number of adjunct faculty and temporary workers), paying about **\$13 million** in salary and benefits. The school also had more than \$5 million in operating expenses and \$600,000 in capital expenditures, with at least 75% of those expenditures, or about **\$4.2 million**, benefiting the local and regional economies.

In the last three years the school completed two major capital projects: the clinics building, at a cost of \$5.9 million, opened in August 2012, and the \$1.6 million Fitness Center opened in February 2013. In both cases residents of the region performed much of the work. We would estimate that VLS has spent an average of \$2 million per year on capital projects over the last five years.

In addition, the school's 500 residential students spent about \$18,500 each on living expenses, including housing, food, transportation and recreation, during the last academic year, and those in special degree programs who also attended classes during the summer at VLS spent an additional \$5,500 each. The accumulated contribution to the local and regional economy from that spending is about **\$9.8 million**. In a typical year, more than half the students choose to live (usually in rental housing) within five miles of the campus. Faculty and staff tend to live within 30 miles of the campus.

The law school is one of the larger employers in the region. Indeed, higher education is the fourth largest sector of the state's economy. And ours is a "green" industry that has served as a magnet over the years for attracting talented people to Vermont.

The numbers tell the story. Typically 10% or fewer of the new students are from Vermont but over the years a higher percentage has decided to settle in the state after graduation, with perhaps 15% or more of the graduates taking the Vermont Bar Exam each year. Of the 6,000 total VLS

alums, we know that more than 1,100 are residents here. Most are JD graduates, but at least 100 have master's degrees.

Of the approximately 3,300 licensed attorneys in the state, we estimate that about one-third are VLS graduates. And they have been employed in a broad range of occupations, from law firms and non-profits to all branches of the Vermont state government. (An additional 40 or so have worked in Vermont for the federal government.)

For instance, 18 VLS alumni have worked for the Vermont legislature, including four elected members currently serving in one of the two houses. And, over the years, more than 250 have worked for the executive branch of state government, including the current commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the director of insurance and the commissioner of financial regulation, and at least 80 alumni have worked in the state attorney general's office, the courts, as public defenders and for legal aid. Today, both of the state's Environmental Court judges are VLS graduates, and four other alumni are judges in the state's superior courts.

In some agencies and non-profits, the law school's impact is quite impressive. For instance, of the six lawyers in the Department of Environmental Conservation, four are from VLS. The Vermont Natural Resources Council has a staff of 10, three of whom are VLS grads. The Conservation Law Foundation's Vermont office is headed by a VLS grad, and of the five others working in Vermont, three are from VLS. About half the lawyers in the Vermont Public Defenders Office are VLS alumni.

At least 800 alumni have worked in businesses in the state from farmers to companies big and small.

More locally, two years ago, VLS conducted a study of the school's contributions to the community, and a summary was included in the Town of Royalton's annual report. Here are some of the highlights:

- A survey of local restaurants, groceries and convenience stores found that 20% to 80% of their business came directly from VLS and its employees and students
- VLS regularly purchases supplies from a broad variety of local sources, including farms, bakeries and markets
- Total taxes paid to the town for the year ending June 30, 2013, were **\$118,774**
- Each year the school makes donations to various Royalton entities of more than **\$100,000**, including contributions to the fire department and Kids Place, a scholarship for a graduate of South Royalton High School, and a subsidy for Magic Mountain Daycare Center.

The law school also provides free legal services to local residents through the South Royalton Legal Clinic. We estimate that the clinic provides \$1.5 million in pro bono legal services each year to Vermonters in need.

VLS supports additional employment and payrolls throughout Windsor County, the Upper Valley and central Vermont through the multiplier process. That is, the spending by VLS, its employees and students at area businesses creates jobs and payrolls in the region.

Thus, while VLS in FY13 had 145 employees, based on a typical multiplier effect, we can estimate that those employees created an additional 45 jobs elsewhere in the county, and an additional 32 jobs elsewhere in the region and the state. Or a total of 77 additional jobs were likely created by VLS through the multiplier process, crediting the school with supporting a total of 222 jobs in Vermont and nearby New Hampshire. Those jobs are likely in retail, food services, professional services, construction and health care, among other fields. The average annual wage in the state is about \$40,300, suggesting that these additional jobs add about **\$3 million** a year to the economy.

There's one more category that VLS can cite as contributing to the economy of the region and the state – expenditures by visitors to the school to see enrolled students, as potential applicants, as part of an on-campus program, for graduation and as alumni returning for reunion. The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing suggests that the average overnight visitor to the state spends about \$300 per day, and that single-day visitors spend about \$110.

For enrolled students, let's assume that three-quarters of the out of state students, or about 350, had one overnight visitor during the year, and that each of the 50 or so in-state students had one single-day visitor during the year.

The admissions office attracted to campus about 200 visitors last year, with about 20% of those coming from within the state. The Distance Learning program had about 15 out of state visitors on campus for a weeklong program during the previous fiscal year. Graduation and reunion attracted about 500 people for on an average of three days. We can estimate that all the visitors contributed about **\$800,000** to the local economy for accommodations, meals and entertainment.

Totaling the direct and indirect dollars from Vermont Law School in the last fiscal year:

Payroll and benefits	\$13,000,000
Operating expenses	\$5,000,000 with 75% spent locally = \$3,750,000
Capital expenses	\$600,000 with 75% spent locally = \$450,000
Student spending	\$9,800,000
Local taxes	\$118,774
Local donations	\$100,000
Indirect jobs created	\$3,000,000
Visitor spending	\$800,000
Total for FY13	\$31,018,774

\$31 million

