



# Legal Industry Hiring Market Update

Job Openings dip following an 18-month hiring boom

After an 18-month hiring boom, the legal market is setting an expected course for correction. Leopard Solutions' latest data indicates that law firms are adjusting their strategy coming off an overheated hiring market, as job closures start outpacing job openings.

“These numbers likely indicate a corrective action towards more normal market standards. In other words, these are the first steps in the legal market righting itself after a very busy 18 months.”

Laura Leopard  
CEO of Leopard Solutions

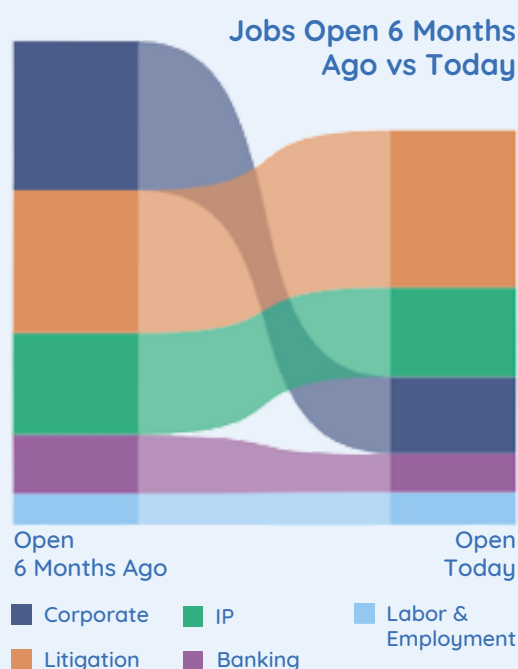
September marked a significant drop in the Leopard Jobs Program. We had seen the peak of job openings in mid-April, and the numbers had been slowly tracking down since then. In September, we saw a decrease of roughly 500 openings in a short period of time.

The sudden decrease resulted from fewer new jobs being added and a large number of job closures. It's unlikely that these jobs represent hires but rather the jobs were being closed without being filled.

Six months ago, jobs remained open for an average of 80 to 100 days. Presently, jobs are closing at a more rapid pace - approximately 40 to 50 days.

## WHICH PRACTICE AREAS WERE MOST EFFECTED?

Demand for corporate attorneys is declining, moving from the #2 spot to #3, while demand for litigators has grown slightly and kept it as the most in-demand practice area, followed by Intellectual Property.



## WHO CLOSED THE JOBS?

The Top 200 accounts for 58% of job openings in our job program and 65.23% of the aforementioned closures.

Within the Top 200 grouping, The Top 50 accounted for the largest number of closures (38.75%), followed by the Top 100 (33.3%), making up a combined 72.05% of the job closures from the Top 200.

