



## LLM International Business Law – 2026

**Topic: The market for legal services – An overview taking the perspective of young professionals**

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# Law Firms

# The Broad Helicopter View



# Law firms (prime examples for the Belgian market)

## Belgian

- ALTIUS
- Eubelius
- Liedekerke
- Van Bael & Bellis
- Lydian
- Monard Law
- Janson
- Schoups
- Simont Braun
- Argo Law

## Benelux

- Loyens & Loeff
- NautaDutilh
- Stibbe
- AKD
- Strelia

## International (UK/ US)

- Ashurst LLP
- Baker McKenzie CVBA/SCRL
- Bird & Bird
- Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
- CMS EU
- Fieldfisher
- Hogan Lovells International LLP
- Jones Day
- Osborne Clarke
- Covington & Burling LLP

# Law firms: Magic Circle firms

**C L I F F O R D  
C H A N C E**

**Linklaters**



**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**

**SLAUGHTER  
AND MAY /**

**A&O SHEARMAN**

## Law firms: Big Four

**Deloitte.**  
Legal

PwC Legal

  
**EY** Law

  
**KPMG**  
Law

# Law firms: Categories

## **Full-service firms:**

- Provide a wide range of legal services across various areas (e.g., corporate, banking & finance, real estate, competition, tax, employment, etc.), serving diverse clients from individuals to large corporations.

## **Niche firms:**

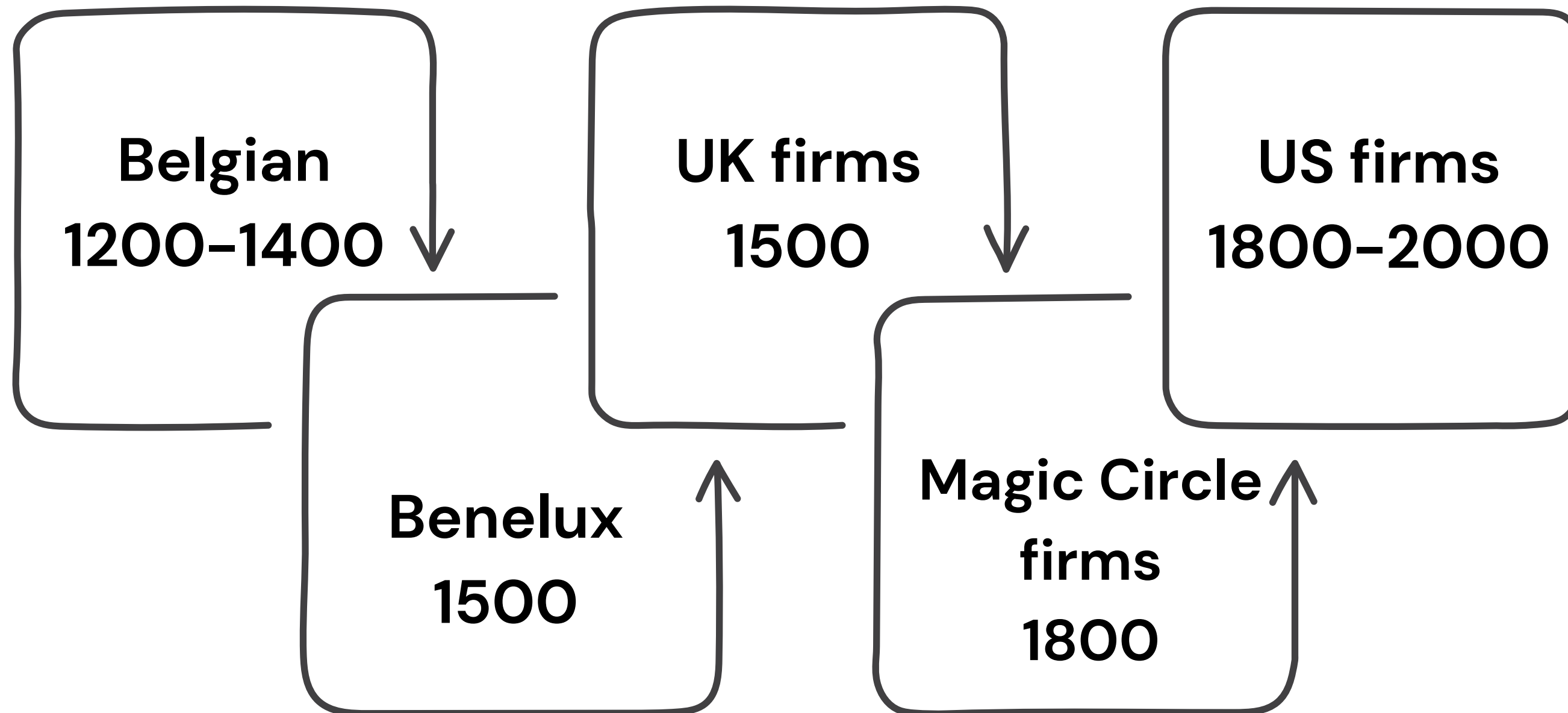
- Specialise in a specific area of law or industry (e.g., tax), offering expert knowledge and tailored services for clients with specialised needs.

# Law firms: Locations



Brussels  
Antwerp  
Ghent

## Law firms: Billable hours (Avg.)



# Law firms: Compensation – All Expertises



| Category                         | Belgian (Avg.)    | Benelux (Avg.)    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Experience: 1 <sup>st</sup> year | €54,000 – €60,000 | €72,000 – €78,000 |
| Experience: 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | €60,000 – €66,000 | €78,000 – €84,000 |
| Experience: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | €66,000 – €72,000 | €84,000 – €90,000 |

**Disclaimer:** Compensation figures provided are for general informational purposes only and may vary based on location, experience, firm size, and market conditions. For more details and to find out if you're earning enough, visit [knowyourworth.be](https://knowyourworth.be)

# Law firms: Compensation – All Expertises



| Category                         | International (Avg.) | Magic Circle (Avg.) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Experience: 1 <sup>st</sup> year | €72,000 – €78,000    | €96,000 – €102,000  |
| Experience: 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | €78,000 – €84,000    | €102,000 – €108,000 |
| Experience: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | €84,000 – €90,000    | €108,000 – €114,000 |

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# Law firms: Compensation – Competition law



| Category                         | International (Avg.) | Magic Circle (Avg.) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Experience: 1 <sup>st</sup> year | €130,000 – €145,000  | €120,000 – €130,000 |
| Experience: 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | €150,000 – €170,000  | €130,000 – €140,000 |
| Experience: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | €170,000 – €190,000  | €140,000 – €150,000 |

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# US law firms: Compensation – Competition law



| Examples                         | Latham & Watkins | Skadden  | Wilson Sonsini |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Experience: 1 <sup>st</sup> year | €140,000         | €200,000 | €200,000       |
| Experience: 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | €150,000         | €210,000 | €210,000       |
| Experience: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year | €160,000         | €230,000 | €230,000       |

**Disclaimer:** Compensation figures provided are for general informational purposes only and may vary based on location, experience, firm size, and market conditions. Based on recent market trends, average salaries for Competition lawyers at U.S. law firms rose by ~€5–10k in 2025/26. For more details and to find out if you're earning enough, visit [knowyourworth.be](https://knowyourworth.be).

# Expertises Overview

- Antitrust and Competition
- Banking and Finance
- Corporate M&A
- Commercial
- Dispute Resolution
- Employment
- Energy
- Environment and Planning
- Healthcare and Life Sciences
- IP, IT & Data Protection
- Real Estate and Construction
- Restructuring and Insolvency
- Shipping and Transport
- Tax
- Trade and Customs
- White-Collar Crime

# Law firms & AI: Adoption Rates and Trends

**Clio:** AI adoption in smaller and mid-sized firms rose from 19% (2023) → 79% (2024) → 93% (2025), with firms reporting efficiency and productivity benefits.

**LexisNexis:** Generative AI use among lawyers increased from 26% (Jan 2024) → 61% daily use (Aug 2025), with lawyers reporting time savings and expecting impacts on billing models.

**Thomson Reuters:** Survey respondents report AI could save legal professionals about ~200 hours/year (2024) → ~240 hours/year (2025), and about 80% expect AI to have a major impact on their work by 2030.

***“AI is only as good as the prompt given to [it].  
Drafting prompts is going to become a skill in itself, as important  
as legal drafting.”***

— Pranav Srivastava, Co-Vice Chair, IBA Young Lawyers' Committee

***JustLawyers:*** The first AI-driven matchmaking platform designed to connect lawyers with top law firms.



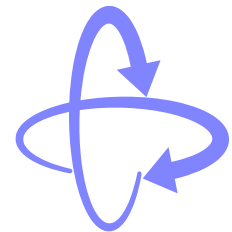
## JustLawyers: Who's it for

- **For students:** looking for a bar traineeship or summer/winter internship
- **For lawyers:** Associates (up to 7 years of experience)

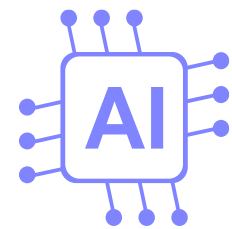
# JustLawyers: Key features



Easy profile creation



All-in-one platform



AI matchmaking with the latest job openings



Like, Chat, and Match with your favourite firms

# How it works for Candidates

Match with a job

Matching percentage  
between jobs and  
candidates

Like a job



**You have a match!**

Congratulations! The law firm will soon be in touch.

Get in touch first

Continue browsing

**JustLawyers**

Job Board

**My Overview**

Messages

My Profile

**My Overview**

Matched (1)

**My Likes (3)**

My Applications (6)

Likes Me (1)

Not Interested (2)

Brussels Lawyer Group

Apply

**Corporate Associate**

Created: June 12, 2024

83% match

Brussels

Aviation, Banking & Finance, Civil Law, Commercial, Competition, Compliance, Cybersecurity, Employment, Corporate

2-4 years of experience

English, Dutch

Ons corporate tech team wil graag de rangen versterken met een nieuwe collega die variatie kan brengen in...

Liked

Ask a question

Antwerp Law & Co

Apply

**Junior Associate Environmental**

Created: June 12, 2024

87% match

Antwerp

Aviation, Banking & Finance, Civil Law, Commercial, Competition, Compliance, Cybersecurity, Employment, Corporate

2-4 years of experience

English, Dutch

Ons corporate tech team wil graag de rangen versterken met een nieuwe collega die variatie kan brengen in...

Liked

Ask a question

Ghent Law Corp

Apply

**Junior Associate Real Estate**

Created: June 12, 2024

76% match

Ghent

Aviation, Banking & Finance, Civil Law, Commercial, Competition, Compliance, Cybersecurity, Employment, Corporate

2-4 years of experience

English, Dutch

Ons corporate tech team wil graag de rangen versterken met een nieuwe collega die variatie kan brengen in...

Liked

Ask a question

Apply to a job

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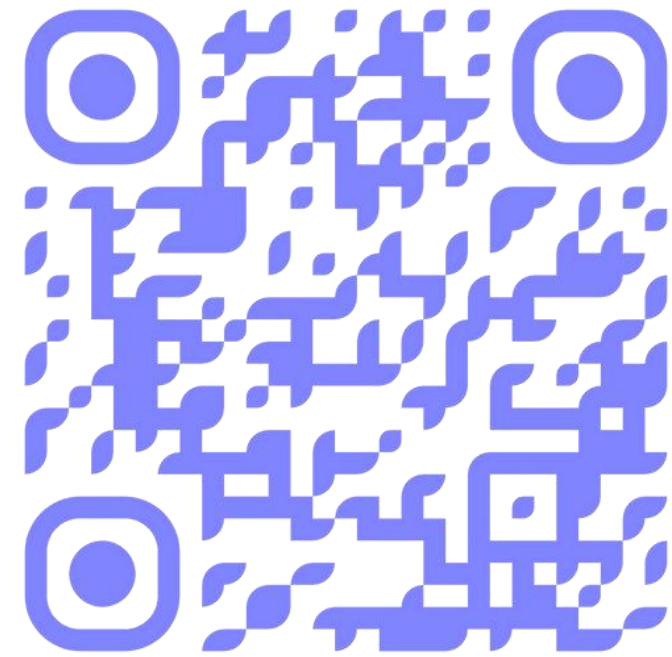
PKF  
BOFIDI



## **Tips on how to ace a law firm interview:**

- Preparation is key
- Be honest about your strengths and areas for growth
- Always maintain professionalism
- Approach financial discussions with care
- Show initiative and further engagement

# Questions?



Thank you!

