

D-FW TOP 200

The D-FW Top 200 special section comes out May 14. Leading up to it, *The Dallas Morning News* will run some lists that in previous years have run in the special section.

In the coming weeks, watch for the top employers, hospitals and more.

Law firms shrinking, but pace is slowing

Dallas-Fort Worth's biggest law firms continued to thin their ranks last year, though at a slower pace than in years past. In the last year, the top 20 firms combined shed 15 lawyers, or about 0.5 percent of their workforce.

Meanwhile, lawyers' ranks are growing statewide and across the U.S. According to the American Bar Association Market Research Department, the number of lawyers rose by about 5 percent in Texas and about 2 percent nationwide between 2004 and '05.

In Dallas County, the number of lawyers rose by about 1 percent from 2003 to 2004, according to the most recent data available from the State Bar of Texas.

Thus, the decline at Dallas' biggest firms indicates a shift in concentration rather than an overall contraction.

Among the top 20 D-FW firms, 12 added lawyers, and six lost lawyers. Jones Day added the most local lawyers, with 10. But Andrews Kurth LLP was the biggest gainer by percentage, increasing its D-FW workforce by almost 9 percent and jumping two spots in the rankings.

Hughes & Luce LLP was the biggest decliner on the list, losing almost 13 percent of its local workforce and dropping from No. 9 to No. 13. Chief operating officer Ed Coultas said the firm lost several lawyers in the first quarter of 2005

after taking a more regional focus. "We were going to be basically a Texas firm, and they wanted a larger firm serving a larger client," he said.

Jenkins & Gilchrist, which for many years was Dallas' biggest law firm, continued a trend of contraction. The firm shed 10 lawyers, or 6.5 percent, last year. Its D-FW workforce is down 45 percent from 2001.

Patton and Boggs LLP makes its debut in the rankings at No. 18, with 84 D-FW attorneys. The firm, based in Washington, D.C., has been steadily beefing up its Dallas practice, which has a strong financial services component, spokesman Brian Hale said.

"When our firm established our Dallas office in July of 1997, it was not a very big office," he said. "Then throughout the years to the present time, we've had a good deal of growth. There hasn't been a year where there was a big boost in hiring or a huge acquisition of talent. It's been very gradual."

Most of the top 20 firms saw revenue gains. Five firms declined to disclose revenue, down from eight the previous year. Among the firms that reported revenue in both years, 10 saw gains, and two saw declines. Combined revenue rose slightly, from \$2.48 billion to \$2.52 billion.

Jennifer Chamberlain

BIGGEST LAW FIRMS

Ranked by number of local attorneys

Rank (last year's rank)	Law firm	Headquarters	D/FW attorneys	Total attorneys	2005 revenue	Firm leadership	Offices
1 (1)	Haynes and Boone LLP www.haynesboone.com	Dallas	242	433	\$217 million	Robert Wilson, managing partner	10, including Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Richardson and San Antonio
2 (2)	Thompson & Knight LLP www.tklaw.com	Dallas	216	408	\$172.2 million	Peter J. Riley, managing partner; Diane M. Scheffler, chief operating officer	12, including Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Houston
3 (3)	Jones Day www.jonesday.com	None designated	194	2,236	DND	Francis P. Hubach Jr., partner in charge	30, including Dallas and Houston
4 (5)	Winstead Sechrest & Minick PC www.winstead.com	Dallas	171	309	\$143.1 million	W. Mike Baggett, chairman and chief executive officer	Seven, including Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and The Woodlands
5 (4)	Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP www.lockeliddell.com	Dallas	170	361	\$207.8 million	Bryan L. Goolsby, managing partner	Five, including Austin, Dallas and Houston
6 (6)	Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP www.gardere.com	Dallas	164	279	\$149.5 million	Stephen D. Good, managing partner	Four, including Austin, Dallas and Houston
7 (7)	Baker Botts LLP www.bakerbotts.com	Houston	160	721	\$434.6 million	Jack L. Kinzie, partner in charge in the Dallas office	10, including Austin, Dallas and Houston
8 (8)	Jenkins & Gilchrist www.jenkins.com	Dallas	144	269	\$179 million	Howard E. Schreiber, managing shareholder in the Dallas office	Eight, including Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio
9 (10)	Jackson Walker LLP www.jw.com	Dallas	141	304	\$133 million	T. Michael Wilson, managing partner	Seven in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Richardson, San Angelo and San Antonio
10 (11)	Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP www.akingump.com	Dallas	138	938	\$618 million	J. Kenneth Menges Jr., partner in charge in the Dallas office	15, including Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio
11 (12)	Vinson & Elkins LLP www.velaw.com	Houston	131	727	\$510 million	Michael Wortley, administrative partner in the Dallas office; Joseph Dilg, managing partner	11, including Austin, Dallas and Houston
12 (13)	Fulbright & Jaworski LLP www.fulbright.com	Houston	125	960	\$540.5 million	Ken Stewart, partner in charge	13, including Dallas, Austin, Houston and San Antonio
13 (9)	Hughes & Luce LLP www.hughesluce.com	Dallas	114	133	\$68.9 million	Robert H. Mow Jr., managing partner	Three in Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth
14 (14)	Strasburger & Price LLP www.strasburger.com	Dallas	103	178	\$75 million	Dan Butcher, managing partner	Seven, including Austin, Dallas, Frisco, Houston and San Antonio
15 (16)	Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal www.carringtoncoleman.com	Dallas	94	94	DND	Fletcher L. Yarbrough, managing partner	One in Dallas
16 (15)*	Godwin Pappas Langley Ronquillo LLP www.godwinpappas.com	Dallas	88	114	DND	Marcos G. Ronquillo, managing partner	Two in Dallas and Houston
17 (19)	Andrews Kurth LLP www.andrewskurth.com	Houston	87	415	DND	Charles T. Marshall, managing partner in the Dallas office	Nine offices, including Austin, Dallas, Houston and The Woodlands
18 (18)	Kelly, Hart & Hallman LLP www.khh.com	Fort Worth	84	95	DND	Dee J. Kelly Jr., managing partner	Two in Austin and Fort Worth
18 tie (new to list)	Patton Boggs LLP www.pattonboggs.com	Washington, D.C.	84	404	\$222.1 million	Gerald T. Welch, managing partner in the Dallas office	Six, including Dallas
20 (20)	Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC www.munsch.com	Dallas	80	104	\$44.75 million	Glenn B. Callison, chief executive officer	Three in Austin, Dallas and Houston

* Godwin Pappas Langley Ronquillo LLP changed its name to Godwin Pappas in December 2005

DND: Firm did not disclose revenue

SOURCE: Dallas Morning News research

Got questions? Try a DNA test

Whether it's family history or future health, tests can point the way

Associated Press

For years, Art Thomas sifted through the family stories and wondered: Exactly where did I come from?

Last fall, Mr. Thomas, a retired information technology manager in Springfield, Ohio, turned to his body for answers. He scraped a cell sample from inside his cheek, mailed the swab to a test lab and waited for science to supplement his extensive genealogical research.

Mr. Thomas' quest to unlock the secrets of his own DNA is far from a solitary one. A growing number of consumers are paying for a proliferation of partly self-administered genetic tests, hoping to determine everything from paternity to their propensity for certain diseases to their own ancestry.

Some health-related tests have stirred skepticism among doctors and geneticists concerned about their validity and consumers' ability to interpret the results. But more consumers are proceeding with such tests to satisfy their curiosity, and marketers are responding.

On the shelf

Discount retailer Target Corp. now sells DNA collection and profile kits online. Some drugstores have begun stocking DNA-based nutritional tests. Ancestry tests have taken on new prominence with the National Geographic Society encouraging people to explore "the ultimate human history, as written in our genes."

The many tests available serve very different purposes. But some observers see a commonality in

their appeal, finding an audience with consumers who have gradually come to see genetics as less overwhelming and potentially useful.

There "has been an increasing expectation of what this technology would be able to deliver," said Rosalynn Gill-Garrison, a co-founder and chief science officer for Sciona Inc., a Boulder, Colo., company that sells tests to help people match their diet with their genetic predisposition.

"Now, have we met all those expectations? I don't think so. But certainly people are very interested in wanting to use this technology to learn more about themselves."

Some direct-to-consumer DNA tests have attracted negative attention. Last year, a group of women sued the marketers of the Baby Gender Mentor test, which promised to determine the gender of a fetus. They accused the company of failing to honor its guarantee when the test results proved wrong. Other tests have attracted new interest, like those featured in a recent PBS show that traced the ancestry of Oprah Winfrey and other black celebrities.

A personal question

Some consumers who buy the tests see the decision in very personal terms.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Thomas has poured his free time into researching his family tree. But Mr. Thomas, who is black, remained uncertain about pieces of the family legend that said both a great-grandmother and a great-grandfather were white.

Mr. Thomas spent just under \$300 for a package of two tests from FamilyTree DNA, owned by Genealogy by Genetics Ltd. of Houston, and \$175 for a different test marketed by Ancestry by DNA, owned by DNA Print Ge-

nomics Inc. of Sarasota, Fla.

The results arrived in the mail about a month later, confirming and amplifying Mr. Thomas' earlier findings that his family tree includes some white ancestors.

"It confirms a lot of oral history," Mr. Thomas says.

Chuck Bryceland of Bronxville, N.Y., purchased two tests — one to examine his genetic propensity for heart disease, another to screen for his body's ability to absorb nutrients — after spotting

them on the shelf in a drugstore while traveling.

He paid \$199 for one test, \$99 for the other, which told him that he is unlikely to develop heart disease but that his body poorly absorbs Vitamin B. Since then, he's been campaigning to get his wife, his parents and other family members to take the tests, too.

"If there's information out there that we can use to help our health then why wouldn't I take it?" Mr. Bryceland said.

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By: Kevin Miller, President, TexasLending.com
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AL BEHRMAN/Associated Press
The results of genetic testing helped Art Thomas of Springfield, Ohio, confirm family stories of white ancestry.