

Law as a profession

- I. Law as a problematic profession
- II. Controlling the shape of the profession
- III. Transformation of legal practice
- IV. Conclusions

I. Law as a problematic profession

A. Nature of professionalization

- The functionalist model
- The Weberian model: professions as occupational monopolies

I. Law as a problematic profession

A. Nature of professionalization

B. Weakness of the legal profession in the U.S.

- The problem of legitimacy
- Heterogeneity

II. Controlling the shape of the profession

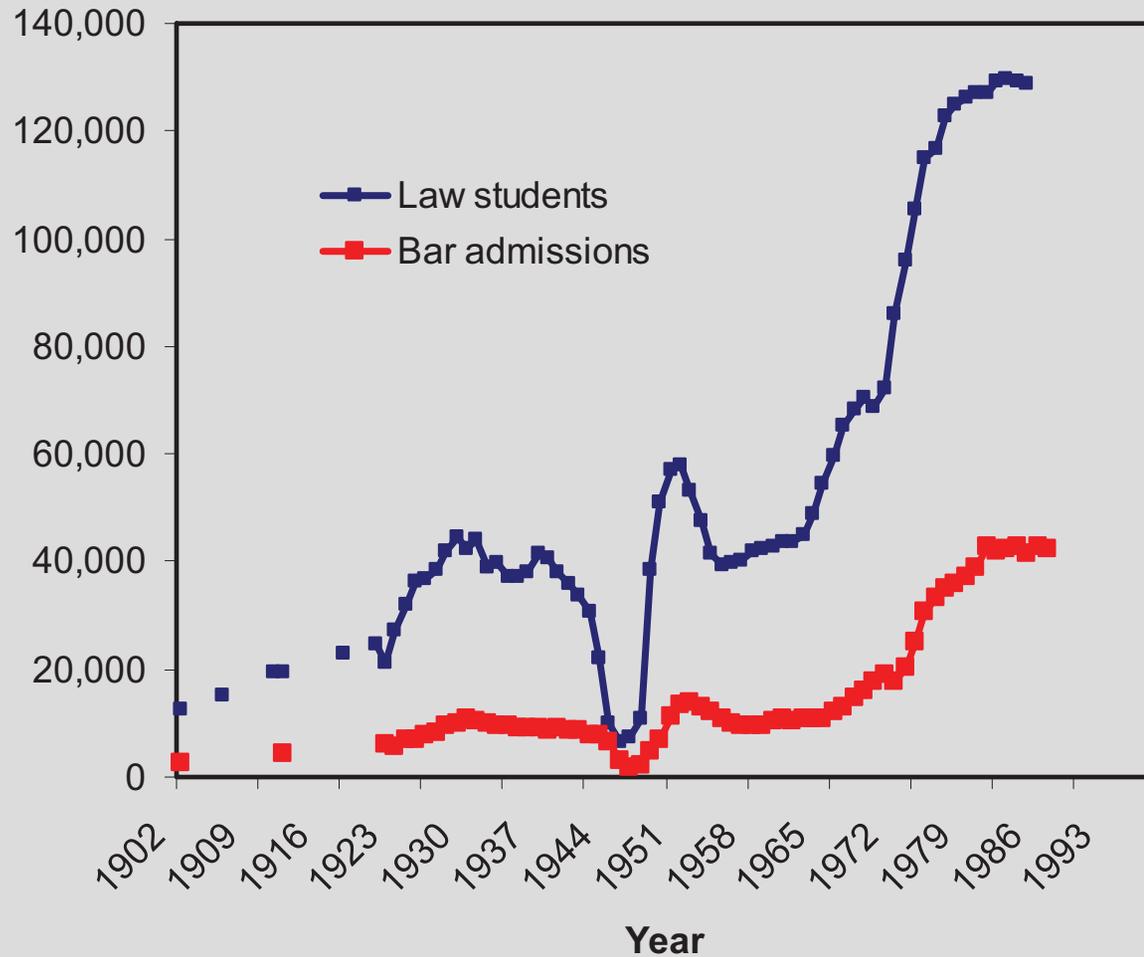
A. Strategies of the ABA and state bar associations:

- Training: shift from apprenticeship to law schools
- Bar examinations

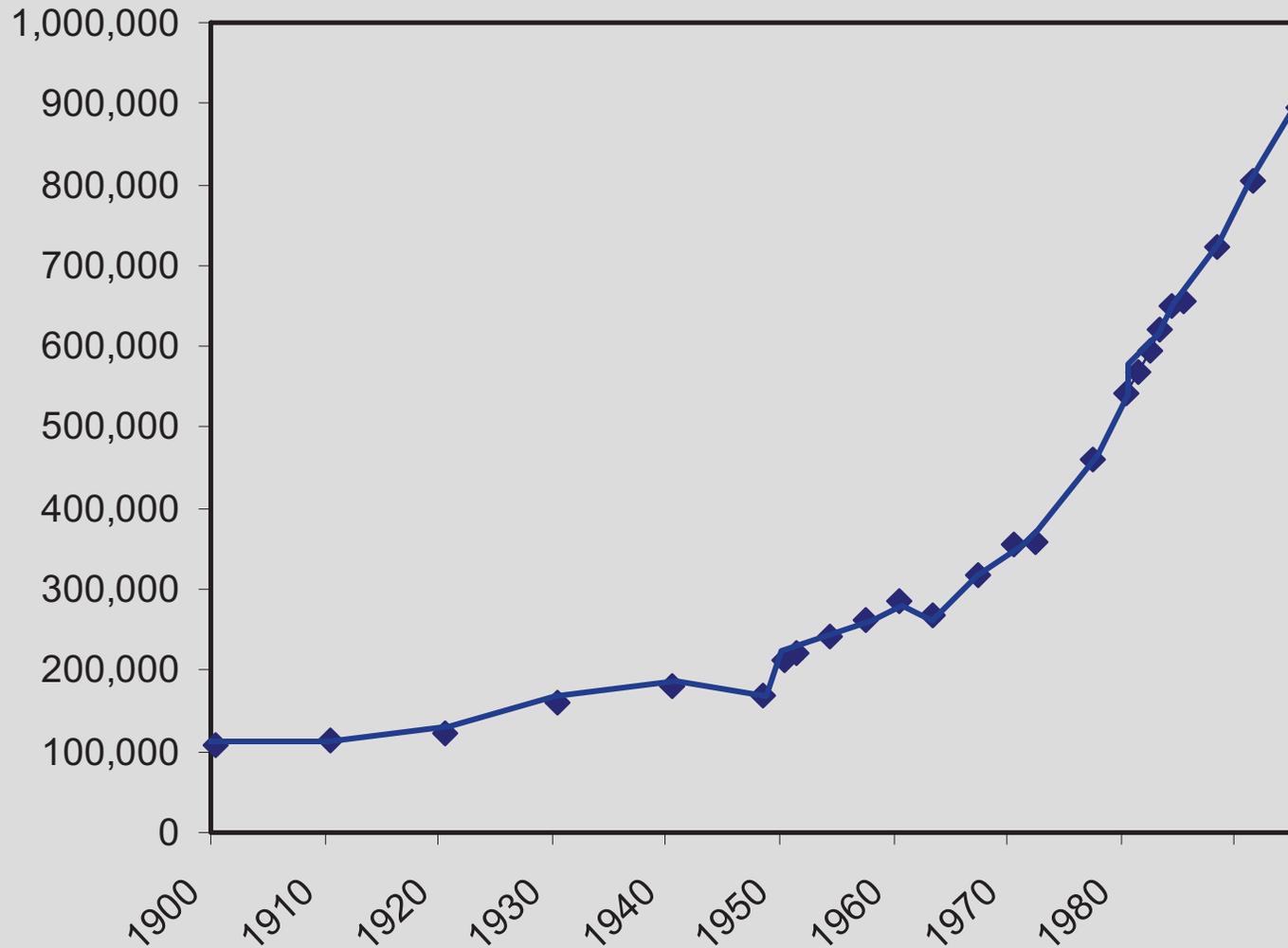
II. Controlling the shape of the profession

- A. Strategies of the ABA and state bar associations
- B. Consequences
 - Numbers of lawyers

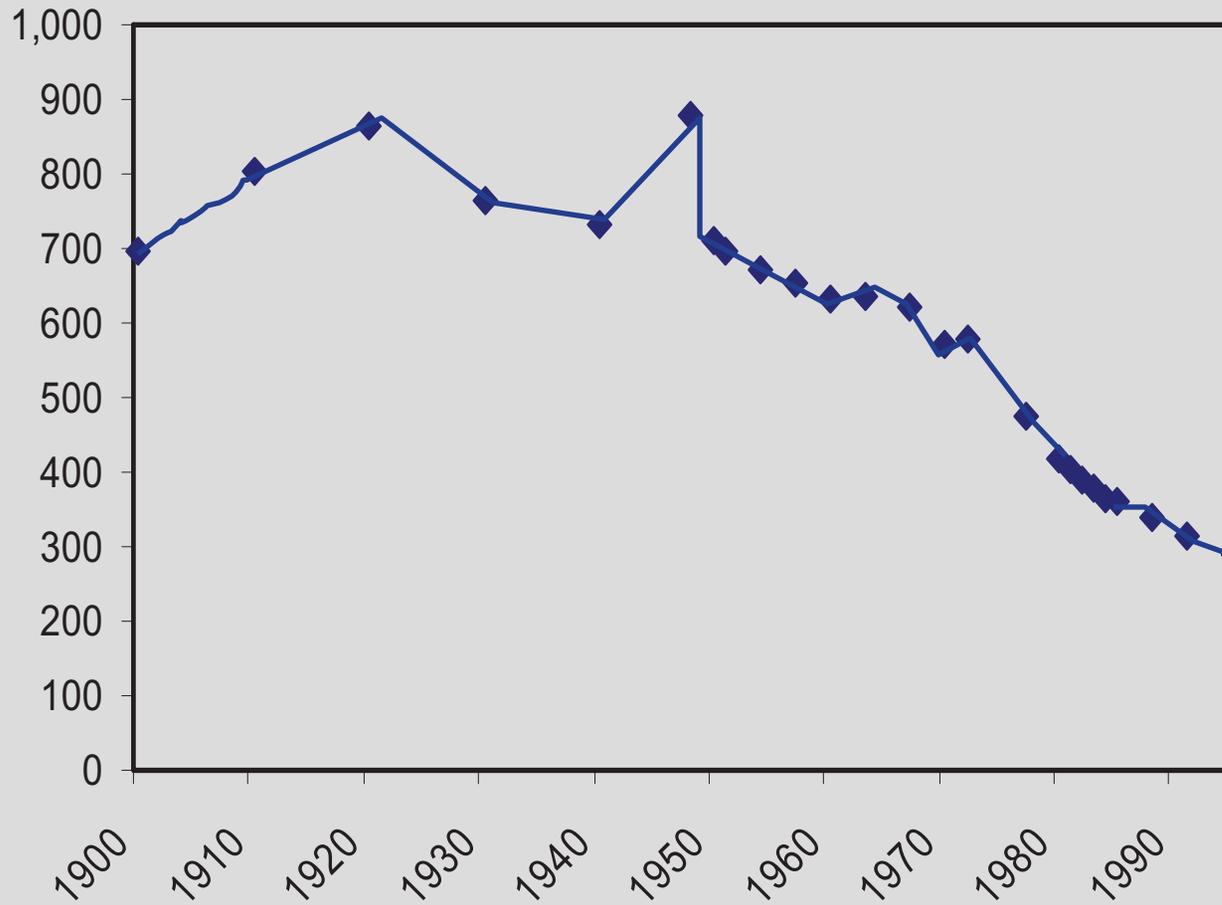
Law students and lawyers admitted to the bar, 1900-1985



Number of lawyers in the U.S., 1900-1985



Population per lawyer, 1900-1995



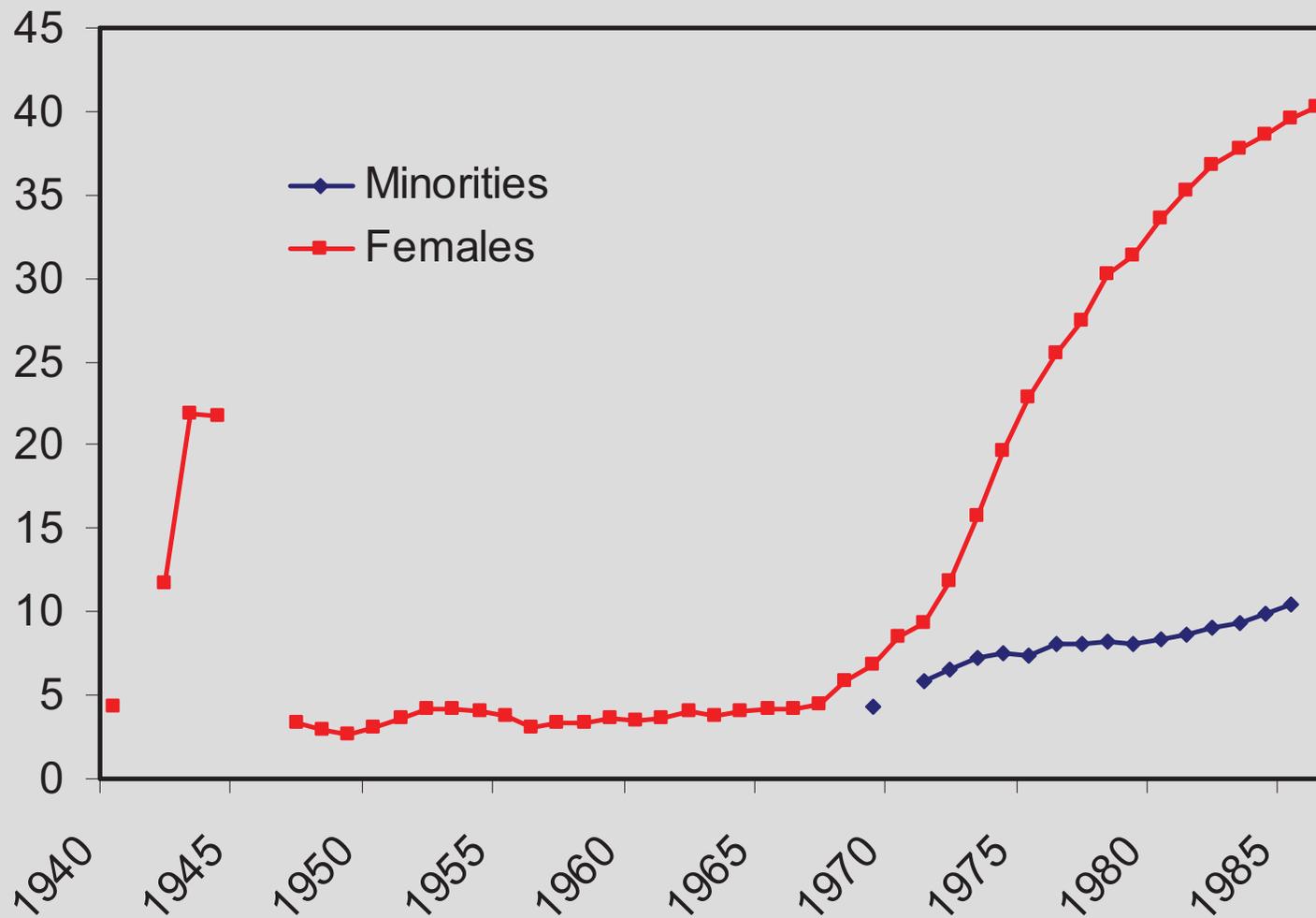
II. Controlling the shape of the profession

A. Strategies of the ABA and state bar associations

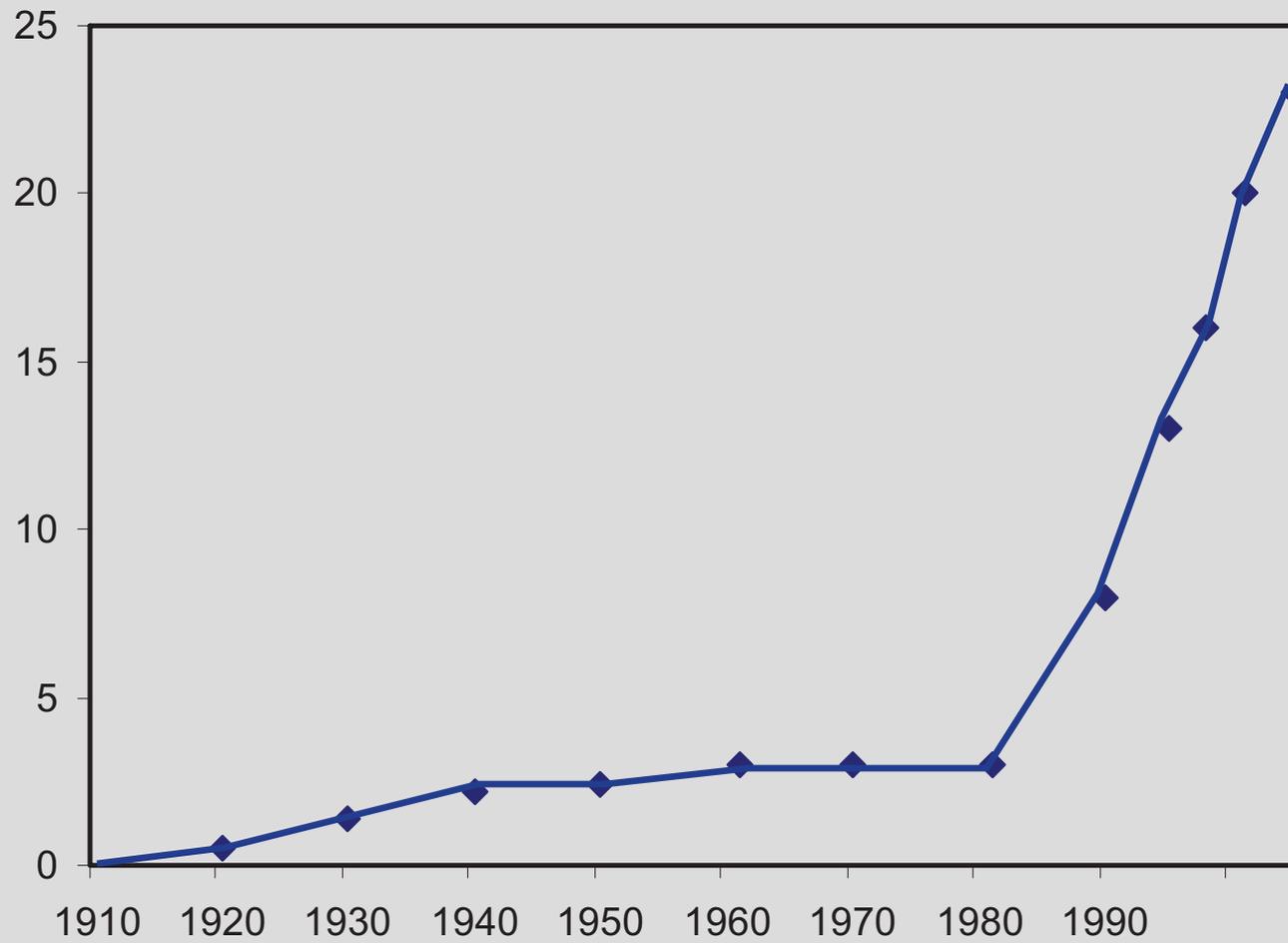
B. Consequences

- Numbers of lawyers
- Characteristics of lawyers
 1. Age
 2. Race and ethnicity
 3. Social class
 4. Gender

Female and minority law students as percent of total enrollments, 1940-1985



Women lawyers as percent of all lawyers, 1910-1995



III. Transformation of legal practice

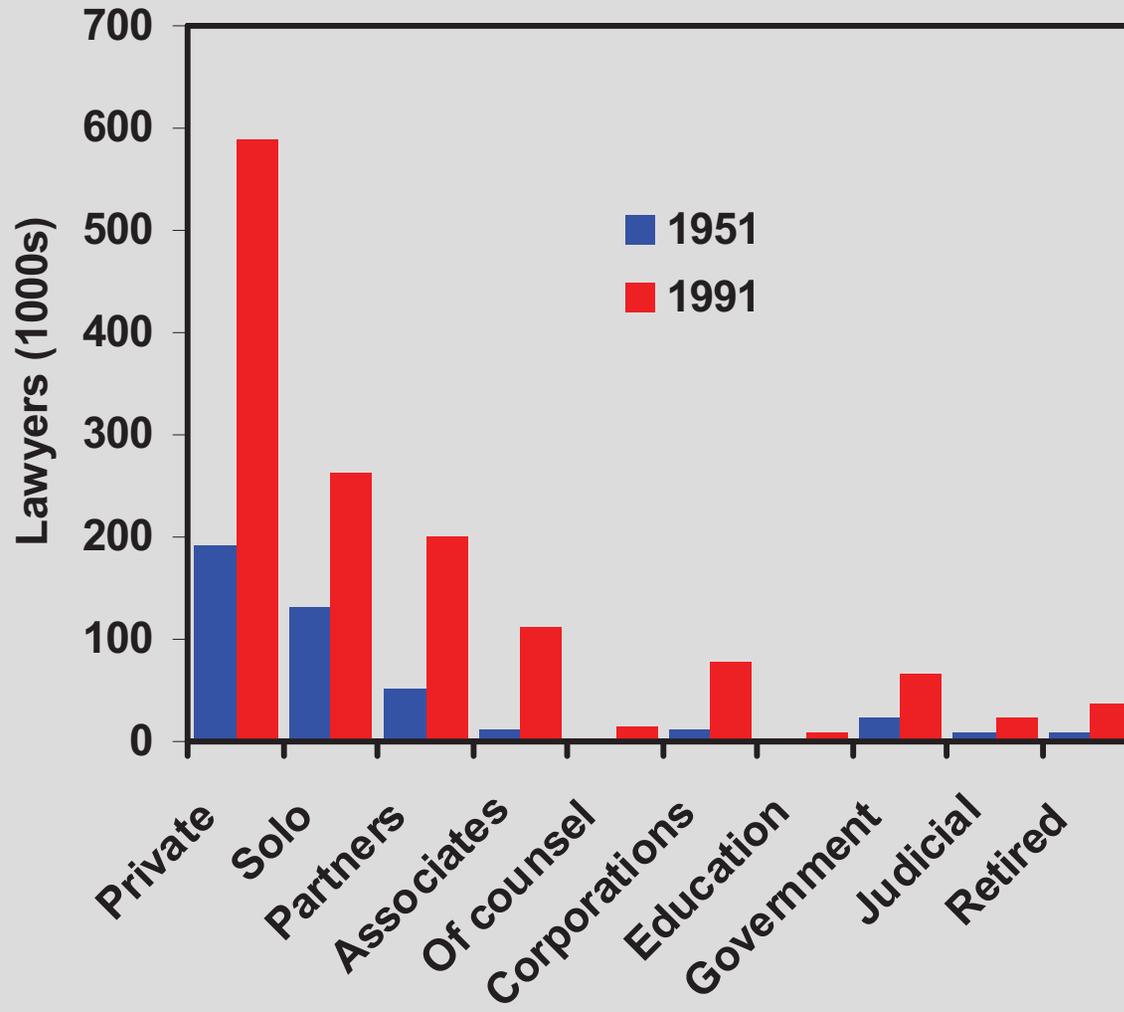
A. Law firms are getting bigger

- Review: More lawyers, more women lawyers
- Role of lawyers in the economy
- Change in the structure of legal practice

Distribution of lawyers in practice settings (percents), 1951 and 1991

<i>Practice Setting</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>% Growth</i>
Private practice			
Total	86.8	72.9	205
Solo	59.0	32.6	101
Partners	23.2	24.8	289
Associates	4.6	13.8	995
Of counsel	—	1.6	150*
Corporations	5.7	9.5	508
Education	0.6	1.0	515
Government	9.8	8.2	205
Judicial	3.6	2.7	170
Retired, inactive	3.4	4.6	391
Total	221,605	805,872	264
* Percentage growth 1980-1991 only			

Lawyers by Practice Setting, 1951 and 1991



III. Transformation of legal practice

A. Firm growth and cultural capital

B. What do lawyers do?

- Symbolism and uncertainty
- Cultural capital
- Size matters
- Gender

III. Transformation of legal practice

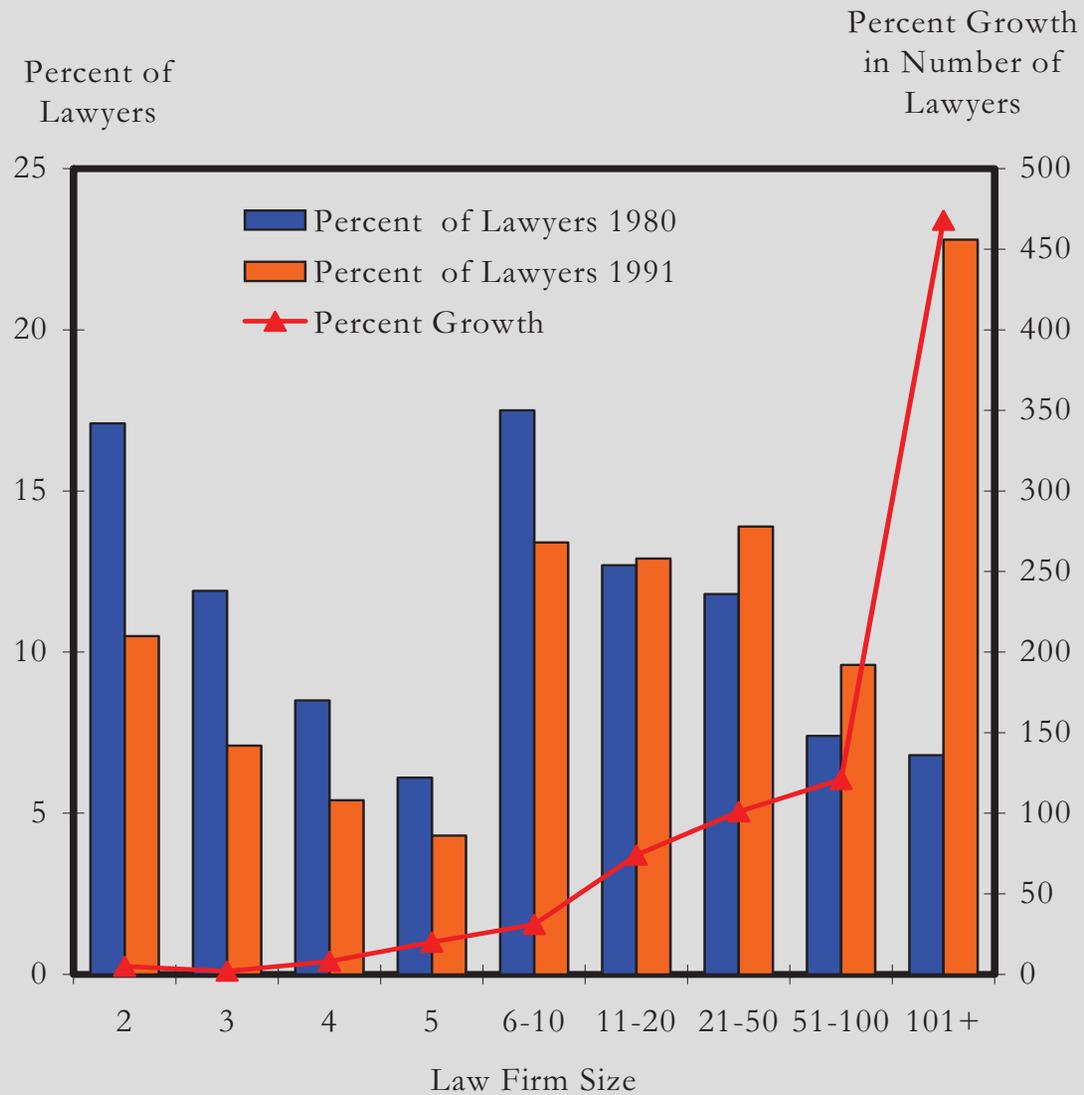
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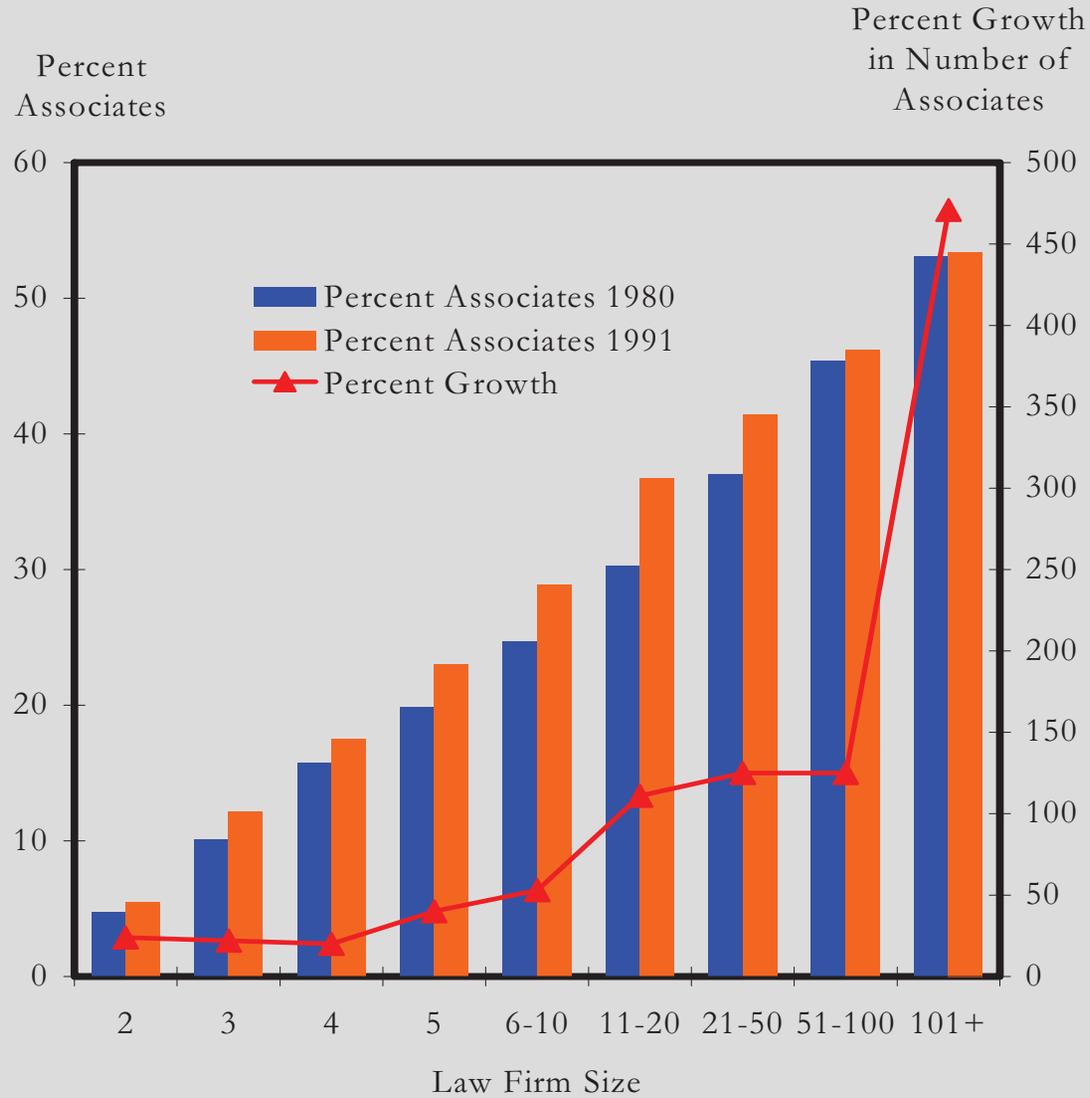
C. Implications

- Law firms are more pyramidal, hierarchical, and bureaucratic

Lawyers by firm size, 1980 and 1991



Associates by firm size, 1980 and 1991



III. Transformation of legal practice

A. Firm growth and cultural capital

B. What do lawyers do?

C. Implications

- Law firms are more pyramidal, hierarchical, and bureaucratic
- Effects on mobility of male and female lawyers

Partnership chances for male and female lawyers, by firm size

	Males	Females
Large firms	61%	39%
Small firms	45%	16%

IV. Conclusions

A. Changes: growth in

- number of lawyers
- representation of women
- size of law firms

B. From collegial model to employer-employee model

C. Ironic implications for women