

Transcript from CNN News - March, 11 2009

CNN's Don Lemon:

All right. Well, maybe this one is recession proof. It's bottoms up, as the economy goes down. The financial crisis may be driving some to drink, but it's driving others to look behind the bar for a new career.

CNN's Lola Ogunnaike explains.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

VOICEOVER: The worse the economy gets, the more people drink. You're actually going to make more as a bartender probably than a financial adviser. I got about 250 resumes in one day. This is about the worst I've seen out there and about the best I've seen in here. I go and pick up what? Whisky.

LOLA OGUNNAIKE, CNN ENTERTAINMENT CORRESPONDENT: So across the country, enrollment at bartender schools is up.

JOSEPH BRUNO, BARTENDER SCHOOL: Yes.

OGUNNAIKE: Here, business is booming too. **BRUNO:** Yes. Things have picked up enormously. We're up a third in enrollment. We're very happy to be accommodating the people that need to go to work.

OGUNNAIKE: How much can a bartender make an hour?

BRUNO: There are bartenders that make upward of \$500 a shift.

OGUNNAIKE: \$500 a shift?

BRUNO: Yes.

OGUNNAIKE: I'm in the wrong line of business.

Now, I don't mean to pry, but I am a journalist, and can you give me a ballpark figure how much you make a week or how much you make a year?

UNIDENTIFIED BARTENDER: On a good week, I make about 16 to 17 a week.

OGUNNAIKE: You've got to show me how to make some drinks.

Shake it like a Polaroid picture. Back up.

(LOLA OGUNNAIKE MAKES A DRINK)

Be honest, tell me what you think?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PATRON: Delicious. I taste Asian influences.

OGUNNAIKE: A little Lola love in there.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PATRON: I can see that. I can taste that. I like it.

OGUNNAIKE: If times ever got really tough, would you consider being a bartender?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PATRON: Absolutely!

OGUNNAIKE: Is there a recession cocktail?

BRUNO: A recession cocktail, yes. Tap water.

(END OF STORY)