

LAW

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

CORPORATE PRACTICE

Any corporation (largest number of attorneys are at corporate headquarters)

Corporate office summer clerkship rare. Usually hire experienced lawyers only; entry level positions are rare. Need tolerance for bureaucratic procedure.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Most government branches have legal counsel
Judge advocate general corps for all branches of the military

Summer internships somewhat limited and highly competitive.
Part-time employment or volunteer work in government possible.
Frequently can go to court and litigate sooner; experience can be valuable to private firms later.
Litigate almost immediately; offer a variety of practice opportunities from criminal to contracts.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Federal Court
State Court

Federal Courts of Appeal and District Court (trial) Judges and Magistrates, Bankruptcy and Administrative Law Judges
State Courts of Appeal and Trial Level Judges
Federal and State Court Clerkships for Collective Judges in a Court

High academic achievement emphasized by State and Federal judges; Federal judges usually require top 10 or 15% class rank. Can be stepping-stone to other legal areas. Many benefits for future legal areas. For US Supreme Court, top law graduates with one-two years clerking at lower Federal Court. Moot Court participation, regional and national competitions helpful. Law review membership, as indication of writing ability, highly valued and emphasized at all court levels.

| AREAS | EMPLOYERS | GENERAL INFORMATION |
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| <p><u>POLITICS</u> Lobbying/Government Relations Legislative Positions</p> | <p>Corporations Trade and professional associations Political Action Committees Law firms Public Interest Advocacy Groups Congressional representatives at national, state and local government</p> | <p>Possess ability to maintain energy and enthusiasm. Service-oriented attitude helpful. Ability to enlist help of others. Clerkship or summer associate position with law firm providing lobbying services helpful. Demonstrate interest in politics through undergraduate major, active campaigning, or research papers/articles. Obtain law firm experience. Acquire superior writing skills. Need pleasing personality, enthusiasm and high energy level. Show ability to work with people, and good communication/organizational skills.</p> |
| <p><u>PRIVATE PRACTICE</u></p> | <p>Large multi-office firms Medium-size firms Small firms Legal clinics Other private legal services</p> | <p>Acquire excellent research and writing skills. Obtain clerkships or internships. Large and medium-sized firms frequently emphasize grades and class rank; value law review & moot court experience.</p> |
| <p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST LAW</u> Legal Aid Services Public Defender Offices Public Interest Groups</p> | <p>Legal Services Corporation Legal Aid Society Federal, state & local government Private groups contract Sponsoring organization Law firms practicing Public Interest Law</p> | <p>Need supervised work experience in area. Obtain summer internship. Demonstrate desire to help economically disadvantaged. Show interest in law as means of change.</p> |
| <p><u>TEACHING</u></p> | <p>Law schools Business schools Undergraduate Departments of History and Political Science Paralegal schools</p> | <p>Need several years private practice or governmental service. Allows more flexibility of time. Can teach on adjunct basis. LLM degree and outstanding academic record required for law school teaching.</p> |

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

STATE & LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
Criminal Prosecution

District Attorney's Office
Attorney General's Office

Take essential courses related to criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, and evidence.

Participate in criminal clinical program.
Obtain summer positions in prosecutor's office or criminal litigation office or private firms practicing criminal law.

Civil Law

Attorney General's Office
State agencies, commissions, boards, executive and legislative office staff
Corporations
Local agencies and commissions
City and county law offices

Deals with broad range of subjects other than criminal matters, provides for wide variety of functions.

Provides opportunity to work with private lawyers and variety of public officials.
Demonstrate interest in public issues.
Internship helpful.

OTHER AREAS
PATENT & COPYRIGHT LAW

Law firms (specialized)
Corporations
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Highly specialized area.
Need technical science or engineering degree.

ENERGY LAW
NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Law firms
Corporations
Federal agencies (especially Department of Energy)
Environmental compliance services companies
State agencies
Regulatory Commission

Involves rights to resources including those in the earth and dangers in production of energy.

Involves transportation, taxation, patents and government regulation.

FINANCIAL PLANNING/
INVESTMENT BANKING
ESTATE PLANNING

Bank trust departments
Brokerage firms
Insurance companies
Development offices for preparatory schools, hospitals and universities

Brokerage firm positions may be on decline.
Insurance "Estate Planning" positions also require interest and ability in sales.
Bank trust department positions good for those who do not want to litigate or be confrontational.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

LEGAL PUBLISHING/ JOURNALISM

Legal publishers
Print and electronic media

Exhibit interest in writing, research and editing for publishers.
For national media, need experience covering the law and/or political "beats."

LAW FIRM ADMINISTRATION

Private law firms

Handle office management (work flow, etc.)
business development, clerk and attorney recruitment, clerkship programs, finances, personnel, etc.

LAW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Law schools

Serve as Deans or Directors of Academics,
Admissions, Career Services, Records,
Alumni Affairs, Development.

LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

Law firms
Law schools

Masters in Library Science, in addition to
law degree, required in some positions.