

How Much Does It Cost?



What Kind of Classes Do I Need to Take?



What Do I Have to Do to Get to Law School?



What If I'm Not a Good Public Speaker?

Program Sponsors and Partners

- o Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association – home of young lawyers.
- o The Law School Admissions Council





Practicing Law

What do lawyers do?

- o In 2016, there were approximately 1.3 million active attorneys in the U.S.
- o These lawyers:
 - o Practice law
 - o Work in business
 - o Teach
 - o Work in politics
- o The career options are limitless!



Practice Areas

What areas of law do lawyers practice?

- o Corporate law
- o Trusts and estates
- o Commercial litigation
- o Civil litigation and civil rights law
- o Criminal law
- o Intellectual property law
- o Tax law
- o Administrative law

Do all lawyers go to court?

- o Litigation attorneys may go to court.
 - o Most disputes are settled outside of court
 - o Some disputes go to “arbitration” or “mediation”
- o Transactional attorneys generally do not go to court.
 - o Negotiate contracts
 - o Advise on regulatory and corporate governance matters

Where do lawyers work?

- o Federal, state, and local government
 - o Criminal and civil practice
 - o Litigation, transactional, policy
- o Private practice
 - o Large law firms
 - o Small law firms
 - o Solo practitioners
- o In-house at a corporation
- o Non-profit entity
- o Judiciary
- o Academia

What are the most common practice settings for lawyers?

<i>% of lawyers in...</i>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Private Practice	68%	73%	74%	75%
Government	9%	8%	8%	8%
Private Industry	10%	9%	8%	8%
Retired/Inactive	5%	5%	5%	4%
Judiciary	4%	3%	3%	3%
Education	1%	1%	1%	1%
Legal Aid/Public Defender	2%	1%	1%	1%
Private Association	1%	1%	1%	1%

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004, 2012 editions

Do all lawyers practice in big firms?

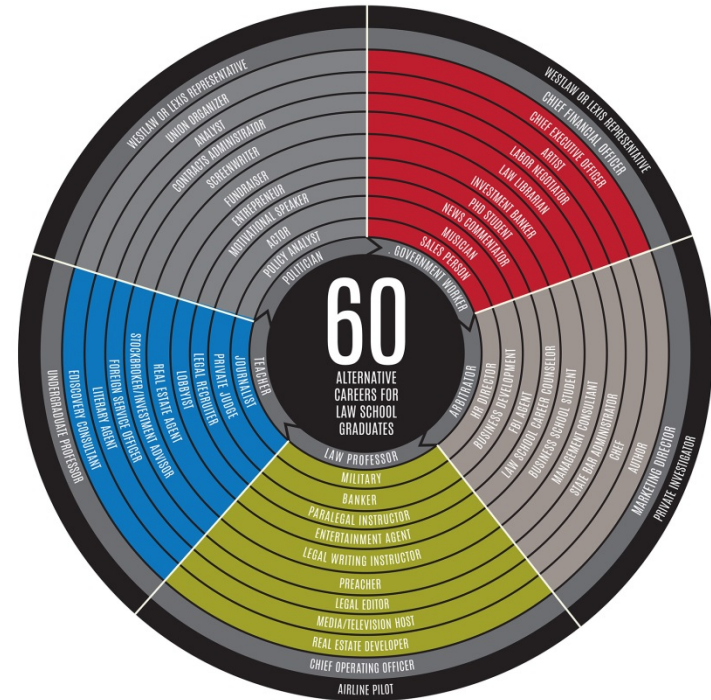
No! Most lawyers are solo practitioners or work in small firms!

% of private practitioners...	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Solo	49%	45%	48%	49%
2 – 5 lawyers	22%	15%	15%	14%
6 – 10 lawyers	9%	7%	7%	6%
11 – 20 lawyers	7%	7%	6%	6%
21 – 50 lawyers	6%	8%	6%	6%
51 – 100 lawyers	7%	5%	4%	4%
101 + lawyers	*	13%	14%	16%

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004, 2012 editions

What are “non-traditional” attorney jobs?

- o Not all lawyers “practice law”
 - o Business
 - o Education
 - o Financial services
 - o Government/ politics
 - o HR/recruitment
 - o Lobbying
 - o Dispute Resolution
 - o Non-Profits





Preparing for Law School

What classes should I take in college to prepare?

- o There is no one “right” major, and there are no “right” classes to take
- o Law schools accept people from varying academic backgrounds
- o It is important to take challenging courses and to do well in them
 - o Consider writing a research paper to develop and showcase your critical thinking and writing skills

Which classes should I take?

- o Should I major in English?
 - o Writing is an essential part of lawyering, but legal writing is different than most any other kinds of writing
- o Should I major in government or political science?
 - o Political science may be a little helpful, but law is about much more than politics
- o Should I major in “pre-law”?
 - o Not necessary. At all.
- o Recommendations:
 - o Maintain a strong GPA
 - o Take classes that are interesting to you
 - o Do not fill your transcript with easy courses



Applying to Law School

What do I need to apply to law school?

- o Application
- o LSAT (www.lsac.org)
- o Letters of Recommendation
- o Personal Statement
- o Resume
- o College Transcript
- o Application Fee OR Waiver

What is LSAC?

- o “LSAC” = Law School Admission Council
- o Administers the LSAT and centrally manages some parts of the law school application process
- o Offers step-by-step instructions to guide your law school application process
- o You will submit your resume, transcript, letters of recommendation, etc, to LSAC, which will then send them to your schools of choice

What is the LSAT?

- o Law School Admission Test
- o Law school version of the SAT/ACT
- o Offered four times per year (February, June, September/October, December)
- o Consists of three main components:
 - o Reading comprehension (answer questions about 3-5 paragraph-long entries)
 - o Logical reasoning (identifying logical errors)
 - o Analytical reasoning (logic games)
- o An important part of your application package
- o Requires plenty of preparation, and perhaps a LSAT prep course

How do I decide where to apply?

- o Do your research and talk to your career office
- o Identify three categories of schools to apply to: “reach” schools, target schools, and “safety” schools
- o Consider:
 - o Geography - where do you want to live after law school?
 - o Practice Areas
 - o Your GPA and LSAT score
 - o Cost and Loan Repayment Programs
- o Make sure your law school is ABA accredited!!



Your First Year of Law School

What does the first year of law school look like?

- o Most schools have standard 1L curriculums:
 - o Contracts
 - o Civil Procedure
 - o Torts
 - o Research and Writing
 - o Criminal Law
 - o Property
- o Socratic Method
- o Grades



After Law School

What is the bar exam?

- o Each state has a bar exam that you must pass to be licensed to practice in that state
 - o In most states you will also need to pass an ethics exam and a “character and fitness” interview to be admitted to practice
- o Most bar exams have a state component and a federal component
- o Consists of essays, short answers, multiple choice
- o Usually taken in late July after graduation from law school (also given in February)
- o Tests a wide variety of legal subjects
- o Like the LSAT - you cannot “wing” this test. Many people study for months and take specific bar preparation classes

What is a bar association?

- o Bar associations are professional networks of lawyers
 - o Can be national or local
 - o Can be general or practice-area specific
- o Provide a network of colleagues that you can call upon when you have unique issues or problems
- o Can be leads for new clients
- o Provide resources, like Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses that keep you up to date on the latest legal developments
- o Join early! Many associations, including the ABA, have low or no-cost student memberships!

What is a clerkship?

- o Clerkships are legal positions doing research and writing for judges
- o Can be for state or federal judges, trial level or appeals
- o Usually done in the 1st or 2nd year after law school
- o Apply in the summer and fall of your last year of law school
- o Do your research and talk to your career office
- o Can be helpful to:
 - o Learn the criminal or civil process from the inside
 - o Get insight into how judges operate
 - o Cultivate a network of contacts consisting of your judge and former clerks
 - o Use as a launching pad to a full-time clerkship following graduation
- o Clerks who move on to large law firms will often get a “signing bonus” in their first year



Resources

Where do I go if I want to learn more?

- o www.discoverlaw.org
- o www.lsac.org
- o Your college career services office

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