Job Options For Lawyers and Law School Graduates
What Can You Do With a Law Degree?  By Deborah Arron

Private Law Firms

Possible arrangements:

- solo practice with direct client contact
- solo practice as consulting expert
- cooperative
- office space partnership
- profit and loss partnership
- corporation
- main or branch office of national megafirm

Possible positions:

- managing partner
- department manager
- partner
- non-equity partner
- partnership track associate
- senior partner (permanent associate)
- staff attorney (contract employee)
- of-counsel
- freelance temporary

Possible locations:

- home office
- large city
- small city
- town
- rural area
- bedroom community
- central business district
- suburban business district
- foreign country

Sample areas of practice:

- administrative
- adoption
- agricultural
- alternative-dispute resolution
- antitrust
- banking
- biomedical issues
- bond
- business organization
- commercial finance
- commercial litigation
- communications
- computer
- constitutional
- construction
- copyright
- corporate reorganization
- discrimination
- domestic relations
- elder
- employment
- employment relations
- energy
- environmental
- estate planning
- family
- franchising
- general practice
- govt. relations/lobbying
- guardianship
- health care
- immigration
- international finance
- intellectual property
- international
- labor
- litigation
- lobbying
- matrimonial
- natural resources
- pensions
- probate
- public contracts
- public utility
- real estate
- social security
- sports
- taxation
- trademark
- trust
- workers’ comp
Bar Associations

Possible positions:

- complaint audit and review
- disciplinary proceedings prosecutor
- general counsel
- lawyer referral service
- lawyer referral service/telephone intake
- legal education staff attorney
- state bar court staff
- trial counsel
- volunteer legal service project/staff atty.
- volunteer legal service project/supervisor

Corporations

Possible positions:

- associate general counsel
- bank trust officer
- department legal advisor
- medical division service
- V.P. legal administration
- general counsel
- in-house insurance defense
- litigation management
- tax department of public accounting firm

Government

Federal jurisdiction positions:

- administrative law judge in agency or department
- assistant U.S. attorney
- federal public defender
- Judge Advocate General office of any military branch (active or reserve)
- staff attorney in agency or department
- U.S. attorney
- U.S. trustee in bankruptcy

Persons in State, County and City jurisdictions:

- administrative law judge
- assistant attorney general
- assistant city attorney
- assistant district/prosecuting attorney
- assistant public defender
- attorney general
- chief legal counsel for State Ethics Board
- chief or supervising public defender
- city attorney
- code reviser
- county council/board of supervisors
- legal advisor
- district/prosecution attorney
- hearing officer
- hearing officer for agency or department
- hearing office or administrative law judge
- law enforcement legal advisor
- legal counsel to sheriff’s office
- legislative analyst
- probate referee
- program advisor
- staff attorney for agency/department
- condemnation specialist
Judicial

Possible jurisdictions:

- county trial court system
- municipal or small claims court
- government agency or department
- state appellate court system
- Federal District court/Court of Appeals/Supreme Court

Possible positions:

- central research staff
- law clerk
- hearing officer or administrative law judge
- magistrate/commissioner
- judge or justice
- pro-tem
- justice of the peace

Law Schools

Possible positions:

- adjunct (part-time)
- instructor
- bar review course instructor
- law school tutor
- bar review tutor
- lecturer
- dean
- tenure-tract professor
- director/supervising attorney of clinical education program

Legal Aid/Services

Possible positions:

- director of legal affairs
- staff attorney
- director of legal project
- staff researcher
- litigation coordinator
- supervising attorney

 Universities/School Districts

Possible positions:

- general counsel
- staff attorney

LAW RELATED OPTIONS

Arbitration and Mediation

Possible employers:

- affiliation with a not-for-profit group
- newspapers
- community dispute resolutions boards/panels
- panels such as American Arbit.Assn.
- for-profit business
- private solo practice
- government
- universities
- labor unions

Possible positions:
arbitrator
contract mediator
director/manager
director of legal services
employee grievance mediator

owner/founder
program administrator
staff mediator
training
volunteer mediator

**Bar Associations**

Possible positions:

- administrator
- admissions/licensing director
- assistant director
- continuing legal education director
- coordinator of Lawyer Helpline service
- director, Lawyers Concern with Lawyers
- executive director
- fee arbitration program director

- law-related education director
- lawyer’s assistance program director
- legislative representative
- membership services director
- pro bono foundation administrator
- programming director
- public affairs director
- special project coordinator

**Communications**

Possible positions:

- editor of legal magazine
- editor of legal newspaper
- editor, writer and/or owner/publisher of a legal newsletter, journal or magazine reporting developments in specific areas
- freelance writer for any legal magazine
- legal correspondent for television or radio network news
- reporter on legal issues for general circulation magazine/newspaper
- reporter for legal newspaper
- scriptwriter for television program
- supervising producer of television program
- writer for legal magazine

**Consulting-with Law Firms and Lawyers**

Possible positions:

- automation
- business valuation expert
- communication with clients and juries
- computer usage, on systems purchasing/training
- employee selection, both professional & Staff
- expert witness on lawyer standard of care or legal ethics
- expert witness on insurance coverage bad faith/underwriting issues
- expert witness on general/limited partnership disputes
- jury selection
- law training/professional development

- mergers and acquisitions
- quality of life
- office space design
- pension & profit-sharing plans
- strategic planning
- stress reduction
- telephone management selection
- time management
- trial preparation
- trial strategy
- visual aids for trial
- wardrobe and personal appearance
marketing and promotions/marketing research

writing

With other types of business:

consulting in cost, quality and effective use of legal services
dispute resolution
environmental consulting
freelance negotiation
intellectual property protection systems design
labor-management relations
litigation avoidance
litigation management (manage and perform
document production and routine discovery
“in-house” at a lower cost and with greater control over the litigation)

IRS compliance analyst
pension benefits program
promotion of European investment
real estate syndication
seminars to teach law to non-lawyers
sexual harassment avoidance training

Corporate/Business/Banking

Possible positions:

acquisitions evaluator
ADA compliance specialist
ADA coordinator
adjuster for insurance or self-issued company
assistant to the president of community hospital
associate director of business affairs
attorney-pension operations for insurance company
bank investment compliance officer
bank probate administrator
bank regulation analyst
commercial loan administrator
compliance officer
contract compliance administrator
contract negotiator
contract specialist
contracting director or staff
Corporate quality/technical affairs director
dispute resolution specialist
EEOC compliance officer
employee benefit plan administrator
employee benefit plan designer
employee benefits product director
employee benefits analyst
employee relations officer
employee/labor relations director
errors and omissions examiner
estate administrator

ethics officer
hospital administration
insurance claims representative
insurance/binding specialist
labor administration
law librarian
leasing contract administrator
legal editor
legal translation specialist
life insurance agent
litigation oversight
loan administrator
policy/legislative affairs director/staff
prepaid legal plan administrator
procurement analyst
product licensing director or staff
property protection specialist
public affairs director or staff
purchasing director
regulation analyst
SEC compliance monitor
tax law analyst
trainer (teaching in a corporate environ.)
training administrator
trust examiner
trust officer
workers’ compensation claim examiner
Designing and/or Selling Legal Products and/or Services

Sample employers:

- public accounting firm
- legal publishers
- management consultant
- manufacturers
- retailers
- self-employment
- software developers
- wholesalers

Product examples:

- advertisements in legal newspapers/magazines
- communication systems
- computer animation/graphics
- computer hardware/software
- computer systems and components
- computerized legal forms
- corporate kits
- executive gifts
- forms
- law books and directories
- legal applications computer software
- legal forms
- mail order products with a lawyer theme
- office furniture
- office equipment
- office supplies
- printing
- visual aids for trial

Service examples:

- accounting/bookkeeping
- advertising
- appraiser (personal or real property)
- career life and planning for lawyers
- CLE-accredited seminars
- completion of legal forms
- computer-assisted research and retrieval market analysis
- computer-generated accident reconstruction
- contract attorney placement
- corp. communications (newsletter/brochure
- couriers/messenger service
- courtroom exhibit preparation and design
- deposition and trial transcript summaries
- expert witness clearinghouse/referral service
- facilities management
- graphic design
- in-firm training programs
- in-house continuing legal education
- independent law librarian
- independent paralegal
- insurance coverage
- interactive CLE videos
- investigator, criminal or civil
- language/interpretation service
- legal research services
- legal search consultant (“headhunter”)
- litigation management
- litigation research
- litigation support
- management consulting
- “mastery of practice” training seminars
- medical illustration
- medical research
- office machine maintenance and repair
- out placement services
- paralegal and clerical staff placement
- paralegal service
- polygraphs
- probate administration
- professional development courses
- public relations
- research
- storytelling for law firm social events
- strategic automation
- strategic planning retreats
- systems integration
- videotaping (depositions, will-signings, accident scenes)
**Education-Related**

Possible positions in law schools:

- assistant dean
- dean
- director of admissions
- director of student affairs
- director of continuing legal education
- director of development/community relations
- director of alumni affairs
- director of career services/development

Possible positions in other educational systems:

- administrator of bar review course
- assistant director of the house of technology transfer
- bioethicist, primarily in hospital or medical school
- community college instructor in business law, political science, constitutional law, criminal justice, or specialty subjects
- course designer or coordinator for a continuing education business
- director of a legal assistant/paralegal program (community college or continuing education program)
- director of federal/state relations
- in-house corporate training in subjects like negotiation, dispute resolution or sexual harassment avoidance
- instructor in court reporter program
- instructor in a national CLE program
- lecturer in advanced individual tax planning
- planned giving officer
- special assistant to the President
- undergraduate-level instructor in business law, business ethics, environmental policy, political science, constitutional law, legal studies, labor relations, tax, law and society, criminal justice

**Entrepreneurial**

Possible products or services:

- consumer advocate
- dispute resolution training
- diversity training
- do-it-yourself divorce
- do-it-yourself probate
- do-it-yourself will writing
- legal information to non-lawyers
- private investigator
- self-help law book publisher
- sexual harassment avoidance training

**Foundations and Nonprofit Organizations**

Possible postions:

- development officer
- director of development
- director of planned giving
- executive director for law-related organization
- legal information answer line coordinator
- legal outreach program developer
- lobbyist
- freelance development/fundraising assistant
Government & Politics

Possible positions:

- bank fraud investigator
- bankruptcy administrator
- bankruptcy case administrator manage
- bankruptcy examiner
- claims officer
- environment protection specialist
- executive asst. to Director of Natural Resources
- human relations coordinator, Office of
  Women’s Rights
- international or interstate trade relations
- code research analyst
- commissioner
- community relations coordinator
- congressional staff support
- contract administrator
- court Administrator
- court clerk
- deputy planning commissioner
- director of ethic commission
- director of public disclosure commission
- elected official
- land use examiner
- legal documents officer
- legislative aide to Senator/Congressman
- legislative director for Senator
- member of Labor Relations Board
- purchasing agent
- regulation analyst
- research staff for congressional committee
- supervisor of public accountants
- underwater diver planner
- victim’s compensation
- investigator/advocate

Labor Unions

Possible positions:

- administrator
- labor negotiator union representative

Law Enforcement

Possible positions:

- CIA Agent
- court bailiff
- customs inspector
- DEA agent
- FBI agent
- fines, penalties & forfeiture specialist
- immigration inspector
- juvenile justice
- police administration
- police officer
- Postal inspector
- special agent with Dept. of Justice in

Legal Publishers and Research Firms

Possible positions:

- access specialist
- acquisitions
- client support specialist
- computer-aided legal research
- editor
- legal reporting
- legal research and writing
- purchasing
- research associate
- sales representative
- service representative
- vice-president for governmental relations
Private Law Firm

Possible positions:

- client services manager
- director of business development
- director of client relations
- director of management/legal information
- director of practice development
- director of training (clerical/paralegal)
- firm manager
- in-house corporate communications
- in-house editor of legal writing

- law librarian
- legal administrator
- legal assistant manager
- marketing manager
- paralegal/legal assistant
- personnel director
- recruiting administrator/director
- strategic planner