

What to do with a Law Degree

Traditional Legal Careers

Approximately 91% of law school graduates who secure employment after graduation obtain a “traditional” legal position. Most traditional legal positions fall within the areas of Private Practice, Business, Government and Public Interest.*

Private Practice: Approximately 70% of graduates who obtain traditional legal employment do so in a private practice. They become attorneys with large, medium and small law firms. A few graduates open solo practices.

Government: Approximately 16% of those graduates who obtain traditional legal employment do so with government agencies. They become attorneys for federal regulatory agencies (HUD), state agencies (Illinois Department on Aging), local government (State's Attorneys Office/City Attorneys Office) and the military (Judge Advocate General Corps). Several graduates also work as clerks for federal and state judges.

Business: Approximately 9% of graduates who obtain traditional legal employment do so within business and industry. They become attorneys for corporations, accounting firms, insurance companies and banking/financial institutions.

Public Interest: Approximately 4% of graduates who obtain traditional legal employment do so with public interest agencies. They become attorneys for legal services (Land of Lincoln) and public interest groups (ACLU).

Setting*	New Attorney Placement Statistics*
Solo	5%
Private firms of 2 - 20 lawyers	28%
Private firms of 21 - 100 lawyers	19%
Private firms of 101 - 250 lawyers	11%
Private firms of 251+ lawyers	7%
Government - federal	5%
Government - state or local	11%
Legal services or public defender	3%
Public interest	1%
Nonprofit or education and other	2%
Business	9%

**After the JD: First Results of a National Study of Legal Careers*, a joint publication by the NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education and the American Bar Foundation, 2004.

Non-Traditional Legal Careers

Non-traditional legal careers are fields in which a law degree is not required, but is a considerable asset. Law students develop many skills and qualifications during law school which easily transfer to other areas besides law. According to statistics reported by the National Association for Law Placement, approximately 10-15% of law graduates secure employment after graduation in a non-traditional legal position.

The list on the next several pages is a compilation of more than 400 law-related employment opportunities across all employment sectors. This list is from the publication *JD Preferred 400+ Things You Can Do With a Law Degree (Other Than Practice Law)*, Federal Reports, Inc., 1994.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution Specialist
Arbitration Administrator
Arbitrator
Dispute Resolution Professional
Domestic Resolution Specialist
Fair Housing Specialist
Family Support Magistrate
Hearing Officer
Mediation Coordinator
Mediator
Ombudsperson

Civil Rights

Advocacy Coordinator
Affirmative Action Officer
ADA Coordinator
ADA Compliance Manager
Children's Advocate
Civil Rights Analyst
Civil Rights Coordinator
Civil Rights Investigator
Conciliation Specialist
Assistant Dean of Human Relations
Assistant Dean of Cultural Diversity
Equal Opportunity Compliance Specialist
Human Rights Administrator

Contracts, Procurement, Grants

Competition Advocate
Contract Negotiator
Contract Specialist
Contract Staff Analyst
Contract Termination Specialist
Industrial Property Manager
Procurement Officer
Purchasing Officer
Self-Determination Specialist
Small Business Advocate
Technology Licensing Manager

Court Administration

Assistant District Executive for Legal Affairs
Bankruptcy Administrator
Bankruptcy Appeals Clerk
Bankruptcy Case Administration Manager
Bankruptcy Examiner
Bankruptcy Group Manager
Circuit Court Executive
Clerk of Court
Court Administrator
Court Analyst
Court Operations Specialist
Deputy Clerk
Disciplinary Administrator
Estate Administrator
Guardianship Clerk
Jury Commissioner
Land Commissioner
Legal Documents Officer
Legal Research Assistant Dean
Parole Officer
Pretrial Services Officer
Probation Assistant Dean
Registrar
Reporter of Decisions
Settlement Assistant Dean
Supervisor of Public Trust Accounts
Support Payments Officer
Training Professional
Violations Bureau Manager

Criminal Justice, Investigation, Law Enforcement

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Inspector
Asset Search Investigator
Bank Fraud Investigator
Border Patrol Agent
Child Abuse Investigator
Child Support Enforcement Case Analyst
Civil Penalties Officer
Civilian Complaint Review Board Officer
Compliance Support Inspector
Computer Fraud Investigator
Consumer Safety Inspector
Crime Analyst
Crime Prevention Coordinator
Criminal Investigator
Criminal Justice Administrator
Customs Inspector
DEA Special Agent
Domestic Investigator
Drug Investigator
Economic Crimes Investigator
Employment Investigator
Enforcement Professional
FBI Special Agent
Financial Enforcement Specialist
Fines and Forfeiture Specialist
Foreign Service Narcotics Control Officer
Forensic Investigator
Fraud/White Collar Crime Investigator
Game Law Enforcement Officer
General Investigator
Hidden Assets Investigator
Immigration Inspector
Inspector General
Intellectual Property Loss Investigator
Internal Affairs Assistant Dean
Deputy Inspector General
Investigations Review Specialist
Law Enforcement Specialist
Legal Investigator
Missing Persons Investigator
Municipal Code Enforcement Officer
Postal Inspector
Revenue Officer
Securities Fraud Examiner

Seized Property Specialist
Software Piracy Investigator
Special Agent (Wildlife)
Treasury Enforcement Agent
Victims Compensation Officer

Education Administration

Advocacy Programs Assistant Dean
Assistant to the President/Chancellor
Contract Staff Analyst
Assistant Dean of Federal/State Relations
Assistant Dean of Legislative Affairs
Grants and Contracts Manager
Judicial Affairs Officer
Laboratory Business Manager
Law School Career Development Officer
Law School Clinical Program Supervisor
Law School Development/Fundraising Officer
Law School Assistant Dean of Admissions
Law School Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs
Law School Assistant Dean of Placement
Law School Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
Paralegal Program Administrator
Planned Giving Assistant Dean
Sponsored Research Assistant Dean
Technology Licensing Associate

Education - Faculty

Law School Clinical Program Instructor
Law School Professor
Legal Research & Writing Program Instructor
Paralegal Program Instructor
Undergraduate Business Ethics Teacher
Undergraduate Business Law Professor
Undergraduate Criminal Justice Instructor
Undergraduate Environmental Policy Teacher
Undergraduate Anthropology Professor
Undergraduate Law and Economics Professor
Undergraduate Law and History Professor
Undergraduate Law and Psychology Professor
Undergraduate Law and Society Professor
Undergraduate Legal Studies Coordinator
Undergraduate Legal Studies Teacher
Undergraduate/Graduate Labor Instructor
Undergraduate/Graduate Tax Instructor

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Advocate
Energy Conservation Program Specialist
Energy Efficiency Officer
Gas Regulatory Affairs Professional
Mineral Appeals Analyst
Natural Resources Specialist
Public Utilities Specialist

Environmental Careers

Coastal Zone Resources Manager
Conservation Field Representative
Assistant Dean of Environmental Affairs
Assistant Dean of Legislative Analysis
Environmental Advocate
Environmental Compliance Manager
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Policy Analyst
Environmental Protection Specialist
Hazardous Waste Management Consultant
Remediation Specialist
Resource Policy Analyst
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Technological Program Hazards Specialist
Trade Association Environmental Staffer

Financial Services

Bank Investment Compliance Officer
Bank Probate Administrator
Bankruptcy Analyst
Benefits Professional
Claims Specialist
Commercial Lending Manager
Compliance Officer
Consumer Affairs Examiner
Corporate Finance Executive
Credit Examiner
Financial Enforcement Specialist
Financial Institution Examiner
Financial Services Sales Agent
Futures Trading Investigator
Investment Banking Officer
Legal Fee Auditor
Loan Administrator
Loan Workout Officer
Pension Benefits Examiner

Pension Law Specialist
Probate Accountant
Public Finance Consultant
Securities Compliance Examiner
Securities Firm Executive
Securities Transactions Analyst
Trust Business Development Professional
Trust Employee Benefits Administrator
Trust Examiner
Trust Officer
Trust Property Manager
Trust Risk Analyst
U.S. Trustee

Human Resources and Employment

Employee Benefit Plan Specialist
Employee Disability Programs Manager
Employee Relations Manager
Ethics Officer
Ethics Program Specialist
Government Benefits Assistant Dean
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Lawyer Temporary Agency Manager
Legal Career Consultant
Legal Search Consultant
Manpower Development Specialist
Personnel Management Specialist
Professional Standards Administrator
Public Guardian
Reemployment Rights Compliance Specialist
Retirement Systems Administrator
Salary Administration Specialist
State Long-Term Care Ombudsperson
Veterans Program Specialist
Veterans Reemployment Rights Specialist

Insurance and Risk Management

Bankruptcy Claims Examiner
Civil Service Retirement Claims Examiner
Claims Representative
Dependent and Estates Claims Examiner
Document Compliance Specialist
Environmental Claim Specialist
Errors and Omissions Claims Manager
General Claims Examiner
Health Benefits Program Analyst

Health Care Policy Analyst
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Insurance Agent
Insurance Claims Representative
Insurance Fraud Investigator
Issuing Specialist
Litigation Examiner
Loss and Damage Claims Examiner
Pension Investigator
Personal Trust Product Manager
Risk Manager
Social Insurance Administrator
Social Insurance Claims Examiner
Transportation Claims Examiner
Unemployment Insurance Administrator
Veterans Claims Examiner
Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner

International Affairs/Trade/Investment

Commercial Loan Specialist
Customs Entry and Liquidation Specialist
Economic Development Project Officer
Export Administrator
Export Control Specialist
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Foreign Service Officer
Foreign Trade Zone Manager
Immigration Coordinator
Import Compliance Specialist
International Affairs Specialist
International Agency Liaison Officer
International Relations Officer
International Trade Specialist
International Trade and Investment Consultant
Library Foreign Law Specialist
Manager of Export/Import Compliance
Manager of Global Trading Documentation
Munitions Export Control Specialist
Passport and Visa Examiner
Political Risk Insurance Officer
U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Officer

Intellectual Property

Applications Examiner
Conveyance Examiner
Copyright Examiner

Intellectual Resources Assistant Dean
Patent Administrator
Patent Examiner
Patentability Review Examiner
Technology Licensing Officer
Technology Transfer Assistant Dean
Trademark Examiner
University Corporate Liaison Officer

Intelligence/National Security

Aviation Security Specialist
Foreign Assets Control Intelligence Analyst
Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Officer
Industrial Security Specialist
Information Security Consultant
Intelligence Officer
Intelligence Research Specialist
Internal Security Specialist
Munitions Export Control Specialist
Personnel Security Specialist
Physical Security Specialist
Security Administration Specialist
Security Classification Specialist
Security Inspector

Labor Relations

Industrial Relations Specialist
Labor Investigator
Labor Management Relations Examiner
Labor Negotiator
Labor Relations Manager
Wage and Hour Law Administrator
Wage and Hour Law Compliance Specialist

Legal Administration

Bar Association Professional
CLE Training Manager
Litigation Management Professional
Law Firm Administrator
Law Firm Management Consultant
Law Firm Recruiter
Legal Services Program Executive Assistant
Dean
Pro Bono Coordinator
Professional Relations Coordinator

Legal Document/Information/Research

Analyst in Social Legislation
Archivist
Economic Research Analyst
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Law Librarian
Law Library Computer Network Manager
Legal Database Manager
Legal Instrument Examiner
Legal Researcher
Legal Writer
Litigation Support Specialist
Public Disclosure Officer
Senior Paralegal
Social Science Research Analyst
Technical Legal Information Specialist

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

Congressional Affairs Specialist
Congressional Inquiries Program Manager
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Food Program Specialist
Governmental Affairs Specialist
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Legislative Assistant
Legislative Correspondent
Legislative Program Manager
Legislative Representative
Legislative Staff Assistant Dean
License Examining Specialist
Lobbyist
Manager of Regulatory Affairs
Policy Advocate
Policy Analyst
Professional Licensing Compliance Officer
Regulations Specialist
Regulatory Analyst
Regulatory Compliance Assistant Dean
Regulatory Impact Analyst

Management and Administration

Acquisitions/Divestiture Professional
City/County Clerk/Administrator
Elections Administration Officer
Emergency Management Specialist
Foundation Executive

Grants Management Specialist
Management Analyst
Nonprofit Advocacy Organization Manager
Program Analyst
Trade/Professional Association Executive
Unclaimed Property Administrator

Marketing

Bar Review Regional Assistant Dean
Assistant Dean of Gift and Estate Planning
Economic Development Position
Franchise Development Manager
Law Firm Assistant Dean of Client Relations
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Legal Cost Management Sales Consultant
Public Affairs Specialist

Media and Entertainment

Acquisitions Editor
Law Correspondent
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Legal Editor
Legal Newspaper Publisher
Legal Publisher Account Representative
Literary Agent
Sports Agent
Technical Publications Writer/Editor

Real Estate/housing

Development Specialist
Assistant Dean of Real Estate
Housing Advocate
Housing Authority Assistant Dean
Housing Services Planner
Land Agent
Land Law Examiner
Land Manager
Land Preservation Assistant Dean
Land Protection Assistant Dean
Lease Negotiator
Real Estate Auction Project Manager
Realty Specialist
Register of Deeds
Tenant's Broker
Title Examiner
Zoning Administrator

Taxation

Estate Tax Examiner
International Tax Analyst
Property & Transaction Tax Manager
Tax Law Specialist
Tax Manager/Tax Planning Manager
Tax Research Manager
Trust Tax Manager

Transportation

Admeasurer
Boating Law Administrator
Highway Safety Specialist
Transportation Policy Analyst
Traffic Management Specialist
Vessel Traffic Specialist