



Lawyer

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Job Description:

Lawyers study, explain, and apply laws to specific problems.

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$85,000 a year in Utah.

Schedule: Work a set schedule each week, during business hours (8-5), but may also work long hours into the evening.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree
- ◆ Law Degree (2 years)
- ◆ Pass the Bar exam for the state in which you want to practice.

High

School Courses:

- ◆ Business Law
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Keyboarding
- ◆ Law Studies
- ◆ Introduction to Business



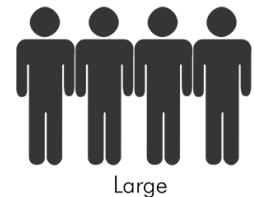
Gross Monthly Income:

\$7,000

Advancement: Most lawyers start by working for a law firm. New college graduates usually start as associates and work with an experienced lawyer. After working for a firm for several years and gaining more experience and seniority, some lawyers are asked to become a partner of the firm.

Other lawyers start their own practices. Some lawyers advance by going back to school to become law school faculty or administrators. Those who work for corporations may move into management positions. Some lawyers become judges.

Job Outlook:



Large

Work Conditions:

- ◆ Often placed in conflict situations with clients or lawyers who are angry or unhappy.
- ◆ Must be exact in their work. Errors could cause delays or unfair rulings.
- ◆ Make decisions that affect clients and other employees on a daily basis.
- ◆ Work in a competitive atmosphere. They must abide by strict daily deadlines.

Travel: May travel to clients' homes or places of business.

Hours a Week:

60

Leisure Time:

Low

Knowledge:

- ◆ Law, Government, & Jurisprudence
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Administration & Management
- ◆ Clerical
- ◆ Computers & Electronics
- ◆ Personnel & Human Resources

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Overview

The legal profession inspires a range of opinions and feelings. Some people like to quote Shakespeare's famous line, "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." (This was spoken by a character who wanted to overthrow the government, by the way.) Others point out that most of our country's top leaders were, at one time, highly respected lawyers and judges. What's interesting to note is that lawyers, like anyone else, work for a variety of organizations. Lawyers work as public defenders, judges, trial attorneys, and professors. They work for tiny non-profits and large, prestigious firms in big cities alike, and all places in between.

However, lawyers do have one thing in common.

Their main duty is to advise clients of their legal rights and suggest a course of action. Lawyers also represent clients in court and present evidence to support their case. Many cases that go to trial are criminal cases. Criminal lawyers represent people who have been charged with a crime. Most lawyers rarely go to court. They handle cases that do not require going to trial. These lawyers are called civil lawyers and prepare wills, contracts, and business deals.

Trial lawyers spend most of their time researching clients' cases. This involves meeting with clients to learn the facts. Lawyers examine the evidence to see if there is enough to pursue a lawsuit. They gather additional evidence to either defend or prosecute people. They research previous cases and laws to find support for the case and to see what the possible outcomes might be. Some may use law libraries, while others may use the Internet or legal databases to locate related material. Lawyers also interview witnesses and other people who have information important to clients' cases. Once they have gathered information about cases, lawyers analyze it.

Before going to court, lawyers develop strategies and the arguments they will use. They may discuss their ideas with other lawyers to fine-tune their arguments. They use these arguments to write legal documents that they file with the court. These documents inform other lawyers about their clients' cases. Lawyers often try to settle cases before they go to court. They often negotiate the amount of settlements in civil cases. During trials, lawyers select jurors and ask witnesses questions. They also summarize their case at the end of the trial, and try to convince juries to see their side of the argument. Once the case is settled, lawyers explain the decision to clients. They interpret the laws and rules as they apply to the case.

Civil lawyers also research clients' cases, but they spend less time collecting evidence. Instead, they learn about the contract, will, or business deal. Some contracts and wills are straightforward and require little work. However, other contracts are more complicated and require lawyers to scrutinize the wording. For some cases, they may examine public records to establish ownership of property.

Most lawyers specialize in an area of law, such as real estate, criminal, or contract law. Some lawyers do not specialize. They must be able to handle whatever type of case is brought to them. Many lawyers supervise other legal employees, including legal assistants, paralegals, first year lawyers, and law clerks.

Pathway:

Business