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PDC 124

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Career Research Paper

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Career Research Paper: Lawyer

What is a lawyer? What is it that lawyers do all day while they are collecting your hard earned money? A lot people do not understand why it is that lawyers charge so much money and “see them do so little.” Lawyers are also known as attorneys and they are advocates and advisors. As advocates, they represent one of the parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting evidence and arguing in court to support their client. As advisors, lawyers counsel their clients concerning their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in business and in personal matters. Generally when the clients meet with their lawyers, they do not see the actual building of their file, and all of the efforts that are made in order to prepare for court if the case ever goes that far. There are certain types of attorneys who do not want to go to court and just want to settle the case and those are attorneys such as personal injury attorneys. However family law attorneys and those attorneys representing criminal cases that are required to be in the court room the majority of the time.

A typical day for an attorney can vary depending on case load, number of clients, and court schedule. Attorneys can do various things throughout the day: go to court, talk to clients on the phone or in person, they can meet with their staff, they review correspondence, they prepare documents, they do administrative work, and they also talk

a lot with other attorneys. The work environment is in the attorney's office, law libraries and in courtrooms.

Although the sky is the limit in terms of how much money you can make as an attorney, all graduates of law school can earn up to \$55k nine months after and then depending upon what you want to do with your career will factor how much more you can earn. Some lawyers earn up to \$126k annually and it can be higher as mentioned above, the success and dollar figure really depends upon what you want and where you want to go. The job out look is there will always be a demand for attorneys. However, technology will in some ways force attorneys to become more self sufficient and less reliant on their office staff and the attorneys will have to become more office and computer savvy. There are still ads for attorneys:

Litigation Attorney
Kirkland & Ellis LLP · San Francisco, CA
The San Francisco office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP is looking for highly qualified attorneys to join our Commercial Litigation practice. We are interested in receiving resumes from attorneys with three to five years of experience. Candidates should have excellent writing, oral, and case management skills.

The educational requirements for this field are tough for the fact that it takes a minimum of seven years of full time study after high school in order to be a lawyer. That gets broken down as four years of undergraduate study followed by three years of law school preferably at accredited law schools v. non-accredited law schools. You also have to take the LSAT which is an aptitude test. Other tests measure abilities such as math and English the LSAT measures the logic ability. The LSAT is a three-hour-and-thirty minute test. Only two hours and twenty minutes of the test count towards your score-the

experimental section of the writing are not scored. It has five parts to this exam: Analytical Reasoning (games), Logical Reasoning (arguments), Experimental Section, Reading and Comprehension, and Writing Sample. You get thirty-five minutes for each section of the exam. This test is offered four times per year in October, December, February, and in June on Saturdays from 8:30-1:00. It is a preparatory test for law school. In order to get into law school they factor in your GPA and the scores of you LSAT. You also must become a member of and pass the American bar Association exam in your state. For the state of California, it is a three day exam that is offered twice per year; once in February and once in July. The first two days is written exam and the third day is fill in the bubble exam. Then you become a licensed attorney. It is against the law to practice law without a license. The related fields to this career are paralegal, law clerk, judges, legal secretary, and law librarian. There is no actual major requirement for the four year degree before law school but the majority of pre law students get a degree in Political Science. Also there are private law schools such as California Western, public law schools such as Berkley, accredited, ABA approved, and non-accredited. The success you want depends on you and your choices in this field.

Some of the advantages that would come out of this career choice are financial stability, and the ability to help people in need and assisting them in achieving their goals, and being an expert in a field(s) of choosing. Some of the disadvantages of this career choice is the amount of hard work it requires, time away from loved ones, dealing with clients that are not paying for the services rendered, and also dealing with clients, judges, and even other attorneys who may become unreasonable or obstructive to cases.

I know that ISTJ personality types are suitable for being attorneys. ISTJ personalities fit this career because they are organized and like to be on a schedule and they like to stick to the facts.

I am interested in this career because I have always wanted to help people and because I have wanted to be a lawyer for a very long time. The field of law has always sparked an interest in me and I feel that being a lawyer would be a very challenging but extremely satisfying career for me. The most interesting thing I learned about was the book that can assist you in scoring well and preparing you for the LSAT. I think that lawyers are very important people and that they are needed for many reasons and that this career will continue growing for years to come.

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