



CONTEMPLATING CAREERS

The Legal Field

A career in the legal field often requires a person who pays attention to detail and has organizational skills. In addition to an educational background in criminology and criminal justice, expertise in technology, law, and psychology is beneficial. Often the greatest asset of a jury consultant is strong intuition.

Do you possess any of these characteristics? If so, the legal system offers a variety of career opportunities. Many criminal justice students plan to continue their studies in law school, though jobs as paralegals or court administrators do not require an advanced degree. Paralegal or legal assistant positions are ranked among the fastest-growing professions because of the high cost of legal fees. Other careers in the legal field for non-lawyers are numerous. Litigation support professionals, a rapidly growing field, provide paralegal and IT services by managing litigation databases, providing strategies, assisting with technologies, and

offering support in the courtroom. Salaries range from around \$40,000 to \$85,000. Trial consultants provide technological and informational assistance to attorneys using psychology, sociology, and the law to illustrate concepts and improve communication with jurors. Jury consultants engage in research, develop profiles, assist with *voir dire* questions, and conduct mock trials. Although a PhD is valued for jury consultants, a bachelor's or master's degree may be sufficient, although the former's salary may reach as high as \$100,000. Many of these careers draw from a liberal arts education (e.g., behavioral science, sociology, political science, psychology, criminology).



Career Video:

A state court law librarian discusses his experience and current issues in the field.