



CONTEMPLATING CAREERS

Attorney

Are you detail oriented, ethical, and organized? Do you honor deadlines, write impeccably, and follow directions well? Are you just a little bit competitive? If you answer yes to these questions, you may want to consider a career as an attorney.

While it is fashionable (and boring) to crack jokes about attorneys, attorneys are hard-working, precise, and intelligent and use these skills to ensure the rights of people are honored. The information in this chapter shows many roles an attorney can take: private defense counsel, public defender, prosecutor, and even judge. Not mentioned in this chapter are the many roles an attorney may hold outside of criminal trials. To become an attorney, students need

to graduate with a 4-year college degree. Next, students study for the LSAT, which is a standardized exam required for admission to all American Bar Association–approved law schools. After acceptance into law school, students work hard reading, researching case law, writing legal briefs, and attending classes. This diligent work pays off after 3 years when students are awarded a law degree. The next step is to take and pass the state bar exam. Once passed, one is a certified lawyer.



Career Video:

A clerk for the court of appeals discusses his experience and current issues in the field.