

LAW | INDUSTRY ROADMAP

Career Paths and Desired Skills

Lawyers are analytical problem-solvers who are experts at writing and research, can foresee consequences of actions and language choices, and advocate strongly for their clients, whether in the public or private sector. Lawyers both protect the U.S. by ensuring the rule of law, and they argue to change existing rules.

A law degree is a general degree. You learn to “think like a lawyer” in law school, but do not major in a certain type of law. When you graduate, you can apply your analytical skills to many different practice areas.

ATTORNEY CAREER PATH EXAMPLES

<i>Role</i>	<i>Key Functions</i>	<i>Skill Set</i>
JUDGE Judges oversee criminal and civil matters and preside over bench and jury trials. Judges serve at both the state and federal levels. They can be either appointed or elected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpret the law• Assess the evidence presented• Manage hearings and trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive legal knowledge• Research, writing• Logical analysis• Leadership project management
PROSECUTOR Prosecutors work for the government at local, state and federal levels and prosecute defendants accused of crimes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate and try criminal cases• Negotiate plea deals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic thinking, logical analysis• Negotiation• Ability to think on one’s feet
CORPORATE TRANSACTIONAL ATTORNEY Corporate attorneys work mostly in large law firms or in-house (inside a corporation) and advise on business matters, such as finance, private equity, and tax.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft contracts, wills, agreements• Provide guidance on real estate deal structure• Negotiate contracts and acquisitions• Work with state and federal regulations• Identify consequences of potential business actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic thinking, negotiation• Attention to detail• Research, writing, logical analysis• Financial acumen
CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY Civil rights attorneys represent clients in a variety of matters including discrimination, constitutional rights, and criminal justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate on behalf of individual clients• Talk to clients and witnesses to gather statements• Draft complaints and briefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Research, writing, negotiation• Strategic thinking• Passion

PRE-LAW SCHOOL OPTIONS

A majority of UChicago students take time off between graduating from the College and starting law school. Students have worked in the following areas before attending law school.

<i>Role</i>	<i>Representative Employers</i>
PARALEGAL Paralegals draft documents and correspondence, perform legal research, and manage cases.	Kirkland & Ellis, White & Case, Kobre & Kim, NYCLU
BUSINESS Business careers include finance, consulting, and marketing.	Morgan Stanley, Cornerstone, McKinsey
NON-PROFITS Work includes direct client services, intakes, research, and development.	Heartland Alliance, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
FOLLOW YOUR PASSION No need to work in the legal field before law school as long as the work is substantive.	Peace Corps, Teach for America, Fulbright Fellowship, Political campaign

BUILDING EXPERIENCE FOR CAREERS IN LAW

Career Advancement offers a number of events and resources to help prepare you for a career in law:

EXPLORE

- Attend UCIL programs and legal treks, including Lunch and Learns with prominent alumni attorneys
- Join UChicago's LinkedIn Group
- Attend law school admissions sessions with law school representatives
- Attend the UChicago Law School Open House

ENGAGE

- Take the Legal Research and Writing Seminar, which introduces pre-law students to legal research and provides the opportunity for them to write and receive feedback on a short legal memo
- Join the Law Student Mentor Program, which pairs UChicago College students with UChicago Law students
- Join a law-related RSO such as Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) or Women in Law
- Participate in Moot Court, Mock Trial, Debate or Model UN or the undergraduate Law Review
- Meet with a UCIL adviser (as often as you'd like)

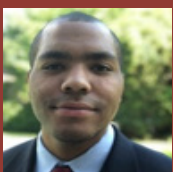
APPLY

1. Decide whether you want to attend law school right out of College or take time off
2. Review LSAC.org website
3. Decide when to take LSAT or GRE
4. Contact recommenders (two academic and 1 or 2 employers) get to know your professors
5. Draft a personal statement for your adviser's review. (Include: What motivates you? Why law school?)
6. Request hard copy of your transcript be sent to LSAC
7. Update your resume and have it reviewed by a UCIL adviser
8. Decide on list of law schools (using safeties and reaches)
9. Visit law schools where you have been accepted and would consider attending
10. Contact the Career Services Offices at the law schools you are considering and ask them job-related questions
11. If you are interested in public service, ask about the school's LRAP (Loan Repayment Assistance Program) and about summer funding opportunities
12. Review results of process (acceptances, waitlists, and scholarship offers) with UCIL advisor to help determine which school is best for you

REPRESENTATIVE EMPLOYERS

A sample of employers who have hired UChicago students for legal internships include:

- National Constitution Center
- Goldberg Kohn, Ltd.
- Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
- Orleans Public Defenders
- Advocates for Justice
- Holland & Knight
- Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
- Sidley Austin



Daniel Jellins (AB '18)

- Law Student at UChicago Law School (Chicago Law Scholar)
- Law, Letters and Society major



Nick Romanoff (AB '19)

- Summer Intern at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom
- History and Political Science majors