

Job of The Week

Lawyer

Key Skills

- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- excellent verbal communication skills to work with different people
- analytical thinking skills for working on complex cases
- knowledge of English language for explaining legal matters to non-experts
- excellent written communication skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- active listening skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail

Salary

£25,000 - £100,000

Working hours

37-50 per week

Hours can be long and unsociable

May be on call at short notice

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Lawyer

Career tips

Competition for solicitor roles is tough so you need to show that you have consistently good grades as you progress through your education.

Getting work experience in different legal settings can help you to stand out and show your commitment as can virtual courses through such platforms as Springpod where you obtain certificates; all of this can only enhance your CV and future applications. There are diversity work experience schemes to encourage under represented groups into the legal profession.

University

In order to qualify, you must:

- take an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification, in any subject
- pass part 1 and 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE)
- complete 2 years (or equivalent if part-time) qualifying work experience
- meet the character and suitability requirements of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

To study Law at some universities you'll need to pass the Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT).

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 3 A levels or equivalent

Apprenticeship

You could do a solicitor degree apprenticeship to qualify as a solicitor. This route usually takes around 5 to 6 years and you'll need your employer's support to do it.

You'll also need to take the SQE, demonstrate relevant work experience and meet character and suitability to practice requirements.

Entry requirements

Employers will set their own entry requirements but they are usually set at A Level or equivalent

Post 16

To study Law at degree level, students should consider taking English and/or History at A level. It is not recommended that students study Law at A level as this will give them no advantage at degree level.

Some of the Russell Group universities specify required subjects in their entry requirements, some do not. Likewise there are some universities that do not accept certain subjects or Level 3 courses.

You can access university or the CiLEX apprenticeship route with BTEC subjects or a Level 3 course

Career path and progression

With experience, you could become a partner in a private practice firm of solicitors. As a commercial solicitor, you could manage an in-house legal department.

You could use your legal training in the armed forces.

Day to Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- attend meetings and negotiations
- research legal records and case law
- advise and represent clients in court
- keep up to date with changes in the law
- manage finances and prepare papers ready for court
- instruct barristers or advocates to act for your clients
- draft confidential letters, contracts and legal documents
- use plain English to explain complex legal matters to clients

Working conditions

You could work in an office, in a court, in a prison or at a police station

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Legal professionals n.e.c.	
Weekly Pay £1,690	Annual Pay £87,880
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £51
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 54.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 2,200 jobs. In the same period, 54.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,000 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Legal & accounting Public admin. & defence Head offices, etc Financial services Auxiliary services</p>	
More info	Clear card

Solicitors	
Weekly Pay £1,100	Annual Pay £57,200
Hours/Week 30h	Hourly Pay £37
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 54.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 4,800 jobs. In the same period, 54.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 79,600 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Legal & accounting Public admin. & defence Membership organisations Auxiliary services Retail trade</p>	
More info	Clear card

Barristers and judges	
Weekly Pay £990	Annual Pay £51,480
Hours/Week 28h	Hourly Pay £35
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 54.8%
<p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,200 jobs. In the same period, 54.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 19,600 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in Legal & accounting Public admin. & defence Membership organisations Food & beverage services</p>	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Legal professionals n.e.c.

Job holders in this unit group perform a variety of other professional legal occupations not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 241: Legal Professionals.

Common tasks in this job:

- co-ordinates the activities of magistrates courts and advises magistrates on law and legal procedure;
- provides legal advice to individuals within Citizens Advice, Law Centres and other such establishments;
- drafts and negotiates contracts on behalf of employers;
- advises employers, local and national government and other organisations on aspects of law and legislative implications of decisions made;

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Barristers and judges

Job holders in this unit group prepare and conduct court cases on behalf of clients, preside over judicial proceedings, and pronounce judgements within a variety of court settings and tribunals.

Common tasks in this job:

- becomes acquainted with the facts of a case through reading statements, law reports, and consulting with clients or other professionals;
- advises client on the basis of legal knowledge, research and past precedent as to whether to proceed with legal action;
- drafts pleadings and questions in preparation for court cases, appears in court to present evidence to the judge and jury, cross examines witnesses and sums up why the court should decide in their client's favour;
- hears, reads and evaluates evidence, and instructs or advises the jury on points of law or procedure;

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Solicitors

Solicitors advise and act on behalf of individuals, organisations, businesses and government departments in legal matters.

Common tasks in this job:

- draws up contracts, leases, wills and other legal documents;
- undertakes legal business on behalf of client in areas of business law, criminal law, probate, conveyancing and litigation, and acts as trustee or executor if required;
- instructs counsel in higher and lower courts and pleads cases in lower courts as appropriate;
- scrutinises statements, reports and legal documents relevant to the case being undertaken and prepares papers for court;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Becoming a Lawyer



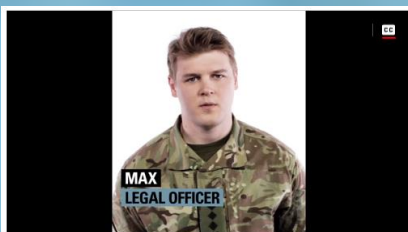
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=durSltx4OLg&pp=ygUJbGF3eWVylHVr>

Law at Cambridge



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S07UpfqhsYM>

Legal officer in the Army



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFzX-THiZoU&pp=ygUZbGF3IGluIHRob2ZSBicml0aXNoIGZvcmlcw%3D%3D>

Lawyer in the UK



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guiioekllsY>

Useful Websites

[How to become a lawyer | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Law \(ucas.com\)](#)

[Home | The Law Society](#)

[LNAT Universities: Do You Need to Sit the Test? | UniAdmissions: The Oxbridge Experts](#)

[Legal career paths | LawCareers.Net](#)

[Law Jobs Hub | AllAboutLaw](#)

[Contact - CILEX Law School](#)

[RAF Recruitment | Legal Officer | Royal Air Force \(mod.uk\)](#)

[Areas of law | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

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