

Lawyers

SOC: 23-1011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$151,160

Median Salary

864,800

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Doctoral

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.3/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.4/10	Investigative	8.0/10
Artistic	5.8/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Interpersonal skills, Persuasion, Problem-solving skills, Research skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Lawyers are legal professionals who advise, represent, and advocate for individuals, businesses, and organizations in matters involving **laws, regulations, rights, and legal obligations**. They interpret statutes, apply legal precedent, and help clients navigate complex legal systems to resolve disputes, manage risk, and protect interests. Rather than focusing on a single task, lawyers balance research, analysis, negotiation, and communication to achieve lawful and effective outcomes.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy critical thinking, persuasive communication, and problem-solving in high-responsibility situations. Lawyers play a central role in upholding justice, enabling commerce, and ensuring that laws are applied fairly.

What Do Lawyers Do?

Lawyers provide legal counsel and representation across a wide range of issues. Their day-to-day responsibilities vary by specialty but consistently involve applying the law to real-world situations.

Common responsibilities include:

- Advising clients on legal rights, responsibilities, and risks
- Researching laws, regulations, and legal precedents
- Drafting legal documents such as contracts, briefs, and pleadings
- Representing clients in court, hearings, or negotiations
- Interpreting and applying statutes and case law
- Negotiating settlements and agreements
- Communicating complex legal concepts clearly to clients

Types of Lawyers

The legal profession includes many areas of specialization:

- Criminal Defense and Prosecuting Attorneys: Handle criminal cases and legal enforcement.
- Civil Litigation Lawyers: Represent clients in disputes involving contracts, injuries, or property.
- Corporate and Business Lawyers: Advise companies on transactions, compliance, and governance.
- Family Lawyers: Handle divorce, custody, and domestic relations matters.
- Intellectual Property Lawyers: Protect patents, trademarks, and creative works.
- Public Interest and Government Lawyers: Serve the public through advocacy or public service roles.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Lawyers must combine analytical depth with communication and judgment.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Becoming a lawyer requires formal legal education and licensure:

- Bachelor's Degree: Required for admission to law school
- Law Degree (JD): Completion of an accredited law school program
- Bar Examination: Passing a state bar exam to obtain licensure
- Character and Fitness Review: Evaluation of ethical and professional suitability
- Continuing Legal Education: Ongoing training to maintain licensure

Where Do Lawyers Work?

Lawyers are employed across private, public, and nonprofit sectors:

- Law Firms
- Corporations and In-House Legal Departments
- Government Agencies and Courts
- Nonprofit and Advocacy Organizations
- Educational Institutions
- Self-Employed and Solo Practices

Work environments range from courtroom settings to offices and remote or hybrid arrangements.

How Much Do Lawyers Earn?

Earnings vary significantly based on specialty, experience, and employer:

- Entry-Level Lawyers: Compensation depends on practice area and organization size
- Experienced Lawyers: May earn higher pay with specialization or partnership roles
- Public Sector and Public Interest Lawyers: Typically earn stable but lower salaries compared to private practice

Is This Career Difficult?

The legal profession is intellectually demanding and often high-pressure. Lawyers must manage complex information, tight deadlines, and significant responsibility for client outcomes. The challenge lies in balancing precision, advocacy, ethics, and workload while maintaining professional standards.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Lawyer?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy reading, writing, and structured argumentation
- Are comfortable analyzing complex issues
- Want a career with influence and responsibility
- Value justice, fairness, and rule-based systems
- Can handle long-term education and licensure requirements

How to Prepare Early

- Develop strong reading comprehension and writing skills
- Take courses in government, history, and logic
- Participate in debate, mock trial, or student government
- Practice ethical decision-making and professionalism
- Seek exposure to legal environments through internships or shadowing

Lawyers apply knowledge of the law to protect rights, resolve disputes, and guide individuals and organizations through some of life's most important decisions.