

Occupational Profile

Lawyers



WHAT THEY DO

Conducts criminal and civil lawsuits, prepares legal documents, advises clients on legal rights, and practices other phases of law. May represent clients in court or before administrative agencies of government. May specialize in a single area of law, such as constitutional law, corporate law, or criminal law. Belongs to the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security cluster and Legal Services pathway.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Enterprising** – You are a "persuader". You like to sell things or ideas. Prestige and power are important to you. You like to use your language skills to convince other people of your ideas.
- **Investigative** – You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.
- **Artistic** – You are a "creator". You enjoy things like art, music and books, and express your feelings easily. You don't like rigid rules and structure.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Independence** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.
- **Recognition** – It's very important to you that your work satisfies your need for prestige and leadership opportunities, as well as opportunities for advancement.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**
- **Numerical Aptitude**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

High level

- Collecting information about laws and regulations
- Counseling and advising people
- Investigating data to solve problems
- Preparing technical or research reports
- Processing data on computers
- Studying and interpreting laws

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Judgment and Decision Making
- Negotiation
- Persuasion
- Social Perceptiveness
- Time Management

Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Management of Personnel Resources
- Service Orientation

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/pubs/careers/cps> .

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	2010-20 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total All Occupations	1,717,020	1,948,700	231,680	1.3	64,525
Legal Occupations	8,475	9,335	865	1.0	240
Lawyers	4,465	4,950	485	1.1	135

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

2012 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total All Occupations	18.90	39,295	9.30	19,341	23.69	49,272
Legal Occupations	33.46	69,600	14.76	30,696	42.81	89,052
Lawyers	49.14	102,218	25.74	53,546	60.84	126,554

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Doctoral or Professional Degree	None	None

Becoming a lawyer usually takes 7 years of full-time study after high school - 4 years of undergraduate study, followed by 3 years of law school. Law school applicants must have a bachelor's degree to qualify for admission. To meet the needs of students who can attend only part time, a number of law schools have night or part-time divisions. To practice law in the courts of any State or other jurisdiction, a person must be licensed, or admitted to its bar, under rules established by the jurisdiction's highest court. All States require that applicants for admission to the bar pass a written bar examination; most States also require applicants to pass a separate written ethics examination. Lawyers who have been admitted to the bar in one State occasionally may be admitted to the bar in another without taking another examination if they meet the latter jurisdiction's standards of good moral character and a specified period of legal experience. In most cases, however, lawyers must pass the bar examination in each State in which they plan to practice. Federal courts and agencies set their own qualifications for those practicing before or in them. To qualify for the bar examination in most States, an applicant must earn a college degree and graduate from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) or the proper State authorities. The Iowa Board of Law website at http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/23-1011.htm provides specific licensure and support information for the state of Iowa.

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	5
Locating Information	5
Reading for Information	7

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>



PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Lawyers Employed?)

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
 Self Employed
 Local Government
 State Government
 Federal Government
 Insurance Carriers
 Credit Intermediation
 Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit <http://iwin.iowaworkforce.org/> to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document under the **Publications** tab. Published 10/2013.