

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.

Industry and Entry-Level Role

Key Functions

Internships to help you get there

CONSULTING, LITIGATION CONSULTANT

Litigation consultants work at firms whose clientele includes law firms and legal professionals. They support the work of lawyers by analyzing data and conducting research. Consultants offer technological expertise, project management support, and strategic direction to enhance lawyers' ability to win cases.

- Analyzing data collected through industry research and document review
- Communicating and collaborating with legal clients through data visualizations and presentations
- Writing reports and making recommendations on workflow and project management

- Summer Analyst, Kobre & Kim
- Finance Law Summer Intern, Chapman and Cutler
- Research Assistant Intern, Jenner & Block Supreme Court and Appellate Clinic

Skills: Industry and Open-Source Research | Data Analysis | Time Management | Written communication

GOVERNMENT LITIGATION, INVESTIGATIVE ANALYST

Investigative Analysts help prosecutors, who represent the government at local, state, and federal levels and prosecute individuals accused of crimes, prepare factual elements of the case. They can also assist public defenders as they litigate on behalf of indigent defendants in criminal cases brought against them by the state. In these roles, they help manage sizeable caseloads and have exposure to hands-on litigation work early in their careers.

- Coordinating with law enforcement and court staff on evidence, filings, and case management
- Interviewing victims and witnesses and evaluating evidence
- Filing written motions and briefs; appearing in court for status and evidentiary hearings

- Legal Intern, District Attorney's Office
- Intern, Public Defender's Office
- Research Assistant Intern, Federal Criminal Justice Clinic (UChicago Law)

Skills: Time management | Verbal and written communication | Adaptability | Attention to detail

CORPORATE LAW, PARALEGAL

Paralegals support corporate attorneys with all aspects of a case, focusing on narrow issues that support larger arguments. They work mostly in large law firms or in-house (inside a corporation) and on a variety of subject matter areas, such as finance, banking, capital markets, private equity, and tax. The work of a corporate attorney can include advising on legal rights and obligations, representing a company in litigation or negotiations, and/or overseeing restructuring, mergers, and acquisitions.

- Preparing memorandums on factual and legal issues presented in a legal matter
- Researching legal precedent and government regulations related to issues raised in contractual disputes and litigation
- Analyzing financial, legal, and regulatory consequences of business decisions

- Marketing Assistant Intern, Sidley Austin LLP
- Strategy Intern, Ropes & Gray LLP
- False Claims Analyst Intern, Goldberg Kohn

Skills: Strategic thinking | Negotiation | Attention to detail | Research | Writing | Logical analysis | Financial acumen

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW, RESEARCH ANALYST

Public interest law can touch any substantive area of law—civil rights, environmental law, child advocacy, urban development, health law—and public interest work includes a wide array of tasks, from courtroom advocacy and litigation to transactions and business law matters. Public interest lawyers represent clients who may otherwise not have access to legal support. Research analysts support cases and advocacy work through meticulous research and understanding of policy.

- Advocate on behalf of individual clients
- Talk to clients and witnesses to gather statements
- Draft complaints and briefs

- Legal Intern, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Summer Research Fellow, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- Research Assistant Intern, Abrams Environmental Law Clinic (UChicago Law)

Skills: Extensive legal knowledge | Research, writing | Logical analysis | Leadership project management

BUILDING EXPERIENCE FOR CAREERS IN LAW

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

EVENTS

Fall Quarter

- September 30: Application Opens for Winter Break Law Trek to Atlanta
- October 10: CIL Kick-Off Event
- October 21: Exploring Future Careers
- October 23: Application & Appetizers (Law School Applicants)
- November 14: UChicago Mentorship Program Reception
- November 12: Federal Government Resume & Cover Letter Workshop w/LegalAid

Winter Quarter

- January 15: How to Get (and Thrive in) a Legal Internship workshop and student panel
- January 13: UChicago Mentorship Program workshop
- January 21: Applications & Appetizers (Summer Internships & Full-time Roles)
- January 29: Work Experience Before Law School Alumni Panel

Spring Quarter

- April 14: Law School Applications 101 workshop
- April 15: Rising Attorney's Program and Law & Politics Cohort Applications Due
- May 6: Alumni Panel: Corporate Law
- May 14: Alumni Panel: Public Interest Law

REPRESENTATIVE EMPLOYERS

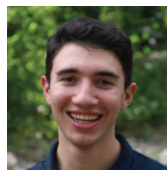
A sample of employers who have hired UChicago students for legal internships include:

National Constitution Center
Goldberg Kohn, Ltd.
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Orleans Public Defenders
Sidley Austin
Ropes & Gray LLP,
Conservation Law Foundation
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center,
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic



Maddie Kahl, AB'24

- Law Student at University of Virginia Law School
- Political Science major



Oliver Keimweiss, AB'24

- Employed at Ropes & Gray LLP
- Public Policy Studies major