ALTERNATIVE CAREERS GUIDE

The University of Akron
School of Law
INTRODUCTION

An alternative career can be the correct choice for many law students and law school graduates. The choice to enroll in law school does not mean that you have to be a lawyer. Whether you put your legal training to active use or not, there are numerous opportunities for people with law degrees. By examining the possibility of following a different career path than most, you may find yourself in a job that better suits your skills and interests. You have a variety of career options; explore them.
I. WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER?

Many law students and graduates are looking for career options outside of the traditional practice of law. Alternative careers are sought after for a number of reasons, from a person’s high level of interest in an area to a desire for a less rigorous work schedule.

In essence, an alternative career is anything outside of the law firms, government agencies, public interest organizations, and judiciary that form the backbone of the legal establishment. These are typically jobs that do not require a law degree but will be enhanced because of skills learned in law school.

Alternative Careers Strongly Preferring a JD

A law degree is highly beneficial in a number of fields related to the practice of law, and some require the applicant to possess a law degree. Career options such as law librarian, court administrator, and law professor all generally require a JD.

Other career paths such as investment banking and dispute resolution/mediation, compliance or risk management may not require a JD, but the skills developed from law studies are highly beneficial.

Alternative Careers Where a JD Provides Added Advantages or Value

A law degree can provide an extra advantage in fields which require statutory or regulatory analysis, contract administration, policy development, or negotiation. Many of the skills learned in law school are directly transferable to other businesses:

- Analytical Skills
- Advocacy
- Communication
- Research
- Ability to break down a problem into its component parts
- Work ethic

Even if used in a completely unrelated field, legal training may still prove useful by giving individuals enhanced analytical skills and different contexts for examining problems. For the self-employed, it acts as a powerful tool in planning and executing business decisions. Individuals pursuing entrepreneurship, real estate, or small business ownership will all be well served by their legal training.

II. WHAT SKILLS DO YOU LEARN IN LAW SCHOOL THAT WILL HELP YOU IN AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER?

Although you may not realize it or care to believe it, law school teaches you a multitude of valuable skills that employers seek out in potential employees. In the book, “The Road Not Taken,” by Kathy Grant and Wendy Werner, the authors outline a host of skills that you gain just from the everyday studying and tasks associated with law school.
Ability to analyze facts.

Problem-solving is the main skill you get from law school. You get it from reading and briefing cases, Moot Court, any journals that you work on, and exams. This is a particularly useful skill when it comes to identifying business problems and creating solutions.

Ability to work in teams or groups.

If you’ve worked with other students in Moot Court, or in a trial skills program, or in a study group, then you have the transferable skill of teamwork; that is, the ability to divide responsibilities and come up with a cohesive outcome. This is useful in any enterprise that is project oriented.

Ability to be a self-starter.

As a law student, most of what you do is independent study. Any work as a law clerk typically exposes you to working without supervision, as well. Every employer appreciates employees who are self-starters.

Risk awareness.

As a law student you learn to be aware of the potential risk involved in transactions, products, policies, and programs. As an employee, risk awareness is useful in altering your employer to any risks they may be taking, and it is very useful in creating preventive policies, products, or programs.

Counseling (including the ability to establish rapport, to listen, to reflect concerns back to clients, to empathize, and to problem solve).

If you’ve taken part in client counseling competitions, clinics, or classes that involve counseling clients, then you have these transferable skills. These skills are useful in almost any position involving client or coworker contact.

Familiarity with legal terminology.

Going to law school gives you the ability to read and understand documents that are Greek to lay people — things like contracts, leases, and statutes. This skill is useful to employers in predicting the long-term impact legal documents may have on their organization. It also gives you the ability to communicate comfortably with people who work with legal matters.

Knowledge of specific topics (like insurance, healthcare, tax, criminal law, corporations).

Depending on your coursework, you’ve got a broad base of knowledge about a wide variety of areas. Especially if you can combine this knowledge with an undergraduate degree that specializes in a certain area (e.g., patent law with an undergrad technical major, or construction law with an undergrad architecture major), you are potential employee with a lot of knowledge to offer an employer — and a strong background for
learning more.

**Strong motivation and the skills associated with it (working under pressure, ability to complete projects, ability to juggle multiple responsibilities).**

In law school, you respond to an enormous amount of pressure while balancing a heavy workload. As a law student, you have to meet strict deadlines and juggle multiple responsibilities. Also, as a law student you are perceived as having a history of success as well as the ability to complete projects. These skills are all highly prized by employers.

**Ability to think independently.**

As a law student, you are encouraged to think independently about issues and problems, coming up with your own solutions to them. You are taught to go beyond looking for answers, and instead identify issues. For potential employers, this translates into creative thinking skills and an ability to see the whole picture.

**Ability to negotiate.**

If you’ve taken part in clinics, seminars, or classes that focus on negotiation, or any extracurricular activities that require you to negotiate (for instance, as the business editor for a journal), then the ability to negotiate is a skill you bring to the table for potential employers. Your ability to negotiate will enable you to open the doors to new clients and new business, as well as to “close the deal.”

**Ability to persuade.**

Taking part in Moot Court, as well as brief writing in your legal writing program, and writing for a journal, gives you the ability to persuade. This is a useful skill for convincing clients, other managers, staff, or peers.

**Ability to prepare effectively.**

Law school demands that you be always prepared so that you can respond quickly and accurately. This is a useful skill for businesses which must react and respond to new information and industry changes to stay profitable.

**Ability to speak before an audience.**

Responding to questions in class, as well as taking part in Moot Court and any extracurricular activities that require public speaking, will give you a valuable skill for employers. Ease in front of an audience is an asset in presenting facts, information, or business proposals.

**Research skills.**

Much of the work you do in law school focuses on research, as do many extracurricular and law clerking jobs. Research skills are a valuable asset for many employers who must rely on employees to dig up accurate and comprehensive information for them.

**Writing ability.**
Your exams, legal writing program, Moot Court, and any law review or journal experience give you the ability to write in a clear and precise manner. This skill gives you the edge in business communications. Good writing skills are always in high demand.

Depending on your own law school experience, you may have many more transferable skills. For instance, if you’ve done a lot of fundraising, then you’ve got interpersonal and business development skills that would be valuable to many employers. And your undergrad and work experiences will give you even more skills. So, go through what you’ve done, and take from your background the skills that you can give to future employers. You will find that you’re a very valuable package, indeed!

III. WHAT TYPES OF ALTERNATIVE CAREER JOBS ARE OUT THERE?

Non-traditional legal careers are professions in which a law degree is not required but is a considerable asset. Law students develop many skills and qualifications during law school which easily transfer to other areas besides law. According to statistics reported by the Association for Legal Career Professionals (NALP), each year approximately 10-15% of law school graduates secure employment after graduation in a non-traditional legal position.

Jobs available in alternative fields are varied and depend greatly on your level and type of education, previous work experience, and happiness quotient. Many alternative careers are in compliance and regulatory affairs, management at all levels, policy analysis, strategic planning, labor relations, personnel and benefits, government, education and nonprofits.

There is a large amount of material out there listing alternative and non-traditional jobs for those with J.D.’s. What follows is one of those lists which examine a few of the major non-traditional fields for those with a law degree.

The list on the next several pages is a compilation of more than 400 law-related employment opportunities across all employment sectors. This list is from the publication *JD Preferred 400+ Things You Can Do With a Law Degree (Other Than Practice Law)*, Federal Reports, Inc., 1994.

**Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Specialist
- Arbitration Administrator
- Arbitrator
- Dispute Resolution Professional
- Domestic Resolution Specialist
- Fair Housing Specialist
- Family Support Magistrate
- Hearing Officer
- Mediation Coordinator
- Mediator
- Ombudsperson

**Civil Rights**
- Advocacy Coordinator
- Affirmative Action Officer
ADA Coordinator
ADA Compliance Manager
Children's Advocate
Civil Rights Analyst
Civil Rights Coordinator
Civil Rights Investigator
Conciliation Specialist
Assistant Dean of Human Relations
Assistant Dean of Cultural Diversity
Equal Opportunity Compliance Specialist
Human Rights Administrator

**Contracts, Procurement, Grants**

Competition Advocate
Contract Negotiator
Contract Specialist
Contract Staff Analyst
Contract Termination Specialist
Industrial Property Manager
Procurement Officer
Purchasing Officer
Self-Determination Specialist
Small Business Advocate
Technology Licensing Manager

**Court Administration**

Assistant District Executive for Legal Affairs
Bankruptcy Administrator
Bankruptcy Appeals Clerk
Bankruptcy Case Administration Manager
Bankruptcy Examiner
Bankruptcy Group Manager
Circuit Court Executive
Clerk of Court
Court Administrator
Court Analyst
Court Operations Specialist
Deputy Clerk
Disciplinary Administrator
Estate Administrator
Guardianship Clerk
Jury Commissioner
Land Commissioner
Legal Documents Officer
Legal Research Assistant Dean
Parole Officer
Pretrial Services Officer
Probation Assistant Dean
Registrar
Criminal Justice, Investigation, Law Enforcement
Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Inspector
Asset Search Investigator
Bank Fraud Investigator
Border Patrol Agent
Child Abuse Investigator
Child Support Enforcement Case Analyst
Civil Penalties Officer
Civilian Complaint Review Board Officer
Compliance Support Inspector
Computer Fraud Investigator
Consumer Safety Inspector
Crime Analyst
Crime Prevention Coordinator
Criminal Investigator
Criminal Justice Administrator
Customs Inspector
DEA Special Agent
Domestic Investigator
Drug Investigator
Economic Crimes Investigator
Employment Investigator
Enforcement Professional
FBI Special Agent
Financial Enforcement Specialist
Fines and Forfeiture Specialist
Foreign Service Narcotics Control Officer
Forensic Investigator
Fraud/White Collar Crime Investigator
Game Law Enforcement Officer
General Investigator
Hidden Assets Investigator
Immigration Inspector
Inspector General
Intellectual Property Loss Investigator
Internal Affairs Assistant Dean
Deputy Inspector General
Investigations Review Specialist
Law Enforcement Specialist
Legal Investigator
Missing Persons Investigator
Municipal Code Enforcement Officer
Postal Inspector
Revenue Officer
Securities Fraud Examiner
Seized Property Specialist
Software Piracy Investigator
Special Agent (Wildlife)
Treasury Enforcement Agent
Victims Compensation Officer

**Education Administration**
Advocacy Programs Assistant Dean
Assistant to the President/Chancellor
Contract Staff Analyst
Assistant Dean of Federal/State Relations
Assistant Dean of Legislative Affairs
Grants and Contracts Manager
Judicial Affairs Officer
Laboratory Business Manager
Law School Career Development Officer
Law School Clinical Program Supervisor
Law School Development/Fundraising Officer
Law School Assistant Dean of Admissions
Law School Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs
Law School Assistant Dean of Placement
Law School Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
Paralegal Program Administrator
Planned Giving Assistant Dean
Sponsored Research Assistant Dean
Technology Licensing Associate

**Education - Faculty**
Law School Clinical Program Instructor
Law School Professor
Legal Research & Writing Program Instructor
Paralegal Program Instructor
Undergraduate Business Ethics Teacher
Undergraduate Business Law Professor
Undergraduate Criminal Justice Instructor
Undergraduate Environmental Policy Teacher
Undergraduate Anthropology Professor
Undergraduate Law and Economics Professor
Undergraduate Law and History Professor
Undergraduate Law and Psychology Professor
Undergraduate Law and Society Professor
Undergraduate Legal Studies Coordinator
Undergraduate Legal Studies Teacher
Undergraduate/Graduate Labor Instructor
Undergraduate/Graduate Tax Instructor
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Advocate
Energy Conservation Program Specialist
Energy Efficiency Officer
Gas Regulatory Affairs Professional
Mineral Appeals Analyst
Natural Resources Specialist
Public Utilities Specialist
Title Investigator

Environmental Careers
Coastal Zone Resources Manager
Conservation Field Representative
Assistant Dean of Environmental Affairs
Assistant Dean of Legislative Analysis
Environmental Advocate
Environmental Compliance Manager
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Policy Analyst
Environmental Protection Specialist
Hazardous Waste Management Consultant
Remediation Specialist
Resource Policy Analyst
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Technological Program Hazards Specialist
Trade Association Environmental Staffer

Financial Services
Bank Investment Compliance Officer
Bank Probate Administrator
Bankruptcy Analyst
Benefits Professional
Claims Specialist
Commercial Lending Manager
Compliance Officer
Consumer Affairs Examiner
Corporate Finance Executive
Credit Examiner
Financial Enforcement Specialist
Financial Institution Examiner
Financial Services Sales Agent
Futures Trading Investigator
Investment Banking Officer
Legal Fee Auditor
Loan Administrator
Loan Workout Officer
Pension Benefits Examiner
Pension Law Specialist
Probate Accountant
Public Finance Consultant
Securities Compliance Examiner
Securities Firm Executive
Securities Transactions Analyst
Trust Business Development Professional
Trust Employee Benefits Administrator
Trust Examiner
Trust Officer
Trust Property Manager
Trust Risk Analyst
U.S. Trustee

**Human Resources and Employment**
Employee Benefit Plan Specialist
Employee Disability Programs Manager
Employee Relations Manager
Ethics Officer
Ethics Program Specialist
Government Benefits Assistant Dean
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Lawyer Temporary Agency Manager
Legal Career Consultant
Legal Search Consultant
Manpower Development Specialist
Personnel Management Specialist
Professional Standards Administrator
Public Guardian
Reemployment Rights Compliance Specialist
Retirement Systems Administrator
Salary Administration Specialist
State Long-Term Care Ombudsperson
Veterans Program Specialist
Veterans Reemployment Rights Specialist

**Insurance and Risk Management**
Bankruptcy Claims Examiner
Civil Service Retirement Claims Examiner
Claims Representative
Dependent and Estates Claims Examiner
Document Compliance Specialist
Environmental Claim Specialist
Errors and Omissions Claims Manager
General Claims Examiner
Health Benefits Program Analyst
Health Care Policy Analyst
Health Plan Member Services Coordinator
Insurance Agent
Insurance Claims Representative
Insurance Fraud Investigator
Issuing Specialist
Litigation Examiner
Loss and Damage Claims Examiner
Pension Investigator
Personal Trust Product Manager
Risk Manager
Social Insurance Administrator
Social Insurance Claims Examiner
Transportation Claims Examiner
Unemployment Insurance Administrator
Veterans Claims Examiner
Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner

**International Affairs/Trade/Investment**
Commercial Loan Specialist
Customs Entry and Liquidation Specialist
Economic Development Project Officer
Export Administrator
Export Control Specialist
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Foreign Service Officer
Foreign Trade Zone Manager
Immigration Coordinator
Import Compliance Specialist
International Affairs Specialist
International Agency Liaison Officer
International Relations Officer
International Trade Specialist
International Trade and Investment Consultant
Library Foreign Law Specialist
Manager of Export/Import Compliance
Manager of Global Trading Documentation
Munitions Export Control Specialist
Passport and Visa Examiner
Political Risk Insurance Officer
U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Officer

**Intellectual Property**
Applications Examiner
Conveyance Examiner
Copyright Examiner
Intellectual Resources Assistant Dean
Patent Administrator
Patent Examiner
Patentability Review Examiner
Technology Licensing Officer
Technology Transfer Assistant Dean
Trademark Examiner
University Corporate Liaison Officer
Intelligence/National Security
Aviation Security Specialist
Foreign Assets Control Intelligence Analyst
Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Officer
Industrial Security Specialist
Information Security Consultant
Intelligence Officer
Intelligence Research Specialist
Internal Security Specialist
Munitions Export Control Specialist
Personnel Security Specialist
Physical Security Specialist
Security Administration Specialist
Security Classification Specialist
Security Inspector

Labor Relations
Industrial Relations Specialist
Labor Investigator
Labor Management Relations Examiner
Labor Negotiator
Labor Relations Manager
Wage and Hour Law Administrator
Wage and Hour Law Compliance Specialist

Legal Administration
Bar Association Professional
CLE Training Manager
Litigation Management Professional
Law Firm Administrator
Law Firm Management Consultant
Law Firm Recruiter
Legal Services Program Executive Assistant
Pro Bono Coordinator
Professional Relations Coordinator
Professional Development Manager

Legal Document/Information/Research
Analyst in Social Legislation
Archivist
Economic Research Analyst
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Law Librarian
Law Library Computer Network Manager
Legal Database Manager
Legal Instrument Examiner
Legal Researcher
Legal Writer
Litigation Support Specialist
Public Disclosure Officer
Senior Paralegal
Social Science Research Analyst
Technical Legal Information Specialist

**Legislative and Regulatory Affairs**
Congressional Affairs Specialist
Congressional Inquiries Program Manager
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Food Program Specialist
Governmental Affairs Specialist
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Legislative Assistant
Legislative Correspondent
Legislative Program Manager
Legislative Representative
Legislative Staff Assistant Dean
License Examining Specialist
Lobbyist
Manager of Regulatory Affairs
Policy Advocate
Policy Analyst
Professional Licensing Compliance Officer
Regulations Specialist
Regulatory Analyst
Regulatory Compliance Assistant Dean
Regulatory Impact Analyst

**Management and Administration**
Acquisitions/Divestiture Professional
City/County Clerk/Administrator
Elections Administration Officer
Emergency Management Specialist
Foundation Executive
Grants Management Specialist
Management Analyst
Nonprofit Advocacy Organization Manager
Program Analyst
Trade/Professional Association Executive
Unclaimed Property Administrator

**Marketing**
Bar Review Regional Assistant Dean
Assistant Dean of Gift and Estate Planning
Economic Development Position
Franchise Development Manager
Law Firm Assistant Dean of Client Relations
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Legal Cost Management Sales Consultant
Public Affairs Specialist

**Media and Entertainment**
Acquisitions Editor
Law Correspondent
Law Firm Business Development Editor
Legal Editor
Legal Newspaper Publisher
Legal Publisher Account Representative
Literary Agent
Sports Agent
Technical Publications Writer/Editor

**Real Estate/housing**
Development Specialist
Assistant Dean of Real Estate
Housing Advocate
Housing Authority Assistant Dean
Housing Services Planner
Land Agent
Land Law Examiner
Land Manager
Land Preservation Assistant Dean
Land Protection Assistant Dean
Lease Negotiator
Real Estate Auction Project Manager
Realty Specialist
Register of Deeds
Tenant's Broker
Title Examiner
Zoning Administrator

**Taxation**
Estate Tax Examiner
International Tax Analyst
Property & Transaction Tax Manager
Tax Law Specialist
Tax Manager/Tax Planning Manager
Tax Research Manager
Trust Tax Manager

**Transportation**
Boating Law Administrator
Highway Safety Specialist
Transportation Policy Analyst
Traffic Management Specialist
Vessel Traffic Specialist
IV. TOUGH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO PURSUE AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER

Deciding that an alternative legal career path is for you is only the first step. Eventually, through your research, you will uncover a world of opportunities available to you and will begin the challenging process of interviewing for an alternative legal position. Why challenging? Read on to learn about some of the most common barriers you may face during these interviews and how you can tackle them head on!

1. You can’t afford to take this position.

There is a common misperception in our society that lawyers make or have the potential to make huge sums of money over the course of their careers. When you apply for an alternative position, employers may believe that you want a higher salary than the particular industry can bear. They may also be worried that you may be able to work at their salary for only a relatively short period of time before feeling the financial pinch. Both of these concerns are legitimate. To start, you must honestly assess your financial situation and thoroughly research the industry’s salaries before you step into the interview. Once you are confident that money will not be an obstacle, it is up to you to convey that fact to the employer. Mention that you conducted thorough research into salaries prior to embarking on the alternative career search. Let them know that, in preparation for this career change, you have worked hard to pay down on your expenses and credit card bills. Assure them that you are financially prepared to start at a level that is commensurate with your direct and transferable experience and do not necessarily expect to make the same amount of money you did as a lawyer. Remember to negotiate for non-monetary perks such as 401(K) matching, flextime, additional training, etc. Often, these perks will help to compensate for a lower salary and, in the long run, provide you with the flexibility and security you require.

2. You’re nice and all, but you have no experience in our industry.

It may very well be the case that your resume, on first glance, does not resemble the typical resume that lands on this employer’s desk. You have spent years building a resume to impress legal employers and only belatedly realized that you want to take a different path. Don’t despair. You probably possess more experience than you think. Here’s where you need to be a detective of sorts. Sure, the job title is claims adjuster but what does that really mean? What are the daily tasks? Distill the job down to the basic skills required and you might learn that your legal experience has provided you with tremendous transferable skills. You likely have developed strong research, writing, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Your legal work may also overlap with your current industry of interest. In addition, think about your community, volunteer, committee or fund-raising activities. All of these experiences create a background useful to alternative legal employers.

3. What’s this?? You are in your third career! How can you be certain this job is right for you?

The Big C: Commitment. It is what every employer wants. Multiple degrees or multiple job changes may cause some employers to believe that you have not sufficiently narrowed down your interests and career choices. Or alternatively, your multiple career changes and degrees may indicate rash decision-making. Neither scenario is particularly flattering to you. Whether or not
the employer’s assessment is correct is not the main issue. Rather, in the interview, your job is to counteract the effects of this negative assessment. Here, the key is to be proactive. Don’t wait for employers to come up with their own reasons for the changes. Create a story that will make sense to an employer as an explanation. Perhaps several interim career moves or degrees were necessary to put in you a position to be a viable candidate in your current industry of choice. In that case, your decisions will appear purposeful and thoughtful. Or, if there is no logical connection between your previously obtained degrees and jobs and your current path, fess up. However, you should then immediately stress what steps you have taken to make sure you are better informed about this new field and better prepared to make a lasting commitment to it. Lastly, if your previous career/degree changes were necessary because you were in a certain phase in your life, say so. For example, perhaps you had a child, or you needed to nurse a sick relative back to health or the bottom fell out in your previous organization. Life circumstances such as these may have led you to make career choices you ordinarily would not have made. Once you admit this to the employer, immediately stress that you are now in a different stage and are excited and confident about your new career path.

4. If you didn’t have what it takes to make it as a lawyer, why should we hire you?

OUCH! This employer concern is arguably the most personal and perhaps the hardest to answer. You may be struggling with residual baggage from your life as a lawyer. It is not uncommon to experience pangs of inadequacy, frustration, and/or regret when leaving the practice of law. In the alternative, you may very well have been a huge success as a lawyer and now are seeking to go down a different path or undertake a new challenge. In any case, make sure that you take the time before embarking on a new career to carefully consider where you’ve been and where you are going. If there are negative feelings stemming from your past career choices, try to resolve them prior to the interview by focusing on all the high points: the excellent training you were provided, the contacts you’ve made, the opportunities to help you’ve had and even the terrible working conditions you survived! If you are deciding to embark upon a new challenge, then show your enthusiasm and be clear in your mind how your experience as a lawyer compliments your new career path. You will exude a positive outlook and this will go a long way in answering the skeptical employer.

V. CONDUCTING AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER JOB SEARCH-THE NITTY-GRITTY

Because formal structure is lacking in the alternative job market, activities such as networking become very important for gaining employment.

Networking

Networking is making professional contacts. Networking events include conferences, seminars, cocktail parties, and almost any other place where you can find people active in the field you aspire to enter. Treat networking events as you would any other professional occasion:

- Dress appropriately.
- Be informed about issues important to the group you will be talking with.
- Come across as a fellow professional in your speech and actions.
You will get the most out of these events if you are assertive and initiate conversations with many potential contacts. Do not spend all of your time talking with one or two people; it may make them uncomfortable, and you will be missing out on other potentially valuable contacts.

As you build your network, remember to stay in touch with those you meet and periodically ask them to keep you in mind for any job opportunities for which they feel you would be qualified. Initial contacts will provide you with further contacts, and your personal network will naturally grow from there.

Informational Interviewing

Informational interviews are used to gain knowledge about a specific career or geographic area, not to solicit a job. A person who grants you an informational interview also turns into a valuable contact. Send them a copy of your resume along with a letter detailing how you came to find them (preferably you briefly met them or were referred) and why you wish to speak with them.

Before meeting with a new contact, make sure that you are knowledgeable about the field and will be able to ask and answer informed questions. You should ask questions about the challenges and benefits of the career, what skills are required for the job, and if they have any advice about getting into the industry. Make sure not to take up too much of the person’s time and, at the end of the interview, ask whether they would be willing to speak with you again or if they could possibly refer you to any further contacts. After the interview, write a brief thank-you note and add the interviewer’s contact information to your networking file for future reference.

Marketing Your JD to a Non-Legal Employer

The challenge lies in educating hiring authorities in other professions that the law degree should be seen as an added bonus. Your ability to assess risk, for example, is unique and always in demand in business settings.

If you are pursuing a truly alternative position, you will have to sell the employer on why they should hire an attorney rather than someone specifically trained for the field. In contrast to positions where JDs are expected or even encouraged, truly alternative companies may look upon the JD with misunderstanding or feel that you are over-qualified. You must show how your legal training and personal attributes fit the job for which you have applied. Emphasize your most important skills by presenting results; businesses are result-driven, and you will be speaking their language.

Alternative employers do not know what benefits a law school education will bring to them. They have not been to law school and have not hired lawyers. You need to show non-legal employers why your training and skills will benefit them. Law school has given you, among other things:

- Enhanced communication abilities
- Analytical skills
- Highly developed research and writing skills
- The ability to assess risk
- Efficient organization and work habits
- The ability to work under pressure in an organized manner
The challenge for the applicant is to translate legal skills into the skills desired by the industry. If you worked in a public defender’s office for two years, but now want to get into a career in entertainment, you need to focus the employer’s attention on transferable skills like your motivation, your ability to interact well with clients, your familiarity with contracts, and your talent for working under pressure, instead of the fact that you are good at writing criminal motions.

Salary Negotiations

Many JDs are shocked that employers generally do not place a monetary premium on the law degree. If the law degree is not requested, the company is not likely to treat it as a salary-enhancing qualification. However, just as you have to market yourself to get the job, you also must market your degree in salary negotiations. If they offer increased salaries to holders of other advanced degrees (e.g., MBA, PhD), show how your education and skills are transferable and equivalent.

VI. HYBRID-FUNCTIONAL RESUMES, NON-TRADITIONAL COVER LETTERS, AND INTERVIEWING

Alternative career resumes and cover letters differ in a number of ways. The alternative resume is generally functional in design, focusing less on education than experience. The cover letter sells you to the employer - just make sure that you are selling what the employer wants to buy. Instead of selling your legal experience, showcase your pertinent skills and prove impressive accomplishments to which the employer can relate. Do not focus on achievements that cannot be translated into the non-legal field. Tailor it to the industry, connecting the dots for the employer.

The Hybrid-Functional Resume

Resumes are generally either chronological or functional. The legal resume is chronological, but many businesses may prefer a hybrid-functional format. Functional resumes organize experience into “skills clusters” that illuminate specific accomplishments rather than showing what you did in each position. However, since most employers do not like “pure” functional resumes, use a hybrid-functional style. Structure your resume in a skills format, followed by a chronological “bare-bones” work history. The work history section should include job title, location, years and name of employer. The description of each job is not listed because that information should already be in your “skills” or “experience” section. By including a work history section, you will give the reader a frame of reference to measure the number of years and level of experience. Appendix B contains an example of a hybrid-functional resume and cover letter.

The Non-Legal Interview

You must convince an interviewer that you are interested in their company versus practicing law. Prepare by following these steps:

- Become fully informed about the industry and company. Research websites, newspaper articles, and annual reports to ensure that you have a good knowledge base
for your interview. Law school graduates are sometimes scrutinized more than other candidates on their motives for applying, so you must be fully informed. Every industry has its “buzz words”.

- **During the interview, you will be asked why you are not following a legal track for your career.** One of the main concerns of non-legal employers is that a JD will only use the job as a time-killer until they find something better. The best way to deal with questions about your motive is to address them directly (e.g., “I am not interested in practicing law as a career; however, the … aspect of your company is highly intriguing to me and fits my background perfectly. For example, I …”).

- **Why should an employer hire you rather than someone specifically trained in the field?** If you have training or experience in the field, you can spin your law degree by amplifying the related skills that you already possess. If you are not trained in the field, it is absolutely necessary to showcase your skills and experience in a manner that addresses what the employer wants and needs.

- **“Lawyers are problem-makers rather than problem-solvers.”** Explain how your legal training is an extra bonus that you have been trained to assess risk, and avoidance of risk is what business is all about. Then give a direct example of how you helped an employer avoid a problem, litigation, etc. Refer to your JD as your graduate degree, unless JDs are preferred for the position. Place more emphasis on your personality and skill set.

**Alumni: Making the Switch After a Legal Career**

Many career counselors agree that the best time to get into an alternative career is after a few years in the legal marketplace. One of the primary benefits of practicing law before beginning an alternative career is gaining a deeper insight into your own skill set, and a more enlightened understanding of your likes and dislikes. The fact that you actually practiced law and you no longer wish to do so increases your credibility. And for JD Preferred positions, legal experience can only strengthen your qualifications.

If you plan on making the move to a career that is connected with your legal practice area, it is likely that you already have contacts within the industry. Just as outside legal counsel will often make the move to in-house counsel for a company they represent, many attorneys involved in a field will be considered for business positions, such as vice president for banking operations or director of employment. By being active both inside and outside the legal community you will have established inroads into the industry and contacts with people who can help your job search.
APPENDIX A: ALTERNATIVE CAREER RESOURCES

Books

Books Specific to Lawyers:

10 volumes on alternative careers for lawyers, each focusing on a specific practice area. You can find paperbacks and Kindle edition books on Amazon.

24 Hours with 24 Lawyers: Profiles of Traditional and Non-Traditional Careers, by Jasper Kim (2011)


The (Un)happy Lawyer: A Roadmap to Finding Meaningful Work Outside of the Law, by Monica Parker (2008)


General Career Books:


Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Type, by Paul Tieger (2007)


Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time, by Keith Ferrazzi and Tahl Raz (2014)

The Art of Work: A Proven Path to Discovering What You Were Meant To Do, by Jeff
Goins (2015)


What Color Is Your Parachute? by Richard N. Bolles (Revised annually)

Articles


JD Advantage Resources Career Guide from NALP (ask CSO for a copy)

Online Articles and Podcasts

60 Non-traditional JD job suggestions

www.lawpracticetoday.org/article/alternative-careers-lawyers/
Transcript of a panel discussion on alternative legal careers

www.legalnomads.com/alternative-careers-for-lawyers/
The Thrillable Hours interview series, featuring lawyers in a variety of non-traditional careers.

Website Resources

https://www.16personalities.com/
Free personality quiz with suggested careers listed in the results.

www.bls.gov
The Bureau of Labor Statistics website has good data about employment rates, employment levels, and compensation for assorted industries.

JD Preferred jobs with Lexis Nexis.

JD Preferred jobs with Thomson Reuters.

www.rcjobs.com
Political jobs in Washington D.C.
www.vault.com
Good source for law and alternative legal careers.

www.careerchangeability.com
This site is not free, but is focused specifically on lawyers wishing to move away from the traditional practice. Includes articles and job listings.

http://careers.findlaw.com
It focuses on all law careers, but includes listings for jobs in non-traditional areas such as ADR and court administration.

https://jobs.nalp.org/jobs
Job notices for legal career services, recruitment, professional development, and related positions.

http://chronicle.com/section/Jobs/61/
The Chronicle of Higher Education has higher education job postings, including law related positions.
May 23, 2024

William L. Johnson, Director
Akron Center for Urban Sprawl
897 W. Market Street
Akron, OH 44328

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please accept the enclosed resume as my application for the Policy Analyst position recently advertised by your office. I received my joint JD/MPA degree at the University of Akron and I am confident that my combined training in the fields of law and political science make me an ideal candidate for this position.

My advanced training in two relevant disciplines gives me an ability to look at policy issues from all sides. The MPA curriculum taught me government organization, policy and budget analysis, and serious project involvement developing recreational areas for the City of Columbus. My rigorous legal training has honed my analytical skills by forcing me to quickly analyze cases and statutes and appreciate their relevance. Additionally, classes such as Public Lands and Mining and Water Law have given me the ability to examine policy goals within the framework of statutory regulations.

I have shown my analytical abilities under many circumstances. While working as a law clerk for the civil division of the Akron City Law Department, I regularly researched proposals and drafted memos about wide-ranging topics such as commercial zoning, sub-surface water rights, and effluent emissions. My ability to quickly analyze problems and find the best possible solution was critical to the performance of my daily duties. The trust placed in me by my supervisors at the City of Akron to reach the correct decision with my recommendations is indicative of the faith you could expect to place in my research and analysis.

My diverse training, coupled with my work experience assessing policy implications, would allow me to be immediately effective as a Policy Analyst. I am available at your convenience for an interview, and hope to meet with you soon.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Lawyer
EXPERIENCE

City Planning: As a City Planner for the City of Columbus, the fourteenth largest city in the United States, developed open space and recreation initiatives for a 13 square mile area encompassing 650,000 people. Managed yearly budget of $500,000 for public awareness campaign. Handled development plans of 29 construction companies and reviewed filings to determine accordance with municipal regulations. Created population growth scenarios used by the City of Columbus in formulating the 2010-2015 Master Plan.

Financial: Responsible for 54 personal investment accounts of $255,000, as an Assistant Financial Consultant. Performed quarterly performance reviews on all assigned accounts and, if necessary, made suggestions to clients for changes. Audited accounts to ensure compliance with state and federal tax regulations on a biennial basis.

Legal Analysis: As a Law Clerk in the civil division of a metropolitan county, researched statutory law to determine viability of proposed 237-unit development. Reviewed in excess of 50 zoning, natural resource, and pollution plans by the City of Akron to assess their legality. Wrote over fifty criminal motions in two summers of work. Researched the U.S. Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Blakely and drafted 12-page memorandum distributed to over 30 attorneys.

EMPLOYMENT

City of Akron Law Department, Akron, OH
Law Clerk (Civil Division, Summer 2023; Criminal Division, Summer 2022)

City of Columbus, Columbus, OH
City Planner I (August 2020 – July 2022)

First Merit, Akron, OH
Assistant Financial Consultant (July 2019 – August 2020)

EDUCATION

The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH
Juris Doctor, May 2024

The University of Akron, Akron, OH
Master of Public Administration, May 2024

John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH
Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Economics, Minor in History; May 2019
APPENDIX D: SAMPLE COMPLIANCE RESUMES

SAMPLE ALUMNI COMPLIANCE RESUME

Address | Phone Number | Email Address

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS
Attorney transitioning into AML Compliance and interested in utilizing legal background to assist banks in regulating fraud. Knowledge of the laws applicable to money laundering, including the USA PATRIOT Act and the Bank Secrecy Act. Self-motivated team player with the ability to work independently. Proficient in Microsoft Office – Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Strong writing, analytical, and communication skills. Ability to multi-task and complete projects on time. Results oriented with strong organizational skills.

EXPERIENCE

JOHN SMITH, ESQ., New York, New York
Per Diem Attorney February 2023 – Present
Represent clients in removal proceedings at preliminary hearings in immigration court. Review files to ensure accuracy of allegations and charges. Attend asylum interviews in front of USCIS. Interview clients, determine legal needs, and explain court proceedings.

YOUNG & ASSOCIATES, LLC, New York, New York
Associate November 2021 – February 2023
Managed large caseload of clients seeking relief from removal and adjustment of status under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. Analyzed applicable U.S. and foreign statutes and regulations relating to aliens seeking asylum in the United States. Performed research on country conditions via LexisNexis, Google, and other relevant search platforms. Investigated such issues as whether actions by a potential asylum applicant constituted material support to a terrorist organization.

MARCCUS PARTNERS, Paris, France
Intern for Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Group September 2022 – October 2021
Collaborated with team of attorneys and interns to develop Report on the Takeover Bids Directive, an external study prepared for the European Commission. Analyzed and compared European Union financial regulations governing both domestic and cross-border transactions in connection with acquisitions, divestitures and mergers against those of non-member countries, including the United States. Drafted sections of the report concerning takeover defenses in both EU member states and non-member countries, including sections on Board of Director neutrality, pre- and post-bid takeover defenses in the United States, and the enhanced standard of review used in the United States when evaluating Board of Director actions during hostile takeovers. Collected data from EU member states and non-member countries and synthesized results into final report.

HONORABLE RICHARD LEE PRICE, Bronx, New York
Judicial Extern in Criminal Court Spring 2019
Performed legal research on evidence suppression issues. Drafted opinions in response to post-sentence pro se motions in criminal cases concerning resentencing under New York’s Drug Law Reform Act and whether a defendant was entitled to concurrent rather than consecutive sentences. Observed trials in criminal court.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL, New York, New York
Juris Doctor, May 2024
GPA: 3.32 (Top 29%)
Honors: Dean’s List: Fall 2019, Spring 2019; Fall 2021 (High Honors)
Courses: Corporations □ Securities Regulation □ Criminal Law □ Federal Income Taxation

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, East Lansing, Michigan
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, August 2019

ADDITIONAL AML COMPLIANCE TRAINING

AML – Compliance: Suspicious Activity Surveillance; FINRA E-Learning Courses (Part I & Part II)
AML – Customer Identifying Procedures; FINRA E-Learning Courses (Institutional/Operations/Retail)
AML – Recognizing Red Flags; FINRA E-Learning Courses (Institutional/Operations/Retail)
AML – Understanding Compliance Obligations; FINRA E-Learning Courses (Institutional/Operations/Retail)
LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Associate, Cohen & Zucker, LLP
New York, NY (December 2022 – Present)
  • Interpret financial and consumer laws and regulations.
  • Draft legal and business documents for class action plaintiffs.
  • Negotiate procedural issues, including calendaring, discovery production and confidentiality agreements.
  • Explain legal issues and lawsuit strategy to clients and other class members.
  • Collaborate often with co-counsel and industry experts.
  • Analyze corporate transactions and documents such as compliance manuals, financial statements, proxy statements, merger agreements and bylaws.
  • Generate new business and meet with current and prospective clients.

Associate, The Law Firm of Joshua Brown
New York, NY (September 2021 – November 2022)
  • Drafted research memoranda, motions, mediation statements and appeals for various New York State commercial litigation, personal injury and employment discrimination matters.

FINANCIAL AND REGULATORY EXPERIENCE

Intern, Moore & Gold LLP, Litigation and Financial Services Groups
New York, NY (March 2021 – May 2021)
  • Drafted memoranda and sections of an appellate brief focusing on federal securities litigation issues.
  • Authored client awareness articles relating to federal and state securities issues.

Student Advocate, Securities Arbitration Clinic, New York Law School
New York, NY (September 2020 – May 2021)
  • Assessed inquiries from prospective clients concerning the viability of their broker misconduct claims.
  • Drafted Statements of Claim for submission to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

Law Clerk, Office of Commissioner Robert McDowell, Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC (May – August 2020)
  • Drafted memoranda regarding broadband metrics, public safety and the National Broadband Plan.

Intern, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC (May – August 2019)
  • Drafted orders, letters and memoranda in connection with 800 MHz frequency band reconfiguration.
  • Worked with a multi-disciplinary team including senior-level managers, attorneys and engineers.

EDUCATION

New York Law School, New York, NY, J.D., June 2024
  • New York Law School Law Review, Senior Editor
  • Media/Telecommunications Law Fellow (2021, 2022)
  • John Marshall Harlan Scholar, Center on Business Law & Policy affiliate

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY, B.A., Piano Performance, May 2020

BAR ADMISSION

New York and New Jersey
BAR ADMISSION
Passed July 2023 New York State Bar Exam, Awaiting Admission

EDUCATION
New York Law School, New York, NY
Juris Doctor, cum laude, May 2023
  GPA: 3.55
  Honors: Dean’s List (5/6 semesters)
  Courses: Compliance within Financial Services Companies | Securities Regulation | Sales & Negotiable Instruments
           Financial Law and Regulatory Policy | Secured Transactions | Drafting Corporate Documents

Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, High Honors, May 2020
  GPA: 3.73
  Honors: Dean’s List (6/8 semesters) | National Collegiate Honor Society | Psi Chi National Honor Society
  Activities: Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Scholarship Chairwoman □ Semester Study Abroad, Temple University Rome

EXPERIENCE
Center for Business & Financial Law, New York Law School, New York, NY
Independent Study with Prof. Houman B. Shadab August 2022 – December 2022
Drafted independent study paper analyzing the role of corporate counsel in creating and maintaining efficient and effective internal compliance programs and audits. Conducted extensive legal research regarding the effect of the Dodd-Frank Whistleblower Program on attorney-client privilege in the corporate environment and the duty to report as it applies to in-house counsel.

Law Office of Jill C. Baker, Esq., Garden City, NY
Legal Intern August 2021 – December 2022
Conducted legal research involving matrimonial and tax issues with a focus on spousal support, child custody and “best interest of the child” standard. Attended intake interviews involving child clients and divorcing parties, and assessed their maintenance and custody arrangements. Recorded detailed notes on courtroom proceedings and summarized key points for attorneys during settlement conferences.

Hon. David Kaplan, Housing Court Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York, New York, NY
Judicial Intern Summer 2020
Drafted trial decision on a traverse hearing. Worked in Resolution Part to evaluate orders to show cause. Reviewed, edited and discussed stipulations with pro se tenants. Corresponded directly with the Marshal's office to stop evictions. Observed trial parts and side bar settlements between attorneys.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL LAW TRAINING
Research Papers: “Dodd-Frank's New Whistleblower Provisions” (Financial Law & Regulatory Policy, Spring 2023)
                    “The Role of In-House & Corporate Counsel” (Independent Study, Fall 2022)

CLE Courses: Employment Transitions in the Financial Services Industry: Practical & Legal Issues
             New York City Bar Association, Fall 2021

             Current Issues Facing Private Equity & Hedge Fund Managers in Today’s Changing Landscape
             New York City Bar Association, Fall 2021

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
New York County Lawyers’ Assn, Securities & Exchange Committee | New York City Bar Association
Lupus Foundation of America, Young Leadership Board | Young Jewish Professional Association
SAMPLE RECENT GRAD COMPLIANCE RESUME
Address • Phone Number • Email Address

BAR ADMISSION
NEW YORK, passed July 2023 bar examination, awaiting admission

EDUCATION
NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY
J.D., cum laude, June 2023
GPA: 3.64 Honors: Dean’s List-High Honors (3 Semesters) | Dean’s List (2 Semesters)
Coursework: Corporate Finance | Private Capital Markets | Securities Regulation
Mutual Fund Regulation | Hedge Fund Regulation | Derivatives Market Regulation
Mergers and Acquisitions | Secured Transactions | Drafting Contracts

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, Norman, OK
M.B.A., Business Administration, May 2018 | GPA: 3.73

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, Stillwater, OK

EXPERIENCE
KERBURN ROSE, New York, NY
Investment Banking Analyst September 2022– Present
• Prepare detailed financial models complete with income statement, cash flow statement, balance sheet, working capital, depreciation and debt schedules.
• Value companies using multiples, comparable company analyses and discounted cash flow analyses.
• Build mini and full-scale merger (M&A) and leveraged buyout (LBO) models.

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, New York, NY
Legal Intern - Division of Enforcement, Asset Management Unit January 2021 – April 2021
• Assisted staff attorney with investigation of investment adviser’s potential misstatements to investors, compliance failures, and other violations of the federal securities laws.
• Reviewed email and other documents to gather evidence of such violations.
• Prepared testimony outline and exhibits and identified potential additional witnesses.
• Performed legal research on disgorgement calculations, investment adviser bars, sanctions against auditors, and analyzed comparable cases for administrative remedy determination.
• Drafted speech for Chief of the Asset Management Unit on hedge fund enforcement priorities and industry trends.

BANK OF AMERICA, New York, NY
Fixed Income Legal Intern May 2020 – August 2020
• Compared commercial paper dealer agreement and offering memorandum to company standard forms, drafted bond option amendment and termination agreements, and determined sufficiency of trade authorization agreements.
• Examined offshore fund solicitation requirements and created chart of approved/prohibited jurisdictions.
• Performed legal research on the JOBS Act and FINRA’s front running rule.

NAPOLI BERN RIPKA SHKOLNIK LLP, New York, NY
Securities Arbitration and Litigation Law Clerk August 2019 – November 2019
• Evaluated discovery production and issued insufficiency notice.
• Performed legal research on clawbacks in Ponzi schemes and tolling the statute of limitations.
SAMPLE HEALTH CARE COMPLIANCE RESUME

Address • Phone Number • Email Address

EDUCATION

Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL
LL.M. in Health Law, May 2023
  Courses: Healthcare Compliance | Healthcare Risk Management | Healthcare Payment & Policy
  Physician Regulation and Practice Management | Life Science, Research & FDA Regulation
  Healthcare Data Security & Privacy | Healthcare Business & Finance

New York Law School, New York, NY
Juris Doctor, June 2020
  Papers: *Childhood Obesity: Epidemic Requiring Regulatory Intervention*, Damashek-Pegalis
  Writing Contest (2017)

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Bachelor of General Studies, Pre-law Concentration, June 2016

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Aaronson Rappaport Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP, New York, NY
Legal Intern September 2022 to December 2022
Conducted legal research pertaining to defense of medical and legal malpractice claims. Performed verdict valuation
analysis. Drafted motions and status memorandum to insurance carriers. Arranged medical experts for record reviews.
Observed court appearances and trial proceedings.

The Honorable Joan Lewis, New York County Supreme Court, New York, NY
Judicial Intern May 2022 to August 2022
Conducted legal research. Prepared draft opinions to motions pertaining to medical, dental, and podiatric malpractice
and Article 78 proceedings. Assisted court attorneys with preliminary, compliance, and pre-trial conferences. Observed
motion and trial practices.

Unemployment Action Center, New York, NY
Client Advocate/’10 Summer Intern February 2022 to May 2022
Conducted client interviews, performed legal research, prepared clients for and represented clients at hearings.
Provided mentorship for new advocates and assisted with development of case theories. Edited training manual.

HEALTH CARE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATIONS

Certified in Healthcare Compliance, Compliance Certification Board, May 2023
Certified in Healthcare Research Compliance, Compliance Certification Board, May 2023
Certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance, Compliance Certification Board, June 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

New York City Bar Association, *Medical Malpractice Committee*
New York County Lawyers’ Association, *Health Law Section*
New York State Bar Association, *Health Law Section*
American Health Lawyers Association
EDUCATION
New York Law School, New York, NY
Juris Doctor, expected May 2023
Honors: Public Interest Fellow (Summer 2013) | C. Bainbridge Smith Scholarship Recipient
Activities: South Asian Law Students Association, President | Student Ambassador & Campus Advocate
Global Human Rights Bulletin, Middle East Regional Editor

Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
Master of Arts, Public Policy, May 2020
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May 2019
Honors: Dean’s List (4 semesters)
Activities: Campaign Intern, Public Advocate Mark Green | Diversity Intern, Office of Student Affairs

HEALTH LAW EXPERIENCE
North Shore-LIJ CareConnect Insurance Company, Roslyn, NY
Compliance Intern July 2022 - August 2022
Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on regulatory and HIPPA compliance. Researched compliance issues for participation in the New York Health Insurance Exchange. Assisted conducting compliance meetings with employees. Served as liaison between in-house and outside counsel.

North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, Great Neck, NY
Legal Intern September 2021 - December 2021
Drafted legal documents including position statements filed with the NYSDHR, executive summaries and corporate policies. Reviewed, researched and edited contracts including partnership agreements, business contracts and privacy agreements. Researched and created memoranda and presentations on managed care and labor and employment issues. Represented Health System at hearings before the Environmental Control Board. Assisted in corporate meetings and labor negotiations. Served as liaison between health system employees and general counsel.

Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY
Legal Intern June 2021 - August 2021
Drafted stipulations for orders of dismissal, responses to interrogatories and discovery demands. Reviewed and edited contracts, including IVF consent forms, preceptorship contracts and employment contracts. Observed courtroom proceedings. Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda of law relating to employment and labor law. Conducted policy research for higher education institutions and hospitals.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE
New York Academy of Medicine, Center for Epidemiological Sciences, New York, NY
Field Researcher & Intern June 2019 – August 2019
Directed team of interns while working independently to obtain health data from residents of Harlem. Identified key populations resistant to flu vaccinations, and organized data into comprehensive reports.

New York Public Interest Research Group, Higher Education Reform, Stony Brook, NY
Project Leader & Intern February 2018 - June 2018
Lobbied government officials to raise awareness regarding education, environmental protection, homelessness, & consumer protection. Counseled community members on the process of filing a complaint in small claims court.
EDUCATION

New York Law School, New York, NY
Juris Doctor, June 2023

Honors: New York Law School Law Review
Activities: Media Entertainment Fashion Law Association, Vice President
Institute for Information Law and Policy, Associate
Courses: Cybercrime/Cyberterrorism | Internet Law | Advertising Law | Videogame Law
International IP | Entertainment Law | Fashion Law | Publishing Law
Copyright | Taxation of Intangibles | Business and Tax Planning for Closed Enterprises

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Bachelor of Arts, Economics/Philosophy, May 2020
Thesis: Constructing a Predictive Demand Model for Mass-Produced Media

CERTIFICATIONS

International Association of Privacy Professionals
CIPP/US (Certified Information Privacy Professional in US Law)
Candidate for CIPM (Certified Information Privacy Manager)

EXPERIENCE

Media Coalition/SNR Denton, New York, NY
Coalition Law Clerk Aug. 2022 – Jan. 2023
Drafted memoranda on First Amendment and privacy issues. Drafted entire amicus brief for a US Supreme Court case regarding surveillance. Wrote 50-state survey of materials found “harmful to minors.” Compiled report on development of § 2257 pornography record-keeping requirements.

Law Office of Alan Johnson, Brooklyn, NY
Researched and drafted memoranda on international copyright and termination rights. Prepared outlines for presentations at entertainment law panels. Prepared registrations for US copyrights and international trademarks. Met with clients to discuss selected legal issues.

Elca Solutions, Gainesville, FL
Drafted software solution proposals for database-driven websites and researched best practices for website design. Reviewed RFPs and online project proposals. Coordinated specs with clients.

PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

• EA v. Textron: The New Battlefield of Implied Endorsements, Case Comment
• 3 New Ways Google Glass Invades Your Privacy, POLICYMIC
• FISA Supreme Court Decision Makes a Mockery of Civil Liberties, POLICYMIC
• Proposed Cybercrime Reforms in Response to Martyr, ALL YOUR LAW ARE BELONG TO US
• Drones in NYC: Fourth Amendment Incentives for Ethically Automating Law Enforcement
• Privacy Issues in the Telemetric Collection of Videogame Player Psychology
APPENDIX C: COMPLIANCE RESOURCES

Financial Compliance Resources

**ACAMS – the Association of Financial Crime Professionals Worldwide** - ACAMS is the largest international membership organization dedicated to enhancing the knowledge, skills and expertise of AML/CTF and financial crime detection and prevention professionals. The organization provides a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) Certification and advanced AML certification.

**Compliance Crossing** - This job posting site contains both legal and non-legal compliance jobs.

**Compliance Blogs** – Sullivan & Cromwell LLP’s Financial Services Resource Center

**Compliance Search Group** – Job board by recruiting group that specializes in locating talent for the world's top tier financial services providers. Compliance Search executes nationwide and global Executive Retained Searches.

**Compliance Week** – This site is an information service on corporate governance, risk and compliance that features weekly electronic newsletters, a monthly print magazine, proprietary databases, industry-leading events, and a variety of interactive features and forums.

**Corporate Compliance** -- This site is for the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE), a 501(c)6 member-based association for regulatory compliance professionals.

**eFinancial Careers** – This job posting site contains both legal and non-legal compliance jobs.

**Fianancial ish** – This website provides information, insights and direction on issues of financial industry compliance. You can access the job board, event listing and resource guide without membership.

**FINRA Compliance Bootcamps** -- FINRA's Compliance Boot Camps, located throughout the country on an on-going basis, provide a broad view of essential compliance concepts. Through a combination of self-study and classroom training, participants gain valuable insights on compliance activities for immediate application to the workplace.

**FINRA Webinars** - Affordable courses on finance and compliance issues that are backed by FINRA. For $45, these companies provide access to the whole FINRA catalog for a year. The AML classes are broken down by type of client (retail, institutional, etc.).

**International Association of Risk and Compliance Professionals** – This organization provides publications and training for those involved in risk management and compliance work. Students can best use this organization to find compliance professionals and employers contained throughout their publications and those who are part of their speakers’ bureau.

**National Society of Compliance Professionals** – This organization offers a variety of resources, events and training to its members. The website contains many free resources, and information helpful in locating compliance employers, including a job bank.
**Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)** – This organization’s website is filled with information on compliance issues and also contains a career center with a job-posting board and other resources for obtaining internships and post-graduate opportunities. Past speakers have recommended this organization as a valuable networking resource.

**Health Care Resources**

**American College of Healthcare Executives** – The ACHE website has a Career Services tab with a job bank and a list of healthcare career-related resources. Also from the ACHE, check out [www.healthmanagementcareers.com](http://www.healthmanagementcareers.com).

**Department of Health & Human Services, Office of General Counsel & Student Programs; The Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”)** is the enforcement arm of HHS and largest IG office in the government. The **Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”), which is another division under HHS and is responsible for enforcing HIPAA/HITECH Act.**

**Food & Drug Law Institute** – A non-profit organization dedicated to improving the understanding of laws, regulations, and policies affecting health care technologies, food and cosmetics.

**Guide to Careers In Health Law** – Harvard Law School’s guide to careers in health law (which includes many sub-categories). The Guide contains information for existing fellowships, as well as links to health organizations.

**Healthcare Association of New York State** – This organization’s mission is to advance the health of individuals and communities by providing leadership, representation, and service to health care providers and systems across the entire continuum of care. The website contains a list of most, if not all, medical facilities in New York.

**Healthcare Compliance Association (HCCA)** - The Health Care Compliance Association is a member-based, non-profit, organization for compliance professionals in the healthcare field. The site lists events, products, and resources that offer education for those who are looking to be certified in healthcare compliance, or for those just looking to keep their compliance department up to date with the latest news. HCCA has over 10,000 members and is the leading health care association for compliance professionals. It has an excellent job board.

**Healthcare Financial Management Association** – The HFMA website offers a job bank, list of executive search firms, and resume-referral services.

**Health Careers** – This site is the job bank from the Medical Group Management Association.

**International Association of Privacy Professionals** – offers a CIPP (Certified Information Privacy Professional) certification, often obtained by health care compliance professionals and sought out by employers. The CIPP exam covers more than HIPAA/HITECH and takes into consideration all areas of privacy.

“I’m Interested in Health Care Law – Now where can I find a job?” – This article published in the NYSBA Health Law Journal includes information on how to find a job in health law,
fellowship opportunities, and specific insight into health care jobs in non-profits, academia, government agencies, and as in-house counsel.

**Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics (SCCE)** – SCCE has about 5000 members and covers compliance professionals from all industries and has a significant international aspect.

**Privacy Resources**

**International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)** – This organization is a global membership organization consisting of privacy and information security professionals. The IAPP has more than 14,000 members in 83 countries. In addition to hosting annual events and publishing privacy and data protection e-newsletters, the IAPP sponsors the Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) certification.

**Practicing Law Institute (PLI)** – This non-profit continuing legal education (CLE) organization offers numerous courses on privacy and data security, including an annual institute on the topic that is offered both live and over webcast. This program focuses on current critical issues of information privacy, cybersecurity and data protection faced by all companies.