

## Are you in Law School? What Next?

*This article deals with the various options that you are left to pursue once you have completed law school. As a graduate, you can go for courses in higher education or even take up training as a judicial clerk. This allows you to put your knowledge to good use as well as build potential contacts.*

Once you are in a law school, you need to know what to do if you are planning to embark on a legal career. It is time to choose the career goals that you are looking forward to achieve. Make a detailed evaluation of the career choices that a degree in law gives you. Here is an article that tells you everything about what to do and what not to when you are looking for embarking on a legal job.

### What Happens after Your Legal Qualification?

Once you have cleared the state bar, you are all ready to go for a legal career. This is the time when all your theoretical knowledge will be applied in practical usage of the legal system. Until now, you were thinking like an attorney and all you will require at this moment is to work like one as well. Decide on and weigh your options and then analyze your priorities. Are you looking for a high paying legal career or are you looking for something that leaves you with time to spare for family members? Are you looking for a specialization or a practice niche? Can you work like a workaholic or are you in need of a relaxed legal schedule?

### Higher Education

Once you have obtained a JD qualification, it is time for you to opt for a post JD degree or go for the state bar licensure. This is an advanced degree that is offered in various legal colleges. Through these, you can secure a competitive edge over your other equals. Generally, graduates from law schools take up the advanced courses after gaining certain years of experience in the legal field. The qualifications you can possibly go for in your legal career include the following:

LLM: Master of Law  
JM: Juris Master  
MCL: Master of Comparative Law  
SJD: Doctor of Judicial Science  
DCL: Doctor of Comparative Law  
JSD: Doctor of Jurisprudence

### Employment Options in Legal Careers

Generally, graduates of law work in law firms after completing school. You may even take up judicial clerkship or work for the military or the government, seek employment in the legal department of a corporate firm or become a professor of law. There are a lot of graduates from law school who may at times go for a non legal career or even go for higher studies in order to obtain advanced degrees.

You can also start your own private practice after a few years of work experience with a legal firm. For this you need to invest in infrastructure, office, staff, and advertising. Initially, it is a lot of hard work, but once you establish yourself, there is no looking back.

### Salary

A law career is very lucrative for a person with the right qualifications. Salaries depend on specialization as well as the size and location of the employer. It can be anywhere between \$70,000 and \$145,600 and more. When working in a private practice, earnings depend on the clientele.

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