

We have created a Prezi presentation to accompany our publication *The Beginner's Guide to a Career in Law*. The guide is an entry-level resource, aimed at those just commencing their research. We hope that you will share the presentation with your students in order for them to appreciate the framework of the legal profession, and understand the basic steps to take if they are interested in pursuing this career path. The following notes are intended to provide extra information for those giving presentations, rather than material to be disseminated to students.

It may be useful to establish what your students currently understand about the legal profession.

- Ask them what they think lawyers do?
- Does anyone understand the difference between solicitors and barristers?
- And, of course, it may be useful to know many students want to become a lawyer.

You may be faced with job descriptions straight out of Harvey Specter's life in *Suits*, or stories of the wig and gown variety from *Silk*. *The Beginner's Guide* should enlighten students on the realities of working as a lawyer in the UK and how they can begin to research the profession.

To zoom in on a particular frame, click on the text. To return to the normal view, double click on the image.



One of the first lessons for students to realise is that the term “lawyer” applies to the different branches of the profession: including both solicitors and barristers. It is important for students to understand the different roles and their context – for example, you don’t want to tell law firm representatives how much you would like to become a barrister at their firm.



The different routes into law

The frame ‘What lawyers do?’ explains the basic difference between barristers and solicitors. In addition, as ‘The changing legal profession’ explains, the route of becoming a chartered legal executive is now a common choice for many. In the *Beginner’s Guide to a Career in Law* publication, we list some of important facts pertaining to each branch; considering these will be helpful for students to decide which strand would suit them most.

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/WhatLawyersDo>

In considering the best route, students should think about the following:

- Would you happily be self-employed? Or do you want to have regular monthly salary payments?
- Does diversity matter to you?
- Do you prefer working by yourself, studying and reading for long periods of time? Do you prefer to work collaboratively?
- Where would you like to work? The work environment of a large City firm varies greatly from that at a set of chambers.



Branches of the legal profession

It is important to emphasise that a certain set of attributes will not automatically lend themselves to one branch of the profession or another. Barristers are often involved in working in teams and solicitors/legal executives may spend a long time on their own drafting documents. However, it is important to begin thinking at an early stage, which direction you might take.

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/BranchesOfTheLegalProfession>



A changing legal profession

One of the key changes you should highlight to students is the introduction of legal apprenticeships, as they provide a new route into the profession. Generally, this route allows students to join a law firm straight after GCSEs or A levels to work in a role similar to that of a paralegal. Although still at a relatively early stage of development, apprenticeships may be a viable choice for those

who do not wish to go to university.

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/ChangingLegalProfession>

More detailed information on apprenticeships is available online on LawCareers.Net:

<http://www.lawcareers.net/MoreLaw/WhatIsALegalApprenticeship>



Legal career paths

Find out how many students are thinking about studying law at university?

Ask how many would like to become a lawyer, but would prefer to study a different subject?

Ask students which degree subjects law firms would prefer?

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/LegalCareerPaths>

It's important to highlight that you do not need to study law to become a lawyer. In fact roughly half of all solicitors are from non-law backgrounds. However, students should realise the consequences of taking the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) – both from a financial and practical aspect. The course is widely acknowledged to be an intense, demanding programme.



Key deadlines

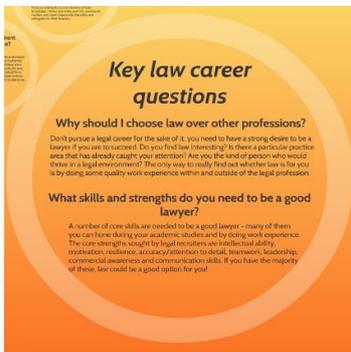
Full information with specific timetables for each year of study can be found on LawCareers.Net

For those wanting to be a solicitor:

<http://www.lawcareers.net/Solicitors/CareerPath>

For those wanting to be a barrister:

<http://www.lawcareers.net/Barristers/CareerPath>



Key questions

This highlights common queries asked by school students and those studying at university.

Questions that may be particularly relevant for your students include 'Why should I choose law', 'How important are grades at A level and uni?' and 'Can I take a year out after uni?'

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/KeyLawCareerQuestions>

You may wish to encourage students to make use of our email advice service: LC.N Oracle. As well as publishing answers to some of the more interesting problems (anonymously), we reply privately to each email sent. <http://www.lawcareers.net/Information/Oracle>

If there's one point to reiterate, it's the importance of achieving excellent grades as soon as possible. A solid academic foundation is essential when looking to securing a legal career and many recruiters will look at A levels, perhaps even GCSEs, when they receive hundreds of applications. Also, encourage schools-leavers before they reach university that first-year results do matter! In the rush of Freshers excitement, lectures and tutorials can feel like a drag on your fun. Students should know however that many first-year law courses contain the modules that are of the most importance to employers: contract, tort and equity and trust for example.



Reality check

Our Prezi finishes with some key messages to emphasise to students. Not that we want to be the voice of doom and gloom, but it is essential for students to realise the importance of early planning and preparation for this profession.

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/RealityCheck>

Finally, you should encourage students to start preparing early; the following checklist is an excellent place for them to start:

- Read the business pages of newspapers to improve commercial awareness
- Research the different paths into law – and see which might appeal the most
- Work hard at academic studies
- Think about the extracurricular activities that could make them into a well-rounded candidate (sport, volunteering, music)
- Encourage them to talk to careers advisers
- Stress the importance of getting practical work experience (at a law firm, barristers' chambers, legal advice centre)
- Talk to anyone with a connection to the legal profession, whether they are friends, parents, acquaintances.

<http://www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/PreUniChecklist>