

# Nontraditional Careers with a Law Degree

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You may have heard, “You can do anything with a law degree!” While this can be true, if your career goal is to become a CIA special agent, going to law school neither hurts nor necessarily helps this aspiration. In fact, there may be more direct ways to achieve your objective.

We strongly recommend that you go to law school because you want to study the law—not for the potential non-traditional career positioning you may have after graduating with a law degree.

Even if your eventual career goals are much different, most law school graduates will practice law before venturing into non-legal fields. This is because law firms are the primary recruiters at law schools. Thus, if you desire to be an editor for Random House Publishing, you may be disappointed to discover that Random House doesn’t usually recruit from law schools. The adage that “you can do anything with a law degree” comes from the experience that many lawyers have after practicing law. A lawyer may negotiate an author’s book deal with Random House. After making these connections and working with Random House on a variety of matters, that lawyer may then find the opportunity to work directly for the publishing company.

A law degree does give you specific skills that can be applied to many fields aside from the law. These skills include the following:

- In-depth research experience
- Legal and technical writing
- Analytical, multifaceted thinking

If you do have other career goals that you plan to pursue after law school, your own research is your best tool. Below are some careers that have been pursued by law school graduates. Remember, positions like these do not require a law degree nor does a law degree necessarily make you more qualified than another applicant. It is the experience after law school where you utilize your researching, writing, and analytical skills that provides you with the opportunity to differentiate yourself from someone without a Juris Doctorate.

Better Business Bureau manager  
Business consultant  
Campaign compliance organization  
Chamber of commerce  
Charitable associations  
Child advocacy  
CIA special agent  
Computer-aided litigation  
Counseling  
Court reporting services  
Environmental consultant  
Executive and legal recruiting  
FBI special agent  
Federal agencies

Hospital risk management  
Legal computer research instructor  
Legal journalist  
Legal publisher  
Legal web design firm  
Librarian (law or general)  
Litigation support research firm  
Lobbying and association management  
Media consultant  
Medical consultant  
Peace Corps  
Police department manager  
Political campaign manager

President’s staff  
Privacy officer in medical field  
Private investigator  
Professor  
Purchasing consultant  
School dean  
Senate/House committees  
Senator/Representative  
Social services  
State/local clerk’s office  
United Nations  
administrative/management  
US court administrator  
US Immigration and Naturalization Services