

Nontraditional Careers with a Law Degree

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 even 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	Hospital risk management	President’s staff
Business consultant	Legal computer research instructor	Privacy officer in medical field
Campaign compliance organization	Legal journalist	Private investigator
Chamber of commerce	Legal publisher	Professor
Charitable associations	Legal web design firm	Purchasing consultant
Child advocacy	Librarian (law or general)	School dean
CIA special agent	Litigation support research firm	Senate/House committees
Computer-aided litigation	Lobbying and association management	Senator/Representative
Counseling	Media consultant	Social services
Court reporting services	Medical consultant	State/local clerk’s office
Environmental consultant	Peace Corps	United Nations administrative/management
Executive and legal recruiting	Police department manager	US court administrator
FBI special agent	Political campaign manager	US Immigration and Naturalization Services
Federal agencies		