



UTM Career Centre
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Careers in Law

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5- 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the **UTM Career Centre**

Co-Sponsored by the **Political Science and Law Students Association
of Erindale (PLSA)**

Panel & Package Developed by: **Madiha Hashmi**

Panelists:

Mr. Colm Brannigan LLB, LLM Mediator
Mediate.ca

Mr. Abdul Basit Khan, LLB Labour and Employment Lawyer
Blakes' Labour and Employment Group

Ms. Manjit Pannu, LLB Family Lawyer
Klein Law Office

Ms. Amina Sherazee, LLB Immigration, Employment, Human Rights Lawyer
Downtown Legal Services



Overview of the Types of Careers in Law

Law is a profession that touches upon a number of different areas and therefore there are a number of different law streams. Some of these streams are listed below.

Law Streams

- **Corporate/Commercial Law** - involves organizing businesses, mostly contracts, liability, or intellectual property.
- **Tax Law** - generally involves assisting businesses with their taxes and advising clients and individuals about tax loopholes.
- **Intellectual Property Law** - is the law of copyrights, trademarks, and patents
- **Family Law** - involves arranging for people's day to day family issues, such as adoption, divorce, and wills.
- **Criminal Law** – used in the cases where people commit crimes
- **Constitutional Law** - involves matters pertaining to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms such as ensuring individual rights under the Charter and the division of powers between the federal government and the provincial governments.
- **Civil Litigates** - deal mostly with claims involving wrongdoing: tort law, and contracts.
- **International Law** – involves working with multinational corporations and dealing with international issues such as human rights.
- **General Practitioners** – perform a variety of tasks for individual, smaller clients such as drawing up real estate deals, contracts, as well as family law concerns.
- **Labour/Employment Law** - From a management perspective, labour lawyers advise their clients (employers) on employment law such as working conditions, wrongful dismissal etc. From a labour perspective, labour lawyers work with individuals, or unions advising members how to pursue various claims (such as pursuing workers compensation, human rights or labour code violations, or wrongful dismissal suits).
- **Environmental law** – Work towards public, corporate and government interests regarding the environment

In addition to the many different types of law, there are also many nontraditional legal careers for which a law degree can be useful. This can include working for a non-profit organization or a non-governmental organization, an advocacy group, a community legal clinic or work in the government in policy. In addition, you can go on to do your masters degree or PHD degree in law and teach, or do law-related things like becoming a professor, or a career counselor at a law school. Lawyers targeting politics typically practice for a number of years prior to entering the political realm. Many universities also offer joint law programs. For instance, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law provides students with the option to combine their law degree with other subject areas e.g. Social Work

Source: Campusaccess.com

http://www.campusaccess.com/campus_web/educ/e4grad_lacar.htm



Applying to Law School/ Attending Law School

What University Background is Required

Gaining admission into law school is competitive. To be considered for law school, candidates must have at least 2-3 years of undergraduate study. The requirements vary for each law school, however the basic requirements usually include a combination of a candidate's GPA (minimum of B+/A average) and LSAT score (minimum of 70-85). Many law schools have regular, mature and aboriginal categories for admission as well. Each applicant is considered and compared with others in the same category. In addition, most law schools also consider their candidates' extracurricular activities and past work experiences.

What is the LSAT?

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day multiple choice standardized test issued by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). The test is for admission consideration into law schools. It is designed to test reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, logical reasoning and writing (by means of a writing sample). There is also one experimental section that is not graded.

How to register for the LSAT:

Applicants can register by phone (215) 968-1001,
by web by visiting the LSAC website: www.lsac.org

Check the LSAC website for test dates, locations and deadlines.

Tip: Check each law school's requirement as to the date by which you must have written your LSAT. This may encourage you to write at an earlier setting.

How to apply to Ontario Universities:

The admission process is handled centrally by the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS) <http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas>. They are a division of the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAS).

TIP: It is a good idea to order an application from OLSAS at least one year prior to applying to Law School. This will give you an idea of what is required and will help you start the process as early as possible.

TIP: it is recommended that applicants allow from between 5-25 hours of preparation time in advance of submitting their application.

Once Accepted into Law School:

- Complete the three years of study towards a Bachelor of Law (LL.B) or Juris Doctor (J.D.)*
* Beginning with the Class of 2004, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law will be only be offering the J.D. designation (increasingly, the international standard for a second entry law program) in place of the LL.B degree. According to Canada's provincial law societies, the J.D. designation is equivalent to the LL.B. for admission to the bar.

Practicing Law in Ontario:

As required by the Bar Admissions Course, to practice law in Ontario, law students must successfully complete:

- One year of **Articling** – supervised work with a law firm
- **Teaching portion** which includes a one-month practice skills program prior to articling and a three-month classroom program with written exams after articling.

Ontario Law Schools:

University of Toronto www.law.utoronto.ca

University of Ottawa www.uottawa.ca/academic/commonlaw

Queen's University <http://qsilver.queensu.ca/law>

University of Western Ontario www.law.uwo.ca/mainSite

University of Windsor Ontario <http://cronus.uwindsor.ca/law>

York University - Osgood Hall Law School www.osgoode.yorku.ca

Tip: Detailed published information about admission requirements and application procedures should be obtained from the individual faculties of law. For a chart summarizing application to the various law schools, refer to <http://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas> and click on "Requirements Chart 2004".

This section is a modified version of the *Preparing for Law School* Tip Sheet. Copies of this Tip Sheet are available at the Career Centre.



Where to get more information

UTM CAREER CENTRE RESOURCES

There are many services and resources offered by the Career Centre which can help you in researching into the law profession and applying to law school. Check out the Career Centre website: www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers for more information. The following are some of the many services and resources that you can take advantage of:

Professional Schools Fair

- Held on the first Wednesday of every October in the Student Centre
- Speak with representatives from Faculty of Law Programs in Ontario
- A list of participants are usually listed on the Career Centre website in September

Extern Program

- Career exploration program where you can meet with people working in the law profession
- Placements range from one to five days during the Study Week in February or after the exam period in May
- Previous participants have been placed with Family, Criminal, Corporate, Federal Prosecution, Intellectual Property and Legal Research Lawyers

Electronic Resources

- Career Centre Website:
 - o “Further Education” section provides information about the Law School Application process and Programs
 - o “Career Info” section provides links to research into the law profession
 - o “Finding Work” section provides links to information on Internships, Employer Directories, Employment Services, etc. that can help with Job Search strategies
- Career Cruising Website
 - o Useful resource to look into Job Descriptions, Working Conditions, Salary Information, Interviews, Associations, etc. for the law profession

Print Resources

- Career Profile Binders
 - o Sectioned off binders that contain Career Info, Profession Associations, Education, Articles and Sample Posting print outs. The NOC code for Law is SOC411
- Graduate and Professional School Books
 - o LSAT, Professional School Program Booklets
 - o Books on how to write a personal statement

Alumni Mentorship Program

- Opportunity for 3rd and 4th year students to get paired up with and learn from the experiences of alumni currently practicing law
- Mentors include individuals practicing commercial law, family law, personal injury and litigation, etc.
- Applications are due every year in September

Career Counselors

- If you are unsure about your career direction or want help with your law school plans, you may find it helpful to make an appointment with one of our career counsellors
- Drop by or call the Career Centre at 905-828-5451 to make an appointment

Employment Services

- Take a look at listings of Summer, Part-Time/Temporary, Volunteer, GSES (Graduating Student Employment Service) and RGES (Recent Graduate Employment Service) postings
- Register with the Career Centre online at www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers to view postings

Workshops and Critiques

- Resume and Cover Letter
- Electronic Resumes
- Effective Interviews
- Summer Job Search
- Graduating Work Search
- Individual Resume Critiques
- Individual Mock Interviews (after attending Interview Workshop)
- Now that I'm Graduating ... What's Next?

Other Resources

The Canadian Bar Association
50 O'Connor Street, Suite 902
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2
(613) 237-2925 or toll free (800) 267-8860
<http://www.cba.org>

Law School Admission Council
<http://www.lsac.org>

Federation of Law Societies of Canada /
Fédération des ordres professionnels de juristes du Canada
Suite 480,445 boulevard Saint-Laurent
Montréal, Québec H2Y 2Y7
Phone: (514) 875-6350
Fax: (514) 875-6115
<http://www.flsc.ca>

Canadian Law Schools
<http://www.canadalawschools.org>

LawNow, an online Canadian Law Resource
<http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/lawnow>

Canadian Legal Resources, assembled by a lawyer named Alan Gahtan.
<http://www.gahtan.com/cdnlaw>

Job Futures:
Judges, Lawyers and Quebec Notaries
<http://jobfutures.ca/noc/411.shtml>



Building Your Experience During University

In order to gain an edge in the law profession, it is essential for one to gain experience through work, community volunteering and extra-curricular activities. The following are some ways:

School Clubs/Societies

A great way to gain exposure to applying to law school and the law profession is to take part in the activities organized by groups on campus. A club on campus which focuses on this is the Pre-Law Society/Political Science Association. For more information about this club, check out their website at <http://utmplsa.waywardhearts.com/>. This group organizing speaker sessions, mock LSAT sessions, discussion groups, etcetera for students at the UTM campus.

Getting involved with various groups on campus will allow you to build upon essential skills needed for the law profession such as public speaking, debating skills, etc.

Part-Time/Full-Time Work

Part-time/Full-time work in different settings has the potential to allow one to gain first hand experience into the day-to-day life of a lawyer and gain necessary skills. The Career Centre has many job postings related to the law profession. You can also take a look at some de-listed positions as well to get an idea of the kinds of potential work available.

Sample Part-Time Opportunity

Job title: Legal Assistant
Organization: Heydary Hamilton LPP
name:
Position: A mid-town law firm seeking full-time or part-time legal assistant to work for a
description: small size law firm. Experience not necessary but attention to detail a must.
Source: Career Centre Online Work Opportunities

Internships

Internships will allow you to gain first-hand experience of the law profession. Visit to the Career Centre website to search various internship opportunities.

Sample Internship Opportunity

Internship name: International Human Rights Law Youth Internships
Organization name: Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights (CLAHR) & Canadian Bar Association (CAB)
Company Web Address: www.claihr.org/youth_contact.htm

Internship description: The Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights (CLAHR) in co-ordination with the Canadian Bar Association (CAB) is offering internships abroad to recent law school graduates. This internship program arranges for law students to be placed with human rights law groups in various developing countries, such as Bolivia and Guyana. In cooperation with law faculties across Canada, the internship provides an opportunity for young Canadian law students to participate "directly in the day-to-day work of human rights groups in developing countries". As part of the intership, interns will research various human rights issues (e.g., violence against women, labour law, refugee rights) and prepare legal analyses.

Source: *Career Centre Online Internship Directory*

Employer Directories

Taking advantage of employer directories will help you in networking with individuals who are already practicing law. Networking is an essential skill needed for the law profession. The following are some directories that you can take advantage of:

Canadian Law List (Canada Law Book)

<http://www.canadianlawlist.com/>

Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory

<http://www.lexpert.ca/home.php?SID=4ae082639883ac79f96dfa4f22427f28>

CLE list of Lawyers

http://www.cle.bc.ca/links/pages/Bench_and_Bar/Lawyers/

Martindale-Hubbell Canada

<http://www.canada.martindale.com/xp/Martindale/home.xml>



Profiles of Some UTM Alumni

| Alumni | Profile |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Abdul Basit Khan</p> <p>Area(s) of Practice: Labour and Employment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is an associate in Blakes' Labour and Employment Group practising in all areas of management side labour and employment law, including labour relations matters, employment standards disputes, human rights complaints and wrongful dismissal litigation. - Has advised clients on labour and employment matters in several major corporate transactions. - Is a regular contributor to Butterworths' <i>Employment and Labour Law Reporter</i>. <p>Education B.A., University of Toronto - 1990 M.A., McGill University - 1996 LL.B., McGill University - 1997 B.C.L., McGill University - 1997</p> |
| <p>Colm Brannigan</p> <p>Area(s) of Practice: Principal and Mediator</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is a sole practitioner in alternative dispute resolution for Mediate.ca - Focuses on mediation (facilitated negotiation) in family law, commercial and technology disputes - Before practicing mediation, practiced law - Has advised clients on labour and employment matters in several major corporate transactions <p>Education B.A., University of Toronto - 1977 M.A., McMaster- 1978 L.L.B., Queens – 1981 L.L.M. (A.D.R.) – Osgoode Hall Law School 2003</p> |
| <p>Karen Kwan Anderson</p> <p>Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury (Motor vehicle accident benefits, tort claims, etc.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is an advocate and litigator working for Pace Law Firm - Works with claims of injured persons against insurance companies - Had dedicated a portion of her practice towards helping individuals who cannot afford legal representation - Volunteer for the UTM Alumni Mentorship Program <p>Education B.A., University of Toronto - 1994 L.L.B., Windsor – 1999</p> |
| <p>Ed Upenieks</p> <p>Area(s) of Practice: Trial Lawyer</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Is trial lawyer working for Lawrence, Lawrence, Stevenson, LLP - As a trial lawyer, handles civil cases, most of which are commercial disputes (companies suing each other for money) - Volunteer for the UTM Alumni Mentorship Program |

| | |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Education B.Sc., University of Toronto - 1978 L.L.B., Osgoode Hall – 1981</p> |
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Trends in Law

Employment Prospect

Over the next five years: Average

Employment for this occupation is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2007. While job growth will create new positions, the majority of job openings will stem from replacement needs as workers retire. Demand for lawyers is linked to population growth and the volume of business activity. The high cost of legal services, however, may lead to increased use of dispute-resolution systems in which lawyers' services are not mandatory. Also, electronic filings and the growth of computerized legal databases may increase the use of paralegal technicians instead of lawyers.

Some lawyers are particularly affected by business cycles in the economy. Demand for legal services involving real estate transactions, mergers and acquisitions tend to decline during a recession, while those involving bankruptcy activities increases. Lawyers require good interpersonal skills and knowledge about the community where they practice.

Characteristics of Occupation

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Estimated Employment in 2002 | 30400 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|

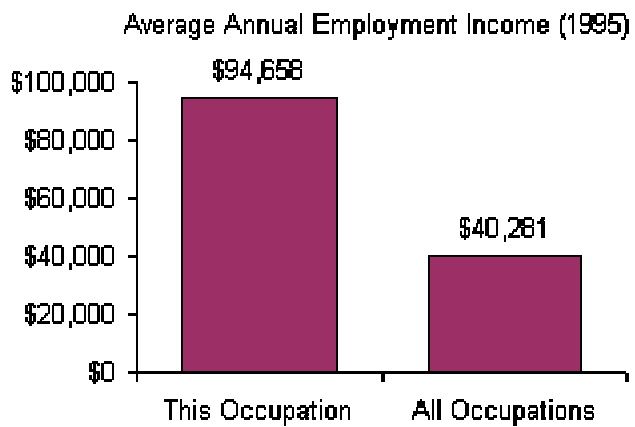
| General Characteristics | (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Male | 70 |
| Female | 30 |
| Full-Time | 95 |
| Part-Time | 5 |
| Self-Employed | 50 |
| Employees | 50 |
| Working away from home | 94 |
| Working at home | 5 |
| No fixed workplace address | 1 |

| Main Industries of Employment | (%) |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Business service | 83 |
| Government service | 11 |

| Employment by Region | (%) This Occupation | (%) All Occupations |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ottawa | 14 | 10 |
| Kingston-Pembroke | 2 | 4 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|
| Muskoka-Kawarthas | 1 | 3 |
| Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie | 5 | 9 |
| Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula | 6 | 11 |
| Toronto | 61 | 42 |
| London | 3 | 5 |
| Windsor-Sarnia | 3 | 5 |
| Stratford-Bruce Peninsula | 1 | 3 |
| Northeast | 2 | 5 |
| Northwest | 1 | 2 |

Income and Wages



Source: Ontario Job Futures

(<http://www1.on.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ojf/ojf.jsp?lang=e§ion=Profile&noc=4112>)