



## Part 1: Work - Lawyer

### What work do you do?

I'm currently unemployed- I don't have a job anymore.

### What work did you do?

Well, before I **was laid off**, I used to be a lawyer for a large New York law firm.

### Did you do this job for a long time?

I was with the same firm for a year and a half. Unfortunately, I was **furloughed** alongside many of the other junior associates as a result of the **cutbacks** made during the outbreak of COVID. To be honest, I'm quite enjoying the time off at the moment- working as a lawyer was incredibly **demanding** and stressful. However, I know it's important to get back to work soon in order to stay competitive in the **job market**. A **gap** in your resume doesn't look great for a lawyer.

### What did you do in your job?

I **specialised** in tax law, so my day to day work mainly included conducting research on relevant laws and regulations, and drafting legal briefs for corporate clients.

### Can you describe a typical working day- when you were working?

Well, usually I had to get to the office by eight at the latest. You see, having a large number of billable hours is extremely important for the **performance review** of a junior associate. So, I'd start the day by checking my inbox to see whether there were any urgent requests coming from the partners. I would also check my calendar to see what my meeting schedule looked like for that day. Apart from client meetings and a few internal briefing sessions, I'd spend most of my day in front of the computer. Most of the time, I'd even eat lunch at my desk just to save time. I'd work through the afternoon and leave the office around eight or nine PM. However, I'd always take my laptop home and continue to work sometimes until midnight. Now that I look back on it, I was **under a lot of pressure**, and I've no idea how I kept up with this kind of schedule.

### Are you happy you decided to do this kind of work?

You know, I spent my whole life **working towards becoming a lawyer**: studying hard in school, making sure I did **extra-curricular activities** to increase my chances of getting accepted to a good uni. However, now that I've actually become a lawyer, **I've got my doubts**. Sometimes I feel as though I've been **wasting my life** working behind a desk while my friends have been travelling, forming relationships and - well- living their life. It's tricky, though, as I've really invested in this career, and I don't know what else I would do.

## Useful vocabulary

### (to be) Laid off

To be fired from your job.

*"Well, before I **was laid off**, I used to be a lawyer for a large New York law firm."*



### Furlough

Leave of absence – this happened to a lot of people during the outbreak of COVID.

*“Unfortunately, I was **furloughed** alongside many of the other junior associates as a result of the cutbacks made during the outbreak of COVID.”*

### Cutbacks

The act of reducing something, especially expenditure.

*“Unfortunately, I was furloughed alongside many of the other junior associates as a result of the **cutbacks** made during the outbreak of COVID.”*

### Demanding job

A job which requires a lot of effort.

*“To be honest, I’m quite enjoying the time off at the moment- working as a lawyer was incredibly **demanding** and stressful.”*

### Job market

A concept wherein employers look for employees.

*“However, I know it’s important to get back to work soon in order to stay competitive in the **job market**.”*

### Gap

Space or hole in something.

*“A **gap** in your resume doesn’t look great for a lawyer.”*

### To specialise (in something)

Concentrate and become an expert in a particular field.

*“I **specialised** in tax law, so my day to day work mainly included conducting research on relevant laws and regulations, and drafting legal briefs for corporate clients.”*

### Performance review

When you and your manager sit down to discuss your success at work.

*“Well, usually I had to get to the office by eight at the latest. You see, having a large number of billable hours is extremely important for the **performance review** of a junior associate.”*

### Under pressure

In a state of stress and anxiety because of the amount of work to do.

*“Now that I look back on it, I was **under a lot of pressure**, and I’ve no idea how I kept up with this kind of schedule.”*

### Work towards (something)

To try to achieve a goal.

*“You know, I spent my whole life **working towards becoming a lawyer**...”*

### Extra-curricular activities

Extra activities beyond the usual subjects at school.

*“I did **extra-curricular activities** to increase my chances of getting accepted to a good uni.”*

**(to have) Doubts**

To have uncertainties.

*"However, now that I've actually become a lawyer, I've got my doubts."*

**Wasting my life**

Not doing useful or meaningful things in your life.

*"Sometimes I feel as though I've been **wasting my life** working behind a desk."*

**Write your answer**

**Do you work or study?**

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**What do you do in your work?**

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**Can you describe a typical working day?**

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**Are you happy you decided to do this kind of work?**

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