

BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL: INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

If you are considering a career that involves “beyond the traditional” use of a law degree, you need to be prepared to discuss why you are looking outside the law and the value your law training may bring to the new career. As you research alternative careers, we hope you are networking, making contacts and learning as much as you can about careers that seem interesting to you. We’ve included some “informational interview” questions you may find useful whether you are talking with a law-trained individual who took a different path to the job.

- ✚ What do you do?
- ✚ What types of issues and projects do you work on?
- ✚ What skills are important to this job?
- ✚ What skills do you use from your legal education?
- ✚ Do you enjoy your job?

- ✚ What is challenging about the work?
- ✚ What intellectual challenge does your job provide?
- ✚ What frustrations do you encounter in your work?
- ✚ What keeps the job fresh for you?
- ✚ What opportunities for advancement exist?
- ✚ Are there continuing education opportunities?

- ✚ Did you enter law school looking for alternatives?
- ✚ Did you take specific courses in school to prepare for this career?
- ✚ Is there training that others in this field typically have undergone?
- ✚ Was it hard for you to leave the law?
- ✚ Did you practice law? Would you recommend practicing first?
- ✚ Have you maintained your ties to the legal community? If so, how?

- ✚ What was your path to this job?
- ✚ Did interviewers question why you were interested in this job?
- ✚ Did you feel there was resistance to hiring you because of your legal training? If so, what did you do to counter that?
- ✚ Did you market your legal skills for the job? If so, how?
- ✚ What advice can you give about work experience, coursework, additional training, extracurricular activities, etc.?

- ✚ What pay range can one expect in this field?
- ✚ What hours are generally expected in this field?
- ✚ What about other aspects of the job, such as administrative support, perks, travel requirements, etc.?
- ✚ What kind of mobility between employers exists in this field?

- ✚ What advice do you have to offer someone like me who is interested in this work?

- ✚ What kind of person would be good at this job?
- ✚ What is the best way to get more information about this field?
- ✚ What is the best way to meet people and create a network in this field?

- ✚ **You've been so helpful – can you think of another person who might be willing to talk with me and who might be just as generous and helpful?**