

LAW

What do Lawyers do?

"No brilliance is required in law, just common sense and relatively clean fingernails."

John Mortimer

At the most basic level, lawyers apply common sense to everyday and extraordinary situations alike. If you're smart, think well on your feet, and love proving your point, the law is for you! Whether it's an intricate issue of constitutional law that will help preserve our fundamental rights, or a matter involving a simple traffic violation, a lawyer is called upon to resolve conflicts between people through the application of simple, everyday, common sense. Lawyers do this in various places, and through different means. The most familiar image, of course, is of lawyers screaming their lungs out in courts of law, wearing what looks to some of us like a tacky black bathrobe more than anything else! Litigating lawyers, as these lawyers are called, represent their clients in court. Litigating lawyers are called upon to argue various kinds of issues, ranging from property matters to criminal matters, constitutional issues to matters of family law. Black and white and vociferous, these lawyers argue the law to make sure that their clients' interests are represented in the best possible manner before those that will decide matters of a whole lot of importance to a whole lot of people. Other lawyers work with corporate houses, or in law firms that service corporate. Here, lawyers work mainly as facilitators, helping companies work smoothly, efficiently, and within the boundaries of the law. Lawyers help business work in the best possible manner, and are an extremely important part of any business transaction. Huge mergers, large stock market issues, and foreign investments are all very cool to talk about, but unless you have someone who understands how these things work, and can get them done in the best possible way, all you'll ever do is talk about them! Simply put, without lawyers, many corporate would find themselves struggling to understand how to actually put their ideas in place. Lawyers make it happen! Lawyers are sometimes also referred to as 'social engineers'. As you would know, our society, the way we live, and what we do every day, are all loosely bound by a mesh of rules that we call 'laws'. It is the job of lawyers to understand these rules, and to help people live their lives most meaningfully. Many lawyers help people in distress, advocating

areas that they are concerned about, such as child rights, women's issues, or the protection of refugees. If you really want to make a difference to people's lives, if you're actually concerned about something, and if you actually want to go out there and get something done right, this is the way to go for you. Aside from these, lawyers today work with people from every walk of life, interpreting laws, applying legal principles, and, above all, helping people tackle problems on every scale. Simply put, an ideal lawyer is a smart, intelligent person who applies common sense to common and uncommon problems alike, and helps people find their paths out of the wilderness.

Q. How can I become a Lawyer?

To become a Lawyer, you have to pass LL.B. degree from a recognized institution and then enroll with Bar Council of India.

Q. When can I opt to study LL.B.?

You can study 5 years LL.B. after (10+2) with Science/ Arts/ Commerce or 3 years LL.B. after Graduation.

Q. Is the legal profession financially and socially rewarding one?

Many individuals choose a career in the law for the wrong reasons. Before embarking on the demanding, time-intensive and expensive journey to becoming a lawyer, make certain that you are making a well-informed decision. Few common myths about life as a lawyer:

1. Becoming a lawyer is a guaranteed path to financial success- The truth is, the most highly compensated attorneys are employed in the world's mega-firms (firms with over 101 attorneys) and such firms represent only 1% of all law firms according to the American Bar Foundation's Lawyer Statistical Report. Furthermore, most mega-firms are extremely selective in their hiring process, choosing only the top students from the most prestigious law schools. The vast majority of lawyers work in lower-paying venues such as small firms, public interest and the government. According to NALP, 83 percent of all lawyers who work in private practice are employed in firms of fewer than 50 lawyers. The Indian scenario is worse than America. Large law firm lawyers report the least career satisfaction according to a recent survey by the American Bar Association. Billable hour quotas at many large firms require lawyers to work 60-80 hours per week. When you divide your hours worked into your monthly salary, that big-firm paycheck may

not look so generous. Attorneys employed in the public sector – which ranks among the lowest paying practice environments - reported the most career satisfaction.

2. As a lawyer, I can eradicate injustice and affect societal change- While you can make a positive impact as a lawyer, litigation has little to do with virtue triumphing over evil and everything to do with advocating your client’s position based upon the facts and applicable law. Judicial decisions are not so much about the pursuit of justice or right vs. wrong as about reaching a compromise between all the parties. Judicial policy also affects many case decisions. In the ABA survey cited above, two out of every three lawyers surveyed reported concern that the court system they serve is becoming too political. The same is applicable to India also.

3. I will make a great lawyer because I am good at arguing- Although litigation is an adversarial process, legal advocacy is not about “arguing” in the sense of engaging in a verbal battle with your opponent. Instead, it is about persuading your audience – judge, mediator or jury – through a logical, well-researched, well-reasoned discussion based on the facts and the law. Thus, to succeed as a litigator, a track record of “winning arguments” is not as important as top-notch oral advocacy and writing skills.

4. Litigators lead a thrilling, high-powered and glamorous life- Unlike the lawyers portrayed on television shows, the majority of the work of trial attorneys occurs outside the courtroom. In fact, less than one percent of all civil cases actually proceed to trial. The vast majority of cases are settled out of court or through alternative methods of dispute resolution. The daily life of the average trial lawyer is quite unglamorous. Trial lawyers spend most of their time in the discovery stage of litigation, reviewing pleadings, drafting and answering discovery requests and taking depositions. The work of a trial lawyer is also very research and writing-intensive as much of their work involves drafting briefs, memorandums of law and motions. Litigators spend many long hours engaged in tedious document review, gathering thousands of documents to be produced in litigation and reviewing each document to determine if it must be turned over to the other parties.

5. The work of a lawyer is intellectually challenging- While law practice can be intellectually rigorous, much of the lawyer’s work is mundane and repetitive. New lawyers, especially those in

large firms, are often charged with the mind-numbing tasks of document review, cite checking and routine research. Law firm lawyers must track their time in six to fifteen-minute increments throughout the day, a painstaking but necessary task.

Q. Where can I study Law?

Law courses are offered by almost all the Universities across India. Some of the important institutions are:

1. National Law School of India University

P.O. Bag 7201,
Nagarbhavi
Bangalore - 560 072
Phone: 080 - 23213160, 23160532/0533/0535
Fax: 080 - 23160534
<http://www.nls.ac.in/>
Email: registrar@nls.ac.in

2. The West Bengal National University Of Juridical Sciences

NUJS Bhavan
12, LB-Block, Sector-III
Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 098
Phone: 033 - 2335 7379 / 0765 / 0500 / 053
Fax: 033 - 2335 7422
<http://www.nujs.edu/>
Email: nujs@cal3.vsnl.net.in

3. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

3-4-761, Barkatpura,
Hyderabad - 500 027
Andhra Pradesh
Phone: 08418 - 2756 7955
Fax: 08418 - 2756 7310
<http://www.nalsar.ac.in>
Email: admissions@nalsarlawuniv.org

4. National Law Institute University, Bhopal

Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal (M.P)
Pin- 462044,
Phone- 0755-2696717
Tele Fax-0755-2696965,
Email nliu@sancharnet.in
<http://www.nliu.com/>

5. National Law University, Jodhpur

NH-65, Nagour Road, Mandore,

Jodhpur - 342304

Rajasthan

Phone: 0291 - 2577530, 5121594

Fax: 0291-257 7540

<http://www.nlujodhpur.ac.in/>

Email: nlu-jod@raj.nic.in

6. Government Law College, Mumbai

'A' Road,

Opposite Churchgate Station,

Mumbai - 400 020,

Maharashtra,

Phone: 022 - 2204 1707

Fax: 022 - 2285 1315

<http://www.glcmbai.com>

Email: glcstudentscouncil@gmail.com

7. Faculty of Law (University of Delhi)

Chattra Marg,

University Enclave,

University of Delhi,

Delhi - 110007

Phone: 011 - 2766 7483, 2766 7725 -Ext. 1511

Phone (Dean) : 011 - 2766 7483

<http://www.du.ac.in>

Email: dean_law@du.ac.in, lawfaculty@vsnl.net

8. ILS Pune

Law College Road,

Pune 411 004

Phone: 020 - 2565 6775, 2567 8678

Fax: 020 - 2565 8665

<http://www.ilslaw.edu/>

Email: ilslaw@vsnl.com

9. Amity Law School

F-1 Block, Sector 125

Amity University Campus

NOIDA - 201303

Tel: 0120-4392681-82-83

Fax: 0120-4392690

E-mail: director@als.amity.edu

Web: www.amity.edu/als

10. Hidayatullah National Law University , Raipur

HNLU Bhawan,

Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.),

Chhattisgarh - 492001

Phone: 0771 - 408 0114, 408 0117

Fax: 0771 - 408 0118

<http://www.hnlu.ac.in/>

Email: registrar@hnlu.ac.in

11. University Law College, Bangalore

No. 1, Palace Road,

Bangalore University,

Bangalore – 560 009

Phone: 080 - 2226 2137

12 Symbiosis Law College

Senapati Bapat Road,

Pune - 41100

Phone: 020 -2565 5114, 2565 1495

Fax: 020 - 2565 1711

<http://www.symlaw.ac.in/>

Email: info@symlaw.ac.in

13. Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University,

Aligarh Muslim University,

Aligarh – 202 002

Uttar Pradesh

Phone: 0571 - 270 2457

<http://www.amu.ac.in/dept/law.htm>

14. Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University,

Banaras Hindu University,

Varanasi – 221 005

Uttar Pradesh

Phone (Dean): 0542 - 230 7630, 236 9038

Phone (Office): 0542 - 230 7631

<http://www.bhu.ac.in/law.htm>

15. Balaji Law College, Pune

Building No. C-2, Bramha Estate,

S.No. 1/1 – A, Kondhwa Khurd,
Pune - 411 048
Phone: 020 2683 7545 / 2683 7548
<http://www.balajilaw.com/>
Email: info@balajilaw.com

16. ICFAI Law School

The ICFAI University
Plot No.1, Nagarjuna Hills,
Punjagutta
Hyderabad – 500 082
Phone: 040 - 2343 0406
<http://www.icfai.org/ils/>
Email: ils@icfai.org

17. Kishinchand Chellaram Law College (K.C. Law College), Mumbai

Churchgate,
Mumbai - 400 020
Phone: 022 - 2285 5726
Fax: 022 - 2202 9092

18. The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University

"Poompozhi" 5, Greenways Road,
Chennai - 600 028
Phone: 044 - 494 1212
<http://www.imsc.res.in/~tandalau>
Email: tandralu@giasmd01.vsnl.net.in

19. Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar

Old NIFT Building,
E-4 GIDC, Electronics Estate,
Gandhinagar - 382 028,
Gujarat
Phone: 079 - 232 43296, 232 43308,
Fax: 232 43317
<http://www.gnlul.ac.in/>

20. Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies,

Vijaya College Campus,
R.V. Road Basavanagaudi,
Bangalore - 560 004
Phone: 080 - 2656 1072

21. Christ University

School of Law,
Hosur Road , Bangalore 560029
Tel: 080 4012 9112/ 9100
Fax: 080 4012 9000
E-mail: admission@christuniversity.in
Website: www.christuniversity.in

22. National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi

Kaloor, Kochi - 682 017, Kerala
Tel : 0484 - 2337363, Fax : 0484 2337857.
E - mail : vc@nuals.ac.in
registrar@nuals.ac.in

23. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab

Mohindra Kothi, The Mall Road, Patiala - 147 001
Tel: 0175-2304188
Fax: 0175-2304189
Email: info@rgnulpatiala.org
www.rgnulpatiala.org

24. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University

LDA Kanpur Road Scheme,
Lucknow - 226 012
Phone: 0522 - 2422841, 2422855
www.nlulucknow.up.nic.in

25. Chanakya National Law University

C/o A.N Sinha Institute Campus
Near Gandhi Maidan
Patna - 800001
Telefax : 0612-2205920, 2200789, 6450242
Email : chanakyalawuniv@gmail.com
www.cnlu.ac.in

26. University of Petroleum & Energy Staff (UPES)

Campus: Energy Acres,
PO Bidholi Via Prem Nagar,
Dehradun - 248 007 (Uttarakhand)

Delhi Enrollment Office:
1st Floor, 55 Community Centre,
East of Kailash, New Delhi 110065

Phone: 011-47173400
Email ID: vgupta@upes.ac.in
Website: www.upes.ac.in
Toll Free No.: 1800-102-8737

27. KIIT LAW SCHOOL

Patia, Bhubaneswar - 751 024
Tel: +91 674 2725440; 2725440
Mob: + 91 9438303041; 9438304010
Email: query@kls.ac.in, klsat@kls.ac.in
<http://www.kls.ac.in>

28. Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune

Bharati Vidyapeeth University,
Erandawane, Pune - 411 038
Tel: 24335510, 24335509, 24331317

29. Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat

O. P. Jindal Global University and Jindal Global Law School
Sonipat Narela Road Near Jagdishpur Village
Sonipat, Haryana - 131001
NCR of Delhi, India
Tel: +91-130-3057800, 3057801, 3057802
Fax: +91-130-3057888
Email: info@jgu.edu.in; admissions@jgu.edu.in; registrar@jgu.edu.in
Website: www.jgu.edu.in

30. MATS Law School, Raipur

Aarang – Kharora Highway,
Aarang, Raipur - 493 441 (C.G.)
Email : info@matsuniversity.ac.in
Website : <http://www.matsuniversity.ac.in>

Q. Which are the best Law School/Colleges in India?

Law School	India Today Rank (2010)	Rank 2009
NLSIU Bangalore	1	1
Nalsar Hyderabad	2	2
NLIU Bhopal	3	4
Campus Law Centre DU	4	3

Symbiosis Pune	5	6
NUJS Kolkata	6	8
ILS Law College Pune	7	5
NLU Jodhpur	8	7
GNLU Gandhinagar	9	-
Amity Law School Delhi	10	9
HNLU Raipur	11	-
Faculty of Law Benaras, Varanasi	12	11
School of Legal Studies, Cochin University	13	14
NUALS Kochi	14	18
Army Institute of Law, Mohali	15	21
Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University	16	12
Faculty of Law Rohtak University	17	-
Tamilnadu Dr Ambedkar Law University	18	24
UCL Bangalore	19	15
Faculty of Law, Osmania University	20	20
Faculty of Law, University of Kolkata	21	13
Kerala Law Academy	22	-
Faculty of Law, University of Mumbai	23	-
Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamnia, New Delhi	24	16
Bangalore University for Legal Studies	25	22

Source: India Today 2010

Q. What is Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)?

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is an all India entrance examination conducted by 14 National Law Schools/Universities for admissions to their under-graduate and post graduate

degree programmes (LL.B & LL.M). The 14 participating NLUs in the order of their establishment are:

1. National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIU)
2. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad (NALSAR)
3. National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIU)
4. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS)
5. National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ)
6. Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur (HNLU)
7. Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (GNLU)
8. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow (RMLNLU)
9. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala (RGNUL)
10. Chanakya National Law University, Patna (CNLU)
11. National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (NUALS)
12. National Law University, Orissa (NLUO)
13. National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL)
14. National Law University & Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJA)

The first CLAT Committee (consisting of Vice-Chancellors of the participating institutes) decided that the test should be conducted by rotation in the order of their establishment. Accordingly CLAT-2008 (NLSIU, Bangalore), CLAT-2009 (NALSAR, Hyderabad), CLAT-2010 (NLIU, Bhopal) and CLAT 2011 (WBNUJS, Kolkata) were conducted.

Eligibility for Under-Graduate Programmes- To be eligible to appear in CLAT, a candidate should have obtained a Senior Secondary School/Intermediate (10+2) or its equivalent qualification from a recognized Board with not less than 50% marks in aggregate (45% in case of SC/ST/OBC and PWD). **Candidates who have appeared in the 10+2 examination and are awaiting results are also eligible to appear in the test.** Age of candidate should not be more than 20 years in case of General/OBC candidates (22 years in case of SC/ST and persons with Disability) as on 1st July during the year of admission. The candidate must have passed the qualifying examination at the time of his/her admission and be able to submit its proof. Eligibility for Post-Graduate Programmes- To be eligible for appearing in CLAT, a candidate should have obtained a LL.B/B.L. Degree or an equivalent degree from a recognised University with not less than 55% marks in aggregate (50% in case of SC/ST /OBC and persons with Disability).

Q. What is the pattern of CLAT Examination?

Pattern of the CLAT Paper for Under-Graduate Program:

Total Marks	200
Total number of multiple-choice questions of one mark each	200
Duration of examination	Two Hours
Subject areas with weightage:	
English including Comprehension	40 Marks
General Knowledge/ Current Affairs	50 Marks
Elementary Mathematics (Numerical Ability)	20 Marks
Legal Aptitude	50 Marks
Logical Reasoning	40 Marks

The different subject areas of the exam are explained as under:

1. **English including Comprehension-** The English section will test the candidate's proficiency in English based comprehension passages and grammar. In the comprehension section, candidates will be questioned on their understanding of the passage and its central theme, meanings of words used therein etc. The grammar section requires correction of incorrect grammatical sentences, filling of blanks in sentences with appropriate words, etc.
2. **General Knowledge/Current Affairs-**This section will only test students on their knowledge of current affairs (broadly defined as matters featuring in the mainstream media between March 2011 and March 2012)
3. **Mathematics-**This section will test candidates only on "elementary" mathematics i.e. maths that is taught up to the class X.
4. **Logical Reasoning-**The purpose of the logical reasoning section is to test the student's ability to identify patterns, logical links and rectify illogical arguments. It will include a

wide variety of logical reasoning questions such as syllogisms, logical sequences, analogies, etc. However, visual reasoning will not be tested.

5. **Legal Aptitude**-This section will test students only on “legal aptitude”. Questions will be framed with the help of legal propositions (described in the paper), and a set of facts to which the said proposition has to be applied. Some propositions may not be “true” in the real sense (e.g. the legal proposition might be that any person who speaks in a movie hall and disturbs others who are watching the movie will be banned from entering any movie theatre across India for one year). Candidates will have to assume the “truth” of these propositions and answer the questions accordingly. Candidates will not be tested on any prior knowledge of law or legal concepts. If a technical/legal term is used in the question, that term will be explained in the question itself. For example, if the word patent is used, the meaning of patent (“a legal monopoly granted by the government for certain kinds of inventions”) will also be explained.

Q. What is the pattern of CLAT for PG program?

Pattern of the CLAT Paper for Post-Graduate Program is as follows:

Total Marks	200
Duration of examination	Two Hours
Multiple-choice Questions (100 questions of 1 mark each)	Pertaining to subject areas, viz, Law of Contracts, Law of Torts, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and Legal Theory
Short-answer questions (100 Marks)	10 questions of 10 marks each

Q. What is AIBE?

The All India Bar Examination (AIBE), is intended to test an advocate’s ability to practice the profession of law in India. The AIBE will assess capabilities at a basic level, and is intended to set a minimum standard for admission to the practice of law; it addresses a candidate’s analytical abilities and basic knowledge of law.

The notification bringing the All India Bar Examination into force was passed by the Legal Education Committee and the members of the Bar Council of India. The All India Bar Examination (AIBE) , conducted on March 6, 2011 for the first time was intended to test an advocate's ability to practice the profession of law in India. The AIBE is intended to assess capabilities at a basic level, and is intended to set a minimum standard for admission to the practice of law; it addresses a candidate's analytical abilities and basic knowledge of law. All students graduating from academic year 2009-10 onwards need to clear the All India Bar Examination in order to practice law in India. Candidates may apply to appear for the All India Bar Examination only after enrolling as an advocate under Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961 and will have to submit suitable proof of such enrolment along with the application form for the All India Bar Examination.

Q. What are the job options for Law student/Law graduate?

Apart from becoming Lawyer/ Judicial Magistrate/ Judge the following jobs are also available for Law graduate:

- Legal Assistant
- File Clerk
- Court Messenger
- Copy Center Professional
- Mailroom Clerk
- Administrative Assistant

- Trial Consultant
- EDD Consultant
- Computer Forensics Professional
- Legal Software Consultant
- Legal Marketing Consultant
- Forensic Scientist
- Legal Videographer
- Legal Investigator
- Accident Re-constructionist
- Legal Management Consultant
- Document Management Specialist

- Legal Publisher
- Legal Writer
- Legal Editor
- Legal Web Manager
- Law Firm Administrator
- Contract Administrator
- Law Firm Marketer
- Practice Administrator
- Courtroom Deputy
- Court Administrator
- Court Interpreter
- Courtroom Technology Specialist
- Court Clerk
- Prothonotary
- Law Professor
- Law School Dean
- Law School Admissions Officer
- Legal Career Counselor
- Paralegal Instructor
- Legal Researcher
- Patent Attorney
- IP Docketing Specialist
- Patent Designer & Illustrator
- Patent Agent
- Patent Clerk
- Attorney General
- Public Prosecutor/District Attorney
- Legislator
- Legislative Aide
- Legislative Staffer
- Legal Analyst
- Lobbyist
- Compliance Specialist
- Conflicts Analyst

- Legal Recruiter

COPY RIGHT: DEVAJIT BHUYAN

devajitbhuyan@gmail.com

+919435010859