

LAWYER

'Lawyer' is an umbrella term that describes people who provide legal services. The term covers anyone working as a legal practitioner, including solicitors, barristers, conveyancers, arbitrators and chartered legal executives. There are various strands of law that a solicitor or barrister may choose to work in, including family law, divorce law, criminal law and personal injury law.

There are **three** main types of lawyers, including

SOLICITORS

NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY: £44,783 PER YEAR

Solicitors usually advise both businesses and individuals on matters regarding financial transactions, although their duties can vary. Financial transactions are one of the most common areas of work for a solicitor, as our economy is by-in-large an economic hub of financial and banking activity. A solicitor has a broad knowledge of technical aspects of the law, keeping up to date with any changes so that they can offer accurate advice.

Solicitors are important in helping a business succeed, drafting contracts, setting up new companies or legal entities and offering various legal advice on health and safety legislation, employee terminations, workplace injuries and more. Many solicitors are also advisors to individual clients, advising on situations from buying and selling property to writing wills. A solicitor offers private, individual and business legal advice, often working directly for a firm or as a contractor employed directly by a client.

BARRISTERS

NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY: £35,544 PER YEAR

Barristers usually specialise in litigation and courtroom advocacy, advising clients on how the law applies to their specific situations. They're usually what people envision when they think of a lawyer. Solicitors often contact barristers when they're seeking specialised legal advice on their client's behalf. Often, it can relate to criminal, family or commercial legal matters.

Their client lists are constantly changing as they tend to work on specific cases, supporting clients with their legal problems and then moving on to new cases. Their level of contact with their clients can vary depending on the complexity of the case and sometimes, barristers simply provide written advice and deal with legal matters without meeting or speaking with their clients at all. But they're more likely to spend time with their client to get to know them and prepare them for their court dates.

LEGAL EXECUTIVES

NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY: £50,527 PER YEAR

A legal executive, or a chartered legal executive, is a qualified lawyer who specialises in a single area of law. Despite the different routes to qualification and certification, a lot of what a legal executive does is similar to that of a solicitor. The difference is that a legal executive specialises in one area of the law, while a solicitor knows several areas. As a legal executive, you provide advice to individuals or businesses, preparing legal documents and handling important information. A legal executive often works alongside other legal executives as part of a team of solicitors.

QUALIFICATIONS

Becoming a solicitor will take several years, depending on the route you take. If you choose to study law full-time, it can take up to six years to become qualified, including a three-year undergraduate law degree, one-year LPC and two years of training at a law firm. If you started with a non-law undergraduate degree, another year is required to complete the GDL conversion course.

To qualify for entry into a university to pursue a bachelor's degree, you need to complete at **least 3 A level** courses in addition to 5 GCSE's with grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent. The higher your grades, the better your chances of being accepted at a university for a law degree. **Courses like English and Maths are recommended if you are interested in becoming a lawyer. Courses in history, science and maths involve reasoning, communication and analysis, giving you an edge in your university application.**