

# Legal Career Pathways

The legal profession today spans far beyond traditional courtroom roles. Below is a structured overview of major legal career categories along with their specific roles.



## Litigation & Courtroom Practice

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Advocate (Litigator)</b>	Represents clients in civil and criminal cases before courts.	Case preparation, drafting pleadings, oral arguments, evidence handling.	Independent practice, law firms, courts.	Advocacy, legal drafting, research, client management.
<b>Public Prosecutor</b>	Represents the State in criminal prosecutions ensuring justice is served.	Examine witnesses, present evidence, prepare charges, argue in court.	Government offices, courts.	Criminal law, trial advocacy, drafting, ethics.
<b>Defense Counsel</b>	Defends individuals accused of crimes ensuring their rights are protected.	Develop defence strategies, cross examination, filing petitions.	Private practice, legal aid, courts.	Litigation skills, empathy, negotiation, research.



# Judiciary & Government Service

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Judge / Magistrate</b>	Presides over cases, interprets laws, and delivers judgments.	Hear cases, review evidence, write judgments, manage proceedings.	District courts, High Courts, Supreme Court.	Judicial reasoning, impartiality, judgment writing, procedural law.
<b>Judicial Clerk</b>	Supports judges with legal research and drafting.	Research precedents, draft orders and briefs, prepare case summaries.	Courts, tribunals.	Research, drafting, analysis, attention to detail.
<b>Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officer</b>	Military lawyer handling courts-martial and service law matters.	Advising armed forces, prosecuting or defending courts-martial, drafting opinions.	Indian Army, Navy, Air Force legal wings.	Military law, international law, advocacy, discipline.
<b>Government Legal Officer</b>	Provides legal advice to ministries, departments, and agencies.	Draft contracts, vet policies, represent State in disputes.	Government departments, PSUs.	Policy analysis, legislative drafting, negotiation, advisory.
<b>PSU Legal Officer</b>	Manages legal issues for public sector companies.	Draft agreements, ensure compliance, litigation management.	Public Sector Undertakings.	Contract drafting, compliance, corporate law knowledge.



# Corporate, Business & Compliance

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Corporate Lawyer</b>	Advises companies on mergers, acquisitions, contracts, and governance.	Draft contracts, due diligence, advisory, negotiations.	Law firms, corporates, consultancies.	Corporate law, drafting, commercial awareness, negotiation.
<b>In-House Counsel</b>	Handles company's internal legal matters and compliance.	Review contracts, litigation management, regulatory compliance.	Companies, startups, MNCs.	Compliance, contract management, risk analysis, business acumen.
<b>Compliance Officer</b>	Ensures organisations comply with legal and regulatory frameworks.	Policy drafting, compliance audits, monitoring, reporting.	Corporates, banks, financial institutions.	Regulation knowledge, risk assessment, reporting.
<b>Banking &amp; Insurance Lawyer</b>	Advises on financial regulations and litigation.	Draft loan agreements, handle recovery cases, advise on compliance.	Banks, NBFCs, insurance companies.	Finance law, RBI norms, KYC/AML, drafting.
<b>Competition and Antitrust Lawyer</b>	Advises businesses on competition law compliance and disputes.	Handle CCI filings, represent in cartel cases, policy advisory.	Law firms, corporates, regulators.	Competition law, litigation, negotiation.



## Specialized Legal Fields

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Intellectual Property Lawyer</b>	Protects and enforces intellectual property rights.	File patents, trademarks, copyright, handle infringement litigation.	IP firms, corporate IP teams.	IP law, drafting, technical literacy, negotiation.
<b>Cybersecurity &amp; Privacy Lawyer</b>	Advises on IT, privacy, and cybersecurity laws.	Draft privacy policies, advise on breaches, ensure compliance.	Tech firms, law firms, regulators.	Data privacy, IT law, compliance, advisory.
<b>Environmental Lawyer</b>	Handles environmental compliance and disputes.	Litigate PILs, advise corporates on compliance, draft EIA reports.	Courts, NGOs, corporates.	Environmental law, advocacy, drafting, policy analysis.
<b>Sports Lawyer</b>	Handles contracts and disputes in the sports industry.	Negotiate sponsorships, draft agreements, represent athletes.	Sports federations, law firms.	Contract drafting, arbitration, negotiation.
<b>Entertainment Lawyer</b>	Advises media and entertainment clients.	Negotiate contracts, manage IP rights, handle disputes.	Studios, production houses, firms.	IP knowledge, contract drafting, negotiation.
<b>Immigration Lawyer</b>	Advises on visas, citizenship, and international mobility.	Prepare applications, handle appeals, represent clients.	Immigration consultancies, law firms, corporates.	Immigration law, drafting, advocacy, cultural sensitivity.



## Alternative Dispute Resolution

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Arbitration Counsel</b>	Represents clients in arbitration proceedings.	Draft arbitration agreements represent clients in hearings.	Arbitration centres, law firms, corporates.	Arbitration law, drafting, advocacy, negotiation.
<b>Mediator</b>	Facilitates settlements between disputing parties.	Conduct mediation sessions, draft settlements.	Courts, mediation centres, private practice.	Negotiation, problem-solving, impartiality.



## Academia & Research

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Law Professor</b>	Teaches law and engages in research and writing.	Deliver lectures, design curriculum, publish papers.	Law schools, universities.	Pedagogy, academic writing, subject expertise.
<b>Legal Editor</b>	Prepares and refines legal content for accuracy and readability.	Editing judgments, case briefs, and articles; fact-checking; curating updates.	Legal publishers, law journals, legal tech platforms, online databases.	Legal knowledge, precision editing, research skills, clarity in writing.
<b>Research Associate</b>	Conducts legal or policy research for institutions.	Data collection, analysis, report drafting.	Think tanks, universities, NGOs.	Research, drafting, analytical skills.





# Media, Communication & Content

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Legal Journalist</b>	Covers legal news and developments for media.	Report court cases, interview experts, write stories.	Newspapers, digital platforms, TV.	Writing, research, communication, analysis.
<b>Legal Content Creator</b>	Creates educational or informational content on law.	Write blogs, record videos, develop courses.	Law firms, ed-tech platforms, independent.	Writing, research, explanation skills.
<b>Media &amp; Entertainment Consultant</b>	Advises on compliance for film, TV, and digital media projects.	Review scripts, manage IP clearance, draft contracts.	Production houses, law firms.	IP law, negotiation, drafting.





# Legal Technology & Innovation

Role	Description	Core Work Type	Work Setting	Core Skill Set Required
<b>Legal Tech Consultant</b>	Advises legal teams on adoption of technology.	Process automation, implement AI tools, train staff.	Law firms, startups, corporates.	Tech literacy, legal knowledge, process design.
<b>Legal Operations Manager</b>	Manages business operations of legal departments.	Vendor management, budgeting, workflow design.	Corporate legal teams, large law firms.	Project management, communication, organisation.
<b>Legal Data Analyst</b>	Uses data insights to guide legal strategy.	Analyse case outcomes, build databases, generate reports.	Firms, corporates, tech platforms.	Data analysis, research, software knowledge.
<b>AI Ethics Advisor</b>	Advises on AI law and ethical frameworks.	Draft AI policies, advise compliance, monitor usage.	Corporates, policy bodies, regulators.	AI regulation, ethics, drafting, advisory.
<b>ESG Lawyer</b>	Advises companies on environmental, social, and governance obligations.	Draft ESG policies, ensure compliance, advise boards.	Corporates, consultancies, law firms.	Sustainability knowledge, compliance, drafting, advisory.
<b>Legal Designer</b>	Uses design thinking to make legal information and processes more accessible and user-centric.	Simplifying contracts, creating visual aids, developing user-friendly legal documents and workflows.	Legal design consultancies, law firms, legal tech platforms, corporate innovation teams.	Legal knowledge, design thinking, visual communication, problem-solving, creativity.
<b>Legal Marketing Professional</b>	Markets legal content and services to enhance visibility and brand presence of a firm or company.	Content strategy, social media marketing, event promotion, branding initiatives.	Law firms, corporate legal teams, legal tech companies, consultancies.	Legal awareness, marketing strategy, digital tools, communication, branding skills and outreach activities.