From the Lab to the Law: Pursuing a Regulatory or Legal Career After Graduate School

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What Kind of Careers are We Talking About?

- Attorney
- Patent Agent
- Paralegal
- Legal writer
- State or federal government
- Independent consultant
How Would I Apply My Scientific Training in These Jobs?

- **Patent Agent**
  - Researching, preparing and prosecuting patents

- **Attorney/Paralegal/Regulatory Specialist**
  - Food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices
  - Environmental investigation & remediation
  - Workplace safety
  - Personal injury
  - Healthcare
  - Criminal law
  - Etc.
Where Would I Find These Jobs?

Law Firms
- Small, medium, large & international

Corporations (Small Business & Start-Ups)
- Technology
- Manufacturing
- Medical (devices, testing, pharmaceutical)
- Etc.

Government
- USPTO
- EPA
- FDA
- NIOSH/OSHA
- DEA
- USDA
- FTC
- Etc.
Becoming an Attorney

- Does and undergraduate degree in science help or hurt?
  - The undergraduate major is no longer as important as it was previously.

- What is the process to apply for law school?
  - LSAT

- Applying to law school?
  - LSAT Score
  - Experience
  - Cost vs. Benefit
What Will Law School Require?

What you can expect from most programs:
- 3 to 4 years
- Core courses
- Do you have a “major” in law school?
- Things you can (and should) do
  - Law Review
  - Clerkships
  - Moot court
  - Student Law Office
  - Pro Bono

Bar Exam(s)
- State Bars
  - Not always transferrable
  - Background checks
  - Cost for study materials (Bar Review)
- Professionalism Exam
- Patent Agent Exam
Career Requirements

What you do you need to do after you graduate?

▪ Continuing Legal Education
  • State requirements
  • Ethics
  • State license fees

▪ Be a good lawyer
  • Professionalism

▪ Be a good citizen
  • Personal life can affect your career more than any other profession
The job market and finding that first job

- The job market for lawyers
- Clerkships/Internships
- Networking
- Schools typically have career services
Good Skills for a Successful Career

- Write, write, write!
- Public speaking
- Handle the stressful situations
- Etc.