

The legal system affects nearly every aspect of our society, from buying a home to crossing the street. **Lawyers** and **Judicial Workers** form the backbone of this vital system, linking the legal system and society in many ways. Lawyers act both as advocates and advisors in our society. As advocates, they represent one of the parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting evidence and arguing in court to support their client. As advisors, lawyers counsel their clients concerning their legal rights and obligations and suggest particular courses of action in business and personal matters. Whether acting as advocate or advisor, all attorneys research the intent of laws and judicial decisions and apply the law to the specific circumstances faced by their client. The more detailed aspects of a lawyer's job depend upon his or her field of specialization and position. To practice law in the courts of any state or other jurisdiction, a person must be licensed, or admitted to its bar, under rules established by the jurisdiction's highest court. All states require that applicants for admission to the bar pass a written bar examination.

**The Federal Government** maintains a high profile in many areas of law enforcement. The **U.S. Department of Justice** is the largest employer of sworn Federal officers. **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agents** are the Government's principal investigators. The FBI investigates organized crime, public corruption, financial crime, and fraud against the government, bribery, copyright infringement, civil rights violations, bank robbery, extortion, kidnapping, air piracy, terrorism, espionage, interstate criminal activity, drug trafficking, and other violations of Federal statutes. **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents** enforce laws and regulations relating to illegal drugs. **U.S. Marshals** and **Deputy Marshals** protect the Federal courts and ensure the effective operation of the judicial system. **U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Agents** and **Inspectors** facilitate the entry of legal visitors and immigrants to the United States and detain and deport those arriving illegally. **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Agents** regulate and investigate violations of Federal firearms and explosives laws, as well as Federal alcohol and tobacco tax regulations. **Customs Agents** investigate violations of narcotics smuggling, money laundering, child pornography, customs fraud, and enforcement of the Arms Export Control Act.

### Transfer Information:

- To qualify for the bar examination in most States, an applicant usually must obtain a college degree and graduate from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) or the proper state authorities. A Bachelor's degree is entry-level into many of the government agent professions and a Master's degree or higher may be required for some.

### Additional Information:

- American Bar Association: [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)
- Law School Admission Council: [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)
- Federal Government Jobs: [www.calltoserve.org](http://www.calltoserve.org)

