Career prospects for law graduates
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Like every aspiring graduate, a law student is also faced with the most daunting question, what is the career prospect of a law graduate? and what should I do to increase my chances of landing a good job or starting a practice career? The following article is a humble effort to answer the questions.

Law is and has always been a prestigious area of study. People well versed in law and involved in legal profession are held in high esteem in our society. Legal profession is one the most adventurous and exciting careers. The legal profession has a glorious history. It was favorite among our political leaders who had a profound impact on the nation. There remains the faith that when all else fails, one can still take recourse to the legal system. In our daily life in one way or other we may come across situations where legal advice is required. In such situation we need the advice of a legal professionals who analyse and interpret law properly.

Lawyers counsel clients about their legal rights and suggest course of action in a particular matter. They also advise clients and draw up legal documents, such as wills and contracts and conduct negotiations on legal matters, and may represent clients in court and tribunal proceedings.

Academic excellence is not the main thing behind the success in this profession. Professional competence acquired through experience and practice with efficient lawyers is the main yardstick of success.

There are various areas of specialisation in this field which one can choose from like corporation law, civil law, criminal law, international law, labour law, patent law, tax law and so on.

Career Options
A Law graduate has numerous career options to choose from. With the progress of economy and people becoming more aware of their rights, the prospect of legal profession is increasing very significantly. Over the couple of years law has become a very popular subject of study in various public and private universities. Getting entrance into law department of public universities has become fiercely competitive. Even private universities are struggling to meet the increased demand of the law course. Some critics maintain that this rush towards law degree is not usual and will far outweigh the actual demand for legal professionals and also it will deteriorate the standard of legal education. However, despite the critics negative view the law education in our country is in the booming stage and new opportunities for the legal professional are slowly opening up. I am discussing some popular and new career choices for law graduates as follows

Advocate
One who wishes to become an advocate and practice law as a profession in Bangladesh, should enroll with Bangladesh Bar council. An application for admission as an advocate shall be made in the prescribed form to Bar Council.

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He must pass the written examination and viva voce. After passing the examination he will be eligible to enlist and practice in any Local Bar in Bangladesh. Bar Council forms a self contained code of law for legal professionals practicing in Bangladesh. Lawyers can find employment in a variety of positions in the Government Service as well as other fields. Lawyer can also work as legal counsel and legal advisers for firms, organizations and families. They can work as trustees of various trusts, as teachers, law reporters, company secretary and so on. Opportunities exist in the defense services too. Additional qualification along with law degree offers scope for a wide range of employment opportunities.

Requirements for being a successful advocate

Every advocate enrolled under bar are not successful in their career. Ten points defines the distinction between the successful and the failure among lawyers-

1. Creativity
2. Perseverance
3. Excellent Communication Skills
4. Logical Thinking Skills
5. Always delivers value for money
6. Champions the interests of the client
7. Always Acts in accordance with their duty to the court
8. Is Reliable and Consistent
9. Has an excellent knowledge of the law
10. Accepts their own weaknesses and asks help from others.

A successful advocate is a proactive thinker, a smart person with moral character. He is always composed and better informed.

Barrister

Barristers are the elites among lawyers in our country. Because of our common law tradition we have inherited this profession from British India. Barristers usually represent clients in the higher courts. Only a few countries qualify Barristers and most dominantly the UK. A Barrister doesn’t have special privilege in our legal system but practically they dominate the whole lawyer community in the higher courts. This is because of the long tradition of Barristers being the supreme legal professionals and many of our famous political leaders are barristers. In order to be a barrister from UK you must hold a UK law degree or LL.B from a UK institute. Barristers are regulated by the Bar Standards Board, a division of the General Council of the Bar.

A barrister must be a member of one of the Inns of Court, which traditionally educated and regulated barristers. There are four Inns of Court: The Honourable Society of Gray’s Inn, The Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn, The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, and The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. All are situated in central London, near the Royal Courts of Justice. They perform scholastic and social roles. It is the Inns that actually “call” the student to the Bar at a ceremony similar to a graduation. Social functions include dining with other members and guests and hosting other events. Student barristers must take a Bar Vocational Course (BVC) (usually one year full-time) at one of the institutions authorised by the Bar Council to offer the BVC.
On successful completion of the BVC student barristers are "called" to the bar by their respective inns and are elevated to the degree of "Barrister". However, before they can practise independently they must first undertake twelve months of pupillage. The first six months of this period is spent shadowing more senior practitioners, after which pupil barristers may begin to undertake some court work of their own.

Government Services

Law graduates are selected and appointed to judiciary by Judicial Service Commission. In the judiciary, the posts are that of the judicial magistrates and assistant judges. Government also appoints public prosecutor, solicitors, attorney general, advocate general, notary and oath commissioners from experienced lawyers. The government is also actively considering the introduction of separate Government attorney services. This will open up new opportunities for young lawyers. There are also legal secretaries appointed in assemblies, law inspectors, legal officers in banks, judicial members of income tax, VAT and excise departments, government advocates and staff in the registrar of companies' office.

Magistrates and Judges

A candidate who qualifies in the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission examination is eligible for appointment as Judicial Magistrate or Assistant Judge. While magistrate presides over criminal courts, Assistant Judge delivers judgment on civil cases. Promotion may take a person higher up to district judge, District and Sessions Courts Judge and further (depending upon seniority and vacancy) to appointments in High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Bangladesh Civil Service

Certain cadres in Bangladesh Civil Service are open to all university graduates regardless of their area of study. A law graduate is very much suitable and equipped with enough knowledge and understanding for being an effective civil servant. Prospective civil servants are selected by the highly competitive BCS examination. In order to be successful a graduate must possess enough mathematics, general science and English skills apart from other subject-wise knowledge.

Government Lawyers

Govt. Pleaders represent the State in the civil courts and Public Prosecutor in sessions courts and lend advice to officers in districts in all legal matters when called for. At present Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors are appointed generally based upon experience and political orientation. This trend will hopefully change once the Government Attorney Service will be put in place.

Attorney General

Attorney general appointed by the president advises the government of Bangladesh on such legal matters as may be assigned to him by the president. He has the right of audience in all courts of Bangladesh and participate in the proceedings of Parliament without the right to vote.
Notary

A notary is a legal practitioner of at least ten years experience in the profession. He is appointed on application to government to draw, verify, authenticate, certify and attest the execution of any deed

Public Legal Advisers

Public sector undertakings and Government organizations also employ lawyers as advisers.

Other fields

Lawyers can also work as legal counsel and legal advisers for firms, organizations and families. They can work as trustees of various trusts, as teachers, law reporters, company secretary and so on. Opportunities exist in the defence services too. Additional qualification along with law degree offers scope for a wide range of employment opportunities.

Defence Service

They can work in the legal branches of defence departments such as the Bangladesh army, Navy and Air force. They are known as judge advocates. They conduct courts of enquiry and court martials of offending service personnel governed by the particular legislation acts.

Legal Advisors

They work in legal departments of firms or for private clients. Legal advisors counsel their clients as to their legal rights and obligations and suggest the appropriate course of action in business and personal matters. They also check deeds, issue writs, collect information for affidavits and draft legal documents.

In house Advocate

An advocate practises in the court of law. In house advocates work only for their employer - an individual or company. They don’t usually represent people other than their employer. They also maintain the legal documents and look after compliance issues of their company.

Teacher

Those with a good aptitude and taste for teaching, can go for LL.M and take up job in any University or Institute offering law courses to students. Teaching law is regarded to be a highly honored profession. A prospective teacher must be dynamic and charismatic. He should captivate his audience with his lecture and must put a profound impact on the students by his knowledge and personality. A teacher of law produces future leaders.

Company Secretary

A law graduate and/or a member of the Institute of Company Secretaries can be employed as a company secretary in a firm.

Labour and compliance officer

It is a statutory obligation that The manufacturing companies where large number worker are employed must have a labour and welfare officer.
The main duty of this officer is to ensure and maintain labour law compliance in the factory. Law graduates are given preference to this post. A post graduate diploma on personnel management would help increase the chances of employment of a law graduate in this post.

Loan recovery officer at banks and financial institutes

Government and Private sector Banks and financial institutes have loan recovery department where lawyers are appointed as loan recovery officer to maintain liaison with the external lawyers and keeping track of loan-recovery activities. In order to be considered for employment in this sector you must have knowledge and some experience with the application of Artha Rin Adalat Ain and certificate proceeding for public demands recovery.

General Management

Additional qualification like MBA and specialized LL.M will add to a graduates employability. He can seek employment in the general management of companies , NGOs , specialized agencies and rights organizations.

Conclusion

As courts are being overcrowded by lawyers, it is absolutely necessary for some law graduates to explore other horizons of employment. They must understand the job market demand and prepare themselves accordingly. Without smart career planning and goal setting it will be very tough to meet the challenges of very competitive job market. With global financial recession is affecting our economy , the career challenges has become tougher than ever before. The Knowledge of English and interdisciplinary understanding has become vital factor for the survival of a law graduate in any career field. It is unavoidable for graduate to acquire knowledge of English speaking , writing ,reading and listening. A good civil lawyer must have sound understanding on financial issues, accounting procedures, general management of companies, land laws and practices etc. A smart criminal lawyer must know criminal behavior , investigation techniques , medical jurisprudence and knowledge of arms , crime scene etc apart from criminal procedural knowledge. A law graduate must be well informed and must be information technology friendly. It is expected that the law graduates are always smart and positive and progressive thinker and they will live up to the expectations of society.

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