

## Different Types of Lawyers

**Public Interest Lawyer** - Public interest lawyers focus on helping society in some way. They may do this by representing individual clients who cannot afford private legal representation through organizations or other nonprofits. They might also be involved in drafting and promoting legislation to reform the legal process. Public interest lawyers work for nonprofits or governmental agencies and usually have the lowest salaries of all the different types of lawyers.

**Government Lawyer** - There are government lawyers for every single aspect of government. Local, state, and federal governments all have attorneys on staff. Within each level of government, an attorney works for an agency. For example, on the federal level, the FBI has attorneys as does the Department of Environmental Protection. At the local level, permitting boards usually have an attorney to assist with their operations.

**Trial Lawyer** - There are different types of trial lawyers. Usually, a trial lawyer will focus on an area like corporate law or medical malpractice. There are civil and criminal trial attorneys. Usually, attorneys decide whether they will focus on criminal law or civil law trials because while evidence rules are similar, the procedures for each type of trial are otherwise very different.

**Immigration Lawyer** - There is a growing need for immigration as laws change, and many individuals have trouble navigating the immigration process on their own or could face deportation. Immigration attorneys might help people with the paperwork and process of obtaining green cards and visas. They might also help immigrants facing deportation action defend themselves. Some immigration attorneys focus only on a specific type of immigrants – for example, some law firms specialize in helping athletes come to the United States.

**Estate Planning Lawyer** - Estate planning attorneys help their clients plan for what happens to their estate or their assets after they become incapacitated or die. Estate planning attorneys draft legal documents like powers of attorney, trusts, wills, and deeds. A large part of estate planning often involves considering tax implications. Because of this, some attorneys choose to go back to school and obtain an LLM, a post law school legal degree, focused on tax.

**Real Estate Lawyers** – They help clients with title issues and environmental and insurance issues. They review and prepare appraisals, inspections, leases, and purchase agreements. They draft documents such as financial and rental agreements, leases, and deeds for higher priced purchases or conveyance transactions.

**Personal Injury Lawyer** - This type of lawyer represents parties in personal injury disputes. Personal injury attorneys are also needed to defend the people and entities that are sued after an incident causing personal injury occurs. The types of legal actions personal injury attorneys work on include medical malpractice, product liability, civil battery, and defamation to name just a few.

**Bankruptcy Lawyers** – These lawyers work in and out of the court room. Out of the court room, they advise their clients in the complexities of **bankruptcy** laws and counsel them in reducing their debt load by liquidating assets and paying creditors. ... However, when necessary, they also file **bankruptcy** documents for their clients.

**Civil Rights Lawyer** - Civil rights attorneys use the law to help people protect their civil rights or recover damages if their civil rights have been trampled on. Civil rights are the core rights of United States citizens that stem from state and federal constitutions. There are different types of civil rights attorneys based on what civil rights they focus on helping their clients protect. For example, some civil rights lawyers focus on helping individuals that have been discriminated against for an unlawful reason at work while others focus on helping people that have been subjected to wrongdoing, like excessive force, by law enforcement.

**Criminal Law Lawyer** - There are two types of criminal law attorneys, prosecutors and defense attorneys. Prosecutors represent the state they work for and bring criminal charges against individuals accused of committing a crime. Defense attorneys represent the people accused of committing a crime. Private defense attorneys are paid by the accused individual to defend them against the criminal charges. Public defenders are defense attorneys that work for the government who represent those who cannot afford to hire private counsel. Criminal law attorneys work in a fast-paced environment and are often in court. They frequently interact with judges and attorneys on the other side and often have to negotiate deals with the other side. Prosecutors and public defenders are usually paid a low salary while private criminal defense attorneys have big earning capacity because they are usually paid hourly for their work by their client.

**Real Estate Lawyer** - Real estate lawyers have a variety of options for their practice. They can help close real estate deals, represent parties when real estate deals fall through, and lawsuits are filed, and can represent clients in the process of obtaining required permits for their real estate deals. Some states even require that a real estate attorney be present at real estate closings which creates a good market for attorneys in this area.

**Legal Malpractice Lawyers** - Lawyers also need lawyers. Legal malpractice lawyers work on cases where an attorney is accused of doing something wrong when representing a client and is sued for damages for the alleged wrongdoing. Some legal malpractice attorneys represent the clients that are bringing the suit while others help the accused attorneys defend themselves and avoid having to pay a judgment.

**Divorce Lawyers** - A divorce lawyer is responsible for the division of assets and debt among spouses. If there are children involved, a divorce lawyer helps set the terms for child custody and child support. Thorough research is required in order to gather supporting evidence in each case. Detailed paperwork must be compiled and then submitted to the court documenting the evidence. For legal separations, a divorce lawyer carries out the separation through court orders.