

DECISION GUIDE

Is Law School Right for Me?

A serious reflection workbook for exploring law before committing time, money, and identity to the path.

Use this workbook slowly. The goal is not to persuade yourself to attend law school. The goal is to gather enough evidence to make a deliberate decision.

Decision standard: A strong reason for law school connects your interests, skills, financial reality, and tolerance for the daily work - not just the title of attorney.

1. WHAT IS DRAWING YOU TOWARD LAW?

Complete the sentence in specific terms.

I am considering law because...

Separate motivations from assumptions.

Possible motivation	Evidence I have	What I still need to test
I enjoy reading, writing, and analysis.		
I want to advocate, advise, negotiate, or solve problems.		
I am drawn to a particular field or population.		
I want status, stability, income, or family approval.		
I am unsure what else to do.		

2. Learn what lawyers actually do

Legal careers vary widely. Before deciding, compare at least three settings and speak with people who do the work.

Setting or role	Typical work I researched	What attracts me	What concerns me
Private practice			
Government or public interest			
In-house, compliance, policy, or JD-advantage			
Another role			

Informational interview prompts

- ☐ What does a normal week look like?
- ☐ Which tasks occupy the most time?
- ☐ What surprised you after entering the profession?
- ☐ What skills matter most in your role?
- ☐ What would you do differently before law school?
- ☐ What are the tradeoffs in compensation, hours, location, and flexibility?

What I learned from speaking with legal professionals

3. Test academic and financial fit

Law school is both an academic undertaking and a financial decision. Replace vague optimism with written estimates.

Financial item	My estimate	Source or assumption
Tuition and fees for three years		
Living expenses and health insurance		
Scholarships and conditions		
Current debt and expected borrowing		
Lost earnings or opportunity cost		
Expected monthly loan payment		

Academic fit check

- ☐ I am willing to read dense material consistently, even when it is not exciting.
- ☐ I am prepared to write, revise, and receive direct feedback.
- ☐ I can tolerate uncertainty, competition, and imperfect outcomes.
- ☐ I am prepared to build time-management and stress-management systems.
- ☐ I understand that a law degree does not guarantee a particular job or salary.

The tradeoff that feels most important to me is

4. Make a testable next-step plan

You do not need a permanent answer today. You need a disciplined way to gather the missing information.

Next experiment	Deadline	What would make the result meaningful?
Speak with two attorneys in different settings		
Observe a class, court, clinic, or legal workplace		
Complete a realistic LSAT diagnostic or study week		
Build a preliminary cost and debt estimate		
Compare one non-law career path seriously		

Current decision

- ☐ Move forward with a structured pre-law plan.
- ☐ Continue exploring before committing.
- ☐ Pause law school and investigate another path.
- ☐ Seek individualized coaching to organize the decision.

My next right step and why

Important: This resource is general educational material. It is not legal advice, does not create an attorney-client relationship, and does not guarantee admission, grades, employment, examination results, licensure, or any other outcome.

Learn more or request coaching at lawcoachllc.com.