

CAREER STRATEGY

Post-Bar Job Search Starter

A focused system for choosing targets, strengthening materials, networking deliberately, tracking applications, and preparing for interviews.

A job search becomes more manageable when it is treated as a pipeline rather than a verdict on your worth. Define targets, create weekly activity goals, and review what the market is telling you.

1. DEFINE THE TARGET BEFORE SENDING APPLICATIONS

Role or setting	Why it fits	Evidence from my background	What I need to learn
Law firm			
Government			
Judicial clerkship			
Public interest / nonprofit			
In-house / compliance / policy			
JD-advantage or adjacent role			

My three highest-priority role types and why

2. Materials readiness checklist

Material	What it must communicate	Status	Next action
Legal resume	Relevant experience, scope, skills, and progression		
Cover letter framework	Why this role, why this employer, why you		
LinkedIn profile	Clear headline, credible narrative, accurate dates, professional visibility		
Writing sample	Strong analysis, clean formatting, permissions and redactions addressed		
Transcript / references	Accurate, available, and ready when requested		
Professional bio / introduction	Concise explanation of background and direction		

Resume quality checks

- ☐ The top half supports the role I am targeting.
- ☐ Bullets show what I handled, how I contributed, and the skills involved.
- ☐ Dates, titles, admissions, and contact information are accurate.
- ☐ The document is easy to scan and free from unexplained inconsistencies.
- ☐ I tailored emphasis without making misleading changes.

3. Networking and outreach system

Ask for perspective, not a job in the first message. A good conversation can improve your target list, materials, language, and referrals.

Simple outreach framework: Introduce the connection, explain your current stage and focused area of interest, ask for a brief conversation about their path, and make the request easy to decline.

Contact	Connection	Reason to reach out	Date sent	Follow-up	Result

My 30-second professional introduction

4. Application pipeline

Employer / role	Source	Applied	Contact	Interview	Follow-up / next step

Weekly activity targets

Activity	Weekly target	Actual	What I learned
High-fit applications			
New outreach messages			
Informational conversations			
Follow-ups			
Interview practice blocks			

5. Interview preparation

Question	Evidence or story I will use
Tell me about yourself.	
Why this role and this organization?	
Why this practice area or career direction?	
Describe a difficult research, writing, teamwork, or judgment problem.	
What are you looking for in your next position?	
What questions will you ask the interviewer?	

The strongest evidence that I can succeed in the target role is

The concern I need to address directly and honestly is

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