Because the law touches every aspect of life, legal training is useful in virtually all careers. However, in alternative fields a law graduate has a distinct edge over other applicants. Below is a partial list of nontraditional careers in the public and private sectors to give you an idea of some opportunities. Keep in mind, however, that this list is not exhaustive; a law degree may be used in an endless array of job settings.

**Law Firms**
- Firm Administrator
- Recruitment Coordinator
- Diversity Coordinator
- Pro Bono Coordinator
- Librarian
- Banking/Trust Officer
- Securities Trader
- Legal Services Administrator
- Intellectual Property Consultant
- Health Plan Administrator
- Accountant
- Communications Consultant

**Academic Institutions**
- Professor (Undergraduate or Law School)
- Administrator
- Law School Career Counselor
- Law Librarian
- Government
  - Legislator
  - Legislative Assistant
  - Consumer Affairs
  - Law Enforcement
  - Investigator
  - Customs agent
  - Intelligence Officer
  - FBI Agent
  - Politician

**Legal Publishing/Journalism**
- Editor
- Researcher
- Reporter
- Business
  - Manager
  - Government Relations & Lobbyist
  - Regulatory & Compliance Work
  - Management Consultant
  - Public Relations/Marketing
  - Labor Relations
  - Real Estate Agent
  - Sports Agent
  - Public Interest/Nonprofit
    - Community Organizer
    - Activist
    - Lobbyist/Government Relations
    - Fund-raising/Development
    - Public Relations
    - Researcher
    - Communications Representative
    - Foundation Manager

Positions in these fields might require specific experience and education beyond law school. If you are considering a nontraditional job, you should plan to devote some time to meet with a career counselor and thoroughly research each field of interest before making a definite career choice.
Because of the breadth of opportunities available in the work force, figuring out what career options are available may be the most challenging aspect of an alternative career job search. It is important, however, to perform the market research to figure out what careers are available and which would appeal to you.

**PERFORMING MARKET RESEARCH**

a. Talk to people (i.e. conduct informational interviews) who do work that looks interesting to you. In so doing you can find out what the work is really like and how they got where they are.

b. Take it for a test drive: volunteer with an employer doing the type of work you are considering.

c. Check job lists and job boards in various locations and with various companies, just to read the job titles and descriptions. Make a note of what sounds interesting to you.

d. Check the Non-Traditional Legal Careers Report, again, just to see what type of work is available for JDs and what sounds appealing to you.

   i. ([www.nontradlegal.com](http://www.nontradlegal.com) username: byuls, password: 038)

   ii. Older hardcopies are available in the CSO.

e. Check Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook ([OOH](http://www.dol.gov))

The OOH provides information for hundreds of different types of jobs and tells you: the training and education needed, earnings, expected job prospects, what workers do on the job, working conditions, job search tips, and links to information about the job market in each State.


Obviously, the final piece is to match your skills, interests, and values with the type of career you are interested in pursuing. This will help narrow your
search and target the appropriate employers and positions. Keep in mind that many opportunities come along as people move through their careers, network, and develop additional skills. You never know what may come up. The important thing is to stay involved and connected to other professionals and to continue to develop your skills.