

*The below email (dated May 2014) is from a former political science student of mine, who graduated from UCD in 2011.*

Hi Professor,

Feel free to share my law school experience with your students. Hopefully they will take time to consider all of their options before making the investment in law school. In terms of the "typical" law jobs: most people assume that attorneys end up working in a big law firm, making six figure salaries. However, in reality most lawyers are going to end up working for much less money and may have to become a solo practitioner.

I am graduating from law school next month. I think the last time we exchanged emails I mentioned I was having second thoughts about law school and I was about to work on congressional campaign for the summer to take some time and reflect if this was really something I wanted to pursue. I ended up deciding to go back and finish the degree, but I decided that I would take as many policy based courses rather than the typical doctrinal classes that would bore me to tears. I figured I could focus on policy to prepare for a career in politics or government after graduation. If there is one thing law school made me realize was that I have no desire to become an attorney. So I enrolled in classes like History of Contemporary Policy and Legislation, for which I won an award for my academic performance, and I have kind of run my own course through school. However, it has been hard in terms of job hunting because multiple administrators have told me flat out they will not help me find a non traditional legal career. Sadly, my law school has yet to adapt to the reality that the typical law jobs are just not there anymore.