

## Some things students want to know about being a Lawyer and a Judge

The following are just some ideas to help you prepare to talk to a group of students. Allow time for students to ask questions of their own (be prepared for questions about how much money lawyers make – you can explain the various factors that impact salary/income and ranges of salaries – you may even want to address this as you talk about education requirements and the different types of lawyers and areas of specialization)

What is the official title of your job, if any?

Are there special ways to address an attorney or judge?

Could you please tell us how you got your position as ... ?

How does a person go about getting into a profession like yours?

What type of schooling or training did you have to receive?

Did you have to take any type of special test to get your job?

Does your profession require you to wear a uniform of some kind?

Do you use any special equipment in your type of work? If so, please explain some of them to us.

Does your career ever put you in any kind of danger? If so, could you please give us an example?

What has been the most interesting case that you have worked on?

Was there anything special that made you decide to go into your profession?

How do you feel about your job?

How does your family feel about your career?

Would you choose this profession again if you had the chance?

If someone wanted to go into the same profession that you are in, what advice would you give this young person?

Adapted from a lesson found online by Patricia Jarvis, Elementary School Teacher, Woonsocket, Rhode Island. A copy of Ms. Jarvis' lesson, "Who's Who in the Law" is available on the PBA LRE Web site, Judges in the Classroom page.

Distributed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Law-Related Education Committee [www.pabar.org/lre.asp](http://www.pabar.org/lre.asp) for educational purposes.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR A JUDGE:

Besides presiding over a courtroom, what other jobs or responsibilities does a judge have?

As a judge, is there anyone who can tell you what to do? Do you have a boss?

As a judge can you decide what takes place in your courtroom?

Are there any laws which govern what goes on in your courtroom? If so, who made or makes these laws?

Are there any state laws which a judge must follow?

Are there any federal laws which a judge must follow?

Are there any laws that a judge can enforce on his or her own?

Are there cases when no jury is needed and the judge makes all of the decisions?

Is there anyone who can overrule the decisions which you make in your courtroom?

Can a judge exclude a person from serving on a jury?

Can a person lose his or her position as a judge? What would be some reasons for this?

Who can appoint judges to the Bench?

Can a judge tell a lawyer that he is taking too much time in questioning a witness?

What is meant by contempt of court and does it carry a punishment?

Could you please explain the terms, sustained, over-ruled?

In family court, when can a child have his or her own lawyer and who pays for the lawyer's services?

Are there any particular problems in being a woman judge?

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