

Business Savvy? Consider an Employment Law Focus for Your Next Attorney Resume

By Emily Sanderson



Attorneys pursuing positions with employment law practices can play up their backgrounds in business or technology in their resumes. The more information attorneys have about

production methods and technology in day to day operations, the more helpful they can be to labor-related clients. An attorney's knowledge of an industry in which labor negotiations are taking place will have a competitive advantage. Attorneys with a technical background may consider writing a hybrid resume, which separates an attorney's legal experience from his or her other professional experience. An accompanying cover letter should highlight experience from both facets.

Changes in technology and in the global economy are causing strain in the workforce, affecting blue-collar as well as white-collar employees. Attorneys with business or technical backgrounds can provide great insight in labor relations and can help a company become more competitive economically. They can answer questions like; what leverage do manufacturers' labor unions have against global economic

pressures? The stakes are an employee's livelihood and a company's ability to thrive in difficult times.

Labor union strikes seem to be hitting a number of industries lately — from Hollywood to the assembly line. Changes in technology and in the global economy are causing strain in the workforce, affecting blue-collar as well as white-collar employees. Attorneys with business or technical backgrounds can provide much insight to workers along the picket line.

Manufacturing jobs of all kinds continue to go overseas, and American Axle and Manufacturing is just one company undergoing a labor union dispute. The company did all it could to maintain jobs in the United States, and despite earlier promises to diehard staff, it is threatening to close the doors of plants in the United States. The company took a nosedive when SUV sales began to decline.

"Quality is just the price of doing business, a starting point," said Renee Rogers, American Axle's spokeswoman. "We also have to be competitive economically."

What leverage do manufacturers' labor unions have against global economic pressures? Employees of American Axle argue that their loyalty is what built the company to where it is today and that they should be compensated for their commitment and enthusiasm to build the company.

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"The stakes are our livelihood — simple as that," Bill Alford Jr., vice president of UAW Local 235, said of the dispute. "We're trying to hold on to a middle-class way of life."

Attorneys with backgrounds in business or technology can really play up this experience in their resumes when they are pursuing jobs with employment law practices. The more information that attorneys have about the ins and outs of operations and the technology behind the assembly line, the more helpful they can be to labor-related clients. They might consider creating a hybrid resume, which separates an attorney's legal experience from his or her other professional experience. An accompanying cover letter would highlight experience from both facets.

If the highly publicized technicalities involved in the resolution of the recent Writers Guild strike reflect a trend among Internet-related strikes, an attorney's knowledge of an industry in which labor negotiations are taking place will be a competitive advantage.