

## Including Languages on Your Attorney Resume

By Emily Sanderson

*As the US population grows increasingly diverse throughout this century, there will be more immigrants who will require, or prefer, the services of attorneys who speak their first language. Because Hispanics are expected to buttress the economy and Social Security system there will be legal opportunities for Spanish-speaking attorneys in real estate, commercial law, estate planning, and tax law, as well as social areas, such as personal injury, education, and landlord-tenant law. This is especially true if you are considering a career shift or relocation and you have those language skills.*

If you are bilingual, make sure to indicate it on your attorney resume. If you are not, and you are thinking of a career shift, consider learning Spanish.

According to the most recent census, 15%, or 45.5 million, of the US population is Hispanic. Growth among Hispanics was responsible for half of the US population gains between 2000 and 2007.

A majority of the increase in the last 10 years came not from immigration but from births — children who will for the most part be educated in the United States and grow up speaking English. However, as the Hispanic population increases throughout this

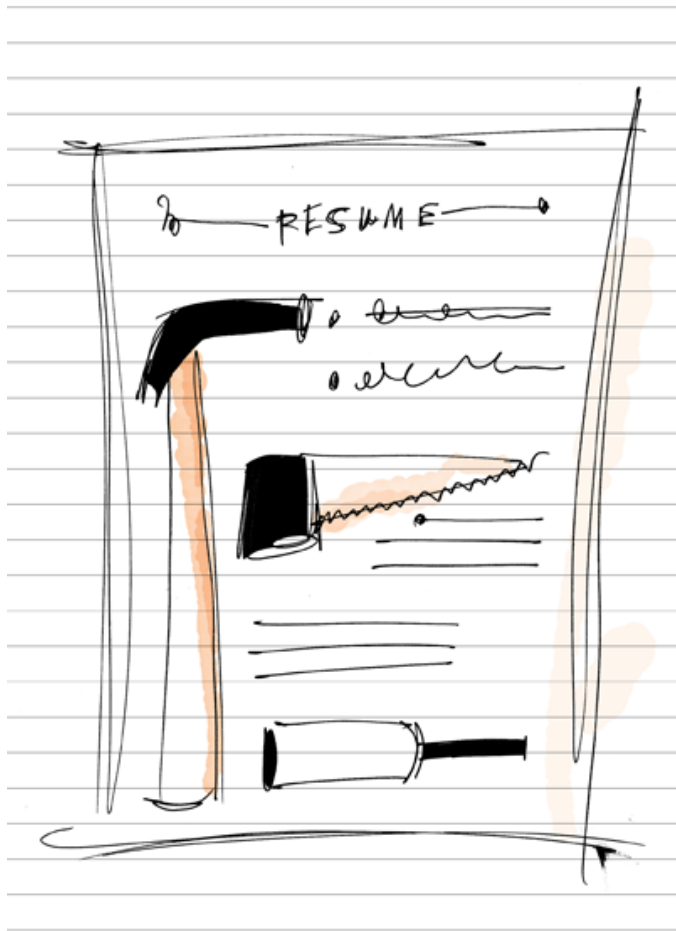
century, there will also be more Spanish-speaking immigrants who will require, or prefer, the services of attorneys who speak their first language.

Language fluency is usually listed at the end of a resume; consider it the frosting on a cake. It is also appropriate to include it near the end of your cover letter. Language skills can be the only thing that is setting you apart from the competition.

As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, being fluent in a language other than English poses benefits to attorneys, who will increasingly serve non-English-speaking individuals, and we are not just talking about immigration law.

Hispanics are expected to buttress the economy as well as the Social Security system in coming years, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, which means there will be legal opportunities for Spanish-speaking attorneys in real estate, commercial law, estate planning, and tax, as well as social areas, such as personal injury, education, and landlord-tenant law.

"If you are pro-economic growth, you must be pro-immigration and pro-Hispanic, because we don't have the workers," says Donald Terry, a senior official at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, as reported by the *Wall Street Journal*.



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Presently, two-thirds of the US population is non-Hispanic white, but those numbers will change in a matter of decades. In the state of Utah, for example, Hispanics are expected to outnumber whites in about 20 years. Areas of the country with the largest Hispanic population surges of late include the Southeast and the Midwest.

If you are considering a career shift or a relocation and you have Spanish language skills, consider legal opportunities in areas where the Hispanic immigrant population is growing, and you will be ahead of the curve.