

How to Write a Resume for an Intellectual Property Lawyer



Intellectual property lawyers are responsible for protecting the interests and property of their clients, in court and outside of it. In many cases, an intellectual property lawyer will actually attempt to avoid

going to court, handling settlements between parties instead of bringing a case to trial. If the case goes to court, it's the attorney's job to advise and represent the client.

Becoming an intellectual property lawyer takes a significant amount of education and training, as well as specialized knowledge in the field of intellectual property. Unless an applicant has the required skills and certifications, applying for a position of this type will likely be fruitless.

However, in some cases, interns and clerks who are already in law school can secure the assistance of a law firm, with the assumption that they will work at that firm later. These people are not yet intellectual property lawyers, but may join that field after they graduate.

Writing a resume for a position of this type must be done with care. Well targeted resumes are impor-

tant, and should be focused on over high volume. While it's important to get your qualifications and name out there, they should be associated with a well organized, high quality resume. This will be better regarded when the firm examines your application.

Be sure to focus on your record, and your qualifications. A law firm or the legal department of a corporation will want to know that the attorney they hire has the skills and knowledge to successfully protect intellectual property interests. If you have successfully handled cases in the past, be sure to cite them.

Resumes for an intellectual property lawyer must include experience and education sections. It's vital to construct these in the strict chronological format, as other methods look unprofessional. Legal resumes are not the best place to show off creative skills, or to do anything unusual. Don't leave out information about previous legal experiences, and be specific about them. Potential employers will be looking for information on your abilities.

However, you should avoid "stuffing" a professional resume. Unlike most resumes, professional documents can be more than a page without seeming overly long. However, it's vital for the information included in those resumes to be relevant and appropriate.

Remember to target your resume to each firm or company that you apply to work for. The resume you send to these different types of employers will need to focus on their type of business. Intellectual property lawyers who work with a firm will need to understand many different types of intellectual property law, whereas those who work for a corporation will need an in depth understanding of laws and precedents applying to that corporation's field.

Remember to list all educational certifications and other qualifications, including your degrees, bar license, bar admission, and which states you're licensed to practice law in. Note specializations within the field of intellectual property if you possess them, and any related education or experience. The goal is to let your potential employer know how you're more qualified than other applicants, especially in this competitive field.

It may be appropriate to include examples of cases that turned out successfully for you, especially if they were settled out of court. Be sure to demonstrate that you can handle all appropriate paperwork. This information may be hard to include on a resume. If so, be sure to let your potential employer know in an interview, or in your cover letter. Be brief and succinct.

A well proofread resume is important in all fields. However, since law professionals are expected to pay close attention to detail, tiny mistakes can do even more damage. Make sure that you're using professional wording and grammar, and that you choose a logical sequence through the resume. Submit only clean copies.

Demand for intellectual property lawyers is increasing, but so is the pool of available applicants, making this a highly competitive field. Remember to submit your resume in multiple places, targeting companies and firms that you'd like to work for. Even if a position hasn't been advertised, there may be one available.

Important skills to have and to emphasize in your resume include good verbal and written communication skills, the ability to work with a variety of people, and the ability to solve problems creatively. In addition to these, an intellectual property lawyer must be able to exercise mature judgment, focus on the client, and have excellent financial acumen.

Being able to prioritize and organize work flow is very important. Skills that are particularly appropriate to this field include experience with open source software and related subjects, as well as strong skills in searching patent databases. You should stay abreast of all developments in the intellectual property field, and be able to communicate your understanding of them in your resume.

Precision and attention to detail are important traits to convey in a resume for an intellectual property lawyer. Be careful to include good, specific information about your experience and skills, without overloading the resume. Clear communication skills, both in person and on paper, are vital to getting a legal job - your resume is one way to convey that you have these skills.

A targeted resume is valuable, as it will help show a potential employer that you're able to meet their requirements. It's best to apply only for jobs that you are well qualified for, and which are in your field of expertise. However, these can be in a number of different industries, and in unusual places. Just be certain to make your resume appropriate to every specific position you apply to.