



Barrister



Barristers (in England and Wales) are specialists in advocacy and represent individuals or organisations in court. They're independent sources of legal advice and can advise clients on their case. Generally, they are hired by solicitors to represent a case in court and only become involved once advocacy before a court is needed.



2.7% rise in employment nationally over the next 5 years.



80% of the workforce is self-employed and while courts sit during office hours, barristers work long and unsocial hours at evenings and weekends preparing for cases.




- Having meetings with clients and taking on cases (briefs).
- Researching the law relating to previous similar cases.
- Preparing legal arguments and getting briefs ready for court.
- Cross-examining witnesses and presenting the case to the judge and jury.
- Summing up the case.


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Solicitor



 Solicitors take instructions from clients and advise on necessary courses of legal action. Clients can be individuals, groups, public sector organisations or private companies. Solicitors usually specialise in a field and advise on; personal issues, including buying and selling residential property, wills, divorces, criminal litigations; commercial work, helping new enterprises, advising on complex corporate transactions and business disputes; protecting rights, helping people with compensation claims or breaches of their rights.

 2.7% rise in employment nationally over the next 5 years.

 Long working hours are common in this sector and include evenings and weekends.


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- Advise and represent clients in court.
 - Instruct barristers or advocates to act for clients.
 - Draft confidential letters, contracts and legal documents.
 - Research legal records and case law.
 - Attend meetings and negotiations.


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Paralegal



 As a paralegal, you may work in a variety of law firms, chambers and private, public sector and not-for-profit organisations. You'll play an important role within a legal team and your tasks will often mirror the work of a trainee - or at times even a recently qualified solicitor. The position is sometimes used as preparation for qualifying as a solicitor.

 3.7% rise in employment nationally over the next 5 years.

 Typically standard office hours but you will be expected to work longer during busy periods.

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- Researching and preparing legal documents.
 - Handling confidential information.
 - Interviewing clients and witnesses.
 - Giving clients legal information.

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