

Legal Career Evidence Cards

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Legal Career Evidence Cards

Use one card to complete the Career Research Worksheet. These cards use one consistent national wage source so the numbers can be compared. They do not replace a current Xello or Hats & Ladders local-data view when your teacher asks you to examine it.

Lawyer

What the worker does: Advises and represents clients, researches legal issues, prepares documents, and explains laws or legal options.

Common preparation: A professional law degree and a state license are typical. Exact requirements depend on the jurisdiction.

May 2024 U.S. national median pay: \$151,160 per year. This is a national median, not DFW starting pay and not a promise of earnings.

Useful skills and tools: Research, careful reading, evidence-based writing, speaking, negotiation, case-management systems, and secure documents.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Lawyers*, checked August 2026.

Paralegal or Legal Assistant

What the worker does: Supports lawyers by organizing files, researching laws, drafting or reviewing documents, and helping prepare for hearings, trials, or meetings.

Common preparation: An associate degree is typical in the BLS profile. Certificate and employer-based routes also exist, and requirements vary by employer.

May 2024 U.S. national median pay: \$61,010 per year. This is a national median, not DFW starting pay and not a promise of earnings.

Useful skills and tools: Organization, research, precise writing, deadlines, databases, spreadsheets, and secure case files.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Paralegals and Legal Assistants*, checked August 2026.

Court Reporter or Simultaneous Captioner

What the worker does: Creates an accurate written record of speech in a court, deposition, meeting, broadcast, or live event. Some workers produce real-time captions.

Common preparation: A postsecondary nondegree award is typical in the BLS profile. Certificate and associate-degree programs are common; licensing or certification rules vary by state and job.

May 2024 U.S. national median pay: \$67,310 per year. This is a national median, not DFW starting pay and not a promise of earnings.

Useful skills and tools: Listening, concentration, accuracy, specialized keyboards or captioning software, editing, time management, and confidentiality.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners*, checked August 2026.

Compare Before You Choose

QUESTION	CAREER 1	CAREER 2
Career name		
One daily task		
Common preparation		
May 2024 U.S. median		

The career I will research is _____ because _____

Language Support / Apoyo de lenguaje

- evidence = **evidencia**
- median pay = **salario mediano**
- preparation = **preparacion**
- legal assistant = **asistente legal**
- court reporter = **reportero judicial**

Complete thought: “I chose _____ because the card shows that the worker _____, and that task fits/does not fit my strength in _____.”