

# State Bar Program Provides Free Career Counseling

Career counselors at California Career Services ([californiacareerservices.com](http://californiacareerservices.com)) serve as sounding boards and guides for evaluation and assessment of career-related issues for experienced and beginning lawyers. Richard Carlton, Acting Director of The LAP at the State Bar of California, has referred hundreds of lawyers to California Career Services for career counseling. The Bar pays for two hours of career counseling—this is often all that attorneys need.

Regarding recent law school graduates, an oft-cited *Wall Street Journal* study from June 2012 revealed that the law-school class of 2011 had little better than a 50-50 shot of landing a job as a lawyer within nine months of receiving a degree. Loyola Law School Dean Victor Gold, interviewed by the *L.A. Times* in August, 2013, said unemployment “is the No. 1 complaint. It’s also the No. 2 complaint. It kills me,” he said, “when

our graduates pay what they pay and can’t find a job.”

California Career Services provides information and support for action on job searching including help with resumes and cover letters, job search resources, strategies, social media, interview coaching, and strategies for salary negotiation. They also provide information about a variety of professional options for lawyers.

Typical sessions with attorney clients deal with solving work-related problems, increasing job satisfaction, building a solo practice, finding careers in other areas of law and finding careers outside of law, particularly since the legal job market has become more competitive. Some lawyers show up thinking they are unhappy with their jobs—and some are. Some feel they hate practicing law all altogether—and some do. However, after using counseling tools to explore their realities and alternatives,

many realize that things are not so bad and/or that some of the bad things can be fixed. When asked to list the pros and cons of their jobs, many lawyers list positives such as compensation, intellectual stimulation, the excitement of handling big complex cases, the challenge, and the chance to test themselves – often more pros than they expected.

Lawyers who have taken advantage of the State Bar’s LAP career counseling program have expressed gratitude to the Bar for providing them with the opportunity to engage in career counseling. One lawyer wrote, “My career counselor did not have a magic wand to make everything all perfect, but figuratively speaking, she did have a machete to help me cut through the dark, overgrown jungle of my world and help me see some light.”

Contact the California Career Services at 323 933 2900 or via email at [info@californiacareerservices.com](mailto:info@californiacareerservices.com).