

Note: This map describes the different paths to take to become a lawyer in British Columbia (B.C.). It is intended to be read along with the Job Profile and Quiz Results. The path you will need to take depends on the type of training/education and work-related experience you currently have in this occupation. Please ensure that all the documents you submit are in English. The approximate time it will take to go through this path ranges from 1 year and 6 months to 3 years. This timeframe will vary depending on how quickly you complete the application form(s), write the exams, and take any required courses. The cost of qualification ranges from \$5,790 to \$10,140. The fees listed may include tax. None of the fees include the cost of post-secondary education. None of the fees include the cost of post-secondary education. Visit the Law Society of B.C.'s website for the most up to date information [http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/].

You want to work as a Lawyer in B.C.

You have an undergraduate degree?

No

Yes

You have completed a law degree?

No

Yes

Contact the Law Society of B.C. to discuss the eligibility of your education and experience, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=39&t=Contact-Us>

Apply to the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA). Your application will not be processed until your official transcripts have been received by the NCA. The NCA will send you a confirmation email within 3 months. For more details go to <http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/applying-to-the-nca/how-to-apply/>. You will need to include the following documents:

- A completed Assessment Application Form http://www.flsc.ca/_documents/NCAAssessmentappJu12.pdf to the NCA with the following:
 - An original set of your final academic transcripts issued by the institution where you pursued your undergraduate (non-legal) post - secondary or university studies. Copies will not be accepted.
 - A current resume
 - Payment of a non-refundable application fee of \$450, payable by credit card
 - An official copy of your academic transcripts issued by the institution where you obtained your legal education to be sent directly to the NCA from the institution
 - If you are currently a member with the local regulatory authority which governs your admission to the practice of law in that jurisdiction, that institution must send an official copy of your transcripts and a certificate of membership in good standing directly to the NCA
 - If any of your documents are in a language other than English or French, they must be accompanied by a complete word-for-word English translation completed by a certified Canadian translator. Check translation rule at: http://www.flsc.ca/_documents/NCAAssessmentappJu12.pdf
 - At the current time, language competency is not a NCA requirement. Check rules: <http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/applying-to-the-nca/how-to-apply/>

Your application was accepted?

No

Yes

Contact the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) to discuss your ability to reapply, <http://www.flsc.ca/en/contact-us/>

You are required to upgrade your qualifications?

Yes

No

Contact the Law Society of B.C. to discuss approved law schools, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=39&t=Contact-Us>

You need to take a complete law degree program?

Yes

No

Complete the required additional law courses Canadian law school. For more information on approved law schools, contact the Law Society of B.C., <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=39&t=Contact-Us>

Complete the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) Exams as directed by the NCA's assessment. You are able to apply for each exam online during the registration period. You will receive a confirmation of registration by email approximately 10 business days after the NCA receives your registration form and payment. Your number of subjects, examinations, or courses depends upon your individual background of legal education and professional experience. There are 10 subjects of which 4 are mandatory for all applicants. The cost is \$350 per exam, for a minimum of \$1,400 to a maximum of \$2,100. The courses and exams are completed individually, with exams held a couple times per course throughout the year. For more information, go to: <http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/nca-resources/faqs/>

You passed the NCA Exams?

No

Yes

You can appeal your NCA exam results. You must file the required appeal materials with the Clerk and pay the required appeal fee of \$325, within 2 months after you first received your assessment report. For more information on the NCA Policies and Guidelines, http://www.flsc.ca/_documents/NCApoliciesRevSept2012EN.pdf

Request a Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA). You need to submit the Request a Certificate of Qualification form, http://www.flsc.ca/_documents/NCARequestforCertificateAPR2013REV.pdf. Your certificate will be sent to you by registered mail within 3 to 6 weeks, and a copy will be sent to the Law Society of B.C.

You have a minimum of 1 year work experience as a lawyer practicing common law?

Yes

No

Find an articling position. All lawyers in B.C. must complete an articling position, where they work in a law office under the mentorship of a principal, or supervising lawyer in B.C. For information on the articling term, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=30&t=Articling#howto>. If you have more than 1 year experience practicing common law in another country, you may be eligible for a reduction of the 9 month articling term. The reduction will need to be agreed on by your articling law office. For more information on the articling term reduction, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=32&t=Articling-Reductions-and-Exemptions-from-PLTC>. There is a \$250 articling fee.

Find an articling position. All lawyers in B.C. must complete a 9 month articling term, where they work in a law office under the mentorship of a principal, or supervising lawyer in B.C. For information on how to find an articling position, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=30&t=Articling#howto>. There is a \$250 articling fee.

Apply for a reduction in your articling term. For more information on the articling reduction, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/art-term-info.pdf>. You will need to include the following:

- A written request for reduction of the articling term
- Written confirmation from your principal (supervising lawyer) has agreed to the reduction
- Original certificate of good standing from your former law society, sent directly to the Law Society of B.C. from your former law society.
- A letter of reference from a former employer or colleague, commenting on your work experience. The letter should come to the Law Society of B.C. directly from the reference.

Apply to the Law Society of B.C.'s Law Society Admission Program (LSAP). The LSAP includes an articling term, and a Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). For more information on the LSAP see the Law Society of B.C.'s website, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=305&t=Law-Society-Admission-Program>. You will need to include the following:

- Law Society Admission Program application form <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/admission-info.pdf>
- Articling Agreement form <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/articling-agmt.pdf>
- Articling Skills and Practice checklist <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/articling-check.pdf>
- A copy of your NCA Certificate of Qualification
- Enrolment fee and admissions program fees of \$2,500

You are eligible for an articling term reduction?

No

Yes

Apply to the Law Society of B.C.'s Law Society Admission Program (LSAP). The LSAP includes an articling term, and a Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). For more information on the LSAP see the Law Society of B.C.'s website, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=305&t=Law-Society-Admission-Program>. You will need to include the following:

- Law Society Admission Program application form <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/admission-info.pdf>
- Articling Agreement form <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/articling-agmt.pdf>
- Articling Skills and Practice checklist <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/articling-check.pdf>
- A copy of your NCA Certificate of Qualification
- Enrolment fee and admissions program fees of \$2,500

Complete the articling term at your articling law firm. You are required to complete a 9 month articling term.

Apply and complete the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). For more information on the PLTC, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=31&t=Professional-Legal-Training-Course-PLTC>. See below for a list of required documents to include with your application.

- A completed PLTC application form, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/pltc-app.pdf>
- Written consent from your principal (articles supervising lawyer) to attend the PLTC session
- The PLTC fee of \$2,250

Complete the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). The course last 10 weeks, including exams.

You passed the PLTC course?

No

Yes

Contact the Law Society of B.C. to discuss your eligibility to reapply, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=39&t=Contact-Us>

Steps that must be completed in British Columbia (B.C.) Canada

Complete the articling term at your articling law firm. With the reduction, your articling term will be between 5 and 9 months.

Apply for an exemption to the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). If you worked as a lawyer in a common law jurisdiction outside of Canada, you may be eligible for a PLTC exemption. For more information on the PLTC exemption, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/forms/MS-admissions/art-term-info.pdf>. You will need to submit the following to the Credentials Committee at the Law Society of B.C.:

- A written request for reduction of the articling term
- Written confirmation from your principal (supervising lawyer) has agreed to the reduction
- Original certificate of good standing from your former law society, sent directly to the Law Society of B.C. from your former law society.
- A letter of reference from a former employer or colleague, commenting on your work experience. The letter should come to the Law Society of B.C. directly from the reference.

You are eligible for an articling term reduction?

No

Yes

Complete your membership with the Law Society of B.C.

- Pay the annual liability insurance fee of \$1,750. For more information on insurance requirements, contact the Law Society of B.C., <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=39&t=Contact-Us>
- Pay the annual practice fee of \$1,940

Complete your call and admission to the Bar. You must take the Barristers and Solicitors Oath before a judge or practicing lawyer, or attend a call ceremony and be presented in open court. Call ceremonies are held throughout the year. For more information on upcoming call and admission to the bar, <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=33&t=Call-and-Admission>.

You can now work as a lawyer in B.C.

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