

Interview Assessment

Name of Professional: Liam Porritt

Profession: Commercial lawyer working in mergers and acquisitions

Date of Video: 08/27/2023

Assessment:

As I am getting ready for college, I had an infamous question asked to me: what do you want to be when you grow up? Next year, I plan to study economics, where I might obtain a law degree. ISM has helped me immensely where I was able to explore possible pathways from economics. Since I do not have a mentor, I decided to explore what lawyers enjoy or dislike about their occupation by watching a video titled, "What I REALLY Think About Corporate Law - My Honest Opinion" Although this video was constructed for entertainment purposes, I still believe that the advice and experience portrayed in the video will allow me to see, personally, the effect of the field of political economics and law has on workers.

Porrit begins by emphasizing that he enjoys doing interesting work through his jobs, deciding how to structure a deal, problem solve, and allocate risks between different parties to a transaction. He enjoys the legal and commercial perspective. He believes that commercial law scores highly among the jobs available. When I think of college and what I am doing after graduate school, I am relatively unsure about the field of law that I would enjoy. One common idea that I have heard is that corporate lawyers work long hours and are very stressed. This preconceived notion often worries me, so as I explore political

economics and the field of law, I want to investigate different possible pathways that allows me to ultimately be happy with my occupation.

Porritt also notes that coworkers have an essential role in performance. Initially, when someone becomes a lawyer, they perform mundane tasks like reading over documents rather than an intellectual job. However, by gaining experience, lawyers can gradually integrate with their coworkers and learn from them. Associates often have years of experience, and working with others that uplift one another is a “fulfilling way to work.” Although having camaraderie can seem as an advantage, it is important to realize that individuals have different styles of work ethics. Nonetheless, having a support system and a reference point allows individuals to grow and become more successful.

However, law is infamous for the number of hours. Porritt recalls working from around 9 am to 7 or 8 pm. Plus, he mentions that job is intensive and unpredictable. Clients may need a job assignment done earlier, maybe during the weekend, during overtime. Through Porritt describing his hate of cancelling his evening plans, it seems like having a work-life balance is very difficult when one is a lawyer. As one adjusts one’s lifestyles to the job, spendings increase as income increased. Because lawyers lose time in the day to do leisure activities, they have to spend money so other individuals can help them doing weekly tasks like mowing lawns, dry cleaning, and house cleaning.

Being a lawyer has its advantages and disadvantages. Although the work hours can be stressful and heavy, the field of law is a stable law that allows an individual to obtain financial security. Security is salient to me, so I believe that the benefits outweigh the large sacrifices that individuals have to make. The career progression of a lawyer is quite slow, as

an individual moves up the ladder, by hard work and experience, individuals can grow and thus make more income and change roles to perhaps an associate to a senior associate and thereon. Being a lawyer is not only a challenging job, requiring heavy analytical and communication skills, but also a step into helping others and maintaining a stable lifestyle.