

Sample Interview Questions

The following are a sampling of questions that you may be asked in an interview. Most interviews, however, do not follow a Q&A structure. An interviewer may be comfortable conducting a conversation or talking about the firm.

General Questions

- Tell me about yourself. What else can you tell me?
- What persuaded you to study law?
- What areas of the law are of particular interest to you?
- What law school courses interest you the most?
- What qualities do you possess that lead you to believe you will make a good lawyer?
- What is the most significant item on your resume?
- Why did you choose the University of Mississippi School of Law?
- Where do you plan to be five years after graduation? Ten years?
- With whom have you discussed your career plans?
- How much significance do you think we should attach to your relatively high (low) GPA?
- Could give us a reason for your failure to rank at the top of your class?
- Have you given any thought as to how you might pursue continuing legal education after you have been admitted to the bar?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the (case name) decision?
- What Supreme Court decision during the last year seems to you the most significant?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?
- Why are you on Law Journal? Why aren't you on Law Journal?

Law Firm Questions

Large and Medium-size firms

- Is there anything in particular about our firm that interested you?
- Are there any other reasons that led you to choose us?
- Have you talked with anyone about us?
- What do you think of our firm resume?
- What part of our practice would be of special interest to you?
- Is there any particular part of your experience that you think might help you to fit with our firm?
- Do you think you have the qualities that would enable you to become a partner?
- How many hours a week would you be prepared to devote to the work of the firm?
- Would you have an interest in doing pro bono work at the same time? How many hours per week, month or year? Would you be prepared to insist upon it?
- What would your references tell me about your legal abilities and commitment to the profession?
- At what other firms have you interviewed?
- If we made you an offer, how soon would you be prepared to give us an answer?

Small law firms

- Do you have any ties to the community?
- What familiarity do you have with the way a small firm operates?
- Are you committed to work with a small firm and stay with it?
- Do you know enough about us to believe it would be a satisfactory place for you to work? Why?
- How soon would you hope to be a partner?
- Do you consider yourself an easy person to get along with? Explain.

- Do you think you will at first need a lot of supervision and general help?
- How much responsibility will you be prepared to assume right from the start? Explain.

Government and Public Interest Questions

Government employers

- Why are you interested in us?
- How much do you know about us?
- Would you be prepared to make a career in government?
- What experience have you had that you think might equip you for this job?
- Do you have a career plan?
- What are your feelings about government employees generally and the effectiveness of the bureaucracy?
- What training have you had in administrative law?
- How much courtroom experience have you had?

Legal services and public interest groups

- How committed are you to working with this population?
- Do you have a general interest in service to the public?
- Which of the following interest you: domestic relations cases, rights of consumers, landlord/tenant problems, claim collections, civil rights, anti-discrimination actions, rights to municipal services, welfare problems, housing?
- What experiences have you had in any of the above areas?
- Are you interested in environmental problems? What experience have you had in this area?
- Would you be prepared to accept employment away from your present residence?
- How important to you is the matter of compensation?
- What do you see as the rewards of working in this area of the law?
- What are your plans for your legal career?

Judicial Clerkship Questions

- Explain your interest in clerking.
- What is your specific interest in seeking a job with me?
- Do you think a one-year term is long enough to make a job worthwhile?
- What are the particular aspects of a clerkship that you would value?
- How far do you feel you have progressed in developing your writing skills?
- How valuable do you consider Law Journal experience in preparing you for a judicial clerkship? Explain.
- Have you looked into, and if so, what have you found out about the reputation of the judges to whom you are applying?
- While at law school, have you noted particular judges whose opinions you particularly admired because of style, substance or ideology?
- How important to you are the political views of the judge?
- What do you think of merit selection of the federal and state judiciary?
- How conversant are you with the significant current decisions of the US Supreme Court?
- Do you think a judge is under any obligation to help a law clerk find a job at the end of the term?