



## Law School—An Investment in Yourself

For those individuals who are thinking about attending law school, there are many things to consider. From which school to attend to deadlines, one must devote a lot of time and energy to this endeavor. The price tag of course weighs heavily on one's decision to attend this or that law school and even whether to attend at all. With the average law school tuition being \$24,920<sup>1</sup>, not to mention fees, books, and living expenses, the cost of attendance is sure to cause a moment of pause and even dissuade one from attending. However, the cost of attendance is not the only thing to consider. Rather than focusing on the present or even immediate future, that is, paying \$30,000 to \$40,000 per law school year, one should bear in mind the benefits of investing so much into a law school education.

Many individuals are aware of the fact that a higher education greatly increases career and financial opportunities. A college or graduate degree vastly improves one's chances of achieving goals when compared to earning only a high school diploma. In fact, having only a high school diploma significantly limits one's prospects. A college or graduate degree will open doors and provide you with the tools necessary to make your dreams of upward mobility a reality.

Aside from the social leverage one can wield by holding a law degree, the monetary potentials far outweigh the initial investment. The graph below demonstrates this point<sup>2</sup>. Listed are the median annual incomes according to level of education. Another piece of insightful information is the percentage of individuals holding each type of degree that are unemployed.

### IMAGE

As you can see, the benefits of a higher education are twofold. First, the higher the level of education an individual has, the higher the annual income she or he earns. Second, an individual lowers their risk of unemployment by obtaining a higher education degree. So think of it this way: Even if you end up with \$100,000 of debt after you graduate law school, you'll earn that back in just two years.

And remember, anything you invest in law school now will give you a huge return in more ways than one.

<sup>1</sup> Average cost in 2002. Source:  
[abanet.org/lsd/studentlawyer/oct04/loanrelief.html](http://abanet.org/lsd/studentlawyer/oct04/loanrelief.html)

<sup>2</sup> Source:  
[studentloan.citibank.com/slcsite/fr\\_invest.htm](http://studentloan.citibank.com/slcsite/fr_invest.htm)