



**LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY**  
**CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER**

**Name:** Joy Baxter  
**Major:** Music/Piano  
**Job Title:** Lawyer  
**Graduation Year:** 2014

**What is the day in the life like at your job?**

I work in an office that decides appeals relating to Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law. The law allows journalists or citizens to request public records, usually for the purpose of crafting news stories or government accountability. Besides overseeing a docket of appeals, I handle amicus curiae (friend of the Court) litigation for my agency, the Office of Open Records. This involves writing persuasive briefs for appellate courts to help inform their decision-making process.

**What do you love about your job?**

Government transparency is a great field to work in. My ultimate goal is to move into media law and help media organizations navigate obtaining public records and defending First Amendment litigation.

**What is challenging about your role?**

Appellate litigation is tons of fun, and a strong intellectual challenge. Otherwise, I have to be prepared to argue at hearings and manage a full docket of appeals.

**What are the benefits of working in this field?**

As a government employee, my salary has remained stable throughout COVID-19. I like being involved in First Amendment issues. It involves political strategy but at the end of the day, it's bipartisan. We can all agree that government transparency is a good thing.

**What experiences did you have that prepared you for this role?**

Prior work in a law firm, well-rounded education, strong work ethic/tolerance for large workload and stress.

**What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?**

Lawyers will always be a part of society. The ones who thrive will be those who embrace and learn to manage legal technology to grow their practices.

**What should a student know about your field?**

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You don't need to study anything specific in undergrad to get here. That said, I wish I had studied communications or journalism because it would have helped me in media law. Instead of doing a pre-law track, try to find something that you can combine later with a law degree, like a certain industry. Also, psychology is always good for any career that deals with humans (juries).

**What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?**

Meet with lawyers. Get on Twitter and type in "appellate Twitter" or "law twitter," tons of practitioners will give you good advice on those threads.