

RETURNING TO PRACTICE AFTER TIME OFF

More often people are finding themselves returning legal practice after time off. If you are in the position where you are looking for legal employment after having children or working in a different field, there are some things you definitely need to consider in preparation for your job search.

I. Update Your Skills:

After having been away from law practice you will need to update your skills to be prepared for the current workplace. Computer skills are essential. Be sure to update your training on Microsoft Word and Office and include these skills on your resume. It is also essential that you be up-to-date on legal research. Get new training on Westlaw and Lexis/Nexis and visit the law library to re-familiarize yourself with the books.

II. Update Your Experience:

After time off your lawyering skills will need to be refreshed and employers will want to see recent experience. Consider volunteering in some capacity where you can get recent legal experience. Many public interest organizations will take attorney volunteers or perhaps you could contact a friend with his or her own practice who could use your help.

III. Update Your Expectations:

After time off you will need to get reacquainted with the legal market. When performing your job search you will need to research employers to know what is available in the market and what to expect for salary. You should also realize that if you have been away it is unlikely that you can return to practice at the same level you left. Research how most returning attorneys are treated as laterals and temper your expectations accordingly.

