



SAMPLE INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: GOVERNMENT

Differences Between Private Practice and Government Work

- What are the biggest differences you've found between working at a firm and working for the government?
- Was there anything that really surprised you about life at the government?
- What cultural challenges should a law firm attorney expect when moving to the government? What benefits do you find at the government versus a big firm in terms of ____ (skills development, support, mentorship, training, etc.?) Can you identify any challenges?
- Do you have to keep track of your hours? If not, how does your office measure lawyers' productivity? What are your hours like? Is that representative of other lawyers in your office/agency?

Qualifications and Background Required to Move to this Office/Agency

- In your view, what is the best time (level) for an attorney to move to the government? What skills should a lawyer have before making the move?
- What qualities do you think are most important for success as a lawyer in your office/agency?
- If you were a ____ level attorney again wanting to move to the government, what might you do differently? What advice would you give to someone in my position?

Salary and Career Path

- Can you give me a sense of the salary range for someone at my level in this position?
- Are there bonuses or other components of compensation?
- What is the typical career arc of the people who move to your office/agency?
- Advice about Getting a Job and Contacts
- Do you have any specific advice about the types of offices/agencies that might value someone with my experience, or about the specific roles that would capitalize on my background? Are there any organizations that you would recommend me joining?
- Are there any government recruiters whom you have found to be particularly helpful?
- Could you recommend any local or national Bar associations or committees that would be good for lawyers who want to move to the government?