

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Berkeley Law

GREAT THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU ARE JOB SEARCHING

Scouring job postings, customizing and sending in resumes and cover letters, and going to networking events are necessary parts of your job search, but you can't do them all day, every day while you are waiting for your career ship to arrive. Here are some ideas for other activities which break up the job search while advancing your chances of success.

1. Strategic volunteering. Donate your time and expertise to a good cause. Try to locate or create projects that give you good experience and build your resume. The California Bar's [Pro Bono program](#) connects lawyers with entities seeking volunteers, and the San Francisco Bar Association has a [guide to volunteer opportunities](#) for lawyers. The purpose of [CaliforniaProBono.org](#) is "to connect volunteer attorneys to pro bono resources and opportunities across the state." General organizations such as [Volunteer Match](#) have options for lawyers, or you can simply reach out to an organization whose mission you admire. As a plus, you may be able to receive free training in connection with *pro bono* work. (See "Where can I get training?" on [this page](#).)

2. Temporary and contract work. Short-term legal work keeps you busy, brings in some income and may even allow you to expand your legal expertise. Here is the [CDO's resource on temporary legal work](#).

3. Skills and knowledge building. Read industry news and legal publications; take classes or write articles or blog posts for bar organizations and legal publications. These are all ways to deepen your knowledge of areas of law, sharpen your writing and other skills, have social contact and intellectual stimulation, and network. If you are near Berkeley, see if there are lectures at the law school you can attend. (Here is the [Berkeley Law events calendar](#).) Members of the American Bar Association (membership is free for lawyers in their first year of practice) are eligible for [free CLE courses](#). See #1 above for possible training in connection with *pro bono* activities.

4. Self-Assessment. Most people can't stop working or looking for work while they figure out what to do when they grow up. You can, however, take some time to refine your sense of what to be doing and what you're good at. Numerous career assessment tools are available in books and on websites; here is a link to the [CDO's self-assessment page](#). The main Berkeley campus also has extensive [career services](#), some of which are available to alumni and the public. Developing and articulating a personal mission statement or career objective and a long-term plan is part of plotting a deliberate path toward finding or creating that dream job.

5. Self-Care Job searching can be stressful. Be sure to allocate times when you are not doing anything related to your quest, to recharge with exercise, sleep, socializing and doing things you enjoy.