

Law graduates favour litigation practices over high-paying corporate jobs

Maulik Vyas, ET Bureau Jun 5, 2012, 05 34AM IST

MUMBAI: Litigation practice, which has traditionally lost out to high-paying corporate advisory jobs as a preferred career choice among law students, is once again generating significant enthusiasm among fresh graduates, say lawyers and industry watchers.

Litigation bars in the country witnessed considerable interest from law graduates in the first half of 2012 as rise in number of litigations, many of which involve corporate elite and prominent leaders, are inspiring young jobseekers.

"Entering the courtroom and learning from arguments are more interesting and in long term it gives good money and respect both," says 22-year-old Kavita Shetty, a final year student of Mumbai-based [Government Law College](#), who interned with DSK Legal and plans to join litigation after her graduation.

Lawyers say some of the sectors that have seen a surge in litigation include banking, mining, [foreign currency convertible bonds \(FCCB\)](#) related cases, and several other high-profile law suits such as [Vodafone tax case](#), 2G spectrum case, etc.

Also, many feel that litigation offer challenges that one finds continuously stimulating and gives flexibility to be one's own boss.

"Last two years were not good as far as economy is concerned. Situations like liquidation, winding up, bad debt recovery and [corporate frauds](#) among others are keeping advocates very busy," says Dinesh Sharma, founder of Personnel Junction, a firm specialising in legal recruitments.

Lawyers say it's not just fresh graduates who are entering litigation but even veterans are coming back to courtrooms amid an increase in new and more challenging areas that could be explored, such as International Commercial Arbitrations and Regulatory Advice.

Says Vyapak Desai, head of international litigation practice and capital markets practice at a research-based law firm, [Nishith Desai Associates \(NDA\)](#), "Litigation practice has recently become more exciting because of rising inbound and outbound transactions, which is producing more challenging work for lawyers. This was not the case couple of years back."

Desai started his career in litigation practice in 2000. However, he switched his focus to corporate advisory, [private equity investments](#) and capital markets in 2005. Around 2009, because of huge flow of [international disputes](#) work and downturn in capital markets, he started focusing on International Litigation & Disputes Resolution Practice, which is now around 70% of his total work at NDA.

The snowballing effect of this is that lot of traditional firms have started to expand their litigation teams.

"We are looking to hire fresh as well as experienced people for litigation practice," says Chaitanya Mehta, Managing Partner of over five decade firm Dhruve Liladhar & Co.

"Though litigation may not be as lucrative in monetary terms in the beginning, in the longer term it pays off and you can work on your own that gives bigger kick to work harder," says Debashree Nandpe, student of final year LLB at Government Law College, who has interned under reputed advocate [Satish Maneshinde](#).