

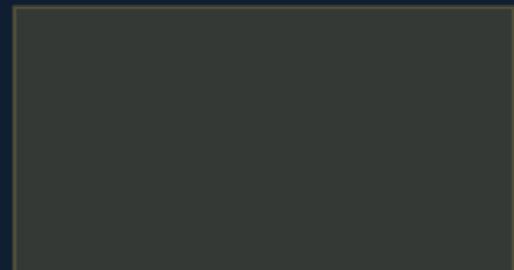
# The Law Student Resume Blueprint

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*Stop Getting Rejected. Start Getting Callbacks.*

Most law students apply to 20+ firms and hear nothing back.

This isn't about your grades. It's about your resume.



# Your Resume Is Being Rejected Before Anyone Reads It

*Here's the hard truth no one tells you in law school:*

# 6

seconds to  
impress a recruiter

Most law students send resumes built on generic college templates never designed for legal roles. Qualified students get overlooked. Less qualified students with better-formatted resumes get the call.

### 3 BRUTAL TRUTHS

1

A cluttered resume signals poor attention to detail — the one skill every lawyer needs

2

Listing 'participated in moot court' without context tells a recruiter nothing

3

One-size-fits-all resumes don't work when applying to a law firm, clerkship, and NGO

# 6 Resume Mistakes Law Students Make

*(Without Realising It)*

**01**

## **Generic Template**

Law firms expect a specific structure. Anything else signals you don't understand the profession.

**02**

## **Weak Action Verbs**

'Helped with research' positions you as passive. Legal resumes demand ownership language.

**03**

## **Buried Moot Experience**

Moot court is your strongest differentiator. Most resumes list it as a footnote.

**04**

## **No Role Tailoring**

A resume for a litigation boutique should differ from one for a corporate firm or clerkship.

**05**

## **Overcrowded Pages**

White space is not wasted space. A clean resume shows discipline and professionalism.

**06**

## **Vague Skills Section**

Listing 'MS Word' and 'research' adds no value. Legal-specific tools and competencies belong here.

# What Each Recruiter Is Actually Looking For

*Not all legal roles want the same thing. Here's how to speak their language.*



## Big Law / Corporate

- Academic rank & internship pedigree
- Drafting exposure & attention to detail
- Corporate law coursework or projects

## Litigation Boutique

- Court exposure & research depth
- Moot court experience
- Procedural knowledge

## Judicial Clerkship

- Writing ability above everything
- Publications or research work
- Clean, conservative format

## NGO / Legal Aid

- Genuine public interest commitment
- Clinic work & fieldwork
- Community engagement

**Universal Rule: Every recruiter wants a resume that is easy to read, honest, and specific. Vague resumes are forgettable.**

# The 6-Section Resume Structure That Works

*This is the format. Do not deviate from it without reason.*

## 1 Header

Name, contact, LinkedIn, city. No photo. No DOB.

## 2 Education

University, degree, graduation year, CGPA.

## 3 Legal Experience

Internships in reverse chronological order. 2-3 bullets each.

## 4 Moots & Publications

Role, round reached, awards, full citations.

## 5 Skills

Manupatra, SCC Online, Westlaw, languages, certifications.

## 6 Achievements

Scholarships, leadership, committee positions.

# How to Write Your Experience Section

*The problem is never that you don't have experience. It's how you describe it.*

**X WEAK**

*"Assisted senior advocate with research and attended court hearings."*



**✓ STRONG**

"Conducted independent legal research on precedents related to Section 138 NI Act across 40+ judgments; prepared case summaries used in two ongoing High Court matters."

**X WEAK**

*"Helped draft contracts during corporate internship."*



**✓ STRONG**

"Drafted and reviewed non-disclosure agreements and vendor contracts under supervision; identified three inconsistency clauses flagged by senior associate."

# Moots & Publications: List Them Right

*The difference between a line that gets noticed and one that gets ignored:*

## MOOT COURT

**X Weak**

*"Participated in Jessup Moot Court Competition."*

**✓ Strong**

"Oralist, Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2024 — National Rounds; Memorial ranked in top 15%; argued issues of state responsibility and treaty interpretation before a bench of three judges."

## PUBLICATIONS

**X Weak**

*"Published article in college journal."*

**✓ Strong**

"Co-authored paper titled 'Arbitral Immunity and Third-Party Liability under the Arbitration Act' published in NALSAR Law Review, Vol. 12 (2024)."

# The Words That Make Recruiters Stop and Read

*Replace every weak verb in your resume with these legal-specific action words:*

## Research

Analysed · Examined · Investigated · Evaluated ·  
Synthesised · Interpreted · Traced · Mapped

## Drafting

Drafted · Authored · Prepared · Structured ·  
Revised · Formulated · Compiled · Redlined

## Advocacy

Argued · Represented · Appeared · Submitted ·  
Examined · Contested · Advocated · Responded

## Leadership

Led · Coordinated · Managed · Directed ·  
Supervised · Facilitated · Initiated · Spearheaded

### SKILLS TO INCLUDE

Manupatra · SCC Online · Westlaw · LexisNexis · Hein Online · Contract Drafting · Memorial Writing · ADR Training

LEAVE OUT: MS PowerPoint · 'Good Communication Skills' · Teamwork · Time Management — these add no value

# One Template. Every Legal Career Path.

*The same structure adapts to wherever you want to go.*

## Big Law

Lead with education & academic rank. Prioritise corporate internships, M&A coursework, and deal exposure.

## Litigation

Lead with court exposure and moot court record. Highlight research depth and procedural knowledge.

## Judicial Clerkship

Lead with writing. Publications, research papers, and academic awards speak loudest here.

## NGO / Legal Aid

Lead with purpose. Highlight clinic work, fieldwork, and public interest litigation experience.

## Fresher (No Internship)

Focus on moots, publications, academic projects, and positions of responsibility. Frame your potential.

## Final Year Student

Tell a clear story — a progression from curious student to emerging legal professional.

# Get Your Free Resume Template

*No cost. No course to buy. Built for law students.*

- Recruiter-tested template formatted for legal roles
- Pre-filled action verb bank you can copy directly

Comment

**"RESUME"**

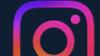
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## Contact Us

 [gurulegal3@gmail.com](mailto:gurulegal3@gmail.com)  
[contact@gurulegal.in](mailto:contact@gurulegal.in)

 +91 73517 71555

 | **Guru Legal**