

How to Answer "Why Law?"

A Complete Guide with Framework, Pitfalls & Sample Answers

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"Why law?" is the most deceptively simple question in any legal interview — and the one that trips up the most candidates. Interviewers aren't looking for a rehearsed speech; they are probing your self-awareness, genuine motivation, and long-term commitment to the profession. This guide will help you build an authentic, compelling answer.

Why This Question Matters

- It reveals whether you chose law consciously or by default.
- It tests your ability to communicate complex personal motivation clearly.
- It signals whether you'll stay committed through the inevitable challenges of legal practice.
- It shows cultural fit — do your 'why' and their ethos align?

The Guru Legal 3-Part Answer Framework

Part	What to Cover	Time Allocation
1. The Spark	A specific moment, person, case, or experience that first drew you to law. Be concrete — a movie, a teacher, a moment of realization.	30%
2. The Journey	How you explored and confirmed this interest through your studies, internships, or community work.	40%
3. The Direction	Where this takes you next — the specific type of law, role, or impact you want to have. Connect your past to your future.	30%

Mistakes to Avoid

x Vague altruism: "I want to help people." — Almost every profession helps people. Be specific about what draws you to law specifically.

x Copying movie plots: "Law suits looked exciting in Suits." — It signals superficiality. Interviewers have heard this a hundred times.

x Family pressure narrative: "My parents wanted me to." — Even if partly true, this signals passivity. Reframe around what you discovered once you engaged with law.

x No direction: Saying why you chose law without linking it to why you want this specific role/firm is an incomplete answer.

x Overselling justice warrior image: Being authentic about your interests (even if commercial) is far better than performative idealism.

Sample Answers (Adapt These — Don't Copy)

Sample 1 — Litigation Track

SPARK: 'Growing up, I watched my father handle a labour dispute with no legal support and lose — not because he was wrong, but because he didn't know the system. That stayed with me.'

JOURNEY: 'In law school, I deliberately took up moot courts on constitutional and labour law, and interned with a senior advocate at the Delhi High Court where I saw firsthand how procedure can either protect or undermine rights.'

DIRECTION: 'I want to build a practice in employment and labour law, and your firm's work in this area — particularly the recent [specific case] — is exactly the kind of impact-driven litigation I want to be part of.'

Sample 2 — Corporate Law Track

SPARK: 'I became fascinated by law when I read about the Vodafone tax case in my second year — how a single transaction could be interpreted so differently and have billion-dollar consequences. It made me realise how powerful legal structure is in business.'

JOURNEY: 'I pursued corporate law electives, completed internships at [firms], and worked on due diligence, NCLT filings, and shareholder agreements that gave me real exposure to transactional work.'

DIRECTION: 'I want to practise M&A; and capital markets law — the complexity, pace, and business impact genuinely excite me. I applied here because of your firm's leadership in cross-border transactions.'

Sample 3 — Public Interest / NGO Track

SPARK: 'During my school years, I volunteered at a legal aid camp and realised that for most people, the law exists on paper only. Watching a paralegal explain rights to a domestic violence survivor changed how I thought about what lawyers should do.'

JOURNEY: 'I chose clinics in family law and human rights, wrote a paper on POSCO enforcement gaps, and interned with [NGO] where I helped draft a PIL on bonded labour in Rajasthan.'

DIRECTION: 'I want to use law as a tool for systemic change — and your organisation's work on [specific campaign/programme] is where I believe I can contribute most meaningfully right now.'

Your Personal 'Why Law?' Worksheet

Use these prompts to build your own authentic answer:

1. The moment I first thought seriously about law was...

2. The legal issue or case that affected me or someone I care about is...

3. During my internship at _____, the experience that confirmed my interest was... _____

4. The type of law I most want to practise is _____ because... _____

5. The impact I want to have in my legal career is... _____

6. What I know about this firm/role that makes it the right fit for my goals is... _____

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