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MINDSET WARS – LITIGATION OR CORPORATE...??

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever brain stormed about what field should you choose? Like thousands of other law graduates. which field will offer you more financial independence? Or which field will help you in maintaining a good work life balance? Or which field will have more growth opportunity for future?

As a law student it always comes to our mind should I choose litigation or lookout for a good law firm specially as an 1st generation lawyer. As everyone in their law schools and societies have heard about the condition of 1st generation lawyers in the field of litigation but is that really true?

This decision is one of the most important step one has to take which will decide their future, career, like everything. As the time slips by a student becomes more and more anxious about his future as nobody wants to be a failure.

LITIGATION VS CORPORATE

In litigation, interns and even junior advocates faces the same issues as there are unseen barriers to entry in this field. As bare acts read in law schools don't prepare you for the race of court practice they don't teach you about the tactics and factors that can play a crucial role in the final decision of any matter. There are several other factors which plays a important role in reaching the final conclusion like if the matter in dispute is in your favour but the other party uses dirty tactics like fabricating the evidence/witness or bribing the government officials or the other party may have some strong political background. These are some of those factors which can adversely affect the final conclusion of that matter but all these things are never taught in law schools.

One of the main issues faced by the students is the amount of reward which they get in the form of remuneration hardly enough to even meet the daily travel expenses incurred. You need a strong financial endurance to last few years in litigation with minimum or no reward for your hard work. You might not be taken seriously by the seniors at your workplace your efforts may not be appreciated enough cause

of this you may lose your self-esteem and self-confidence. Students lack proper knowledge and mentorship specially who have no family background or godfathers in the field of law. Rewards are low in the budding phase but if you manage to survive few years then the rewards can be very pleasing depending upon your dedication and practice. Future growth prospects in this field are endless as famously said sky is the only limit.

But surviving in these conditions is not sustainable for everyone as many students have their education loans which they need to pay off. Some lack the support from family as after spending a hefty amount on that degree parents also expect some returns and a stable future for their child. Students from not so good background can struggle to survive in this field and meet their basic needs. One major issue arising these days for law students is related to the type and quality of internships which are offered now days. Some legal institutions instead of offering stipends for the work instead try to charge students for issuing them internship certificates or in the name of stationery purpose. This trend is purely unethical and unconventional making it more

difficult for interns to gain experience and build their resume.

To survive in litigation and making a succeeding career out of it you need to have more than enough contacts and connections with police/court staff/ other lawyers. This will help you in exploring new opportunities and give you a better exposure. This may also help you in acquiring some clients that may kickstart your career as an independent advocate as the main struggle of 1st generation advocates is to find clients as you have no past winning history which can attract them. You need to build your face value and prove yourself to survive and face the harsh competition. If you are a female pursuing this as your career choice then you can come across some sexist remarks in the male dominated court complexes. You need to be your own fighter to survive there.

Because of all these conditions students are looking forward to join law firms instead of going towards litigation as a good T1/T2 law firm can provide a much more pleasing package than any chamber will to a fresher. But is this race just money driven? Maybe for some as it is easier for a fresher to become financial independent and have a steady source of income and fulfil his and his family needs and who wouldn't want that? But some may be attracted to law firms due to their personal interest in that field (like merger and acquisitions, corporate governance, etc). some find it as a career choice because of the acute family pressure as everyone doesn't have that kind of financial endurance which keeps them going.

Law firms come with their own challenges as you might face difficulty in maintaining work life balance due to workload your home may become your second office. You might not have enough time to spend with your family. You can come across many sleepless nights surviving on doses of caffeine. Is that worth that pay cheque is up to you. As it doesn't end with that cause securing a position in a good law firm is a hectic task itself.

CONCLUSION

Litigation and corporate both work in their own different worlds and deal with different types of issues. One should look up to his interest as money should not be the only deciding factor governing the decision.

Both litigation and law firms have their own sets of rewards and challenges it depends on you what suits you the best. You can also check out other career options available like pursuing masters (LL.M.) and clearing UGC-NET examination for starting your career in teaching field or can look up to judiciary if interested in judicial services.