

Personal Injury Lawyer

Suing for people hurt in crashes, falls and by negligence. Paid a share of the win, and only if there is a win.

TYPICAL PAY

\$110,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$60k to \$300k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

7 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Personal injury firms, insurance
defence firms, tribunals, courts**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
English, biology and anything that teaches you to argue on your feet.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Kinesiology, nursing, psychology and political science all show up. Any subject works. Write the LSAT (law school admission test).
- 3 Law school (JD, juris doctor)** 3 years
Take torts, insurance law, evidence, civil procedure and trial advocacy. Moot court helps.
- 4 Articling** About 1 year
8 to 10 months at an injury firm or an insurance defence firm, plus the barrister and solicitor licensing exams. Ontario's Law Practice Program is the alternative to articling.
- 5 Called to the bar** Ceremony
Junior associates run the smaller files, accident benefit claims and discoveries while learning from a senior lawyer.

Pros and cons

- + You get real money for people who were badly hurt
- + Big paydays when a large file settles
- + Lots of negotiation and advocacy, less desk-only work
- You lose money on cases that fail
- Years between starting a file and being paid for it
- Insurers fight everything and delay is their strategy

Good to know

Canada caps pain and suffering

In 1978 the Supreme Court capped damages for pain and suffering at \$100,000. Adjusted for inflation the cap was a little under \$470,000 in 2025, no matter how bad the injury. That is why the big money in Ca...

Ontario's car crash deductible

If you are hurt in a car crash in Ontario, a deductible of nearly \$48,000 (in 2026) comes off pain-and-suffering awards under about \$160,000, and your injury has to pass a legal threshold before you ca...

Optional boosts

Catastrophic injury. Medical malpractice. Long-term disability claims. Trial skill.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Lawyers and Quebec notaries, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Law Society of Ontario: Becoming a lawyer

FSRA: 2026 automobile insurance indexation amounts

Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/personal-injury-lawyer>



Scan for the full clicker