

COMPARATIVE CHART (2014)
HOW TO BECOME A LAWYER - England and Wales / the USA / France
(For more details , read the booklets ' Legal professions in the USA / GB')

FRANCE	USA	ENGLAND AND WALES	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Academic stage</u> - 4 or 5 years studying law at University (Master's degree or Master 1 only)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Entry exam to the Bar School</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vocational /practical stage</u> 18 months at the Bar School divided as follow : - 6 months at the Bar School (3 core subjects : procedure , advocacy , ethics) - 6 month placement in a law firm - 6 month placement in with another legal practionner (<i>notaire</i>, bailiff, receiver ...), or in a Court of Law , or in the legal department of a company , or in a law firm abroad.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bar finals</u></p>	<p>- Obtain an <u>undergraduate degree (BA)</u> in <u>any field</u> (art , politics, history, engineering etc...) - 4 years</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>LSAT (Law School Admission Test)</u> standardized examination administered by a private testing organization</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Law school</u> Juris Doctor (JD) awarded after 3 years + LLM possible (1 extra year)</p> <p>No mandatory placement imposed by ABA (depends on the Law School)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>State Bar Examination</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOLICITOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Academic stage</u> -Students with a non law degree (BA) : 1 year full time <u>conversion course</u> → Common Professional Examination (CPE)</p> <p>-Students with a law degree (LLB – 3 year undergraduate degree)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vocational stage</u> one-year full-time <i>Legal Practice Course (= LPC)</i> offered by different colleges and universities</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Practical stage</u> <i>two-year contract of training with a firm of solicitors</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BARRISTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Academic stage</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Same (excellent results required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vocational stage</u> <i>one-year course of training, the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)</i> + join one of the 'Inns of Courts '</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bar finals</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Practical stage</u> Called 'pupillage ' - 1 year in barristers' chambers shadowing a senior barrister</p>
TOTAL : 6 -8 years	3 (or 4 years) studying law + 4 years undergraduate	6 years studying law or 3 years (non law) + 4 years studying law	5 years studying law or 3 years (non law) + 3 years studying law