



Legal translation training – A way forward for aspiring lawyers in a clogged job market?
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In an increasingly competitive and congested job market, this paper examines new career opportunities open to linguistically minded young lawyers. The globalization of recent decades has led to a soaring demand for translated legal documents, *inter alia* in cross-border financial transactions, patent and IP cases, and litigation.

We are now at a fork in the road – on the one hand bespoke automated systems are able to handle large volumes for discovery/disclosure and information purposes translation, whilst on the other there is an increasing need for expert lawyer-linguists to work on major cases, multilingual legislation and at international courts. Interdisciplines (comparative law, transnational law, legal linguistics) provide further career opportunities outside the commercial world.

Market stimulus and moves to professionalize legal translation have led to lawyer-linguist training being offered jointly by law and language faculties – these may be standalone courses or follow a first law degree. Notable examples of innovative education programs from Latvia, France and Croatia will be discussed, and various interpretations of the role of “lawyer-linguist” will be explored, citing in particular Canada and the EU. Legal translation is the ultimate legal and linguistic challenge – a gauntlet waiting to be picked up by a new generation as part of a fully globalized mature legal services market.