

8 in 10 Lawyers in Canada Say Tech Skills Outweigh Soft Skills When Hiring Legal Job Candidates

Cybersecurity and Data Analytics Cited as Top Tech Competencies for Lawyers



TORONTO, Oct. 16, 2019 /CNW/ - Employers in the legal field are placing a premium on technical skills, new research indicates. More than 8 in 10 lawyers (82 per cent) in Canada surveyed by Robert Half Legal said that their hiring decisions are influenced more by job candidates' technical abilities than their soft skills.

More than half of survey respondents (56 per cent) cited cybersecurity as the top area of technology in which lawyers are expected to be competent. Data analytics ranked second, with 52 per cent of the survey response.

Lawyers were asked, "**When evaluating professionals for open legal positions, which carries more weight: the candidate's technical skills or his or her soft or nontechnical skills?**" Their responses:

Much greater weight on technical skills	42%
Somewhat greater weight on technical skills	40%
An even split	14%
Somewhat greater weight on soft skills	4%
Much greater weight on soft skills	<u>0%</u>
	100%

Lawyers were also asked, "**In which of the following areas of technology are lawyers expected to be competent at your law firm or company?**" Their responses:*

Cybersecurity	56%
Data analytics	52%
Artificial intelligence	48%
Blockchain	37%
eDiscovery	36%
Don't know	1%
Not applicable	5%

**Multiple responses were permitted*

"With cybersecurity and data privacy at the forefront of many business issues, technical knowledge is essential for job candidates in the legal field," said Jamy Sullivan, executive director of Robert Half Legal. "To provide superior client service, lawyers need to possess strong interpersonal abilities and leverage the latest technology, such as task automation, data analytics and information management tools, to enhance productivity and derive more successful outcomes."

Sullivan added that legal professionals with technical expertise are needed to help organizations safeguard confidential information and improve efficiencies. "Data privacy and litigation support specialists, in particular, are seeing expanding job opportunities and above-average compensation."

To learn more about current hiring trends and projected starting salary ranges for nearly 50 positions in the

legal field, download a complimentary copy of the 2020 Robert Half Legal Salary Guide at [roberthalf.ca/salary-centre](https://www.roberthalf.ca/salary-centre).

Survey Methodology

The online survey was developed by Robert Half Legal and conducted by a leading independent research firm. It is based on responses from more than 150 lawyers in Canada who work full time at law firms with 20 or more employees or in corporate legal departments at companies with 1,000 or more employees.

About Robert Half Legal

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SOURCE Robert Half Legal

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