

Within a day of being licensed, a J.D. holder can make huge sums of money. A person who worked for twelve years to become a Ph.D. in philosophy, anthropology, biology or what-have-you, will rarely have your earning potential. On the flip-side, there are very few J.D. holders who have the passion for their field or the sense of satisfaction that most Ph.D.'s do. There is also this small issue: the dumbest Ph.D. is, in all likelihood, at least as smart as the "top" lawyer.

I point out these facts for one purpose only: to remind you that *although your accomplishment of gaining admission to law school is laudable, lots of people do it... LOTS*. Yes, you ought to feel good about the achievement, BUT, you also need to keep it in perspective. There is a real tendency to begin to get an over-inflated sense of self-worth, intelligence or ability when one is in law school, so I offer this reality check.

The J.D. is the easiest program to be admitted to, the easiest to complete and the easiest to get licensed professionally with. It also grants tremendous and disproportionate social status, earning potential and pathways to power (i.e. judgeships or other public official status). Other "doctors" will despise you for these reasons and will consider your degree unimpressive if not meaningless.

Try not to let the "lawyer" label go to your head. Everyone around you will appreciate it if you stay humble, and nobody will like it if you don't. Remember, an idiot doctor is a brilliant person. An idiot lawyer is just an idiot.