



## Check Your OWN References BEFORE the Job Interview

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### *Reference Checks Play a Key Role in Landing a Job*



A standout resume and a successful job interview can help get your foot in the door at a law firm, but a poor reference check can quickly ruin your chance of landing that new position.

A recent [Robert Half International](#) survey indicates that hiring managers eliminate more than one in five job candidates from consideration after talking to references. This information suggests that **your contacts play a key role in whether or not you'll get hired.**

### **Choose wisely!**

Select former bosses and colleagues who can speak most knowledgeably and persuasively about your top skills, abilities, and attributes. But, keep in mind that you may not be able to handpick your references. Many firms will ask to talk with your most recent colleagues and partners. That said, it's important to try to leave a job on good terms and not burn bridges!

Keep in mind that you don't have to include references when submitting a resume unless they are required. If so, be sure to provide each reference's:

- **Full name.**
- **Job title.**
- **Company.**
- **Phone number.**

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- **E-mail address.**
- **A reason why you included that person on your reference list.**

### **Be honest!**

A hiring team may ask your references about any statement you make on your resume, cover letter, or interview. So, stick to the facts! Even one white lie can come back to haunt you.

The job market is a difficult place to be right now. Don't make it any harder on yourself by neglecting an important component of your resume. **Check your references and let them know they're on your list.**

### *More resources from Top Lawyer Coach:*

[10 Rules for Today's Legal Job Search](#)

[10 Job Hunting Tips to Help You Get Your Foot in the Door](#)

[Job Interviews: One Way to Outshine Competitors](#)

[8 Big Resume Mistakes](#)

[5 Mistakes Law School Grads Make in their First Jobs](#)

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