

Common District Attorney Interview Questions

- Why do you want to be a prosecutor?
- Why this particular office? (Mention any connection to the geographical area in which you are interviewing)
- Do you know who the district attorney is?
- How would you describe yourself as a person? What motivates you?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What drew you to law school? To SCU Law? Favorite class (and why)?
- Tell me about your public service/community service experiences? What drew you to them?
- Why not public defender or criminal defense work?
- Describe the Brady Doctrine.
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What is your greatest strength/weakness?
- What qualities do you think a district attorney should have?
- What is something interesting that's not on your resume?
- What one thing have you done that you're proudest of?
- What is the most difficult/rewarding thing you've ever accomplished?
- How do you work under pressure?
- What type of people do you work with best or would have trouble working with?
- Are you a team player or do you prefer to work on your own?
- What do you feel are things that help a person become successful?
- Tell me about a time you had too many things to do and had to prioritize.
- What did you do the last time things didn't go according to plan?
- Tell me about a situation where you failed. Why did you fail? What did you learn from it?
- Why should we hire you?

Hypothetical questions: Be prepared. Some DA offices ask hypothetical questions to get a sense of your ethics/morals and to see how you work through an issue.

- What would you do if you were assigned a case you were morally opposed to? How would you reconcile the conflict between your personal beliefs and the case?
- Can you imagine a case in which you believed beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed but you chose not to file?
- You are an ADA on a case and offered the defendant a plea of five years. The defendant rejected it and wants to go to trial. You receive a call the night before the trial informing you that your only witness just died of a heart attack. You come to court to tell the judge that you have to dismiss the case when the defendant's lawyer approaches you and says that they'll take the deal. What would you do?