

# Why BCG Sends You Jobs and Firm Names Instead of Just Jobs

BY HARRISON BARNES



### Why BCG Sends You Jobs and Firm Names Instead of Just Jobs

I am the CEO and Founder of BCG Attorney Search and working on your account personally. Please take a few minutes to read this important email. Here, I describe our highly-specialized and effective process for getting you the best position possible.

You owe it to yourself to understand what is happening before you follow my advice and recommendations. I'm sending you this detailed email because you have opportunities pending in your account, and I want you to understand why they are there.

I've discussed in detail below the six ways BCG Attorney Search tries to get you a position—four of which no one (you, other recruiters, and more) will ever do. These job search strategies are "BCG's Secret Sauce," but arguably, even all six are part of this sauce. The first and second methods are likely something you did not know occurs.

As I will explain, we try like crazy to get you a new position because we do not control the hiring market and its unique demands in (your practice area, your experience, your title, and much more. The focus of your resume also has a lot to do with your success—a highly focused resume on one practice area always gets profoundly better results). Regardless of your situation, if we represent you, we spend the money, time, and effort we do because you deserve this.

My company and I profoundly care about being the best in this business. We also care about your legal career. We will not send you a few jobs and give up if you do not get interviews—we keep trying. We will not attempt to convince you to accept jobs you do not like or pressure you in any way (we will continue sending you more opportunities). We have a "religious-like" pursuit to find a firm that values you and where you can succeed.

I've built BCG the way I have because I have been eating, drinking, and thinking about how to get attorneys' jobs for over two decades. I've put my life, heart, and soul into this because I believe in attorneys and the tremendous rejection, hard work, and uncertainty of being an attorney.

I, too, have felt alone, rejected, disrespected, and hurt by the law firm market. Being an attorney is not easy, and it does not matter how good your resume is. Everyone experiences rejection and profound levels of stress, and it is awful and demoralizing.

- You deserve someone in your corner.
- You should not give up on your legal career or try to find a place where you can succeed and be happy.
- Most attorneys do give up. They quit law firms and enter non-law firm settings (in-house, government, public interest, academic, and more), or enter fields or take positions that have nothing to do with practicing law.



I was an attorney in two law firms and gave up. It would be best if you did not give up like I did. You can find success, peace, and happiness with the right firm, regardless of your beliefs. I know this and want more than anything to make this happen.

After I gave up on my legal career, I started BCG. Very quickly, when I saw people giving up as I did, I realized that I was the only person in the world willing to do whatever it took to help the candidates I represented and committed my life to it.

When I made a spirit change, I came to believe that with my undying support, my candidates could get multiple interviews, find fulfilling jobs, and get the best position possible by being exposed to as many potential opportunities in the law firm market.

When I found my purpose and calling, I worked 15+ hours a day for decades, exhausted every cent that came into our company (improving our database, gathering intelligence of firms, spending time with my candidates, writing long articles and several books, doing webinars, and more). The perception of my priorities came across to important people in my life as skewed in favor of more important things—like dedicating time to my serious relationships and pouring more money than I should have into BCG. Ultimately, this calling caused two divorces (I lost two incredible women).

The stress of what I have tried to do for my candidates in the past also devastated my mind, spirit, and body as I pushed on. Only in the past five years have I overcome my personal demons.

Even though I have been attacked by and misunderstood by many, I have kept fighting because I believe in this. However, I have all I need from what I have done: I've gotten tens of thousands of attorneys' jobs through BCG alone, changed thousands of lives of attorneys (and their families), and much, much more. No other placement firm or individual brings so much to your search. Most recruiters are interested in money, a lifestyle where they do not have to work as hard as they did as attorneys (if they even were attorneys), and many dabble in recruiting (doing it for a few years or "off and on" depending on the economic climate and marketability of the best-qualified attorneys to the largest law firms).

I've given everything I have to be the best in the world for you. You can see this in my content on BCG, the number of jobs on the site, your internal candidate dashboard, and how hard I am willing to work for you by sending you so many opportunities.

I'm not aware of any person or company willing to step up and work so hard for you. Please read on. Finally, I am sending you all the opportunity information you receive personally. I use tools in our database to find opportunities, but almost everything comes from me. The intricacies of this process are explained below. It is impossible to trust someone else besides someone to other than myself to search further than me because there is so much to understand (for example, there are over 300 practice areas I need to identify and choose from your resume description--learning these practice areas takes years). I know what I do because I have personally helped over 100,00 attorneys like you.



#### The First Two Methods BCG Uses to Try and Find You a Job

THE FIRST LIST OF OPPORTUNITIES PUT IN YOUR ACCOUNT ARE VERIFIED "EXCLUSIVE POSITIONS" MATCHING THE TYPES OF CLIENTS YOU REPRESENT. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WE ARE THE ONLY FIRM RECRUITING FOR THIS POSITION. These are jobs where the firm has proactively approached us and asked up to be the primary recruiter finding candidates for them. The first jobs displayed are always exclusive positions. Because we have the most significant national platform that recruits for law firms, you stand the best chance of getting these positions when BCG sends them to you. These positions are displayed first in your approval lists (1) the first time you are sent jobs and (2) every time a new job order is added to our system.

For these positions, we also may send you positions requiring more or less experience depending on (1) how many applicants have shown interest in the job (our company may send a BCG candidate with two years of experience may be sent positions requiring four or more years of experience, a candidate with ten or more may even be sent a junior associate role under the belief the firm may be desperate for people in that practice area), and (2) your rarity in the market you are applying to (based on your practice area, the geographic location of the job, how long the job has been open and the percentage of candidates and hires the firm has made for similar positions in the past). We do this because we understand the market—not because we do not know what we are doing.

Most recruiters do not get exclusive job openings because they do not have 25+ years in this business or 200+ people contacting and speaking with firms to get them. BCG has thousands of "exclusive positions" because we have a considerable market presence. Law firms of all sizes (and practice areas and locations) know we have candidates and can help them. We send them matching candidates every time they have job openings, and we are most often the first people they think of because they see us everywhere. They contact us for exclusive positions because they know what we can do (we are the largest company in the world that does only permanent law firm placements).

THE SECOND TYPE OF OPPORTUNITIES PUT IN YOUR ACCOUNT ARE OPEN POSITIONS WHERE WE MAY OR NOT BE THE EXCLUSIVE RECRUITER. These positions have active openings that we have recently verified with the firm; however, where the firm has not proactively told us are the exclusive recruiter. Because we have the most prominent national platform for law firms and are highly effective, you stand an excellent chance of getting these positions because we only send our best candidates to them.

For these positions, we also may send you (1) jobs requiring more or less experience depending on (a) how many applicants have shown interest in the job (our company may send a candidate with two years of experience may be sent positions requiring four or more years of experience, a candidate with ten or more may even be sent a junior associate role under the belief the firm may be desperate for people in that practice area), and (b) your rarity in the market you are applying to (based on your practice area, the geographic location of the job, how long the job has been open and the percentage of candidates and hires the firm has made for similar positions in the past. If there are very few applicants, or you look very rare, we may also send you positions you could be a better practice area match for but which we believe are good fits for you.



Most recruiters and recruiting firms subscribe to one of two services that send them jobs from AmLaw 100 to AmLaw 200 law firms. These services spider primarily the websites of AmLaw firms for jobs. In contrast, BCG spiders with a large team and over 50 dedicated servers cost us tens of thousands of dollars, over 25,000 law firm sites monthly, and hundreds of job sites, association sites, and more for jobs. We email over 100,000 law firms monthly for jobs as well.

Generally, other recruiters send you jobs in one or just a few geographic areas. They do this because they are subscription services. Additionally, each additional geographic location these recruiters want to monitor requires a costly new subscription.

Most recruiters slowly "drip feed" jobs to you because it is all they have. They are often extremely protective of the public information other recruiters have as well (and which you could quickly learn about on your own). If they do not have any openings from their subscriptions, they do not send jobs to you. Because of the limits of only knowing jobs at 1% of the law firms BCG monitors, most recruiters are in the dark about most of the market.

Additionally, most recruiters are afraid to upset law firms and do not understand the market (see below). Sometimes these recruiters work with smaller firms and have jobs from them—but it is rare.

Mostly, we solicit openings from law firms by constantly contacting them and have been doing this for over two decades. We gather and have more law firm jobs than any source worldwide. No one in the market even comes close to what we do—never has and never will.

#### The Final Four Ways BCG Tries to Get You a Job

There are significant market misunderstandings of our recruiting and placement methods—even though this is how 85% of our candidates get jobs through us, and it changes lives and careers every day. BCG candidates' lives and employment would not be changed and improved without us doing what we do.

At the outset: BCG's "Secret Sauce" may be too much for you and scare you away. We understand. Different is always frightening. You may be used to applying to only a few law firms and think that is the best strategy. You may believe you know better and understand how law firms work (we've been in the market for over 25+ years and need help understanding the market).

BCG's "Secret Sauce" is based on the fact that over 100,000 law firms in the United States are moving targets we are trying to understand at different times. We cannot possibly understand what is happening in each firm at varying points in time because each firm has countless "moving targets" that are impossible to understand at other issues. Each firm:

- · pays more or less than you might expect,
- has different opportunities to be a partner (or hire lateral partners),
- has different expectations for you getting business,
- has various human resources departments at other times,
- has different management and hiring attorneys at other points in time,



- has had people leave, they need to replace at different points in time,
- has different practice areas growing at other points in time,
- has more or fewer people interested in working there at other points in time (not getting enough
  applicants due to a blip in the firm's reputation, a lack of taking actions to recruit more attorneys or other
  issues),
- is interested in various sorts of people at points in time,
- · may or may not be publicizing its needs at every point in time,
- may not realize it needs a new attorney until a suitable candidate appears,
- may or may not have someone reviewing resumes that is lazy and not paying attention at different points in time.
- may or may not have someone circulating resumes to various attorneys in specific practice areas at other points in time,
- may or may not have committees that review every resume periodically,
- may or may not have human resources departments trying to get openings from attorneys in the firm consistently,
- may or may not have people reviewing resumes that are protecting their turf or afraid of competition for work, prestige, and authority—who knows,
- may or may not be laying people off,
- may or may not be eliminating practice areas,
- may or may not be growing in specific practice areas,
- may or may not be having financial issues,
- may or may not be closing offices and (or moving people from the office you are applying to another,
- might be trying to open another office in a different part of the city/market you are interested in,
- may or may not be opening new offices or expanding existing offices,
- may or may not have someone even reviewing resumes,
- may or may not have actors in different practice areas sabotaging or promoting hiring efforts,
- may or may not like people from your school, current firm, or other aspects of your background—who
  knows what.
- If a law firm has branch offices, then the decisions may come from the main office—or even another branch office (who knows?),
- and 100,000+ other things you could never know.

What I am going to explain in detail to you below you is how we "attempt to know" this information. It is impossible to know this information perfectly. We do everything we can to try. We must do our best and do countless different things to represent you effectively in our efforts to place you. The better we do



this, the better results you get in your search (more interviews, more offers, and a better understanding of your marketability in the markets you search in, the type of firm that will interview you, and the marketability of attorneys in your practice area.

Most firms do not even know this information about themselves—it would be impossible to. We do our best to contend with the incredible uncertainty surrounding the hiring needs of over 100,000 law firms.

Anyone who tells you they know what is happening in the market is lying and does not know what they are talking about. We have invested over 20 years and \$100 million trying to understand this. No one could understand this unless they knew every attorney, finance person, and administrator within a given law firm and probably even its branch office.

Because of how we operate, you've never seen anything like BCG Attorney Search and probably never will again. There is nothing like it, and it has built millions of submissions to law firms over decades, hundreds of millions of jobs over decades, every public source of information about law firms (rankings, about us sections on websites, practice areas on law firm websites, firms found online but not in directories, exclusive job postings on BCG by law firms, nonexclusive jobs on BCG, the history of firms having jobs, the number of times law firms review resumes and interview people like you and hire people like you and much, much more.

Because of the commitment and the extraordinary effort we have put into our system, we are like an alien from a civilization thousands of years more advanced than our own, standing in the middle of a crowded space surrounded by people of below average, average, and above average human abilities. Compared to our competition, BCG's "secret sauce" gives us a much different level of intelligence and skills than most candidates, law firms, recruiters, and others cannot even begin to understand (much less want to).

We will try to make you understand below. We are not claiming to be from another world; we are just stating that nothing compares to the work and investment we have put into our system and you. Our system makes us "aliens" in the legal placement and recruiting ecosystem because we are far beyond anything. Judge for yourself.

THE THIRD TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY WE SEND PUT IN YOUR ACCOUNT ARE "PREFERRED FIRMS"--RECENT INTERVIEW/HIRE FIRMS THROUGH BCG IN YOUR PRACTICE AREA, SENIORITY, AND LOCATION THAT WE BELIEVE THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY THEY MAY BE INTERESTED IN YOU EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT HAVE OPEN JOB OPENINGS. We send these firms to you third because we do not want to scare you by just sending firm names. We want to send them first or second because this is how most attorneys are placed--there is often too much competition for job openings; however, we do not do so because it scares attorneys off who need help understanding what we do. If the firm has no active jobs, these will be displayed first in your account.

These firms typically hire many people through BCG and trust our recommendations. Many firms do not want their opportunities publicly advertised because they do not want to solicit unqualified applications. This creates tremendous work for their human resources departments that need to respond to applications. Over 85% of our placements are with these firms, and that is why we send you a lot of them—this strategy works wonders, and it is something no other recruiting firm will or can do. Our database has decades of exclusive information developed at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.



Beyond using artificial intelligence and machine learning developed by in-house data scientists and other specialists, we do not pretend to have the ability to forecast if this strategy will always work. Sometimes it does not work for a year or longer with some firms when the firm is suddenly not busy or hiring in a practice area—but then it works when work picks up, people resign or are fired, and when the firm hires lateral partners, for example. Sometimes it works with firms on every excellent candidate because the firm has ongoing openings. Most times, it works better if your practice area and qualifications are rare in the market at a time when there is a lot of work now in the firm or forecast for the future (so the firm may hire opportunistically).

Remember that we have worked with over 100,000 law firms for over two decades. We also track the openings that law firms have had on our sites as well as their consistent openings and activity on their firm websites, job postings with us, job postings on LawCrossing, and every single job site and association (bar and practice area association) they have ever posted a job on. We know who is hungry for candidates, the results they are getting (or lack thereof), and how often they search for candidates in the market (and how long it takes them to find candidates)

Even if they do not understand what we do, most BCG candidates approve these recommendations because they trust our judgment. It would help if you approved these recommendations more aggressively because so much thought goes into them.

While this may be hard for you to comprehend why we are sending you firms without jobs, getting behind this and approving specific firms without jobs gives you the best results. It does not always work—but it works more often than not. New firms (without jobs) will be added as our database recommends them (based on candidates results of other candidates similar to you who had recent interviews (they may not have gotten positions with firms or not accepted offers--and so we make the firm recommendations available to you). It may take a week, several weeks, or longer for this strategy to work—but it generally always does the longer we do it. When you approve these firms, we follow up with each firm (just as you receive weekly candidate reports) to see if they need candidates. We continue doing this as long as you proactively approve the jobs and the firms we send you regularly—we need you to be an active candidate. Firms will also keep your resume on file and often contact us later (days, weeks, or longer) when they are ready to interview people again.

THE FOURTH TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY WE PUT IN YOUR ACCOUNT IS FORMER (NONACTIVE) EXCLUSIVE JOB ORDERS. These firms may have an ongoing need for you because numerous firms hire people from BCG from our inactive job orders. Your account will not display these until you review the existing open positions and "Preferred BCG Firms." This strategy is also part of BCG's "Secret Sauce" and, with other nonactive job and firm recruitment methods, results in over 85% of our candidates getting placed compared to just sending jobs.

This strategy works because firms that have had exclusive job orders in the past have a compelling need. They sought us out exclusively to fill it and will likely have a similar need in the future. Approving these inactive former exclusive job orders is a tremendously effective strategy because law firms with needs only sometimes recontact us because they have other priorities (summer associate programs, legal staff hiring (paralegals, secretaries, and so forth). Other things take precedence, and when we submit candidates, they are reminded of their former needs and do not have to proactively go out and contact us (or other recruiters) and review lots of resumes. It is much less work to interview and



hire a "bird in the hand" than go through the time-consuming and resource-absorbing task of seeking candidates in the marketplace.

No one has more expired and inactive job orders than BCG--hundreds of thousands. We draw from the past several years alone. These former openings are an excellent guide to who is marketable, and that informs our recommendations. This strategy is compelling as well.

THE FIFTH TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY WE PUT IN YOUR ACCOUNT IS FORMER OPEN POSITIONS WHERE WE MAY OR NOT HAVE BEEN THE EXCLUSIVE RECRUITER. These firms may have an ongoing need for you because firms hire people from inactive jobs where we were not the exclusive recruiter each week. Your account will display these once you review the existing open positions. This strategy is also part of BCG's "Secret Sauce," with other methods of not sending jobs to you; it results in over 85% of our candidates getting placed compared to just sending jobs.

This strategy works because firms that have had job orders in the past had a compelling need they went to the market to fill, and the odds are they will do so again in the future (people leave, needs increase). Law firms that have required attorneys only sometimes get around to recontacting us. Other things take priority; human resources departments and hiring partners change. When we submit candidates, these firms are reminded of their former needs and do not have to proactively go out and contact us (or other recruiters). It is a lot of work reviewing resumes—most of which are not good fits. It is much less work to interview and hire a qualified "bird in the hand" than go through the time-consuming and resource-absorbing task of seeking candidates in the marketplace.

Again, we have been monitoring the openings of tens of thousands of law firms for over two decades. We own LawCrossing and get these openings from everywhere. We recognize patterns and draw from these to make recommendations. For example, we will not recommend a past job opening 25 years ago. But it does interest us when we see law firms having the same opening year after year. That is like seeing a "bulls-eye" and highly effective in getting you positions. No one else can do this because no one has created and can access this data type.

THE SIXTH TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY WE SEND YOU IS FIRMS IN YOUR PRACTICE AREA AND LOCATION THAT WE RESEARCH AND DO "BLIND SUBMISSIONS" TO FOR YOU. There are instances where you are in a niche practice area (where there are not a lot of candidates), or niche location (where there are not a lot of former or current jobs or "Preferred Firms"), or otherwise have an unusual background, where we will research firms and contact them with a general profile that does not identify you.

We use our custom database of over 100,000 firms to find this information. We also use other sources to classify this data better (public best firm rankings from regional and national publications, for example) and practice areas firms list on their sites.

This means we contact these firms with general statements about your background (type of work you do, seniority level, for example) and do not send your resume. We ask these firms if they want to see the resume and a write-up of someone with your background. They often call us, respond through their candidate portal, or email us if interested.



We show these firms as "submissions" in your account because these firms often request your resume later. Again, in coordination with other actions we take on your behalf, this results in over 85% of our placements. We would not under any circumstances go through these tremendous efforts trying to help you and with firms if it did not work with them.

## Conclusions: What You May Not Like About BCG's "Special Sauce" and BCG in General

Because it is so complex, I do not tell you what we are doing or why we are making the recommendations I am—but you can guess it from the order we send job openings and recommend firms in your account (exclusive jobs first, other jobs in the market next, preferred firms following, expired exclusive jobs, expired different types of jobs, and researched firms we contact without your identifying information).

Here are the problems I am aware of from your perspective.

- Our system gives you a lack of control, and you may need lots of control to feel safe.
- The need to feel secure may mean you do nothing or do very little with your account.
- Because we are also dealing with decades of information and patterns, artificial intelligence, and data science, it creates an impossible-to-solve problem: Explaining the logic of our recommendations to you on individual firms and jobs we send you would be nearly impossible to do. We could perhaps explain our logic by showing you pages and pages of code, analysis of that code, and the tens of thousands of firms analyzed and reviewed for each recommendation, and an insight into our data science, data science, and artificial intelligence methodology that changes several times each day. I am the Founder and CEO of BCG Attorney Search, and I have hired experts and others with the best degrees and experience to help me; it takes hours for them to explain even discrete parts of procedures they have developed with our years of input.
- It is not in our best interests to have you start second-guessing us and the firms we send you.

Therefore, we must identify why you are being sent to particular jobs and firms. If you start trying "be your recruiter," you will hurt yourself no differently than a law firm client would by "playing their lawyer" and making all the decisions about what to do on a matter. If we tell you what we are doing and why, it ultimately will make it much harder for you to get a position. This is your decision.

If you believe in our system, you can always check your account and approve what we are sending. If you take this path, however, you may find getting the best opportunities challenging because you must properly expose yourself to the market. We want to improve your career and most likely can if you believe in us as much as we believe in you. Whether you follow our advice, we wish you the best and hope you will return when ready.

If you believe in us, yourself, and my genuine desire to help you as much as possible, you can always log in to your account here and do this important work.