

JIM PETERS

PROGRAMMER



SUMMARY

Recovering-attorney-turned-software-developer who took advantage of Covid-19 to make a long-overdue career change into tech. Problem-solving, puzzles, and figuring out how things work are some of my favorite things.

Although my formal coding training is recent, my love for computers and technology in general started at an early age. During my entire life I have tinkered with gadgets, explored software and taught myself programming languages to develop personal projects and use technology to make life easier.

I am fully committed to a career in software development and leveraging the strong, fundamental skills I acquired practicing law to do it. I invite you to visit my portfolio website ([JimPeters.dev](https://www.jimpeters.dev)) to see some of the work I have done and learn more about me.

ABOUT

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🌐 JIMPETERSDEV

EDUCATION

TEAM TREEHOUSE

2021 TEAMTREEHOUSE.COM

- Full-Stack JavaScript Certificate
- Received perfect scores on all ten assigned projects

FOWLER SCHOOL OF LAW

2000 - 2003 ORANGE, CA

- Law Degree
- American Jurisprudence Awards in Tax Law Research and Bankruptcy Law Courses

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

1995 - 1999 OSHKOSH, WI

- BA Criminal Justice
- Dean's List
- Spanish Minor

SKILLS - FRONTEND

- HTML
- CSS
- Javascript
- React
- Sass
- Markdown

SKILLS - BACKEND

- NodeJS
- ExpressJS
- SQL
- Wordpress

SKILLS - DEPLOYMENT

- Google Cloud
- Netlify
- Wordpress
- Github Pages

WORKPLACE SKILLS

While I may not have as much formal work experience in software development as some candidates, I developed valuable skills in my former career as a litigation attorney that I can use to excel in a development environment.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The day-to-day duties of an attorney really are quite similar to those of a project manager. Each case is a complex 'project' with its own set of stakeholders, moving parts and challenges that must be managed.

- I have successfully handled up to 100 clients at a time.
- I started and managed a successful law firm where I simultaneously handled all roles, including attorney, office manager, IT department, etc.
- I quickly developed the time management skills necessary to succeed practicing law. Strict deadlines, client demands, and other pressures taught me to always be organized and use time wisely.

PROBLEM SOLVING

A lawyer's main function is to solve problems. Whether it's the problem your client initially hired you to fix or the many unforeseen ones that arise throughout the life of a case, the ability to solve them quickly and reliably is key.

- I successfully resolved hundreds of cases for my clients with a 99% favorable outcome rate.
- I pride myself on my ability to break down complex problems into smaller, manageable components to avoid getting overwhelmed. This skill has already served me well in coding while developing my projects and working through difficult bugs.
- I also have superior skills and experience researching complex issues. When faced with a difficult problem, I can quickly determine and find the information I need to solve it.
- Just like coding, a legal problem often hinges on revisiting one tiny, overlooked detail. Paying close attention and monitoring many things at once while also looking at the big picture is just part of the job.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Whether it's communicating with a client, judge or colleague, superior communication skills are a must for lawyers.

- Because I have interviewed thousands of witnesses, clients, opposing parties, and other individuals during my career, I am able to ask the right questions to foster communication and quickly get the information I need from people.
- I know how to actively listen when people are speaking to better understand them and make them feel heard.
- I am very skilled at explaining complex concepts to people, based not only on years of explaining the law to laypeople, but also as a Jiu Jitsu instructor teaching complex movements and concepts to inexperienced students.
- My written communication skills are also highly-evolved, so I am able to clearly, succinctly and persuasively communicate with others using precise and balanced language.
- Another related skill is the ability to work and collaborate with a team. I have enjoyed many successful relationships with co-counsel (and even opposing counsel) that required us to work well together towards resolution of a dispute.
- Additionally, my presentation and public speaking skills have been honed in courtrooms, boardrooms and other settings where I feel comfortable presenting information to groups large and small.

CREATIVITY

Many people understandably do not think of attorneys as being creative by nature, but I would argue that the good ones are actually very creative.

- Attorneys are constantly forced to think outside the box to develop new, unexpected ways of doing things to gain an edge on our adversaries.
- Attempting to use a set of laws in a new way is very similar to trying to do something new with a piece of software, language or library.
- My creativity also fosters a constant curiosity about how things can be done 'better' and a desire to continue improving and learning new skills to facilitate that.

INTERESTS

- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Brown Belt
- High School Wrestling Referee

WORK EXPERIENCE

TEAM TREEHOUSE

FULL-STACK JAVASCRIPT BOOTCAMP STUDENT

2021

TEAMTREEHOUSE.COM

- Received highest grade available ('Exceeds Expectations') on all ten assigned projects

MORUMBI ACADEMY

JIU JITSU INSTRUCTOR

2019 - PRESENT

VENTURA, CA

- After training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for almost ten years, I was selected from hundreds of students to be an instructor
- Teach classes ranging from 2-50 students the fundamentals of the sport, as well as effective self-defense techniques

PLG, APC

MANAGING ATTORNEY

2006 - 2020

VENTURA, CA/JANESVILLE, WI

- Handled all manner of cases in pre-litigation, litigation and before administrative bodies
- Coded from scratch and maintained firm website using Wordpress
- Published a popular blog about employment law
- Fully customized and maintained Time Matters case management software and MySQL server

CROSS LAW FIRM

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

2006

MILWAUKEE, WI

- Advised management, employees, human resources professionals and unions in resolving disputes
- Information Technology Liaison
- Researched, installed, customized and oversaw migration to Time Matters case management software, including writing a technical manual on how to enter data in accordance with firm policies.

SESSIONS & KIMBALL, LLP

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

2002 - 2006

MISSION VIEJO, CA

- Wrote for weekly Orange County Register column answering employment law questions for readers
- Taught a course at Western State University College of Law on wage & hour law
- Supervised staff of approximately ten law clerks and paralegals
- Chairman of Information Technology Committee
- Oversaw extensive hardware and software upgrades, including case management and analytics software