President Obama is doing his best to help the legal market. Plainly, the demand for Administrative lawyers is on the rise. While George Orwell would disprove of Obama’s 1984-esque legislation, attorneys should rejoice. With each new piece of convoluted, highly regulatory legislation comes high demand for legal advice. Just as securities lawyers joked that the implementation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was kind of like the Full Employment Act for securities lawyers, the Affordable Care Act can be seen as the Full Employment Act for health care lawyers.

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, there appears to be an increase in demand for health care lawyers to help navigate the lengthy, confusing provisions. In fact, some estimate a 20 percent increase in health care specialists in the legal field by 2018—that is approximately 600 new health care lawyers.[3] Should a couple avoid paying thousands of dollars in federal taxes and health premiums if they divorced; this has been labeled the “wedding tax.”[4]
Just as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act sparked demand for securities lawyers and the Affordable Care Act has sparked demand for health care lawyers, will revisions to the current Ethanol mandate spark a demand for environmental litigators and administrative lawyers? The Environmental Protection Agency is debating reducing the amount of renewable fuel that the oil industry must use. In response, ethanol backers are threatening to file a lawsuit if the EPA indeed decides to scale back the mandate. Ethanol backers would certainly include farmers, as roughly 40 percent of America’s corn crop goes to support ethanol production. Therefore, should the EPA decide to reduce the amount of required ethanol the oil industry must use, many may seek legal help—for instance, the oil industry for oversight and compliance issues and ethanol backers for litigation—creating an “demand-through-legislation” for lawyers. Different from the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and Obamacare, the Ethanol mandate could spark a broader demand for attorneys as actors will seek legal help for a variety of reasons (compliance and litigation, among others). At a time where the legal market is arguably over-saturated and depressed, it appears President Obama is trying hard to help his former profession prosper.

[2] Id.
[3] Id.
[5] Id.