

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Professional Concentrations for J.D. Students

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PROFESSIONAL CONCENTRATIONS

Introduction

Cardozo students can graduate with a “concentration” in a particular area of practice, something akin to an undergraduate major. The concentrations are designed to be pathways into particular legal fields. Concentrations are completely optional. However, having a concentration may be useful in signaling to the world, including prospective employers, your commitment to and expertise in a particular area.

Cardozo offers the following 13 professional concentrations:

- Business Law
- Civil Litigation
- Corporate Compliance and Risk Control
- Criminal Justice
- Data Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Family and Children’s Law
- Intellectual Property and Information Law
- International and Comparative Law
- Public Law, Regulation, and Government Affairs
- Real Estate
- Rights and the State
- Tax Law

Specific requirements vary somewhat from concentration to concentration, but the basic structure is the same: to qualify for a concentration, you must take about five courses, totaling about 15 credits, from a list of 2 or 3 required courses and various electives.

Earning a Concentration (JD students only – LLMS should refer to the LLM registration materials)

During your last semester of law school, you will have to fill out various documents to prepare for graduation. One such document will be a form through which you can request a concentration or concentrations. If you have satisfied the requirements for a particular concentration, you may graduate with that concentration; simple as that. Your final transcript will state the concentrations that you have earned.

There is no limit on the number of Concentrations you can earn. Graduating with more than two, even if you are able to pull it off in terms of requirements, will generally not make that much sense, since it undercuts the specialization message that the concentration is supposed to send.

The only down-side to selecting a concentration is that it may make you look more specialized or narrow than you are; you don’t want your concentration in, say, Intellectual Property to give a

potential employer who does real estate a reason not to look at you. So choose your concentrations carefully.

Declaring a Concentration

Although you do not have to “declare” your concentration in advance the way you would a college major, you might wish to do so. JD students are allowed to “declare” up to two concentrations as early as the summer after the first year of law school. Although a “declaration” will not show up on your transcript while you are a student, you may state your “declaration” on your resume to signal to potential employers that you have a serious interest in a particular field.

To “declare” a concentration, you simply log onto your Simplicity account, and update your profile by checking the relevant concentration box from the list of concentrations. OCS and other administrative offices will use this list to notify you via email of events and speakers relevant to the concentration(s) you have chosen.

If you choose to “declare” a concentration before you graduate, you are not bound by the declaration. You may change your mind at any time. It probably goes without saying that if you fail to complete the coursework for your declared concentration, you cannot earn it. Nor can you keep the declaration notation on your resume.

The Concentration Documents

For each concentration set forth below you will find a narrative guide, an overview of the field of practice, a section titled “career pathways,” and details about the required and elective courses connected to each concentration. You will also find networking information, including information about the relevant section of the American Bar Association (ABA).*

*Law students can join the ABA for just \$25 a year. Being a member of “the big ABA” is not that valuable, however. It’s not a credential, and all that happens is you get a magazine and some spamish email. The real benefits are to be had by joining a section, which can provide valuable information and, if you attend some events, networking opportunities. Lawyers in the sections are remarkably hospitable to law students who actually show up. In general, students can join ABA sections for free or almost free. The same general advice applies, mutatis mutandis, for the New York State Bar Association, the New York County Bar Association, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

BUSINESS LAW

Overview

Lawyers often are colloquially categorized as either “corporate” or “litigation” attorneys. But those labels are misleading. “Corporate” attorneys may assist clients with transactional work in a wide variety of settings, including not-for-profit or public service, while “litigators” often find themselves resolving large-scale commercial disputes for corporate clients. The more accurate term, which we have used to design this concentration, is “business law” – that is, the law applicable to organizations and the transactions in which they engage. Business law is, for all practical purposes, what many, many lawyers do.

The Business Law concentration prepares students for a variety of careers in transactional work, business counseling, and commercial litigation in both for-profit and not-for-profit settings. Today’s business lawyers need a combination of sharp legal analytic and drafting skills, working knowledge of several areas of law that touch upon business concerns, and, increasingly, a feel for the business problems that their clients confront.

Career Pathways

Business lawyers usually start their careers with a focus either on transactional work or on litigation. Transactional lawyers advise clients on the full range of their business dealings, from large-scale mergers and acquisitions to credit and financial agreements to sales and leases. The work of a transaction lawyer typically involves counseling clients about the legal requirements and implications of various transactions, negotiating the legal details of those transactions, and drafting agreements. Students interested in negotiation and the mechanics of business deals will find this work particularly appealing.

Business litigators, by contrast, can best be understood as representing their clients’ interests when the deals described in the previous paragraph go wrong. They represent clients at all stages of business disputes in a wide variety of forums, including not only courts but, increasingly, domestic and international arbitrators.

Most business lawyers begin their careers in private practice in law firms. Firms of all sizes practice business law, in a manner that roughly correlates with the size of their clients. Solo practices and small firms serve small companies, and the largest international law firms serve the Fortune Global 500 and other comparably sized private concerns. Firms often have specialized practices that serve different types of entities, including, for example, public corporations, private corporations, not-for-profit organizations, hedge funds, private equity investors, etc.

A significant number of attorneys are employed “in house” by business organizations themselves. In this role, attorneys serve as advisors and managers of outside counsel. Lawyers typically do not begin their careers in house; the standard career path is instead for a law firm associate to move to an in-house position, often at a client of their firm.

Finally, there is a smaller but still significant government and public service practice that has business law at its core. This practice involves working for business regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), state attorneys general, or a variety of federal agencies. It also can involve prosecuting white collar crime for federal or state law enforcement authorities. Like in-house positions, government jobs usually come later in an attorney's career, though some regulators do offer entry-level opportunities.

Overview of the Concentration

Corporations and Federal Income Tax form the foundation of Cardozo's business law curriculum, and teach a set of skills and concepts essential to any business law practice. The Corporations course introduces students to the basic concepts of agency, partnership, and corporate law, and the conceptual challenges of organizing joint economic activity. Because taxation drives much of business decision making and strategy, a basic familiarity with the federal tax code is similarly essential to practice in this area.

The business law curriculum offers students a broad exposure to a range of substantive areas that shape business organizations and transactions. For students interested in a general transactional practice, we recommend taking a variety of the core and specialized courses. Aiming for breadth rather than depth will prepare students for careers in a wide variety of sectors and settings.

For those interested in specializing, we recommend several tailored programs within the general business law concentration:

Corporate and securities law. Lawyers in this area advise corporations on governance matters, federal securities law, and issues at the intersection of the two, including buying and selling companies, offering stock to the public, and related financial transactions. Clients range from large public corporations represented by lawyers in large law firms to small businesses and startups seeking financing and dealing with governance issues among a small number of shareholders or founders.

Suggested core courses: Corporate Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Securities Regulation.

Suggested specialized courses: Advising Boards of Directors, Alternative Business Entities, Corporate Taxation, Private Equity Transactions, Securities Litigation and Enforcement, Taxation of Partnerships.

Commercial/bankruptcy law. A commercial practice focuses on transactions in goods and services, credit, payments, and bankruptcy. Commercial lawyers practice in a variety of settings, including both in law firms and as in-house counsel in corporations, and commercial clients comprise the full range of business entities in a wide variety of industries.

Suggested core courses: Bankruptcy Law, Commercial Law.

Suggested specialized courses: Business Reorganizations, Drafting and Analyzing Corporate Agreements, Electronic Commerce.

International business law. Cross-border transactions pose particular problems around which a sophisticated body of private international law has arisen. International business dealings also raise significant concerns about compliance with anti-corruption laws. Lawyers advise clients on international transactions in a variety of contexts, as both outside and in-house counsel.

Suggested core courses: International Business Transactions, Commercial Law.

Suggested specialized courses: Global Corporate Compliance, Corporate Internal Investigations, Electronic Commerce, International Trade.

Courses and Requirements

The Business Law concentration requires students to complete a total of six courses. All concentrators must take Corporations and Federal Income Tax. Of the four additional courses, at least two must be “Core Courses,” though students can count more than two core courses toward the concentration. No more than two “Specialized Courses” or “Clinics and Experiential Courses” may count toward the concentration. We do recommend, though do not require, that students take at least one relevant clinic or experiential course during their studies.

Because the curriculum is so rich in relevant courses, many students end up taking more than six of the courses listed below, and concentrators should treat that number as a floor rather than a ceiling.

Required Courses

Corporations
Federal Income Tax

Core Courses (at least two)

Bankruptcy Law: Debtors’ and Creditors’ Rights
Commercial Law
Corporate Finance
International Business Transactions
Mergers & Acquisitions
Securities Regulation

Specialized Courses (no more than two can count toward the concentration)

Advising Boards of Directors
Alternative Business Entities
Business Reorganizations
Comparative Corporate Governance
Corporate Criminal Liability and the FCPA
Corporate Internal Investigations

Corporate Taxation
Drafting and Analyzing Corporate Agreements
Electronic Commerce
Essential Business Concepts for Lawyers
Ethics for the Business Attorney
Global Corporate Compliance
International Commercial Arbitration
International Trade
Introduction to Financial Statements (I-FinS)
Law of Non-Profit Organizations
Private Equity Transactions
Securities Litigation
Taxation of Partnerships
Whistleblower Statutes and Corporate Fraud
White Collar Crime

Clinics and Experiential Courses (no more than two can count toward the concentration)

Indie Film Clinic
Intensive Transactional Lawyering Program (ITRANS)
Securities Arbitration Clinic
Tech Startup Clinic

Faculty Advisory Group

The Business Law Professional Concentration faculty advisory group consists of:

[Elizabeth Goldman](#) teaches Securities Regulation and directs the Securities Arbitration Clinic. Prior to joining the Cardozo faculty, Professor Goldman was Senior Counsel in the Division of Enforcement of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Northeast Regional Office in New York.

[Jeanne Schroeder](#) teaches a wide variety of business law courses, including Corporations, Corporate Finance, and Securities Regulation. She practiced in corporate finance for 12 years as an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and a partner at Milgrim Thomajan & Lee.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in business law:

[David Carlson](#) (Commercial Law, Bankruptcy)
[Mitchell Engler](#) (Corporations, Taxation)
[Arthur Jacobson](#) (Corporations, Employment Law)
[Aaron Wright](#) (Tech Startup Clinic)
[Charles Yablon](#) (Corporations, Mergers & Acquisitions)

[Samuel Weinstein](#) (Corporations)
[Edward Zelinsky](#) (Taxation)

Alumni Mentors

Bankruptcy

Kenneth Baum '92	Cole Schotz	kbaum@coleschotz.com
Jeffrey Bernstein '88	McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter	jbernstein@mdmc-law.com
David Isaac '89	Garden City Group	disaac8083@gmail.com
Allen Kadish '86	DiConza Traurig Kadish LLP	akadish@dtklawgroup.com
Joseph Vann '87	Cohen Tauber Spievack and Wagner	jvann@ctswlaw.com

Business

Julie Gershman '95	SolutionJewels, LLC	juliegershman@hotmail.com
Scott Zemser '90	White & Case	szemser@nyc.rr.com

Consulting

Julie Gershman '95	SolutionJewels, LLC	juliegershman@hotmail.com
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Communications/IP

Elaine Laurence '79	Laurence Associates LLP	elaine@laurenceassociates.com
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Corporate

Alissa Makower '92	CBS Corporation	alissa.makower@gmail.com
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Financial Planning

Kenneth Weiss '88	MetLife/Hudson Wealth Advisors	kweiss@hudsonwealthadvisors.com
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Insurance/Risk

Jay Brodsky '87	DeWitt Stern	jbrodsky@dewittstern.com
Howard Kronberg '83	Keidel, Weldon & Cunningham	hkronberg@hwcllp.com

Securities

Richard Anslow '85	Partner, Ellenoff, Grossman & Schole LLP	ranslow@egsllp.com
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Relevant Student Organizations

Business Law Society	CardozoBusinessLS@gmail.com
Cardozo Startup Society	cardozostartupsociety@gmail.com ; cardozo.yu.edu/cardozo-startup-society
Entrepreneurship Society	CardozoMFE@gmail.com
Labor & Employment Law Society	Cardozo.LELS@gmail.com

Career Resources

Lawyers in Business

http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/CDO_Public/CDO_Lawyers_In_Business_Public.pdf

This Yale Law School publication provides a discussion of opportunities for lawyers in business, as well as resources for identifying employers and internship/job opportunities.

VAULT

<http://careerinsider.vault.com/wps/portal/careerinsider?parrefer=823> and follow the instructions to create your own page

The Vault Career Insider has valuable information for those interested in business careers, either as legal counsel in financial services corporations or in alternative careers.

General Resources

We strongly encourage all students with an interest in business law to read *The Wall Street Journal* regularly. Print copies and electronic access are available through the library, and students who wish to subscribe can obtain discounted rates. Also valuable is *Crain's New York Business*, <http://www.craainsnewyork.com/>.

Cardozo's [Heyman Center on Corporate Governance](http://www.heyman-center.org) sponsors a variety of programs throughout the year on business law topics. More information can be found at heyman-center.org and on bulletin boards throughout the building.

Many blogs cover corporate and business law issues. A few of particular note are:

The Conglomerate <http://www.theconglomerate.org>

Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation

<http://corpgov.law.harvard.edu>

Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog

<http://clsbluesky.law.columbia.edu>

Wall Street Journal Law Blog

<http://blogs.wsj.com/law/>

New York Times Dealbook

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/business/dealbook/index.html>

Writing Competitions

[ABA Section of Antitrust Annual Law Student Writing Competition](#) (“student-written articles in the area of antitrust law, competition policy, and consumer protection law”)

[ABA Section of Business Law - Mendes Hershman Student Writing Contest](#) (no stated limitations on topic, but “choice of topic” is one of the criteria for judging)

[American Bankruptcy Institute Law Student Writing Competition](#) (“current issues regarding bankruptcy jurisdiction, bankruptcy litigation, or evidence in bankruptcy cases or proceedings”)

[American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers Writing Competition](#)

[Association of Securities & Exchange Commission Alumni \(ASECA\) Securities Law Writing Competition](#)

[Daniel T. Murphy Student Writing Competition](#) (Richmond J. Global Law & Business)

[Elliot A. Spoon Business Law Writing Competition](#) (Mich. St. J. Business & Securities Law)

[International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal Student Writing Competition](#)

[James E. Beckley Writing Competition for Students interested in Securities Arbitration and Securities Law](#) (Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association)

[The John Marshall Law School Global Markets Law Journal Writing Competition](#)

[National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees Law Student Writing Competition](#) (“an issue concerning Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code”)

[NYSBA Business Law Section Annual Law Student Writing Competition](#)

[Trandafir Writing Competition](#) (“any contemporary international business or economic concern”)

CIVIL LITIGATION

Overview

Litigation is the adjudication of disputes through the presentation of legal arguments and facts to an impartial tribunal. In the public's imagination, all lawyers are litigators. In reality, practicing litigation is just one way that lawyers assist their clients. More specifically, civil litigation involves the resolution of non-criminal disputes. Disputes regarding all substantive areas of the law – contracts, property, torts, constitutional law, international law, intellectual property, and so on – might be resolved through civil litigation. Therefore, this concentration focuses more heavily on transsubstantive issues and courses that will be of service regardless of the area of law in which a student may ultimately practice. This concentration should be attractive to any student who is planning to pursue a career in civil litigation.

Career Pathways

Litigation is practiced in many contexts. Most obviously, private law firms of all sizes may be involved in litigation of all sorts – civil rights, personal injury, commercial, etc. – and most firms have a litigation department as such. In the private law firm context, litigation is typically driven by established clients or clients who are attracted to the firm because of the firm's reputation. This means that some firms will practice civil litigation covering many different substantive areas, while others might specialize in, say, employment discrimination or toxic tort litigation. In addition, many non-profit organizations regularly engage in civil litigation; in that context, the litigation is typically associated with the mission of the organization. The American Civil Liberties Union, for instance, does not bring common law tort actions as a matter of course – instead, it tends to bring constitutional challenges to governmental action. Finally, there are governmental agencies that regularly litigate. The federal government employs approximately 35,000 lawyers; state and local governments collectively employ many times that number. Many government lawyers are litigators, working either at the Department of Justice (which generally represents federal agencies in court) or at one of the agencies with independent litigating authority, or litigating for the state or local government. In New York, for instance, both the New York City Law Department and the New York State Attorney General's Office are responsible for litigating civil cases (and only those – neither brings criminal prosecutions).

All of these organizations may be involved in “affirmative” litigation, in which lawyers are asking a tribunal to order the opposing party to take some action that benefits the lawyer's client, or “defensive” litigation, in which the lawyer is trying to prevent the tribunal from ordering that the lawyer's client take a particular action. Just as with substantive areas of the law, some organizations do a mix of affirmative and defensive work, while others focus on one to the exclusion of the other. Private law firms may do general civil litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants, but they tend to focus representation on one group or the other. Nonprofit organizations are quite varied – some practice exclusively affirmative civil litigation, but many organizations do both or only work on defensive litigation. Government lawyers do both, although usually not at the same time – the New York State Attorney General's office, for instance, has a defensive bureau and a bureau that focuses on affirmative civil rights litigation.

Litigation also happens in different procedural contexts. Every state has its own set of procedural rules, and they all are different in at least some respects from federal procedural and evidentiary rules. State filings overwhelm federal ones -- in 2010, for instance, approximately 17,000,000 civil cases were filed in state courts, more than 1.5 million in New York alone, while just over 280,000 civil cases were filed in federal courts. Thus, a student who intends to pursue civil litigation as a career would ideally be familiar with both state and federal rules of procedure and evidence.

Courses and Skills

The foundational courses for this concentration are transsubstantive (meaning that they are applicable to all civil litigation regardless of the substantive claims at issue). First, all students must take Civil Procedure to be prepared to practice civil litigation. It is not a part of the concentration because all students will have taken it during their 1L year. Equally essential is Evidence, an upper-level course that is required for the concentration. Although Evidence classes tend to focus on the Federal Rules of Evidence, there is substantial overlap between state and federal rules. In addition, students in this concentration must take either New York Practice or Federal Courts, although they are strongly encouraged to take both. New York Practice, as the name suggests, concerns the procedures that govern civil practice in New York State courts. Any lawyer intending to conduct civil litigation in New York courts must have a detailed understanding of this topic. Federal Courts is a mix of advanced civil procedure and constitutional law. Specific topics include: the relationship between federal and state courts and between federal and state law; doctrines of federal and state governmental immunity; and the enforceability of federal rights through suits against government officers. For any student interested in practicing complex civil litigation in Federal court, this class is a must.

Ideally, students interested in this concentration should take these classes as early as possible in their upper-level years before moving onto more specialized courses. Students must take at least three specialized courses to complete the concentration. The specialized courses include substance-specific courses – Securities Litigation; Constitutional and Civil Rights Litigation, Rights of Prisoners, any of a number of clinics, for instance – as well as additional trans-substantive courses – Pretrial Practice, Conflict of Laws, e-Discovery, etc. In selecting among these courses, a student will be well-served by framing her course selection in a structured way. A student interested in civil rights litigation should take Federal Courts and at least one of the Law School’s civil rights offerings. A student interested in tort litigation would be well-advised to take an advanced tort law class (*e.g.*, Aggregate Litigation, Advanced Tort Law, Medical Malpractice) and Conflict of Laws. These are meant to be only examples and not rigid guideposts – students should consult with faculty advisors for more specialized recommendations. In general, though, there is no real reason to take a substantive course in a field that is not interesting to you.

Finally, to fulfill this concentration all students must take at least one experiential or “skills”-based course. Some of the specialized courses described above (*e.g.*, an in-house clinic, a field

clinic, or a course that focuses on a specific transsubstantive skill that will be useful in litigation) or the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) may satisfy this requirement.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Civil Litigation, a student must successfully complete at least five courses in the field, including at least one experiential or skills course, as set out below:

Required Courses

Evidence

Federal Courts *or* New York Practice

[A student who takes both Federal Courts *and* NY Practice may apply one to the required course requirement and one to the specialized course requirement.]

Specialized Courses (at least three courses from this list, totaling at least 12 credits)

Administrative Law

Antidiscrimination Law

Bankruptcy

Bet Tzedek Clinic*

City of Newark Law Department Field Clinic/Seminar*

Civil Rights Clinic*

Class Actions and Aggregate Litigation

Complex Civil Litigation

Conflicts of Laws

Contemporary Conflicts and the Law

Disability Law and Its Implications

E-Discovery*

Employment Discrimination I

Employment Discrimination II

Employment Law

Family Defense Field Clinic*

Federal Civil Rights Law

Federal Courts

Health Care Reform Field Clinic and Seminar*

Immigration Justice Clinic*

Immigration Law Field Clinic and Seminar*

Insurance Law

Innocence Project Clinic*

Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP)*

Labor Law

Medical Malpractice

New York City Law Department Appeals Division Field Clinic

New York State Attorney General Field Clinic/Seminar (Social Justice Division)

New York Practice

Pre-Trial Practice*

Products Liability and Safety Law
Rights of Prisoners and Detainees
Securities Litigation and Enforcement
Securities Arbitration Clinic*
Securities Regulation
Special Education Law and Advocacy Field Clinic and Seminar*
Trial Advocacy*

Courses designated with a "" satisfy the concentration's experiential/skills requirement.*

Faculty Resources

The Civil Litigation Professional Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Myriam Gilles](#) teaches Torts, Elements of Law, Complex Litigation and Products Liability. Her scholarship touches on these general areas, with a focus on class actions and aggregate litigation.

[Alex Reinert](#) teaches Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, and The Rights of Prisoners. He conducts research in these areas and has extensive civil rights litigation experience, with a focus on prisoners' rights.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in civil litigation:

[Michelle Adams](#) (Civil Rights)

[Rebekah Diller](#) (Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic)

[Betsy Ginsberg](#) (Civil Rights Clinic)

[Elizabeth Goldman](#) (Securities Regulation)

[Marci Hamilton](#) (Civil Rights)

[Arthur Jacobson](#) (Pre-Trial Practice, Employment Discrimination)

[Peter Markowitz](#) (Immigration, FOIA)

[Leslie Salzman](#) (elder law, disability, class actions)

[Jeanne Schroeder](#) (Securities Regulation)

[Anthony Sebok](#) (Torts, Insurance Law, Remedies, Professional Responsibility)

[Stewart Sterk](#) (Land Use Regulation)

[Richard Weisberg](#) (First Amendment)

[Charles Yablon](#) (Civil Procedure, E-Discovery, Data Law)

Alumni Mentors

Ian Dumain '04
Harold Gordon '88
Sanford Hausler '87

Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP
Jones Day
Cox Padmore Skolnik & Shakarchy

ian.dumain@gmail.com
hkgordon@jonesday.com
hausler@cpslaw.com

Eric Hochstadt '03	Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP	eric.hochstadt@weil.com
Victoria Kummer '92	Arbitrator & Mediator, 2d Circuit	vkummer@me.com
Christopher Seeger '90	Seeger Weiss LLP	cseeger@seegerweiss.com
Joel Strauss '92	Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP	jstrauss@kaplanfox.com
Mark Yagerman '79	Smith Mazure Director Wilkins Young & Yagerman PC	myagerman@smithmazure.com
Daniel Weitz '96	NYS Office of Court Administration	danielmweitz@gmail.com
Adam S. Cohen '91	Cohen & Siegel, LLP	info@cohenandsiegellaw.com
Jason Lewis '12	Bartlett, McConough & Monaghan	Jason.lewis@bmmllp.com

Relevant Student Organizations

American Constitution Society	cardozo.acslaw@gmail.com ; https://www.acslaw.org/
Dispute Resolution Society	CardozoCDRS@gmail.com
Family Law Society	FamLaw.Cardozo@gmail.com
For Immigrant Rights and Equality (FIRE)	CardozoFIRE@gmail.com
Labor and Employment Society	Cardozo.LELS@gmail.com
Law Students for Reproductive Justice	CardozoLSRJ@gmail.com
National Lawyers Guild	Cardozo.nlg@gmail.com ; https://www.nlg.org/
Public Interest Law Students Association	Cardozo.PILSA@gmail.com
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund	CardozoSALDF@gmail.com
Students for Human Rights	Cardozo.students.for.human.rights@gmail.com
Suspension Representation Project	CardozoSRP@gmail.com
Unemployment Action Center	uac.cardozo@gmail.com ; http://uac-ny.org/

Career Resources

(Please note that although we provide links and resources to outside organizations, the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law does not necessarily endorse any of the organizations listed.)

Civil Litigation is an extremely broad field. Thus, it is impossible to list all relevant career resources in this document. As always, it is best to start with staff at the Office of Career Services. For jobs in private firms and nonprofits, there is no comprehensive “clearinghouse” that lists available positions – your best bet is to conduct exhaustive research, although starting with the Public Service Jobs Directory (described below) is a good beginning place for non-profit opportunities. For jobs in the state and federal government, we have listed some of the most useful resources below.

USAJobs (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>)

This is the one-stop source for Federal jobs and employment opportunities sponsored by the United States Office of Personnel Management. It is where the Department of Justice and other agencies list their job openings for attorneys and other positions. USAJobs.gov allows you to search for openings by location or keyword. You can also search for openings within a specific Department of Justice division.

Department of Justice (<http://www.justice.gov/careers>)

Although DOJ posts all permanent opportunities to USAJobs.gov, the agency also runs its Honors Program – meant for recent law school graduates – through its web-site (<http://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/entry-level-attorneys>). You can also access information about DOJ’s Summer Law Intern Program at its web-site (<http://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/summer-law-intern-program>).

Government Honors and Internship Handbook

(https://www.law.arizona.edu/career/Government_Honors2014-15/securitytest.cfm)

[password-protected site; Cardozo’s Office of Career Services can provide students with the password]

DOJ’s Honors program, mentioned above, is relatively well-known, but many federal agencies hire new attorneys primarily (and sometimes solely) through an Honors Program. The most comprehensive resource for post-graduate Honors Program is the Government Honors & Internship Handbook published by the University of Arizona’s College of Law. This Handbook provides substantive information including program descriptions, requirements, and application procedures. Annual online subscriptions are available to law schools for distribution to their students and graduates. Law students and graduates are advised to contact OCS for further information and to obtain access to the site.

New York State Attorney General’s Office (<http://www.ag.ny.gov/>)

Like the United States Department of Justice, the New York State Attorney General’s Office has several on-line career resources. Current job listings (with a useful filtering function) are posted [here](#); law student internship opportunities are [here](#); and general information can be found [here](#).

New York City Law Department (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/html/careers/careers.shtml>)

The New York City Law Department (also known as the Corporation Counsel or “Corp Counsel’s Office,” represents the City of New York in court. It is larger than the Attorney General’s office in many states and hires a significant number of Cardozo graduates.

PSJD – Public Service Jobs Directory (www.psjd.org)

This on-line resource is a NALP project and the successor to PSLawNet. It is dedicated to public interest work generally, and includes ample information about different kinds of litigation opportunities.

General Resources

American Bar Association

Most of the ABA Sections have some connection to civil litigation – the most directly relevant section is the [Litigation Section](#). In addition, the [Law Student Division](#) has access to useful information, and this ABA site on [Careers in the Law](#) is worth consulting.

Blogs

<http://topclassactions.com/>
<http://www.litigationandtrial.com/>
<http://www.karenkoehlerblog.com/>
<http://www.litigationps.com/>
<http://www.compellingdiscovery.com/>
<http://employmentdiscrimination.foxrothschild.com/>
<https://www.justice.org/fighting-for-justice-blog>
<http://www.legalfundingcentral.com/lfc360/>
http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/mass_tort_litigation/

Substantive Research

Bureau of Justice Statistics (<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=45>)

Since 1992, BJS has sponsored periodic surveys examining civil trial and appellate litigation in state courts, serving as the primary source for detailed level information on civil cases adjudicated by trial in state courts. BJS has also produced several reports examining civil litigation in Federal District courts.

The Federal Judicial Center (<http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf>)

The Federal Judicial Center is the education and research agency for the federal courts. This site contains the results of Center research on federal court operations and procedures and court history, as well as selected educational materials about the federal courts.

United States Courts (<http://www.uscourts.gov/Home.aspx>)

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts maintains this website on behalf of the Federal Judiciary. It contains many links to Federal Rules and policies, forms, court records, statistics, and educational resources.

National Center for State Courts (<http://www.ncsc.org/>)

The National Center for State Courts is an independent, nonprofit court improvement organization founded at the urging of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Warren E. Burger. He envisioned NCSC as a clearinghouse for research information and comparative data to support improvement in judicial administration in state courts. All of NCSC's services — research, information services, education, consulting — are focused on helping courts plan, make decisions, and implement improvements that save time and money, while ensuring judicial administration that supports fair and impartial decision-making.

National Center for Access to Justice (<http://ncforaj.org/>)

Housed at Cardozo, the National Center for Access to Justice seeks reforms to ensure meaningful, realistic access to the courts for all those seeking to vindicate legal rights. Among its projects is the [Justice Index](#), a state-by-state survey detailing the presence, or absence, of programs to assist people to find a lawyer or manage in court without one.

Writing Competitions

[Dish “Best in Class” eDiscovery Legal Research & Writing Competition](#)

[Expert Institute, Legal Blog Post Writing Contest](#) (a 1,000 to 2,500 word blog-style article on the use of expert witnesses in litigation)

[Federal Circuit Bar Association George Hutchinson Writing Competition](#) (“any topic that lies within the procedure, substance, or scope of the jurisdiction of” the Federal Circuit)

[International Association of Defense Counsel Legal Writing Contest](#) (“Entrants must write on subjects in the fields of tort law, insurance law, civil procedure, evidence or other areas of the law of practical concern to lawyers engaged in the defense, or management of the defense of civil litigation.”)

[James William Moore Federal Practice Award](#)

[Scribes Brief-Writing Award](#)

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE AND RISK CONTROL

Overview

In recent decades, financial institutions have greatly expanded the scope and complexity of their activities. They face an ever-changing and increasingly complex regulatory environment, made even more so by today's global marketplace. Due to the 2008 financial crisis, several high-profile compliance breakdowns, and an increased emphasis on consumer protection, the federal and state regulatory agencies, investors, legislators, and the general public are more focused on institutions' customer practices and regulatory compliance than ever before.

"Compliance risk" is defined as the risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, material financial loss, or loss to reputation a financial institution may suffer as a result of violating laws, regulations, rules, internal organization standards, and codes of conduct. Managing compliance risk, or "the compliance function," is central to financial institutions' daily activities. In addition, these institutions should hold themselves to the highest standards when conducting business, and at all times strive to observe the spirit as well as the letter of the law. Failure to consider the impact of its actions on its shareholders, employees, costumers, and the markets could result in significant reputational damage, even if no law has been broken.

Financial institutions must therefore follow effective compliance policies and procedures and management must take appropriate corrective action when compliance failures are identified. As a result, the compliance and risk management field is booming. Not all compliance professionals are lawyers, but lawyers are at the heart of setting up, overseeing, and ensuring the effectiveness of in-house compliance programs.

Cardozo's concentration in compliance and risk management aims to teach students how to effectively ensure that financial institutions develop and implement appropriate compliance regimes. In part, it covers the substantive laws, rules, and standards of proper market conduct by large financial institutions, as well as the internal structures, programs, and product development necessary to effectively control risk. Furthermore, this concentration provides in-depth learning in specific areas such as the managing of conflicts of interest, interaction and coordination with regulators, and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. While the focus is on banks and providers of financial services, many of the general principles extend to other types of highly regulated entities such as health care providers.

Career Pathways

Many lawyers specializing in compliance work in-house. Compliance concerns everyone within the company, starting at the top, with the board of directors and senior management, leading by example. Daily management of compliance risk, however, is performed by sophisticated staff, many of them lawyers who possess a high level of comfort navigating the complex regulatory changes and implementing integrated approaches to internal controls within banking organizations.

There are significant differences between financial institutions regarding the organization of the compliance functions. In large banks, compliance staff may be located within operating business lines, and internationally active banks may also have group and local compliance officers. In smaller financial institutions, hedge funds, and private equity firms, compliance staff may be located in one unit. Some firms have established separate units for specialist areas such as data protection and the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. No matter the size or scope, however, lawyers are in high demand to help implement integrated approaches focusing on compliance with internal controls and mitigating risks of fraud in order to reach strategic, operational and financial objectives. Lawyers are required to provide a roadmap to action, helping the financial institution position itself to divert disasters and grow shareholder value.

As the foregoing suggests, compliance is a field that should be especially attractive to students interested in financial services or business generally. It is not unusual for attorneys to begin working in a General Counsel's office, focused on legal and compliance issues, and over time taking on increasing non-legal responsibilities.

An alternative career pathway is to work not for a regulated entity but for a regulator. The relevant agencies – for example, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, and the Federal Reserve Board, as well as various state regulators – employ large number of lawyers who are engaged in (a) helping draft, and ensuring the legal soundness of, regulations, and (b) enforcing those regulations against individual firms through administrative (as opposed to judicial) proceedings.

Finally, some law-firm lawyers provide advice regarding compliance programs, or are hired to do internal investigations when something has gone wrong, or represent companies or individuals in white-collar prosecutions when things have gone really wrong. A background in compliance and risk management is highly valuable for this sort of work.

Courses and Skills

Cardozo's curriculum allows students to study this area of law with academic rigor while giving them an opportunity to explore the ways rules and regulations are implemented in real-life situations. The curriculum is also a moving target; it continues to grow and develop. The faculty's objective is to develop courses that balance theoretical foundations with practical applications of the laws, policies, and procedures.

The concentration includes four required undertakings. Two of these are the core courses that cover the essential substantive law: Global Corporate Compliance and Securities Regulation. (Note that Corporations is also a de facto requirement because it is a pre-requisite for Securities Regulation. This means that concentrators should take it during their 2L year, preferably in the fall semester.) In addition, concentrators are required to attend the Compliance Speakers Series hosted by the Heyman Center on Corporate Governance. The Speakers Series brings in distinguished professionals to share their insights and experiences, usually about three or four

times a semester. Absent a compelling reason, concentrators must attend at least six of these events – in other words, someone who chooses this concentration at the beginning of the 2L year will have to attend half the talks that occur before graduation; someone who chooses this concentration at the beginning of the 3L year (and did not attend any as a 2L) will be expected to attend each talk that year. Needless to say, concentrators are encouraged to attend more than six.

Students must then take at least 6 credits of other relevant courses. Note that the electives include Ethics for the Business Attorney. Ethical considerations are highly intertwined with compliance issues (that is why, for example, the leading organization for compliance professionals is called “The Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics”). Accordingly, compliance concentrators are strongly urged to take this course, which satisfies Cardozo’s professional responsibility requirement.

Also listed below are “related” courses. These do not count toward the concentration, but each is valuable to someone doing compliance work.

Finally, to ensure a blend of classroom study and real-world exposure, concentrators are encouraged but not required to pursue a relevant internship or externship. Cardozo has partnered with major financial institutions and regulatory agencies in a variety of programs to help students gain additional practical training in compliance. Our partners include JP Morgan Chase, The Securities and Exchange Commission, The Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Agency, the New York Department of Financial Services, the New York Office of Attorney General, and others. The goal is to ensure that graduates enter the corporate environment equipped not only with a sophisticated substantive knowledge of compliance principles, but also with a set of meaningful connections, relationships, and mentorships with alumni and others who are eager to support their professional growth and success.

The Concentration

Required Courses

- Global Corporate Compliance (3)
- Securities Regulation (3)
- Heyman Center Compliance Speakers Series (attendance required at at least six)

Elective Courses (at least 6 credits drawn from the following)

- Corporate Criminal Liability and the FCPA (2)
- Corporate Finance (2 or 3)
- Corporate Internal Investigations (2)
- Department of Financial Services Field Clinic (4)
- E-Discovery, Digital Evidence and Computer Forensics (2)
- Ethics for the Business Attorney (2)
- Privacy Law (3)
- Securities Litigation and Enforcement (2)
- White Collar Crime (3)

Related/Suggested Courses

- Administrative Law (3)
- Bankruptcy Law: Debtors' and Creditors' Rights (3)
- Electronic Commerce (2)
- Privacy Law Seminar (2)
- Securities Arbitration Clinic (8)

Cardozo Faculty

The Compliance Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Mike Stone](#). Professor Stone is a member of the adjunct faculty and is Director of Compliance at the Heyman Center. He formerly was a Managing Director and General Counsel of Morgan Stanley Individual Investment Group and Chief Attorney, Branch of Enforcement at the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

[Charles Yablon](#). Professor Yablon, who is Faculty Co-Director of the Cardozo Data Law Initiative, teaches a Corporations, Mergers and Acquisitions, and other business courses. Before joining the Cardozo faculty he was an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and then at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in relevant fields:

- [David Carlson](#) (Bankruptcy)
- [Elizabeth Goldman](#) (Securities Regulation)
- [Jeanne Schroeder](#) (Corporations, Securities Regulation)
- [Aaron Wright](#) (Startups)

Relevant Student Organizations

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Business Law Society | <u>CardozoBusinessLS@gmail.com</u> |
| Cardozo Startup Society | <u>cardozostartupsociety@gmail.com</u> |
| Cyberlaw Society | <u>CardozoCyberlaw@gmail.com</u> |

Career Resources

The Career Services Office and the Compliance Concentration Faculty Advisory Group are the places to start for information and advice. In addition, the following resources may be helpful.

[The Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics](#) provides a great deal of relevant information, including various publications and a jobs board.

[AML Source](#) describes itself as “A Career Hub for Anti-Money Laundering & Financial Crime Professionals.” It hosts an annual [job fair](#) in New York City, generally in November.

General Resources

[The Heyman Center for Corporate Governance](#) houses Cardozo’s corporate law programs, hosting speakers, arranging externships, organizing study abroad, and supporting academic research. More information is available from the Program Director, Val Myteberi who can be reached at heymancenter@yu.edu or found in Room 541.

The Wall Street Journal publishes an on-line [Risk and Compliance Journal](#), which is an excellent source of information on recent developments in the field. Subscription required.

The New York Bankers Association holds an annual, multi-day [Technology, Compliance & Risk Management Forum](#), generally in May.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Overview

The Criminal Justice area encompasses the entire process of enforcing criminal law: investigation, indictment, plea-bargaining, trial, sentencing, appeal, post-conviction relief, and clemency or parole. Criminal conduct is considered the most egregious violation of the law, significantly more severe than civil wrongs such as tortious infliction of harm and breach of contract. For that reason, criminal conduct is prosecuted by the government and is generally punishable not just by financial penalties but by imprisonment, and criminal conviction carries with it a particular stigma not associated with civil liability. State crimes are understood as offenses against the people of the state, while federal crimes are offenses against the United States.

Lawyers are, of course, deeply involved throughout this process. Prosecutors bring criminal charges on behalf of the government, while defense attorneys represent the accused. The Supreme Court has held that a criminal defendant has a constitutional right not merely to be represented by counsel but to have counsel provided by the government – there is no equivalent right on the civil side.

Career Pathways

Criminal law attorneys include prosecutors and defense attorneys. Prosecutors usually work for the office of a county district attorney, state attorney general, or federal United States Attorney. (The U.S. Attorneys Offices correspond to the federal judicial districts and are part of the Department of Justice.) Some federal prosecutors also work directly for the main office of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., for example in the Public Integrity Section. Prosecutors file charges and indictments against criminal defendants and prosecute them in courts on the government's behalf. Defense attorneys represent people accused of crimes. While courtroom work is the most visible part of a criminal lawyer's job, both prosecutors and defense attorneys are also involved in the investigatory phase and in negotiating plea bargains – in essence, settlements that avoid the need for a trial – which is how the overwhelming majority of prosecutions are concluded.

For many and obvious reasons, no lawyer works simultaneously as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney. However, it is not at all unusual for someone to do both over the course of a career. The skills and knowledge picked up in either capacity are enormously valuable when wearing the other hat. In particular, it is relatively common for someone to start their career in a prosecutor's office and then leave to do defense work. The path in the other direction is far less well-beaten, although U.S. Attorney's Offices frequently hire law firm associates who have worked on criminal matters on the defense side. In addition, beginning one's career in a district attorney's office (the US Attorneys Offices hire brand new graduates only rarely if ever) or as a public defender will provide early and intense litigation experience that will be helpful even for those who ultimately pursue other sorts of careers in litigation.

Within the defense bar, one can identify three general categories of practitioners. One consists of public defenders, who are government employees whose job is to represent criminal defendants unable to afford an attorney. (Some private attorneys, for example, those doing criminal work at the Legal Aid Society, which is a private organization supported in part by government funds, also fall into this category.) These attorneys typically represent indigent defendants accused of felonies and misdemeanors. Second, there are private practitioners, often solo or at small firms, with a general criminal practice. Third, some attorneys, often but not always at larger firms, specialize in “white collar crime,” i.e. non-violent crimes such as mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, or money laundering.

Many of the larger prosecutorial offices are divided into units according to subject matter. For example, some senior units specialize in narcotics prosecution, others in securities fraud, and others in terrorism or organized crime. Some offices (prosecutorial or defense) also divide responsibility for cases based on the stage in the proceedings, for example assigning primary responsibility for appeals to an appeals unit, with other lawyers specializing in trials or grand jury presentations. Even in offices that are so organized, it is frequently the case that the lawyer who handled a trial will have input in the appeal. It is also quite common for lawyers to rotate among various units in the course of a career. One of the things that making criminal law so stimulating is the opportunity to participate in many different types of cases and thus learn new areas of law, and to participate in every stage of a criminal case.

Students considering practicing in the criminal law area will do well to seek an internship position for the summer and/or during the semester in a prosecutor’s or public defender’s office or in a private law firm. Such exposure will allow the student to find out whether she enjoys working in the criminal law area, to obtain valuable experience, and possibly to impress prospective employers. Some of the larger prosecutorial and public defender offices have well-established internship programs and make an effort to provide interns with diverse experiences, including in many cases the opportunity to appear in court on a matter. Some of these offices, such as the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, typically come to Cardozo for on-campus interviews of prospective summer interns.

A career in criminal law can be tremendously rewarding. Whether one is representing an individual who has been charged with a crime, or investigating or prosecuting a crime on behalf of crime victims or a community, the work matters in a very concrete way to real people. Students who enjoy working with people – whether it be other lawyers, agents, witnesses, or clients – may find a career in criminal law very fulfilling. It also helps to be quick on your feet and to enjoy public speaking. Students who are interested in criminal justice who think they are not suited to courtroom work may enjoy working at a public policy institute dedicated to criminal justice issues, like the Vera Institute, or a larger public interest organization with a section devoted to criminal justice issues, like the Brennan Center for Justice.

Courses and Skills

Cardozo offers students a wide variety of courses in the area of criminal law. Some of those courses are doctrinal. These courses help students acquire knowledge and understanding of the

rules of criminal law, evidence, and procedure and develop the ability to apply those rules in different—sometimes, unanticipated—circumstances. Other courses are clinical. They help students develop the ability to argue in court about guilt and punishment and negotiate plea bargains.

For all intents and purposes, the introductory course for the Criminal Justice Concentration is Criminal Law, which covers the *substantive* rules of criminal liability. That does not appear on the list below because, of course, all students take it during the first year. But it is the foundation on which this concentration is built.

In the upper level, most of the criminal law courses are about the processes of the criminal justice system rather than the substantive rules of liability. Although the two main upper level courses have the word “procedure” as part of the name, that term refers not just to *trial* procedure but to the entire process of investigation and prosecution of crimes. The heart of these courses is a study of the interpretation and application of the 4th, 5th, and 6th amendments and the differing interpretations of the due process clause of the 14th amendment.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Criminal Justice, a student must successfully complete at least five courses, totaling at least 15 credits, from the following list. The three required courses are about the law that governs the investigation (Crim Pro) and prosecution (Crim Pro II and Evidence) of crimes. The elective courses then focus in greater detail on particular aspects of the criminal justice system. Finally, all concentrators must take at least one clinic or other skills course.

Required Courses

Criminal Procedure
Criminal Procedure II
Evidence

Elective Courses (at least one of the following)

Advanced Criminal Law
Antiterrorism and Criminal Enforcement
Corporate Criminal Liability and the FCPA
Criminal Justice and Society Colloquium (for students not in the Prosecutor Practicum)
Cyber Security
Intensive Trial Advocacy
International Criminal Law
Juvenile Justice
Plea Bargaining
Race and Crime
Rights of Prisoners and Detainees
Trial Advocacy, Introduction to
White Collar Crime
Wrongful Convictions

Clinics and Skills and Experiential Courses (at least one of the following)

Civil Rights Clinic
Criminal Appeals Clinic
Criminal Defense Clinic
Criminal Trial Practice
Federal Criminal Prosecution Field Clinic
Immigration Justice Clinic
Innocence Project
Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP)*
Juvenile Delinquency Field Clinic
Prosecutor Practicum
Trial Advocacy, Advanced*
Trial Advocacy, Introduction to*

*Students can apply *either* (a) ITAP *or* (b) one or both of the Trial Advocacy courses to the concentration, but not both (a) and (b).

Faculty Advisory Group

The Criminal Justice Professional Concentration faculty advisory group consists of:

[Kyron Huigens](#). Professor Huigens teaches a wide variety of criminal law courses. Prior to joining the Cardozo faculty, he worked both as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney in Washington State.

[Jessica Roth](#). Professor Roth teaches Criminal Law, Evidence, and White Collar Crime. Before joining Cardozo, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York for seven years, where she focused on the prosecution of violent gangs and securities fraud. From 2010-2014, she served as a reporter for the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, helping to revise the ABA's standards on Fair Trial-Free Press issues.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in criminal law:

[Betsy Ginsberg](#) (Rights of Prisoners)
[Stanley Neustadter](#) (Criminal Appeals Clinic)
[Jonathan Oberman](#) (Criminal Defense Clinic)
[Alex Reinert](#) (Criminal Law, Federal Courts, Rights of Prisoners)
[Barry Scheck](#) (Innocence Project)
[Ekow Yankah](#) (Criminal Law)

Alumni Mentors

Alan Futerfas '87	Futerfas Law Firm	asfuterfas@futerfaslaw.com
Gary Galperin '80	Office of the District Attorney, New York County	galpering@dany.nyc.gov
Jon Lenzner '04	Investigative Reporting Group International, Inc.	jlenzner@igint.com
Bettina Schein '86	Law Offices of Bettina Schein	bettinascheinlaw@aol.com

Relevant Student Organizations

American Constitution Society	cardozo.acslaw@gmail.com
Cardozo Criminal Law Society (CCLS)	cardozocrimlaw@gmail.com
Public Interest Law Students Association (PILSA)	Cardozo.PILSA@gmail.com

Career Resources

Ellen Brotman, *Careers in Criminal Law*

[This book](#), published by the ABA Criminal Justice Section, consists of short chapters about different individuals in the criminal law field and the career paths they have followed. It at least purports to “to give the reader insight into the type of person who will do well in a career in criminal law.”

Public Defender Handbooks

The NYU Law School has prepared a very helpful guide to a career as a public defender. It is available at http://pslawnet.org/uploads/NYU_PD_Handbook--public_version_August_2008.pdf. A similar guide is available from the University of Virginia at <http://www.law.virginia.edu/pdf/DefendersManual.pdf>

General Resources

American Bar Association

Law students can join the ABA for just \$25 a year. Being a member of “the big ABA” is not that valuable, however. The real benefits are to be had by joining a section; section membership is generally free or almost free for law students and can provide valuable information and networking possibilities. Law students can join the [Criminal Justice Section](#) for free.

Brennan Center for Justice

The Brennan Center is a combination think tank and advocacy organization involved in a wide range of issues; its criminal justice program is particularly focused on ending mass incarceration.

Blogs

Among the most useful of the many blogs devoted to criminal justice issues are the following:

[CrimProf Blog](#)

[Sentencing Law and Policy](#)
[Vera Institute of Justice](#)
[White Collar Crim Prof Blog](#)

[*National Association of Attorneys General \(NAAG\)*](#)

NAAG is a century-old organization through which the state AG's interact and cooperate.

[*National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers \(NACDL\)*](#)

This organization of defense attorneys works to maintain the independence and expertise of the criminal defense bar. It also sponsors an annual Law Student Trial Competition and maintains a brief bank index. Law student membership costs \$65; it includes access to the association's monthly publication, *The Champion*. But the publication is also available on WESTLAW.

[*National District Attorneys Association \(NDAA\)*](#)

The role of state AGs in criminal prosecution varies; in New York State, for example, criminal prosecution is the exclusive province of the District Attorneys. The [NDAA](#) is the national organization for DA's.

[*National State Attorneys General Program*](#)

This Columbia Law School program puts on interesting programming, issues publications, and maintains an informative website.

[*The Innocence Project*](#)

Cardozo's celebrated program dedicated to the use of DNA evidence to exonerate the wrongfully convicted.

[*Vera Institute of Justice*](#)

The Vera Institute is a long-standing non-profit research organization devoted to improvements to the criminal justice system. In its own words, it "combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety."

Writing Competitions

[ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence Law Student Writing Competition](#)

[ABA Criminal Justice Section William Greenhalgh Student Writing Competition](#)

[National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Diversity Essay Competition](#)

[National Crime Victim Law Institute Law Student Victims' Rights Writing Competition](#)

DATA LAW

Overview

A decade ago, there was no such thing as a lawyer who specialized in data law. Since then, the evolution of IT systems, mobile access, and the proliferation of devices and applications have transformed the way we communicate and do business. Global technological developments have generated a need for new specialized areas of practice. “Information Governance Counsel” is now a well-recognized job title, as are eDiscovery, Privacy, and Data Security Counsel. Attorneys in these positions help design policies, procedures, processes, and controls for managing a company’s or agency’s information. Attorneys help ensure that information systems comply with privacy laws and protect information from attack. Litigators and in-house counsel must navigate complex data sources to respond to discovery requests. Other lawyers specialize in cyber security and data breach, working with government and private organizations at the nexus of data security and privacy law to protect against and respond to hacking attacks and industrial espionage.

Career Pathways

Data law expertise is relevant to lawyers in many different specialties. Many data lawyers are in-house counsel at corporations and not-for-profits. These attorneys grapple with issues of cybersecurity, data privacy, information governance, digital records management, and electronic discovery. By establishing and enforcing policies governing how information is managed, stored, used, and destroyed, attorneys protect the organization from regulatory and legal risk and from data breach. Typically, an Information Governance and Records Management Department works closely with the Information Security and Information Technology Departments to identify the location of all information. Attorneys help define what information is retained, where it is stored, how long it is retained, who has access to it, how the data is protected, and how policies and regulations are enforced.

Despite market pressures to reduce hiring of junior lawyers, law firms are in fact increasing hiring of lawyers capable of managing data risks and privacy and with expertise in electronic discovery.

Data law is also relevant to government attorneys. Government regulators need to have the expertise necessary to enforce new data-related laws and regulations. Lawyers work in the Internet Bureaus of state Attorneys General; the recently enacted Consumer Data Protection laws have led to new positions, notably at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the FTC, to name a few. Agencies charged with health care and financial industry regulation have likewise hired data lawyers. Government lawyers manage data law risks internally and ensure that their agencies comply with the law (e.g. searching internal government data stores for litigation or FOIA request purposes).

Consulting firms of all sizes hire data lawyers to provide data expertise and services to government, corporations, and law firms. The largest consulting firms (e.g. Deloitte and KPMG) hire in large numbers annually.

Finally, the data technology sector alone currently powers a surge in data law hiring. Software companies developing data management products, the burgeoning Internet of Things, app developers, internet commerce, and the emerging data mining industry are just some of the industries spurring demand for tech-savvy lawyers. Electronic discovery providers hire lawyers to manage e-discovery best practices and processes, and serve as subject matter experts to interface with in-house or law firm clients.

Courses and Skills

Cardozo's curriculum allows students to study this area of law with academic rigor while giving them an opportunity to explore the ways rules and regulations are implemented in real-life situations. The faculty's objective is to develop courses that balance theoretical foundations with practical applications. Data law is a rapidly and constantly changing field, and so the curriculum will be fine-tuned from time to time to keep up with advances in information technology.

To ensure a blend of classroom study and real-world exposure, concentrators are encouraged but not required to pursue a relevant internship or externship. Cardozo's Data Law Initiative is working to create internship opportunities with law firms and companies. Interested students must apply and interview with Initiative Directors Patrick Burke and Denise Backhouse. These internship opportunities will help the student establish meaningful connections with alumni and others in the field.

The Concentration

Concentrators must successfully complete at least five courses from the list below. These include three core courses that cover the essential substantive law: (1) Data Law and Information Governance, (2) Cybersecurity, and (3) E-discovery, Digital Evidence & Computer Forensics. Concentrators must take at least two of these core courses. They must also take at least three additional classes, totaling at least 8 credits, from the list of electives. Also listed below are "related" courses. These do not count toward the concentration, but each would be valuable to someone working in this field.

Required Courses (any two of the following; a student who takes all four may count two as electives)

- Cybersecurity
- E-Discovery, Digital Evidence & Computer Forensics
- Information Governance Law
- Privacy Law (the 3 credit course, *not* the privacy law seminar)

Elective Courses (at least three of the following, totaling at least eight credits)

- Corporate Internal Investigations (2)
- Cybersecurity (2)*
- Department of Financial Services Field Clinic (3)
- E-Discovery, Digital Evidence & Computer Forensics (2)*
- Ethics for the Business Attorney (2)
- Information Governance Law (2)*
- Internet Law (3)
- Privacy Law (3)
- Privacy Seminar (2)
- Technology Policy Seminar (2)
- White Collar Crime (3)
- Data Law Externship and supporting seminar
 - 1 credit for unpaid externship; 0 credits for paid externship
 - 1 credit for required supporting externship seminar

**If not counted as one of the two required courses.*

Related/suggested Courses

- Electronic Commerce
- Administrative Law
- Pretrial Practice
- Tech Startup Clinic

Cardozo Faculty

The Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Felix Wu](#). Professor Wu, who is the Faculty Co-Director of the Cardozo Data Law Initiative, teaches Privacy Law and the Privacy Seminar, as well as courses in Intellectual Property. In addition to his law degree, Professor Wu holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from UC Berkeley. He was previously an associate at Fish & Richardson.

In addition, the following Cardozo professor has expertise in data law:

[Charles Yablon](#) (Corporations, Ediscovery)

Relevant Student Organizations

- Business Law Society CardozoBusinessLS@gmail.com
- Cyberlaw Society CardozoCyberlaw@gmail.com
- LinkedIn Networking Group [Cardozo Information Governance & eDiscovery Group](#)

Career Resources

The Career Services Office and the Compliance Concentration Faculty Advisory Group are the places to start for information and advice. In addition, the following resources may be helpful.

The Wall Street Journal publishes an on-line [*Risk and Compliance Journal*](#), which is an excellent source of information on recent developments in the field. Subscription required.

The New York Bankers Association holds an annual, multi-day [Technology, Compliance & Risk Management Forum](#), generally in May.

The International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) offers certifications, conferences networking events and job postings. See <https://privacyassociation.org/>. Membership required.

ALM publishes *Law Technology News* with Legaltech daily updates available via email and supports the annual LegalTechNY show, a three-day industry showcase held in late January/early February. <http://legaltechnews.com/>

Relevant LinkedIn groups include:

- Women in eDiscovery
- eDiscovery People

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Overview

“Dispute Resolution” consists of the various processes and approaches for resolving a dispute between two or more parties, ranging from settling a dispute between two individuals to resolving a dispute between two nation states. In the legal context, “dispute resolution” is often used to refer to those processes that are an *alternative* to litigation, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. Hence, the term “Alternative Dispute Resolution” or “ADR” is another name for this field.

All areas of legal practice employ various forms of dispute resolution. In fact, most legal disputes are resolved without a lawsuit and most lawsuits are settled before trial. This concentration is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of dispute resolution processes and insights into how the various processes are employed in practice. A concentration in dispute resolution should be attractive to students interested in pursuing a career in conflict resolution, as well as students considering careers as litigators and transactional attorneys.

Career Pathways

Traditionally, dispute resolution careers have been seen as involving jobs as mediators, arbitrators, and negotiators. However, dispute resolution encompasses a broad spectrum including ombudsmen, facilitators, labor relations professionals, human resources professionals, diplomats, dispute resolution system design professionals, as well as conflict resolution professors, teachers, and trainers. Also, traditional law firms and litigators need to be expert in dispute resolution, as most cases involve negotiation and mediation whether or not they ultimately go to trial. The following are descriptions of some of the career paths available to those who specialize in dispute resolution.

Mediation

A mediator is a third party neutral who assists two or more parties in conflict to communicate with one another in an effort to understand the matter more clearly, develop options for resolution, and come to an agreement if the parties desire.

The traditional trajectory to become a mediator of litigated matters is to practice as an attorney in a specific area of law and eventually transition into a mediation practice. Mediation is often utilized to resolve commercial disputes involving, for example, employment, construction, securities, and personal injury. Many mediators who mediate in the context of commercial litigation are drawn from panels or rosters established by the American Arbitration Association (AAA), JAMS (formerly Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), CPR, the Southern District of New York Mediation Panel, and the EEOC among others. Mediators who are a part of these panels are eligible to be selected and hired as a mediator by attorneys and their clients.

Family law is another area where mediation is frequently utilized. Divorce, child custody, elder care issues, and other familial disputes may be resolved through mediation. Family mediators often develop solo private practices or join small group practices. Knowledge of divorce and custody laws is important in developing a family mediation practice. Another possible career path for those interested in family mediation is to work for a family court connected mediation program. Court connected mediation programs refer families to mediation services when ordered by a judge.

Another pathway for a career in mediation is to work for community mediation centers. These non-profit organizations mostly provide mediation services for disputes that have not yet reached the courts. Typical examples are disputes between neighbors, landlords and tenants, family members, friends, or coworkers. Community mediation centers generally hire trained mediators to administer mediation programs and to conduct mediation trainings. Many centers rely on volunteer mediators and mediation trainees to provide the actual mediation services.

Another specialized area of mediation is restorative justice. Restorative justice is a part of the criminal justice system that generally focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with the victims and the community at large. Restorative justice programs are often run by individuals who are trained in restorative justice mediation, and operate within or as a part of a community mediation center.

Arbitration

An arbitrator is a neutral third party appointed by the parties in a conflict to determine the facts and issue a *binding* judgment. Arbitration is a common way for large firms serving corporations and businesses to resolve disputes, particularly in the international arena. Most credit card contracts, financial agreements, automobile contracts, hospital, and healthcare agreements, as well as many employment contracts, contain mandatory arbitration clauses, which require parties to resolve their disputes through arbitration rather than litigation.

Most arbitrators are members of arbitration panels maintained by organizations such as the AAA, JAMS, and FINRA. Through membership on these panels, individuals are eligible to be selected by attorneys to arbitrate disputes. Attorneys generally select arbitrators based on areas of expertise, experience level, and reputation.

Labor disputes are also frequently resolved by arbitration, and many collective bargaining agreements call for arbitration as a means to settle disputes. An understanding of labor laws and experience working for a union, government agency, or labor law firm are helpful towards building a career as a labor arbitrator.

Representation and Advocacy

Outside formal dispute resolution processes, negotiation and communication skills learned in dispute resolution courses and trainings help practicing attorneys effectively represent their clients. Both transactional attorneys and litigators use alternative dispute resolution processes as a regular part of their practices. Dispute resolution clauses are regularly drawn into contracts, and an understanding of the various dispute resolution options available to clients is essential. In

addition, many major law firms now have practice areas dedicated to alternative dispute resolution including representing parties in both mediations and arbitrations.

Facilitation

Facilitation is a process by which a third party assists a group of individuals to conduct meetings, coordinate group discussion, or manage dissent among its members. A facilitator's goal is to identify the needs of the parties, and to help them to reach productive decisions. Facilitation can be used to assist a small group meeting, or can be applied as a method to manage a large-scale multi-party conflict.

Ombuds

An ombuds is an individual who resolves disputes within organizations, often outside the official mechanisms, and investigates complaints of maladministration. Ombuds provide confidential and informal assistance to individuals and will act as a source of information and referral, answering questions, and assisting in the resolution of conflict in various situations. Ombuds are frequently employed by universities, government agencies, healthcare providers, and health insurance companies to investigate complaints relating to client services, employment matters, educational institutions, and student welfare.

International Dispute Resolution

Many legal disputes cross international borders, and dispute resolution is a popular means to resolve these cross-border conflicts. Law firms that represent international clients offer practice areas dedicated to international dispute resolution and advocacy. Dispute resolution has long been a method for resolving international disputes between states, nations, and various international entities. International dispute resolvers find careers working for government agencies and various non-governmental organizations. The US Department of State and the United Nations have extensive dispute resolution programs, both internal (for employees and staff) and external (for addressing international conflict). Mediators Beyond Borders, an international non-profit organization, works with international volunteers to conduct conflict resolution trainings, dialogues, and facilitations throughout the world.

Alternative Dispute Resolution System Design

Individuals with expertise in dispute resolution may also be hired to create and establish dispute resolution programs for various entities including corporations, educational institutions, and state and federal government agencies. The US government frequently calls upon well-known neutrals to develop dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve or address major crises and conflicts. Private corporations and major sporting associations also hire dispute resolution professionals to design dispute resolution systems for both internal and external conflicts.

Courses and Skills

The foundational competencies required for the concentration correspond to the basic dispute resolution processes: negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

- Negotiation: *Negotiation Theory and Skills* offers an introduction to both theoretical and practice-based foundations of negotiation. Through simulation-based exercises and classroom discussions, the course covers the elements of both integrative and distributive bargaining; barriers to agreement and strategies to overcome them; the nature of dialogue; negotiation power; the role of culture, gender, and race in negotiations; negotiation preparation, tactics, and initial and responsive strategies; and ethics.
- Mediation: *Introduction to Mediation* (focusing on the mediator's perspective) or *Representation in Mediation* (focusing on the advocate's perspective) provide students with intensive training in mediation-related skills, as well as an examination of different schools of mediation, policy issues, and ethical considerations. This foundational competency requirement can also be satisfied by taking the *Mediation Clinic*, the *Divorce Mediation Clinic*, or *Divorce Mediation*.
- Arbitration: *Domestic Commercial Arbitration* provides an overview of arbitration from historical, statutory, social, and practical perspectives. *International Commercial Arbitration* offers an overview of a dispute resolution process in the domain of international trade.

Concentrators will be introduced to each of these areas, and then can delve deeper in the particular competency or competencies that most interest them.

Although not required for the concentration, students are strongly recommended to take advantage of at least one experiential opportunity. ADR is in part a skill that can only be learned by hands-on experience; that is why virtually every course in this concentration devotes a significant amount of time to simulations. But real-world experience is also invaluable. The relevant courses are indicated by asterisks in the list below.

Students should also note that the school offers a **Certificate in Dispute Resolution**, which has more stringent requirements than the Concentration (see <https://cardozo.yu.edu/programs-centers/kukin-program-conflict-resolution/certificate-dispute-resolution>). The key difference between the Concentration and a Certificate is that the latter entails satisfaction of four competencies instead of three, a writing requirement, and a service requirement that can be satisfied by a clinic or externship placement related to dispute resolution.

The Concentration

Concentrators must take one course from each of the three competency categories, as listed under “required courses,” and then take enough elective courses to bring their total ADR credits to at least 15.

Required Courses

Negotiation Theory and Skills
Introduction to Mediation OR Representation in Mediation OR the Mediation Clinic
OR Divorce Mediation OR the Divorce Mediation Clinic
Arbitration Law: Theory and Practice OR Domestic Commercial Arbitration OR
International Commercial Arbitration OR the Securities Arbitration Clinic

Elective Courses (sufficient to bring the total credits up to 15)

Note that a course listed above that is not used as a “Required Course” can be applied to the Elective Course category.

ADR in the Workplace
ADR Competition Honor Society
ADR Field Clinic*
Advanced Mediation Practicum*
ADR Writing Seminar
Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution (limited to students who either publish a Note or
serve on the editorial board)
Collaborative Family Law
Collective Bargaining and Negotiation in Sports and Entertainment
Dispute Resolution Processes
Divorce Mediation
Divorce Mediation Clinic*
Domestic Commercial Arbitration
International Commercial Arbitration
International Dispute Resolution
Interviewing and Counseling
Introduction to Mediation
Representation in Mediation
Securities Arbitration Clinic*

**Indicates experiential opportunity.*

Cardozo Faculty

The Dispute Resolution Professional Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Lela P. Love](#). Professor Love teaches the Cardozo Mediation Clinic, Mediation and Other Methods of Fostering Democratic Dialogue, Mediation Strategy/ADR Competition Team, and Introduction to Mediation. Professor Love has been teaching training, consulting and writing in the mediation field for three decades. She also serves as a mediator, arbitrator, and dispute resolution consultant in a wide range of cases.

[Robert K. Collins](#). Professor Collins teaches the Divorce Mediation Clinic. He has practiced and taught divorce and family mediation for the past 30 years. Prior to teaching he worked in private practice, and as an Assistant District Attorney for the New York County District Attorney's office.

[David J. Weisenfeld](#). Professor Weisenfeld teaches Negotiation Theory & Skills, ADR in the Workplace, Negotiation Strategy/ADR Competition Team, and Contract Drafting. Since 2005, he has been an active arbitrator and mediator of labor, employment, and commercial disputes and serves on numerous neutral panels, including those of the AAA, Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, NYC Office of Collective Bargaining, US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and FINRA. Before becoming a neutral, he was a partner at Thelen Reid & Priest LLP and practiced labor and employment law in New York City for over 20 years.

In addition, Cardozo is blessed with an extensive adjunct ADR faculty, consisting of:

[Simeon H. Baum](#)

[Adam Berner](#)

[Brian Farkas](#)

[Tracey B. Frisch](#)

[Elizabeth Goldman](#)

[Charles J. Moxley, Jr.](#)

[Glen Parker](#)

[Leslie Salzman](#)

[Joseph B. Stulberg](#)

[Michael Tsur](#)

[Robyn Weinstein](#)

[Daniel M. Weitz](#)

[David M. White](#)

[Hope B. Winthrop](#)

[Steven Yadegari](#)

Alumni Mentors

Halley Anolik '11	NY Center for Interpersonal Development	halley.anolik@gmail.com
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Daniel Ben-Zvi '81	DB Mediation Services	daniel@dbmediation.com
Nathan Davis '12	Liner LLP	davis.nm@gmail.com
Jacqueline Haberfeld '91	Kirkland & Ellis	jacqueline.haberfeld@kirkland.com
Maurice Robinson '09	NYC HPD	m1robinson@gmail.com
Robyn Weinstein '09	ADR Administrator, EDNY	rweinst@gmail.com
Daniel Weitz '96	NYS Office of Court Administration	dweitz@nycourts.gov

Relevant Student Organizations

Cardozo Dispute Resolution Society CardozoCDRS@gmail.com
Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution <http://cardozojcr.com/>

Cardozo ADR Competition Team Cardozoadrteam@gmail.com

The ADR Competition Team, essentially the ADR counterpart to the Moot Court Honor Society, consists of 12 competitively selected 2Ls, led by 4 3L students who excelled in the prior year's competition team.

Career Resources

[City University of New York Dispute Resolution Consortium](#)

A list of compensated & pro bono mediation opportunities in the New York area.

[Fresno Pacific University, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, Alternative Dispute Resolution Careers](#)

A list of mediation, peacebuilding, and restorative justice jobs.

[Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, Vacancy Announcements](#)

Mediators in the FMCS are full-time service employees of the federal government and are stationed in offices throughout the United States. The FMCS continuously recruits qualified candidates for mediator positions. Mediators currently perform duties in three major areas: collective bargaining mediation; relationship development training; and outreach. Applicants must have substantial experience in collective bargaining agreements and be US citizens.

[National Association for Community Mediators, Job Announcements](#)

List of jobs and internships.

[New York State Dispute Resolution Association, Employment and Training Opportunities](#)

NYSDRA's job postings section is a collection of available openings that have been submitted by various employers in the dispute resolution field. NYSDRA asks that you communicate directly with the employer when inquiring about a position.

www.peacemakers.ca/bibliography/

This bibliography is intended as a starting place for research on conflict resolution, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), peacebuilding or peace studies. It contains a dispute resolution search engine, and a table of contents that links to hundreds of different publications relating to dispute resolution.

www.campus-adr.org

Campus Conflict Resolution Resources project (Campus-adr.org) is a website dedicated to significantly increasing administrator, faculty, staff and student awareness of, access to, and use of conflict resolution information specifically tailored to the higher education context.

www.crinfo.org

CRInfo (pronounced "See Our Info") stands for "conflict resolution information source." It is a free service, funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The site

maintains a keyword-coded catalog of over 20,000 Web, print, and organizational resources, as well as event listings and other conflict resolution-related resources.

www.crinfo.org/library/glossary

CRInfo also provides a comprehensive glossary of dispute resolution terminology.

www.crinfo.org/library/browse-virtual-bookshelves-standard

In order to quickly search CRInfo it provides a complete alphabetical listing of topics mentioned on its site.

www.deliberative-democracy.net/resources/

The mission of the Deliberative Democracy Consortium is to bring together practitioners and researchers to support and foster the nascent, broad-based movement to promote and around the world. This site provides an extensive list of resources and publications related to conflict resolution.

www.csus.edu/ccp/indexold.html

The Center for Collaborative Policy is a unit of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies at California State University, Sacramento. This website provides a list of publications in the following areas of conflict resolution: [Policy Collaboration and Mediation](#), [Negotiation](#), [Facilitation](#), [Communication](#), [Civic Engagement and Deliberative Democracy](#), [Collaborative Governance](#), [Networks](#), and [The Societal and Institutional Context for Collaboration](#).

www.campus-adr.org/main_library/higheredbib.html

A bibliography of conflict resolution resources and publications compiled by Bill Warters, Ph.D.

www.mediationdictionary.com

The Mediation Dictionary is a searchable compilation of dispute resolution terminology compiled and edited by Douglas H. Yarn. 1999.

<http://ncdd.org>

The dialogue and deliberation community is a loose-knit community of practitioners, researchers, activists, artists, students, and others who are committed to giving people a voice and making sure that voice counts. Its website maintains a comprehensive reference glossary of dispute resolution terminology.

www.ecr.gov/Basics/Glossary.aspx

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an independent and impartial federal program, has a mission and history of helping people find workable solutions to tough environmental conflicts. The organization's website contains a workable glossary of agency terminology, as well as general terminology.

www.cpradr.org/clausesrules/adrprimer/tabid/340/default.aspx

CPR Institute is a membership-based nonprofit organization based in New York City. Its

mission is to spearhead innovation and promote excellence in public and private dispute resolution, and to serve as a primary multinational resource for avoidance, management and resolution of business-related and other disputes. CPR maintains an ADR primer which lists and defines commonly used dispute resolution terminology.

<http://legalminds.lp.findlaw.com/list/dispute-res/>

Read and participate in discussions on mediation, arbitration, settlement, and court ordered mediation/arbitration.

Organizations and Associations

[Adrr.com, ADR Resources](http://www.adrr.com/) <http://www.adrr.com/>

Mediation essays, training programs, advanced mediation information available, online newsletter, FAQs, recommended books, links to educational and on-line programs.

[American Arbitration Association](#)

A not-for-profit organization offering mediation, arbitration and other dispute resolution processes nation-wide, education, training, and case administration.

[American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution](#)

This section of the ABA has a variety of committees, conferences, a magazine, events, and resources.

[American College of Civil Trial Mediators](#)

Association of mediators and dispute resolution professionals. Site includes mediation services, directory, membership information, and news.

[Association for Conflict Resolution \(ACR/formerly SPIDR\)](#)

An international membership association for dispute resolution professionals. Site includes membership benefits, job listings, publications, current events, and conferences.

[Association of Family and Conciliation Courts](#)

An international, interdisciplinary association of family, court and community professionals dedicated to the constructive resolution of family disputes.

[Campus Conflict Resolution Resources](#)

This project aims to significantly increase awareness of, access to, and use of conflict resolution information specifically tailored to the higher education context.

[Center for Analysis of Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems](#)

This site presents information on court-related ADR in a variety of formats. Included are articles, descriptions of programs organized by program type or by jurisdiction, a listing of mediation programs with reduced fees or pro bono services, and a guide to ADR in general.

[Center for Mediation Services](#)

Established to provide free mediation services to NYC agencies and their employees in the early stages of a dispute, before positions have hardened.

[Center for Public Resources Institute for Dispute Resolution](#)

Incorporates ADR into the heart of business and legal perspectives on methodologies for dispute resolution for corporate matters. Maintains panels of neutrals, solicits businesses to take an "ADR Pledge," and offers publications, training and other services.

[Conflict Resolution and Information Network](#)

A clearinghouse with information on conflict resolution; has catalogs on web-based resources, print-based literature, organizations, programs, guides suggestions, events and scholars.

[Federal Judicial Center](#)

An education and research center for the federal courts, this site contains the results from center research on federal courts operations and procedures and court history, plus selected educational materials produced for judges and court employees.

[Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service](#)

An independent agency created by Congress in 1947 to promote stable labor management relations. Site includes press releases, publications, grants office, and job announcements.

[Hieros Gamos, The Comprehensive Law and Government Portal, Guide to ADR](#)

Includes introduction to ADR, news, listing of ADR programs in various countries, a commentary section, a code of ethics for mediators, sample mediation agreement forms, a guide for selecting a mediator. Also includes US laws, regulations, state laws, agencies, programs, and publications.

[Intractable Conflict Knowledge Base Project](#)

Focusing on society's most difficult and dangerous conflicts, resources available through this site include a wide variety of essays and articles, audio recordings and transcripts of interviews with experts, book and article summaries, annotated cases, interactive role plays, checklists, ideas for group projects, a guide to working with strong emotions, and a build-your-own text module.

[Mediate.com/Mediation Information and Resource Center](#)

Includes referrals, directory of mediators, mediation information, a conflict resolution source center with articles, online mediators, mediator resources, and internet resources.

[National Association for Community Mediation](#)

Includes directory of community mediation centers, news of advancements and issues in community mediation, NAFCM's projects, and jobs in the field.

[New England Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution](#)

Information on NE-SPIDR regional conference, directory of ADR providers, NE-SPIDR

board of directors, events, news, and becoming a member. Web links include international ADR, treaties, studies, ADR information and resources, state associations, government agencies, books, registries, forums, training, rules and regulations, conferences, publications and articles, companies and organizations, and educational institutions.

[New York State Dispute Resolution Association](#)

Offers employment and training opportunities, information on the association, membership, and links to mediation programs.

[NYS Unified Court System, State Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs](#)

Oversees all ADR programs in the unified court system. Lists court ADR programs, community dispute resolution centers, training (basic, family, and advanced), and ADR links.

[Policy Consensus Initiative](#)

PCI is a clearinghouse for information of state government offices of dispute resolution.

[ProMediation, Source for Mediation Information](#)

Includes mediation bookstore, current events, resources, training, FAQs on mediation, and membership information.

[Interagency Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group](#)

The central forum and resource for information about the federal government's use of ADR. The Interagency ADR Working Group advances the use of ADR through coordination of multi-agency initiatives, promotion of best practices and programs, and dissemination of policy and guidance.

[Understanding Prejudice.org](#)

For those interested in the causes and consequences of prejudice, this site has more than 2,000 links to prejudice-related resources and searchable databases with hundreds of prejudice researchers and social justice organizations.

[United States Department of Justice Office of Dispute Resolution](#)

The Office of Dispute Resolution coordinates the use of ADR for the Department of Justice.

[United States District Court Eastern District ADR Program](#)

This site describes the mediation program of the US Court for the Eastern District, and answers questions, provides information for mediators, parties, and counselors.

[Victim Offender Mediation Association](#)

Victims of crimes meet the perpetrators in the presence of a trained mediator. Links to VOMA's articles and publications, conferences, and resources.

Writing Competitions

[ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, James B. Boskey Law Student Essay Contest on Dispute Resolution](#) (“any aspect of dispute resolution practice, theory or research”)

[ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources ADR Writing Competition](#) (“Discuss any aspect of dispute resolution practice, theory or research related to environmental, energy, or natural resource conflicts or should critique or analyze the dispute resolution process used in a particular case.”)

[ABA Tort, Trial & Insurance Practice Section Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Student Writing Competition](#) (more information available from linda.wiley@americanbar.org)

[International Ombudsman Association Student Writing Competition](#) (“any topic the author deems relevant to the organizational ombudsman profession”)

[International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal Student Writing Competition](#) (“a procedural or substantive issue in international investment arbitration”)

[Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association, James B. Beckley Law Student Essay Contest on Dispute Resolution](#)

[Joseph T. McLaughlin Original Student Article Award](#) (submission requires the recommendation of a professor if prepared for a class)

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S LAW

Overview

The interrelated subjects of family and children's law focus on individuals in the context of their most personal and intimate relationships—asking what are the rights and duties of individuals with respect to others in their family and what role does the state play in regulating such relationships—and on the ways in which children are protected by the law in various contexts. These closely related areas require consideration of very specific and practical legal issues (for example, divorce, child custody and support, parental rights and obligations, and child welfare) that for the most part are matters of state rather than federal law, with resulting variations from state to state. At the same time, this area of study involves important and high-profile public policy debates (for example, reproduction, abortion, various health-related issues, gender roles, and same-sex marriage) and engages theoretical questions (for example, the appropriateness of rules versus discretionary standards or of government regulation versus private decision-making). It is partly the combination of highly personal subject matter and hot-button public policy debates that makes family law such an engaging field of study and practice, and one that is expanding as the rights of children are becoming more entrenched.

Career Pathways

In general, this is an area of practice that falls outside the world of big law firms. Some large firms have an estate-planning practice for high-wealth clients, and a few of them have a small number of family law practitioners who focus on divorce and related issues for that same client population, but other than that family lawyers tend to work in small- to medium-sized firms or be solo practitioners. They represent clients in divorces and spousal and child support cases, child custody disputes, cases involving the termination of parental rights as a result of child neglect and abuse, financial and estate planning, adoptions, surrogacy arrangements, and the like. As that list suggests, some of this involves litigation and some counseling and planning. In New York, litigation takes place in both Family Court and NY Supreme Court (New York's trial court), and estate-related matters are heard in the Surrogate's Court. There are also family law-related jobs in government or public service contexts that focus on domestic violence, LGBT rights, or on the elderly.

The related field of children's law encompasses juvenile justice (i.e., delinquency), child welfare, child custody, education (including suspension and expulsion as well as special education), immigration, benefits (e.g., Supplemental Security Income [SSI] and Medicaid), health care, and other areas. Children's lawyers might work for nonprofit children's law centers, public defender agencies, social service organizations, or they may be in private practice taking individual cases.

Another role that people working in family and children's law may play is as a guardian or guardian ad litem, representing children in court or acting on behalf of the elderly or people with special needs in various contexts. Practitioners may also represent family members seeking the

appointment of a guardian for an adult who is alleged to be incapacitated or represent an individual opposing such an appointment. Guardianship-related work may be done by solo practitioners with specialties in elder or children's law or by those who work for social service organizations serving the needs of low- or no-income individuals.

Courses and Skills

Competency in family and children's law requires substantive knowledge of relevant state and federal law. The core concepts are covered in the three basic courses set out below: Family Law (which focuses on marriage and divorce—including some discussion of child support, child custody and visitation—and alternatives to traditional families), Children and the Law (which covers child custody, child abuse and neglect (by parents and others), and specific legal regimes aimed to protect children, such as prohibitions on child pornography), and Trusts and Estates (which covers the law of wills and intestate succession and other mechanisms for transferring wealth).

The advanced courses fall into two categories. Some provide a deeper dive into particular subjects introduced in the basic courses. The others are aimed at developing skills. Preparing to be a good lawyer in this area requires the development of many important, transferable lawyering skills including drafting, interviewing, counseling, mediation, client communication, prosecution and criminal defense, fact investigation, pre-trial advocacy, and litigation.

Family and children's law can be a highly emotional practice. Disputes in this area are intensely personal; they are often not about money, and they are never *only* about money. Further, the client counseling involved is often not limited to legal matters. As a result, it is a field that can be both enormously rewarding but also emotionally taxing. Empathy, good communication skills, an ability to win the client's trust, a willingness to give a matter your all, and some ability to compartmentalize the searing narratives of your clients—these too are essential qualifications, entirely apart from more purely "legal" skills.

Family law is also highly interdisciplinary within law, connecting to constitutional law, criminal law, administrative law, trusts and estates, tax, real estate law, elder law, gender studies, and bioethics. The analogy is a rough one, but somewhat like a medical doctor who is a family practitioner needs to know something about many different areas of medicine, so a family lawyer needs to know something about many different areas of law. While many related courses do not count toward the concentration, family and children's law concentrators should bear in mind the need for a broad and interdisciplinary education.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Family Law, a student must successfully complete at least five courses, totaling at least 15 credits, from the following list, including at least two of the three Basic Courses. Among the advanced courses, note that Criminal Procedure and Federal Income Tax cannot *both* be applied toward the concentration.

Basic Courses (students must take at least 2 of these 3 courses)

Family Law
Children and the Law
Trusts & Estates

Advanced Courses (enough to bring the total to at least 5 courses *and* at least 15 credits)

Beginning and End of Life
Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic
Bioethics and the Law
Child Sex Abuse and the Law
Criminal Procedure [if counted towards concentration, then Federal Income Tax cannot be]
Disability Law
Divorce Mediation
Divorce Mediation Clinic
Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
Estate Planning
Estate and Gift Tax
Family Court Clinic
Federal Income Tax [if counted towards concentration, then Criminal Procedure cannot be]
Interviewing and Counseling
Juvenile Justice
Mainzer Family Defense Field Clinic
Mediation Clinic
Negotiation Theory and Skills
NY Family Law: Equitable Distribution
NY Family Law: Drafting and Procedure
NYC Law Department Juvenile Delinquency Field Clinic
Reproductive Rights
Sexual Orientation, Gender and the Law
Special Education Field Clinic
State and Local Government

Cardozo Faculty

The Family and Children's Law Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Marci Hamilton](#). Professor Hamilton teaches Children and the Law, Constitutional Law, Law and Religion, and Child Sex Abuse and the Law. She is the leading expert in the United States on First Amendment issues in child sex abuse cases and child sex abuse statutes of limitations. She writes extensively on child protection issues, and represents child sex abuse victims in select cases involving institution-based abuse, including universities, private schools, and religious organizations.

[Edward Stein](#). Professor Stein teaches Family Law; Sexual Orientation, Gender and the Law; Elements of Law; and Reproduction Law and Policy. He is also the Director of the Family Law, Policy, and Bioethics Program. His research interests include legal and philosophical topics related to families, sexual orientation, reproduction, cognition and science. He has written extensively on legal, philosophical, and scientific topics.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in related fields:

[David Bleich](#) (Beginning and End of Life; Bioethics)
[Laura Cunningham](#) (Taxation; Trusts and Estates)
[Rebekah Diller](#) (Guardianship, Bet Tzedek Legal Services clinic)
[Mitchell Engler](#) (Taxation)
[Melanie Leslie](#) (Trusts and Estates)
[Lela Love](#) (Mediation)
[Leslie Salzman](#) (Disability Law)
[Stewart Sterk](#) (Trusts and Estates)
[Suzanne Last Stone](#) (Family Law)
[Edward Zelinsky](#) (Taxation)

Finally, while this concentration is distinct from the Constitutional Law concentration, the two obviously overlap. Accordingly, constitutional law faculty who are not listed above may be helpful resources as well:

[Michelle Adams](#) (Constitutional Law)
[Michael Herz](#) (Constitutional Law)
[Alex Reinert](#) (Constitutional Law)
[Michel Rosenfeld](#) (Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law)
[David Rudenstine](#) (Constitutional Law)
[Kate Shaw](#) (Constitutional Law)
[Richard Weisberg](#) (Constitutional Law, First Amendment, Torts)

Alumni Mentors

Jennifer Brown	Jennifer P. Brown PLLC	Jenniferpbrown@gmail.com
Marilyn Chinitz	Blank Rome LLP	mchinitz@blankrome.com
Julia Davis '10	Children's Rights	jdavis@childrensrights.org
Debra Guston '88	Guston & Guston LLP	deguston@gustonandguston.com
Hon. Esther Morgenstern	Queens Integrated Domestic Violence Court	emorgens@courts.state.ny.us
Karen Fisher Gutheil '97	The Legal Aid Society	kfgutheil@legal-aid.org

Relevant Student Organizations

Advocates for Battered Women	CardozoABW@gmail.com
American Constitution Society	cardozo.acslaw@gmail.com
Cardozo Advocates for Kids	CardozoKids@gmail.com
Cardozo Journal of Law and Gender	http://www.cardozolawandgender.com/
Courtroom Advocates Program	
Criminal Law Society	cardozocrimlaw@gmail.com
Family Law Society	FamLaw.Cardozo@gmail.com
Federalist Society	fed.soc.cardozo@gmail.com
Law Students for Reproductive Justice	CardozoLSRJ@gmail.com
OUTLaw	Cardozo.Outlaw@gmail.com
Public Interest Law Students Ass'n	Cardozo.PILSA@gmail.com
Students for Human Rights	Cardozo.students.for.human.rights@gmail.com
Suspension Representation Project	CardozoSRP@gmail.com

(run out of [NYU](#) but with a chapter at Cardozo)

Career Resources

Katherine Provost, Things I Wish I Knew Starting Out in Family Law

This publication from the Young Lawyers Division of the ABA can be found at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers/publications/the_101_201_practice_series/things_i_wish_i_knew_starting_out_in_family_law.html

PSJD – Public Service Jobs Directory

This on-line resource, www.psjd.org, is a NALP project and the successor to PSLawNet. It is dedicated to public interest work generally, but includes information about careers in nonprofit organizations, including those dedicated to child welfare.

General Resources

American Bar Association

Relevant sections include the Family Law, Children's Rights Litigation, Juvenile Justice, Dispute Resolution, and Tax Law.

New York State Bar Association

Law students can join the New York State Bar Association for \$10 a year. Many sections, including the Elder Law Section, actively seek student involvement. Getting involved with a section and attending its events can provide significant networking and learning opportunities.

Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Law students can also join the New York City Bar, a voluntary association of lawyers and law students, for just \$25 a year. As with the ABA and the NYSA, the real benefit for

student is getting involved with various groups. Among the relevant committees are the Children and the Law Committee, the Matrimonial Law Committee, and the Education Law Committee.

New York County Lawyers Association

Law students can also join the NYCLA, a voluntary association of lawyers and law students for \$30 a year. Among the relevant committees are the Elder Law Committee, the Matrimonial Law Committee, the Estates and Trusts Section, and the Family Court and Child Welfare Committee.

Child Sex Abuse Statutes of Limitations (www.sol-reform.com)

Tracks news and movement on increasing access to justice for child sex abuse victims in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government. The site is run by Professor Hamilton with help from students.

Substantive Research

The reference literature on family law is vast. Students may find the following three books especially helpful.

Sanford Katz, *Family Law in America* (Oxford University Press, 2d ed.)

Homer Harrison Clark, *Law of Domestic Relations in the United States* (West Hornbook)

Jeff Atkinson, *Modern Child Custody Practice*

In addition, The National Conference of State Legislatures tracks state legislation in all 50 states in numerous categories, including those related to family and children's law. Its website is www.ncsl.org. It also produces an annual overview entitled *State Legislative Summary: Children, Youth, and Family Issues*.

Writing Competitions

[ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Annual Law Student Writing Competition](#)

("Submissions must further the legal needs of victims of domestic and/or sexual violence or their children, or advance efforts to address the incidence, causes and effects of intimate partner violence.")

[ABA Section of Family Law, Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest](#) ("any aspect of Family Law")

[NYSBA Elder and Special Needs Law Journal Diversity Writing Competition](#)

[Yanez & Assocs. Family Law Scholarship Essay Contest](#) (one of five assigned topics regarding domestic violence)

INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW

Overview

Traditionally, “International Law” and “Comparative Law” have described two distinct fields. Comparative law is classically the study of how one nation’s domestic legal rules compare to those of another: for example, how the United States’ laws protecting against race or gender discrimination compare to France’s domestic laws protecting against such discrimination, or how Japan’s intellectual property laws compare to those of China. International law refers to the body of rules contained in treaties and customary law that apply to more than one nation-state: the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva Conventions, the Trademark Law Treaty, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, human rights prohibitions against genocide, slavery, and torture, and many other laws.

Today, these fields have become closely intertwined, with the consequence that legal regimes are becoming increasingly transnational in nature. All domestic legal systems, including the United States’, incorporate international law in some fashion. South Africa’s constitutional court is required to take international law into account in interpreting that country’s constitution; European countries which are signatories to the major European human rights treaty are bound by the decisions of an international tribunal established by that treaty and customarily seek to harmonize the interpretation of rights under the treaty with corresponding rights under their national constitutions. Likewise, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, for example, requires member states to recognize intellectual property rights that not all members’ domestic law would have otherwise protected.

As the world becomes smaller, people, goods, and ideas flow across national borders in ways unimaginable 75 years ago. In the contemporary environment, lawyers hoping to develop a practice in many fields need to know something about both international and comparative law. Today one finds dynamic law practice areas in everything from international human rights and environmental law, to international trade and investment, to international armed conflict and criminal justice. Students interested in any of these fields will find a rich selection of courses and opportunities at Cardozo. Even students otherwise interested in a career in a domestic legal setting will find valuable insights in this concentration. Fields ranging from commercial contracts to constitutional law today involve international and comparative elements, knowledge of which is sought after by the many mid and large-size firms serving clients in a transnational legal context.

Career Pathways

Asking what kind of careers are available in international law these days is a bit like asking what kind of careers are available in American law – the choices are as varied as the range of human endeavor. The vast majority of international lawyers specialize in a particular substantive area (such as those mentioned above). In private law international fields (such as trade, business transactions, or intellectual property), many lawyers practice in businesses and commercial law firms in the United States and around the world. Practitioners in public law international fields

(such as the law of human rights, development, or armed conflict) may more often be found in non-profit or non-governmental organizations that specialize in those fields. Both private and public international lawyers commonly work for governments or for intergovernmental organizations – from the United Nations and World Bank to the International Criminal Court. In addition to identifying a subject matter specialty of interests, students should thus give some thought to what *kind* of work they want to do as lawyers – litigation, negotiation or arbitration, policy research or advocacy, field investigation or reporting. Depending on the kind of organization you work for, jobs in international law may require any one or more of these varied skills.

Courses and Skills

Student concentrators are required to take courses in both public international law (a standard introductory course) and comparative law (one of either of the two general introductory courses, Comparative Law or Comparative Constitutional Law). Because it is not possible to address either international law or comparative law in all of their dimensions in a single semester, the introductory courses in public international law and comparative law are designed to provide a basic grounding. The course in public international law focuses on key concepts and institutions in international law, explores how international law interacts with the U.S. domestic legal system, and highlights a handful of international law subject matter areas to prepare students for further study. The two courses on comparative law both focus on comparative analysis methodology and on substantive areas of law in a comparative perspective. Whereas the comparative law course provides an overview of various relevant fields in both private and public law, the comparative constitutionalism course concentrates substantively on matters of constitutional structure and rights.

In addition to these courses, concentrators must take at least one private international law course. The requirement that students take at least one course each from public, private, and comparative law perspectives is intended to expose students to the range of practice areas available before they further specialize, and to give them some basic fluency in a set of fields that interact more often than not. Ideally, students interested in this concentration should take these classes as early as possible in their upper-level years before moving on to more specialized courses – of which an additional six credits is required. The specialized courses rely on students having developed a basic grounding in the field, and enable students to explore one or more substantive areas more deeply than is possible in the introductory courses.

Whether one ends up working for a private firm, a non-profit, or a governmental or intergovernmental organization, acquiring skills that can be put to use immediately on entering practice is enormously valuable. Accordingly, students in this concentration are strongly encouraged to take at least one clinic, externship, or skill-building workshop geared toward the kind of practice you would like to develop. It usually is best to do this in your third year, after having taken the foundational courses and perhaps a specialized course or two in the substantive area in which you are interested.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Comparative and International Law, a student must take at least 5 relevant courses, totaling at least 15 credits, including basic courses in both international law and comparative law and at least one course involving private international law, as set out below:

Required Courses

Introduction to International Law

Either Comparative Law *or* Comparative Constitutionalism

Elective Courses (at least 3, totaling at least 9 credits)

Advanced Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Business Immigration, Workforce & Compliance

Combating Terrorism

Comparative Law (if not counted as a required course)

Comparative Constitutionalism (if not counted as a required course)

Comparative Corporate Governance

Cultural Heritage

European Legal Institutions and the Holocaust

Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic

Israeli Constitutional Law

International Business Transactions*

International Commercial Arbitration*

International and Comparative Law Journal

International and Comparative Tax

International Criminal Law

International Dispute Resolution (2-credit version)

International Human Rights

International IP: Selected Topics*

International Trade*

International Trade Regulation*

Jewish Law[†]

Jewish Law, Advanced[†]

Jewish Law and American Legal Theory[†]

Law and Practice at the United Nations

Law of War and Contemporary Conflicts

Remedies for Wartime Confiscation

**Concentrators must take at least one of these courses.*

†No more than two these courses can be applied to the concentration.

Related Courses (do not count towards concentration, but are likely to be helpful for lawyers working in these areas)

Constitutional Law II

Conflict of Laws
Dispute Resolution Processes
Immigration Law
Immigration Law, Advanced
Interviews and Counseling
Mediation
Mediation Clinic
Negotiation Theory and Skills

Cardozo Faculty

The Comparative and International Law Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Malvina Halberstam](#). Professor Halberstam teaches International Law, U.S. Foreign Relations Law, and a course on the Arab-Israeli Conflict, among other courses. She served as a counselor on international law for the US Department of State, Office of the Legal Advisor, and, in addition to her law degree, holds a Masters Degree in International Affairs from Columbia.

[Deborah Pearlstein](#). Professor Pearlstein teaches courses in the areas of national security, constitutional law, and international law. She was previously the founding director of the Law and Security Program at Human Rights First and a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above. In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in international and comparative law fields:

[Michael Herz](#) (Israeli Supreme Court Project)

[Lela Love](#) (Mediation, Dispute Resolution)

[Gabor Rona](#) (Visiting Professor) (International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law)

[Michel Rosenfeld](#) (Global and Comparative Constitutional Theory)

[Anthony Sebok](#) (Comparative Tort Law)

[Suzanne Last Stone](#) (Jewish Law, Israeli Supreme Court Project)

[Richard Weisberg](#) (Constitutional Law, Holocaust Restitution)

Alumni Mentors

Licelle Cobrador LLM '08

Chris Migliaccio '08

The Bhatta Law Firm

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INFORMATION LAW

Overview

We live in an information society, in which key drivers of economic and social life are intangible resources like ideas, brands, and data. The Intellectual Property and Information Law concentration prepares students to navigate the full range of legal issues that we increasingly confront in our digital age. “Intellectual Property” (“IP”) law generally refers to a set of legal regimes that create and govern exclusive rights in intellectual resources. Copyright, patent, trademark, and trade secrecy are the primary examples. Intellectual property law plays a critical and increasingly important role in business decisions, as well as daily life, across a range of industries, including media and entertainment, high tech, and consumer goods. IP lawyers counsel clients about their use and protection of intellectual resources, litigate over the scope and enforcement of IP rights in federal and state courts, and engineer transactions in IP rights for clients large and small. “Information Law” refers to a broader set of legal regimes that govern the flow of information of various types, ranging from communications over the Internet to consumer data. Lawyers interested in Information Law can specialize in one or more areas of practice, such as communications law or privacy. But information law issues also pervade modern legal practice more generally, as clients confront issues in social media, new platforms, and big data, whether or not they are in a traditionally information-oriented industry.

The Intellectual Property and Information Law concentration is designed to provide students with a broad overview of IP and Information Law as well as the opportunity to specialize in the study of copyrights, patents, trademarks, or another aspect of the field. It is attractive to students considering careers in IP counseling, IP litigation, fashion law, technology law, media law, sports law, technology policy, or a more general transactional practice.

Career Pathways

There are a variety of career paths in IP and Information Law, depending in part on the area of interest.

Patent law tends to be the area in which it is most common for attorneys to specialize from the beginning of their careers. Many big firms have a specialized patent group and there are numerous patent law boutiques, and graduates may go to either of these types of firms. Patent practice is divided between “prosecution,” which involves obtaining patents on behalf of clients by drafting and filing patent applications, and patent litigation, which involves asserting or defending against infringement suits. *Patent prosecution* requires having a scientific background and passing the “patent bar,” an exam required for practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. *Patent litigation* requires neither a scientific background nor membership in the patent bar, although either or both of those are sometimes seen as desirable by firms and clients for patent litigation as well. There are also a variety of transactional roles available for those interested in patent law. The career path for such a transactional practice more closely resembles that of copyright and trademark lawyers described below.

Students interested in copyright and trademark more frequently enter practice as general business lawyers, either transactional or in a litigation practice, often with a focus on particular industries that rely heavily upon trademark and copyright protection, such as media, entertainment, fashion, sports, or consumer goods. A counseling and transactional practice focused on clients in these areas requires expertise in IP, and litigation in these areas frequently raises IP issues. Graduates interested in this work often begin their careers at law firms, both large and small and with varying degrees of specialization, and then may move “in-house” to work directly for a client in a relevant industry. Some attorneys remain at firms, and may have practices representing a wide variety of clients on copyright and/or trademark matters. In trademark law in particular, firms have practices focused on developing and maintaining major companies’ trademark portfolios.

Increasingly, there are attorneys whose practices center on information law fields such as communications law, Internet law, and privacy. Many major firms have been creating and expanding their privacy law practices. Graduates interested in these areas have also worked in-house for technology companies ranging from startups to major Internet companies. Because these areas involve a substantial amount of federal regulation, some attorneys work for or with government agencies in Washington, D.C. such as the FCC or the FTC. In the absence of comprehensive federal regulation, state and local governments have also taken an interest in these areas, and Attorney General offices in large jurisdictions often have divisions focused on cybercrime, privacy, or consumer fraud. Finally, technology policy is an area with a significant nonprofit presence, particularly in D.C., and while still very small compared to law firm practice, the nonprofit policy world here is perhaps more substantial than in many other areas of law. Across different types of practice in information law fields, while no formal scientific training is required, a measure of familiarity and comfort with Internet and information technologies can be quite helpful to success in these fields.

The Concentration

The Intellectual Property and Information Law concentration requires students to complete five courses. At least two must be drawn from the basic courses in the four main practice areas: copyright, trademark, patent, and Internet law. Two others must be drawn from a set of Core Courses (which includes the basic four courses). For the fifth course, students may choose either a Core or a Specialized Course. As this list makes clear, Cardozo has an enormously broad IP and Information Law curriculum, and many students end up taking more than the minimum five courses required for the concentration.

Core Courses (at least four of the following, including at least two of the starred courses)

Antitrust
Advertising Law
Antitrust and Intellectual Property
Copyright*
Communications Law
Design Law
Entertainment Law

Entertainment and Media Law
Fashion Law
First Amendment
First Amendment, the Press and the Democratic Order
Intellectual Property and Information Law Colloquium
Internet Law*
Media Law
Music Law
Patent Basics
Patent Law*
Privacy Law
Taxation of Intellectual Property
Technology Licensing Agreements
Trademark Law*

Specialized Courses (can be applied to the fifth course requirement)

Advanced Patent Law
Art Law
Art Law Field Clinic
Collective Bargaining and Negotiation in Sports and Entertainment
Creativity, Innovation and Intellectual Property
Cultural Heritage
Electronic Commerce
Fashion Law Practicum
Indie Film Clinic
IP Business and Transactional Law
Intellectual Property Enforcement
Intellectual Property Licensing and Drafting (formerly called *Fashion Law Drafting*)
International IP: Selected Topics
International Trade
Law of Surveillance
Patent Law Practice
Privacy Law Seminar
Social Media Law
Sports Law
Startup Law
Tech Startup Clinic
Technology Policy Seminar
Transactional Practice in Independent Film & Documentary Production

Outside the Classroom (not required for the concentration)

The Intellectual Property Program hosts a wide variety of speakers, panels, and other events that concentrators are encouraged to attend. In particular, the fall “IP Speaker Series” brings government officials, industry lawyers, and academics to give public talks about current topics in intellectual property and information law. (The spring semester counterpart is the IP Colloquium, which brings professors from other schools to present their works in progress and

students enrolled in the class have a chance to engage with and critique the work.) The *AELJ* also hosts an annual symposium, and the various student groups (see below) also bring a steady stream of speakers to the law school.

Cardozo Faculty

The Intellectual Property and Information Law Concentration Faculty Advisor Group includes:

[Christopher Buccafusco](#). Professor Buccafusco teaches Copyright, among other courses. His research interests include intellectual property law more broadly, behavioral law and economics, law and psychology, and legal history. Until joining the Cardozo faculty in 2015, he was Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center for Empirical Studies of Intellectual Property at ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Students interested in the concentration or who have questions about careers in this area are invited to speak with Professor Buccafusco.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in IPIL fields:

[Aman Gebru](#) (Patent, International Intellectual Property)

[Monroe Price](#) (Media Law, Communications Law)

[Jeanne Schroeder](#) (Art Law, Fashion Law, Electronic Commerce)

[Stewart Sterk](#) (Copyright)

[Aaron Wright](#) (Tech Startup Clinic)

[Felix Wu](#) (Trademark Law, Privacy Law, Advertising Law, Internet Law)

Alumni Mentors

Jeffrey I. D. Lewis '86	Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson, LLP	jeffrey.lewis@friedfrank.com
Marc Lieberstein '92	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP	mliesterstein@kilpatricktownsend.com
Itai Maytal '08	IBT Media	imaytal@gmail.com
Timur Slonim '99	Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo	tslonim@mintz.com
Jason Vogel '99	Kilpatrick Townsend	jvogel@kilpatricktownsend.com
Matthew Asbell '07	Ladas & Parry	esq@matthewasbell.com
Alan Sack '83	Sack IP	alan.sack@sack-ip.com

Relevant Student Organizations

Art Law Society	<u>CardozoArtLawSociety@gmail.com</u>
Arts and Entertainment Law Journal	<u>http://www.cardozoaelj.com/</u>
Cyberlaw Society	<u>CardozoCyberlaw@gmail.com</u>
Sports and Entertainment Law Society	<u>CardozoSELSA@gmail.com</u>
Fashion Law Society	<u>CardozoFashionLaw@gmail.com;</u>

Intellectual Property Law Society
Startup Law Society

<http://cardozofashionlaw.com/>
CardozoIPLS@gmail.com
cardozostartupsociety@gmail.com;
<https://cardozo.yu.edu/cardozo-startup-society>

Career Resources

American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association (www.AIPLA.org)

This bar association's website, addressing all things intellectual property law related, includes a student center, which includes information on its law student committee, the opportunity to participate in drafting amicus briefs and/or articles, and a [career center](#).

Chartered Institute for Patent Attorneys (www.cipa.org.uk)

CIPA is the professional and examining body for patent attorneys in the UK. Its website contains educational resources as well as a job posting board.

Copyright Society (www.csusa.org)

This organization, which has a multi-disciplinary membership, is dedicated to advancing the study of copyright. It offers a variety of networking events and its website contains a job posting board.

Digital Media Association (DiMA) (www.digmedia.org)

DiMA is the industry organization for digital media heavyweights, including Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, YouTube, and the like.

Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org)

The EFF is an organization that takes on cutting-edge issues defending free speech, privacy, innovation, and consumer rights in the digital or "networked" world. EFF hires summer interns and its website contains valuable information that can be used to identify employers as well as individuals for networking purposes.

Federal Communications Bar Association (www.fcba.org)

The Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) is a volunteer organization of attorneys, engineers, consultants, economists, government officials and law students involved in the study, development, interpretation and practice of communications and information technology law and policy. From broadband deployment to broadcast content, from emerging wireless technologies to emergency communications, from spectrum allocations to satellite broadcasting, the FCBA has something to offer nearly everyone involved in the communications industry. FCBA offers memberships to students.

International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) (www.aippi.org)

AIPPI is the World's leading non-government organization for research into, and formulation of policy for, the law relating to the protection of intellectual property. While membership is focused on established practitioners, the website contains valuable information on possible employers worldwide.

International Trademark Association (www.INTA.org)

This organization provides networking opportunities for students interested in trademark-related practices, offers panels for students, opportunities to volunteer, and its website contains a [job posting board](#).

IP Law Firm List

http://law.lclark.edu/student_groups/intellectual_property_student_organization/ip_firm_list.php

This list of IP law firms, organized by state, was prepared by the IP Student Organization at Lewis & Clark Law School. While it is not comprehensive, it is a useful starting point in identifying firms, both large and small, with IP practices.

General Resources

Bar Associations

American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law

www.americanbar.org/groups/intellectual_property_law.html (home page)

www.americanbar.org/groups/intellectual_property_law/membership/law_student.html
(information for law students)

[New York Intellectual Property Law Association](#) (NYIPLA)

New York State Bar Association, IP Law Section

www.nysba.org/IPL/ (general information)

<https://www.nysba.org/IPYoung/> (for young lawyers and law students)

New York City Bar Association, Copyright, Patents, and Trademarks Committees

The NYC Bar Association offers student memberships, which can include service on a committee. General information is [here](#). In addition, each of the committees produces reports and other information that are available online and can be quite valuable.

Substantive Research

The Cardozo library has prepared research guides in [Art Law](#), [Sports Law](#), [Sports and Entertainment Law](#), and [Intellectual Property](#) generally.

Writing Competitions

[American Intellectual Property Law Association Robert C. Watson Award](#) (“a subject relating to the protection of intellectual property”)

[Berkeley Technology Law Journal Writing Competition](#) (law and technology)

[Black Entertainment & Sports Lawyers Association \(BESLA\) Legal Writing Competition](#)

[Federal Circuit Bar Association George Hutchinson Writing Competition](#) (“any topic that lies within the procedure, substance, or scope of the jurisdiction of” the Federal Circuit)
[The GRAMMY Foundation Entertainment Law Initiative \(ELI\) Writing Competition](#)
[IDEA Student Intellectual Property Writing Competition](#)
[International Trademark Association \(INTA\) Ladas Memorial Award](#)
[IT-Lex Technology Law Writing Competition](#)
[Louis Tertocha Fashion Law Writing Competition](#)
[Marquette University Law School National Sports Law Student Writing Competition](#)
[NYIPLA Honorable William C. Conner Intellectual Property Law Writing Competition](#)
[NYSBA Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section Law Student Initiative](#)
[NYS Bar Association IP Law Section Law Student Writing Competition](#)
[NYSBA Phil Cowan Memorial/BMI Scholarship Writing Competition](#)
[*Richmond Journal of Law & Technology* Student Writing Competition](#)
[Virginia State Bar Intellectual Property Law Student Writing Competition](#) (open only to Virginia residents, but including those attending law school out of state)

PUBLIC LAW, REGULATION, AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Overview

“Public law” generally refers to the legal regime controlling the structure of government and the government’s relations and interactions with individuals, firms, and foreign nations. (“Private law,” in contrast, governs relations between private parties.) Over the past century, public law has become increasingly central to legal practice in the United States; indeed, individuals, firms, and, thus, most clients, are more directly affected by the actions of administrative agencies than they are by the actions of courts or legislatures. Many substantive practice areas are now heavily regulated at the federal, state, and even local level—examples include environmental law, tax, communications, labor and employment, government benefits, health law, veterans affairs, securities regulation, land use and zoning, immigration, among many others. This concentration is designed to provide students interested in any heavily regulated field with basic, structural insights into and exposure to how government agencies work. It should be attractive to students considering careers in federal, state, or local government, constitutional litigation, administrative practice and regulation, or public policy.

Note that this concentration is for students interested in a civil practice. The Criminal Law Concentration is geared toward those interested in pursuing a career on the criminal side.

Career Pathways

The vast majority of “public law” lawyers specialize in a particular substantive area (such as those listed above). For every regulated area, there is by definition a federal, state, or local government office that regulates it, and there is also a private bar of attorneys who regularly interact with those offices on behalf of regulated entities. This concentration will help prepare students to practice both in and before government agencies. Thus, one common career path is to work for the government itself. The federal government employs approximately 35,000 lawyers (this number does not count the many officials who have law degrees but are not working as attorneys); state and local governments collectively employ many times that number. Many government lawyers are litigators, working either at the Department of Justice (which generally represents federal agencies in court) or at one of the agencies with independent litigating authority, or litigating for the state or local government, as, for example, an assistant attorney general or assistant corporation counsel for a city or municipality. Other government lawyers hold non-litigating positions. Virtually all government agencies, for instance, have some sort of general counsel’s office which advises the agency on the legality of its actions. In large federal agencies or in large state or city governments, lawyers in those offices can number in the hundreds. Federal, state, and local legislatures likewise have a legal staff to advise on and often draft laws to implement policy initiatives. Finally, some government lawyers represent agencies in administrative adjudications such as individual permitting and enforcement cases.

Another path is to work for the private bar—law firm attorneys, in-house lawyers, and solo practitioners—that regularly interacts with the government. In the private sector, regulatory lawyers advise businesses and other regulated entities regarding the often-complex regimes that

apply to their activities. They also work to shape those legal requirements on behalf of regulated entities—for example, by commenting on proposed regulations or by lobbying federal, state, or local officials. And, like their government counterparts, they also appear before agencies in adjudications on behalf of their clients.

Finally, a smaller but still substantial set of lawyers pursue careers with non-profit organizations that seek to advance the public interest by influencing government regulators, enforcing regulatory standards against private entities, or representing individuals in disputes with government agencies.

You should be aware that many lawyers who work in government at some point do not spend their whole careers there. Some do, to be sure. But government practice informs private practice and vice versa; each is useful background for the other and there is a lot of movement back and forth.

Courses and Skills

The two foundational courses in the concentration concern cross-cutting issues of government structure and processes that are not tied to any particular substantive area. Administrative Law covers the legal rules that define the authority and structure of administrative agencies and prescribe the procedural requirements for agency action. Legislation is devoted to the legislative process and the methodologies of statutory interpretation. (While these courses center on federal regulatory programs, the same principles are generally applicable to state and local practice as well.) Ideally, students interested in this concentration should take these two classes as early as possible in their upper-level years before moving on to more specialized courses. One other course, a week-long “Washington seminar,” typically offered over the January break, provides a useful introduction to lawyering in and around the federal government. Students interested in the concentration are encouraged to seriously consider taking the course during their 1L or 2L year.

The specialized courses are of two sorts. One set consists of courses that are, again, not focused on particular substantive areas – Federal Courts and State and Local Government being the prominent examples. The other, larger set consists of courses that are about particular regulatory bodies of law. In selecting among this group, there is no real reason to take a course in a field that is not interesting to you. It makes more sense to take several courses within the substantive area(s) in which you are interested.

One other important opportunity to bear in mind: the New School offers a wide range of public policy courses that are relevant to this concentration. These are particularly but not exclusively found within the Milano School. Courses at the New School do not count toward this, or any, concentration, but may still be very valuable.

Because the tasks regulatory lawyers perform cover such a wide range, most lawyers’ skills are potentially relevant to practice in this area. All administrative lawyers read, interpret, and master complex statutes and regulations. Regulatory lawyers may also advise, litigate, negotiate, draft regulations and statutes, or file comments on proposed rules. Of course, few individuals do *all*

these things, but this variety does mean that there is no particular set of skills courses that make the most sense in the abstract. If you seek a litigating position in the government, for example, then trial advocacy and related courses are important. If you are more interested in working in, say, a General Counsel's office, other skills will be more relevant (for example, if you work for a city agency that regularly deals with contractors, some transactional skills would be highly useful).

Whether one ends up working for an agency, for a law firm, or in house, actual prior experience at an agency is enormously valuable. Accordingly, students in this concentration are *strongly* encouraged to take at least one clinic, field clinic, externship or the like that involves actual work in, or exposure to, a government agency. It usually is best to do this in your third year, after having taken the foundational courses and perhaps a specialized course or two in the substantive area in which you are interested and with which your ideal clinic, field clinic, or externship deals.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Public Law, Regulation, and Government Affairs, a student must take and pass at least 5 courses, totaling at least 15 credits, from the following list.

Required Courses

Administrative Law
Legislation

Specialized Courses (at least three courses totaling at least 9 credits)

Antitrust Law
Bet Tzedek Clinic
Collective Bargaining and Negotiation in Sports and Entertainment
Contemporary Conflicts and the Law
Corporate Tax
Employment Law
Environmental Law
Federal Courts
Federal Income Taxation
Immigration Justice Clinic
Immigration Law
Internet Law
Labor Law
Law of Non-Profit Organizations
Poverty and the Law
Public Sector Labor and Employment Law
Securities Regulation
Technology Policy Seminar

Related Experiential Offerings (at least one is strongly encouraged)

Intersession Program in Washington, DC
Department of Financial Services (DFS) Field Clinic
Health Care Reform Field Clinic and Seminar
Immigration Law Field Clinic and Seminar
Labor and Employment Law Field Clinic
NYC Law Dep't Labor and Employment Law Field Clinic
NYS Law Dep't Office of the AG Field Clinic
Public Sector Externship and Seminar
Securities Arbitration Clinic
Special Education Law and Advocacy Field Clinic and Seminar
Strategic Policy Advocacy Field Clinic and Seminar
Tax Law Field Clinic

Cardozo Faculty

The Public Law Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Michael Herz](#). Professor Herz teaches Administrative Law and Environmental Law, as well as related advanced courses. He is a former Chair of the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice and a public member of the Administrative Conference of the US. Before joining the Cardozo faculty he was an attorney at the Environmental Defense Fund.

[Kate Shaw](#). Professor Shaw teaches Legislation and Administrative Law, among other courses. Previously she worked in the White House Counsel's Office as a Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel to the President in the Obama Administration.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start Professor Herz or Professor Shaw.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in public law fields:

[Laura Cunningham](#) (Taxation)

[Mitchell Engler](#) (Taxation)

[Elizabeth Goldman](#) (Securities Regulation)

[Arthur Jacobson](#) (Employment Discrimination)

[Peter Markowitz](#) (Immigration)

[Deborah Pearlstein](#) (National Security, Constitutional Law, International Law)

[Jeanne Schroeder](#) (Securities Regulation)

[Stewart Sterk](#) (Land Use Regulation)

[Edward Zelinsky](#) (Taxation)

Finally, while this concentration is distinct from the Constitutional Law concentration, the two obviously overlap. (If Constitutional Law I was not a required 1L course, it would be a required course for this concentration.) Accordingly, the constitutional law faculty also forms part of the public law group:

[Michelle Adams](#) (Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, Federal Courts)
[Alex Reinert](#) (Constitutional Law, Civil Rights)
[Michel Rosenfeld](#) (Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law)
[David Rudenstine](#) (Constitutional Law, Labor Arbitration)
[Richard Weisberg](#) (Constitutional Law)

Alumni Mentors

Carol Dreznick '86	State Attorney of CT	cdesq@aol.com
Sara Klein Eisenberg '05	San Francisco City Attorney	sara@eisenbergs.org
Jose Jara '95	Buck Consultants, Inc.	jose.jara@xerox.com
Michael Wildes '89	Wildes & Weinberg	mwildes@wwgw.com

Relevant Student Organizations

American Constitution Society	cardozo.acslaw@gmail.com https://www.acslaw.org/
Environmental Law Society	
Federalist Society	fed.soc.cardozo@gmail.com http://www.fed-soc.org/
For Immigrant Rights and Equality (FIRE)	CardozoFIRE@gmail.com
Labor and Employment Society	Cardozo.LELS@gmail.com
Public Interest Law Students Association	Cardozo.PILSA@gmail.com
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund	CardozoSALDF@gmail.com
Suspension Representation Project	CardozoSRP@gmail.com
Unemployment Action Center	uac.cardozo@gmail.com ; http://uac-ny.org/
Young Americans for Liberty	cardozo.yal@gmail.com .

Career Resources

Careers in Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice (ABA 2010) KF299.A32 C37 2010 (can be found in the main library and in the Career Services library; a partially updated version can also be found [online](#))

A general introduction to regulatory work, followed by contributions from 19 government lawyers and private practitioners working in this area discussing what they do and the paths that brought them there.

Government Lawyers: The Federal Legal Bureaucracy and Presidential Politics (Cornell Clayton ed. 1995) KF299.G6 G68 1995

This is a more academic volume, edited by a political scientist, but it contains a lot of interesting material about the government roles of different kinds of federal government lawyers.

The Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide (NALP and PSDJ 2016-2017)

This is a quick introduction to federal legal jobs and important information about pay, qualifications, and application procedures. It is available both in hard copy and [online](#).

PSJD – Public Service Jobs Directory (www.psjd.org)

This on-line resource, www.psjd.org, is a NALP project and the successor to PSLawNet. It is dedicated to public interest work generally, but included in that is lots of information about government jobs. The best starting point is [here](#).

“The Plum Book” (United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions)

This book, published every four years (by, alternately, committees in the Senate and the House) lists 8,000 federal civil service leadership and support positions in both the legislative and executive branches. Many are not legal jobs, but the Plum Book provides a useful overview of a number of careers in the federal government. Available [here](#).

General Resources

American Bar Association

Many of the ABA Sections have some connection to public law fields (for example Antitrust, or Environment, Energy and Resources, or Taxation), but the two most directly relevant are [Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice](#) and [Government and Public Sector Lawyers](#). Section membership is generally free or almost free for law students.

Blogs

Several blogs provide news and commentary on regulatory issues and recent cases. The following are among the best:

[The Regulatory Review](#) -- A blog on recent developments in the world of federal regulation from the [Penn Program on Regulation](#). This is the most extensive and consistently interesting regulatory policy blog out there.

[Notice and Comment](#) – A law professors’ blog sponsored by the *Yale Journal on Regulation* and the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

[OFR Blog](#) -- From the Office of the Federal Register, the daily publication of the executive branch of the federal government.

Substantive Research

[Researching Administrative Law](#) -- A useful guide to doing administrative law research prepared by the librarians at Harvard Law School.

[Administrative Law Research Tutorial](#) -- Ditto, this one from the librarians at the Georgetown Law Center.

Writing Competitions

[ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Gellhorn-Sargentich Writing Competition](#) (any topic in administrative law)

[H. Thomas Austern Memorial Writing Competition](#) (Food and Drug Law Institute)

[Richard D. Cudahy Writing Competition on Regulatory and Administrative Law](#) (sponsored by ACS, with separate student and lawyer categories; “submissions should be related to American regulatory or administrative law, broadly construed”)

REAL ESTATE

Overview

An enormous portion of this nation's wealth is in the form of real estate. For many individuals and firms, real estate represents their most valuable, and valued, asset. Lawyers have an essential function in ensuring that the acquisition, transfer, and use of real property occurs smoothly and consistently with applicable legal requirements.

Real estate law governs rights to possess, use, and transfer land and permanent improvements to it. This includes the law governing private transactions and rights, such as the different sorts of legal interests in real property, relations among owners and between landlords and tenants, the transfer of interests in real property, and financing of the purchase of real estate. It also includes government regulation of how real property is used (for example, through zoning, or permit requirements, or environmental regulation) and the limits, constitutional and otherwise, on such regulation. Much of the relevant law is state-specific, and can vary significantly between jurisdictions. However, federal law, both constitutional (e.g., the takings clause) and statutory (e.g., the Fair Housing Act or regulation of mortgage disclosures by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) also looms large in this field.

Career Pathways

Real estate lawyers perform several core tasks. First, they advise their clients with regard to the many different legal restrictions that apply to real property. Second, they guide clients through real estate transactions, helping negotiate terms, drafting documents, and ensuring compliance with relevant laws. Third, they deal with government regulators, obtaining permits, variances, funding, tax breaks, and so on. Finally, as in most law fields, transactions gone awry or disputes between neighbors can lead to litigation.

Real estate lawyers operate in many settings. However, most are in law firms. As a generalization, lawyers with a solo practice or in a small firm tend to handle residential transactions and those in larger firms tend to handle commercial transactions, but there are many counter examples. Outside of law firms, one finds real estate lawyers work for the government, in the building and zoning departments of counties and municipalities. Real estate lawyers may also work for corporations (who often own large amounts of real property), real estate development companies, financial or lending institutions (which provide financing for real estate transactions), or title companies (which ensure the validity of an owner's or seller's title to particular property).

Courses and Skills

The introductory course for the Real Estate Concentration is Property. That does not appear on the list below because, of course, all students take it during the first year. But it is the foundation on which this concentration is built.

The two required upper-level courses in the concentration concern the essential aspects of (a) private transactions concerning, and (b) public regulation of, real estate. *Real Estate Transactions* covers the fundamental legal and business aspects of real estate deals. Topics include the contract of sale, loan structuring, legal principles governing the enforcement of mortgages, the basics of construction lending, deeds, and closings – in other words, what you need to know to represent a participant in a the sale of (or, to a lesser extent, other kind of transaction involving) real estate. *Land Use* is devoted to legal restraints such as zoning and subdivision regulations that limit the size and placement of buildings and particular uses of real property. Real estate concentrators should take these two classes as early as possible in their upper-level years before moving on to more specialized courses.

In general, the elective courses are deeper dives into certain aspects of the material covered in the two basic courses. For example, the environmental laws often operate as a de facto land use regime, restricting what kind of project can go where (routing development away from wetlands, or limiting development in coastal areas, or requiring environmental impact statements for new developments, etc.). Tax consequences have to be considered in doing any deal (real estate or otherwise); the tax angle is often the difference between a deal being viable and it not. The *Real Estate Reporter* is a valuable opportunity to research and write up important recent judicial decisions in this area.

Lawyers who specialize in real estate transactions spend much of their time drafting and reviewing documents, counseling clients, and negotiating the terms of their clients' deals. In addition to having the requisite substantive knowledge, then, a successful a real estate attorney also must be an effective negotiator and a precise drafter. Hence inclusion of the negotiation and contract drafting courses.

One other important opportunity to bear in mind: while courses at the New School do not count toward Cardozo concentrations, the New School does offer several courses that are relevant to this concentration, particularly in the areas of housing policy and housing finance.

Finally, certain courses that are not on this list because they are not specific to a real estate practice still involve institutions and concepts that are important for real estate lawyers to understand. Corporations would head this list. Administrative Law, Federal Income Taxation, and State and Local Government are also useful.

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Real Estate, a student must successfully complete at least five courses, totaling at least 15 credits, from the following list.

Required Courses

Real Estate Transactions

Land Use Regulation

Elective Courses (at least three courses totaling at least 9 credits)

Alternative Business Entities

Bankruptcy Law: Debtors' and Creditors' Rights

Contract Drafting

Coops and Condos

Construction Law

Corporate Finance

Department of Financial Services (DFS) Field Clinic (Division of Real Estate Finance)

Distressed Real Estate

Environmental Concerns in Corporate Transactions

Environmental Law

Negotiation Theory and Skills

New York Landlord-Tenant Law

Real Estate Finance

Real Estate Reporter

Taxation of Partnerships

Taxation of Real Estate Transactions

Cardozo Faculty

The Real Estate Law Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[David Carlson](#). Professor Carlson teaches Mortgages, Bankruptcy, Commercial Law and Property. He is a renowned bankruptcy law scholar.

[Stewart Sterk](#). Professor Sterk, who is the Mack Professor of Real Estate Law, teaches Land Use Regulation and Property (among many other courses) and is editor of the *New York Real Estate Law Reporter*. He is co-author of leading casebooks on land use and trusts and estates.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in relevant fields:

[Laura Cunningham](#) (Taxation)

[Mitchell Engler](#) (Taxation)

[Michael Herz](#) (Environmental Law, Land Use Regulation, Administrative Law)

[Melanie Leslie](#) (Property)

[Leslie Salzman](#) (Landlord-Tenant)

[Jeanne Schroeder](#) (Corporate Finance)

[Edward Zelinsky](#) (Taxation)

Alumni Mentors

Robert J. Cyruli '87	Cyruli Shanks & Zizmor	rcyruli@cshzlaw.com
Steven Polivy 80	Akerman LLP	steven.polivy@akerman.com
Susan E.D. Neuberg '83	Greenberg Traurig	neubergs@gtlaw.com
Matthew Schneid '10	Cole Schotz	mschneid@coleschotz.com
Leo Genn '98	Northside Center for Child Development	lgenn_esq@yahoo.com
Steven Weinberger'94	Weinberger Consulting, P.C.	siweinberger@aol.com
Marc Kemp '87	Basser Kaufman Inc.	marc@basserkaufman.com

Relevant Student Organizations

Environmental Law Society
Real Estate Law Association CardozoRealEstateLaw@gmail.com

Career Resources

Many of the general job search resources have sections on real estate career information, including Chambers, Vault, and Martindale for private firms and PSJD and Idealist for public sector opportunities. Listed below are government sites broadly related to real estate law.

Federal

- Department of the Interior (www.doi.gov)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.hud.gov)
- Federal Housing Administration (www.fha.gov)
- Federal Housing Finance Agency (www.fhfa.gov)

New York State

- Division of Housing & Community Renewal (<http://nysdhcr.gov>)
- Empire State Development (<http://esd.ny.gov/>)
- Housing Finance Agency/Mortgage Agency (www.nyhomes.org)

New York City

- Economic Development Corporation (www.nyc.gov/html/edc/)
- Department of Environmental Protection (www.nyc.gov/html/dep/)
- Housing Authority (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycha/html/home/home.shtml>)
- Department of Buildings (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/home/home.shtml>)

New Jersey (State)

- Department of Environmental Protection (www.nj.gov/dep/)

- New Jersey Building Authority (www.state.nj.us/njba/)
- Capital City Redevelopment Corporation (www.state.nj.us/ccrc/index.html)
- Economic Development Authority (www.njeda.com/web/default.aspx)
- Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/)

American College of Real Estate Lawyers (www.acrel.org)

While this association of real estate lawyers is only open to attorneys (by invitation) its website provides a membership directory and valuable publications for those interested in real estate law.

International Association of Attorneys and Executives in Corporate Real Estate (www.aecre.org)

The AECRE’s mission is to provide a collegial forum for real estate executives and attorneys to explore corporate real estate issues of common interest. This not-for-profit association provides its members with a senior-level network of executives and attorneys who share professional concerns in the field of corporate real estate.

New York City Bar Association (www.nycbar.org)

The NYC Bar has five real estate-related committees: Construction Law Committee, Cooperative & Condominium Law Committee, Housing & Urban Development Committee, Land Use Planning & Zoning Committee, and the Real Property Law Committee. Contact the Bar to become involved in any of these committees.

New York State Bar, Real Property Section (<http://www.nysba.org/rpls/>)

This section includes the issues germane to a real estate practice, and among the resources available are career assistance and job posting boards.

National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (www.naiop.org)

The NAIOP is the leading organization for developers, owners, and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. This organization provides a variety of resources, including on-line and in-person programming, to link law students with real estate developers.

General Resources

American Bar Association

Student membership in the Section of [Real Property, Trust and Estate Law](#) is only \$5 per year.

American College of Real Estate Lawyers

ACREL describes itself as “the premier organization of U.S. real estate lawyers.” Membership is by invitation only and does not include students, but the website may be of interest.

Blogs

Several blogs provide news and commentary on real estate and land use topics. The following are among the best:

[Land Use Prof Blog](#) – A group blog by law professors teaching land use regulation.

[Property Prof Blog](#) – Ditto, except property professors.

A list of real estate and land use blogs is [here](#). The listed blogs vary enormously in quality, subject matter, and regularity of posting.

Substantive Research

[Land Use, Planning and Zoning Research Guide](#)

An excellent collection of materials and links prepared by the Pace Law Library, including New York specific materials.

[NY Real Estate Law Reporter](#)

This monthly publication, edited by Professor Sterk and written in part by Cardozo students, summarizes important recent New York cases. Subscription required, but available in the Cardozo library.

A useful book that both offers a glimpse of what commercial real estate lawyers do and some useful tips on how to do it is [The Commercial Real Estate Lawyer's Job: A Survival Guide](#), by Brad Dashoff and John Antonacci.

Writing Competitions

[ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources ADR Writing Competition](#) (“any aspect of dispute resolution practice, theory or research related to environmental, energy, or natural resource conflicts or should critique or analyze the dispute resolution process used in a particular case”)

[ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources Endangered Species Writing Competition](#) (“a question of legal and/or policy significance on any issue related to species conservation law, including endangered and threatened species, biodiversity, habitat conservation, and similar themes”)

[ABA Section of Environment, Energy & Resources Energy Law Writing Competition](#) (“any aspect of energy law”)

[ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources Public Land and Resources Writing Competition](#)

[ABA Section of Real Property and Trusts and Estates Law Student Writing Contest](#) (“a current topic dealing with real property, trust and estate law”)

[Beveridge & Diamond Constitutional Environmental Law Writing Competition](#) (“Any topic addressing developments or trends in U.S. environmental law that have a significant constitutional or ‘federalism’ component.”)

[Institute for Energy Law \(IEL\) Hatrick Scholar Writing Competition](#) (“any topic related to energy development”)

[NYSBA Environmental Law Section Professor William R. Ginsberg Memorial Essay Contest](#) (any topic in environmental law)

[Smith-Babcock-Williams Writing Competition](#) (American Planning Association) (“a question of significance in either city planning or associated areas of law (e.g., land use, local government or environmental law)”)

[State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section Essay Contest](#) “(Any environmental law topic of current interest to Michigan environmental lawyers.”)

[Texas A&M Journal of Real Property Law National Writing Contest](#)

RIGHTS AND THE STATE

Overview

The Rights and the State concentration focuses students on fundamental questions of legal protections of the individual against discrimination (for example, on the basis of race, sex, or sexual preference) and against restriction of liberty. Protected liberties include freedom of speech, conscience, and religion; rights of personal autonomy and reproductive freedom; voting and other political rights; rights against arbitrary detention and cruel treatment; and the right of privacy in its various manifestations. These rights are not free-floating; all involve the state. Some protections are *as against* the government, constitutional restraints on the government itself. Others are *created and enforced by* the government, primarily in the form of statutory protections against discrimination by one individual against another. The central project is to define and protect those elements of personal freedom that are fundamental to human flourishing and democratic self-governance. Because questions of social justice and social change turn largely on civil and human rights, broadly conceived, this concentration is an appropriate home for students interested in effecting social change through law.

Although in its broadest sense, the topic of “rights and the state” surely encompasses criminal law and procedure, the Rights and the State Concentration is designed for those interested in civil rights and their protection through litigation, advocacy, and policy development. The Criminal Law Concentration is appropriate for those interested in pursuing a criminal law career.

Career Pathways

The percentage of lawyers with a full-time civil rights practice is not high. Many litigators in the field are to be found at small law firms that specialize in prisoners’ rights, police misconduct, or plaintiffs-side employment discrimination, though a few litigators in big firms regularly handle civil rights cases. Others work at the numerous non-governmental organizations dedicated to impact litigation and *non-courtroom* advocacy, such as research and report-writing, public campaigns, and lobbying, on questions of civil liberties. The ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. are perhaps the two best known but there are many, many others (including, locally, the Center for Constitutional Rights). Traditionally, these organizations have had a strong liberal bent, but these days there are a number of non-profits tackling constitutional issues from the other side of the political spectrum--the Cato Institute is one prominent example. These are hard jobs to get, and in general people do not get them right out of law school, but those who have them would not do anything else.

Some attorneys in law firms or corporate counsel’s offices, especially those representing or working for companies in the publishing, news reporting, or performing arts businesses, have robust First Amendment practices. Employment lawyers, representing either employees or employers (but almost never both), handle discrimination claims. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division enforces the federal anti-discrimination, voting rights, and hate crimes statutes. Similarly, many offices of state attorneys general also enforce anti-

discrimination laws. The Civil Rights Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General in New York is but one example. Finally, lawyers with a specialty in the dynamic between rights and the state will be found in legal services offices and legal aid societies, government agencies at all levels of government, the attorney generals' offices, law offices representing cities and municipalities, private law firms, and everything in between.

Many lawyers have a practice that is more general in nature but from time to time will include a matter that touches on civil rights. Clients, including pro bono clients, may be involved in a wide range of controversies such as disputes over the scope of protected expression, the intersection of religion and the state, the scope of protection provided for by federal and state civil rights statutes, the benefits secured by federal and state governmental entitlement programs such as Social Security or Medicaid, the rights of parents or a child as against the state, or the rights of voters, campaign donors, or potential office holders in the face of governmental regulations. Civil practice in this concentration can be done across the nation. Moreover, practice in this area may encompass every possible forum from the federal courts to state courts, to administrative and regulatory hearings, to arbitration and mediation, and it encompasses trial as well as appellate work.

Courses and Skills

All Rights and the State concentrators must take Constitutional Law II, which covers unenumerated fundamental rights (for example, privacy, reproductive freedom, personal association), equal protection, and, to a greater or lesser extent depending on the professor, free speech.¹

Concentrators must also take at least two of the four foundational courses. For those interested in litigation, Federal Courts is indispensable. Students who wish to focus on speech or religious freedom should take the foundational First Amendment course as well as specialized seminars addressing the topic. Administrative Law is essential for any practice area that falls within the authority of federal, state or city agencies, is important to understanding how government works, and is the place in the curriculum that covers procedural due process. Finally, while, as noted, the focus of this concentration is on the civil side rather than the criminal, Criminal Procedure remains a core course for understanding the relationship between individuals and the state. Students can of course take three or all four of the foundational courses, but they must still take at least two of the specialized courses.

¹ Because the coverage of free speech and freedom of religion in Con Law II varies significantly from professor to professor, students should be thoughtful in selecting a particular Con Law II section. Absent unusual circumstances, those with a strong interest in constitutional rights would be best served by taking Con Law II from a professor who spends little or no time on the First Amendment and then taking the separate First Amendment course. If, however, the First Amendment is not a primary interest, it may make sense to take Con Law II from a professor who spends some time on free speech, and then forgo the separate First Amendment course. Because the First Amendment is such a fundamental topic, it would be a mistake for concentrators to take avoid the topic altogether.

Beyond the required and foundational courses, students can create the pathway that best fits their particular interests. Because this concentration implicates such a broad range of substantive issues and practice forums, no single course of study will be the right fit for every concentrator. The key, and obvious, thing is to figure out which particular subject areas are most compelling to you and focus on those.

Because it is through the courts that rights are defined, elaborated, expanded (or contracted), and vindicated, many civil rights lawyers are litigators. Accordingly, Evidence, Trial Advocacy, ITAP, and related courses (cf. the Civil Litigation Concentration) all teach important skills relevant to this concentration.

Finally, note that the Cardozo boasts a [Civil Rights Clinic](#). The Clinic focuses on prisoners' rights and police brutality.

The Concentration

A student satisfies the requirements for this concentration by taking Constitutional Law II (Category 1), at least two of the four courses in Category 2, and at least two courses totaling at least six credits from Category 3. It is useful to take Constitutional Law II early in one's law school career; it is valuable background to most of the other courses and a prerequisite to some. Other than that, it is not critical to take the courses in any particular order.

Category 1: Required Course

Constitutional Law II

Category 2: Foundation Courses (at least two; only two will count toward the concentration)

Administrative Law

Criminal Procedure

Federal Courts

First Amendment

Category 3: Specialized Courses (at least two totaling at least six credits)

Anti-Terrorism and Criminal Enforcement

Authority and Liberty

Civil Rights Clinic

Comparative Constitutionalism

Contemporary Conflicts and the Law

Constitutional and Civil Rights Litigation

Constitutional Interpretation

Constitutional and Statutory Interpretation

Criminal Procedure II

Critical Race Theory

Federal Civil Rights Law

First Amendment Theory

From Socrates to Dr. Spock: Treason, Sedition and Human Rights in History and Philosophy
Protected Speech
International Human Rights
Law and Religion
Law and Religion Colloquium
Race, Law, and Remediation
Rights of Prisoners and Detainees
State and Local Government
The Supreme Court: Theory and Practice

Cardozo Faculty

The Rights and the State Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Michelle Adams](#). Professor Adams, who is Co-Director of the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy, teaches Constitutional Law I and II, Federal Courts, Civil Rights, and Race, Law, and Remediation. She began her career in the Civil Appeals and Law Reform Unit of the Legal Aid Society.

[Betsy Ginsberg](#). Professor Ginsberg runs the Civil Rights Clinic. She worked previously at the Legal Aid Society's Prisoners' Rights Project and at the Prison Law Office in San Quentin, California and is a recipient of a Soros Justice Fellowship and a NAPIL Equal Justice Works Fellowship.

Students interested in the concentration or with questions about careers in this area should start with one of the above.

In addition, the following Cardozo professors have expertise in relevant fields; the parentheticals identify their areas of expertise and the briefest of information about their legal experience.

[Rebekah Diller](#) (Guardianship, Elder Law)

[Marci Hamilton](#) (Constitutional Law, Religious Liberty)

[Michael Herz](#) (Constitutional Law, Administrative Law)

[Peter Markowitz](#) (Immigration Law)

[Deborah Pearlstein](#) (Constitutional Law, International Law, National Security law)

[Alex Reinert](#) (Constitutional Law, Prisoners Rights)

[Michel Rosenfeld](#) (Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law)

[David Rudenstine](#) (Constitutional Law I and II, related advanced courses)

[Leslie Salzman](#) (Elder Law, Housing Law)

[Kate Shaw](#) (Constitutional Law, Election Law)

[Edward Stein](#) (Family Law, LGBT Rights)

[Richard Weisberg](#) (Constitutional Law II, The First Amendment)

Alumni Mentors

Barbara Fae Feldstein '01	NYS Div. of Human Rights	barbarafae@aol.com
Amol Sinha '10	NYCLU	sinha.amol@gmail.com
Jason Starr '10	NYCLU	jasonestarr@gmail.com

Relevant Student Organizations

The two leading law school constitutional law organizations—the [American Constitution Society](#) (which leans left) and [The Federalist Society](#) (which leans right)—both have active branches at Cardozo. Here is their contact information:

ACS	cardozo.acslaw@gmail.com
Federalist Society	fed.soc.cardozo@gmail.com

Other student organizations focused on civil rights include:

Family Law Society	FamLaw.Cardozo@gmail.com
FIRE -- Cardozo For Immigrants' Rights and Equality	CardozoFIRE@gmail.com
Law Students for Reproductive Justice	CardozoLSRJ@gmail.com
National Lawyers Guild	Cardozo.nlg@gmail.com ; https://www.nlg.org/
OUTLaw	Cardozo.Outlaw@gmail.com
Public Interest Law Students Ass'n	Cardozo.PILSA@gmail.com
Students for Human Rights	Cardozo.students.for.human.rights@gmail.com
Suspension Representation Project	CardozoSRP@gmail.com
Unemployment Action Center	uac.cardozo@gmail.com ; http://uac-ny.org/
Young Americans for Liberty	cardozo.yal@gmail.com .

Though not a student organization, Cardozo's [Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy](#) can provide advice, information, and, perhaps most important, funding for student activities and speakers on constitutional law topics.

Career Resources

Center for Public Service Law

The [Center for Public Service Law](#), housed within Cardozo's Office of Career Services, is the essential source for information, leads, and advice regarding internships and employment in this area. There is no point in duplicating its resources and efforts in this document; students should visit the Center's website or visit the office (Room 1125) in person. Two important non-Cardozo resources merit mention, however, and are set out below.

PSJD – Public Service Jobs Directory (www.psjd.org)

This on-line resource, www.psjd.org, is a NALP project and the successor to PSLawNet. It is dedicated to public interest work generally. The best starting point is [here](#).

NYU Public Interest Law Center Fair

The NYU Law School hosts an annual career fair, usually in early February with registration the preceding November. The fair, which bills itself as the largest in the nation, brings together more than 200 public interest employers and 1600 students from more than 20 law schools. Many Cardozo students have found summer or permanent employment through interviews at the fair. More information is available from the Center for Public Service Law or the NYU [website](#).

Handbook on Careers in Civil Rights and Liberties (click [here](#) for PDF of handbook)

This handbook, created by Harvard Law School's Office of Public Interest Advising, is a useful, although somewhat dated (last updated in 2007) guide to careers in civil rights and liberties litigation. It includes profiles of organizations, recommendations for course selection, narratives from successful lawyers in the field, and a relatively comprehensive list of relevant organizations from across the country.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Career Center

(http://www.civilrights.org/career_center/)

The Leadership Conference was founded in 1950 as the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights by A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; and Arnold Aronson, a leader of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. The goal of the Leadership Conference was to create a coalition to ensure the success of the struggle for civil rights. The Leadership Conference's Career Center provides information about opportunities at the Conference itself and other civil rights organizations.

United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division

The DOJ's Civil Rights Division (Division) is primarily responsible for enforcing federal statutes and executive orders that prohibit, among other things, unlawful discrimination, including discrimination in voting, education, employment, housing, police services, public accommodations and facilities, and federally funded and conducted programs. The Division also actively works on civil rights legislation, regulations, and a full range of policy activities and initiatives. The Division's web-site includes information about careers as well. Information about hiring procedures and vacancies in the Division is available whether you are an experienced attorney, a recent graduate, or a law student. A good place to start is [here](#).

General Resources

The books, journals, and specific articles dedicated to this field are too numerous to mention. A nice overview of resources for academic research, including a list of specialty journals, has been prepared by the librarians at the Georgetown Law Center and is available [here](#).

American Bar Association

Law students can join the ABA for just \$25 a year. Being a member of "the big ABA" is not that valuable, however. The real benefits are to be had by joining a section, which provides valuable information and networking possibilities. For Rights and the State concentrators,

the relevant section is [Individual Rights and Responsibilities](#) (usually referred to just as “IRR”).

Representative Civil Rights Organizations (not a comprehensive list)

[American Civil Liberties Union](#)

[Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)

[Human Rights First](#) (formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights)

[Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#)

[Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#)

[NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#)

[National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium](#)

[Native American Rights Fund](#)

[Southern Center for Human Rights](#)

[Public Justice](#)

[U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division](#)

Blogs

Countless blogs provide news and commentary on relevant issues. The following are among the best, though most are not limited to rights issues:

[American Constitution Society Blog](#)

[Balkinization](#) – A group blog led by Yale law professor Jack Balkin with a focus on constitutional issues

[Blog of Rights](#) – from the ACLU

[Brennan Center for Justice](#)

[Civil Rights Law and Policy Blog](#)

[Concurring Opinions](#) – a general legal group blog, but with a fair amount of attention to constitutional issues, especially those arising under the First Amendment

[Constitutional Law Prof Blog](#) – Coverage of current con law issues

[Dorf on Law](#) – Cornell law professor Michael Dorf and friends

[First Amendment Center](#) – the website and blog of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University

[Gender and the Law Prof Blog](#)

[Hamilton and Griffin on Rights](#) – Cardozo’s Marci Hamilton combines forces with Prof. Leslie Griffin; focused on religious liberty and women’s and children’s rights

[Human Rights at Home Blog](#)

[Human Rights Now Blog](#) – maintained by Amnesty International

[Just Security Blog](#)

[Lawfare Blog](#) – National Security

[Opinio Juris Blog](#) – international law, human rights and security

[Poverty Law Prof Blog](#)

[Reproductive Rights Prof Blog](#)

[Religion Clause Blog](#)

[Unfinished Business](#) – maintained by Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

[The Volokh Conspiracy](#) – a right-leaning group blog that covers a range of legal issues

Writing Competitions

Miscellaneous Topics

[ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security, National Security Law Student Writing Competition](#)

[ACS Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition](#) (“papers furthering and promoting a progressive vision of the Constitution, law, and public policy”)

[Berkeley Technology Law Journal Writing Competition](#) (law and technology)

[LSAC Diversity Writing Competition](#)

[Public Citizen -- The Hogan/Smoger Access to Justice Essay Competition](#) (topic varies from year to year; in 2015 it concerned corporate personhood and constitutional rights)

[Pacific Legal Foundation Judicial Awareness Student Writing Competition](#) (submissions must “address one of three questions on areas of the law within PLF’s mission, incorporating pertinent case law and applicable academic literature”)

Disability

[Adam A. Milani Disability Law Writing Competition](#) (“any aspect of disability law, theory, or practice”)

[James Crane III Disability and the Law Writing Competition](#) (“any topic relating to disability law”)

[NYSBA Elder and Special Needs Law Journal Diversity Writing Competition](#)

Gender and Reproductive Rights

[Catherine Albiston Prize for Recent Developments on Gender, Law & Justice](#) (“research, analysis, narrative, theory, and commentary that critically examine the intersection of gender with one or more other axes of subordination, including, but not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation, and disability”)

[National Association of Women Lawyers 2015 Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition](#) (any “an issue concerning women’s rights or the status of women in the law”)

[Sarah Weddington Writing Prize for Student Scholarship in Reproductive Rights Law](#) (sponsored by Law Students for Reproductive Justice in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Rights)

Race & Ethnicity

[American Indian Law Review Writing Competition](#)

[National Native American Law Students Association Annual Indian Law Writing Competition](#) (“Federal Indian law and policy, Tribal law and policy, International law and policy concerning indigenous peoples, and Comparative Law (i.e. intertribal or government-to-government studies”)

[LatCrit Student Scholar Program](#) (“any critical aspect of race and the law”)

[Robert T. Matsui Annual Writing Competition](#) (Asian Pacific American Bar Association; “any topic of interest to the applicant so long as it reasonably relates to Asian Pacific Americans and the law”)

Religion

[Founding Fathers Religious Liberty Writing Competition](#) (a “scholarly paper relating to the topic of religious liberty, broadly or narrowly construed”)

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

[Catherine Albiston Prize for Recent Developments on Gender, Law & Justice](#) (“research, analysis, narrative, theory, and commentary that critically examine the intersection of gender with one or more other axes of subordination, including, but not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation, and disability”)

[Dukeminier Awards Student Writing Competition](#) (“topics should focus on a cutting-edge legal issue affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender communities”; sponsored by UCLA’s Williams Institute)

[International Association of LGBT Judges Writing Competition](#) (“diversity on the bench or judicial or legal ethics around LGBT issues”; for attendees of Lavender Law Conference and Career Fair)

[Michael Greenberg Student Writing Competition](#) (“legal issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or intersex community”; sponsored by the LGBT Bar Association)

TAX LAW

Overview

Tax Law is a dynamic field with broad ranging scope. On the one hand, it is a highly specialized area; on the other hand, it intersects with a wide range of other areas of legal practice. This is because taxes are central considerations in business entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, estate planning, executive compensation, estate planning, bankruptcy, family law, intellectual property, and non-profit governance, among others. Tax Law likewise casts a vast geographic net, with local, state, federal, and international dimensions. Tax Law also spans a wide range of tasks, including transactional structuring (minimization of clients' taxes), deal negotiation of tax terms with opposing counsel, on-going compliance, and post-transaction controversy work (i.e., litigation with the I.R.S. or other governmental institutions). The Tax Law concentration is designed to provide students with exposure to the immense possibilities of a Tax Law career and the tools to succeed in that career.

Career Pathways

As suggested by the broad range of practice areas mentioned above, there are many possible Tax Law career pathways. Most law firms have a tax department, or at least one tax expert, because tax implications have to be taken into account in almost any significant business transaction. Accordingly, tax lawyers play a prominent role in law firms of all sizes. In addition, some smaller law firms specialize solely in tax law (so-called tax boutique firms). Some tax lawyers help individual clients and families organize their financial affairs and plan for the distribution of their estates. Estate planners may work in big firms, boutique firms, or as sole practitioners.

Tax lawyers also work in non-profit organizations, accounting firms, or as in-house counsel for large businesses (e.g., corporations). There also are many Tax Law possibilities within the government. At the federal level, for instance, tax lawyers work for the I.R.S., the Treasury Department (which houses not just the I.R.S but also an Office of Tax Policy and other entities), the U.S. Department of Justice (Tax Division), or as clerks for the U.S. Tax Court. State and local governments also employ tax lawyers in their respective departments of revenue. For more information on some of these governmental opportunities, see the Career Resources Section below.

Students are often surprised to find tax law much more enjoyable and intellectually engaging than they had imagined. Successful practitioners often liken Tax Law to an intricate and intellectually stimulating puzzle, finding satisfaction in solving the particular puzzle at hand. For an interview with legal career advisor James McCormick touching upon these themes, see <http://jobs.aol.com/videos/job-interviews/how-tax-class-helps-a-puzzle-solver-focus-his-law-career/516925208/>.

Finally, contrary to some popular beliefs, one need not have an LL.M. in Tax or an accounting (or math) degree for a career in tax law. Having said that, an LL.M. degree is more common among tax attorneys than perhaps any other specialty. Some law graduates complete the Tax

LL.M. in one year on a full-time basis, while others take longer on a part-time basis while working (either part or full time). Likewise, some accounting, economics, or finance familiarity might provide some useful background knowledge to an aspiring tax lawyer (and some facility with numbers also can be helpful).

Courses and Skills

The Federal Income Taxation course provides a basic, generalized foundation, introducing students to core principles and concepts of the income tax as well as the overarching text of the tax law, the Internal Revenue Code. It is also a prerequisite for many of the other tax law offerings. Accordingly, students interested in the Tax Law concentration should take the foundational Federal Income Taxation class as early as possible, preferably during the first semester of their 2L year.

After taking the introductory Federal Income Taxation course, interested students are then encouraged to take next at least one of the two “entity” tax courses: Corporate Taxation or Taxation of Partnerships. You do not have to take either immediately after the basic course and before other electives, and may students save Corporate and/or Partnership Tax for their third year. However, these two classes will provide a better feel for the types of issues likely to arise in the typical practice of tax law and so will give you a good sense of whether this is the field for you. As these two courses are both important and can work in conjunction (see, e.g., the reference above to business entity formation), students are also encouraged (but not required) to take both.

Beyond these three core courses, students have flexibility to choose among the variety of electives listed below. These are of two types. Some address specialized topics involving income taxation; others address taxation of things other than income. While only five tax courses total are required for the concentration, students are encouraged to take more if possible. Broader exposure can only expand one’s potential job opportunities, and also can provide a helpful broader knowledge base regardless of one’s ultimate tax practice area(s).

The Concentration

To graduate with a concentration in Tax Law, a student must successfully complete at least five of the courses listed below, including at least two of the Required Courses.

Required Courses

Federal Income Taxation

Corporate Taxation OR Taxation of Partnerships

Elective Courses (at least 3 required)

Corporate Taxation*

Employee Benefits, Pensions, ERISA and Executive Compensation

Estate and Gift Taxation

Estate Planning
International and Comparative Tax
International Taxation
Law of Non-Profit Organizations
Tax Law Field Clinic
Taxation of Intellectual Property
Taxation of Partnerships*
Taxation of Real Estate
State & Local Tax

**If not counted as a required course.*

Cardozo Faculty

The Tax Law Professional Concentration Faculty Advisory Group consists of:

[Laura Cunningham](#). Professor Cunningham teaches Federal Income Taxation, Taxation of Partnerships, and Estate and Gift Taxation. Before joining the Cardozo Faculty, she was a tax attorney at Janin, Morgan & Brenner.

[Mitchell Engler](#). Professor Engler teaches Federal Income Taxation, Taxation of Intellectual Property, and Corporate Taxation. Before joining the Cardozo Faculty, he was a tax attorney at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, & Jacobson.

[Edward Zelinsky](#). Professor Zelinsky teaches Federal Income Taxation, State and Local Tax, Estate and Gift Taxation, International Taxation, and Corporate Taxation. Before joining the Cardozo Faculty, he was a tax attorney at Bergman, Horowitz, Reynolds, DeSarbo and Mauceri.

Alumni Mentors

Pinni Bohm '10	Bohm Law Firm	pinni@bohmlawfirm.com
Stephen Breitstone '82	Meltzer Lippe Goldstein & Breitstone LLP	sbreitstone@meltzerlippe.com
Richard A. Cohen '90	Morgan Stanely Wealth Management	richard.a.cohen@mssb.com
Howard Schneck '95	Go Pro, Int'l Tax	hschneck@gopro.com

Relevant Student Organizations

The *Tax Law Society* promotes tax law and organizes events surrounding the subject of tax law. Contact: Cardozo.TaxLaw@gmail.com.

Career Resources

Information on careers with the Internal Revenue Service is available at <http://jobs.irs.gov/student/tax-law-specialist.html>.

Information on the U.S. Department of Justice (Tax Division) is available at http://www.justice.gov/tax/about_us.htm.

Federal jobs generally are listed at usajobs.gov.

The ABA Section on Taxation (on which more below) has published a useful book entitled [*Careers in Tax Law*](#), which includes brief entries from some 75 different tax lawyers with varied professional experiences. A copy is available in the [Cardozo library, KF299.T3 C37 2009](#).

Because of the specialized nature of a tax practice, a clerkship with one of the specific tax courts can be a significant advantage in a job search. These courts include:

- U.S. Tax Court (www.ustaxcourt.gov)
- New Jersey Tax Court (<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/taxcourt/>)
- New York City Surrogate's Court
(<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/courts/nyc/surrogates/index.shtml>)

General Resources

American Bar Association

The ABA Section of Taxation's website is <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/taxation.html>. The Tax Section also hosts an annual Law Student Tax Challenge, in which "two-person teams of students solve a cutting-edge and complex business problem that might arise in everyday tax practice." http://www.americanbar.org/groups/taxation/awards/law_student_tax_challenge.html.

New York State Bar Association

More locally, the Tax Section of the New York State Bar Association is well respected for its influential "Tax Reports," which comment on legislative and regulatory proposals. For general information on the NYSBA Tax section, see <http://www.nysba.org/tax/>. For information on the Section's Tax Reports in particular, see http://www.nysba.org/Sections/Tax/Guidelines_for_the_Preparation_of_Tax_Section_Reports/Guidelines_for_the_Preparation_of_Tax_Section_Reports.html.

Blogs and Publications

Many blogs provide news and commentary on tax issues. [TaxProf Blog](#) is one leading example; it provides much useful information such as current tax updates and information on LL.M. programs. The blog's editor, Paul Carron, has also compiled an extremely helpful and comprehensive set of links to web resources in the tax field, available at http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/resources.html.

In addition, there are many daily, weekly and monthly tax law publications that cover this dynamic field of the law. Among these are *Tax Notes* and BNA's *Daily Tax Report*. These

publications are available both in hard copy and electronically. Perusing these publications is a good way to stay abreast of current and future developments of the tax law.

Writing Competitions

[American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Mary Moers Wenig Student Writing](#)

[Competition](#) (any topic “relat[ing] to the area of trusts and estates, broadly defined”)

[Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition](#) (Federal Bar Association Tax Section)

(“any original paper concerning federal taxation”)

[Paul Flaherty Tax Law Writing Competition](#) (John Marshall Law School) (“any aspect of tax

law”)

[Tannenwald Writing Competition](#) (Tannenwald Center for Excellence in Tax Scholarship) (“any federal or state tax-related topic