

## **Corporate and Securities Law**

**What would I do?** Corporate Law (corporations law, company law) deals with the formation and operations of corporations and is related to commercial and contract law. A corporation is a legal entity created under the laws of the state it's incorporated within. State laws, which vary from state to state, regulate the creation, organization and dissolution of their corporations. A corporation creates a legal or "artificial person" or entity that has standing to sue and be sued, enter into contracts, and perform other duties necessary to maintain a business, separate from its stockholders... Other areas of practice include business formations, securities law, venture capital financing, business agreements, internal forms, and business tax consultations.

(<http://www.hq.org/corporate-law.html>)

**Where would I practice?** Many corporate lawyers work in **law firms, particularly large or mid-size firms**, where they counsel clients and handle business transactions including negotiation, drafting, and review of contracts and other agreements associated with the activities of the business. Other corporate lawyers are **employed directly by corporations** as in-house corporate counsel. In-house counsel act as internal advisers on myriad business and legal issues, including labor and employment issues, intellectual property issues, contractual issues and liability issues.

(<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/careers/career-planning/practice-areas/corporate.cfm>)

**What types of cases would I handle?**

(<https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/advising/law-school/fields-law/fields-law>)

- Formation
- Mergers
- Internal Reorganization
- Disputes between corporations and individuals concerning liability, patents, and compliance with state and federal laws
- Dissolution
- Acquisitions
- International Accords

**What schools in Florida specialize in this field of law?<sup>1</sup>**

| School Name   | Specialty Program(s) <sup>2</sup>  |
|---|--|
| Florida International University College of Law (Miami)       | -Small Business Clinic   |
| Florida State University College of Law (Tallahassee)         | -Business Law Certificate<br>-Business Law Clinic<br>-Corporate Counsel Externship |
| Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center (Davie) | -Business Practice Clinic  |

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| School Name   | Specialty Program(s) <sup>2</sup>                                 |
|---|---|
| University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville) | -Corporate Law Externship   |
| University of Miami School of Law (Miami)                             | -Business of Innovation, Law, and Technology Concentration (BILT) |
| Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Tampa)       | -Business Transactions Concentration <sup>3</sup>                 |

<sup>1</sup>This is not an exhaustive list of Florida schools specializing in this field. ***Although these schools offer specialty programs in this field, this does not mean you are unable to gain exposure to this field at another law school not listed above.***

<sup>2</sup>Information obtained through school website and [officialguide.lsac.org](http://officialguide.lsac.org)

<sup>3</sup>This program is offered across WMU's regional campuses, contact the Tampa Bay, FL location to confirm its offering.

## What are these “specialty programs?”

| Specialty Program     | Definition   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Certificates</b>   | Specialization certificates allow JD students to focus their elective courses, build substantive knowledge and relevant skills, and enhance their resumes. Though specializations are not required for graduation, they can provide a guiding structure for exploration of various fields of law. With a variety of courses to choose from within each field, students can customize their specialization to their particular area of interest.<br><a href="http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/">(http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/)</a> |
| <b>Clinics</b>        | At many law schools, clinical pedagogy is well established and robust. Typically clinics are focused in areas of law – civil or criminal litigation, civil rights litigation, or representation of community organizations. These clinics involve “live” clients with active legal matters. They include a classroom component and close supervision by a clinical faculty member.<br><a href="http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&amp;context=jel">http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&amp;context=jel</a>            |
| <b>Concentrations</b> | "While it is not the best comparison to make, a Concentration is similar to a major in undergraduate studies, in that a student with a specific interest in a field can do focused study in that field. A major difference though, is that students who graduate law school with a Concentration will have the same degree as those without a Concentration, a juris doctor, that will be viable in any area of law in which they wish to practice."<br><a href="http://www.lls.edu/academics/concentrations/">(http://www.lls.edu/academics/concentrations/)</a>                      |

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| Specialty Program  | Definition   |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Externships</b> | <p>Today, accepted externship pedagogy involves faculty instruction in a classroom component to every externship opportunity, and some training for the practitioner supervising attorneys. Further, while externships used to include the equivalent of 3-5 credit hours of work outside the law school, an emerging form of externship involves the student spending the entire semester, and 15 credits, working onsite on an externship assignment.</p> <p>(<a href="http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&amp;context=jel">http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&amp;context=jel</a>)</p> |
| <b>Practicum</b>   | <p>In practicum classes law students get hands-on learning working under the supervision of attorneys and professors in a non-lawyering role as they work on cases and practica give students insight into a specific area of legal interest and a window into what it is like to practice in that area.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships">http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships</a>)</p>  |