

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?¹

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

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School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
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 ³

¹This 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.***

²Information obtained through school website and officialguide.lsac.org

³This 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
Certificates	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. (http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/)
Clinics	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. http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel
Concentrations	"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." (http://www.ils.edu/academics/concentrations/)

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Specialty Program	Definition
Externships	<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>(http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel)</p>
Practicum	<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>(http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships)</p>