



Family and Juvenile Law

What would I do? Family law consists of a body of statutes and case precedents that govern the legal responsibilities between individuals who share a domestic connection. These cases usually involve parties who are related by blood or marriage, but family law can affect those in more distant or casual relationships as well. Due to the emotionally-charged nature of most family law cases, litigants are strongly advised to retain legal counsel. (<https://www.hg.org/family.html>)

Where would I practice? The majority of private sector family law lawyers practice in **small law firms**, though **some large law firms** will have practices dealing with matrimonial law or wealth management for high net worth individuals. In the public sector, family law often involves some sort of state involvement – for example, child welfare or juvenile delinquency. Family law attorneys in the public sector often work in **legal services or public defender offices**.

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

What types of cases would I handle?

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| -Child Welfare | -Adoption |
| -Divorce | -Child Abuse |
| -Civil Unions | -Domestic Partnerships |
| -Marriages | -Legitimacy |

What schools in Florida specialize in this field of law?¹

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law (Orlando)	- Juvenile Defense Clinic - Collaborative Family Law Clinic
Florida A&M University College of Law (Orlando)	- Guardian Ad Litem Clinic
Florida Coastal School of Law (Jacksonville)	- Family Law Certificate - Family Law Clinic - Child Advocacy and Dependency Practitioner Clinic
Florida State University College of Law (Tallahassee)	- Public Interest Law Center - Children’s Advocacy Clinic - Family Law Clinic

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Fields of Law
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School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center (Davie)	-Children and Families Clinic
St. Thomas University School of Law (Miami)	-Family Court Externship
Stetson University College of Law (Gulfport)	-Child Advocacy Clinic -Family Law Externship
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	-Family Law Concentration -Family Advocacy Clinic -Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law Clinic -Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic -Children and Families Externship -Center on Children and Families
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	-Children and Youth Law Clinic

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

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

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Specialty Program	Definition
Concentrations	<p>"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.lls.edu/academics/concentrations/)</p>
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. 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. http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships)</p>