

Intellectual Property Law

What would I do? Intellectual property law deals with the rules for securing and enforcing legal rights to inventions, designs, and artistic works. Just as the law protects ownership of personal property and real estate, so too does it protect the exclusive control of intangible assets. The purpose of these laws is to give an incentive for people to develop creative works that benefit society, by ensuring they can profit from their works without fear of misappropriation by others. (<https://www.hq.org/intell.html>)

Where would I practice? There are opportunities for students and lawyers interested in these issues in many practice settings, ranging from registering patents to antitrust litigation to criminal prosecutions to policy work. IP and cyberlaw attorneys work in **government**, **nonprofits**, the **private sector**, and **abroad**. Often they work at the cutting edge of technological or legal developments and engage with some of today's most pressing issues. (<http://hls.harvard.edu/content/uploads/2008/06/ip-cyberlaw-guide-final.pdf>)

What types of cases would I handle? (<http://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school/fields-of-law>)

- Inventors' Rights
- Businesses' Rights
- Negotiate Contracts
- International Trade Negotiations
- Authors' Rights
- Patents
- Enforce Contracts

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

School Name	Specialty Program(s)²
Ave Maria School of Law (Naples)	- Patent Law Clinic
Florida International University College of Law (Miami)	- Intellectual Property Certificate
Stetson University College of Law (Gulfport)	- Intellectual Property Externship
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	- Intellectual Property Law Certificate - Intellectual Property Law Externship
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	- Investor Rights Clinic
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Tampa)	- Intellectual Property Concentration³

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.

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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/cqi/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/)
Externships	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/cqi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel)
Practicum	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)