

Real Estate Law

What would I do? Real estate law generally involves anything dealing with real property (land). These laws are designed to determine who owns land and the buildings on it, who has a right to possess and use land or buildings, the sale and purchase of real property, landlord and tenant issues, the development of real property, and compliance with local, state, or national regulations affecting the use of real property.
(<https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/advising/law-school/fields-law/fields-law>)

Where would I practice? Lawyers who work on commercial real estate transactions often work in the real estate departments of **large law firms**... Other real estate lawyers work for the **government**, whether for county building and zoning departments or for municipalities including cities and suburbs. Real estate lawyers may also work for **corporations, real estate development companies, financial or lending institutions, or title companies**. Other lawyers, often in **small firms or in general or solo practice**, handle residential real estate transactions.

(http://luc.edu/law/career/practice_areas/realestate.html)

What types of cases would I handle?

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

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -Sales/Purchases | -Leasing |
| -Landlord-Tenant Issues | -Property Development |
| -Zoning and Land Use | -Financing, Mortgages, Foreclosures |

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

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Ave Maria School of Law (Naples)	-Estate Planning and General Practice Clinic
Florida Coastal School of Law (Jacksonville)	-Real Estate and Environmental Sustainability Certificate
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	-Estate Planning Certificate -Center for Estate Planning -Florida Building Commission Externship
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	-Tenants' Rights Clinic

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School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Tampa)	-Estate Planning Clinic 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.qgu.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.lls.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>