

Starting Your Career in....

Corporate/Business Law

1. **Tailor your academic work:** In addition to taking a Corporate Law or Business Law class, students interested in this area should take courses in corporate finance, securities, tax, mergers & acquisitions, contracts, intellectual property, international business, counseling small businesses, equity, corporate structure, partnership, Article 9, Uniform Commercial Code, banking, corporate litigation, commercial real estate/leasing, and accounting.
2. **Joint Degrees & Concentrations:** The law school offers joint JD programs with Business Administration, Finance, and International Economics programs. Visit www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/joint/ for more information.
The law school also offers a Business Law and Financial Services concentration. Please visit www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/finance/ for more information.
3. **Work Experience:** You can work part-time or on a volunteer basis during the school year and summer vacations. You can also do an internship for credit to meet people and gain experience.
 - **In-house Counsel:** Traditionally, most corporations will not hire someone right after law school. The majority of in-house attorneys are hired after working at a large law firm for a few years. If you have a technical background, some corporations will look upon that favorably. Also, consider working in quasi-legal departments such as contracts, risk management, and compliance to gain experience.
 - **Law Firm:** Find law firms that have a corporate/business law practice. Almost all large firms have significant corporate law practices, and there are some small firms who do as well. Law firms also value knowledge and experience gained in corporate and business law at a company that would be useful to a firm. For example, working on securities law at Fidelity can turn into an associate position at a large firm with a large security practice.
 - **Government:** Gain legal experience with government offices such as the Massachusetts' Division of Banks, Securities Division, and Division of Insurance. You can do an internship in a federal government agency, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), Department of Commerce, Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, or the Department of Justice. Serve as a legal intern on a committee in Congress or state legislature that deals with corporate/business law issues.
 - **Research Assistant:** Be a research assistant for a professor who teaches a course in corporate or business law.

4. **Read** newspapers, books, and other publications that have information about corporate/business law. The Career Development Office's library contains several publications including *The Official Guide to Legal Specialties*, *Vault Guide to Corporate Law Careers*, *Lawyers Weekly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Litigation 2005*, and the *Boston Business Journal*. Stop by our library and learn more about corporate and business law.
5. **Talk to faculty and alumni/ae** about practicing in this field. Research professors' backgrounds on the law school's website and find alumni/ae through the Alumni Career Network on the Career Development Office's website. The password for the Alumni Career Network is the same for our job postings, changing each month, and e-mailed to you from the Career Development Office. Research alumni/ae to network with by using LexisNexis or Westlaw. Speak to professors about which advanced courses will enhance your resume.
6. **Join Bar Associations:** The American Bar Association (www.abanet.org), Massachusetts Bar Association (www.massbar.org), and the Boston Bar Association (www.bostonbar.org) are great for networking and learning about new corporate/business law issues. Join their business sections. They offer many programs throughout the year.
7. **Professional Associations:** Become involved in associations such as the American Bankers Association (www.aba.com & www.americanbanker.com), American Corporate Counsel Association (www.acca.com), National Contract Manager Associations, (www.ncmahq.org), Securities Industry Association (www.sia.com), Chambers of Commerce (www.uschamber.org), and the American Council on Life Insurance (www.acli.org).
8. **Attend Continuing Legal Education Courses:** Take continuing legal education courses through bar associations, as well as through Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education also known as MCLE (www.mcle.org), and the Advanced Legal Studies ("ALS") at SULLY (www.law.suffolk.edu/als). ALS programs are free for students! Add another continuing legal education section to your resume!
9. **Use the Internet:** Visit the Office of the State Bank Commissioner website at www.osbckansas.org/ConsumerAssistance/Links.html. It contains links to state and federal regulatory sites, as well as national and state industry and agency sites. HierosGamos is another website that contains links to corporate and business law websites at www.hg.org/corp.html and www.hg.org/commerc.html. Another website to visit is the Business Chambers website at www.businesschambers.com. It contains links to corporate and business law websites and blogs.
10. **Network! Network! Network!** Speak to alumni/ae and others about their careers. Go to our website, www.law.suffolk.edu/career and click on Alumni Career Network. You will need the monthly password to gain access to this database. You can also find other SULLY alumni/ae practicing corporate/business law by searching the Martindale-Hubbell Directory on LexisNexis. Pick up a LexisNexis how-to handout in the Career Development Office.