

*Starting Your Career in....*

**TRUSTS & ESTATES**

*and*

**FINANCIAL PLANNING**

**Tailor your academic work:** Take relevant courses including Estate Administration, Estate and Gift Taxation, Estate Planning, Advanced Estates, Powers and Trusts, Drafting Wills and Trusts, Income Taxation of Trusts and Estates, Tax Practice and Procedure, and Wills. We also recommend you take Negotiation for Lawyers as well as Elder Law Practice. Courses in real estate law and corporate law may also prepare you to work with all kinds of assets. An upper level writing seminar may also be helpful.

**Revise your resume to focus on relevant experience:**

- Include elective law school coursework
- List any related volunteer experience
- Emphasize your legal internships and/or clerkships in related areas
- Highlight relevant undergraduate coursework
- List any specialized certifications: CFP/CPA
- Highlight relevant professional experience prior to or during law school

**Become involved in professional associations:** Members of the Massachusetts Bar Association & the Boston Bar Association can become active with their Trusts & Estates Sections. These subsections often organize brown bag lunches featuring guest speakers and publish newsletters containing important information regarding current trends affecting attorneys working in those fields. Other professional associations to explore: The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, The Financial Planning Association of Massachusetts, The National Association of Financial and Estate Planning, Planned Giving Group of New England, and The Financial Planning Association.

**Read the NALP brochure on Careers in Financial Services.** It is available in the Career Development Library.

**Attend seminars, conferences and CLE:** Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) offers a number of professional development programs throughout the year. Check their website [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org) or the *Mass Lawyer's Weekly* for a listing of upcoming programs. The SULLS Center for Advanced Legal Studies also offers a variety of continuing education programs throughout the year.

**Write a note for a journal.** Write an article for a writing competition that focuses on an issue relating to Trusts & Estates, Elder Law or Financial Planning. Information on writing competitions is available in the Dean of Students Office.

**Participate in the SULLS Legal Internship Program.** Through the internship program, students perform legal work under the supervision of a lawyer in an approved field placement office. Students work in a variety of settings including state and federal courts; federal, state and local government agencies, legal aid organizations; and private corporations and law firms. Students may earn from 2-5 credits during a semester for work done at their placement.

**Work part-time for a legal employer who can provide you with an opportunity to gain skills and relevant experience.** Check out the CDO job postings on our website, [www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career) and click on job postings (you'll need our monthly password to access the postings)!

**Work as a Judicial Intern:** Spend a semester or summer working for a judge in the Family and Probate Court. You'll gain significant insight into the probate process and learn first hand how the system works.

**Apply for a Research Assistant position with a professor who teaches in a relevant area.** Check CampusCruiser for information about research assistant positions.

**Network!** Use the CDO's Alumni Career Network -- available at [www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career) -- click on Alumni Career Network to gain access to the list of graduates who are available for informational interviews. You can search by practice area and/or geographic location. You can also use the SULLS Alumni Directory and the Lexis website to identify SULLS graduates working in your areas of interest. The CDO has handouts on how to identify graduates in your field of interest and on how to conduct informational interviews.