

Health Law Courses

Health care lawyers represent the major participants in the health care system: physicians and other professional providers, hospitals and other institutional providers (e.g., nursing homes, home health care agencies, etc.), payers (public agencies and private insurance companies), regulators (federal, state, and local), enforcement agencies (federal, state, and local), and patients. The work can be transactional in nature, litigation, or a combination of both. Many health care lawyers specialize in a subspecialty (for example, white collar defense or tax-exempt organizations), although it is common for associates to work across a broad spectrum of the health care field. That spectrum includes the legal rules that shape the organization, financing, and delivery of health care goods and services and the life sciences (drugs and medical devices, medical research, biotechnology, etc.). Most health lawyers are not medical malpractice lawyers; that specialty is usually considered a species of tort/personal injury law. There are exceptions, however, and a solid grounding in health law is increasingly valuable to medical-malpractice practitioners, just as health lawyers need to understand the liability landscape for their clients.

SMU has a full selection of health law courses from which to choose, as well as a rich complement of related courses that will be valuable in rounding out a health lawyer's basic education.

Foundation Courses – Introducing the Basic Concepts

Law & Medicine: Health Care
Law & Medicine: Bioethics
Law & Medicine: Medical Malpractice
Food & Drug Law
International & Comparative Health Law
Law, Literature & Medicine

Related Courses

Health lawyers work within a highly varied legal environment that places a premium on a broad knowledge base beyond substantive health law. Of particular relevance to a health care practitioner are the courses listed below.

Administrative Law
Antitrust Law
Business Enterprise
Constitutional Law II (required)
Employee Benefits Law & ERISA Litigation
Intellectual Property
Nonprofit Organizations
Patent Law
Products Liability
Science & the Law
Trademark & Business Torts
White Collar Crime

Externships

Baylor Scott and White Health
CCS Medical
Children's Health System of Texas
Encompass Health
Parkland Health and Hospital System
Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas
Susan G. Komen
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
UT Southwestern Health Center

Public Service Placements

AIDS Legal Referral Panel – San Francisco
Attorney General of Texas – Consumer Protection and Public Health
Children's Health System of Texas
Disability Rights Texas
Legal Hospice of Texas
Parkland Health and Hospital System
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Faculty

Here are some of the full-time faculty members who teach or have an interest in this area:

Tom Mayo
Nathan Cortez