

## 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