Criminal Law Courses

Students interested in a career in criminal law may choose to become prosecutors or defense lawyers. Prosecutors may work for the federal government as Assistant U.S. Attorneys or in the Justice Department. They may also enforce state and local laws as assistant district attorneys or city prosecutors. Criminal defense lawyers may work on their own or for private firms, or in a public defenders’ office. Even big firm lawyers may defend those accused of white collar crimes, or advice on legal compliance. A few criminal law practitioners may even have the opportunity to prosecute or defend crimes on an international scale. All may also aspire to be judges in a court that handles criminal cases. For any of these jobs, a strong understanding of the substantive criminal law as well as constitutional criminal procedure is essential.

Foundation Courses – Introducing the Basics
Criminal Law
Constitutional Criminal Procedure: Investigation
Constitutional Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
Texas Criminal Procedure (if practicing in Texas)
Trial Advocacy or Trial Techniques I
Evidence

Recommended Courses – Criminal Law Electives
Advanced Criminal Law
Comparative Law II: Criminal Procedure (GW)
Criminal Justice Policy Practicum
Criminal plea Negotiations
Criminal Procedure in the Digital Age (GW)
Criminal Tax Fraud
Death Penalty Project (GW)
International Criminal Law (EW)
International Humanitarian Law/Law of Armed Conflict (EW)
Perspectives on Counter-Terrorism (EW)
White Collar Crime
Juvenile Justice

Clinics
Actual Innocence Clinic
Criminal Clinic
Child Advocacy Clinic
Crimes Against Women Clinic
Family Immigration Detention Clinic

Related Courses
Immigration Law
Law & Science
Legislation
Negotiations
Trial Advocacy
The following Externships are available through our Government and Public Interest Program:
Collin County District Attorney’s Office
Dallas County District Attorney’s Office (general and Family Violence Prosecution)
Dallas County Public Defender (general and Conviction Integrity Unit)
Department of Defense Office of General Counsel
Department of State Office of Legal Adviser
Department of Justice Counterterrorism Section
Central Intelligence Agency Office of General Counsel
International Committee of the Red Cross
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Rockwall County District Attorney’s Office
Federal Public Defender
U.S. Attorney’s Office (N.D. Tex.– Dallas)
U.S. Attorney’s Office (E.D. Tex – Plano)
International Law Externships

Many of the judicial externships also involve courts that hear criminal as well as civil cases.

There are also numerous Public Service placements involving criminal prosecution or defense.

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

Chris Jenks
Jeff Kahn (counter-terrorism)
Pamela Metzger
Natalie Nanasi (domestic violence)
Anna Offit
Eric Ruben
Meghan Ryan
Jenia Turner (domestic and international)