

Construction Law



What is Construction Law?

Construction lawyers are those lawyers who represent clients in relation to a construction project. Construction lawyers might represent building owners, construction companies, contractors, subcontractors, or individual employees. Construction lawyers typically represent clients through the entire construction project: advising property purchases and land development, negotiating contracts, mediating disputes, and appearing in court, if necessary ([Melton](#)).

Construction law encompasses or intersects with many fields of law including contract law, employment law, commercial law, planning law, torts, worker's compensation, dispute resolution, and oil and gas law. For this reason, construction law cases are complex. Construction lawyers should have a broad understanding of all or most of these areas of law to be successful. Construction projects and companies often cross jurisdictional boundaries, so construction lawyers should be fluent in important statutes of their entire region ([Gavin and O'Connor](#) and [Barr and Davis](#)).

Construction law cases are often long-term projects, lasting months or years. Furthermore, construction lawyers often take on their clients on a long-term basis, handling the legal work for many different projects.

Where Do Construction Lawyers Work?

Government

Department of Labor [Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs](#)—examining government construction contracts, offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and San Francisco
[Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)—enforcing workplace safety regulations, offices in every state

Private Sector

Firms with departments related to construction law or related fields
In-house counsel for construction and property management companies

Types of Clients

Construction and property management companies
Contractors and subcontractors
Individuals seeking compensation or legal remedy for a grievance related to a construction project

Construction Law Resources



Resume Boosters for Construction Law

Join the Business and Tax Law Society

Join the Moot Court Board

Intern or extern at a firm that has a construction law department or handles construction law cases

Intern or extern with a firm where you can get experience in one of the related fields such as property law, tax law, negotiations and mediations, employment law, etc.

What Classes Should I Take?

ADR-Labor

ADR-Mediation

Commercial Law

Contracts I, II

Debtor-Creditor

Employee Benefits

Environmental Law

Fair Employment

Practices

Insurance Law

Labor Law

Land Use Law

Mediation Clinic

Negotiation and Mediation

Property I, II

Realty Transactions

Remedies

Torts I, II

Professional Associations

American Bar Association

All University of Memphis law students have free membership to the [American Bar Association](#). Their website provides routinely updated information and interest-specific career advice. Join different sections to find out what they offer. Check out the [Forum on Construction Law](#).

Tennessee Association of Construction Council

[The Tennessee Association of Construction Council](#) is a community of arbitrators, mediators, and other construction law professionals. Any lawyer with a Tennessee license serving construction-related clients may join.

More Information About Construction Law

The American Bar Association hosts the "[Construction Law Today](#)" podcast with a variety of topics including "[Inclusion, Diversity, Professionalism, and Risk Management](#)" and "[A Futurist Looks at the Construction Industry](#)," 2019.