

eCommerce Law



What is eCommerce Law?

eCommerce law refers to laws that regulate transactions which occur over the internet as well as internet data storage. This body of law encompasses online contracts, privacy policies, e-signatures, and online buying, selling, and advertising procedures. eCommerce law may also implicate copyright and intellectual property law ([Wu](#)). The goal of eCommerce law is to build consumer confidence in e-contracts and online transactions ([Takasugi](#)).

In the United States, federal eCommerce law includes the [1996 Telecommunications Act](#), the [1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#), the [2000 Electronic Signatures In Global and National Commerce](#), and the [2003 Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act](#). State and local governments also have their own eCommerce regulations. eCommerce lawyers should be familiar with all federal, state, local laws, and international eCommerce regulations. An attempt was made in 1999 to pass the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act to standardize American eCommerce regulations, but because it lacked crucial consumer protections, only Virginia and Maryland ever adopted it ([Wu](#), [McDonald](#)).

eCommerce lawyers advise their clients regarding their online transaction and data storage policies and taxation issues. They also represent clients in copyright, intellectual property, and contract disputes. eCommerce lawyers may also work for a federal or state agency that enforces eCommerce law ([Scott](#)).

Because eCommerce law regulates rapidly evolving technology, which means the law changes rapidly, though usually not as swiftly as the technology it tries to regulate ([Scott](#)).

Where Do eCommerce Lawyers Work?

Government

Federal Trade Commission—[ranked one of the best places to work in the federal government](#)

Securities and Exchange Commission—[Careers](#)

Internal Revenue Service—[Careers](#)

Tennessee Attorney General—[Consumer Protection Division](#)

Private Sector

Firms with eCommerce divisions or that handle eCommerce cases

In-house counsel with an eCommerce company

Types of Clients

Internet service providers

Online retailers or vendors

Online advertisers

Individuals harmed by an eCommerce transaction or contract

eCommerce Law Resources



What Classes Should I Take?

- Commercial Law
- Consumer Law
- Contracts I/II
- Copyright
- Corporate Tax
- Information Privacy Law
- Intellectual Property Survey
- Patent Law
- Products Liability
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulation

Resume Boosters for eCommerce Law

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 [Intellectual Property Section](#).

Association of Corporate Counsel—IT, Privacy, and eCommerce Network

The [Association of Corporate Counsel](#) provides networking and education opportunities for in-house counselors. The IT, Privacy, and eCommerce section provides professional development for eCommerce lawyers.

eCommerce Law Links

[“Internet Law & Cyber-Security”](#)

This article by attorney Jesse L. Noa discusses recent developments in data security for lawyers. American Bar Association. May 1, 2018.