

**What is health law?** Health law is a broad field, which considers the intersection between human health and the law. Health law can be grouped into three overlapping, but distinct areas:

- ◆ **Bioethics:** No one graduates and becomes a bioethics practitioner, but the unique ethical challenges posed by human health, especially in light of recent technological advances in medicine, implicate thought-provoking questions: When does life begin? How do we balance the life and health of a single individual against the health of the unidentified many? Who can be said to have an exclusive right to a resource when that resource might mean life or death for another?
- ◆ **Health care law:** As one of the most complex and heavily regulated industries in the United States, health care law is the study of laws, rules, and regulations at the federal, state, and local levels as those laws relate to health care providers, patients, vendors, and payers.
- ◆ **Public health law:** Whereas health care law focuses on providing care to individuals, public health law focuses on preventing injury and disease by lowering health risks among a given population of people.
  - Government lawyers with federal or state agencies working in health and human services are public health law practitioners.
  - Global health law
    - Public health law can also be thought to encompass global health law. Global health law focuses on the interdependence of previously isolated communities as wrought by globalization.
    - Global health law seeks to address health risks posed by increased human migration, congregation, and trade through centralized international governance and regulation.

## Where would I work if I practiced health law in a for-profit institution?

- ◆ **Medical corporations:** Hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and medical device and equipment manufacturers all employ attorneys.
  - Health care law includes the operations and legal concerns of health care facilities, presenting both standard business or transactional issues and issues unique to the health care industry.
  - A lawyer employed by a hospital understands not only internal operations concerning management and employment, but could also navigate business deals involving mergers and acquisitions, negotiations with insurance companies, and recruitment of physicians.
- ◆ **Insurance companies:**
  - Health care attorneys working in insurance negotiate contacts with health care providers, like a physician's group or hospital, while handling legislative and regulatory issues concerning those deals and transactions.
  - Insurance lawyers handle tort litigation brought against physicians and other medical professionals.
- ◆ **Law Firms:** Large and mid-sized firms often have departments that specialize in health care law.

## What can I do as a law student to prepare for a career in health law?

- ◆ Try out for the Mental Health Law & Policy Journal
- ◆ Take health law classes—Past class offerings have included public health law, mental health law, and bioethics
- ◆ Earn your health law certificate
- ◆ Do an externship with one of our medical partners (talk to Prof. Amy Campbell or Prof. Danny Schaffzin)
- ◆ Take a health law writing seminar
- ◆ Take business law classes

## Where could I work if I practiced public health law?

- ◆ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the leading national public health institute of the United States
- ◆ The World Health Organization (“WHO”)
- ◆ The Veteran’s Administration (“VA”)
- ◆ Federal or state health and human service agencies
- ◆ A health law attorney might work for Medicare or Medicaid.
- ◆ The Department of Public Health
- ◆ A non-profit hospital or other health care facility

# Resources for Health Law

## Join the Health Law Section of the American Bar Association

- ◆ Here's the website for the Health Law Section:
- ◆ They have a page dedicated to just law students: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/health\\_law/membership/law\\_students\\_welcome.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/health_law/membership/law_students_welcome.html)
  - Free webinars
  - How to get involved: [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/healthlaw/leadership\\_portal/member\\_engagement\\_starter.authcheckdam.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/healthlaw/leadership_portal/member_engagement_starter.authcheckdam.pdf)
- ◆ The Section's highly regarded magazine, *The Health Lawyer*, is published six times a year. *The Health Lawyer* covers topics ranging from proposed rule changes to effects of technology on health law to analyses of legislation to mergers.

## Get Your Health Law Certificate - Contact Professor Amy Campbell ([tcmpbl13@memphis.edu](mailto:tcmpbl13@memphis.edu))

- ◆ 15 Total Credits: (Doctrinal, Experiential Learning, and Writing Requirements) =
  - 6 Core Credits (Doctrinal credits) +
  - 9 Elective Credits (Includes but is not limited to Experiential & Writing credits)
- ◆ Core Credits (6):
- ◆ Health Law Survey (3)
- ◆ Administrative Law (3)
  - Note: It is recommended that students complete these three core course requirements in the 2L year because they set a critical foundation on which to build enhanced learning and understanding of general or specific, focus areas of health law.
- ◆ Elective Credits (At Least 9):
- ◆ Health Law Writing Requirement (2-3)
  - Note: Students can fulfill this requirement through completion of a law review note (upon approval of faculty mentor and Institute Director), OR, through Health Law Seminar, Mental Health Law Seminar, or other Seminar with health law-related paper (upon approval of seminar faculty and Institute Director). (This may also meet the Law School's writing requirement.)
- ◆ Experiential Learning (2-4)
  - Note: Students can fulfill this requirement by taking a health law-related clinic or practicum, doing a health law-related externship, or taking another health law-related skills course, upon approval of the Institute Director. (This may also meet the Law School's skills requirement.)

## University of Memphis Law Library Resources

- ◆ Singer, Lawrence E., *Careers in Health Law*—Call No.. KF2999.M43 S58 2014 (On Level 1)
- ◆ Carruth, Russellyn and Bernard D. Goldstein, *Environmental Health Law: An Introduction*—Call No. KF3775 .C39 2014 (eBook)
- ◆ Hammaker, Donna K. *Health Care Management and the Law*—(eBook)
- ◆ Coggon, John *Public Health Law: Ethics, Governance, and Regulation*—(eBook)