

Privacy Law



What is Privacy Law?

Privacy law refers to those laws that protect individuals' personally identifiable information and those laws that protect their private material property. Personally identifiable information includes healthcare, financial, education, and government records. Privacy laws include communication privacy laws, information privacy laws, online privacy laws, protections against trespassing, and protections against deceptive trade practices. Privacy lawyers can be involved in transactions and contracts, litigation, and advising on companies' privacy policies. Most work of privacy lawyers, however, is in preventative legal work, not litigation. Many privacy lawyers work in-house as advisors or for federal and state regulatory agencies ([Georgetown](#)).

Major American privacy laws include the [1970 Fair Credit Reporting Act](#) which protects consumer credit information, [The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974](#) which protects the educational records of college students, the [1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#) which protects healthcare records, the [1998 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act](#) which regulates certain websites targeted at children, and the [2002 E-Government Act](#) which protects digitally stored private information.

Privacy law continues to adapt as consumer and business data is increasingly stored online. Another emergent issue in the privacy law field is contact tracing for infectious diseases including the novel Coronavirus ([Sekar and Harris](#)).

Where Do Privacy Lawyers Work?

Government

Federal Communications Commission—[Jobs and Internships](#)
Federal Trade Commission—[Careers](#)
Department of Justice—[Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section](#)
Department of Health and Human Services—[Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#)
Senate Judiciary Committee—[Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and Law](#)
[Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#)
Tennessee Attorney General—[Jobs](#)

Public Sector

Nongovernmental Organization with domestic or international privacy concerns such as:
Electronic Privacy Information Center—[Jobs, Internships, and Fellowships](#)
Center for Democracy and Technology—[Careers](#)
Open Technology Institute—[Jobs and Fellowships](#)
Privacy International—[Career Opportunities](#)
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse—[Internship Opportunities](#)

Private Sector

Law firms that handle privacy law cases
In-house at large companies, especially technology companies such as Google, Apple, Facebook, and Wikimedia—[Google Policy Fellowship](#)

Privacy Law Resources



Resume Boosters for Privacy Law

Complete a Master of Laws in Cybersecurity Law or Technology Law

Complete an [MBA](#)

Pursue a certificate related to privacy law from the [International Association of Privacy Professionals](#) or [CompTIA](#)

[Learn to code](#)

Gain related experience by working in banking, finance, data security, information technology, forensics, or another industry that handles data security

Join the International Law Society

Intern or extern with a company that deals with data security or other privacy issues

What Classes Should I Take?

Administrative Law

Consumer Law

Information Privacy Law

Insurance Law

International Business Transactions

National Security Law

Public Health 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 [Section on Science and Technology](#).

International Association of Privacy Professionals

The [International Association of Privacy Professionals](#) provides resources for professionals who want to develop and advance their organizations' ability to manage security risks.

Information Systems Security Association

The [Information Systems Security Association](#) provides networking, career development, and leadership opportunities for systems security professionals. Join the [Mid-South Chapter](#).

Privacy Law Links

["Is Instagram the Next Frontier for Data Privacy"](#)

This article by Patrick McKnight explores the regulatory possibilities of new bills to restrict the harmful effects of Instagram. American Bar Association, October 8, 2019.

["Who Am I Talking To?—The Regulation of Data Collected By Voice Connected Consumer Products."](#)

This article examines the legal issues related to data privacy and devices such as the Amazon Alexa or Google Home. American Bar Association. May 20, 2016.