

# Telecommunications Law



## What is Telecommunications Law?

Telecommunications law concerns the systems of electronic communications and broadcasting across the United States. This includes regulations for telephone, cable, satellite, radio, and Internet communication companies. The telecommunications industry is highly regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. The Commission was established in 1966 by the Telecommunications Act. Telecommunications law has been amended several times since 1966 to account for communication over the Internet. The goal of federal telecommunication laws is to promote competition within the industry so that all Americans have access to communication platforms at affordable rates. Telecommunications law encompasses such issues as ownership and competition in the industry, communications licensing, political advertising regulations, and net neutrality regulations. This body of law is also related to national security law because sophisticated public communications systems are required in emergency situations.

Telecommunications attorneys assist their clients in navigating telecommunications regulations as private attorneys or prosecute telecommunications breaches as government attorneys. Telecommunications attorneys that serve as in-house counsels at communications companies may also handle contract negotiation, customer litigation, taxes, and lobbying for the company.

## Where Do Telecommunications Lawyers Work?

### Private Sector

In-house for a telecommunications company including TV stations, advertising companies, political campaigns, radio stations, and phone companies

### Government

Federal Communications Commission—[Jobs & Internships](#)  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the Department of Commerce—[Employment Opportunities](#)  
[SAFECOM](#) in the Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency—[Careers](#)

## What Classes Should I Take?

Civil Procedure  
Contracts  
Torts  
Administrative Law  
Employee Benefits  
Tax Law  
Professional Responsibility  
Legal Methods  
Business Organizations  
Economic Analysis of the Law  
Constitutional Law

# Telecommunications Law Resources



## Resume Boosters for Telecommunications Law

Extern with the Memphis Shelby County Airport Authority, FedEx, the Memphis City Attorney's Office, or the Shelby County District Attorney's Office

Pursue your *pro bono* hours with the Memphis and Shelby County Airport authority

Intern or extern with another telecommunications company

Intern or extern with a firm that handles telecommunications cases

Gain related experience by working for a radio, television, or internet communications business

## 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 [Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section](#), the [Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice](#), the [Section of Public Contract Law](#), and the [Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division](#).

### Transportation Lawyers Association

The [Transportation Lawyers Association](#) ("TLA") is an independent bar association, comprised of in-house government and private practice attorneys. Its members assist providers and commercial users of domestic and international logistics and transportation services in all modes. The TLA has a [Career Center](#) with both transportation related and non-transportation related job postings.

## Telecommunications Law Links

American Bar Association [Communications Law Forum](#)

[Digital Advertising Discrimination](#)

[Protecting Intellectual Property in the Internet Age](#)

[Media Law Resource Center](#)