

Workers' Compensation Law



What is Workers' Compensation?

Workers' compensation is a form of insurance that provides wage replacement and medical benefits to employees injured in the course of employment paid for in exchange of the employee's right to sue his or her employer. The United States Department of Labor oversees four federal workers' compensation programs including the [Energy Workers Program](#), the [Federal Employees' Compensation Program](#), and the [Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Program](#), and the [Black Lung Benefits Program](#).

Workers' compensation programs are also administered by state governments and the private sector. Most workers' compensation claims are handled by administrative law judges.

Where Do Workers' Compensation Attorneys Work?

Corporate

In-house counsel for corporations deal with workers' compensation and other issues related to employment law. These lawyers defend businesses when their employees sue. Along with a human resources department, in-house corporate lawyers handle the paperwork and forms related to workers' compensation.

Large Firms

Large firms may supplement an existing in-house legal department in a workers' compensation-related case.

Small and Mid-Size Firms

Prior to changes in the law, workers' compensation required bulk-work litigation in order to make a profit. In the 1990s and early 2002, sole practitioners and small firms could make a living based off of an exclusive workers' compensation practice. State law affects whether small practices can remain tenable in this field.

Government

U.S. Department of Labor—[Jobs](#)

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

Workers' Compensation Resources



Resume Boosters for Workers' Compensation

Get a summer job in a field related to employment law or regulatory work

Intern or extern with a corporation

Write a law review article on a topic related to workers' compensation.

Pursue an LLM in business law

Professional Association

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 [Workers' Compensation Committee](#) in the Labor and Employment Law Section and the [Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Law Committee](#) in the Tort Trial and Insurance Prac-

Workers' Compensation Law Links

["Labor and Employment Law News"](#)

The Summer 2020 edition of the Labor and Employment Law News, a publication of the American Bar Association Labor and Employment Law Section includes articles on legal issues surrounding the gig economy, labor organizing amidst COVID-19, and working remotely.

["Pitfalls of OSHA Workplace Safety Classifications"](#)

This article outlines the various responsibilities and issues of parties in a workers' compensation case. Gavid D. O'Hare, August 16, 2019.