

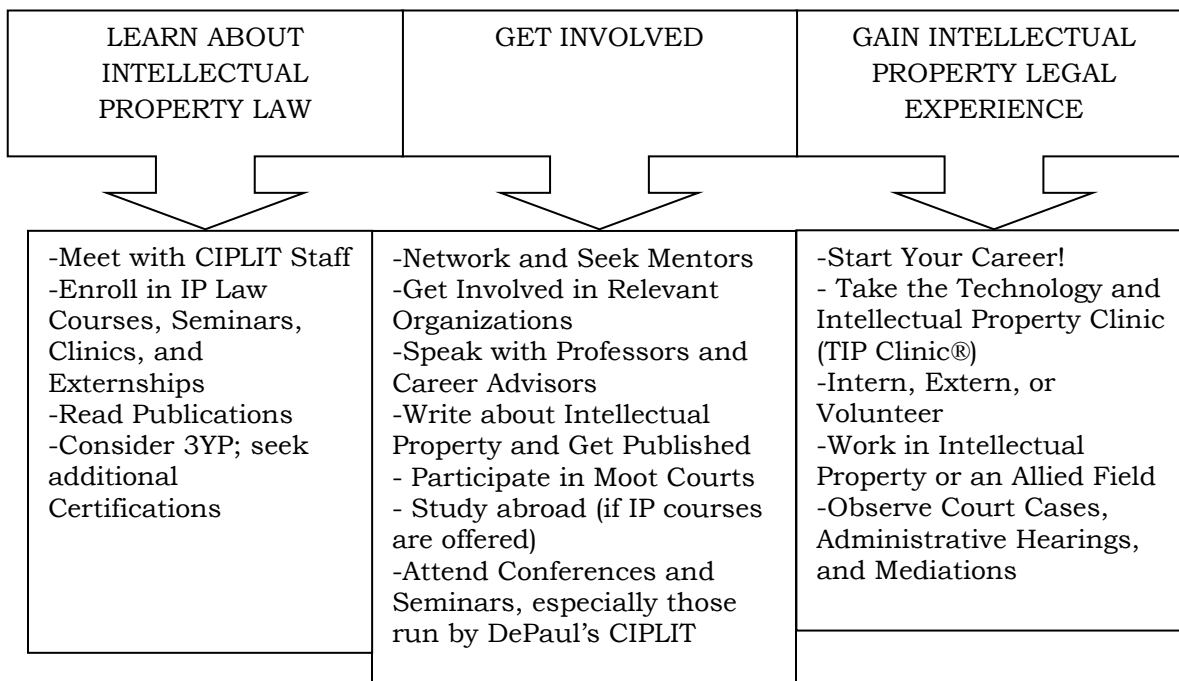
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Intellectual property (IP) law involves the protection of authorship (including artistic, musical, and scientific expressions), inventions, branding and other commercial symbols, data and privacy, trade secrets, and other intangible types of property. Areas encompassed by this field include copyright, patent, trademarks and service marks, Internet law, trade secrecy, advertising, unfair competition, biotechnology and pharmaceutical law, entertainment law, media law, and sports law. IP attorneys may work in general-practice or boutique law firms, for government agencies and for not-for-profit or public-interest organizations, or as in-house counsel for businesses or other organizations, such as museums.

IP attorneys help clients to acquire intellectual property rights and to litigate disputes involving the use, acquisition, management, and valuation of their clients' rights, as well as provide transactional services to their clients by drafting licensing agreements, non-disclosure agreements, and other contracts for the transfer or use of those rights. IP lawyers should have a solid understanding of both business and administrative law. Additionally, many IP lawyers, particularly in the medical, entertainment and sports fields, may deal with contract negotiations, labor issues, and other matters specific to their client's needs. Although there are many jobs in intellectual property law, some areas of practice may be more difficult in which to obtain a start. It is therefore important to develop a solid network of strategic contacts, and it may sometimes be necessary to start out by gaining experience in "allied fields" such as business law or litigation with a plan to move into an IP practice after acquiring experience and transferable skills.

This guide provides a quick overview of sample resources, ideas, and opportunities. It is not meant to be all-inclusive, nor does it guarantee success in your job search and career development. Please meet with Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology (CIPLIT®) staff members and your Law Career Services advisor to broaden your scope and to obtain personalized advice for your career. If you have a background in the health sciences or medicine, you should also meet with Mary and Michael Jaharis Health Law Institute staff members.

INTERESTED? HERE'S WHAT TO DO:



LEARN ABOUT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

- **Meet with CIPLIT Staff**

At your earliest convenience, meet with the staff of DePaul's [Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology \(CIPLIT®\)](#). If you have a background in the health sciences or medicine, also meet with the staff of the Mary and Michael Jaharis Health Law Institute. Sign up for the CIPLIT email mailing list (listserv), and plan to go to as many of CIPLIT's and other events as possible. Your involvement in CIPLIT's programs and activities could be the key to your intellectual property law career.

- **Enroll in Intellectual Property Courses**

Intellectual property courses offered at DePaul cover a broad range of intellectual property and information technology (IP/IT) topics. You should plan to get a solid grounding in the core fields of copyrights, patents, and trademarks, and to take additional courses in areas of specialization (such as Internet law) and in practical training (such as the various IP moot courts and legal drafting courses). You should also enroll in one of many specialized IP seminars and in the [Technology and Intellectual Property Clinic \(TIP Clinic®\)](#). You may gain class credit with an externship through DePaul's [Field Placement Program](#) or by taking an independent study with a CIPLIT Professor. You may also want to take courses in legal issues that are often encountered in intellectual property practice, such as First Amendment law, antitrust law, and administrative law. Professional skill-building courses in business planning, dispute resolution, mediation, trial advocacy, and litigation strategy can also be helpful.

- **Read and Work on Publications focusing on Intellectual Property Law**

DePaul's [Journal of Art, Technology & Intellectual Property Law](#) and the [Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems](#) provide good opportunities to develop your knowledge of the field as well as your writing skills. Other publications, such as the [BNA Patent, Trademark and Copyright Journal](#) (available for free through the law library) and [Landslide](#) (published by the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property) provide timely and interesting information on IP developments. Also follow relevant IP blogs and find blogs in the [ABA Blawg Directory](#). Follow [CIPLIT online](#).

- **Consider 3YP; seek additional Certifications**

For an immersive learning experience, consider enrolling in DePaul's [Third Year in Practice Program \(3YP\)](#). Consider seeking one of the four [Certificates](#) offered by DePaul in Intellectual Property Law to supplement your law degree: the Patent Law Certificate; the Intellectual Property Certificate; the Information Technology Certificate; or the Arts and Museum Law Certificate.

GET INVOLVED

- **Network and Seek Mentors**

Connect with alumni through CIPLIT's Career Advisory Board, DePaul's [Alumni Sharing Knowledge \(ASK\)](#), the law school and university alumni associations (including your undergraduate school), and social networking sites such as [LinkedIn](#). [Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago \(IPLAC\)](#) has frequent events focused on preparing for job applications and interviews. The [Chicago Intellectual Property Alliance \(CIPA\)](#) has a [mentorship program](#) that matches second-year law students with practicing IP lawyers. Check the [Vincent](#) and [law school event](#) calendars for opportunities to meet IP law professionals. Additional networking opportunities are available through local, regional, and national bar associations; seek mentors by becoming involved.

- Get Involved with Relevant Organizations On and Off Campus**

Gain hands-on experience, contribute to the intellectual property law field, network, and enhance your resume by joining and becoming active in student organizations such as DePaul's [Intellectual Property Law Society](#); [Art and Cultural Heritage Law Society](#); [Entertainment and Sports Law Society](#); and consider taking on a leadership role. Become involved in regional and national organizations such as IPLAC, CIPA, INTA ([International Trademark Association](#)), AIPLA ([American Intellectual Property Law Association](#)), IPO ([Intellectual Property Owners Association](#)), FCBA ([Federal Circuit Bar Association \(Patent Litigation Committee\)](#)), the [International Association of Entertainment Lawyers](#), the [Copyright Society of the U.S.A \(Midwest\)](#), and the IP, antitrust, business, corporate, communications, litigation, and cyberlaw sections of the [American Bar Association](#) (ABA), [Illinois State Bar Association](#) (ISBA), and [Chicago Bar Association](#) (CBA). Look for student membership rates.
- Speak with Professors and Career Advisors**

Professors can be good sources of information, job opportunities, networking contacts, and research assistant positions. Establishing a relationship with your [Law Career Services](#) Career advisor is critically important. Meet with your advisor early and often for advice and support to facilitate your future in law.
- Write about Intellectual Property and Get Published**

Submit work to writing competitions sponsored by organizations such as the [American Bar Association](#), intellectual property law related websites, and blogs; some offer monetary prizes. Watch the CIPLIT listserv for opportunities. Write for a law school journal such as DePaul's *[Journal of Art, Technology & Intellectual Property Law](#)* or the *[Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems](#)*, another academic journal, or a bar association publication. Publication credits give your resume more cachet, show your "expertise," and make you more attractive to potential employers.
- Participate in Moot Court**

If you're interested in litigation, become involved in the [National Cultural Heritage Law Moot Court Competition](#), the [AIPLA Giles Rich Moot Court Competition](#) (Patents – you will need a faculty advisor), or the [INTA Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition](#) (Trademarks) to hone your brief-writing and oral argument skills.
- Attend Seminars and Conferences**

Check the [Vincent](#) and [law school event](#) calendars for offerings on and off campus. [DePaul's CIPLIT hosts many conferences and symposiums](#), most of which are open to students. Search online for intellectual property law conferences and committee/section meetings held by organizations including the [ABA](#) and [CBA](#). IP conferences around Chicago include [IPLAC's Judicial Conference](#) and programs from [Lawyers for the Creative Arts](#). Nationally, look for opportunities including the [ABA's Forum on the Entertainment & Sports Industries Annual Meeting](#).

GAIN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Start your Career!**

Develop and refine your resume to brand yourself as a promising IP law job candidate. Create strong cover letters, and search effectively for jobs and internships with the help of LCS advisors and CIPLIT staff. Check out [Vincent's Resources](#) tab or contact LCS at (312) 362-8385 for more information.

- **Intern, Extern, or Volunteer**

Check [Vincent](#) (for internship opportunities, paid or unpaid), the [Field Placement Program](#) (for externship opportunities, working for class credit), and the [Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative](#) (for volunteer opportunities). The [Chicago Bar Foundation Pro Bono Guide](#) and [American Bar Association](#) have many links on public service opportunities. For summer IP internship listings, check the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Broadcast Music Inc., Sound Exchange, CIPA, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, and the U.S. Copyright Office. Consider an externship with a federal judge. Network to find job opportunities.

- **Work in Intellectual Property or an Allied Field**

It helps to have good contacts in the IP law field. Not everyone may find an IP law job as a new law grad. If you can't locate an IP job initially, start by working in an "allied field" such as health law, business law or litigation with a plan to make a lateral move into an IP practice with solid transferable skills. Job opportunities can be found in the intellectual property departments of law firms, in small boutique firms, in corporations, in non-profit organizations, and in government agencies. As a law student, contact CIPLIT staff if you're interested in working at the USPTO or looking for a research assistantship during the summer. Check for postings on the CIPLIT listserv and in [Vincent's Job Posting](#) tab.

- **Observe Court Cases, Administrative Hearings, and Mediations**

Even if not specific to your practice area of interest, understanding how the legal system works is important in the practice of law. With limited exceptions (i.e., juvenile cases), most of the judicial process is open to the public. Students who wish to observe a court in session may go to the federal courthouse, check the court calendar, and watch a proceeding. Be respectful of the judicial process and try to enter the courtroom before court is called into session; dress professionally.

- **Seek Scholarships, Grants, and Income Based Repayment**

All students regardless of practice area(s) of interest can try to lower the cost of a legal education by applying for [scholarships and grants through DePaul and through regional and national organizations](#). The [American Intellectual Property Education/Sydney B. Williams Law Scholarship](#) is an example of a scholarship available to diverse IP students. Watch the CIPLIT listserv for opportunities. Scholarships, fellowships, and grants are sponsored by bar associations, law firms, community foundations, employers, ethnic and religious associations, and more. Look for information on the [College Cost Reduction & Access Act](#), including [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#).

RESOURCES

Blogs

- [Breaking Legal News and Entertainment Law Blog](#)
- [Sports Law Blog](#)
- [TechLawForum](#)
- [Madisonian.net](#)
- [VRP Law – The Business, Intellectual Property, and Employment Law Blog](#)

Conferences

- [American Bar Association Annual International Legal Symposium on the World of Music, Film, Television and Sports](#)
- [Sports Industry Networking and Career Conference \(SINC\)](#)
- [AIPLA conferences](#)
- [IPLAS conferences](#)
- Also see the list of Professional Organizations below. Many of them offer conferences and lecture at no cost or minimal cost to students.

DePaul University College of Law

- [Alumni Sharing Knowledge \(ASK\)](#)
- [Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology \(CIPLIT\)](#)
- [College of Law Event Calendar](#)
- [Field Placement Program](#)
- [Intellectual Property Law Society](#)
- [*Journal of Art, Technology, and Intellectual Property Law*](#)
- [*Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems*](#)
- [Law Career Services Website](#)
- [Law Career Services Job Postings/Event Calendar - Vincent](#)
- [Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative](#)
- [Third Year in Practice Program \(3YP\)](#)

Professional Organizations

- [American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law](#)
- [American Intellectual Property Law Association \(AIPLA\)](#)
- [Association of Intellectual Property Law Firms](#)
- [Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Creative Arts Committee](#)
- [Chicago Intellectual Property Alliance \(CIPA\)](#)
- [Copyright Society of the U.S.A \(Midwest\)](#)
- [Illinois State Bar Association Intellectual Property Section Council](#)
- [Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago \(IPLAC\)](#)
- [International Association of Entertainment Lawyers](#)
- [International Trademark Association \(INTA\)](#)
- [Lawyers for the Creative Arts](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [National Sports and Entertainment Law Society](#)
- [Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors \(PIIPA\)](#)
- [United States Copyright Office](#)
- [United States Patent & Trademark Office](#)

Publications

- [*BNA Patent, Trademark and Copyright Journal*](#)
- [*Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice*](#)
- [*Landslide*](#)

Twitter Feeds

- [@IPLawAlerts](#), [@SportsLawGuy](#), [@WinstonAdvLaw](#), [@darrenrovell](#), [@Sportsbizmiss](#),
- More at [ABA Blawg Directory](#)