

## Curriculum Guide for a Career in Commercial Law

Courtesy of Gonzaga's Commercial Law Center

This brief guide provides advice to law students who are interested in preparing themselves for practice in the exciting and rewarding area of commercial law. The advice serves two main goals: (i) to help ensure that students have the knowledge and skills they need for practice in commercial law; and (ii) help make students' course transcripts attractive to those who hire entry-level commercial law attorneys.

Commercial law encompasses a wide array of subjects that relate to the formation and operation of a business. It focuses on transactions such as purchases & sales, leases, licensing, and financing. Commercial law is built upon the foundational concepts studied in the first-year Contracts and Property courses, and on the skills developed in the Transactional Skills & Professionalism Lab.

Preparing for a career in commercial law requires advanced study beyond those first-year courses. The following additional courses are divided into three groups: (i) foundational courses that every student contemplating a career in commercial law should take, (ii) recommended additional courses, and (iii) courses that are advisable, depending upon the student's interest in various sub-specialities area of commercial law. Please consult the [course descriptions](#) for more information about each course and when it is offered.

### *Foundational Courses*

Bankruptcy	Sales
Business Associations	Secured Transactions
Intellectual Property	

Students should endeavor to take Sales and Business Associations in the first semester of the second year of law school study. Because Secured Transactions is a recommended precursor to Bankruptcy, students should either take Secured Transactions in their second year or plan to take Bankruptcy in their third year.

### *Highly Recommended Courses*

Business Planning	Payments
Remedies	

Remedies is an excellent capstone course for third-year students. It is useful in preparing for the bar examination as well as for bringing together many of the common-law and equitable doctrines studied throughout law school.

*Additional Courses by Sub-speciality*

*Consumer Protection*

Consumer Law  
Insurance Law  
Products Liability

*Intellectual Property*

Adv. Copyright Law\*  
Adv. Trademark & Unfair Competition Law  
IP Transactions and Licensing  
International & Comparative IP Law

*Real Property*

Community Property  
Environmental Law  
Landlord/Tenant Law  
Public Lands Law  
Real Estate Transactions  
Zoning and Land Use Regulation

*International Business Transactions*

International Business Transactions  
International Environmental Law  
International Law

*Mergers & Acquisitions*

Adv. Corporate Law Seminar\*  
Antitrust\*  
Securities Regulation  
Taxation of Business Entities

\* Denotes a course offered irregularly.