

Careers in Immigration Law

Questions to consider:

What kind of Immigration Law do you want to practice?

1. Business Immigration?
2. Asylum and Refugee Representation?

Do you want to work in the public or private sector?

Public

One of the largest employers of immigration lawyers is the [Department of Homeland Security](#), specifically in the [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#) agency. ICE mainly deals with deportation, fugitives, and counter-terrorism, as well as a multitude of other issues related to customs and trafficking. ICE has employees in all 50 states and over 47 foreign countries. They also offer internships through the Pathways program. The [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) is also under the Department of Homeland Security. This agency handles work visas, green cards, and citizenship. Careers with this agency can be found [here](#).

Other departments also have a need for immigration lawyers, including the [Department of Justice/EOIR](#), [Department of Labor](#), [Department of State](#), [Social Security Administration/IRS](#), and the [White House](#) has a division on immigration issues. Keep in mind that these programs often have early deadlines.

State Agencies play a smaller role in immigration law, if any role at all. Some states do have immigration agencies, especially in Border States. However, many states offer asylum work in business immigration. For example, the [Immigration Court in York County](#) offers and externship through Penn State Law.

Private

Many companies require the expertise of business immigration lawyers due to reliance on a foreign workforce. The non-immigrant visa is required to work in the United States without citizenship, and many issues surrounding the work visa are dealt with in-house.

Law Firms

[Fragomen](#)- Business Immigration

[Murthy Law Firm](#)- Business and Individual Immigration

[Duane Morris](#)- Business and Individual Immigration

[Van Der Hout, Brigagliano, and Nightingale](#) - Visas, Labor Certification, Asylum, Deportation

[May Law Group](#)- Non-immigrant and immigrant visas, Asylum, Citizenship, Permanent labor certification

Other Resources for Students and Recent Graduates

Penn State Resources

The [Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic](#) offers students hands on experience while they are still in law school. Professor Wadhia oversees the clinic, which focuses on helping client organizations and communities understand immigration law, and it has also assisted in individual immigrant detainee cases.

Another valuable resource is the [Office of Global Programs at Penn State](#). This office handles immigration issues for students studying at Penn State from foreign countries and also students from the United States who are studying abroad.

Other Resources

The [American Immigration Lawyers Association \(AILA\)](#) is a network of immigration lawyers and law students interested in immigration law. AILA holds annual events and is a source for news in immigration law.

The American Bar Association also has a plethora of resources. The [Commission on Immigration](#) focuses on protecting the due process rights for immigrants and refugees within the United States. They also offer internships and clerkships.

Fellowships

There are several fellowships offered for post-graduate students. The following list is a sampling of fellowships available, and is by no means exhaustive.

- [National Immigration Law Center](#) - fellowships and internships in D.C. and Los Angeles
- [American Civil Liberties Union](#) - legal internships and fellowships
- [University of Washington Carlson Civic Fellowship: Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#)
- [Georgetown Law Graduate Fellowships](#): The New Immigrant Justice Corps Post Graduate Fellowship in Immigration Law, NYC