

Appellate practice attorneys help trial lawyers avoid or preserve grounds to appeal cases to appellate courts. They also provide trial support by drafting and arguing more complicated trial court motions and memoranda of law such as motions for summary judgment. Appellate attorneys research and draft appellate briefs, and then argue those cases in front of appellate courts. Appellate briefs try to persuade a court to accept or reject the review of an administrative or lower court decision. Appellate briefs also try to persuade a court to accept or overrule such a decision.

Appellate law is very fact and law intensive. Appellate lawyers often read entire transcripts of cases or other proceedings, looking for mistakes (error) that can form the basis for an appeal. Appellate lawyers appeal cases in many areas of the law, so they have to be skilled and comfortable with researching and understanding different, sometimes complex, factual and legal cases.

For more information about appellate law, see the Cornell Law’s Legal Information Institute encyclopedia article [“Appeal,”](#) the [Florida Bar’s Appellate Practice Section](#) website, and the [American Bar Association Judicial Division Council of Appellate Lawyers](#).

Job Type	Typical Duties
<p><u>Federal Agencies</u> U.S. Court Jobs Online Systems for Law Clerk Application & Review (OSCAR) Federal Jobs (Including Assistant U.S. Attorney and Federal Public Defender)</p>	<p>Hear appeals. Make rulings. Assist judges in reviewing trial records and briefs. Prepare bench memoranda for judges summarizing positions of parties and analyzing legal issues. Assist judges in the drafting of opinions. Research applicable law for judges.</p>
<p><u>FL State Agencies</u> State Supreme Courts State Appeals Courts State Appellate Judicial Clerkships Florida State Jobs</p>	<p>Hear appeals. Make rulings. Assist judges in reviewing trial records and briefs. Prepare bench memoranda for judges summarizing positions of parties and analyzing legal issues. Assist judges in the drafting of opinions. Research applicable law for judges.</p>
<p><u>Local Government</u> City Attorney’s Office County Attorney’s Office Mayor’s Office Public Defenders’ Offices Prosecutors’ Offices Florida County Websites Florida City Websites</p>	<p>File and argue appeals on behalf of the state, a defendant, or a municipality in criminal cases or cases involving issues pertinent to local government.</p>
<p><u>Private Law Firms</u></p>	<p>Draft and file appellate briefs on behalf of clients. Argue cases in various levels of state or federal appellate courts, including (potentially) the state Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.</p>

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Other Activities

Become a Judicial Law Clerk (state, appellate, or federal) after graduation from law school.
Obtain an internship with an attorney or firm who practices in civil litigation or appellate practice.
Periodically check the [Symplicity Job Board](#) for opportunities in this area of law.

Curriculum Considerations

Take a look at the NSU Law JD [Program of Study](#) to see courses related to a career in Appellate practice, scroll to Curriculum by Specialty, Civil Litigation Appellate Practice. In addition, it will help you identify faculty that you can speak to regarding this area of practice.

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