

**Health Law** attorneys deal with the business, transactional, and regulatory environment of medicine and health care. They may work in governmental agencies, law firms, or the corporate arena. Those in governmental agencies assist in enforcing health laws of various types, ranging from public health to fraud and abuse, on the state and federal levels. Those in private practice, regardless of the precise setting in which they work, are essentially specialized in-house counsel to health care organizations, such as hospitals, surgery centers, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, medical practices, and other health care providers. Health care law attorneys draft applications for permission to build or expand hospitals, or to add expensive equipment that requires certificate-of-need review. They handle financial issues specific to health care, such as negotiating with drug, medical device, and durable medical equipment vendors. They design and implement financial systems for health care expenses with the federal and state government, health care providers, insurance companies, and patients, and liaise with collections attorneys. They handle regulatory issues involving health care, including the privacy and security of health care records and the certification, recertification, and training requirements of facilities and their employees and contractors. They handle intellectual property issues, such as licensing hospital trademarks, and patents and copyrights on materials developed by staff. They handle tort claims involving patients and staff, including personal injuries, wrongful deaths, and medical malpractice, and they liaise with outside counsel. They also deal with health care ethics issues, such as patients leaving health care facilities without medical authorization, patients refusing care, and end-of-life decision-making.

Health law attorneys should have a background in business, corporate, and transactional law. They should also understand administrative law, health care law, bioethics, information privacy law, debtor-creditor law, elder law, disability law, and employment law, among other areas.

For more information about health care law, see the [American Health Lawyers Association](#), the [American Bar Association Health Law Section](#), and the [Florida Bar Health Law Section](#).

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Job Type	Typical Duties
<p><u>Federal Agencies</u>  <a href="#">Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</a>  <a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</a>  <a href="#">U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</a>  <a href="#">Health Resources and Services Administration</a>  <a href="#">National AIDS Policy Office</a>  <a href="#">National Health Information Center (NHIC)</a>  <a href="#">National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)</a>  <a href="#">National Institutes of Health (NIH)</a>  <a href="#">Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</a>  <a href="#">TRICARE Management</a>  <a href="#">Federal Jobs</a></p>	<p>Draft and interpret health care statutes and regulations.</p> <p>Draft, implement, and interpret policies and procedures, and perform investigations and make decisions based upon those policies and procedures.</p> <p>Investigate and make determinations on applications and complaints.</p>
<p><u>FL State Agencies</u>  <a href="#">Florida State Jobs</a>  <a href="#">Florida Department of Health Agency for Health Care Administration</a></p>	<p>Counsel and advise state government and administrative staff in their dealings with other government agencies or private individuals and entities.</p>
<p><u>Local Government</u>  <a href="#">Broward County Department of Health</a>  <a href="#">Palm Beach County Department of Health</a>  <a href="#">Miami-Dade County Department of Health</a></p>	<p>Draft, implement, and interpret policies and procedures, and perform investigations and make decisions based upon those policies and procedures.</p> <p>Investigate and make determinations on applications and complaints.</p> <p>Inspect healthcare facilities and records as part of periodic review or as necessary.</p>
<p><u>Private Law Firms</u></p>	<p>Advise and counsel hospitals, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, other medical-product or -service vendors, or insurers.</p> <p>Insure compliance with Medicaid, Medicare and other regulatory issues.</p> <p>Insure compliance with Patient privacy laws, i.e., HIPPA.</p> <p>Draft contracts, policies and procedures, and other documents.</p>

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Student Organizations

[PULSE! Health Law Society](#)

Professional Organizations

[The American Health Lawyers Association](#)

[American Bar Association Health Law Section](#)

[Florida Bar Health Law Section](#)

Other Activities

Focus on a health law concentration while in law school.

Obtain an internship with an attorney or firm who practice health law.

Periodically check the [Symplicity Job Board](#) for opportunities in this area of law.

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