

**Intellectual property** involves the protection, use, licensing, and sale of intangible creations of an individual's mind. Types of intellectual property that are protected include patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade dress and service marks, moral rights, trade secrets, and the right to be protected from unfair competition. These rights protect inventors, music composers, performers, artists, designers, authors and other writers, licensees and users of intellectual property, and businesses as well. Intellectual property rights cover a very broad category of items. Anything that can be created in the mind, whether it has or is given physical form, can be protected by, and licensed and used as, intellectual property.

Intellectual property is primarily a transactional practice area. Practice before the Patent Office (patent registration and related issues, called "patent prosecution") requires an undergraduate science or engineering background and a separate bar examination. Because much intellectual property practice is similar to and is connected with practice in corporate, other intangible, and tangible personal property, business law coursework and experience is very helpful. Intellectual property litigation involves a combination of intellectual property law and civil litigation knowledge and experience.

For more information about intellectual property law, see the [Legal Information Institute's Wex encyclopedia's "intellectual property" page](#), the [American Intellectual Property Law Association](#), the [American Bar Association's Section of Intellectual Property Law](#), and the [Intellectual Property Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar](#).

<b>Job Type</b>	<b>Typical Duties</b>
<u>Federal Agencies</u> <a href="#">Copyright Office</a> <a href="#">U.S. Patent and Trademark Office</a> <a href="#">U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division</a> <a href="#">Federal Jobs</a>	Conduct patent registrations. Supervise and consult on copyright and patent registration at various levels of the registration and patent prosecution process. Serve as administrative law judge as part of the patent registration and prosecution process. Litigate cases (as part of the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division) involving intellectual-property issues.
<u>State Agencies</u> <a href="#">State Jobs</a>	Manage protection and licensing of Florida state intellectual property. Manage licensing and use of intellectual property by the state of Florida.
<u>Local Government</u> <a href="#">City Attorney's Office</a> <a href="#">County Attorney's Office</a> <a href="#">Mayor's Office</a> <a href="#">Florida County Websites</a> <a href="#">Florida City Websites</a>	Manage protection and licensing of municipal intellectual property. Manage licensing and use of intellectual property by the municipality.
<u>Private Law Firms</u>	Negotiate and manage protection, licensing and use of intellectual property as in-house counsel for intellectual-property companies. Advise clients on the protection, licensing and use of intellectual property, and negotiate on their behalf with other intellectual-property interest-holders. Prosecute patent registrations. Investigate, negotiate, and litigate intellectual-property-infringement cases.

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### Student Organizations

[Intellectual Property Law Society](#)

### Professional Organizations

[American Intellectual Property Law Association \(AIPLA\)](#)

[American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law](#)

[Intellectual Property Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar](#)

### Other Activities

Obtain an internship with an attorney or firm who practices intellectual property law.

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

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