

Curriculum Suggestions for High Tech Students

Santa Clara's High Tech Law Institute is committed to promoting the study of law affecting the technology sector. Our curriculum provides courses in both intellectual property law and in other areas related to technology. Intellectual property courses focus on laws governing intangible products of the mind, while other high tech law courses focus on the legal issues of high tech companies or of specific industry sectors. In selecting courses in the High Tech program, students have the opportunity to develop a base of substantive knowledge as well as skills related to administrative, transactional and litigation practices relevant to technology development and use.

The following charts list specific areas of study and/or practice and suggested courses that are relevant to that field. For each area, we suggest courses that an attorney practicing in that particular area might consider "essential," subjects that would be highly useful (denoted "key electives"), and "related" electives or courses that might be of interest for further development of substantive knowledge or skills in that area. Students are encouraged to select courses to develop research and writing skills and practice skills (such as negotiation, drafting, or litigation skills) in addition to substantive knowledge.

These are guidelines only and do not modify the requirements for the High Tech Law Certificate in any way. Although we try to keep these current, there may be additional courses offered in any semester that would be relevant, and we encourage you to consult the Assistant Director of the High Tech Law Institute. In addition, for certain courses there may be prerequisites not indicated on the chart.

Suggested courses for those interested in the following areas of study and/or practice:

Patent Law

Corporate Transactions

Employment Law

Technology Transactions

Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual Property Litigation

Biotechnology

Telecommunications and the Internet

Patent Law

Students may be interested in many aspects of patent practice. Patent prosecution is the practice of drafting patent applications and obtaining patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Patent litigation concerns the enforcement of patent rights and the defense of alleged infringers. Patent counseling includes attorneys who negotiate and draft patent licensing agreements and in-house attorneys who provide general counsel to technology companies. The following courses are relevant to one or more of these areas.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey International IP Patents	IP Litigation Patent Prosecution Technology Licensing Trade Secret	Advanced Legal Research in IP Administrative Law Antitrust Patent Law Practice

Corporate Transactions

This area focuses on the formation and financing of new companies to support innovative entrepreneurs that seek to develop new technologies and bring them to market. Attorneys in this area should have some knowledge of intellectual property, but their day-to-day practice will focus on the formation of technology companies, negotiation and drafting of financing deals, securities regulation and disclosure, and technology licensing.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey Business Organizations	Legal Issues of Start-Up Business Securities Regulation Technology Licensing Venture Capital	Advanced Corporations Antitrust Int'l Business Transactions, Representing Public Technology Companies

Employment Law

Students interested in employment issues for high technology companies may find the courses in this group of interest. They touch on issues regarding the employer-employee relationship, individual employee rights, and intellectual property rights. These students may also find skills courses in negotiation and pretrial litigation particularly useful.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey Trade Secret	Employment Law Legal Issues of Start-Up Business Privacy Law	Antitrust Internet Law Dispute Resolution Pre-Trial Litigation or IP Litigation Protection of Intellectual Property Technology Licensing

Technology Transactions

The following courses are recommended for students interested in working at or with companies in the information technology industry, including software and Internet companies. While Corporate Transactions chart focuses on entrepreneurship, this chart focuses on the ongoing operations and transactions of an information technology-based business. Many licensing or assignment transactions are based in whole or in part on intellectual property assets and such courses are included as well.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey Technology Licensing	Internet Law One or more of Copyrights, Patents, Trademarks and Trade Secrets	Antitrust IP Litigation Protection of Intellectual Property Taxation of IP

Intellectual Property Law

This chart focuses on the substantive area of intellectual property law and policy, rather than on a particular practice area. Courses listed here would be of interest to the student who has an academic interest in intellectual property or who would like to be involved in formulating public policy in this area of the law. These courses would also be of interest to the student who is interested in a transactional or litigation practice but desires a more in-depth knowledge of substantive intellectual property law.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey International IP One or more of the following: Copyrights, Patents, Trademarks, Trade Secret	Internet Law	Advanced Legal Research in IP Antitrust IP Litigation Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of Publicity Technology Licensing

Intellectual Property Litigation

Students who want to litigate intellectual property cases for high tech companies should take not only substantive law classes but also courses related to federal courts and administrative agencies as well as courses developing skills in written and oral advocacy.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey International IP One or more of the following: Copyrights, Patents, Trademarks, Trade Secrets	Advanced Legal Research in IP Antitrust IP Litigation E-Discovery	Conflicts of Law Federal Courts Internet Law Alternative Dispute Resolution High Technology Moot Courts Technology Licensing

Biotechnology

There are a number of different practice areas in the field of biotechnology which may overlap to some degree. Some patent attorneys specialize in prosecuting or litigating patents involving biotechnology. Some attorneys nurture biotechnology companies from their inception, including testing of new products and obtaining approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Some attorneys specialize in assisted reproduction and related areas of family law, while others are interested more generally in health law and biomedical ethics. The following courses relate to one or more of these practice areas.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
IP Survey Biotechnology Law Patents	Legal Issues of Start-Up Businesses IP Litigation Securities Regulation Technology Licensing Venture Capital	Antitrust Bioethics Assisted Reproduction, Cloning and Genetic Engineering Family Law Food and Drug Law Health Law Seminar Patent Prosecution

Telecommunications and the Internet

Telecommunications law is the law governing and regulating the provision of telephone, Internet and wireless communications services, including television, cable and satellite transmissions and broadcasting. The key administrative agency is the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates these communications technologies. The following courses are of interest to students who wish to work for the FCC or for companies in this dynamic and rapidly-evolving field.

<i>Essential course(s)</i>	<i>Key elective course(s)</i>	<i>Related elective course(s)</i>
Mass Communication: Telephone, Broadband Networks & Convergence Mass Communication: TV, Cable, Satellite Video & Convergence Internet Law	Administrative Law IP Survey Copyright	Antitrust Mass Communication: Regulatory Clinic Legal Issues of Start-Up Businesses Venture Capital Virtual World Law