LIFE AS AN INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

Where Do International Lawyers Work?
Many international lawyers work in law firms that have departments specializing in international trade or international finance. Such firms tend to be located in large cities. Other international lawyers work for corporations with international interests, accounting and consulting firms, financial institutions, government agencies such as the Department of Commerce or the International Trade Commission, Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs) such as the United Nations and NATO, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

How Do People Enter the Field of International Law?
Students who are interested in international law careers should seek out summer opportunities with law firms, state and federal agencies, the U.S. Court of International Trade and other courts, international non-profits and NGOs, economic development organizations, and human rights organizations. A sound background in business transactions is often a good way to begin developing a practice in international law. Many attorneys who work in fields such as intellectual property, real estate, and securities law find that international law issues become a significant, though not primary, part of their practice.

Skills That International Lawyers Recommend
- Ability to Network
- Writing Skills
- Creative Problem Solving
- Analytical Skills
- An interest and ability to work with people from other cultures
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Foreign language skills

Recommended Courses
- Business-related courses
- Classes in international law
- Writing courses
- Moot court and appellate advocacy classes
- Commercial Law
- Intellectual Property Rights

Locations: The best geographic locations for employers of international lawyers are the coasts: New York, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. Other cities with good international practice are Houston, Dallas, Miami, Philadelphia and Chicago. A substantial number of Midwest corporate headquarters with overseas dealings are represented by Chicago firms.
LOYOLA INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Loyola’s International Law and Practice Program has initiated a fellowship that offers small grants to support students who wish to work for international organizations and similar public service venues during the summer. A faculty committee chooses recipients each spring. The first awards were made for the summer of 2001.

2013
Adriana Ballines (Center for Constitutional Rights, New York)
Erin Keeley (Office of Immigration Litigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington DC)
Amber Puckett (Global Access to Medicines Program, Public Citizen, Washington DC)
David Yoshimura (TMI Associates and Hashidate Law Office, Tokyo, Japan)

2012
Jaclyn Fortini (National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago)
Suzanne Hilal (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Washington DC)
Brenda McKinney (UNICEF, Nairobi, Kenya)
Jessica Sanchez (Center for Constitutional Rights, New York)
Vakhtang Janezashvili, PROLaw LLM (Treaty Effectiveness Initiative, Rome, Italy)

2011
Andrew Bashi (Ella Baker Summer Internship, Center for Constitutional Rights, New York)
Cynthia Herrera (Immigrant Child Advocacy Project, Chicago)
Suzanne Hilal (National Democratic Institute, Khartoum, Sudan)
Ann Park (UNICEF, Ghana)
Jessica Sanchez (Gender Equality Program of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico)
Katie Smeenk (International Center for Transitional Justice, online from Chicago)

2010
Joshua Dankoff (UNICEF’s West Africa Regional Office, Cameroon)
Umang Desai (Majmudar and Shah, Gujarat, India)
Ryan M. Fournier (Australia)
Matthew R. Mahre (law firm of Lehman, Lee & Xu, Beijing, China)
Justin McDevitt (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)
Suren Stiegel (Pilsen office, Chicago Legal Clinic)
Renae M. Yoo (Faculty of Law, University of Tunis II, and Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, both in Tunisia)

2009
Amanda Andrews (Global Heritage Fund, U.S. and China)
Craig Beaker (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)
Anthony Hernandez (Center for International Legal Studies, Salzburg, Austria)
Sarah Riddell (International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, The Netherlands)

2008
Heather Liberman (RESPECT University, in U.S. with refugees in Thailand)
Honorine Richards (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)
Lindsay Stanley (Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin, Germany)
Nubia Willman (Latinos Progresando, Chicago)

2007
Rebeccah Foley (children’s advocacy, District Court, Dublin)
Cerise Fritsch (Legal Aid of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
Katherine Greenslade (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)
Aarón Siebert-Llera (Council on American Islamic Relations, Chicago)

2006
Michael Coyne (intellectual property department, TMI Associates, Tokyo, Japan)
Seung Yeun Hwang (GongGam, public interest lawyers organization, Seoul)
Pamela Ixvanariu (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)
Joy Park (International Secretariat for Defence for Children International, Geneva, Switzerland)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names and Affiliations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2005 | Mark Calaguas (Acoge, Seville, Spain)  
      Cristina Drost (Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile)  
      Katherine McGovern (La Fundación Retono, Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
      Richard Sleesman (International Justice Mission, Manila, Philippines) |
| 2004 | Edward Rheem Fluet (U.S. Immigration Court, Chicago)  
      Cecilia M. Kline (Defence for Children International, Geneva, Switzerland)  
      Cristina Romero (International Development Law Organization, Rome, Italy) |
| 2003 | Mary Curry (International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Montreal)  
      Ethan King (Shanghai Intl. Economic & Trade Law Offices)  
      Astrid Morales (Nicaraguan Embassy to the UN, Geneva, Switzerland) |
| 2002 | Lyudmila Davidova (Political Asylum Project, Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center, Chicago)  
      Jeremy Gottschalk (International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Montreal)  
      Nathan Soendker (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, The Hague, Netherlands) |
| 2001 | Steven Schwab (International Bar Association)  
      Christopher Woodrow (UNICEF) |

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Internships**

*The ABA Section of International Law, Law Firm Internship*

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/international_law/students/internships1.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/international_law/students/internships1.html)

The program is intended to facilitate the establishment of legal internships for U.S. law students interested in the practice of international law with overseas law firms.

*United Nations and other Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs):* The following link provides very helpful information on obtaining internships and jobs with the UN and other IGOs: [http://www.northeastern.edu/law//pdfs/career-services/jobs%20with%20the%20un%20and%20international%20organizations.pdf](http://www.northeastern.edu/law//pdfs/career-services/jobs%20with%20the%20un%20and%20international%20organizations.pdf)


*State Department Internships:* [http://careers.state.gov/students/gpg_students.html](http://careers.state.gov/students/gpg_students.html)

**Public Interest Jobs**

The Public Service Jobs Directory (PSJD) is a global network of over 120 member law schools and nearly 10,000 law-related public service organizations and offices around the world. PSJD offers current information on a broad range of pro bono and public service opportunities. Go to: [www.psjd.org](http://www.psjd.org) for more information.

Also, refer to *Finding and Funding International Public Service Opportunities:* [http://www.psjd.org/Finding_and_Funding_International_Public_Interest_Opportunities](http://www.psjd.org/Finding_and_Funding_International_Public_Interest_Opportunities).

This site provides great information on *international job hunting* and *preparing international resumes.*
**Government**

Government service is one of the best entry level avenues for future practice in international law. At the Justice Department, there are several divisions including: criminal (immigration and extradition), tax (international business transactions), environmental and antitrust.

The Judge Advocate General Corps provides legal counsel to the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force divisions of the military. These positions are extremely competitive and require service with the military (varies according to military branch), yet allow for ample opportunities to travel and live abroad. Check the agency’s websites for more information and application details:

- U.S. Army: [www.jagcnet.army.mil](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil)
- U.S. Navy: [www.jag.navy.mil](http://www.jag.navy.mil)

**U.S. District Courts**

There are U.S. District Courts in places like Puerto Rico, Guam, and American Samoa, to name just a few, which offer opportunities to law students during law school and upon graduation. Getting a job working for a U.S. District Court is a great way to get established in a location and build relationships which can often lead to permanent positions.

**Private Firms**

Many large firms practice in all aspects of international business transactions. Areas of practice include: corporate, securities, tax, real estate, regulatory, customs, anti-boycott, food and drug, and international trade.

International law attorneys working in law firms generally represent corporate clients.

Lisa Bostwick is an international finance lawyer in New York. “Our clients are generally investment banks or companies seeking to access the U.S. capital markets. Our office has clients from around the world and across an enormous variety of industries,” she reports. “In general, the companies seeking to sell securities in the U.S. have been fairly successful in their own countries and are seeking to widen their investor base. As their U.S. counsel, we provide our clients with legal advice based on U.S. law, regarding how to make their proposed transactions comply with U.S. laws and regulations.”

Herbert Shelley is a partner specializing in international trade in Washington, D.C., who represents corporate clients. “I represent predominantly large, commercial companies, both foreign and domestic. The foreign companies I represent are located mostly in Europe and Asia,” he explains. “These clients require a variety of international trade services. They might need assistance in importing merchandise into the United States in compliance with U.S. laws and regulations, or they might need representation in bringing a claim when competing imported products may be violating U.S. laws or regulations or infringing client’s intellectual property rights.” These cases are often argued before the International Trade Commission.

Some small boutique firms specialize in customs and international trade practices. These firms represent businesses, importers/exporters, retailers/wholesalers, and U.S. subsidiaries of foreign businesses.

**Martindale-Hubbell:** Determine which law firms have offices overseas by using Martindale ([http://www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com)). This website’s Advanced Search feature allows you to search for law firms based on city, state or country.
The Hieros Gamos Worldwide Law Firms Directory: This directory includes 2500 law firms in the U.S. and 170 countries worldwide. You may search the database by country and by practice area. [http://www.hg.org/lawfirms.html](http://www.hg.org/lawfirms.html)

The Legal 500: To find lawyers and law firms that practice law in Europe, Asia, Latin American, and beyond, go to The Legal 500 at [www.legal500.com](http://www.legal500.com).

NALP Directory: The National Directory of Legal Employers (NALP) publishes a directory of mostly large law firms and some IP boutique law firms. It is available online at [www.nalpdirectory.com](http://www.nalpdirectory.com). Search by city or country to find firms with international offices. Firms in the directory each have a NALP form, which are a great source of information on salaries, concentration of attorneys per specific practice area, firm profiles, and other information.

ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

The following is a list of organizations and associations that can be a valuable resource for information related to your international job search.

American Bar Association Section of International Law & Practice: [www.abanet.org/intlaw](http://www.abanet.org/intlaw)


International City/County Management Association: [www.icma.org/](http://www.icma.org/)

International Rescue Committee: [www.rescue.org](http://www.rescue.org)

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs: [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org)


United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: [www.unhcr.ch](http://www.unhcr.ch)

The US Department of State: Maintains a continually updated list of international vacancy announcements with the United Nations and other international organizations [http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/](http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/)

Relief Web: [http://reliefweb.int/jobs](http://reliefweb.int/jobs)

International Committee of the Red Cross: [http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp](http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp)

Amnesty International: [https://careers.aiusa.org/](https://careers.aiusa.org/)
**Organization of American States:** This is the oldest regional organization of nations in the world. It was established in 1890 at the First American Conference of American States. Some of the organization’s purposes are to promote peace and security in the hemisphere, solve economic and political problems among its members and encourage cooperative action. [http://www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)


**FAS Online:** Job announcements available through the Foreign Agricultural Service, Risk Management and Farm Service Agencies. Lists job opportunities with international organizations concerned with food and agriculture, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. [http://www.fas.usda.gov/careers.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/careers.asp)

**The United Nations:** [https://jobs.un.org/elearn/production/home.html](https://jobs.un.org/elearn/production/home.html)

**U.S. Federal Government Jobs:** [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
There may be jobs on this website for persons who are employed by the U.S. government but who are located overseas.