



Chapter 2 Resource

Choose a Major

The following are some resources that may provide additional, helpful guidance in choosing a major.

Websites

- The American Bar Association has useful information for law students at <https://abaforlawstudents.com/start-your-legal-career/practice-specialty-groups/>, including information on different practice areas.
- Chambers Associate profiles 26 main practice areas and contains information from leading players in each practice at major firms at <http://www.chambers-associate.com/practice-areas>.
- HG.org features over 70 core areas of practice, with 190 sub-specialties, and is a valuable resource to explore at <https://www.hg.org/practiceareas.html>.
- Yale Law School provides various helpful online resources.
 - *Ten Questions You Should Ask Yourself Before Choosing A Practice Area*, published by Major, Lindsey & Africa is provided at https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/department/cdo/document/10_Questions_Yale_2013_FINAL.pdf.
 - U.S. News & World Report's description of law firm practice areas is linked. The link is <https://bestlawfirms.usnews.com/practiceareas.aspx>.
 - Vault Law's Practice Area Section is linked. The link is <https://access.vault.com/practice-areas/law>.
 - Alumni and student profiles from around the world are provided at <https://law.yale.edu/study-law-yale/alumni-student-profiles>.
 - The law school hosted a presentation in 2010 called *Finding a Legal Specialty Appealing to the Core of Your Personality*. The publication accompanying the presentation provides a helpful chart (on page 18) connecting potential practice areas to consider based on different personality types. The publication is at https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/CDO_Students/YLS_Handout_Packet.pdf.
- Richard Hermann writes about the hottest legal fields, including traditional practice areas that have been energized by recent developments and others that are entirely new at <http://legalcareerview.com/your-career/where-the-jobs-are/hot-law-practices-energized-and-emerging/>.

Books

- *21st Century Legal Career Series* (2017) by Richard Hermann describe the hottest practice areas and employment fields producing jobs today and positioned for strong future growth. The books are available at <https://www.nalp.org/productdetail/?productID=245>.
- *24 Hours with 24 Lawyers: Profiles of Traditional and Non-Traditional Careers* (2011) by Jasper King provides a unique “all-access pass” into the real-world, real-time personal and professional lives of twenty-four law school graduates including Venture capitalists, Wall Street lawyer, lobbyist, entertainment lawyer, IP attorney, sports broadcaster, JAG officer, prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, mediator, politician, etc. This book is available at <https://www.amazon.com/24-Hours-Lawyers-Traditional-Non-Traditional/dp/0314276319>.
- *The New What Can You Do with a Law Degree: A Lawyer’s Guide to Career Satisfaction Inside, Outside & Around the Law* (2012) by Dr. Larry Richard and Tanya Hanson sets forth a “five-part model . . . [to] help identify your career identity. This book contains career exercises, practical career-finding techniques, and a compendium of 800+ ways to use your law degree inside, outside or around the law.” The book is available at <https://www.amazon.com/New-What-Can-You-Degree/dp/0940675714>.
- *The Official Guide to Legal Specialties: An Insider’s Guide to Every Major Practice Area* by Lisa L. Abrams, J.D. (2000) explores twenty-seven specific practice areas, such as real estate law, probate law and immigration law. Though it is very dated, it is easy to read and provides useful information. This book is available at <https://www.amazon.com/Official-Guide-Specialties-Career-Guides/dp/0159003911>.