
Georgetown Law offers over 40 courses in national security law, encompassing a broad scope of the field, including international law, foreign relations law, human rights law, law of war, civil rights and liberties law, intelligence law, cybersecurity law, homeland security law, and the laws governing national security investigations and collection techniques. Accordingly, students focusing in this area will need to carefully select courses that meet their needs both in terms of interest, but also in terms of providing a solid foundation for practice. In terms of course selection, this will mean different things for different students. For LL.M. students, most of whom are already experienced practitioners, the course selection offers the opportunity to learn new and emerging areas of the law, expand knowledge of substantive law, and “deep dive” into particular areas of expertise. For J.D. and LL.M. students who are at the beginning, or early stages of their careers, it is important to first prepare to become an excellent lawyer, and second to that, to prepare to become a well-rounded national security lawyer.

Students entering the field should not only focus on the courses designated in the national security law curriculum, but should ensure that they obtain a solid foundation (beyond the first year curriculum) in topics that are relevant to the practice of national security law. Traditionally, these have included courses such as advanced constitutional law (particularly first and fourth amendment) and criminal procedure. Courses that prepare students for litigation, including evidence and courses that teach trial practice skills, may also be useful. Other specialized areas that may be useful include coursework in government contracts, intellectual property, privacy, telecommunications, immigration and/or legislation.

Over the past decade, the field of national security law has changed considerably, and expanded. In the past few years, fields such as cybersecurity,
and data protection, and Internet law, and the intersection of technology and the law, more broadly, have become increasingly central to the practice of national security law both in government and in the private sector. These are the growth fields within the field of national security law, both in terms of developments in the law and also in terms of career opportunities. To that end, Georgetown offers a program of courses related to cyberlaw, including, in the 2014-2015 academic year: Cybersecurity Law, Cyber and National Security: Current Issues Seminar; Computer Crime, Global Cybercrime Law, Law of Cyberspace; and Information Privacy Law. In addition, the courses Law of War and National Security Crisis Law have previously contained units or sessions on cybersecurity issues.

Students are often interested in how they can practice national security law in the private sector. In the past, national security practice at law firms often centered around defense contracting. In the last decade, “defense” contracting work has expanded significantly to include the growing homeland security contracting arena. Beginning in the Fall 2014, Georgetown law will offer National Security Business Law. In addition, Government Contracts may be useful for students intending to practice in either/or government or the private sector, as experienced and skilled government contracts attorneys are in demand. Attorneys at law firms and corporations are also involved heavily in the following areas:

- Matters subject to review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which is covered in the course National Security Law & the Private Sector.
- Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which is covered in the course International Efforts to Combat Corruption, and, to a lesser degree, in the course International Law, Human Rights & Fighting Impunity.
- Electronic Communications Protection Act (ECPA) issues have been covered in the course National Security Investigations and Litigation, and Information Privacy Law (Prof. Rotenberg), in part of its discussion of surveillance law.

Another growing area of private sector practice is related to employment law – whistleblower, security clearance, pre-publication review and other administrative processes often intersect with national security agencies and organizations, but require a legal foundation in employment law and litigation, both at the trial and appellate levels. A course foundation in employment law, therefore, will be useful. There are also periodic seminars, often hosted by local bar associations, that are open to law students and provide an introduction to these growing practice areas.

An additional area that some students, particularly LL.M. students, may find a valuable addition to their curriculum is coursework focusing on leadership skills. In previous years, the Office of Graduate Programs has partnered with the Center for the Study of the Legal Profession to offer workshops on leadership and decision making. The course National Security Lawyering Seminar is also relevant to these concepts.
And, students may consider the course *Leadership, Team and Client Skills for Lawyers* as a complement to their academic program.

For J.D. students, clinics offer an additional opportunity to develop practice skills related to national security law. Clinics involving litigation – whether criminal or civil – will be helpful. Existing Georgetown clinics that are related to the field of national security law include the Appellate Litigation Program, the Center for Applied Legal Studies, or the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic.

Externships are also a valuable complement to students’ academic program, and provide both practical training as well as opportunities to develop references and contacts in the community. Students focusing in national security completed externships with relevant government agencies including the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, the National Security Division of the Justice Department, and the Treasury Department, as examples. Students have also completed externships with Congressional committees and non-governmental organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. Information regarding externship availability is communicated from career advising staff periodically, but students should also seek out externship opportunities in the field. Deadlines for formalized externship programs are often many months ahead of the actual start date, so explore these opportunities well ahead of time.

For additional information and contact information regarding externships coordinated by the Office of Graduate Programs, see: http://www2.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/externships/index.cfm.

Both J.D. and LL.M. students have the opportunity to apply to join the *Journal of National Security Law & Policy* which is co-sponsored by Georgetown and the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism at Syracuse University’s College of Law and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Highly regarded for its scholarship, policy analysis and recommendations, the *Journal of National Security Law & Policy* is the world’s only peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to national security law and policy. Journal membership is open to J.D. and LL.M. Law Center students who will work with the journal’s board of editors to design a yearly symposium, contribute to peer-reviewed articles, and have an opportunity for their work to be considered for publication.

Students interested in pursuing careers in national security law should also take advantage of the various academic and networking events, such as those presented by Georgetown’s Center on National Security and the Law (http://www.law.georgetown.edu/cnsl/), as well as national security law listservs and other resources available in Washington D.C. and online. Students may contact Nadia Asanchoyev, Director, Center on National Security and the Law, at na76@law.georgetown.edu, to be placed on the Center’s email contact list which periodically distributes news, events, symposia and career information related to
national security law. Student groups that also host professional, networking and mentoring opportunities on campus include the National Security Law Society, the Military Law Society and the International Law Society. In addition, the Center coordinates a LinkedIn Group for students and alumni interested in National Security Law, available at http://www.linkedin.com/groups/National-Security-Law-Georgetown-Law-4477653.

For further information regarding national security law course selection, JD/LL.M. and LL.M. degree candidates should contact their academic advisor, Tina Zimmerman, Program Director, National Security Law LL.M. and U.S.-Trained Students, at tina.zimmerman@law.georgetown.edu. For further consultation regarding developing a national security course program as it relates to a career path in national security law, LL.M. and J.D. students may also consult Carrie Cordero, Director of National Security Studies, at cfc34@law.georgetown.edu.