

BINSTOCK'S SNAPSHOT GUIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.-AREA LAW FIRMS¹

GROUPED BY PRACTICE AREAS

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ANTITRUST

**Substantial practice area in D.C. If you have a background in economics, be sure to emphasize this during your interview. Also, be sure to understand the differences between antitrust litigation and merger investigations/counseling.*

Some firms to consider include: Howrey • Arnold & Porter • Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton • Crowell & Moring • Hogan & Hartson • Jones Day • Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher • O'Melveny & Myers • Weil Gotshal & Manges • WilmerHale • Boies, Schiller & Flexner • Dickstein Shapiro • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson • King & Spalding • Freshfields • White & Case • Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Kirkland & Ellis • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • McDermott Will & Emery • Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison • Sidley Austin • Heller Ehrman • Latham & Watkins • Constantine Canon • Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati • Morrison & Foerster • Dechert

APPELLATE LITIGATION

**This is a very exclusive and difficult-to-break-into practice area. Unless you are at the top of your class and will have appellate clerkship experience, don't focus on this area during interviews.*

Some firms to consider include: Sidley Austin • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans, & Figel • Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck & Untereiner • Hogan & Hartson • WilmerHale • Jenner & Block • Baker Botts • Jones Day • Latham & Watkins • Morrison & Foerster • Farr & Taranto • O'Melveny & Myers • Kirkland & Ellis

BANKRUPTCY

**This area has been very slow over the past few years, but is expected to pick up.*

Some firms to consider include: Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe • WilmerHale • Arent Fox • Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft • Dickstein Shapiro • Steptoe & Johnson • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, & Feld • Covington & Burling

¹ This document—which is intended for law students—lists some of the leading practices in the Washington, D.C. region, which is a very subjective (at best) determination. In creating this chart I considered, among other things, the firm's practice group size, the practice group's overall reputation/prestige in the field based on various resources, the growth direction of the practice, and my personal market knowledge. Of course, there may be very good practices that were not listed so do not limit your research of firms to this list. Lastly, the firms are not listed in any particular order.

COMMUNICATIONS/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/BROADCAST/SATELLITE

**A niche area and people with relevant industry experience will be more marketable.*

Some firms to consider include: Wiley Rein & Fielding • WilmerHale • Willkie Farr & Gallagher • Dow Lohnes • Kelley Drye Collier Shannon • Davis Wright Tremaine • Leventhal Senter & Lerman • Wilkinson Barker Knauer • Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, & Popeo • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman • Covington & Burling • Drinker Biddle & Reath • Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis • Latham & Watkins • Bingham McCutchen • Steptoe & Johnson • Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans, & Figel • Keller & Heckman • Levine Blaszak Block & Boothby • Fleischman & Walsh • Sidley Austin • Arnold & Porter • Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

CONSTRUCTION

**Small but steady practice area. If you have a background in the field or an architecture background, this will be helpful.*

Some firms to consider include: Holland & Knight • Thelen, Reid, Brown, Raysman & Steiner • Seyfarth Shaw • DLA Piper • Bradley Arant Rose & White • McManus, Schor, Asmar & Darden • Smith Pachter McWhorter & Allen (VA) • Akerman Senterfitt (VA) • Watt Tieder (VA)

CORPORATE (Mergers & Acquisitions and/or Securities)

**D.C. has a strong corporate market, with a lot of regulatory focused work as well. New York is a stronger market for corporate work, but there are still very good practices in D.C.*

Some firms to consider include: Hogan & Hartson • Covington & Burling • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Latham & Watkins • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman • Dow Lohnes • Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher • Dickstein Shapiro • WilmerHale • Cooley Godward • Arnold & Porter • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, & Feld • Arent Fox • Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati • Baker & McKenzie • Venable • Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson • DLA Piper • Patton Boggs • Thelen, Reid, Brown, Raysman & Steiner • Steptoe & Johnson • Bryan Cave • Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

CORPORATE (Financial Services)

**Financial services encompasses structured finance, lending, banking, and other legal services related to the finance industry. Note –Project Finance and Investment Management both have a separate heading/section below.*

Some firms to consider include: Dechert • Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Alston & Bird • Morrison & Foerster • Arent Fox • Arnold & Porter • Cooley Godward • Dickstein Shapiro • DLA Piper • Goodwin Procter • Hogan & Hartson • K&L Gates • Latham & Watkins • McKee Nelson • Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft • Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Thacher Proffitt & Wood • Venable • Willkie Farr & Gallagher • WilmerHale • Jordan Burt • Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati • Vinson & Elkins • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

ENERGY

**Energy is a hot practice in D.C. and there are many firms with energy practices. There are different subsets of energy law, such as electrical practices, oil/gas practices, and nuclear energy practices. Be sure to research and understand the differences.*

Some firms to consider include: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Van Ness Feldman • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae • Troutman Sanders • Winston & Strawn • Steptoe & Johnson • Kirkland & Ellis • Dewey Ballantine • Spiegel & McDiarmid • Alston & Bird • Jones Day • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Dickstein Shapiro • Hogan & Hartson • McDermott Will & Emery • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman • Chadbourne & Parke • Sullivan & Worcester • Hunton & Williams • Baker Botts • Bruder, Gentile, Marcoux • Covington & Burling • Fulbright & Jaworski • Patton Boggs • Paul Hastings

ENVIRONMENTAL

** On interviews, it is especially important to be able to persuasively articulate your interest in this field based on what you understand environmental lawyers do on a day-to-day basis, not based on policy.*

Some firms to consider include: Hunton & Williams • Arnold & Porter • Beveridge & Diamond • Venable • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Baker Botts • Kirkland & Ellis • Latham & Watkins • Patton Boggs • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman • Sidley Austin • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Van Ness Feldman • Vinson & Elkins • Willkie Farr & Gallagher • McKenna Long • Crowell & Moring

ERISA/EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

**This is a very in-demand field and there is a shortage of ERISA attorneys in D.C.*

Some firms to consider include: Groom Law Group • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Covington & Burling • Dow Lohnes • Paul Hastings • Latham & Watkins • Venable • Steptoe & Johnson • Kilpatrick Stockton • Alston & Bird • Ivins, Phillips & Barker

FOOD & DRUG (“FDA”)

**People with prior industry experience or a science background have an advantage in this area.*

Some firms to consider include: Hyman, Phelps & McNamara • Hogan & Hartson • Arnold & Porter • Keller & Heckman • King & Spalding • Covington & Burling • K&L Gates • Olsson Frank & Weeda • Venable • Patton Boggs • Sidley Austin • Buc & Beardsley • Heller & Ehrman • Hunton & Williams

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

**This is a very D.C.-specific practice area.*

Some firms to consider include: Mayer, Brown, Rowe, & Maw • Crowell & Moring • McKenna Long & Aldridge • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson • Jenner & Block • Arnold & Porter • Venable • Holland & Knight • Wiley Rein & Fielding • Hogan & Hartson • Dickstein Shapiro • DLA Piper • K&L Gates • Holland & Knight • Perkins Coie • Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton • Vinson & Elkins • Thelen, Reid, Brown, Raysman & Steiner • Gibson Dunn & Crutcher • Smith Pachter McWhorter & Allen (VA)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**Government relations is a very “sexy” practice area, but D.C. firms usually do not hire people into government relations practices right out of law school unless you have substantial govt./Hill experience. Thus, do not pigeon hole yourself into Government Relations if you don’t have experience.*

Some firms to consider include: Patton Boggs • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Blank Rome • Hogan & Hartson • Arnold & Porter • DLA Piper • Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal • Covington & Burling • Williams & Jensen • Alston & Bird • Dickstein Shapiro • Bingham McCutchen • McKenna Long & Aldridge • Greenberg Traurig • Baker & Hostetler

HEALTH CARE

**This is a very in-demand field in D.C., and if you have prior industry experience, you will have an advantage.*

Some firms to consider include: Epstein Becker & Green • Hogan & Hartson • Reed Smith • Patton Boggs • McDermott Will & Emery • Proskauer Rose • Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal • Fulbright & Jaworksi • Drink Biddle & Reath • Powers Pyle Sutter & Verville • Sidley Austin • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Arent Fox • Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo • Ropes & Gray • Crowell & Moring • Jones Day • Vinson & Elkins • Ober Kaler • Arnold & Porter • Arent Fox • Powell Goldstein • Alston & Bird

IMMIGRATION

**Most of the immigration work in D.C. is handled by smaller boutiques, and large firms rarely recruit for immigration attorneys through fall recruitment.*

Some firms to consider include: Fragomen Del Ray • Duane Morris • Greenberg Traurig • Maggio & Kattar • Hogan & Hartson • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Jackson Lewis

INSURANCE/INSURANCE COVERAGE LITIGATION

**Insurance coverage litigation is a very in-demand area. If you have an interest or experience in this area, be sure to express this on an interview.*

Some firms to consider include: Dickstein Shapiro • Wiley Rein & Fielding • Steptoe & Johnson • Crowell & Moring • Ross Dixon & Bell • Jackson & Campbell • Chadbourne & Parke • Baach Robinson & Lewis • Hunton & Williams • Drinker Biddle & Reath • Thompson, Loss & Judge

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – PATENT (including litigation)

**Most firms looking for patent attorneys require a science degree. The most in-demand patent attorneys are those with a background in electrical engineering, computer science, or physics, though there is still a need for people with degrees in mechanical engineering, biology, or chemistry.*

Some firms to consider include: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner • Fish & Richardson • Howrey (focus on IP litigation) • McDermott Will & Emery • Sidley Austin • Goodwin Procter • Hunton & Williams • Foley & Lardner • Drinker Biddle & Reath • Baker & Hostetler • Wiley Rein & Fielding • Cooley Godward • Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox • Sughrue Mion • Rothwell Figg & Ernst • Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal • Nixon Peabody • Crowell & Moring • Hogan & Hartson • Oblon Spivak (VA) • Covington & Burling • McKenna Long & Aldridge • Proskauer Rose • Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney (VA) • Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman • Patton Boggs (VA) • Morrison & Foerster (DC/VA) • Arnold & Porter • Kenyon & Kenyon • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto • Bingham McCutchen • Dickstein Shapiro • Banner & Witcoff • Royslance Abrams • Paul Hastings • Venable • Staas & Halsey • Nixon Vanderhye (VA) • Oliff & Berridge • McGuireWoods (VA) • Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch (VA) • Blank Rome •

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – TRADEMARK/COPYRIGHT

There are a handful of firms in D.C./No. Va. with substantial trademark practices, but very few have copyright work.

Some firms to consider include: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner • Arent Fox • Oblon Spivak (VA) • Baker & Hostetler • Drinker Biddle • Howrey • Patton Boggs • McDermott Will & Emery • Blank Rome • DLA Piper • Hogan & Hartson • Dickstein Shapiro • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Foley & Lardner • Sughrue Mion • Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney (VA)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE/CUSTOMS/EXPORT CONTROL

If you have a background in economics, be sure to emphasize this.

Some firms to consider include: Steptoe & Johnson • Akin, Gump, Strauss Hauer & Feld • Willkie Farr & Gallagher • Heller Ehrman • Baker & McKenzie • WilmerHale • Hogan & Hartson • Dewey Ballantine • Sidley Austin • King & Spalding • Crowell & Moring • Wiley Rein & Fielding • Arnold & Porter • Baker & Hostetler • Arent Fox • Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher • Vinson & Elkins • Kaye Scholer • Kelley Drye Collier & Shannon • Weil Gotshal • Adduci Mastriani & Schaumberg • Miller & Chevalier • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • McDermott Will & Emery • Paul Hastings • Alston & Bird • DLA Piper • Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT / '40 ACT

**This is a specialized but in-demand field in Washington, D.C.*

Some firms to consider include: Dechert • K&L Gates • Willkie Farr & Gallagher • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • WilmerHale • Morrison & Foerster • Debevoise & Plimpton

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

**Labor & Employment boutiques (smaller firms) are becoming more popular with clients because they can charge lower fees than the larger firms. (Labor & employment clients are typically very cost-conscious.) If you are interested in more of the counseling side of labor/employment (as opposed to large class-action litigations), you should strongly consider the smaller boutiques, as they are more likely to have that type of work.*

Some firms to consider include: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Paul Hastings • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Seyfarth Shaw • Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher • Winston & Strawn • Venable • Jones Day • DLA Piper • Patton Boggs • Crowell & Moring • Steptoe & Johnson • Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, & Popeo • Krupin O'Brien • Littler Mendelson (VA) • Jackson Lewis • Ford & Harrison • Dickstein Shapiro • Arent Fox

LITIGATION (General Commercial)

**In the D.C. market, litigation is often specialized into a specific field such as Securities Litigation, IP Litigation, Government Contracts Litigation, White-Collar Litigation, etc. As a law student, you don't have to need to know which particular area you want to go into, but if you have a good idea and can articulate this on an interview, you will have an advantage.*

There are so many excellent litigation practices in D.C. at firms of all sizes. Take a look at the NALP Directory as a good starting point. In terms of the largest and/or most prestigious litigation practices, **some of the firms to consider include:** Williams & Connolly • Arnold & Porter • Covington & Burling • Hogan & Hartson • Gibson Dunn & Crutcher • WilmerHale • Jones Day • Kirkland & Ellis • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Sidley Austin • Steptoe & Johnson • Goodwin Procter • Zuckerman Spaeder • Baach Robinson • Baker Botts • Latham & Watkins • O'Melveny & Myers • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Boies Schiller & Flexner • Paul Weiss • Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel • Howrey • Paul Hastings • Dickstein Shapiro • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • Hunton & Williams • Chadbourne & Parke • Simpson Thacher & Bartlett • Vinson & Elkins

PROJECT FINANCE

** Foreign language skills are useful.*

Some firms to consider include: Chadbourne & Parke • Hunton & Williams • Paul Hastings • Fulbright & Jaworski • Vinson & Elkins • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Latham & Watkins • White & Case • Hogan & Hartson • Clifford Chance • Baker Botts • Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy

REAL ESTATE

Some firms to consider include: Arent Fox • Powell Goldstein • Holland & Knight • Arnold & Porter • Venable • DLA Piper • Ballard Spahr • Hogan & Hartson • Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld • Bingham McCutchen • Goulston & Storrs • Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw • Nixon Peabody • Reed Smith (VA)

SECURITIES LITIGATION/ENFORCEMENT

Some firms to consider include: WilmerHale • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson • Latham & Watkins • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Dechert • LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae • Foley & Lardner • Mayer Brown • Proskauer Rose • Cleary Gottlieb • Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft • Debevoise & Plimpton • Heller Ehrman • K&L Gates • Morgan, Lewis & Bockius • Morrison & Foerster • Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe • Patton Boggs • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Zuckerman Spaeder • Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

TAX

**Includes tax counseling and tax litigation. Having an L.L.M in tax will make you much more marketable in D.C. tax practices.*

Some firms to consider include: McKee Nelson • Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom • Sutherland Asbill & Brennan • Miller & Chevalier • Latham & Watkins • Arnold & Porter • Caplin & Drysdale • Powell Goldstein • Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson • Baker & McKenzie • Covington & Burling • Morgan Lewis & Bockius • McDermott Will & Emery • Steptoe & Johnson • Dewey Ballantine • Shearman & Sterling • Dow Lohnes • Baker & Hostetler • King & Spalding