

LEGAL AREAS OF INTEREST:

Definitions of Legal Practice Areas

Bankruptcy: Bankruptcy lawyers help clients find a legal way to wipe out debts by liquidating assets and distributing them among creditors or resolve them by developing a court-approved reorganization or other repayment plan.

Condemnation: Condemnation is the process of taking private property through the power of eminent domain. Eminent domain is the right states and localities and the federal government have to condemn and force the sale of private property. If a client is facing eminent domain, a condemnation attorney helps them assert their legal rights and obtain just compensation for your property.

Criminal Defense: Criminal Law Attorneys represent clients who are being prosecuted by the state or federal government for an act that has been classified as a crime. Crimes are classified as misdemeanors (less serious offenses that are normally punishable by a fine like some traffic violations, petty theft, or possession of a small amount of marijuana) and felonies (more serious offenses that warrant imprisonment of one or more years, such as rape, grand theft, assault and battery, assault with a deadly weapon, or homicide/murder).

Elder Law: The area of law, statutes, regulations and decisions which impact on the lives of older Americans. Elder law spans and encompasses elder care planning issues, estate planning, long-term care needs, planning for incapacity and other needs.

Employment Law: Employment lawyers deal with a broad area of employment law including all areas of the employer/employee relationship except negotiation and the collective bargaining process, which are covered by employment law.

Environmental Law: This body of law is a system of complex and interlocking statutes, common law, treaties, conventions, regulations and policies which seek to protect the natural environment which may be affected, impacted or endangered by human activities. Some environmental laws regulate the quantity and nature of impacts of human activities: for example, setting allowable levels of pollution. Other environmental laws are preventive in nature and seek to assess the possible impacts before the human activities can occur.

Family Law: Family lawyers help people through major life events or changes, such as a contested or uncontested divorce, adoption of a child or placement of a child for adoption, child abuse matters, child support modifications, child visitation and custody, being accused of or a victim of domestic violence, elder law, juvenile law, probate or other major family law issue.

Immigration: Immigration lawyers deal with issues relating to foreign nationals who come to this country either temporarily or permanently, including the associated legal

rights, duties, and obligations of aliens in the United States. An immigration lawyer help clients overcome and avoid many legal issues and simplify the immigration process as much as possible.

Juvenile: This area of law deals with criminal law involving juveniles (persons not old enough to be held responsible for criminal acts (typically under 18 years of age)). The main goal of the juvenile justice system is rehabilitation rather than punishment.

Malpractice: Medical malpractice is negligence committed by a professional health care provider—a doctor, nurse, dentist, dental office or staff, pathologist, neurologist, oncologist, cardiologist, toxicologist, pharmacologist, technician, nursing home or staff, hospital or hospital worker—whose performance of duties deviates from a standard of practice of those with similar training and experience, resulting in harm to a patient or patients. Medical malpractice lawyers mostly work with medical malpractice cases that are based on the concept of negligence—that is, the medical malpractice lawyer helps recover damages for the patient that was harmed because the medical care provider failed to meet the required standards of skill and care, in accordance with generally accepted standards.

Nursing Home Abuse: Nursing home neglect lawyers represent elderly or otherwise dependant adults who have been injured and families of those who have died from injuries resulting from neglect or abuse at the hands of nursing homes, in-home caregivers, medical providers, or any other person or business responsible for caring for the elderly or otherwise incompetent

Personal Injury: Personal Injury lawyers help clients with any type of litigation involving physical injuries to that client. Personal injury lawyers assist with cases that could arise from being involved in an automobile accident, a railroad accident, airline or other common carrier accident, a construction or other workplace accident, being injured as a result of a dangerous or otherwise unsafe product and other injury-causing situations.

Products Liability: Products liability is the area of law in which manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, retailers, and others who make products available to the public are held responsible for the injuries those products cause.

Real Estate: Real estate lawyers represent and assist business entities in a variety of commercial real estate issues including real estate investment opportunities, acquisitions and sales, real estate construction and development, farm and ranch acquisitions and sales, leasing, landlord/tenant matters, land use, zoning, eminent domain, financing, refinancing, mortgages and foreclosures, and other commercial real estate matters.

Social Security: Disability lawyers provide representation to persons who are denied their initial Social Security Claim. A claimant will, typically, be denied on an initial application approximately 60 percent of the time. If the claim is denied, the claimant will typically be forced to follow the appeal route, at least to the point where their case is brought before an Administrative Law Judge at a social security disability hearing. A disability lawyer can help claimants claim for continuing and past due benefits (back pay).

Traffic/DWI: Traffic violation attorneys deal with a mix of regulatory and penal (criminal) offenses typically based on violations of state statutes and county, city or other local ordinances relating to the operation of vehicles. However, federal implications may apply, depending on the nature of the violation. Traffic violations are considered criminal matters, and are handled as criminal law cases. A qualified DWI attorney can review a DWI case for defects, compel discovery of such things as calibration and maintenance records for breath machines, have blood samples independently analyzed, negotiate for a lesser charge or reduced sentence and obtain expert witnesses for trial.

Wills & Estates: Estate planning lawyers deal with planning for the inevitability of death, such as obtaining life insurance to pay for the costs of a funeral, preparing a Will, a trust and other related documents, as well as wealth management and asset protection.

Workers' Compensation: Employers and their insurance company have many attorneys who know the workers' compensation system available to them and can work against the employee's right for fair compensation for a work-related injury. A qualified workers' compensation lawyer will fight for an injured employee's legal rights and help get him/her the medical care and compensation s/he deserves.