

Plan Your Own Path

ANTITRUST LAW

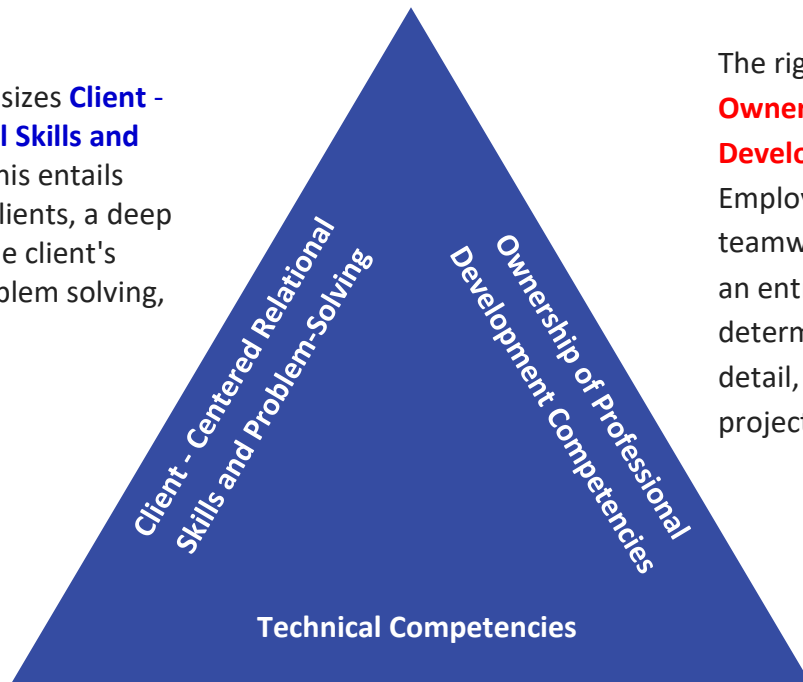


OVERVIEW

Antitrust practice involves counseling businesses about potential antitrust issues arising from their business practices (often called antitrust avoidance) as well as the implementation of antitrust compliance programs. It can also involve representing business entities before the government enforcement agencies in the merger review process and in civil and criminal investigations. Finally, antitrust practice typically involves representing plaintiffs and defendants in private antitrust litigation where the plaintiff is seeking treble damages and often injunctive relief for alleged antitrust violations.

This handout helps you plan your path to an Antitrust law career, covering essential competencies for clients and legal employers. As you plan, ensure you incorporate all three sides of this triangle.¹

The left side emphasizes **Client - Centered Relational Skills and Problem-Solving**. This entails responsiveness to clients, a deep understanding of the client's needs, creative problem solving, and client-centered communication.



The right side centers on **Ownership of Professional Development Competencies**. Employers and clients require teamwork, a strong work ethic, an entrepreneurial mindset, determination, attention to detail, integrity, and effective project management skills.

The base comprises fundamental **Technical Competencies**, including knowledge of the law, legal analysis, legal research, communication in the legal context, and legal judgment.

¹ See Neil W. Hamilton, *The Gap Between the Foundational Competencies Clients and Legal Employers Need and the Learning Outcomes Law Schools Are Adopting*, 89 UMKC L. Rev. 559 (2021).

This guide is arranged by the three crucial sides of the triangle.

TRADITIONAL TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Enroll in foundational courses during your first and second year, such as:

- Antitrust
- Selected Problems in Antitrust Law (EW)

Related Courses: Antitrust lawyers work within a highly varied legal environment that places a premium on a broad knowledge base beyond substantive Antitrust law. Of particular relevance to an Antitrust practitioner are the courses listed below:

- Administrative Law
- Business Enterprise
- Consumer Law
- Economic Analysis of Law
- Federal Courts
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property
- Regulated Industries
- Sports Law
- Trademark & Business Torts

Upper-Level Writing Requirements: In your third year, choose an antitrust law-related Edited Writing course or Directed Research paper topic (with Faculty pre-approval) to improve and showcase your research, writing, and analytical competencies.

CLIENT-CENTERED RELATIONAL SKILLS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Thoughtfully evaluate experiential opportunities. These are excellent ways for you to cultivate superior client focus, innovative problem-solving, and effective communication skills.

Be sure to work closely with your Office of Career Services advisors to obtain additional experiences (internships, judicial clerkships, public service opportunities) to grow your knowledge and skills in this area.

OWNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCIES

Experiences beyond the formal curriculum are vital to your professional growth. Aim to acquire experiences that closely replicate as much as possible the work lawyers engage in within the Antitrust law space.

- **Student Organizations:** Commit yourself to relevant, on-campus organizations and actively pursue leadership, project management, and teamwork opportunities within the organization.

- **Public Service Opportunities:** These pre-approved placements at 501(c)(3) organizations and government offices may provide you additional perspectives that are valuable to your career development.
- **Law Journals:**
 - Author a note or comment on an antitrust law topic and seek to have it published in one of our journals or elsewhere
- **Dallas Bar Association Sections:** Explore your interests and immerse yourself in the legal profession by becoming part of these Dallas Bar Association sections.
 - Antitrust and Trade Regulations Law Section

Faculty: Start building a connection with a professor who is familiar with your work and can write you a letter of recommendation or serve as a reference. Here are some of the full-time faculty members who teach in this field.

Paul Rogers

Tom Mayo (health law related issues)

Cultivate Your Personal Network: Reach out to corporate attorneys to arrange informational interviews through the Mustang Exchange or connections you establish during your law school journey. You should also ask your Career Services advisor to help you identify graduates and law firms in this space in the location(s) where you want to work.

Full-time and adjunct professors who teach antitrust law courses may have strong networks. Ask them for assistance making these connections.

Attend programs featuring antitrust law attorneys sponsored by the Office of Career Services or student organizations. These kinds of programs are great opportunities to learn more about entry-level careers and to connect with speakers who are often alumni and more willing to assist you.