Cybersecurity Law

What is Cybersecurity Law?

Cybersecurity attorneys advise government agencies and businesses regarding cybersecurity regulation. Cybersecurity lawyers help their clients establish and maintain practices and activities that comply with state and federal cybersecurity regulations. They also help clients respond to cybersecurity breaches and represent their clients before regulatory bodies (American Bar Association). Cybersecurity law intersects with insurance, privacy, and intellectual property law.

Cybersecurity law is a complex set of more than fifty federal laws, supplemented by state laws. Regulation and even, enforcement is handled by a large network of federal agencies. The Department of Justice leads the legal enforcement of cybersecurity regulations inside and outside the federal government (Fischer). The Department of Justice and other regulatory bodies have the power to examine industries' cybersecurity policies and standards (Jaikaran).

In 2018, Congress passed the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act which created the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to expand federal capacity to counter cyberattacks and provide cybersecurity tools to nongovernmental industries (Department of Homeland Security).

Cybersecurity lawyers may also advise clients interested in securing government contracts on cybersecurity compliance (Schooner and Berteau).

Where Do Cybersecurity Lawyers

Government

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency— Student and Recent Graduate Programs

Department of Justice—Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section

National Security Administration—Career Fields include Cybersecurity

Department of Defense—Office of Small Business, Cybersecurity Section

Private Sector

In-house counsel

Firms with cybersecurity or information technology departments, or firms that take cybersecurity cases

Types of Clients

Private businesses or government agencies establishing cybersecurity protocols

Private businesses or government agencies in the aftermath of a cybersecurity threat or attack

Victims of a cybersecurity attack

Cybersecurity Law Resources

Resume Boosters for Cybersecurity Law

Take an information technology course or obtain an IT certificate, such as from CompTIA

Intern or extern with a government agency that monitors cybersecurity threats

What Classes Should I Take?

Consumer Law
Information Privacy Law
Insurance Law
Intellectual Property Survey
National Security Law

Professional Associations

American Bar Association

All University of Memphis law students have free membership to the American Bar Association. Their website provides routinely updated information and interest-specific career advice. Join different sections to find out what they offer. Check out the Cybersecurity Legal Task Force.

Cybersecurity Articles

"How to Become a Cybersecurity Lawyer"
This article by Leonard Wills, a cybersecurity analyst and lawyer, details the path to becoming a cybersecurity lawyer. November 2, 2018.

"How to help employees working remotely protect client data"
This article from the Cybersecurity Legal Taskforce of the American Bar Association examines the cybersecurity issues that particularly effect remote workers. April 2020.