

What is corporate law?

Skills that this session will develop:

Knowledge - Routes In and Commercial Awareness

By the end of this session the mentee will be able to:

- **Describe what the corporate law industry is, as well as different routes into the industry**
- **Explain different areas/departments within corporate law**

Session Preparation:

1. Mentee to research:
 - the corporate law industry,
 - routes in (e.g. law conversion course, training contract, apprenticeship), and
 - different areas/departments within a corporate law firm (e.g. mergers and acquisitions, dispute resolution, intellectual property)
2. Mentee to find out about an interesting case that their mentor's law firm has worked on. Mentor to think of the most interesting case they have been involved with.

For more information on the corporate law industry:

<https://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/practice-areas/corporatema/becoming-a-corporate-lawyer-the-view-from-freshfields>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/law-solicitors/290465-corporate-law-area-of-practice>

<https://www.allaboutlaw.co.uk/stage/areas-of-law/corporate-law>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/law/202-how-do-i-get-into-law>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector/how-to-become-a-lawyer>

Session Plan:

Review the information below and then complete the tasks together.

Corporate law refers to the laws, rules, and regulations that pertain to corporations. The laws involved regulate the rights and obligations involved with the business activities of a corporation, including formation, ownership, operation, and management. Corporate law is a highly diverse practice and is integral to both legal and business industries as corporate law firms advise companies and governments on business-related issues. This covers a vast

range of work, and law firms are divided up into departments, known as practice areas, where the lawyers (solicitors) specialise in a particular type of work.

They can either be transactional lawyers, meaning they draw up or review the legal documents that underpin the deals their clients are working on, or contentious lawyers, meaning they help their clients resolve disputes with other parties. Some practice areas have both types of lawyers.

Clients in this industry range from multinational corporations, investment banks and privately-held companies, to small and medium scale businesses, regulatory bodies and governments.

The UK is home to a great number of leading global and domestic law firms, including the Magic Circle - five firms which are considered to be among the most prestigious in the world. They are: Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Linklaters, Slaughter and May.

There are multiple routes into the legal profession for school leavers and university graduates. You can study law at university and then secure a training contract with a law firm; for non-law degree holders, you can take a law conversion course, qualify as a chartered legal executive, or enter the legal profession through an apprenticeship.

Task 1: Together, discuss the mentee's research on the corporate law industry; fill in any knowledge gaps and answer any questions the mentee may have. Then, share your case examples.

Task 2: Together, discuss which area/department in the industry the mentee finds most interesting and why.