First Principles

- Self Assessment
  - **Design** the remainder of your experience in law school
  - Look to fill skill and knowledge gaps
    - round out your experiences
    - perhaps take some classes just for fun 😊
- Assessment for the legal marketplace
  - **Become a great attorney first**
    - And, for those planning to be IPIL attorneys,
      - Become a great IPIL attorney second
- Assessment for the IPIL marketplace
  - Class mix should include areas supporting the commercialization of Intellectual Property and Information Products/Services
- Extra-curricular opportunities
  - Journals, moot courts, judicial externships, clinics, student organizations, professional organizations, mediation training, research . . .
- Transitional credentialing opportunities
  - Judicial clerkships

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Credentialing by area of IPIL practice (excluding Trade Secret)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Copyright</th>
<th>Trademark</th>
<th>Patent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Litigation</td>
<td>😊</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>😊</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application*</td>
<td>😊 (there is only a very minor, de minimus volume of work in registering copyrighted works)</td>
<td>😊</td>
<td>“Patent Bar” exam required</td>
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* The process of applying for a patent before the US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is called “patent prosecution.” This is practice before a Federal Administrative Agency and requires that one be a “Registered Patent Attorney.”

- A special license is required to “prosecute patents” - which means that one must take the PTO’s “Patent Bar” exam to do this.
- Whether one needs the credential of being a Registered Patent Attorney depends on a variety of factors, including general market conditions and the specific conditions in the area or niche of IP in which a student is interested.
- Sometimes large IP law firms prefer to hire patent bar eligible attorneys because such individuals can be more flexibly applied to service a variety of work.
  - For example, if trademark or licensing work is slow, the attorney could perhaps perform patent prosecution instead.
  - Or, the attorney may be perceived as more valuable in patent litigation due to the patent bar credential (although there are many great patent litigators who are not “Registered Patent Attorneys”).
- In other employment situations, however, the patent bar credential carries little or no weight because the mixture of work available is more specialized and/or the patent bar credential is not significant within that employment market or community.
### Other courses to consider

#### IPIL & related courses
- Art Law
- Communications Law
- Computational Law
- eDiscovery
- eHealth
- Entrepreneurship
- Franchising & Distribution
- Genetics & the Law
- IP Strategy & Management
- Privacy & Data Protection
- Seminars (IPIL or otherwise)
- Special and Directed Research
- Sports Law
- Traditional Knowledge / Cultural Property
- Virtual Worlds

#### Skills classes
- For example, Transactional Clinic, Moot Court Team, Trial Advocacy, and Mediation

#### Other areas relating to IP
- **Administrative Law**
- Advanced Contract Drafting
- Antitrust
- Bankruptcy
- **Business Organizations**
- Evidence
- First Amendment
- Federal Jurisdiction/Courts
- International Business Transactions
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Securities Regulation
- Secured Finance
- **Tax**

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**Note:**

The **bold, highlighted** classes above are particularly important for a career practicing IP & IL.