

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INFORMATION LAW (IPIL)

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Consistent with our view that students are attending the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC) primarily for a broad-based education in the law, we recommend going easy on Intellectual Property (IP) and Information Law (IL) courses at the outset. Thus, the place to begin is with non-IPIL courses, and perhaps with IP Survey, in the 2L fall. One can then schedule advanced courses in IP and IL in the 2L spring and thereafter. The patent student should also consider Patent Law for the Fall of 2014.

The sequencing for part-time division students will require additional planning because IP Survey is only guaranteed to be available every other year in the fall (see <http://www.law.uh.edu/student/ScheduleofCoreCoursesOfferedintheEvening.pdf> for a posting of the fall semesters when IP Survey will be taught in the evening).

The IP Survey course meets at least four needs. First, for those planning to practice outside IPIL, it provides an overview of the field and presents the basic doctrine for fundamental IPIL subjects, primarily Patent, Copyright, Trademark, and Trade Secrets. Second, for those interested in exploring the possibility of taking additional courses in IP or IL, but not yet ready to commit, taking IP Survey can facilitate that process. Third, for those already decided on IP or IL, IP Survey affords insurance against the possibility of missing one or more of the stand-alone courses in the fundamental subjects due to scheduling patterns, opportunities and preferences. Finally, IP Survey also satisfies the prerequisite requirement for many (but not all) of the other IPIL courses that have prerequisites. On the other hand, some IPIL courses do not require any prerequisite. Thus, whether to start with IP Survey, or move directly to other IPIL courses, depends on a variety of factors and how these factors interact with one's plans and preferences.

Once a 2L student knows that she wants to invest substantial time in IPIL study, the next step after IP Survey typically is to take an additional "core" course in the field, such as Patent or Copyright or Trademark on the IP side, or a course on the Information Law side, such as Licensing. For planning, please note that Patent and Copyright are typically offered in the Spring semester, and typically with one of the courses given each Spring in the evening on an alternating-year schedule. However, for the 2014-15 academic year, that typical pattern is altered: Patent Law will only be offered in the Fall semester.

Many students find it useful to take the IP Survey or Copyright course prior to taking one of the Information Law courses (although these may or may not be prerequisites). Students interested in Copyright Law might take that course in their second year rather than in their third year because Copyright Law (typically a spring semester course) is the optimal (but not necessarily only) prerequisite for Copyright Seminar (typically a fall semester course). Some non-IPIL courses, such as Administrative Law, are fundamentally important to IPIL practice, such as in the area of patent law. Students should carefully check the prerequisites for all IPIL classes they might want to take while at UHLC in order to best plan their schedule.

Once students have decided on courses for the 2L year, they may want to consider additional IPIL courses or seminars thereafter. To facilitate awareness of the courses that may be available, the table below lists IPIL courses traditionally offered on a regular or semi-regular basis.

Basic & Stand-Alone Courses in Fundamental IPIL Subjects	Additional IPIL Courses	Other IPIL-related courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IP Survey</li><li>• Patent Law</li><li>• Copyright Law</li><li>• Trade Secrets</li><li>• Trademarks &amp; Unfair Competition</li><li>• Licensing &amp; Tech. Transfer</li><li>• International IP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patent Remedies &amp; Defenses</li><li>• Patent Prosecution</li><li>• Procedure of Patent Litigation</li><li>• Internet Law</li><li>• Digital Transactions</li><li>• Entertainment Law</li><li>• Privacy &amp; Data Protection</li><li>• IP Seminar</li><li>• Copyright Seminar</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Property Crime in the Info. Age</li><li>• Communications Law</li><li>• Franchising &amp; Distribution</li><li>• IP Strategy &amp; Mgmt. or Entrepreneurship</li><li>• Transactional Clinic and/or Mediation</li><li>• Advertising and Marketing Law</li><li>• Antitrust</li><li>• Administrative Law</li></ul>

Remember that taking too many IPIL courses not only detracts from the breadth of a J.D. education generally but also is typically unnecessary. UHLC offers a LL.M. in Intellectual Property and Information Law that provides practicing attorneys the opportunity to specialize further as their careers in IPIL develop.

For further information about the J.D. and LL.M. programs, contact IPIL professors, Paul Janicke, Craig Joyce, Sapna Kumar, Jacqueline Lipton, Ray Nimmer, or Greg Vetter, or call the IPIL Program Manager, Sindee Bielamowicz (713/743-2180), who has details available on all aspects of the IPIL program.

For further self-study about IPIL courses, see the linked audio presentations and other linked materials near the top of this page: <http://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/gvetter/AcademicAndCareerAdvising.htm>

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### Intellectual Property Academic & Career Advising

This page provides information for University of Houston Law Center (UHLC) students in planning their IPIL course selection during their 2nd and 3rd years at UHLC.

In addition, this page provides resources and generally applicable input about careers in intellectual property.

### IP & IL Academic Advising for Law Center Course Selection

The UHLC Intellectual Property and Information Law Institute ([IPIL Institute](#)) has academic advising materials available for students interested in Intellectual Property and Information Law at UHLC.

Here is a short [summary](#) describing student options. This one-page document is a typical IPIL academic advising memo to students.

**Please note that the 2014-15 academic year has one change from the typical pattern: Patent Law is offered only in Fall 2014, and will not be offered in Spring 2015.**

Here are the detailed slides from an academic advising [presentation](#) from a prior year. These four slides support two audio presentations below.

The first [audio presentation](#) corresponds to the first two slides. It discusses career considerations I suggest students apply to their course selection decision process.

The second [audio presentation](#) discusses the schedule, rhythm, structure and content of the IPIL courses typically available.

*Please note that this recording was originally created in the Spring of 2008 during an era when IP Survey was regularly offered each Fall semester in both a day and evening section. Since then, starting in Fall of 2010, the evening IP Survey section is only guaranteed to be offered every other year (with Fall of 2010 an "off" year with no evening section of IP Survey). Since the Fall of 2010, IP Survey has been offered twice in many Fall semesters.*

*Thus, the sequencing for part-time division students might require additional planning if IP Survey is only available every other year in evening in the fall. See:*

*<http://www.law.uh.edu/student/Part-time-Core.pdf>*

*for a posting of the fall semesters when IP Survey will be taught in the evening.*

*Also, the schedule of rotating patent law and copyright law in the evening on alternative spring semesters is a typical, but not guaranteed pattern. Since 2008 there have been years where copyright was instead offered in the Fall, and the same thing has happened with patent law.*