

# Corporate Attorney (General)

**Summary:** Learn more about what it is like to be a Corporate attorney in this article.

## **What Does a Corporate Attorney Do?**

This practice area focuses on general corporate work. Corporate law includes entity formation and corporate governance.

Corporate work includes the creation of different kinds of entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships, as well as helping companies comply with ongoing governance and regulatory issues.

Corporate generalists typically deal with multiple different types of corporate-related work.

On the West Coast (particularly Silicon Valley), corporate attorneys tend to work more with private companies; they counsel technology companies, do venture work, securities, and IPOs.

On the East Coast, there tends to be more public company-related work and the practice area tends to be much more specialized.

Many generalists serve as outside general counsel to companies.

## **Why Do Corporate Attorneys Enjoy Their Jobs?**

Attorneys enjoy being generalists because the work tends to be quite collaborative.

There is a lot to learn to be a corporate attorney (it can take several years), and this creates a high barrier to entry in the field.

This is a good practice area for people who like business, money and working directly with companies.

Corporate attorneys are the most likely to be able to get in-house positions.

## **What Are the Difficulties of Being a Corporate Attorney?**

The work that corporate attorneys do is often referred to as "glorified clerical work" because the work is often quite clerical in nature.

The best corporate attorneys excel at finding the things that can go wrong in transactions, contracts, and other deals.

Because they are trained to see the negative, they are often viewed as hindrances to getting things done.

## **How Easy Is It to Move Laterally as a Corporate Attorney?**

When the economy is good, corporate attorneys are often in strong demand.

Regarding the ability to lateral between states, cities and even countries, corporate is probably the best practice area to be in.

This is also a good practice area for attorneys interested in business and making a lot of money.

When the economy is slow, it can become more difficult for corporate attorneys to move laterally and there are a lot of layoffs.

This is a very difficult practice area to start a career in because attorneys can get laid off and lose their jobs early in their careers and never get the training needed to become seasoned attorneys.

This is the best practice area for attorneys interested in building a book of business.

Because corporate attorneys tend to advise their clients on an ongoing basis about a variety of issues, they typically can get spin-off work (litigation, real estate, tax and so forth) that they can send to other attorneys in their firm.

**See the current Corporate job openings we are recruiting for here:**[Corporate Attorney Jobs](#)

## **Corporate Case Studies**

[Junior BigLaw Corporate Associate Moves to a Smaller Firm for a Better Life](#)

[Experienced Attorneys Should Consider Unconventional Firms if They Hit a Dead End on the Partnership](#)

## Track

Candidate lands big law position despite COVID lay off

Strong Mid-Level Corporate Associate Moves Home and Secures Position with Strong Firm

Cap Markets Specialist Moves to a Broad Based Corporate Position

Junior Corporate/ Transactional Attorney Finds New Opportunity with Highly-Regarded Regional Firm

Senior Sophisticated Corporate/ Transactional Candidate Makes Move from In-House Back to Private Practice

Senior Corporate Attorney Looking for a Role Back at a Firm

Big Law California Associate Moves to Regional Market

Mid-Level Tax and Corporate Candidate Finds New Opportunity Upon Geographic Move for Family

Delaware Corporate Associate Placed at Top Am Law 100 Firm in Silicon Valley

Senior Corporate Attorney Makes Move to Big Law With Class Year Flexibility

Placement of Junior Corporate Associate Relocating Home to Boston from California with Arent Fox

Start-up Former Big Law Attorney Returns to Top Big Law Firm

Placement of a Junior Corporate Associate in Kentucky with a Boutique Firm in NYC

Unemployed Attorney With Strong Background Moves to Am Law Top 200

Placement of Senior Solo Practitioner with \$100k Portable Book with Prestigious Regional Firm

Elite Mid-Level Corporate Associate Finds New Opportunity Upon Move Back to Midwest

Mid-Level Corporate Candidate From Regional Southeast Firm Moves to Vault Law 100 Firm in Colorado

Elite Corporate Candidate (Class of 2016) Finds Opportunity upon Relocating to Home in Midwest

Strong Corporate Candidate in Missouri Secures Data Privacy Role at Top Am Law 100 Firm in San Francisco

Class of 2017 Business Litigation Associate Candidate Placed in Corporate/Transactional Associate Role at National Law Firm

Corporate LLM Candidate Placed at a Top Am Law 100 Firm in Silicon Valley

Corporate Attorney From Texas Placed in San Diego

Attorney Goes to Business School After Losing their Job and Wants to Return to a Large Law Firm in New York City

Junior Corporate Associate in Los Angeles Interested in a Larger Law Firm

Niche Area Corporate Attorney in Washington, DC Interested in Relocating to New York

Candidate in Europe Wants to Relocate Home to the US

Attorney Moves From The Bay Area To The Pacific Northwest