

# BUSINESS LAW

## 1) What kinds of businesses – products or services – can be started in your subject area?

Business that can be “started” in my subject area are somewhat limited without a bachelor’s or J.D. degree.

Business law touches all aspects of entrepreneurship, business, career and workforce development. Students learn about the importance and practicalities of creating a partnership agreement, basic contract structure, non-disclosure agreements, formation of business entity and recognizing issues of liability, insurance coverage, legalities of employment, copyright/trademark/patent protection and much more.

## 2) What are the required steps an entrepreneur must take to launch a business in your field? What education, licenses, exams, clinicals, etc. are required?

In order to launch a business in the field of legal practice, an entrepreneur would need to earn a bachelor’s degree, take the Law School Admissions Test, apply to law school, earn a J.D. and take (and pass) the California bar exam and then gain practical experience for at least 3 years.

However, if the entrepreneur was not seeking to practice law, but rather to operate a successful business in another area with a familiarity and awareness of the many legal considerations associated with operating a successful business, no additional steps would be required.

## 3) What are the greatest challenges or obstacles entrepreneurs in your field are facing?

The exorbitant cost of law school and the more limited number of attorney positions available.

## 4) What does the future hold for your field? What is new? Up and coming? What is the outlook or potential for entrepreneurs in your field?

Outside of the actual, formal practice of law, there is a great deal of need for people with some level of legal expertise for every area of business. There are more and more laws being enacted that profoundly impact businesses, especially in California. Some of the career fields that are greatly enhanced with legal expertise include:

1. Human Resources (Employment Law and Regulatory Compliance)
2. Web/App Design/E-Commerce (Copyright and Trademark, Privacy and Cyberlaw)
3. Environmental Sustainability (Regulatory Compliance)
4. Culinary Arts & Hospitality (Regulatory Compliance and Liability)
5. Healthcare (Affordable Care Act, HIPPA, Liability)
6. Entrepreneurship & Business Ownership (all of the above in any area)