



Delaware Law 1L Career Roadmap

Build Your Legal Career Across Delaware, Philadelphia & New Jersey








At Delaware Law, you are uniquely positioned within a **tri-state legal market**:

-  **Delaware** – corporate law, Chancery Court, bankruptcy
-  **Philadelphia** – large firms, public interest, regional employers
-  **New Jersey** – state courts, government, mid-size firms, strong alumni pipeline




Whether you plan to stay local or return home, **start early and stay strategic**. The CDO is your partner throughout.

Fall Semester: Explore the Tri-State Legal Market

September | Get Grounded

-  Engage in Orientation—this is your entry into a **multi-state legal network**.
 -  Build relationships with classmates (many will practice in DE/PA/NJ).
 -  Reflect on your target market(s): Delaware, Philly, New Jersey—or a combination.
 -  Join the **Alumni Mentor Program** (request NJ-based mentors if relevant).
 -  Join student orgs tied to your interests (Business Law, Public Interest, Trial Advocacy).
 -  Attend events with **Delaware judges, Philly practitioners, and NJ alumni panels**.
 -  Update LinkedIn with **geographic flexibility** if applicable (e.g., “Delaware | Philadelphia | New Jersey”).
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October | Build Your Strategy

-  Attend resume/cover letter workshops—tailor materials to **different markets**:
 - Delaware: corporate/litigation focus
 - NJ: courts, government, regional firms
-  Meet with CDO before Thanksgiving:
 - Identify your **primary and secondary markets**
 - Build a targeted application plan
-  Activate Symplicity and check postings **twice weekly**.

- 🌐 Clean up your online presence—employers across all three markets review it.
 - ⚖️ Explore:
 - **Delaware Courts (Chancery, Supreme Court)**
 - **NJ Courts (Superior Court clerkships, municipal experience)**
 - **Wilmington & South Jersey firms**
 - 🚀 Apply to **1L firm fellowships** (Wilmington + some NJ firms).
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November–December | Build Connections + Apply

- 📖 Focus on exams—grades matter across all markets.
 - 🗂️ Research:
 - Delaware corporate firms
 - Philadelphia firms & nonprofits
 - **New Jersey firms, state agencies, and county prosecutors/public defenders**
 - 🗓️ Schedule informational interviews:
 - Delaware & Philly attorneys
 - **NJ alumni (especially valuable—strong willingness to help)**
 - 🍷 Attend networking events (e.g., November to Remember).
 - 🎯 Apply to:
 - **Philadelphia Public Interest Public Service Job Fair (PIPS)**
 - **Delaware Diversity Job Fair (DDJF)**
 - **Philadelphia Diversity Law Group (PDLG)**
 - ⚖️ Apply for judicial internships:
 - Delaware courts (high prestige)
 - **New Jersey Superior Court judges (excellent pipeline for NJ careers)**
 - 🔄 Use winter break to expand your application reach—especially in NJ if that's your home market.
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Spring Semester: Execute Across Markets

January–February | Apply + Interview

- 📄 Apply broadly:
 - Wilmington firms
 - Philly employers
 - **New Jersey firms, courts, and government agencies**
- 🎯 Participate in OCI and resume collections.
- 📧 Follow up consistently.

- 🗣️ Complete mock interviews via Symplicity.
 - 🤝 Attend:
 - Delaware Bar events
 - Philadelphia networking events
 - **New Jersey Bar Association / county bar events**
 - ⚖️ Consider NJ-specific paths:
 - State clerkships
 - Summer roles with prosecutors, PD offices, or agencies
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March–April | Plan for 2L Recruiting

- 👤 Meet with your counselor:
 - Refine your **target geography strategy** (DE/PA/NJ mix)
 - 🍷 Attend March Gladness networking.
 - 🧠 Develop your 2L search strategy:
 - Delaware: corporate-heavy recruiting
 - Philly: broader firm + PI opportunities
 - **NJ: relationship-driven hiring, early outreach matters**
 - ✉️ Draft tailored cover letters by market:
 - Show ties to the state to which you are applying
 - 📄 Consider journal/law review (important for clerkships in DE & NJ).
 - 🚀 April 1:
 - Apply to large firms (Wilmington + Philly primarily)
 - **Begin outreach to NJ firms (many hire more informally/off-cycle)**
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May | Finish Strong

- 📅 Prioritize finals.
 - 📢 Report summer placement.
 - ✉️ Participate in journal/write-on.
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Summer: Build Experience + Position for 2L Recruiting

June–July | Work, Network, Prepare

- 📧 Monitor law school email for OCI updates.

-  Gain meaningful experience:
 - Delaware: corporate/litigation exposure
 - Philly: firm or public interest
 - **New Jersey: courts, government, or regional firms**
 -  Network intentionally—Attend law student mixers
 -  Develop strong writing samples (critical for DE courts and NJ clerkships).
 -  Secure references.
 -  Finalize OCI resume with CDO.
 -  Apply broadly:
 - Non-OCI firms
 - Delaware courts/agencies
 - **NJ employers (many continue summer hiring into late cycle)**
 -  Track:
 - Government deadlines (USAJobs)
 - **NJ clerkship timelines (often early and structured)**
 -  Request recommendation letters early.
 -  Prepare for interviews:
 - Be ready to explain **why that specific market (DE vs Philly vs NJ)**
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Tri-State Success Tips for Delaware Law Students

-  **Be geographically intentional:** Employers want to understand your commitment to their market.
 -  **Leverage alumni networks:**
 - Delaware (tight-knit)
 - Philly (broad)
 - **New Jersey (loyal and highly responsive)**
 - **NJ = direct pipeline into practice**
 -  **Tell your story clearly:**
 - If NJ is home, say it—and show ties
 -  **Use CDO early and consistently**—don't wait until spring
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