

## Fordham Law Launches In-House Counsel Institute for Mid-Career Lawyers in Partnership with DLA Piper



**Fordham University School of Law** is expanding its professional education offerings with the launch of a **new In-House Counsel Institute**, developed in collaboration with global law firm **DLA Piper**. Set to begin on **September 5, 2025**, the institute offers **weekly online classes** tailored for **mid-career attorneys** looking to sharpen their skills and advance their careers in corporate legal departments.

This new initiative reflects a growing trend among law schools and major law firms to invest in **continuing legal education** and **professional development** programs that address the unique challenges faced by in-house counsel in today's complex legal environment.

### What the Fordham In-House Counsel Institute Offers

The Fordham-DLA Piper In-House Counsel Institute is designed to deliver **practical, high-impact training** through a flexible online format. Key features of the program include:

**Weekly Online Classes:** Busy legal professionals can participate remotely without sacrificing their work commitments.

**Real-World Focus:** Courses will address practical issues faced by in-house lawyers, from compliance and corporate governance to litigation management and risk mitigation.

**Expert Faculty:** Instructors will include Fordham Law professors, DLA Piper attorneys, and experienced corporate counsel from leading companies.

**Networking Opportunities:** Participants will have opportunities to engage with peers and leaders across industries, building valuable professional relationships.

**Career Advancement:** The curriculum is specifically designed to equip lawyers with the strategic skills needed to move into more senior in-house roles, such as General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer, or Legal Operations Leader.

### Why Fordham and DLA Piper Are Focusing on In-House Lawyers

The legal industry is seeing a **significant shift** toward the in-house legal model. Companies increasingly rely on robust internal legal teams to handle everything from regulatory compliance to cybersecurity threats. This trend has heightened the demand for **specialized training** tailored to the realities of working within a corporation.

By partnering with DLA Piper, Fordham Law School ensures that its curriculum stays **current with market needs** and draws on insights from one of the world's largest law firms. DLA Piper's expertise spans industries and jurisdictions, offering participants a truly global perspective on corporate legal practice.

According to Fordham Law, this program reflects its broader commitment to **bridging academic excellence with professional realities**. The Institute is just the latest step in Fordham's mission to offer dynamic and accessible educational programs for practicing lawyers.

### Who Should Enroll?

The In-House Counsel Institute is ideal for:

Attorneys with **3 to 15 years** of experience in private practice or corporate legal departments.

Lawyers seeking to **transition from a law firm** role into an in-house position.

Current in-house counsel aiming to **enhance their strategic, business, and leadership skills**.  
Mid-career professionals targeting **executive-level legal roles**.

Enrollment is open globally, allowing lawyers from any location to access Fordham's expertise without needing to relocate or commute.

## Broader Implications for the Legal Profession

Fordham's new program reflects broader trends in legal education and professional development, including:

**Increasing Specialization:** Generalist legal education is no longer sufficient for many roles. Programs like this offer targeted learning for niche areas of practice.

**Emphasis on Business Acumen:** In-house lawyers are expected not only to know the law but also to understand business strategy, operations, and financial risk.

**Flexible Learning Models:** Online and hybrid programs are becoming the norm, even for highly specialized fields like corporate law.

**Lifelong Learning Culture:** Today's lawyers must continually update their skills to stay competitive amid technological disruption and evolving regulatory landscapes.

## Conclusion: Fordham Law School Strengthens Its Leadership in Legal Education

With the launch of the **In-House Counsel Institute**, Fordham University School of Law further cements its reputation as an innovator in legal education. By collaborating with DLA Piper and designing a program specifically for mid-career lawyers, Fordham is helping to shape the future of corporate legal leadership — and giving lawyers everywhere a powerful new tool to advance their careers.

**Classes begin September 5, 2025.** Interested participants are encouraged to register early, as spots are expected to fill quickly.

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