

Davis Polk

**Build your
future**

United States

2022

New York

Northern California

Washington DC

São Paulo

London

Brussels

Madrid

Hong Kong

Beijing

Tokyo

Highlights



New York summer associates socialize at bowling night.

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As a summer associate, you'll be involved in significant client matters. You'll have access to a wide range of professional development programs and mentorship, as well as opportunities to attend memorable cultural and social events.

A note from our Managing Partner, Neil Barr



We hire exceptional students – individuals who are talented and interesting, who demand excellence from themselves and are energized by the prospect of working at an elite institution and with elite clients. And from the moment you become a Davis Polk lawyer, we invest everything we have in developing your skills and ensuring that you thrive and feel supported. You are mentored by lawyers who lead their fields and are given the opportunity to learn by doing real, substantive work at the highest caliber of legal practice. You are a respected member of a team. And you inherit a community for life. We cherish these core pillars of our culture. Because when taking on the world's most challenging legal matters, we are so much more powerful when we operate as one.

A note from our Hiring Partners, Lara Samet Buchwald and Pritesh Shah



At Davis Polk, we seek to hire law students and lawyers who are committed to excellence, teamwork and delivering the sophisticated work demanded by our clients. Our summer program allows students to explore a variety of assignments across all practice areas. You will dive into real transactions and case teams – drafting documents; attending client meetings, court hearings and negotiations; and conducting valuable research – while receiving feedback and participating in tailored training programs to ensure your growth. Our firm's culture of excellence, respect, collaboration and a commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters an environment where every voice is heard and valued. Join us and experience the unique opportunities Davis Polk offers in an evolving legal landscape.

Awards and accomplishments

International Law Firm of the Year

– *IFLR Americas Awards, 2024*

Firm of the Year

– *Law360, 2023*

Litigation Department of the Year – Finalist

– *New York Law Journal, 2023*

#1

The only law firm ranked Band 1 nationwide for Equity and Investment-Grade Debt in both the Issuer and Manager Counsel categories
– *Chambers USA*

100+

Federal securities actions defended since 2015

\$100+ billion

ESG-related capital markets and finance transactions on which we have advised clients since 2020

#1

in U.S. syndicated lending and direct lending, 2023
– LSEG Data & Analytics and KBRA DLD

400+

U.S.-listed public companies rely on Davis Polk as their primary outside counsel

\$80+ billion

Proceeds of 110+ tech, media and telecom IPOs since 2015

Other recognition

Band 1

Corporate/M&A; Capital Markets Debt, Equity and Derivatives; Banking and Finance; Bankruptcy/Restructuring; Tax; and Financial Services Regulation
– *Chambers USA*

Tier 1

Antitrust; Commercial Litigation; Crypto-Asset Disputes; Securities Litigation; and White Collar Crime
– *Chambers and/or Benchmark Litigation*

Our firm →

Cutting-edge work

Our more than 1,000 lawyers work seamlessly across our global offices to serve clients

Clients turn to us with their most significant matters:

- Sophisticated global M&A deals
- Groundbreaking securities offerings
- Bet-the-company litigation and enforcement
- Transactions and disputes across national borders
- High-profile leveraged lending and sponsor finance transactions
- Complex corporate restructurings around the world
- Corporate governance on critical business matters
- High-stakes trial work
- Cutting-edge financial regulatory developments
- Innovative fintech matters
- Complex IP and commercial transactions
- Strategic tax transactional advice
- Sensitive government and internal investigations

Clients



[Our recent work →](#)

Summer program

Our summer associates enjoy a program that is distinctively Davis Polk:

- Real work on significant cases and transactions
- A partner mentor and associate liaison
- Professional development, including over 20 training programs
- Guidance from associates serving as full-time summer program coordinators
- Memorable cultural and social events
- Affinity group events
- Pro bono opportunities
- Immersive training programs in areas such as corporate transactions and tax



“Summer associates at Davis Polk have the opportunity to be an integral part of teams that are leading the profession forward and actively developing creative solutions to the most challenging and complex issues our clients face.”

– Tyson Dean Kennedy, Counsel



New York summer associates enjoy a sunset sail on the Hudson River.



New York summer associates visit Summit One Vanderbilt.



New York summer associates and lawyers attend a Mets game at Citi Field.



Washington DC summer associates gather for dinner at Little Pearl, a Michelin-starred restaurant.



New York summer associates and lawyers attend pizza-making school.



The DPWomen group in Northern California gathers for afternoon high tea at Café Wisteria at the Allied Arts.

We embrace the opportunity to develop tomorrow's great lawyers, starting with a summer program that stands out among our peers. We will welcome you warmly as a member of the Davis Polk community, and you will start making a difference from day one.

[Our U.S. Summer Program →](#)

Collaborative culture



“From my visit to the Hong Kong office to the many offer receptions in New York, I was impressed by how warm everyone at Davis Polk was. This feeling of warmth only continues to deepen, with the daily generosity my colleagues have been extending to help me grow into a better lawyer.”

– Dmitry Dobrovolskiy, Associate



“From the first interview that I had, I could tell Davis Polk was a truly special place in terms of a sense of community and the culture. I’m continually inspired by how smart my colleagues are and by the innovative solutions we come up with for our clients. I am challenged by the work that we get to do. And I am supported by people who are collegial and kind and make this job as much fun as it is.”

– Roshni Banker Cariello, Partner

Build your future

We are proud of the wide range of perspectives and backgrounds our lawyers bring to our work, and the collaborative, empathetic culture that makes each of them feel valued.

[Our offices →](#)





Davis Polk

“How I Made Partner”: Two Davis Polk partners share their stories with *Law.com*



Cheryl Chan
Partner
Mergers & Acquisitions

[How I Made Partner →](#)



Sheila R. Adams James
Partner
Antitrust & Competition

[How I Made Partner →](#)

“First and foremost, I think the most important piece of advice is to be excellent in your work. Next, it is best to treat every project or assignment as an opportunity to both demonstrate your skills and to do great work,”
Sheila R. Adams James tells *Law.com*.



Mentorship and training

Professional development at Davis Polk includes:

- Formal and informal mentoring programs
- Multiday intensive seminars for first-, third- and fifth-year associates
- More than 350 training programs each year, plus a wide range of on-demand programs for just-in-time learning
- Rotation opportunities for first-year corporate associates
- Centralized staffing model that allows associates to gain experience across a breadth of matters
- Regular performance reviews identifying professional development priorities

Build your future

Over the four-day “Lawyering 101” program, first-year associates participate in a variety of hands-on sessions, learn more about Davis Polk and its programs, and get practical tips on how to advance and thrive.

[Our practices →](#)



Commitment to DEI

Recognition

Mansfield Rule certification

– Diversity Lab

Work-Life Balance International Firm of the Year and Best Firm for U.S. – North East

– Women in Business Law Americas Awards, 2024

Industry Leader Diversity Award

– Lawyers of Color, 2023



“DEI is fundamentally about respect for others and their contributions within the firm. It is a continuous effort that should permeate everything we do. In order to stay true to this commitment, we all need to recognize our individual responsibility for creating an inclusive environment by employing practical applications of DEI principles every day.”

– Kisha Nunez, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer

Build your future

39%

of U.S. lawyers self-identify as racially/ethnically diverse and/or LGBTQ+

59%

of 2024 summer associates self-identify as racially/ethnically diverse and/or LGBTQ+

44%

of partners promoted in the last five years self-identify as women, racially/ethnically diverse and/or LGBTQ+

50%

of firmwide committees are chaired or co-chaired by a partner who self-identifies as a woman, racially/ethnically diverse and/or LGBTQ+





The NAPABA Convention is the largest annual gathering of Asian American and Pacific Islander legal practitioners in the country and offers substantive panels and networking opportunities for attendees. Civil Litigation partner Mari Grace provided opening remarks for the convention's plenary luncheon panel and the firm co-hosted a client event attended by more than 150 lawyers.



“Diversity, equity and inclusion is a vital part of who we are as a firm. We pride ourselves on providing excellent client service, and this is only enhanced by our DEI efforts. We partner with our clients to strengthen our collective efforts to advance DEI meaningfully and broadly.”

– Vanessa Jackson, Partner and DEI Committee Co-Chair

Eight dynamic affinity groups:

- Asian/South Asian/Middle Eastern (ASAME)
- Black Affinity Group (BAG)
- Davis Polk Veterans
- DPWomen
- DPW Parents
- First Generation
- Hispanic/Latin American (H/LA)
- LGBTQ+

Compass Award

– Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, 2024

[2L DEI Fellowship →](#)

[Our commitment to DEI →](#)

Pro bono

Davis Polk lawyers of all seniorities and practice areas power the firm’s rigorous pro bono program, which encompasses a wide range of pressing and globally significant matters. This work is encouraged across the firm and is supported by a dedicated 10-person team of pro bono lawyers and staff.



“In response to difficult and high-stakes challenges, our lawyers, business professionals, alumni and clients have shown up in even greater numbers and demonstrated an ever-growing appetite for pro bono work. It never ceases to inspire me.”

– Amelia T.R. Starr, Chief Pro Bono Counsel

The U.S. gun violence crisis is one of our many current focuses. We have joined forces with organizations working to end preventable loss of life and are engaged in legal actions at venues including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Among these efforts is our collaboration with the Free and Fair Litigation Group, founded by Davis Polk alum Carey Dunne. He and fellow Free and Fair principal and Davis Polk alum Kevin Trowel are working with Davis Polk Civil Litigation partner Tony Perez-Marques, Antitrust & Competition counsel Chris Lynch, Civil Litigation counsel Jim Windels and others in defense of Boulder County, the Colorado

cities of Boulder and Louisville, and the town of Superior, which all passed restrictions on the ownership and sale of “assault weapons” and “large capacity magazines.” These safety measures are currently being challenged in *Rocky Mountain Gun Owners et al. v. The Town of Superior et al.* before the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Read more about this effort and many others in our 2024 Pro Bono Matters publication:

2024 Pro Bono Matters →

Wellness and benefits

Our programs and benefits include:

- Comprehensive health, dental and vision insurance
- On-site Davis Polk Health and Wellness Center in New York, providing healthcare and mental health counseling
- Health club subsidy / fitness reimbursement
- Family building benefits that include:
 - Adoption and surrogacy assistance
 - Fertility and cryopreservation services
 - Paid medical leave for pregnancy and childbirth recovery
 - Paid parental leave for all new parents, regardless of gender
 - Back-up child care
- Gender affirmation care
- Davis Polk Revisited program for alumni transitioning back to law after an extended break
- Volunteering and giving programming including matching charitable gifts



Davis Polk is an annual participant in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge running/walking event and post-race celebration in New York's Central Park. In 2023, more than 100 lawyers and business professionals participated.

Career coaching

Strategic, personalized career guidance

Unlimited conversations cover a number of topics, including:

- Assistance in gaining clarity on what you value, enjoy and want in a career
- Personalized short- and long-term goal-setting
- Individualized feedback and advice as you navigate every step of your trajectory
- Customized, hands-on networking support
- Career panels, programs and workshops

As a Davis Polk lawyer, you are able to receive one-on-one career coaching from your first days as an associate through wherever your career takes you. Our program provides confidential support and advice to firm lawyers and alumni as they think through, chart and pursue their individual career goals and trajectories.

Welcome to the future

In 2023, Davis Polk announced updates to all three of its U.S. offices: a complete renovation of our New York headquarters and moves to new, modernized office spaces in Northern California and Washington DC. We are thrilled about this continued growth and look forward to working together in these beautiful and functional spaces.



Renderings of our New York office enhancements by Gensler show the planned SkyBar coffee lounge and (on next page) adjacent outdoor terrace.



Our alumni include:



Roger W. Ferguson Jr. ('81)
Chief Investment Officer, Red Cell Partners, and former Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve and former President and CEO, TIAA

“Davis Polk is not only a great place to be, but it’s also a great place to be from.”

– Roger W. Ferguson Jr.



Robert Harrison ('81)
Board Member, Clinton Foundation, and former Chief Executive Officer of the Clinton Global Initiative



Carey Dunne ('87)
Founding Principal, Free and Fair Litigation Group, and former General Counsel, Manhattan District Attorney’s Office



Tom Reid ('87)
Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, Comcast Corporation



Kirsten E. Gillibrand ('91)
U.S. Senator, New York



Terri Sewell ('93)
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives



Eric F. Grossman ('94)
Chief Legal Officer & Chief
Administrative Officer,
Morgan Stanley



Jennifer Newstead ('96)
Chief Legal Officer, Meta, and
former Legal Adviser of the
U.S. Department of State



Kimberley D. Harris ('97)
Executive Vice President
and General Counsel,
NBCUniversal Media



Sharon Crane ('02)
President, Practising Law
Institute



Reshma M. Saujani ('02)
Founder and CEO, Moms
First, and Founder and former
CEO, Girls Who Code

**As a Davis Polk lawyer,
you will join a vibrant
global community of
current lawyers and
firm alums who work
across all sectors of
business, government,
law and academia.**

Alumni reception
Cipriani 42nd Street | New York



Davis Polk
AlumniNetwork

Davis Polk
AlumniNetwork

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ryers check...

Alumni check-in

A-K

Advice from our colleagues

Summer program memories and tips for a successful experience



Blake Edward Andersen

“The summer associate experience was one of the highlights of my legal career. I got to work closely with some of the brightest attorneys in the country and worked substantively on matters that regularly made national news. I left the summer experience with a strong understanding of Davis Polk’s incredible culture.”



Claire Creighton

“My tips for an excellent summer associate experience are to: Explore: Try out different areas of law – you never know what might interest you. Engage: Don’t be scared to ask questions and share your opinions. Enjoy: Attend the events to get to know your peers and colleagues!”



Lauren Elizabeth Davila

“I’m grateful to have great mentors at DPW. Whether I am connecting with H/LA members through affinity programming, speaking with senior associates for career advice, or grabbing lunch with my wonderful office mate, DPW has given me a strong support network to help me grow as a lawyer.”



Savannah J. Dowling

“Don’t dip your toes in the water. Use that law student work ethic and dive into your summer associateship. Take the initiative, go the extra mile, be curious and courageous, and get the most out of your summer by exploring practice areas and fields you know nothing about!”



Semhal Gessesse

“Ask questions! The summer program is your opportunity to learn about the firm’s work and your own interests. Don’t be afraid to ask follow-up questions after a team meeting or request additional background reading. Engage with the projects you are working on, even if you’re just here for a few weeks!”



Isaiah B. Kramer

“Each practice group at Davis Polk has its own subculture, workflow, traditions, training, etc. There are only great groups to choose among and the best way to find the best fit for you is to sample as many practice areas as pique your interest.”



Anthony Tran

“Along with many amazing lunches, I loved joining workout and cooking classes to meet attorneys across practice groups. The summer coordinators helped me find work aligned with my interests in IP, and my summer mentor helped me navigate assignments and discover the resources Davis Polk offers.”

Apply now



“As a Davis Polk summer associate, you will have the opportunity to work on the most cutting-edge, complex and dynamic legal matters, where your contributions will make a real and significant impact. As you embark on your legal career, I look forward to meeting you during the recruiting process and introducing you to the diverse array of opportunities available at Davis Polk.”

– Cristóbal V. Modesto, Chief Legal Recruiting Officer

We are currently accepting 1L applications for the 2025 Summer Program. Please email us with your resume and complete first-semester transcript.

New York: newlawyer@davispolk.com

Washington DC: newlawyer.dc@davispolk.com

Northern California: newlawyer.norcal@davispolk.com

Sign up now to receive a reminder when applications open this May for the 2026 Summer Program.

[Learn about our 2025 Summer Program →](#)

[Learn about our firm's 2L Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellowship →](#)

[Follow us on LinkedIn →](#)



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[davispolk.com](https://www.davispolk.com)

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