Entertainment law covers the industries of television, film, radio, theater, music, publishing, and gaming. Many students express an interest in an entertainment law career but before embarking on this path, here are three points every aspiring entertainment lawyer should consider.

First, students must understand the specialized areas that comprise entertainment law. These include the transactional work or litigation pertaining to the laws of intellectual property, copyright, licensing, and contracts. Are you truly interested in these subjects or are you only captivated by Hollywood glitter? Although an entertainment lawyer may associate with celebrities, most of the time you will be engaged in the practice of law dealing with complex and detailed topics. Attorneys do not become engaged in the creative process of this industry, but rather serve as counselors and advisers to their (sometimes) famous clientele.

Second, if you have decided that your interests and skill sets match those of an entertainment lawyer, you will need to research in which setting you might like to work. Would you like to represent the interests of an entertainment company (e.g. a movie studio), or would you prefer to work in a practice where you represent the artist? Informational interviews are an excellent way to understand what the daily routines are like for attorneys, as well as what they find to be the challenges and rewards of their jobs. Consult your personal contact list to assess whether there might be someone on it who could help facilitate a meeting. Think creatively and try to get an introduction to someone who could help you in your fact-finding mission. Then, make appointments for coffee or lunch with these legal professionals.

Third, once you have refined your interest area, you can begin researching law school programs that teach courses in your specialty. Law schools in entertainment destinations such as Los Angeles, New York, and Nashville offer specialized coursework in law pertaining to the predominant entertainment industry in that locale. Good luck!

About the Author: Since 2008, Charles Holland has taught Advanced Television Writing and Production, including a screenwriting workshop, as a Visiting Professor at the UCLA Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media. A Harvard Law School graduate, Mr. Holland has practiced entertainment law in Los Angeles.