In 1946, seven distinguished lawyers had the vision to regard the law as a global profession and the courage to create a firm dedicated to the concept that legal excellence can be achieved only when lawyers in a firm cooperate in their practice rather than compete. In so doing, the founders of Cleary Gottlieb created an environment where collegiality, trust, and respect are the guiding principles under which we work all over the world today.
Clients trust us to handle their most challenging assignments, including innovative deals, large corporate transactions, and high-profile litigation.

Our work is complex, and we believe you will find it interesting and rewarding. At Cleary, you’ll have the opportunity to work on top-notch cases and transactions where the stakes are the highest and where your talents can make a difference in the outcome of a case or completion of a deal.

Cleary ranks at or near the top of every list measuring law firm success, including Vault, Chambers, The American Lawyer and its “Diversity Scorecard,” and the Financial Times’ “U.S. Innovative Lawyers” report.

“Cleary Gottlieb has been a global firm since the very beginning, and we understand the value of this for our clients and our culture. We take opening an office seriously and understand the commitment it represents to a region. When you walk into any of Cleary’s 16 offices, you immediately sense that it is part of one integrated firm.”

— Francesca Odell
Partner

“We focus on teamwork and delivering results. It’s all about getting the best possible outcome for our clients.”

— Jeremy Calsyn
Partner

“Cleary are always at the forefront of all arising issues and have great lawyers that can assist with the most complex matters.”

Chambers Global, 2023
A Pioneer in Globalizing the Legal Profession

We are proud of the way we build our presence abroad. The offices we open in new locations are staffed with homegrown Cleary Gottlieb lawyers, which preserves our culture. Equally important, we bring the talents of lawyers across the firm to bear on issues facing local clients.


“I’ve been resident in Cleary offices in the U.S. and UK—that kind of immersive international experience has made me a better lawyer and impacts how I approach every matter that crosses my desk.”

— Jamal Fulton
Partner

“One thing that became clear to me when I worked in our Brussels office: Cleary Gottlieb is, to its core, a global firm. The lawyers in each of our offices have the combination of local and international perspectives needed to do their work at the highest level.”

— Daniel Culley
Partner

Italian Firm of the Year for Technology, Oil & Gas Energy, and Banks
TopLegal Industry Awards, 2023

Behavioral Matter of the Year – Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and Africa (India/Google)
Global Competition Review Awards, 2023

M&A Deal of the Year – Midsize (TPG/ Fractal Analytics)
Asian Legal Business India Law Awards, 2023

Restructuring Deal of the Year (Garuda Indonesia’s $9.58 billion restructuring)
IFLR Asia-Pacific Awards, 2023

No. 1 International Firm in Latin America
Latin American Corporate Counsel Association, 2013-2022

M&A Transaction of the Year and “Grand Prix” Winner (Veolia/Suez)
Club des Trente, 2022

Equity Deal of the Year (Fertiglobe’s IPO)
IFLR Middle East Awards, 2022

South Korea International Firm of the Year

58 languages spoken
74 countries represented
1/3 of our partners have worked in two or more of the firm’s offices
“In my mind, one of the most important things we do as senior lawyers is mentor those who are junior to us. They are the future of our firm and our profession, so we need to invest in them. Some of my most rewarding professional experiences have come from watching junior lawyers grow and develop into legal stars and good mentors themselves.”

— Joon Kim
Partner

Professional Development and Training

“We provide training so you can integrate quickly and take responsibility in client matters early in your career.

— All Cleary lawyers spend their first two weeks in our “miniMBA” course, which covers the basics of Wall Street, finance, accounting, and other topics usually found in an MBA course.

— A rich in-house CLE program is offered throughout the year, with comprehensive courses at all levels in all practice areas.

— First-year associates have access to training covering all of our practice areas.

— We offer a structured curriculum aimed at developing skills such as communication, negotiation, project management, business development, effective delegation, giving feedback, and more.

— All associates are supported by Attorney Development Managers, who provide feedback and guidance, and help create individual development plans.

“One of the most satisfying parts of practicing at Cleary is helping new lawyers enter the profession and gain confidence in their skills as top-notch attorneys. I routinely ask junior lawyers to take the lead on key issues, interfacing directly with clients and adversaries, and building a record of experiences and relationships that will support the rest of their careers.”

— Nowell Bamberger
Partner

“In addition to the many formal training and mentorship programs that the firm offers, Cleary fosters an environment of apprenticeship that empowers associates to immerse themselves – and take a leadership role in – challenging, high-profile matters. It’s an aspect of the invaluable informal education that comes with working alongside your Cleary colleagues.”

— Katie Gonzalez
Associate

“Innovative International Firm of the Year
Euromoney Americas Women in Business Law Awards, 2022
Senior Guidance

“Supporting the development and professional growth of new lawyers is one of our top priorities. As a senior lawyer at the firm, I consider it a responsibility and privilege to train the lawyers coming up behind me and offer them guidance as they advance in their careers. This informs my perspective as Co-Chair of the Talent Committee.”

— Abena Mainoo
Partner

Cleary’s associate compensation model is based on seniority at all levels. Because we operate as a single, integrated global partnership, Cleary is able to provide clients with seamless legal representation across the world and emphasize a culture of collegiality instead of internal competition.

You will receive more than a handshake and an orientation package when you arrive at Cleary Gottlieb. You will start a relationship with an assigned mentor, an experienced lawyer who can guide you through professional and personal life at the firm.

Even more important, though, is the day-to-day mentoring you’ll receive working with senior lawyers, advising clients, and participating in firm life. You’ll have opportunities to connect with mentors both inside and outside of your practice group. Cleary lawyers take the time to help and support each other.

Our approach to mentoring is one that comes full circle. We guide your career ahead and, in turn, eventually you will help new associates advance their careers.

“At Cleary, there is no shortage of mentors to turn to if you need guidance on a particular matter or with respect to your career more generally. Taking advantage of the firm’s number one resource—its people—has been imperative to the development of my legal career.”

— Luke Barefoot
Partner

80% of our current partners joined the firm as associates
52% of our U.S.-based associates are women
Your experience in our summer program will be more than academic. You’ll work closely with established attorneys to play a meaningful role in firm matters. Partners and other senior lawyers supervise your work, and associates from our Summer Program Committee mentor you.

Your summer associate experience will not be confined to the Bay Area, New York or Washington, D.C. International assignments are plentiful and summer associates are given the opportunity to spend time working in Cleary’s overseas offices.

Our program includes formal and informal training. We offer litigation training, ‘Wall Street Lunches,’ and corporate practice seminars, all of which are targeted specifically to summer associates. In addition, summer associates are invited to attend presentations that introduce them to practices throughout the firm as well as the lawyers in each area.

We also provide opportunities for summer associates to get to know Cleary lawyers and each other through events such as partner-hosted dinners, theater shows, cooking class competitions, concerts, and sporting events.

“One of the greatest benefits of my Cleary summer experience was the availability of senior lawyers to guide me in my professional development. With their formal and informal mentoring, I was able to build a career path and gain confidence in my skillset as a lawyer.”

— Alix Simnock
Associate

“As a summer associate at Cleary, you will gain exposure to our collaborative, interdisciplinary, and cross-border practice and get to know your dynamic new colleagues. This is also a great opportunity to establish mentoring relationships that can sustain you throughout your career.”

— Matthew C. Solomon
Partner

“I came to Cleary because it felt like a place I could work on cutting-edge legal issues with people I genuinely liked, in an environment that encouraged me to both excel professionally and be myself. My years at Cleary have proven that my first impression was exactly right.”

— Tom Kessler
Partner
Recent Accolades and Awards

Our clients call on us when simple solutions will not do. We represent multinational corporations, international financial institutions, sovereign governments and their agencies, and domestic corporations and financial institutions around the world.

100% Corporate Equality Index Score
Human Rights Campaign Foundation, 2022

Top 5 in the Diversity Scorecard
The American Lawyer, 2022

247 practice and lawyer rankings earned in the Chambers Global 2023 edition

55 of these rankings were top-tier

100K pro bono hours

“We know that clients come to Cleary for elegant and creative solutions to complicated problems. I love working on those challenges and delivering above and beyond our clients’ expectations.”
— Elaine Ewing
Partner

Recent notable achievements and awards include:

Cross-Border Restructuring of the Year (Grupo Aeroméxico Chapter 11)
The M&A Advisor, 2023

Merger Control Matter of the Year – Americas (UnitedHealth Group/Change Healthcare)
Global Competition Review Awards, 2023

M&A Deal of the Year (TPG/Tata Motors JV)
India Business Law Journal, 2022

Asia Deal of the Year (TPG’s acquisition of iNova Pharmaceuticals)
Private Equity International Awards, 2022

Sustainable Loan of the Year (Barbados’ $146.5 million blue loans)
IFR Awards, 2022

Philippines Capital Markets Deal of the Year (The Republic of the Philippines’ $2 billion triple-tranche bond)
IFR Asia Awards, 2022

International Matter of the Year (LATAM Airlines Group)
American Bankruptcy Institute, 2022

Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership (Afghan Pro Bono Initiative)
LawWorks Pro Bono Awards, 2022

“One of the values we hold highest is delivering the best possible advice and advocacy to every client. Our clients trust us with their most difficult and novel problems, and we pride ourselves on delivering first-rate work in return.”
— Kimberly Spoerri
Partner
Your Career at Cleary Gottlieb and Beyond

We understand that a law firm job can provide the training that springboards you to a career in an entirely different field, from academia to business to not-for-profit work.

We’ll talk openly with you about the possibilities inside and outside Cleary. But we’ll do more than help you assess your options—we’ll help you reach your goals.

If the path you choose points to a long-term career at Cleary, we’ll provide the training and mentoring to make you a strong candidate for senior attorney, counsel, or partner.

If you decide to look outside Cleary, we’ll help you build a résumé that can lead to the right opportunity. And we have an impressive network of alumni and clients who regularly tap us to fill positions in their organizations.

We are looking for attorneys who can excel in the law as well as in business, academia, government service, and beyond.

Our network of stellar alumni is among our proudest achievements. The range of positions that our alumni hold reflects both the quality of Cleary’s legal training and the diverse interests of our lawyers.

For more than 75 years, Cleary has been turning out some of the best and brightest lawyers and leaders.

We count among our alumni:

- 104 founders, directors or GCs of not-for-profits
- 53 officials at intergovernmental organizations
- 36 judges in six countries, including EU and U.S. appellate courts
- 106 startup and technology company leaders
- 812 in financial services
- 668 in government
- 164 law school deans and professors
- 106 startup and technology company leaders
- 205 senior leaders at Fortune 500 companies
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