

PUBLIC INTEREST

CAREERS GUIDE 2014



Law

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UNSW

Law Society

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INTRODUCTION

What is public interest law?

International public interest law provides a range of opportunities for students, working internationally to work in the public interest. The field encompasses a wide range of positions in organisations including NGOs, the United Nations and overseas Government positions. Students passionate about issues such as human rights, the environment and humanitarian law can find a fulfilling career path in international public interest law. In the age of globalisation, there is a growing demand for talented individuals to work in the rapidly expanding legal field of international law. Those who pursue careers in public interest law often say that the most satisfying part is being able to advance a cause they truly believe in.

Where does it take me?

The most exciting part about international public interest law is that it can take you anywhere in the world. Unlike other opportunities found in commercial law firms, the jobs in public interest law are not necessarily limited to centres of commerce. Organisations with global reach such as the United Nations need legal professionals at all levels of operation. UNSW Alumni interviewed for the Careers Guide have gone to the Netherlands, New York, Common locations for those working in the field include the geographic centres of international law, such as The Hague in the Netherlands and the UN Headquarters in Geneva and New York, whilst NGOs provide opportunities to travel and engage with cultures worldwide. The positions listed in this guide range from Ghana, Malaysia and Brazil.

How do I get there?

Lucas Lixinski is a Lecturer at UNSW Law, having spent his professional life working in International Human Rights Law. He gives some key advice for students wanting a career in international public interest law.

Internships

According to Lucas, it is standard for the industry to complete 2 or 3 unpaid internships before continuing on to paid work. This requires dedication, a commitment to saving and a passion for the work. However, Lucas advises that the first jobs may not live up to a student's glamorous expectations of work in the industry. Nonetheless, just because it is not glamorous does not mean that it is not important. Often the work done by interns is vital to the day-to-day functioning of organisations, particularly NGOs. Lucas also emphasises that with time, the labour of love required in internships will pay off, and secure employment can be achieved with hard work. Students should remain open to anything, and be realistic. Sometimes a student wanting to work in the ICC may not achieve an internship straight up, but there are plenty of smaller NGOs that act as observers that give valuable experience to interns.

Applying for jobs

The positions you apply for should genuinely reflect your interests and career aspirations. It is difficult to tell what a person is truly passionate about merely from an application. Therefore, Lucas states that it is important that your academic transcript demonstrates your knowledge and awareness for the area of law that you are applying for. Consequently, students interested in public interest law should pick the electives that reflect this, and the knowledge gained is highly valued by international organisations.

Further study

In many countries in Europe, post-graduate degrees are relatively common, and a Masters degree can assist greatly later in your career. However, for many positions, an LLB is sufficient, particularly if electives have been taken in the relevant subject area. Additionally, professional experience can supplant the need for a Masters degree, and career progress is possible without returning to study. If you want to pursue further academic study, there are many incredible courses worldwide to consider, and seeking study at universities well known for a focus on international law is looked upon favourably.

How can this Careers Guide help?

The goal of the careers guide is to assist students in finding entry-level positions. There are a range of volunteering opportunities, internships and paid positions that students can get involved in. This list can be considered a starting point and is by no means exhaustive. Be aware that some of the most coveted positions are quite competitive, but do not let this discourage you. If you are truly passionate about a global issue, then there will be a way for you to forge a career in international public interest law. This guide caters to the whole spectrum of students, and the most important message that we can give is for you to apply! There are a multitude of opportunities out there for prospective international lawyers, why not apply and find out where it takes you?

A message from the

DEAN

Professor David Dixon

Looking at posters and advertisements around UNSW Law, a visitor might assume that all our graduates go to work in big law firms. With the resources to mount sophisticated recruitment efforts and the desire to attract the best young lawyers, it is not surprising that the profession – and particularly the big firms – is prominent. This perception of lawyers' work as what barristers and solicitors in private firms do fits with popular understandings.

However, the reality is rather different. Many law graduates – around half, according to most estimates – will work outside the private profession. Some of our very best graduates choose to do so: working in the public sector should not be regarded as second-best. Legal knowledge and – at least as importantly – legal skills, principles and ways of thinking have multiple applications. Such work may be as a legal advisor in government or in a private corporation. It may be in a public institution as a policy and legislative advisor, researcher or as an operational lawyer (for example, as a prosecutor or public defender in the criminal justice system).

It may be in a community-based or non-governmental organisation such as a law centre or a pressure group focusing on particular issues or rights. Such work may be overseas: our alumni can be found all over the world. Other graduates will find work throughout the workforce in places where legal skills and methods are useful and where employers need intelligent, focused staff with strong values, critical abilities and analytical and problem-solving skills. Many will work in more than one field – choosing one direction need not be for life. Indeed, the need for (and the benefits from) flexibility are stressed by employers with increasing frequency.

Wherever they look for work, UNSW graduates have a real advantage – in addition to their talent and intelligence. By emphasizing the social, political and economic contexts of the law and the connections between academic work and practice, the UNSW approach prepares graduates for a wide range of work experiences. Key graduate attributes are flexibility and breadth, so that our graduates are as prepared, for example, to work in a community legal service and an international NGO as in a commercial law firm – and may follow some of our best graduates by doing all three. Whether you go on to work in the legal profession or in the myriad of applications of skills elsewhere, I hope that UNSW Law's commitments to social justice and the rule of law continue to be influential and relevant to you.

I am keen to encourage our students to take a broad view of the opportunities open to them and will be encouraging more potential employers from outside the professions to come to campus to talk about what they do. The Public Interest Careers Guide provides an excellent introduction to many of the options open to you. I strongly encourage you to use the Guide and to consider the possibilities.

Dean, UNSW Law



A message from the...

2014 UNSW Law Society Presidents

MARIE ISKANDER & BENJAMIN HEENAN

As Co-Presidents of the UNSW Law Society we are pleased to be introducing to you the inaugural Public Interest Careers Guide for 2014.

The Public Interest Careers portfolio was introduced to ensure that the UNSW Law Society accommodates for our students' interests in diverse career paths and that these paths were given adequate attention. For this reason, the 2014 Public Interest Careers team have put together this fantastic guide to assist you in making an informed decision about the legal careers available to you in the public sector and beyond corporate law.

The UNSW Law School is one of the top law schools in the world and as such our students are highly sought after by public interest organisations and firms, the governmental sector as well as not-for-profit institutions. Entering into a career in the public interest sector, after your law degree, offers you an array of 'hands-on' experiences, while providing you with the opportunities to 'make a difference' in policy-making, the community sector or within the wider society.

This Guide will provide you with detailed information about a range of organisations and opportunities – from the type of work they undertake to how their graduate programs are structured and timed. We are particularly pleased to see that the inaugural Guide has covered a wide



array of areas – from macro areas such as in government sectors to more niche areas of law, such as in media or practicing in Indigenous law.

The Public Interest Careers team, with the help of their Vice-President (Public Interest Careers), Paul Lee, have done a stellar job in putting this Guide together for our UNSW Law Society members and we trust that you will find this Guide particularly useful.

All the best,
Marie Iskander & Benjamin Heenan
Co-Presidents | UNSW Law Society 2014

A message from the

Vice-President (Public Interest Careers)

PAUL LEE

A career in the Public Interest is a highly rewarding and fulfilling experience, filled with great learning and development opportunities. Whilst this path is not as well known as those in the corporate sector, there is a diverse range of fulfilling options such as government, not-for-profits and the community legal centres.

Irrespective of personal interests, this guide will help all students learn that there are many diverse career opportunities available in the area of Public Interest. We have aimed to include a diverse range including but not limited to the human rights, Government, criminal and Indigenous law.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the public interest careers directors who spent so much time gathering information and also to all the interviewees who took time from their busy schedules to share their stories.

Special thanks to Ankita Kapoor and Aaron Taverniti for putting the guide together.

I wish you all the very best in your future careers.

Paul Lee Vice President (Public Interest Careers) | UNSW Law Society 2014



A message from the...

Public Interest Careers Publication Team

AARON TAVERNITI & ANKITA KAPOOR

Choosing the right career path in today's job market has become particularly challenging, especially when there is an overwhelming emphasis on corporate careers in the legal industry. As such, the Public Interest Careers Portfolio of the UNSW Law Society has attempted to collate myriad alternatives to working at one of the 'Big Six'. This guide will present a plethora of career paths that exist upon graduation that deal with the public interest, and will attempt to personalise this complex process to ensure your success in the future.

Along with the rest of the portfolio, we present the 2014 Public Interest Careers Guide. This guide consolidates the avenues through which you can apply for the many employment opportunities, as well as personal testimonies offering an insight into the different industries that a UNSW Law degree can open you up to.

This guide is a celebration of the vast and exciting careers in the public interest field your law degree can take you, and it would not be possible without all of our fantastic contributors who have made this year's careers guide as relevant, informative and useful for our students.

It is our hope that this guide enables you to find the most suited career for you when the time comes.

Aaron Taverniti & Ankita Kapoor

Public Interest Careers
Publication Directors



LITIGATION



Litigation refers to the area of law involving trials and lawsuits, and there are many different career paths available. Firms like AGS advise the government on the law, and act like solicitors in the corporate careers segment. This would suit students who have a passion for government related law work. Barristers represent clients in court and make submissions on behalf of their clients. They work by themselves, and have the potential for flexible working conditions, however it can also be quite stressful. It would suit students who have an interest in advocacy.

The judiciary refers to the judges who end up making up the decisions. Becoming a judge is a very senior appointment and only very experienced judges are offered this role. There is the potential for students to get involved as associates however, and this provides an incredible opportunity to witness the court system from a unique position.

About the firm

ADDRESS

They have offices in every capital city in Australia. In Sydney:

Address: Level 42,
MLC Centre, 19
Martin Place Sydney
NSW 2000.

Mailing Address:
GPO Box 2727,
Sydney NSW 2001.
Telephone Number:
(02) 9581 7777.

AGS is a Commonwealth owned legal practice that provides legal services to governments in Australia. They do this through three main practice areas:

1. The Office of General Counsel: Provides specialist legal advice and advocacy services across the spectrum of law that is relevant to the Government, such as constitutional law, administrative law and law-making.
2. AGS Dispute Resolution: Aims to resolve disputes involving the Government through alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation, as well as through litigation.
3. AGS Commercial: Deals with areas related to private and public commercial interests, such as taxation law and competition law.

AGS generally only acts for the government and agencies for which the government has an interest, and thus their focus has a government flavour. Within this however, they are a regular legal firm that operates in over 40 different areas of law. Some major areas include administrative law, constitutional law, statutory interpretation and Crown liability.

They employ approximately 320 lawyers.

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

HOW TO APPLY

Clerkship Application
Deadline: TBA

Graduate Application
Deadline: 18th April, 5
p.m.

Contact Person:
Debbie Kazolis
Ph: (02) 6253 7510
E: graduaterecruitment@ags.gov.au

For further details,
visit:
[http://www.ags.gov.au/
employment/how-to-
apply.html](http://www.ags.gov.au/employment/how-to-apply.html)

Clerkship:

AGS has a winter clerkship program that is available to students who will be in their penultimate year at the time they come to AGS. During the clerkship program, each clerk will undertake a paralegal placement with one of the three legal practice areas (outlined above). They will be allocated a 'buddy' and receive mentoring, alongside the opportunity to participate in some AGS Lawyer Development Programs.

Exact date of when applications open is yet to be decided, but it will be in the second-half of 2014 for a 2015 placement.

Graduate

AGS has a 12 month training and development graduate program that is expected to result in a placement at AGS. Inside this, there is an orientation program, a rotation schedule that gives exposure to the difference areas that AGS practices in, a client placement and peer mentoring.

For 2015 graduate employment, recruitment commences in 2014 and these are the relevant dates:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 4 March	Applications for graduate positions open.
Friday 18 April	Applications for graduate positions close at 5 pm.
Monday 12 May	Interviews for graduate positions commence.
Friday 13 June	Offers for graduate positions can be made.
Friday 20 June	Offers for graduate positions must be accepted or declined by 5 pm.

INTERVIEW

Ben May, Lawyer, Australian Government Solicitor

What do you enjoy about working at AGS?

The wide variety of work and the opportunity to work in the public interest are both great aspects of working at AGS, but I think that the most enjoyable aspect of my job would be my colleagues – at AGS you have the chance to work closely with some incredible lawyers, and in a surprisingly collaborative way.

How did you get involved in this career path?

I didn't come in through the graduate program: in my previous role, I had some exposure to lawyers from AGS, and I was impressed by their professionalism and their attitude. When I saw a position advertised, I put in an application!

What sort of things do you work on in this career path?

I work in our Dispute Resolution team, and I've had the chance to work on a wide range of matters, ranging in scope from straightforward judicial review applications in the Federal Circuit Court through to a very large corporations law litigation that took some years to progress to final hearing. I've been able to work in fields as diverse as workers' compensation, criminal law, tax, and competition, in various State and Commonwealth courts and tribunals. I've also been able to undertake a number of outposts, that have given me a great insight into how our clients operate, and to participate in our pro bono program.

If you could give any advice to a law student, what would it be?

Legal practice can be quite different from the experience at law school. One side of that is that you should take advantage of the opportunity you have while studying to look at legal questions from a more academic perspective. Another side is that you shouldn't automatically assume that just because you didn't particularly enjoy studying something, you won't enjoy working in that area – you might be pleasantly surprised. And you should definitely make sure you study diligently throughout the semester and don't leave it all to exam period (this is advice I never quite managed to follow myself!).

INTERVIEW

Justin Rassi, Associate to a High Court Justice

The role of an associate

An associate (“tipstaff” in state supreme courts or “clerk” in American courts) is a person who assists a judge in the fulfilment of their judicial functions. An associate may assist their judge with research, preparing materials for court, “tipping” in court (which means passing the judge reference materials and authorities when referred to be counsel) and attending to tasks in chambers. It is a very varied role in terms of the tasks you undertake and in my view, at a level suited to recent law graduates. In the High Court, each Justice generally has two associates at any one time, each of whom is typically appointed for a 12 month period. In addition, the High Court Library appoints a Legal Research Officer each year.

Acquiring the position

Generally speaking, acquiring the position involves submitting an application directly to the chambers of the judge you are interested in applying to. A rounded application will consist of a succinct cover letter, academic transcript, CV and references (preferably 1 academic and 1 professional). A cover letter in my view should express why you want to be an associate, what you hope to obtain from the role, and why you want to be an associate to that particular judge. Often, the last point I find is overlooked. You should generally apply to work with a judge who works in an area of law you have an interest in. For example, if your passion is criminal law, you would arguably benefit most from observing trials in the District Court and so working for a District Court judge. If your passion is taxation, you may benefit from a Federal Court associateship.

At the High Court, it is not uncommon for the Justices to appoint their associates up to two or three years in advance.

At law school, I found my participation in mooting (in particular the Vis Moot) and my role on the UNSW Law Journal editorial board were particularly useful in helping to develop the attention to detail that I find critical in this role. I would also encourage potential applicants to talk to current or former associates about their role, and what they enjoy about it, before applying.

Challenges

In the High Court, I personally find the greatest challenge for me stems from the extensive number of areas of law that the Court traverses and the depth in which it explores them. As Australia's final court of appeal, the High Court hears matters in all areas of law. It also hears matters in its original jurisdiction. I have quickly realised, and it has been immensely humbling, how much there is for me to still learn.

Why apply?

I have not been an associate for a long time, but in the time spent I have already learned so much. It has truly been a rich learning opportunity. In particular, I have valued the ability to observe some of Australia's finest advocates appear before the Court. If you are considering a career at the Bar, as I am, a stint as an associate can (in my view) very much refine your thinking on what constitutes persuasive oral and written advocacy.

About

Barristers are the advocates that represent clients in court. The NSW Bar is the professional association for barristers. Areas of practice range from everything-appellate to succession to criminal to constitutional law.

ADDRESS

Selborne Chambers
174 Phillip Street
Sydney, New South
Wales, 2000

Ph: (02) 9232 4055

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

Clerkship

None officially as barristers work alone. However it is possible to contact barristers directly and see if any are interested in a research assistant. There is a list of barristers on the NSW Bar website (<http://www.nswbar.asn.au/findabarrister/>)

Graduate

As barristers work alone, a student can enter the Bar at whatever age they want, after passing the exams and fulfilling all the other criteria (right). It generally is not advisable to enter the Bar immediately upon graduating due to limited experience and contacts.

Becoming a Barrister

Be admitted by the Supreme Court of NSW, or another state, as a lawyer. This involves finishing a law degree and doing practical legal training.

Complete the Bar exams:

1. There are three exams: 'Ethics for barristers', 'Aspects of Evidence' and 'Practice and procedure for barristers'.
2. A pass mark is above 75.
3. The exams are offered twice every year, in February and June, with applications opening a few months before then.
4. The exams can be taken more than once however all three must be passed within a period of 10 months.

Complete the Reading Programme:

5. This is a one year course.
6. The first step is a one month program called the 'Bar Practice Course', which takes place in either May or September.
7. The rest of the program involves the future barrister being under the guidance of a senior barrister who becomes their tutor, and they receive guidance. During this period, there are other requirements such as doing at least 10 days of both criminal and civil 'reading' and completing two advocacy workshops.

The lawyer will be issued with a practising certificate and will set up in chambers to open their business.

About

The NSW Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) provides legal services to the NSW Government and its agencies, and is quite similar to AGS (Australian Government Solicitors).

They practice in twelve broad areas: Administrative law, child protection law, commercial law, community law, constitutional law, coronial law, criminal law, employment law, government law, native title law, property law and tort law.

The CSO employs around 190 solicitors and 50 paralegals.

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

They have a two year Graduate Solicitor Program that rotates through four Practice Groups, in order to gain exposure. There is access to professional learning and development, and at the end of the program, assuming satisfactory performance, permanent employment can be offered.

They also offer paralegal positions to students, which they can do at the same time as the practical legal training component of the law degree.

ADDRESS

Crown Solicitors Office
60-70 Elizabeth Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

Mailing Address:
Crown Solicitor's Office,
GPO Box 25, Sydney NSW
2001.

Telephone Number:
(02) 9224 5000.

Contact Persons:
Vicki Carroll
Ph: (02) 9224 5084
E: CSOrecruit@agd.nsw.gov.
au

HOW TO APPLY

See: www.cso.nsw.gov.au

THE JUDICIARY

About

The Judiciary is the legal arm of the government and their role is to enforce Australia's laws. It is made up of judges in all the courts of Australia, alongside magistrates.

ADDRESS

There is no one particular address for the courts, they are located in all major and remote cities across NSW/Australia.

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

There are no clerkship/graduate opportunities as a judge is a very senior appointment. However an associateship could be considered like a clerkship, so this will be considered.

Deadlines vary depending on the court- some are rolling applications and some are strict deadlines.

HOW TO APPLY

High Court

The High Court generally expects at least First Class Honours and research experience. You can either write to a specific Justice, or to the Chief Executive and Principle Registrar, who will raise your application with all the Justices. The application must include your CV and academic transcript. The High Court does not have closing dates for applications, however associates are normally appointed two-three years in advance so this needs to be taken into account.

Federal Court of Australia

After preparing a CV, alongside an academic transcript and a cover letter, forward the application directly to the relevant Justice. Associates are generally appointed 18 months in advance.

Supreme Court of NSW

The Supreme Court has the position of Associate, Tipstaff and Researcher available. Applications are taken at any time in the year and are kept on file, and considered when a vacancy arises. To apply, you need to submit your resume and academic record to the Judicial Support Coordinator.

Mary Azzi, Tipstaff to the Honourable Justice Monika Schmidt

What does your role involve?

My role involves assisting my judge with legal and administrative tasks.

When we are not in court, I spend time proofing judgments and completing research tasks for my judge. Of course, there are also the routine (but essential) tasks of collecting the mail, filing documents and updating those monstrous looking looseleaf services. Depending on whether your judge is a coffee or tea lover, you'll also become an expert on their preferred choice of caffeinated beverage by the end of the year!

If we are sitting in court, I will collect any relevant authorities prior to the hearing and set up the courtroom on the morning the matter is listed. Tippies knock their judges into the courtroom, and when there is no court officer present, we are expected to seem like it goes without saying but it's important to be yourself and be honest to the judge, both in your application and interview. If you're worried that you won't get an interview (or the job), remember that you've got nothing to lose! Different judges look for different things, so if one judge doesn't invite you to an interview or give you the job, it doesn't mean another judge won't.

If you're thinking of applying to be a tippie, it's important to contact the associates of the judges you would like to work for very early in the year, as many judges hire their tippies by March/April. Some judges review applications later in the year, however, it's always safer to start early. Applications typically include a CV, cover letter, academic transcript and written references. If you can't get written references before a specific deadline, some chambers might be happy for you to submit a list of referees and their phone numbers – you'd have to check with the associate.

What are some of the challenges of your role

Research tasks on areas of law that I am unfamiliar with are always interesting and challenging. These tasks have given me opportunities to develop my research skills and learn research techniques which I didn't learn at uni. The challenging tasks always tend to be the most interesting.

Another challenge is trying to find legislation and cases on the judge's iPad in almost a nanosecond as soon as counsel hints at it during a hearing!

Why would you recommend other UNSW Law students apply to this role?

There are lots of reasons to apply to work as a tippie.

A great aspect of the job is the privilege to work closely with a judge and see what goes on 'behind-the-scenes'. Judges are vastly experienced and are a vital part of the legal system. There is so much you can learn from the judge you work for and this is invaluable.

One of the best parts of the role is the opportunity to sit and observe cases on a variety of subject matters. It's the perfect way to transition into your career if you're not quite sure what you want to do, if you want to be a barrister or litigator, or if you simply aren't ready to start working as a lawyer. The great part about working in the common law division is the ability to observe cases (and advocacy) at trial and appellate level. So far in the common law division (in the very short time I've been a tippie), my judge has sat

Government Departments

It seems like it goes without saying but it's important to be yourself and be honest to the judge, both in your application and interview. If you're worried that you won't get an interview (or the job), remember that you've got nothing to lose! Different judges look for different things, so if one judge doesn't invite you to an interview or give you the job, it doesn't mean another judge won't.

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By sitting in court and watching matters from start to finish, you learn a great deal about what to do and what not to do in practice. You learn what a well-organised court book looks like. You get to meet and liaise with registry staff, which can go a long way in your career. You learn the (written and unwritten) rules of court etiquette and process. You get to see great written submissions and some that aren't so great. You see varied styles (and quality) of advocacy on a constant basis.

Lastly (and although this sounds clichéd), the role involves lots of learning. I have made mistakes (and freaked out!) and learnt from them with the support of my judge and associate. From learning the ins and outs of a niche area of law to figuring out a search trick on LexisNexis or seeing the criminal trial process in action, you'll constantly be discovering new things!



Existing alongside Australia's corporate sector are the government departments tasked with its regulation as well as the implementation of government policy. Government bodies such as the ACCC, ASIC, the ATO and the RBA deal with an incredibly broad range of legal areas, including taxation, public, administrative, commercial and competition law.

Unlike the more specialised nature of commercial law firms, government legal bodies often work concurrently in various areas of law; this means that working in these departments requires a grasp of many different areas of law. Also, due to the diverse responsibilities of these departments, work in the government legal sector is always varied. Lastly, arguably the most interesting aspect of government departments involved in the commercial sector is that they play the role of regulating large corporate firms. This means that these departments are often tasked with regulating and sometimes enforcing laws against large and powerful corporations.

In short, these government departments play a vital and often overlooked role in Australia's financial system which is every bit as interesting and important as the role played by financial corporations.

ADDRESS

Justice Precinct Offices,
160 Marsden Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150.

Mailing Address:
Locked Bag 5111, Parra-
matta NSW 2124.

Telephone Address:
(02) 8688 7777

HOW TO APPLY

All vacancies are advertised on the jobs.nsw.gov.au website and applications are only taken through there. Each advertisement will have a set of selection criteria that must be addressed in the application questions otherwise you will not be offered an interview. The applicant should provide a current resume and also contact details for two referees.

As jobs are advertised on an as-needed basis, each job has different contact people.

About

The Department of Attorney General and Justice aims to provide an effective justice system for NSW by delivering programs and services that contribute to safe communities and the protection of rights. They do this through managing the courts and justice services, implementing programs to reduce crime and re-offending and managing custodial services, amongst other things.

The Department also assists the Attorney-General in his role as the principal advisor to the Government on legal, constitutional and legal policy issues.

About

The Attorney-General's Department is the central policy and coordinating element of the Attorney-General's portfolio and aims to secure a just and secure society. They do this through enhancing Australia's legal system to protect rights and freedoms, alongside giving advice to ministers and the government on national security issues and developing policies to respond to emergency situations.

ADDRESS

Robert Garran Offices,
3-5 National Circuit,
Barton ACT 2600.

Telephone Number:
(02) 6141 6666.

Careers Contact:
E: hrrassist@ag.gov.au

HOW TO APPLY

After applying with a resume, an academic transcript and responses to certain questions, applicants will undergo psychometric testing, before being shortlisted and then taking part in assessment centres. After offers are made, successful candidates will begin the clearance process.

For more: www.ag.gov.au

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

Intern

The AG's Department offers a summer intern program between November and February each year, and applications are generally open for a two week period at the end of July. It consists of things such as practical work experience and a comprehensive induction program, however it takes place in Canberra.

It is aimed at students who have no more than two semesters left in their undergraduate degree and the applicant needs to prepare a resume and then answer some questions that test different selection criteria.

Graduate

The Attorney-General's Department offers a graduate program for 12 months, which offers three work rotations between different departments and provides extensive training and support. 2014 application dates haven't been released yet but will likely be in March.

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

Clerkship

The Legislation, Policy and Criminal Law Review Division (LPCLRD) of the Department of Attorney General and Justice offers a summer clerkship program for 1 to 2 clerks. Applications open in June (exact dates for 2014 have not been released yet). In this program, the clerk will help with things such as preparing briefing notes for the Attorney-General, attending meetings and conducting research.

The clerkship is organised through the Law Society, and key dates are available on there. There is no CV required, simply an academic transcript and answers to application questions.

Internship

UNSW offers an external internship at the Department of Attorney General and Justice in the Justice Policy division. Interns provide legislation and policy support to the Attorney General (in either civil or criminal matters), and they will attend parliament and meetings, alongside doing research.

The commitment is at least 1 day per week for the 12 weeks in semester, and students must be final year students who have undertaken criminal law courses.

Applications open mid-semester before the relevant position, and the application form can be found at: <http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/31648>

ADDRESS

Found in every capital city

Sydney:
2 Lang St, Sydney NSW 2000

Canberra: Ground Floor, Ethos House
28-36 Ainslie Ave, Civic Square ACT 2600

Preferred contact mode is email: graduateprogram@ato.gov.au

HOW TO APPLY

Application is through an online process:

<http://www.destination.ato.gov.au/>

Graduate Applications
Open: 11 March 2014

Graduate Applications
Close: 8 April 2014.

About

The ATO is the Australian Taxation Office, the federal department responsible for revenue collection, superannuation regulation and taxation administration.

The ATO is tasked with a variety of responsibilities; whilst its primary role can be stated as revenue collection, it also runs various social and economic programs as well as its own taxation enforcement.

As the department responsible for revenue collection in the Commonwealth, the ATO primarily focusses on taxation and superannuation law. The ATO plays a role in both reforming and administering the law; through committees and reports the ATO accounts parliament its operations as well as its evaluation of the current tax structure.

Opportunities Available

The primary entry path for students into the ATO is through the ATO's 12 month "Graduate Development Program". The ATO takes graduates from a variety of disciplines including law, finance, accounting, IT, marketing and business management.

The ATO's graduate program involves training and developing graduates in an area related to their expertise. Graduates will also experience two work rotations; liaise with clients; receive flexible working conditions; and be offered a permanent position upon completion of the program.

Law graduates will be involved in a variety of roles, including: providing technical advice for taxpayers, businesses and government; maintaining and reforming taxation laws; managing litigation; and enhancing the ATO's relationship with businesses, the community and the government.

About

The Reserve Bank of Australia is the central bank for the Commonwealth government. It is an independent body tasked with determining monetary policy, ensuring Australia's financial stability and regulating the payments system in Australia.

The RBA's involvement in the legal sector exists mainly through its regulatory functions. Through its monitoring of the payments system and through its membership in the Council of Financial Regulators the RBA ensures that the legal framework surrounding the financial system is robust and sustainable.

Furthermore, the RBA contributes internationally to the debate on the reform of the international financial system through its membership of the Financial Stability Board and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Opportunities Available

The RBA's two year graduate development program only takes a few law graduates as part of its annual intake however law students combining with commerce or economics degrees may be able to apply through the financial streams of the program as well. The RBA also has an ongoing employment register where they may advertise for legal professionals from time to time.

All graduates work at the bank's Sydney head office. The RBA has a reputation for very high academic standards and as such honours degrees, double degrees and post-graduate qualifications are highly valued.

Legal graduates entering through the RBA's graduate program will likely be tasked with providing in house legal support for much of the bank's financial activities. Graduates will need to be versed in financial and corporations law but may also be required to work in a wide range of other fields depending on the RBA's specific requirements.

ADDRESS

Sydney
65 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone:
9551 5267

Email:
careers@rba.gov.au

HOW TO APPLY

Application is through an online process:
<http://rba.clients.pageup.com.au/home.asp?stp=AW>

Graduate Applications
Open: 3 March 2014
Close: 12 April 2014

ADDRESS

Found in every capital city:
Sydney
Level 5
100 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone:
9911 5267

Email:
careers@asic.gov.au

HOW TO APPLY

Application is through an online process:
<http://www.graduates.asic.gov.au/>

Graduate Applications
Open: 24 February 2014
Close: 18 March 2014

Opportunities Available

ASIC operates a 16 month graduate program that accepts students from a range of disciplines including law, accounting, economics, commerce and IT. ASIC accepts 20 graduates every year but there is also an ongoing employment register where graduates may search for vacancies in ASIC.

Law graduates working at ASIC will be heavily involved in business and corporations law. In addition to those areas graduates will also be involved in insurance, superannuation, indemnity, litigation and administrative law.

Graduates will often be working in ASIC's internal structure; however there is also scope for graduates to be working in the enforcement or reform areas of ASIC. ASIC has a structured graduate program that lasts for one year full time, following which graduates will be assigned to an area based on the business needs and their area of interest.

About

The Australian Securities & Investments Commission is Australia's corporate, markets and financial services regulator. An independent Commonwealth body established under the ASIC Act, ASIC derives most of its powers from the Corporations Act and is a powerful body with diverse legal powers and responsibilities.

As Australia's corporate and financial regulator, ASIC has a vital role in the legal sector as it pertains to business and corporations law. ASIC acts as both a regulator and enforcer; it maintains company registers, creates rules governing financial markets as well as commencing court proceedings against infringing companies and individuals.

In 2010 ASIC assumed responsibility for the supervision of trading on Australia's equity, derivatives and futures markets.

1) What's working with ASIC like?

I chose ASIC because of their reputation for high quality and high profile work, the genuinely down-to-earth people, and work-life balance. I've found this to be true so far in my first rotation in Strategy Group, catching up with my buddy (an older grad who helps you transition into the program and answer your many questions) and learning about other internal stakeholder teams from my fellow Sydney and national graduates.

Despite starting out knowing very little about markets, investors and financial consumers (I studied Arts at university) I've been fortunate to receive professional training from in-house courses and close mentoring with senior managers. I have learnt how to discern and analyse financial products all Australians use. There's a great sense of self-worth as your work shapes the community.

2) What do you love most about the work you do?

What I love most is the fact I am challenged and learning all the time. I am thankful my work has given me sharper insight into day-to-day managing of money and borrowing & credit. Currently, I am helping ASIC keep up-to-date with the latest research on financial attitudes. For those interested in finding out more on ASIC's work and the National Financial Literacy Strategy, please refer to www.financialliteracy.gov.au

I have been taken out of my comfort zone, learning about new topic areas, such as complex financial products (including over-the-counter derivatives) as well as new data systems such as Bloomberg.

Another challenge has been learning 'soft' skills like taking ownership for my work and following up with the person who assigned it, as well as managing my staff-to-manager relationship and work priorities. However I am well supported by HR and others in my team who are generous with their time, helping me work towards becoming a more efficient and happier worker, a key reason I joined.

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS COMMISSION

3) Do you have any advice for students interested in working in government?

ASIC is different to most other government departments: we're not even a department! We are a commission, an agency and a regulator. When I was applying, I tried to be honest with myself. I knew that work-life balance was important to me, as well as the culture and values of the organisation, and being able to contribute to the community good. Throughout the recruitment process – a video interview, assessment centre (AC) and final interview – I asked as many questions about ASIC as I was being asked. I'd advise all prospective applicants to do the same. My decision was made when I compared notes between different places. At ASIC I was treated with courtesy and respect, valued for my contributions to a discussion with a senior lawyer at the AC about forward-thinking policies of the Emerging Risk Committee, and developed friendships with ASIC staff that remain today.

The stereotype that government workplaces are less dynamic than the private sector is untrue from my experience. So far in Strategy Group, I've found the projects I've completed to be more varied and technical than some of the work delegated to my grad friends in commercial and legal firms. ASIC is a high performance environment composed of competent and confident people. This was the advice a past grad shared with me, which I can now also affirm.

4) What are the best bits of your job?

The diversity of work I've completed in my first rotation has given me a broad flavour of how different teams work collaboratively to deliver on tight deadlines at ASIC.

While I am learning heaps, I'm also enjoying the social aspect of our team and ASIC in general. We had a recent ASIC-wide trivia night where our Strategy Group team called 'The Strategic Redemption' (a reference to The Shawshank Redemption that I suggested) were coming equal first before the last question. We won't soon be forgetting that Islamabad is the only world city capital beginning with 'I'! Although we didn't end up winning, the cheese, wine and company was fantastic. The national grads also work closely with our pro-bono work and fundraising arm, ASIC in the Community, to raise awareness for a charity that helps disadvantaged Australian kids. And exciting times are ahead as the national grads prepare for our second on-site training/social in Melbourne!

Bob Liang | ASIC Graduate

AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION

About

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is an independent federal authority whose role is to enforce the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 as well as a range of additional legislation. It is also tasked with promoting competition, fair trading and regulating markets to ensure their efficiency.

The ACCC is designed to protect consumers through a variety of means including the prevention of misleading and deceptive conduct; the pursuit of remedies to rectify the harm caused by contravening conduct; and court action to prosecute offenders.

The ACCC performs an important role in regulation. Large monopolies as are common in Australia fall under its purview, as do small to medium size businesses. The ACCC acts as a 'safeguard' between consumers and businesses by protecting consumers through legal and economic sanctions, injunctions and notices.

Opportunities Available

The ACCC's graduate program takes graduates from a variety of disciplines, including: law, public policy, financial modelling, economics and econometrics. The ACCC also hires professionals whenever vacancies are advertised.

The ACCC operates a graduate program where graduates work in a rotation system between the ACCC and the AER, the Australian Energy Regulator. Graduates may work interstate and are rotated through different departments to develop skills and professional experience. Graduates receive formal and on-the-job training, and legal graduates can expect that this will occur primarily in the legal arm of the department.

Graduates operate in a range of roles including analysing market sectors in assessing labour conditions; investigating complaints from consumers and businesses about possible breaches of the CCA; liaising with consumers; and compliance research. Law graduates can expect to also work on mergers and acquisitions investigations, market competition investigations and legal enforcement.

ADDRESS

Found in every capital city:
Sydney
Level 20
175 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone:
6243 1013

HOW TO APPLY

The ACCC hasn't finalised their details for their 2015 graduate program.

For more information on the application process contact:
recruitment@acc.gov.au

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES



Community Legal Centres (CLC) are independent organisations that provide free legal advice and related services for the disadvantaged. They differ greatly in objective and organisation to private practice. In terms of organisation, they undertake various tasks and duties including advice, assistance, representation, community education, reform and policy. Their short-term objective is to promote increased accessibility and equity, as providers of free legal advice and representation in certain 'test' cases. Their long-term objective is to achieve systematic structural change towards a more equitable, fair and accessible legal system. They can be classified as either generalist or specialist.

Working in a CLC offers challenging and rewarding working environments comprising urban, rural and remote settings. You will also be working alongside social workers and community legal educators, regularly collaborating with the government, Legal Aid, the private legal profession and community partners to achieve the best outcomes for social justice and accessibility.

There are several positions offered in a CLC, including solicitor, principal solicitor, caseworker, policy officer, researcher, community education and liaison officer. The ideal candidate should hold the core values and interests of CLC lawyering namely social justice, active community engagement and response to community needs, and the belief that change can be effected on a case-by-case basis. A solicitor in the centre will typically have twelve months post-admission experience and a demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to social justice and human rights principles. Applications can be made as vacancies arise and are advertised in wider media. Note that there are usually no graduate programs given the relatively small size of each centre (typically less than twenty employees).

ABOUT

Community Legal Centres are independent community organisations that provide free legal advice and related services for the disadvantaged. They differ greatly in objective and organisation to private practice. In terms of organisation, they undertake various tasks and duties including advice, assistance, representation, community education, reform and policy. Their short-term objective is to promote increased accessibility and equity, as providers of free legal advice and representation in certain 'test' cases. Their long-term objective is to achieve systematic structural change towards a more equitable, fair and accessible legal system. They advocate reform in social policy and administration of justice or in areas relating to their community's specific needs by participating in advisory councils, submitting proposals for law reforms and lobbying government. Finally, there is an underlying aim of community engagement, education and self-empowerment. Preventative legal education programs run in schools and community groups and are published in pamphlets, books and other publications.

Working in a CLC offers challenging and rewarding working environments comprising urban, rural and remote settings. You will also be working alongside social workers and community legal educators, regularly collaborating with the government, Legal Aid, the private legal profession and community partners to achieve the best outcomes for social justice and accessibility.

They can be classified as either generalist or specialist. Generalist centres provide one-off advice for their catchment areas which generally cover the following:

- Accidents and compensation
- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Banking and finance
- Children and young people
- Consumer rights
- Crime
- Employment
- Environment
- Family law and relationships
- Health
- Housing
- Human rights
- Immigration and citizenship
- Neighbours
- Property and development
- Social services, welfare and Centrelink
- Transport
- Wills and estates

Kingsford Legal Centre

Work Undertaken

- Legal information, advice and casework
- Community outreach drop-in service support person
- Community legal education programs in the form of educational seminars for UNSW KLC students
- Social and legal reform campaigning
- Publications & Research
- KLC Law Reform Submission

Contact Details

A: Ground Floor
Law Building
University of New South Wales
Sydney, New South Wales 2052
T: 02 9385 9566
W: www.kingsfordlegalcentre.org
E: legal@unsw.edu.au
C: Murray Baker

Marrickville Legal Centre

Work Undertaken

- Legal information, advice and casework
- Children's service for all persons under 18 in New South Wales
- Inner West Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service
- Inner West Domestic Violence Proactive Support Service (IWDVPASS)
- Youth Legal Service
- Family Relationship Centre/Community Legal Centres Program For Separating Families
- Publications

Contact Details

A: 338 Illawarra Rd
Marrickville, New South Wales 2204
T: 02 9559 2899
W: www.mlc.asn.au
E: marrickville_NSW@CLC.net.au
C: Catherine Dornan

Redfern Legal Centre

Work Undertaken

Legal information, advice and casework
Community legal education programs
Publications/Fact sheets/reports/newsletters/legal toolkits/papers and submissions/journals

Contact Details

A: 73 Pitt Street
Redfern, New South Wales 2016
T: 02 9698 7277
W: www.rlc.org.au
E: info@rlc.org.au
C: Sophie Farrell

Who Are They Looking For?

Solicitor:

Personal attributes

- Sharing the firm's objectives, visions and values
- Sharing core values and interests of CLC lawyering such as:
 - The belief that change can be effected on a case-by-case basis
 - Social justice
 - Human rights
 - Accessible legal services
 - Active community engagement and response to community needs
 - Individual empowerment to exercise legal rights
 - Education and awareness to prevent future legal issues
 - Respect for multiculturalism and diversity
 - Sensitivity to diverse cultural and political backgrounds

Essential

- A current NSW practising certificate
- (Usually) twelve months post-admission experience
- Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to social justice and human rights principles
- Demonstrated legal knowledge and skills in the areas of law serviced by the centre to accurately provide legal advice on a range of issues face-to-face and in telephone interviews
- Demonstrated understanding of the broader social needs, issues and sensibilities including those belonging to culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Desire to work with and for clients from diverse cultural backgrounds
- A high degree of professionalism and strong interpersonal skills including the capacity to effectively liaise effectively with various stakeholders including clients, service providers and staff
- A high level of communication skills
- Strong electronic communication and computer skills to carry out duties such as the management of client records and centre database, collection of statistical data and report writing
- A capacity to be accountable to Centre's policies and procedures

Principal Solicitor

- A solicitor with at least 5 years post-admission experience
- Eligibility to hold an unrestricted practice certificate
- Demonstrated experience in supervising legal and non-legal staff
- Demonstrated ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- The capacity to manage and direct the centre's legal practice under the over all supervision of the Centre Director
- Strong interpersonal skills, in the areas of conflict resolution, negotiation and teamwork
- Demonstrated networking - wide range of organisations and stakeholders

Community Legal Education Officer

- Experience in running community legal education and training workshops
- Experience developing educational resources
- Ability to liaise and network with government and non-government youth agencies
- Ability to undertake policy work
- Ability to work independently, meet deadlines and prioritise workload with minimal supervision
- An understanding and commitment to social justice and access and equity principles
- Strong interpersonal, communication, and computer skills

Legal Researcher

- A completed law degree
- 2+ years of legal work experience (i.e. paralegal, law clerk, legal researcher) OR Postgraduate legal research studies
- Proven experience in undertaking a legal research project in a professional capacity
- Excellent communication skills

Application Details

When can students apply?

As vacancies arise. These will be advertised on centre's website, and in wider media (e.g. seek.com.au)

How they can apply?

Applications are mostly lodged online via a centre's stated email address, however some centres such as the Macquarie Legal Centre require applications to be submitted in hardcopy to the centre.

Positions are usually advertised on each centre's website, and in the wider media generally (seek.com.au and in the Sydney Morning Herald). The most comprehensive source however, is on the National Association of Community Legal Centres' CLC Job Ads website (<http://www.clc.net.au/jobads/>) which provides a current list of all positions vacant in the Community Legal Sector Australia-wide.

How many graduate/clerk positions are there?

There are no graduate programs given the relatively small size of each centre (usually less than twenty employees) and positions are available as vacancies arise.

The application process

- Explain how you satisfy the selection criteria and give clear and detailed examples
- Include a CV or resume with personal details including name, address and contact details, education, previous positions and experience
- You may be required to provide contact details for two to three referees.
- You may also be required to complete the centre's application form, and sign a confidentiality deed.
- If successful, you will be required to attend a personal interview

PRO BONO



Pro bono work is the provision of free or substantially reduced legal advice to the disadvantaged with the aim of making the legal system more just, accessible and equitable. These may include advice, casework and representation in some ‘test’ cases, in addition to community legal education, law reform and policy work on issues affecting the disadvantaged or those of public interest. A ‘pro-bono lawyer’ may be on secondment at a community organisation or at a referral service provider such as the Public Interest Law Clearing House.

Alternatively you can seek employment as a researcher, project officer or policy advisor in pro bono organisations; part of a small but expanding sector which supports and promotes the delivery of pro bono services. They include the National Pro Bono Resource Centre and Pro Bono legal referral schemes including those run by Justice Connect, The Law Society in NSW, The NSW Bar Association, Homeless Persons’ Legal Service, Duty Lawyer Schemes, Cancer Council NSW Legal Referral Services. Large corporate law firms such as Gilbert + Tobin and Clayton Utz have appointed full-time Pro Bono Partners, with the former dedicating a Pro Bono group of three lawyers and one partner.

Pro Bono organisations seek candidates passionate and committed to human rights and social justice, with good understanding of disadvantaged or marginalised groups, excellent research and problem solving skills. Similarly to CLCs, given the relatively small size of each centre, there are no graduate or clerkship programs. Applications can be made as vacancies arise and are advertised in wider media.

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

The Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation (advocate, broker, coordinator, researcher and resource provider) a national leader and coordinator for pro bono legal services in Australia. They aim to encourage pro bono legal services, support lawyers and law firms to make it easier for them to provide high quality pro bono legal services, and work with the profession and the community sector to match services with the clients and groups most in need of assistance.

Contact Details

A: Law Centres Precinct
Level 1
The Law Building
University of New South
Wales
E: info@nationalprobono.
org.au
P: +61 2 9385 7381

Justice Connect

The Centre's unique contribution is collaboration; by working with pro bono lawyers to develop and strengthen pro bono capacity and strategically match this with unmet legal need, they aim to avoid duplication, ease access for clients and deliver a holistic response to disadvantage.

Contact Details

P: +61 3 8636 4400
E: admin@justicecon-
nect.org.au
C: Nicole petrucci

Law Society of NSW

The Law Society not only represents solicitors and the profession. They ensure the general public has appropriate access to justice and can be easily connected to members of the profession when they require legal advice. The Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme puts clients in contact with law firms willing to provide their legal services for free or for reduced fees. This assistance can include legal advice, help with preparing documentation and representation in court. The Scheme also provides legal assistance on an 'in-house' basis for eligible applicants.

Contact Details

A: Pro Bono Scheme
Law Society of NSW
Lower Ground Floor
170 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000
P: (02) 9926 0364
P: (02) 9926 0355

NSW Bar Association

The New South Wales Bar Association is a voluntary association of practising barristers. Our aims include promoting the administration of justice, ensuring the benefits of the administration of justice are reasonably and equally available to all members of the community, and to confer and cooperate with bodies in Australia or elsewhere representing the profession of the law. They act as another intermediary between those in need of assistance and pro bono service providers.

Contact Details

A: Selborne Chambers
174 Phillip Street
Sydney, New South
Wales, 2000
P: 9232 4055
E: enquiries@nswbar.
asn.au

Homeless Persons' Legal Service

The Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) addresses the legal needs of homeless people through a human rights framework. HPLS provides a dedicated point of contact for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access legal representation in minor criminal matters. They assist cancer victims and their family and friends who need legal, financial, small business or workplace advice.

Contact Details

A: Level 7, 173-175
Phillip St
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
P: 8898 6500
C: Jane king

Duty Lawyer Schemes

The duty solicitor scheme coordinates the involvement of private lawyers in Local Court criminal duty matters on behalf of Legal Aid NSW. Duty lawyers service the majority of the local courts throughout New South Wales and appear for clients on their first appearance and for pleas of guilty, mentions, adjournments and bail applications (subject to the means test when applicable).

Contact Details

A: Central Sydney
Legal Aid Office (Head
Office)
323 Castlereagh Street
Haymarket 2000
P: 02 92195000
C: Caroline Cuttance

FAMILY LAW



Family Law involves legal principles that define relationships, rights and duties within family units such as those formed by marriage. Issues can arise in preparations to marriage, during marriage, dissolution of marriage, child custody, child abuse and neglect, the parent-child-state relationships in special contexts. Family lawyers often assist clients with applications for divorce, agreements and consent orders in respect to property and financial settlements, parenting orders- residence orders, contact orders and specific issue orders, urgent and interim orders and ADVOs. Given the highly stressful and emotional nature of the area, they are often required to be very sensitive, friendly, courteous and approachable.

There are various graduate programs in upper mid-tier to top-tier firms and alternatively student can apply as vacancies arise advertised on the firm's website or in wider media.

About

A national law firm, Turner Freeman ensures people's rights are duly recognised and protected at the minimum financial and emotional expense to themselves. Will provide excellent legal help and also post ruling support and care to help clients rebuild their lives- maintains a strong network of relationships with support and rehabilitative organisations to ensure ongoing positive results for clients.

Covers: divorce, parenting orders and care arrangements, family financial support, adoption, property settlements, financial agreements and domestic violence and abuse.

Application Details

As vacancies arise and through the website or as advertised in wider media, submit CV and a Cover Letter.

Contact Details

A: Level 13
39 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
P: 8222 3333
C: Anne Duggan

About

Leading national consumer law firm (1,200 people in 70 locations) with a growing presence in the United Kingdom (UK) consumer law market (480 people in 12 locations in the UK).

Approach/vision: encourage settlements, not arguments. Aims to provide certainty through fixed fees and achieve best results promptly and cost-effectively.

Graduate Programs

Graduate Traineeship Program is a 12 month placement for law graduates to gain the experience and knowledge to become a practising Lawyer. During the 12 month program, participants complete their Practical Legal Training through the College of Law, whilst working full time within one of our many practice areas. The program is designed to allow Graduates the opportunity to work closely with senior practitioners and gain invaluable experience by working on complex matters and projects. Positions in the 2014 program will be filled by candidates from internal sources.

Application Details

Should students wish to register interest in future programs, please submit CV and a Cover Letter at <http://www.slatergordon.com.au/careers/whyworkatsg>, as vacancies arise and through the website or as advertised in wider media.

Contact Details

A: Level 5
44 Market Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia
P: 8267 0600
C: Cath Harris

About

One of the biggest regional-based law firms in NSW across Australia, while retaining a strong focus on the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, and Southern Highlands since 1885.

Approach/vision: flexible mix of good advice, strong representation and an understanding of the emotion involved.

Covers: Divorce, Property settlement, Children's issues, Contact, Child support, Spousal maintenance, Settlement, Delayed settlement, Collaborative Law, Mediation, Superannuation issues, Superannuation splitting, Court action, Pre-Nuptial Agreements (Pre-Nupts), Binding Financial Agreements, Termination Agreements, Co-Habitation Agreements, De facto relationships, Same Sex couples, Family Trusts, Discretionary Trusts, Family Businesses, Associated business matters. Relocation Issues, Recovery Orders.

Application Details

As vacancies arise and through the website or as advertised in wider media, submit CV and a Cover Letter.

Contact Details

A: Suite 3, Level 5,
350 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000
P: (02) 9611 4611
E: rmb@rmblawyers.com.au
C: Tracy Lawson

About

Multi-award winning, commercial law firm.

Approach/vision: Reliable, objective and practical advice towards settlement to avoid the expense, delay and uncertainty of litigation.

Covers: divorce, property settlement, parenting arrangements, de facto rights and separation entitlements, or financial matters such as maintenance and child support, you can depend on us.

Application Details

As vacancies arise and through the website or as advertised in wider media, send CV and a Cover Letter.

Intake for our graduate program as advertised on website at <http://www.swaab.com.au/careers.aspx/>.

Contact Details

A: Level 1
20 Hunter St
Sydney NSW 2000
P: 9233 5544
C: mail@swaab.com.au

About

Leading national Family Law and Divorce Law firm, has 25 years experience in providing specialist family law and divorce law services. Experienced team includes a retired Family Court Judge, a current professor in Family Law and former Chair of the Family Law Counsel and accredited Family Law specialists, offering both practical experience and industry knowledge to help clients reach the best possible outcomes.

Vision/approach: Expertise and sound knowledge and experience in collaborative law and alternative dispute resolution, to solve client matters promptly and where possible, without litigation.

Covers: separation, divorce, parenting arrangements, child support property settlements and de facto relationships.

Application Details

Solicitors and all administrative / support personnel are invited to contact the Manager of People and Culture for a private and confidential discussion regarding employment opportunities by email hr@wattsmccray.com.au.

Contact Details

A: Level 15,
The Chambers
370 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
E: mail@wattsmccray.com.au

About

Large regional general practice serving the Hunter Region, including Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast since 1969.

Approach/vision:

- A focus on early resolution - to save you time & money
- Highly professional and friendly service at all times
- Highly qualified team, should court be required
- Complete confidentiality at all times
- Fast, efficient and courteous service
- The best possible result for you and your family

Covers: All aspects of family law including child support, parenting plans and consent orders, property and early agreement.

Application Details

As vacancies arise and through the website or as advertised in wider media, submit CV and a Cover Letter.

Vacancies exist from time to time as advertised on website <http://www.turnbullhill.com.au/careers.html>.

Contact Details

A: 1st Floor
Charlestown Commercial
Centre
29 Smith Street
Charlestown, NSW, 2290
P: 02 4904 8000
C: Andrew Bull

About

Approach/vision: Legal services are more than just the law – practical, commercial advice and exceptional client service are equally important to clients and to the company. In particular, family law issues require a holistic approach to resolution, and that different approaches and outcomes are appropriate for different problems. Family and relationship law advice and representation tailored to individual client needs and financial circumstances.

Covers: Binding financial agreements, Collaborative law, De facto law, Divorce and divorce settlements, Domestic violence and intervention orders, Ex-pat family law, Family law mediation, Injunctions and restraining orders, Parental rights and children's matters, Property settlements and financial disputes, Same sex law, Same sex parenting, Spousal maintenance, Superannuation splitting, Tax implications of settlements and separations.

Application Details

Seasonal/summer clerkship program: 5 - 6 law students undertake a 12 week summer clerkship with two rotations, held in the uni holidays, late November - mid February.

In Sydney, Lander & Rogers interview around 40 people for 5-6 positions. Students will meet with a partner or senior associate, plus a representative of our HR team. Interviews are relaxed and conversational, an opportunity for students to tell the company more about things outlined in their CV, more about their interests and aspirations in the law and in life generally.

The Graduate program is built on four practice group rotations, each of three months duration, and covering commercial and litigious areas of practice. Lander & Rogers recruit around 5 graduates in Sydney via their summer clerk program in February each year. Additional opportunities, where available, will be advertised on their website.

Contact Details

A: Level 19 Angel Place
123 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
T: 8020 7700
C: Laura Grant

About

Highly regarded within the Parramatta & Greater Western Sydney area, for their experience, expertise and friendly yet professional approach.

Approach/vision: experienced litigators embracing alternate dispute resolution measures including mediation, arbitration and collaborative law as means of obtaining the best outcome for clients.

Covers: all areas of family law and de facto relationship law

- Divorce and Separation
- Property Settlements
- Child Support/ Custody
- De Facto Relationships
- Financial agreements (including pre-nuptials and spousal support)

Application Details

The Clerks Program is designed to provide hands-on legal experience and to offer guidance by working directly with Directors, Senior Associates and Accredited Specialists.

Mentor and Buddy initiatives, coupled with an open-door policy ensure full guidance and support throughout the clerkship and career with MatthewsFolbigg.

To discuss the Clerks Program in more detail please contact Dorothy McDonald, Human Resource Manager on 02 9635 7966 or at dorothym@matthewsfolbigg.com.au.

Contact Details

A: Level 7,
10-14 Smith Street
Parramatta NSW 2150
P: +61 2 9635 7966
E: info@matthewsfolbigg.com.au
C: Dorothy McDonald

Anna Nguyen, Lawyer at Vinh Duong and Associates**What's working in family law like?**

It's very stressful. Obviously, it involves children, marriages breaking down, assets and property and you'll often find yourself in very sensitive situations. It can also be very busy during peak seasons, such as Easter and Christmas and you are working around the clock sometimes, even on weekends. It is also being quite demanding as clients seek your support long after their case is closed, so it's not necessarily a one-off case.

What values and traits do you need?

You need to be emotionally and personally detached from the situation. Strive to be professional and although you may have the urge to be otherwise, remember that you are not their private counsellor. It's difficult because there is a certain level of understanding and empathy involved, but as much as you are inclined to feel sorry for your client, you must stand your ground and not take sides.

What advice do you have for students interested in family law?

Family Law is a very rewarding area, but can be equally stressful. While you gain a sense of satisfaction after your client wins the case, you need to balance compassion with strength, and not be wavered by emotion. It is challenging but you'll be learning a lot as well as the area of law is constantly changing. For instance, unlike ten or twenty years ago, there is more equality now. You basically have to dedicate a lot of time and energy into it to keep up.

What are the best things about working in family law?

If you enjoy client interviewing, one-on-one interaction, and constant opportunity for growth, then family law may be suited to you. Every client is different and has their own story, so you won't ever get bored. Whilst something like property law can be quite procedural and similar, family law will stimulate new ideas and allow for constant growth. The area is growing as well and is definitely needed in the future, no matter what happens to the status of marriage. Family will remain an important social structure, whether the client is married or defacto. Certainly, children will still be around and property and assets will be contested. So, in summary, it's a very employable area that can be equally rewarding and enjoyable.

About

The Family Court of Australia, through its specialist judges and staff, assists Australians to resolve their most complex legal family disputes. Its goal is to deliver excellence in service for children, families and parties through effective judicial and non-judicial processes and high-quality and timely judgments while respecting the needs of separating families. It consists of a Chief Justice, a Deputy Chief Justice and other judges. The Court maintains registries in all Australian states and territories except Western Australia.

Application Details

All employment opportunities are advertised on Family Court and APS Jobs website.

Temporary Employment Register

The Family Court of Australia maintains a Temporary Employment Register of people interested in obtaining non-ongoing employment with the Court.

A competitive merit selection process involving the submission of a resume, cover letter and answers to selection criteria.

Contact Details

A: Family Law Courts
National Enquiry Centre
GPO Box 9991
Parramatta NSW 2150
P: 1300 352 000
E: enquiries@familylaw-courts.gov.au

CRIMINAL LAW



The area of criminal law is as old as the law itself. For many of us, our first exposure to the law was through watching television shows such as *Law & Order* about the criminal justice system. But a career in the criminal law is much more multifaceted than prosecuting or defending an accused in court.

Today, criminal law is one of the largest areas of legal practice, and one that evolves as society constantly evolves. Thus, the criminal law should appeal to those who are particularly interested in how the law intersects with society. It requires people not just interested in advocacy, but in policy work, education and justice. There are entire bodies devoted to criminal law reform, the prosecution of offences at the different levels of the system, the provision of legal services to the socioeconomically disadvantaged who are often the victims of the criminal justice system.

This Guide should provide a small window into each of these fascinating facets of the criminal law.

About

HOW TO APPLY

All positions are advertised on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au or seek.com.au

When using JobsNSW to find ODPP roles search by Organisation, then select 'Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the'

Applications are only accepted for advertised positions

Once the application period is over, a selection panel convenes to assess all applications against the selection criteria

Successful applicants will then proceed to an interview, which will consist of a series of questions and sometimes a practical problem-solving exercise.

Positions are advertised on an availability basis

CONTACT

hhumanresources@odpp.nsw.gov.au

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is NSW's independent prosecutorial body representing the Crown in criminal cases usually involving serious indictable offences in the District and Supreme Courts as well as appeals from the Local Court, although the ODPP is involved at the Local Court level through committal hearings. The ODPP doesn't investigate crimes but conducts the prosecutions on behalf of the community. It offers outstanding career opportunities for law students, offering much in the way of legal experience and challenges.

What kind of graduate opportunities are available?

- There is a graduate lawyer program (the Legal Development Program) which can be done as part of your required PLT
- It can be completed as part of the work experience component of College of Law

What makes the DPP such a great place to start your legal career?

The Program offers:

- Paid practical legal experience in criminal prosecutions
- Ongoing on the job training and access to professional development
- Formal feedback and informal networking
- An assigned lawyer to serve as a mentor
- Excellent working conditions with flexible work practices
- Challenging works that makes a difference

About

Legal Aid NSW is a state-wide organisation providing legal services to socially and economically disadvantaged people. This helps to alleviate the huge resource disparity between the state (prosecution) and defendants and ensure access to justice for all.

Legal Aid lawyers provide advocacy and advice services in criminal and family law, as well as community legal education, and law reform and policy work.

A career with Legal Aid NSW provides an opportunity to work in an environment where you can make a difference in the everyday lives of people.

CONTACT

Central Sydney Legal Aid Office (Head Office)
Ph: 9219 5000

HOW TO APPLY

All positions are advertised on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au

What kind of graduate opportunities are available?

Legal Aid NSW is the largest law firm in NSW. Two year Career Development Program for graduating solicitors. There are 2 vacancies in the 2013 intake which are identified for an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander and 2 other vacancies. No permanent contract guaranteed after completion of the Program.

What makes Legal Aid such a great place to start your legal career?

The Program offers rotations in two areas of law amongst Legal Aid's family, criminal and civil law practices. Hands on work with real clients doing meaningful work that makes a difference. Flexible working conditions.

About

NSW Police Prosecutors are responsible for prosecuting matters on behalf of the NSW Police Force as well as other government agencies in Local Courts, Children's Courts and the Coroner's Courts all over NSW. They also provide advocacy services for victims of domestic and family violence and provide operational legal advice to all levels of the NSW Police Force.

The NSW Police Force Police Prosecutions Command celebrated its 100 year anniversary of dedicated and committed service to the NSW community in 2011. From a small group of police officers selected for their suitable qualifications, there are now nearly 300 police prosecutors throughout the State. Prosecutors are working in Local and Children's Court with a myriad of cases, assisting the Coroner and providing advice to police from the Commissioner to the most junior Constable on legal matters.

Police prosecutors are responsible for prosecuting 95% of all criminal cases in NSW.

What kind of graduate opportunities are available?

Currently there is an external and internal pathway to join Police Prosecutions. The external pathway is the Accelerated Prosecutor Recruitment Program which has been very successful over the years. At the moment, this program is not accepting applications and further information will be provided on the Police Recruitment website. The internal pathway requires a police officer to complete 3 years in General Duties before applying to become a Trainee Prosecutor. Once the officer is accepted as a Trainee Prosecutor, the course involves class lectures and practical experience for at least 12 months before being appointed in the role as Police Prosecutor.

What makes NSW Police Prosecutors a great career?

Working as police prosecutor allows great exposure to the criminal justice system as well as the opportunity to make a real difference in the community. The work allows you to be deal with real people, whilst working in a supportive work environment.

HOW TO APPLY

Currently, the only option of joining Police Prosecutions is to join the Police Force and work as a police officer for 3 years before applying to become a Trainee Prosecutor.

Armstrong Legal

One of the leading criminal law firms in NSW, and one that is growing rapidly, Armstrong Legal is an accredited specialist in criminal law, focusing on criminal defence. Armstrong Legal helps clients from before the pre-trial phase all the way through the criminal process, providing advisory and advocacy services.

For more information, contact:

Janet Ireland (Practice Manager)
jireland@armstronglegal.com.au

O'Brien Solicitors

A well-respected criminal defence firm recognised for its commitment to providing strong representation and its respect for all its clients. Peter O'Brien, the principal solicitor, has a depth of experience, especially in representing children.

Details:
Suite 504, Level 5
265 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Tel: 9261 4281

Contact:
Email: info@obriensolicitors.com.au

George Sten & Co

A small, but high profile, firm with expertise in all areas of criminal law, George Sten & Co prides itself on its commitment to open communication and respect for clients. They have extensive experience in dealing with claims made by victims of sexual assault.

Details:
Suite C4, Ground Floor

Contact:
Email: georgesten@criminal-lawyer.com.au

185 Elizabeth Street

INTERVIEW

Sylvie Maranis, Solicitor, George Sten & Co Criminal Lawyers

What made you choose a career as a criminal defence lawyer?

I have been interested in law since I was in year 9. This interest came out of nowhere, however it was cemented for me when I engaged in work experience at Legal Aid. I got a brief overview of criminal and family law and an insight into some court procedure. I found the criminal side of things so interesting – there was never a dull moment and the people that I met were very interesting and came from very diverse backgrounds. In year 10 I began legal studies and it was again of great interest to me. I have no family members in the field of law and for me this passion seemed to come out of no-where.

What about this area of law excites you? What kind of work does a criminal defence lawyer do?

I believe that criminal law is very people-oriented and for me that is what makes it interesting. It is not just a desk job. It always seems that you are running around at police stations, gaols, court houses and conferencing with clients. To me this is the exciting part of the job. Of course there is a lot of desk time, but even this can be interesting. The client's brief of evidence tells the prosecution's story. From there you obtain instructions and your job is to express your client's story.

How does an aspiring criminal lawyer get started in this field? What are the career paths and opportunities available?

I was lucky enough to fall directly into criminal law. While I was studying I submitted numerous resume's and this was one of the jobs I sat an interview for. I started off as a paralegal (which I think is an invaluable start) and by the time I graduated it had been 3 years. I was then employed as a solicitor within the same firm and am still here today, 6 years at George Sten & Co in total. Internships are great, however they are usually offered at the end of your degree. My advice would be to search around a year or so into your degree, when you are settled with uni and try and obtain an entry level position such as a secretary or paralegal. From there you will get a feel for the firm and obtain an insight into the firms culture and area of law and evaluate whether that is something you want to do. I think small firms offer greater exposure to the law and you are offered greater responsibility, as opposed to a large firm. There is also Legal Aid which would give you great experience as well as the DPP which would give you insight into the prosecutorial side.

INTERVIEW

Police Prosecutor, NSW Police Force

I have been prosecuting with the New South Police Force for just over three and a half years. Prior to becoming a prosecutor I worked in uniform for approximately the same amount of time. I made the decision to become a prosecutor quite early on in my career; really I could say I made the decision before I even joined the NSW Police Force. I joined the NSW Police Force to ultimately become a Prosecutor or Detective. My final decision between the 2 options was made early on in my general duty days. My reasons were that the Prosecutor Course appeared more challenging than that of the Detective's Course and I was of the belief I would become a better investigator down the track if I wanted to change career paths. Adding to my decision was also the kind of enjoyment I got from going to court, whilst I was always nervous I also found it exciting. I always learnt something when I attended court and I used to watch the prosecutor with such admiration as they prosecuted the matters I'd put so much into.

My time as a prosecutor has been the most fulfilling part of my career within the NSW Police. I have had the opportunity to develop my advocacy skills to a high level due to being in court day in and day out. Most defence solicitors do not have this opportunity, especially so early on in their law career, as a police prosecutor we are in court from the first day of our training. I have learnt so much as a police prosecutor that I would never had the opportunity to learn had I not undertaken this path. I have had extensive opportunities such as working in the Local Court Jurisdiction, the Children's Court Jurisdiction, Coroner's Court and I am now based at the Prosecutor Training unit.

INTERVIEW

Nicholas Cowdery AM QC
Visiting Professorial Fellow, UNSW
Barrister
Former Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW
Former President, International Association of Prosecutors

What inspired you to become involved in criminal law?

I drifted into law largely because of lack of abilities in maths and science that might have taken me in different directions. One of the early subjects in the Law degree course (at the only Law School in NSW at that time, at the University of Sydney) was Criminal Law and I found it fascinating (and, for me at least, easier to comprehend than some other subjects). The fascination was in the theory and practice of criminal law. The theory was the social basis for criminal laws, their content, interpretation and application; and the practice was the nature of offending, the criminal justice process itself and the social consequences of the implementation of the laws.

As an undergraduate I was employed in the (Commonwealth) Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office in Sydney for some years and soon found myself involved in preparing and instructing in criminal prosecutions – I was hooked!

My first employment after admission was as a public defender in Papua New Guinea for 4 ½ years and the cultural overlays upon the practice of criminal law there (and on the defence side) simply added more fascination. I thought that I could do something beneficial for the community in that role and a sense of service is important for any lawyer.

I then spent 19 years at the Sydney Bar, with a high proportion of work in the criminal jurisdiction, both defending and prosecuting (the latter largely for the Commonwealth). I was also an acting District Court Judge for periods, although only in the civil jurisdiction. The idea of service in the role of prosecutor became more deeply ingrained and it was an easy step to accept appointment as Director of Public Prosecutions for NSW in 1994 (where I stayed until 2011). I think that is the best job in criminal justice in the State.

The criminal law is well and truly in my blood and I now teach aspects of it at universities and apply what I have learned and experienced to assisting international prosecution agencies and organisations.

INTERVIEW

What about this area of law excites you? What kind of work is done by a DPP lawyer?

It is the aspect of public service while practising professionally at a very high standard and with great responsibilities that I think appeals to most prosecutors. A DPP lawyer prosecutes – it is as simple (and as complex) as that. She or he receives files (briefs) to conduct the prosecution of matters sent in by (usually) the NSW Police Force. The work involves: screening the case (examining the evidence provided, seeing whether or not further investigation should be requested or further evidence obtained, identifying appropriate offences, possible defences and issues of fact and law that might arise); liaising with police, witnesses and any victims; prosecuting committal proceedings in the Local Court; prosecuting in the District and Supreme Courts (depending on position, seniority and experience); appearing for the Crown in appeal proceedings and related hearings; providing advice throughout the conduct of matters; negotiating with the defence – in short, attending to all the professional tasks within the lawyer's competence to bring criminal prosecutions to conclusion.

There are generalists – lawyers attending to the broad range of professional tasks involved – and specialists – lawyers involved only in providing legal advice, researching legal issues and developments, working in Court of Criminal Appeal cases.

A DPP lawyer always has in mind the general public interest – what the community would properly expect in particular situations – and takes great pride in providing an essential public service in that respect. Many lawyers join the DPP from big firms where they have not been able to gain that sort of professional satisfaction. The DPP's Office can also offer flexible work conditions in many situations.

While there are clear principles to be applied and guidelines to be followed, there are also personal responses to particular situations that can provide satisfaction. I remember one prosecutor, in a nasty case where the accused gave evidence and not very well, saying "I have just cross-examined the accused. I can't remember when I have had such fun – and I'm being paid for it!" (But not every case goes that way).

How does an aspiring criminal lawyer get started in this field? What are the career paths and opportunities available?

I am often asked this – and it is not easy. Employment as a prosecutor or defence lawyer is highly competitive and the field is crowded. A lawyer needs to have a professional edge over the competitors to be noticed and accepted by an employer. Particularly on the defence side, it is also important to know other practitioners in the field and to build a reputation with them. Indeed, for all lawyers, reputation is foundational and you must take care to establish it and preserve it.

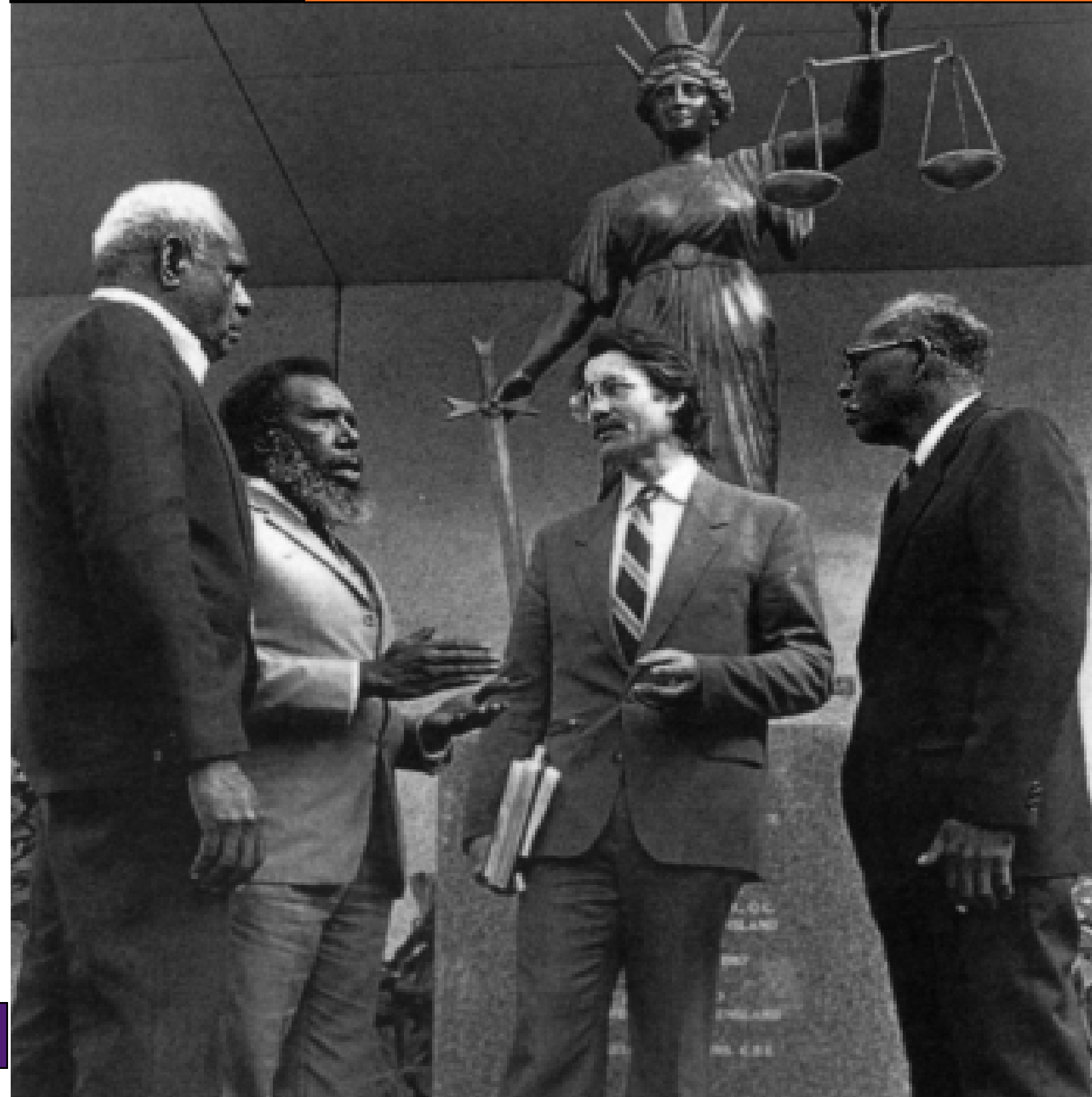
Employers look for people who can contribute, accepting that there may also be a need for training and support at least in the early times. So the better an aspiring criminal lawyer's knowledge of the criminal law in theory and in practice, the better the chance of employment (and the greater the edge over competitors). That is probably obvious. Good academic results in criminal law subjects are a good start.

An aspiring criminal lawyer should always be looking for opportunities to increase her or his knowledge of the criminal law in practice. So watching, doing (if the opportunity is available) and constant learning are important. It may need to be done voluntarily or one may be lucky to have an opportunity to do it and be paid. Voluntary application to the learning task will be recognised and it will impress an employer – “this is someone really keen to learn and to do well who has spent her/his own time on it and should be given a chance”.

There are some practical ways of doing this:

- working at a legal centre (including the Kingsford Legal Centre at UNSW);
- offering pro bono assistance to a Barrister or Solicitor (even doing the filing);
- seeing what assistance may be given to other legal service providers in the community (and in community organisations, such as volunteering for Salvos Legal – www.salvoslegal.com.au);
- becoming a Judge's Associate;
- engagement in the ODPP's Work Experience Program or employment in its Professional Development Program (details at www.odpp.nsw.gov.au);
- doing Work Experience with the Public Defenders.

Even just watching, on free days, what happens in courts (and maybe getting to know some of the lawyers involved) is useful. The career paths available include criminal defence firms of solicitors, the Bar, the ODPP and other prosecution agencies, Legal Aid Commission, Public Defenders– eventually to the Bench, if that is your goal (and it is not for everyone).



About

There are a number of different areas of law in which students can volunteer or seek employment that focus on the legal issues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Organisations that practice in areas of law that intersect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lives seek to provide culturally safe and appropriate environments for people to seek assistance and advice.

There is a wide range of organisations that focus on criminal, civil or family law issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Aboriginal Legal Service provides legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may find themselves engaged in the criminal justice system, are seeking care and protection advice or family law advice.

Organisations such as the Aurora Project play an important role in raising student and young professionals' awareness of native title and land rights issues as well as Indigenous social justice issues.

The Aboriginal Legal Service provides culturally appropriate legal services to Aboriginal adults and children, across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Legal services offered are predominantly in the area of criminal law and more recently, children's care and protection law and family law.

The ALS have 23 offices across NSW and the ACT and work to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children through representation in court, advice and information and referral to further support services.

Student volunteers can expect to complete tasks, including:

- Legal research
- Drafting submissions
- Drafting letters and court documents
- Preparing briefs for Counsel
- Instructing in trials
- Paralegal tasks

CONTACT DETAILS

Sheri Misaghi
Volunteer Co-ordinator
02 8303 6600
sheri.misaghi@alsnswact.org.au

For more info, visit:
<http://www.alsnswact.org.au>

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be lodged online at
<http://www.alsnswact.org.au/pages/volunteer>.

Students can apply for volunteer and PLT placements throughout the year.

WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

ALS employs qualified solicitors and support staff.

ALS also offers volunteer positions for current students. Student legal volunteers work closely with ALS solicitors to gain an understanding of how criminal law or care and protection matters work in an Aboriginal community organisation.

The ALS may also provide PLT placements.

About

The Aurora Project is the collective name for a number of programs that work with Australia's Indigenous communities and organizations. It focuses on professional development in law, anthropology, management and other various disciplines.

The Project matches students and recent graduates with under-resourced organisations and promotes career opportunities through raising awareness of the native title system and Indigenous social justice issues.

CONTACT DETAILS

Kim Barlin
Student Placements
and NTRB
Scholarships Manager
02 9310 8400

For more info:
<http://www.aurora-project.com.au>.

WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

The Aurora Project places interns with Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and organisations with an Indigenous focus in land rights, policy development, social justice and human rights.

The Aurora Project may also assist with PLT placements with these organisations.

APPLICATIONS DETAILS

Applications are made online via the organisation's website at <http://www.aurora-project.com.au>.

Applications open in March for mid-year placement and in August for end of year placement.

About

Chalk & Fitzgerald is a specialist legal practice that focuses on serving Indigenous people, organisations and businesses, particularly in relation to lands and waters. They act for clients in every mainland state and the Northern Territory. Chalk & Fitzgerald have been involved in many landmark cases concerning Indigenous rights and has advocated for their interests in the development of legislation, such as the Native Title Act 1993 and the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

The firm has been recognised for its excellence in administrative and Native Title law and has been listed by the Financial Review among the top 20 firms in New South Wales.

CONTACT DETAILS

Andrew Chalk
achalf@chalkfitzgerald.com.au

For more info:
<http://www.chalkfitzgerald.com.au>

WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

Generally, due to the nature of Chalk & Fitzgerald's work, they are unable to offer positions to recent graduates however they are willing to give career advice to those keen on working in this area.

About

Wirringa Baiya Women's Legal Centre provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and youth with gender specific services that are sensitive to their culturally diverse needs. The Centre also provides women who are victims of violence and sexual assault with access to appropriate legal representation, advice and referral to further services.

CONTACT DETAILS

Christine Robinson
1800 686 587
Christine_robinson@clc.net.au

For more info:
<http://www.wirringabaiya.org.au>

WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

Wirringa Baiya welcomes the interest of volunteers and are keen to help students with research projects that reflect the interest of the Centre.

APPLICATIONS DETAILS

Students can apply for a volunteer position throughout the year.

No formal application process. Contact Christine Robinson if interested in volunteering.

About

NTSCORP is the Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

NTSCORP offers assistance to Traditional Owners in the following areas:

- Facilitation and assistance of native title claims;
- Dispute resolution;
- Notification of Future Acts activities;
- Agreement making; and
- Research.

CONTACT DETAILS

All contact should be made via employment@ntscorp.com.au

For more info:
<http://www.ntscorp.com.au>

WHO ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

NTSCORP's primary source of internship candidates is through the Aurora Project (see above) however welcomes applications from students.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications should be sent to employment@ntscorp.com.au.

About

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation is the national public broadcaster. The ABC provides entertainment, news, current affairs and sports programming across television, radio, online and mobile services to metropolitan, regional and remote Australia.

ABC's Legal Services provide pre and post publication advice for journalists, television shows, radio programs and online content. ABC Legal Services has a number of teams including a Dispute Resolution team that deals with program complaints, litigation and related disputes; Commercial, whose key function is to provide advice and draft agreements across divisions such as Music, Books, Audio and magazines, Digital Business and Program Sales and Production and Acquisitions who deal with a range of issues relating to the production, acquisition and commissioning of content by the ABC across all content platforms.

Who are they looking for?

The ABC offers a limited number of unpaid internships to students who need to undertake practical experience in order to be admitted to practice as lawyers.

Application Details

Applicants will be required to provide a copy of their CV, academic transcript and a cover letter explaining why they would like to be considered for an internship position. Only students with an interest in media law need apply.

Applications open in October and close in early November.

Contact Details

Lisa Karagiannis
c/- ABC Legal Services
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
Karagiannis.lisa@abc.net.au

For more info:
<http://www.abc.net.au>

About

The Arts Law Centre of Australia is the national legal centre for the arts. The centre is not-for-profit and provides legal advice on a wide range of arts related legal and business matters, including contracts, copyright, business structures, defamation, insurance, employment and taxation to artists and art organisations across all artistic mediums.

The Arts Law Centre of Australia seeks to foster a society that promotes justice for artists and values their creative contribution to society.

Who are they looking for?

Law students can apply to be daytime volunteers, interns and note takers. Volunteers provide assistance to the Arts Law legal team and might be required to undertake the following tasks:

- Legal research;
- Communications with clients;
- Composition of written instruction; and
- Administrative tasks.

Application Details

Volunteers can complete an online application form at <http://www.artslaw.com.au/contact/volunteer>.

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Contact Details

Jenny Arnup
02 9356 2566
artslaw@artslaw.com.au

For more info:
<http://www.artslaw.com.au>

About

Media Arts Lawyers are a boutique entertainment and commercial legal practice. They give legal advice to artists, brands, events and companies throughout the entertainment industry

Who are they looking for?

Media Arts Lawyers offer a seasonal clerkship program. The program requires attendance one day per week for a period of eight weeks, with a potential opportunity to complete the work-experience component of your PLT with Media Arts Lawyers. All clerkships are offered on an unpaid basis and are intended to provide clerks with an opportunity to gain hands on experience in relation to a variety of client matters in the area of entertainment law.

Application Details

Students can apply throughout the year however applications are assessed on a 'as-needs' basis.

Apply online at <http://www.mediaartslawyers.com/sydney-clerkships/>.

Applicants should be in their final year of law or undertaking PLT and must have achieved high results in media/IP/copyright law, corporations law and contract law.

Contact Details

Visit: <http://www.mediaartslawyers.com>



People can face discrimination in any number of situations. A person may face discrimination in their workplace, school or community because of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, race, religion or sexuality.

Discrimination law practices and lawyers provide victims of discrimination with advice and information about their rights, avenues through which to lodge complaints and, in some cases, representation to seek appropriate remedies.

There are a range of Community Legal Centres that may be able to provide assistance to victims of discrimination and there are statutory bodies in some states that can provide assistance and recourse for victims. The Australian Human Rights Commission provides a range of services to the community, including investigation of discrimination and human rights complaints.

Amrita Kapur, Senior Associate, Gender Justice Program at International Centre for Transitional Justice

What motivated you to enter public interest law?

I was always interested in using law as a tool to serve social interests/help those who are less able to access justice/less empowered, which is also reflected in my other degree – psychology. My interest in international affairs led me to take several international law courses, which focused my interests on IHL and ICL. My participation in the Jean Pictet IHL Competition, and my team’s success there, really solidified my interest in addressing women in armed conflict contexts, because of their particular vulnerabilities.

What does your current position involve?

My current position as Senior Associate in the Gender Justice Program at ICTJ involves providing in-depth advisory and technical assistance on how to address the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and gendered experiences of human rights violations in post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts. We work primarily with international and national policymakers, transitional justice (TJ) practitioners and women’s groups across the range of TJ processes, such as reparations, truth & memorialization, and criminal justice. My focus countries right now are Colombia, the Ivory Coast, Kenya and Uganda.

What have you found to be the most rewarding part of your career path?

Working on issues that matter to me using skills that I feel can make a positive contribution. I love building relationships with people who care about the same issues – they are enriching, inspiring, humbling and ultimately can lead to very positive outcomes.

Any tips for students wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Be willing to make decisions that may not be conventional, but nevertheless are a reflection of who you are, who you want to be, where your skills lie and how you want to contribute to issues that you care about. My career path has not been linear, but each professional experience has been rewarding, and developed skills and knowledge that I continue to use and value, sometimes in ways I could never have predicted.

About

The Commission was established in 1986 by an act of the federal Parliament and are an independent statutory organisation and report to the federal Parliament through the Attorney-General.

The AHRC seeks to promote and protect human rights in Australia. The AHRC does this by resolving complaints of discrimination and human rights breaches, holding public inquiries into human rights issues, providing independent legal advice to assist courts in cases that involve human rights issues, composing submissions to government to develop laws, policies and programs and undertaking research into discrimination and human rights issues.

Who are they looking for?

The AHRC is unable to accept volunteers. Students wishing to undertake an internship at the Commission should apply during the internship advertising period in September 2014. Please refer to <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/jobs/current-vacancies> during this period for further information.

Contact Details

GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9284 9600

For more info:
<http://www.humanrights.gov.au>

Application Details

Students should check the Commission's website during September 2014 for application information.

Applications must be received by close of business on the closing date. Applications can be sent to:

The Human Resources Officer
Australian Human Rights Commission
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001

Or via email to: jobs@humanrights.gov.au in MS Word format.

About

The Australian Centre for Disability Law promotes and protects the human and legal rights of people with disability and their supporters through legal advocacy. Services provided by the Centre include:

- Providing legal advice;
- Taking on selected casework;
- Assisting with referrals;
- Delivery of Community Legal Education; and
- Undertaking law reform and projects.

Who are they looking for?

Volunteering provides final year law students and graduates undertaking their PLT with a unique opportunity to put their studies into practice. Volunteers must be able to commit to attending the Centre on two days per week for a period of at least 6 months.

The volunteer legal staff are responsible for assisting the ACDL staff in the management of the Centre and its legal practice. Duties include providing legal advice and referral; strategic casework; legal and community education; legal policy analysis and advice.

Application Details

Students can apply throughout the year.

Apply online at <http://disabilitylaw.org.au/about-us/volunteers>.

Contact Details

P: (02) 8014 7000

PO Box 989
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

<http://disabilitylaw.org.au>

INTERVIEW

Sharissa Thirukumar, caseworker at the NSW Welfare Rights Centre

Sharissa has been volunteering since the end of 2010 with the Welfare Rights Centre. She has also volunteered to help asylum seekers, and children with low literacy rates.

What's working in a CLC like?

There is a great need in this area for assistance, with many vulnerable clients who need access to justice. This is complicated by the fact that Gov departments are often difficult to deal with. It is both challenging and satisfying.

What do you love most about your work?

The rewarding feeling after knowing you've been able to help someone out. Even small help can make a big difference because it directly relates to income support, which is necessary for their livelihood.

How did you become involved in the community legal scene? Did you ever consider a career in private law?

Volunteering! But I really never considered a career in private law.

Most difficult aspect about client contact and communication?

It would be time management and how to strive to help everyone, and at the same time explain social security law to the client.

What challenges did you face when you first started out?

Social security law is really large, complex body of law, so it's obviously difficult to navigate legislation. Other caseworkers are really helpful and a good mentor is even better.

Character traits required for working in this sector?

Patience, empathy and efficiency.

Advice for students who want to pursue career in CLCs

Volunteer, try to be familiar in area that you enjoy, and just help out. You must go in with the right mentality, enjoy what you're doing and be passionate about your field. Essentially, community service demands a high level of empathy.

What's the most rewarding case you've tackled?

There's definitely more than one, but the sense of reward comes from knowing you secured the best result for your client and were able to help them out.

Are you happy with your work/life balance?

Yes, I'm happy! I have weekends, but clients are constantly on my mind!

IMMIGRATION LAW



Immigration law surrounds the national policies of government controlling immigration and deportation. Considering its natural ties with topical issues such as asylum seekers and refugees, immigration law is rapidly changing. In addition to this, immigration law involves areas such as the granting of visas and is suited to students with interest in human rights issues, as well as students who want to be involved in government policy.

There are jobs available in both government and private sector, with the possibility of completing a UNSW Internship at one of the clinics as well.

ABOUT

This Department is tasked with managing migration, humanitarian and citizen policy and programs. They aim to keep Australia secure, and ensure compliance with Australian immigration law.

What kind of clerkship/graduate opportunities are available?

Graduate

This allows people to gain experience in a wide range of departments including being involved with things such as settlement and citizenship, interpreting and applying legislation, and refugee and humanitarian issues. The program goes for 10 months, and after completion, you will be a full-time employee of the Department. Generally they receive around 2500 applicants for around 45 spots.

Recruitment for 2015 will begin in early 2014 (date to be confirmed) and offers will be sent around June/July.

Application Details

One method is through the graduate development program outlined left. Alternatively, the Department has a jobs application website at: jobs.immi.gov.au. All vacancies are listed here, alongside step-by-step procedures for applying for jobs.

Contact Details

Phone (Recruitment):
1300 793 883.
E: recruitment@immi.gov.au

Address:
Ground Floor,
26 Lee Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

Mailing Address:
GPO Box 9984,
Sydney NSW 2001.

Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

UNSW offers a social justice internship at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, which would be relevant to immigration law and giving exposure to that entire area.

Applications are available at: <http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/41259>.

Refugee Advice & Casework Service

UNSW also has an external internship at Refugee Advice and Casework (RACS), which is a community legal centre aiming to provide free legal advice and assistance to people seeking refugee status in Australia. Applications open mid-semester before the relevant position, and the application form can be found at: <http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/31648>

For more info: <http://www.racs.org.au/>

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



Environmental law has existed as a discipline for years, but it is only in the latter half of the 20th century has its importance been recognised, and its scope grown. Now, in the 21st century, with concerns about climate change, deforestation, sustainability and access to essential natural resources becoming global, environmental law has never been more recognised, nor more essential.

A career in environmental law is thus one of tremendous potential, with the option to practice locally and globally, for governments, international organisations, NGOs, corporate firms, and even multinationals who are coming to recognise the need to focus on this vital area of law. There are opportunities to work for social justice and environmental justice movements, do fundamental policy work, and advocacy work for a wide range of organisations.

Looking down a career path in environmental law is in many ways looking into the future of legal practice, and everyone wants to be a trendsetter!

Meredith Junor, Legal Officer, Litigation Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

What's working in Environmental Law like?

Interesting and challenging – as a prosecutor, I deal with a real range of different environmental offences, including pollution, damage to threatened species, clearing native vegetation and fauna dealing, and work with chemists, botanists and other expert witnesses. But don't expect to be Erin Brokovich; you have to work within the confines of legislation.

Are there any particular attributes you need?

Good written skills and an eye for detail are a must; but most importantly, you should be engaged and interested in environmental issues – motivation and passion go a long way and also mean that you will get more enjoyment out of your working life.

What advice do you have for students interested in Environmental Law?

Get involved – volunteer at a community legal centre like the Environmental Defender's Office; read some of the cases prosecuted in the Land and Environment Court (<http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/>); contact firms to find out what sort of work they do in their environmental/planning law teams; sit in on a trial in the Land and Environment Court. This will give you a better idea of the range of work that environmental lawyers do.

What are the best things about working in Environmental Law?

Environmental law is an evolving field as social values change and climate change becomes more widely accepted, and I think it will become even more interesting and challenging in the decades to come. In my job I am constantly exposed to a range of environmental issues, and it is very satisfying to feel that I am making my own small contribution to protecting the environment.

About

CONTACT DETAILS

Head office:
Sydney CBD
Level 14, 59-61
Goulburn Street

P: (02) 9995 5000

E: Info@environment.nsw.gov.au

The Office of Environment & Heritage Legal Services Branch employs approximately 30-35 lawyers and provides legal services to both the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Legal officers generally work within one of two areas: (i) the Litigation Section, which undertakes litigation work on behalf of both OEH and the EPA; and (ii) the Legislation and Advice Section, which assists in the development of legislation and provides legal advice on legislation administered by OEH and the EPA relating to the environment.

APPLICATIONS

There is no specific graduate program, individual positions may be open on an advertised basis.

Once a position opens, applications must be made in accordance with deadlines for application on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au.

Once an application has been submitted, the application will go through a Selection Committee Process.

Areas of practice

Litigation team

The litigation team conduct several public interest environmental cases a year. These cases generally fit into one of three categories.

1. judicial review of a Minister's decision,
2. a merits appeal challenging a decision, or
3. civil enforcement proceedings. EDO lawyers brief counsel for court proceedings and will act directly for clients in many tribunal proceedings.

Policy and law reform team

These lawyers specialise in reviewing and commenting on environmental legislation and policy. The policy team advises clients about the potential impacts of proposed laws and is regularly invited by government departments to provide expert input into legislation and policy formulation and implementation.

Outreach team

These lawyers specialise in communicating environmental laws to the general public in plain English and teaching the public how to use the law to protect the environment. The Outreach team conduct workshops throughout rural and regional NSW and produce over 40 fact sheets and several comprehensive publications on environmental law.

HOW TO APPLY

Job opportunities are advertised on the EDO NSW website http://www.edonsw.org.au/join_us

Also, keep an eye on Ethical Jobs, the Young Lawyers Environment Committee, the Law Society of NSW Environment and Planning Committee and the Environment and Planning Law Association websites.

We also advertise positions on the UNSW Career Hub website.

There are no set set graduate opportunities, positions are advertised on an availability basis.

About

EDO NSW is a community legal centre that specialises in public interest environmental law. EDO NSW takes a multi-disciplinary approach to clients' legal problems and provides a range of pro bono and reduced rate services to help the community protect the environment through law. The key service areas are:

1. Legal advice
2. Casework
3. Policy and law reform
4. Legal outreach

EDO lawyers specialise in litigation, policy/law reform, or outreach. All EDO lawyers provide legal advice to the community via a free Advice Line and through detailed written advices.

Areas of expertise include:

planning, development and heritage;
Aboriginal cultural heritage;
climate change and energy;
coastal, marine and fisheries management;
farming and private land management;
forestry, clearing and trees;
mining and coal seam gas;
native plants and animals;
pollution;
protected areas and public land management;
and water management.

CONTACT DETAILS

Street and postal address
Level 5, 263 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000
AUSTRALIA

Tel: (61 2) 9262 6989
Freecall: (NSW only) 1800 626 239
Fax: (61 2) 9264 2414
General Inquiries Email:
edonsw@edonsw.org.au

INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

Aline Jaeckel, UNSW Casual Academic

What motivated you to work in the field of environmental law?

My motivation is straightforward: Life on Earth is sustained by our natural environment and its resources. So it should be a logical aim to not irreversibly damage the Earth's ecosystems. But despite this logic we are facing enormous environmental challenges on a global scale that require our attention.

Where did you first gain experience in public interest law?

My first contact with public international law outside the university classroom was through participating in several Model United Nations during my undergraduate degree. I then did an LLM in public international law at Leiden University, which provided plenty of opportunities to talk to international law professionals and to visit international institutions in The Hague. Joining the CISDL network (Centre for International Sustainable Development Law) enabled me to work on several projects in the field of international environmental law and development. Simultaneously, I was able to gain experience in international law through a range of consultancy work projects and internships with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority, the International Development Law Organization, and the German development aid agency (GIZ).

What does your current position involve?

I am currently a PhD candidate and casual academic at UNSW Law involved in teaching international law. My research focuses on how the precautionary principle is being applied to prevent environmental harm from mining the international seabed for minerals. This is exciting research since seabed mining is likely to start in a few years and the responsible international organisation, the International Seabed Authority, is currently in the process of developing the relevant regulations. As such, my research corresponds to a new development in practice on which there has been very little research and discussion.

What have you found to be the most rewarding part of your career path?

A rewarding aspect of my doctoral research is to make a contribution, however small, to protecting our shared marine environment. Mining seabed minerals is a relatively new, and not widely known activity, which makes it all the more interesting to work on. As for personal rewards, whilst a PhD project easily merges with one's personal life, it also offers great flexibility as to when and where to work. Additionally, the academic environment is dynamic and offers ongoing opportunities for international exchange for doctoral candidates, academics, and practitioners.

Any tips for students wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Explore beyond your field of law. If you are interested in a particular aspect of environmental law, it can be useful and interesting to study the scientific, engineering, economic, or social dimensions of the environmental challenge. Even if your degree might not specifically provide for this, it pays off to explore how you might be able to add an interdisciplinary focus to your studies through summer schools, a semester abroad, or extra-curricular activities. Also, it is extremely useful to gain an understanding of and appreciation for other cultures and countries. Addressing global challenges, be they of an environmental nature or relating to peace and security, requires an appreciation for the cultural and social beliefs and opinions of others.

INTERVIEW

Jemilah Hallinan, Legal Outreach Director, NSW Environmental Defenders Office

What's working in Environmental Law like?

Environmental law is extremely complex and challenging. There are over 40 environmental Acts at the State level alone, not to mention Federal and International laws and local regulations as well. These laws are always changing so environmental lawyers are constantly learning and re-learning the law. While there is a lot to know, it never gets boring and is usually very interesting. At EDO NSW we are public interest lawyers and this adds an extra dimension to the way we practice environmental law. Being a public interest lawyer is endlessly rewarding. It is satisfying to know that you are not just using the law to help your client, but to achieve a broader goal that will benefit the public as a whole.

Are there any particular attributes you need?

It really depends on where you're working. To be a public interest environmental lawyer, it helps to be passionate about what you're doing. The work needs to be its own reward because you're definitely not going to be earning the big bucks that you could be earning in private practice. As with all legal jobs, it helps to be a strategic thinker, to have an eye for detail and to be a very good communicator. It's also important to be prepared to work long hours when needed and to manage large workloads.

What advice do you have for students interested in Environmental Law?

Study environmental law and administrative law and then inquire about volunteering at EDO NSW. There are also lots of firms that practice environmental law – although EDO NSW is the only public interest environmental law centre. Volunteering will help you get a feel for what it's like to be an environmental lawyer and decide whether it's for you. Also, check out the Land and Environment Court for tipstaff positions.

What are the best things about working in Environmental Law?

All lawyers will appreciate that the law can be a powerful tool for change. At EDO NSW, our job is to help people to use the law to protect the environment. This requires very creative lawyering and often involves testing the limits of what the law can achieve. At EDO NSW we get to work with very inspiring clients who care deeply about the environment and want to do all they can to ensure it is protected to the fullest extent possible. We provide the expertise on the law, but a lot of the hard work is done by our clients and it's a privilege to work with them to help them achieve their goals.

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