

CURTIN STUDENT LAW SOCIETY

CAREERS GUIDE



20

22



FOREWORD

SENATOR THE HON MICHAELIA CASH



As a fellow alumna of Curtin University, I share the values of integrity, excellence, courage and impact. My Arts degree in Public Relations, Journalism and Politics at Curtin was the first step in my legal endeavours, which propelled me to obtain a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of London.

The greatest thing about a law degree is how transferrable it is. Don't ever underestimate the value of your education at one of Australia's leading universities. I would encourage you all to reflect on what you want to gain from your degree. Not all law graduates pursue a career in legal practice, but the beauty of an LLB is that it is applicable across a number of industries. You need not take the traditional path through the legal profession to become successful in your own right. The skills you will find yourself drawing on in any career are the skills that you have been taught through all stages in life.

Prior to entering politics, I worked as a Senior Associate at the law firm Freehills, as it was then known, specialising in employment and industrial and workplace relations law for approximately 10 years. Working as a young lawyer, I was met with many challenges, however, I soon learned that the key to overcoming hurdles is perseverance. And with perseverance comes growth. You will be amazed at how much you are truly capable of and how quickly you will learn. The only barriers that cannot be overcome are the ones that you set for yourself.

It was a secondment at the Freehills Melbourne office in 2001, where I gained valuable insight into the federal industrial

relations system that encouraged me to pursue a career in Federal Politics. When I entered politics, I had no idea that it would place me back in the law when I was sworn in as the Attorney General, the First Law Officer of Australia, in 2021. It was an honour to serve in this capacity, and one that I did not take lightly.

As lawyers, it is a true privilege to be upholders of justice. We provide a specialised service to the community in being able to read, interpret and apply legislation. Never underestimate the value in this skill. Your law degree will help you develop the ability to advise and support the single mothers in family court matters, to a vulnerable worker in an unfair dismissal claim, all the way up to large corporations dealing with multimillion dollar projects. It is a profession like ours where we may actively make change, rather than just talk about the need for change. The choice to where you want to serve will be yours.

Before you embark on your journey in the law, however, I would also encourage you to make the most of the opportunities Curtin University and Curtin Law School provide you with during your studies and to get involved. You can find out ways to do this in the 'Student Experience' section of this Guide. I had joined Curtin University Young Liberals which allowed me to harvest connections that I drew on later in life. You never know who you will meet, the lessons you'll learn, or the doors that may open.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. I have no doubt that you will triumph in whatever area you choose.

FOREWORD

DEAN AND HEAD OF CURTIN LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR ROBERT CUNNINGHAM



Working out what to do with one's life is not always an easy task. Both personally and professionally, we are exposed to a 'tyranny of choice' when it comes to the possibilities. While this might be conceptualised as a 'first world problem', relativity does not always assist in diminishing day-to-day challenges. Relativity may, though, help put things in perspective.

Perspective is one of the most vital ingredients of sound decision-making. Whether you are contemplating a career choice, personal life direction or a significant financial commitment, perspective can support the ordering of priorities and make clearer the delineation between what is important and what is not important. Much of what makes its way into the inbox claims to be urgent, but how much of this content is important? If the inbox is a metaphor for life, how might we turn our gaze away from the so-called urgent and towards that which is important? Perhaps the answer lies, at least partially, in maintaining perspective.

If you have ever zoomed in on your home rooftop using google earth or equivalent, you have had an experience of gaining perspective. Likewise, using phone apps such as Solar Walk, it is possible to locate Planet Earth in the broader schema of our solar system.

Developing tools and techniques of gaining and maintaining perspective is critical no matter which life or career path one adopts. From time to time, it is worth

asking yourself the question: What type of things help you gain and maintain perspective?

There is no one correct pathway when it comes to gaining and maintaining perspective. Like research – and life more generally – it is an iterative process. There are dead-ends. There is back and forth. There are trials and tribulations. But if one accepts that perspective is a vital ingredient of sound decision-making, then one should commit to walking 'the path of perspective'. This means zooming out from day-to-day life every now and then to forge an appreciation of your role in the bigger picture. Along the way, perspective might also underscore what it is that gets you out of bed in the morning. That is, what is it that truly motivates you?

A useful way to get in contact with your core motivation(s) is to seek clarity about what you care about. All of us care about something. By tapping into that care – and drawing a link between that care and your core motivation(s) – one lays a solid foundation for personal and professional endeavours.

The culmination of perspective, core motivation(s) and care provide some guidance as to how one might make best use of personal and professional time and energy. Before heading off on your next personal or professional adventure, be sure to cross-check the big picture, what gets you out of bed in the morning, and what you care about.

FOREWORD

CAREERS DIRECTOR MEGHANN LEAVY



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Curtin Student Law Society Careers Guide for 2022! The Careers Guide is your one stop shop for everything you need to know about clerkships, graduate positions, and your career after graduation.

If you are anything like me, when you get asked “So, what kind of law do you want to do?” you never know how to answer. It can feel very overwhelming at times - my mind goes in twelve different directions. I trust that this Guide will assist you in creating a clearer picture of where you see yourself after graduation.

This Guide has five key sections that will tell you almost everything you need to know! The **Clerkship Survival Guide** has everything you will need to prepare yourself for clerkships - from how to write a resume to a day in the life of a clerk. The **Commercial Firm Directory** contains a number of Western Australian commercial law firms. Each firm has answered a series of questions for you to get to know them better. The **Commercial Law** section is composed of articles written by law graduates and young lawyers working in the commercial sector. **Articles from the Profession** contains articles outside of the commercial setting and displays many different pathways. **Articles from the Courts** gives you an insight into criminal law and the inner workings of the courts. Finally, the **Student Experience** section consists of articles that show how students have enhanced their law school experience.

This Guide would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. We are incredibly appreciative and it has been a pleasure working with you. A massive thank you to all of the authors and contributors. The efforts of the Careers team (Helen Do, Nadia Cuschieri, Natasha Catalano, and Morgan Russell) and the Communications team (Tanika Simpson and Rachel Simmonds) brought the Guide to life. Additionally, I also would like to extend my thanks to the remainder of the Curtin Student Law Society Committee who all assisted with the editing process.

I sincerely hope that this Guide proves to be a useful resource for every student applying for clerkships this year and to everyone else who wants to get a headstart on their careers. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Curtin Student Law Society if you need to.

Meghann Leavy - careers@csls.asn.au

<https://www.csls.asn.au/>

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I wish everyone the best of luck!

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Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we are, the Wadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past, present and emerging.



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CLERKSHIP DATES

CLERKSHIP APPLICATION DATES

Applications open:

Monday 27 June

Applications close:

Sunday 31 July

Offers made:

Friday 16 September (9 am)

Offers open until:

Friday 16 September (1 pm)

GRADUATE APPLICATIONS (FIRST ROUND OFFERS)

First Round Offers made:

Friday 22 July (9 am)

First Round Offers open until:

Friday 22 July (5 pm)

GRADUATE APPLICATION (STANDARD OFFERS)

Applications open:

Monday 25 July

Applications close:

Sunday 7 August

Offers made:

Friday 9 September (9 am)

Offers open until:

Friday 9 September (5 pm)

SO, WHAT IS A CLERKSHIP?

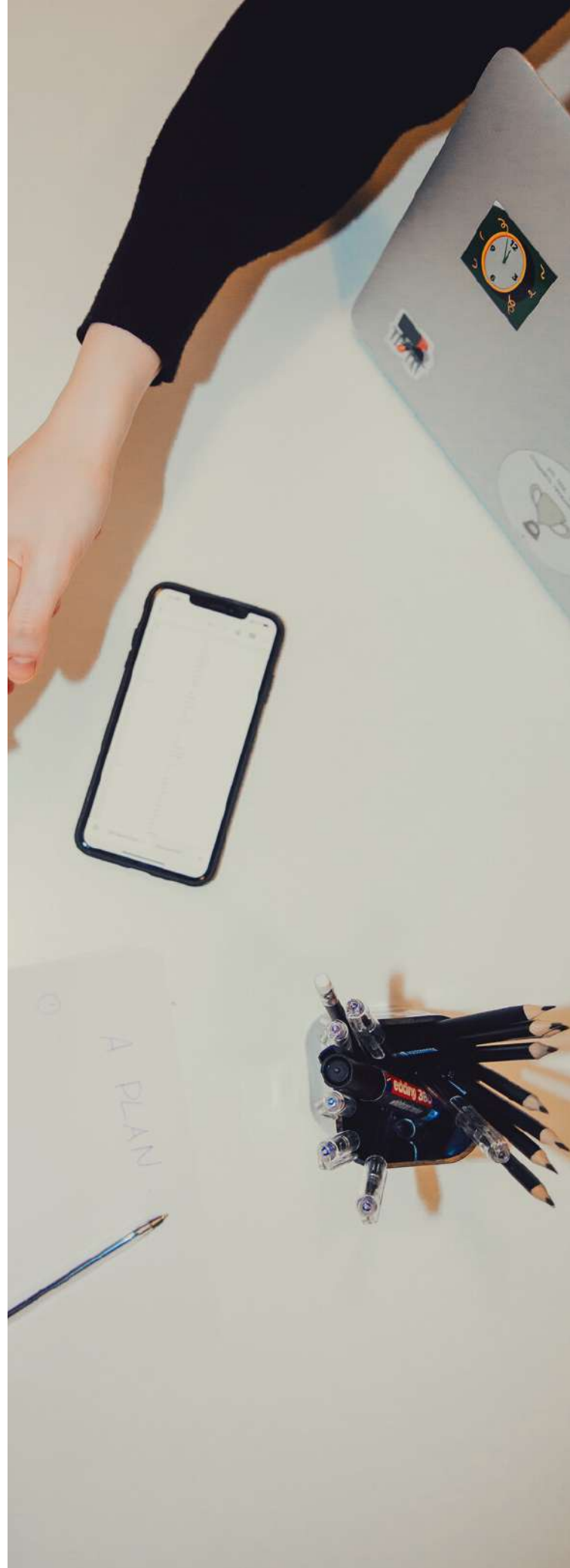
CAREERS PORTFOLIO

A clerkship is a legal internship generally open to penultimate year students. They typically run for 3-4 weeks and involve full-time work on a paid basis. Clerkships provide an opportunity for students to gain exposure to a variety of legal practices, as well as a chance for students to impress potential employers. Think of clerkships as an effective way to sample life in a legal profession.

Why are clerkships important?

Clerkships provide a short-term opportunity for students to gain guided legal work experience while studying. Not only will students gain an insight into what practical legal work entails, they will also be able to experience the professional environment and working culture of the legal profession. Exposure to a variety of practices and working environments may help students decide on the career path that suits them best, what type of law they want to pursue, what firm aligns with their values, and if they want to practice law at all.

Clerkships are also a chance for students to make valuable connections and showcase their favourability to potential employers. Although a clerkship does not necessarily guarantee employment, it may be a prerequisite to obtaining a graduate position at a law firm. Many mid- or top-tier firms have a strong preference of selecting graduates from students who have completed clerkships at the firm. So, students who have their eyes set on a particular firm should try their best and work towards securing a clerkship at that firm.



The application process

The clerkship process is competitive and requires a lot of preparation. To increase your chances of success and to ensure you get a taste of different practices, avoid putting all your eggs in one basket and apply to not only big-name firms, but also smaller firms and government agencies too. There is no harm in applying to practices that don't pique your interest at this moment. You never know what might click and you wouldn't want to be locked out of a field just because you didn't clerk there. But be cautious of spreading yourself too thin as preparing more applications might affect their quality.

Research into the chosen law firm or government agency is key for the written application, as well as the interview and networking portion. Start writing your resumes and cover letters early! Make sure you look into the partners, practice areas, and firm values so you can accurately tailor your resume and cover letter to each individual firm. It might be tedious, but it's effective and well worth the effort.

Lastly, if you are offered an interview, ensure you give yourself enough time to prepare. Look sharp, dress in business attire, and arrive promptly before your start time.

What to expect during a clerkship

A clerkship is a preview into full-time work, so experiences vary depending on the firm you are at and the practice group you are clerking in. You will be given real work for real clients and tasks will be allocated accordingly. These may include reviewing documents, drafting memos, undertaking legal research, sitting in on meetings and

taking notes, and even attending court. Having legal experience is not a prerequisite for securing a clerkship. Firms understand that this may be your first contact with life as a lawyer and are more interested to see how you choose to overcome challenges. Many firms run training workshops during your clerkships related to research skills, utilising the firm's resources, and drafting letters and memorandums. These workshops and exercises are meant to help you further hone the skills you developed in university, so make the most of them!

Don't forget to be yourself! While firms want to see whether you fit into their culture, it is also important that you determine whether the firm is fit for you and a place you would like to work in the future. The best way to find out is to completely immerse yourself. Work hard, but take the time to get to know the staff and the firm's wider community and enjoy the social side of clerkships.

What if I don't get a clerkship?

Unfortunately, not everyone who applies for a clerkship secures one, and it can definitely be disheartening. However, not receiving a clerkship offer is far from the end of the world. There are many ways in which you can gain legal experience. Volunteering at community legal centres, applying for job opportunities, or shadowing someone in the legal field are all great examples. There is also the option of applying to clerkships again the following year, or setting your sights on different career pathways. This Guide provides an insight into various career pathways and steps you can take to get there!

GRADUATE POSITIONS

CAREERS PORTFOLIO

A graduate position allows you to enter the legal profession before you are fully qualified. A graduate program will build on your experience in the legal profession through practical training and exposure to real-life work. A graduate offer allows you to build on the hours required to complete your Practical Legal Training. Overall, it is a beneficial way to increase your experiences and connections, and find what area of law you are truly passionate about.

When to think about a graduate position?

A graduate position will not commence until you graduate, and the applications for a graduate position (although they vary from firm to firm) are generally available in your penultimate or final year. However, it is always best to start as soon as possible. In your earlier years of studying through subjects, volunteering, or personal experience, you may develop a sense of what area of law you want to work in. With this knowledge, in your penultimate year, if you decide to apply for clerkships, you will have a sense of which firms appeal to you. Do not fret if you have no idea what area of law you want to go into, or if you have had no exposure to the legal industry, as clerkships are the perfect time to figure out what area of law you want to explore. A good start is to familiarise yourself with the job market and explore the firms' websites to see which one would be the best fit for you.

Where to get a graduate position?

Graduate jobs will traditionally be advertised on a firm's website. Therefore,

researching the firm and utilising their website to ensure their values align with yours is key! Networking is important for graduate positions. Although it may be daunting, networking can be as simple as asking your peers or those in the cohort above yours about opportunities or guidance about firms. The CSLS runs the Clerkship Series every year which allows students to interact with firm representatives. LinkedIn can also ease you into the networking world. You can follow firm's pages, connect with solicitors, and learn about the practice areas. It is important to be open-minded and take opportunities when they present themselves.

How do I apply?

It is a different application process for each firm. Most firms will request a CV, cover letter, and academic transcript. We have provided a guide on how to write a CV and cover letter so do not stress! Additionally, some firms incorporate competency and personality testing in their application process, to learn more about the applicant. This is a way for applicants to demonstrate outstanding features such as leadership and teamwork. In the interview process the firm may request you answer questions about the firm and your suitability for the job. Other firms host social events with firm representatives, giving an insight into your fit within the firm.

When do I get an offer?

The larger commercial firms will usually provide offers at 9:00am on a specified day, which is referred to as 'Offers Day'.

Within this period, the firms will contact successful applicants notifying them of the position, and give them until approximately midday to accept the offer. Also, note that all firms operate differently, and it may vary depending on the firm.

Other avenues

If you do not receive a graduate position, please do not be disheartened as it is an extremely competitive process. It is true that everything happens for a reason, and it could be the fact that the firm was not for you. This could be a chance to reconsider which area you want to work in and give another area a go. This can allow you some time to reflect on your CV, cover letter, and interview answers. You should reach out to the firm and see if they can provide feedback.

It can also be a sign that you need more experience, which can easily be built up by volunteering, working in a community legal centre, or working in a boutique firm. This will assist in building up your CV. Finally, remember you can always apply again! If this is your dream firm, with more experience and perseverance, you will get to where you want to be.



STANDING OUT DURING CLERKSHIPS

SHANE HERBST

Apparently, I am qualified to write on how to stand out during clerkship applications. This surprised me and would undoubtedly surprise some firms that evidently did not think I stood out. Despite this, I had some luck with most firms and, more importantly, have spoken with other successful students about their clerkship applications. The best students share traits which helped them stand out. Hopefully, my synthesis of those traits helps you stand out in your application. At the very least, this article gives you someone to blame if things go poorly. Enjoy!

Understand each firm

Learn about the firms you apply to. Some top-tier firms do not have a top-tier presence in Perth. Firms also vary greatly in their practice areas – I can think of top-tier firms with less-developed litigation teams but excellent corporate ones and vice versa. Different firms have different priorities and may place more or less value on grades, travel, work experience, or other qualities. Most importantly, firm cultures differ.

Learning these nuances will make your applications more efficient and targeted, more likely to result in offers you want to accept, and lead to more informed decisions. Research firms heavily and use previous clerks and graduates as resources – they can provide insight otherwise unavailable.

Understand your grades

Some firms insist grades don't matter. Lance Armstrong insisted he wasn't a drug

cheat. Clearly not all promises are created equally. Much like salaries, grades are cloaked in secrecy and spoken about only in vague whispers. The next paragraph removes that secrecy cloak and provides some grade guidelines, albeit with the following caveat: there are exceptions to every rule and my comments on grades are not gospel. Do not let the next paragraph deter you from applying to certain firms. Instead, use what I write to understand where you sit among the pack. You may have outstanding leadership qualities, conversational ability, character, or experiences which more than compensate for grades. Pitch these attributes in your applications and highlight where you excel.

If you average a low 60, it will be important to highlight your extracurriculars and interpersonal strengths. Proactively seeking out paralegal positions to gain some practical legal experience in smaller firms would be smart. A mid-high 60s average is solid for mid-tier clerkships. A low 70s average is strong for a mid-tier application and competitive among top-tier applications. It may be enough to get you in the door at many firms provided you are well rounded and amiable. High 70s is a great position to be in. It does not guarantee an interview, but provided you demonstrate genuine interest in both commercial law and the firm, you will be very competitive. Obviously, an 80+ average helps.

Know and be yourself

Grades, extracurriculars, and experience get interviews and personality gets offers.

Averaging 80 won't help you if you are rude. Self-aware, likeable, and authentic candidates generally dominate, although there were some notable exceptions to this theory.

Understanding your own motivations, strengths, and limitations is crucial. I spent significantly more time talking about what I need to improve on during interviews than I did my strengths. Pretending you are complete is delusional, and honesty and openness demonstrates maturity, introspection, and authenticity.

Box ticking and saying what you think they want to hear is a fantastic way to guarantee you blend into the masses. Show your personality to stand out. Some won't like it and that's ok - you don't need, and won't get, offers from every firm. You only need a few to appreciate it. If you are funny, be funny. If you are curious, be curious. If you are a nerd, be a nerd. Know who you are and then be yourself.

Conclusion

There are many other points I would like to make which I have omitted for brevity's sake. Nonetheless, a good starting point is to know the firms, know where your grades position you, and know yourself. Hopefully, luck goes your way and you receive your desired offers.

Regardless, just remember that nothing matters and everything in our universe including you, your ecstasy, or disappointment, and humankind itself, is transient. Save for a remarkably banal life, clerkship offers day will not occupy your thoughts as you lay on your deathbed, so please don't let the process erode your self-worth or inner peace. Enjoy the experience and keep your perspective.

Good luck!





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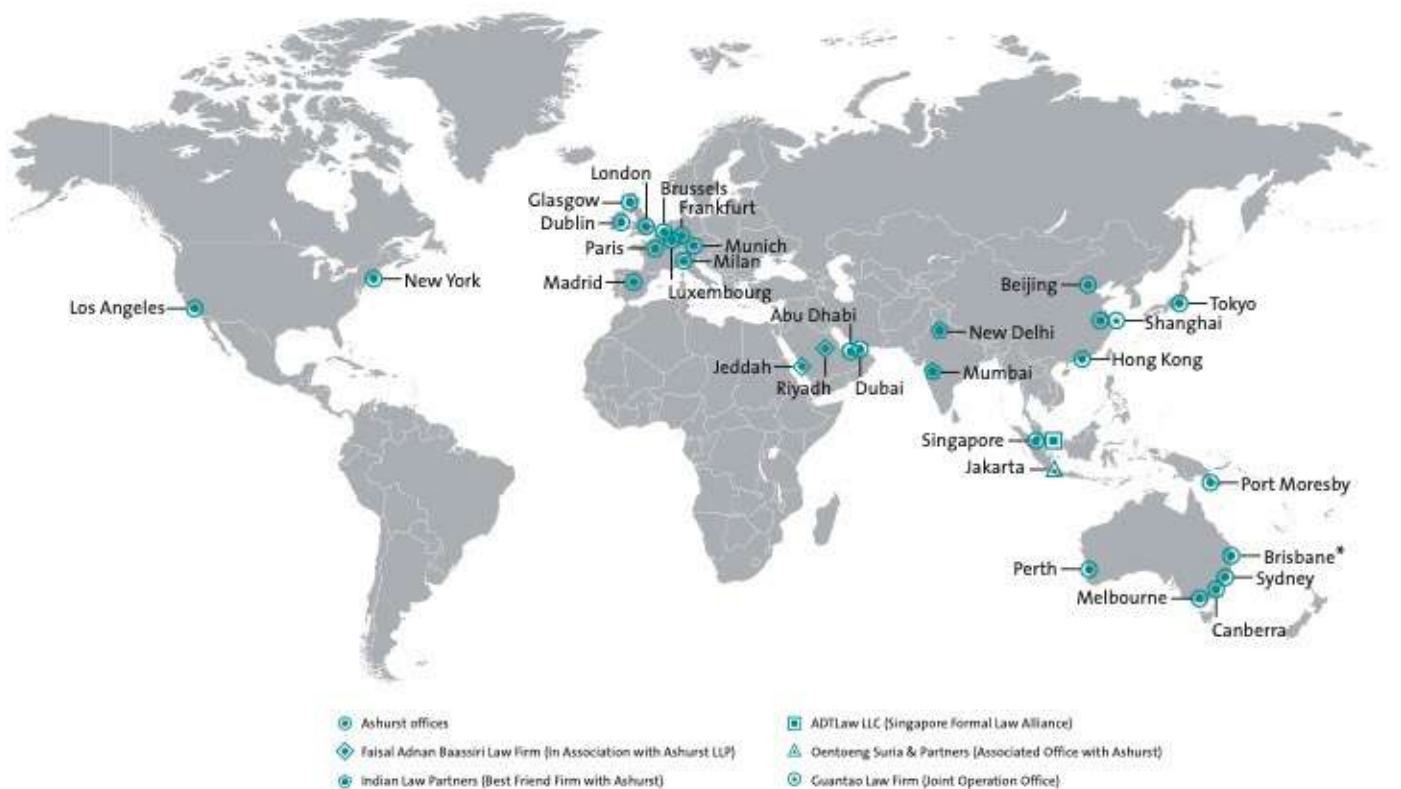


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MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

NIKKI LYTTLE

You need to apply to as many firms as possible to get a clerkship

Throughout the clerkship series events, I had heard successful graduates telling their stories of gaining clerkships after applying to dozens of firms. The thought of applying to so many places was incredibly daunting, never mind the amount of time I knew it would take. Some of the best advice I received was to not worry about the number of applications you were submitting, but the quality. It can be very easy to try to churn out as many cover letters as possible to cover all bases, but firms often can tell the letter has been copied and pasted. This can make your application less appealing than if you had spent more time on fewer applications to make each application personalised and well thought out.

Additionally, applying only to firms that you want to work for, rather than just any firm to get a clerkship experience from, can be beneficial. I felt that it would be a waste of everyone's time to apply to places that I was not excited to work for. It meant that I was able to put more time and energy into the applications I cared about, and it paid off! This, of course, is not the only way to successfully approach the application process, but if you are worried about not being able to complete dozens of applications, you don't need to!

You will only get a place at a top-tier law firm if you have law experience

This was something that spooked me the most when applying for clerkships - I only

had hospitality and journalism experience on my CV. I was concerned that firms would overlook my applications for those who had managed to work more in the legal industry. However, from my interviews, I learned that the experience we gain from outside the law often makes an applicant ~interesting~. Many top tier firms look to employ well-rounded and diverse candidates, not simply legal carbon copies. Highlighting your transferable skills from other jobs, volunteering roles, or hobbies shows the firms that you have what is required to succeed in the clerkship role, and you will be an interesting member of the team. Use your Cover Letter and CV to highlight the experience you do have rather than what you don't have!

You should only apply if you know you certainly want to work in commercial law

Clerkships in law firms are generally for commercial law. However, just because you aren't set on being a commercial lawyer doesn't mean you shouldn't apply. Clerkships give you a fantastic opportunity to experience what working in the law is like, and it gives you the chance to test out various areas of law.

Many law firms offer multiple rotations throughout the office, allowing you to potentially find something you love and want to pursue (or hate and avoid). The clerkship process can help solidify whether you want to go into commercial law or not and whether certain types of law firms are the right fit for you.

Additionally, places like the State Solicitor's Office and the Department of Public Prosecutions offer clerkships for those wanting to work in government institutions or criminal law. These placements give you an invaluable insight into the other side of the legal profession while still allowing for great opportunities to develop your legal skills and explore non-commercial firm employment opportunities. It is worth doing research to see what opportunities are being offered; you might accidentally stumble upon what you want to do for the rest of your life (or maybe just for a little bit)!

Clerking is the only way into the legal profession

Not getting a clerkship is not the end of the world. There are so many alternative pathways into the career you want in law; missing out on a clerk position should not dishearten you too much. Many law firms or institutions will offer graduate roles regardless of whether they clerked with them. At the end of the day, if you want a specific job and you put your mind to it, there is a way to achieve it. Don't give up!

I wish you luck with your applications for clerkships this year! If you have any further questions or worries about the process, please don't hesitate to contact me at secretary@csls.asn.au or catch me for a chat around the law school.



HOW TO WRITE A COVER LETTER

PARIS MCNEIL

Why write a cover letter?

Cover letters allow you to expand on your experiences and demonstrate why you are an ideal candidate.

How to begin your cover letter

Firstly, triple check you have the correct name and address for the firm you are applying to. I have heard of firms throwing away applications simply because the cover letter had the wrong firm name. The first paragraph of your cover letter should briefly introduce yourself (your degree, where you study, your year of study and your CWA if you'd like). You should also have a punchy statement telling the firm why you would like to work for them.

Expand on your resume

My number one tip is not to be disheartened or worried if you don't have any legal experience. Firms understand most law students will not have formal legal experience, however, if you have volunteered at a community legal centre or competed in CSLS competitions in the past, then definitely add those in.

Firms are looking for well-rounded, hardworking individuals. It's your job to show them that you embody those traits through your cover letter. If you have worked at Woolworths consistently since high school, write a paragraph about that! Talk about the customer service skills you developed, add in a story about how you resolved a conflict or faced a challenge and highlight how you think the skills you developed will assist you in clerking at their firm.

Similarly, don't limit yourself to just paid work experience; volunteering and extracurricular experience is incredibly valuable. Make sure you use examples (the STAR framework is good) to illustrate why you are an ideal clerkship candidate.

Know your firm

This is vital - do not neglect explaining precisely why you want to clerk at that firm. A tailored cover letter shows you have a genuine interest, whereas a generic cover letter likely won't stand out. Tell them how you found out about the firm. Did you attend a CSLS clerkship event sponsored by that firm? Did you participate in one of their competitions? Do you know someone at the firm?

As a clerk, you'll be conducting legal research, so demonstrate you are a skilled researcher by finding out about the firm. Perhaps the firm's commitment to pro-bono work aligns with your desire to contribute to the community, or their diversity and inclusion policy speaks to you. It's also worth discussing practice areas you might be interested in and why.

Wrap it up

Always, always, always proofread your cover letters to ensure the structure is logical and there are no typos. Get a friend or family member to also read over it or use Grammarly. The cover letter should be no more than one page and saved as a PDF with a descriptive title. Finally, cover letters take time. Clerkship applications are in the middle of Trimester 2, so make sure to start early and chip away at them so you aren't rushed at the last minute.

Jane Recruiter
Graduate Recruitment Consultant — Big Firm 1
1 August 2022

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0404 120 594

Dear Jane

RE: PERTH VACATION CLERKSHIP 2022/23

I am a penultimate year Bachelor of Laws student at Curtin University, with a 72.75% average, and wish to apply for a Clerkship position at Big Firm 1 (BF1). I am attracted to a career in commercial law as I have a demonstrated interest in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. I believe my desire to learn practical legal skills and strong work ethic would see me suitably placed in this role.

I was first attracted to BF1's industry-leading practice when I attended the BF1 Junior Negotiation Competition (2020), where I discovered my desire to work in commercial law, particularly, the Disputes Resolution team. I also enjoyed learning about BF1 at the Curtin Student Law Society Clerkship Seminar where I learnt about BF1's corporate culture, practice areas and clients. I am passionate about the importance of engaging in pro bono legal work and recognise BF1's significant contribution in this area. I also thoroughly enjoyed hearing from lawyers and graduates and learning about BF1's global approach to wellbeing and the support systems which ensure that lawyers are operating at their best to deliver high quality legal services. Similarly, I believe that I align to BF1's values of excellence, integrity and inclusion as I regularly volunteer with Curtin Volunteers, assisting with their Mothers of Pre-schoolers Program which allows new mothers to have respite while volunteers play with the children.

Since August 2021, I have clerked at Small Firm Legal (a boutique commercial and taxation law firm). In my current role, I undertake a variety of tasks including a range of legal research for the Senior Associates, and drafting correspondence. Earlier this year, I particularly enjoyed drafting correspondence to IP Australia to request a trademark be removed from the register for non-use. I have also developed skills in front-end commercial law tasks such as assisting an acquisition to reach completion, writing articles for the firm's website and reviewing share sale agreements. Similarly, in 2020 I volunteered at Community Legal Centre 1 and developed my skills and understanding of employment law and family law matters. I believe my practical legal experiences will assist me during a clerkship at BF1.

Furthermore, one of my strengths is managing a busy workload and competing priorities. I balance full time study with my role as a bartender at Swan Valley Winery Co, clerking at Small Firm Legal and volunteering with Curtin Volunteers. I also have developed excellent customer service and communication skills in my role at Swan Valley Winery Co where I frequently resolved conflict between team members and ensured all customer needs were met.

As a Junior Editor of the Western Australian Student Law Review (WASLR), I have honed my editorial skills, improved my writing style, and scrutinised documents for syntactical errors. These editorial skills are critical when drafting court documents and correspondence.

My commitment to excellence has been formally recognised as I received a Letter of Commendation from the Dean of the Curtin Law School for my academic performance in Trimester 1 2021. I have also participated in various legal competitions, most recently, placing second in the 2021 Curtin Student Law Society Case Note Competition. I possess strong interpersonal skills which assisted me in reaching the Grand Final of the Big Firm 2 Junior Client Interview and I look forward to applying these skills in practice.

I am seeking a challenging opportunity to work in BF1's collaborative teams to deliver excellence and industry-leading legal solutions. I look forward to discussing how I can contribute to Big Firm 1.

Yours sincerely,
Curtin L Student

HOW TO WRITE A RESUME

MEGHANN LEAVY

A resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) is a formal compilation of your professional qualities. It is one of the first documents a potential employer will see so it is important that it accurately reflects who you are as an employee. Your CV will differ depending on the job/industry that you are applying for.

A CV should always be written in short, simple sentences or bullet points and should be in plain English. Avoid using complex legal jargon, unless it is absolutely necessary. It is important to make sure your CV can stand on its own. Some firms will only ask for your CV and that is all they have to decide if they want to interview you.

Presentation is key. Have a clean and neat CV; simple fonts at size 12 is the best option. Avoid using any fonts that are cluttered and hard to read. Bullet points are strongly encouraged as it is easier to read. Your CV should only be one to two pages, so keep things concise and to the point.

Personal Details

You should include your name, phone number, address and email (make sure the email is appropriate).

Education

Your education should be in reverse chronological order with your current education listed first. You should include the institution name, course name, and commencement date. It may also be useful to list your course weighted average and any achievements you have accomplished. It is only necessary to list secondary and tertiary education.

Work Experience

Your work experience should also be in reverse chronological order. Include where you worked, your title/role, start/end dates, and any responsibilities and skills. Firms understand not every student will have had the opportunity to gain legal experience. Therefore, it is important to list every workplace experience and the skills you have learnt.

Extra-Curriculars

In this section, list your involvement in any university clubs or societies, leadership programs, competitions or volunteering.

Relevant Skills

List any relevant or unique skills you have. For example, if you know a second language, have legal research skills, or have knowledge of legal specific software that may assist you during your clerkship.

Interests

This is where you can highlight to the firm who you are outside of law. It is important to show that you have hobbies and interests that are non-law related. For example, painting, baseball, or going to the movies.

References

Firms generally do not require references on your CV, but they may ask for them later in the process. When selecting your references, make sure they are appropriate and are aware that you are placing them down as a reference.

Clair Humphrey

0447 924 616

clairhumphrey@gmail.com

9 Green Tce, Bentley, Western Australia 6102

Education

Curtin University Bachelor of Laws 2020 – Present

- Course Weighted Average (CWA): 68.18%
- Achievements: High Distinction in Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Property Law Principles, and Constitutional Law

Willetton Senior High School West Australian Certificate of Education 2015 – 2019

- Australian Tertiary Admission Rank: 93.00
- Achievements: Top student in Italian and Economics 2018

Work Experience

Mason Legal June 2021 – Present

- Junior Law Clerk at Mason Legal three days per week
- Responsibilities: Day-to-day office administrative tasks; liaise with clients via telephone and email; research; draft documents and correspondence
- Skills learnt: How to communicate with clients and colleagues in a professional setting; how to research in an effective manner; how to draft and review certain documents

Kmart Australia April 2016 – September 2020

- Casual employee at Kmart Carousel
- Responsibilities: Customer service; answering and directing calls; replenishing stock and; handling money
- Skills learnt: How to communicate with customers in a calm, yet helpful manner; how to present a store in a way that entices customers; how to train new employees in various roles across the store and; how to perform well in high stress situations

Leadership and Extra-Curricular Activities

- 2021 Curtin Game Changers Participant
- 2016-2017 Exchange student in Italy for two months

Relevant Skills

- Computer knowledge, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and FilePro
- Knowledge of legal research software including Lexis Advance and Westlaw
- Italian (intermediate)

Interests

- AFL Football
- Classic Literature and Reading
- Cooking

MAINTAINING YOUR WELLBEING

MEG FERRAZ

It's no secret that clerkship season inundates students with additional stress. The need to be mindful of wellbeing is so important in this time. But, as always, there is no one-size fits all approach when it comes to mental health during times of high stress. So... instead of reading 'what you should do', let's hear how some successful clerks have handled their wellbeing during clerkship season!



Balance is a key theme in wellbeing, generally. How did you maintain balance with all your competing demands?

I know we are encouraged to ensure we reserve time for things outside of studies...I personally do the opposite. While this doesn't mean I neglect study, I try to fit study around other things in my life. I am a meticulous planner, and this served me well during application time!

What was one non-negotiable for maintaining your mental health? What sustained your motivation during the application process?

My non-negotiable was taking my birthday completely off and stepping away from applications! To do so, I ensured I had a base cover letter to tailor for further applications. Then, looking into specific matters at the firms I applied to, and relating them to my interests, kept me motivated and focused.

Looking back on the application period, what is one thing you would change to support your wellness?

The one thing I would change, would be starting my applications slightly earlier. I did start early, but perhaps not early enough to take more pressure off with exams, final assessments etc. My tip – as soon as you begin attending CSLS events and meeting firms etc, start those applications!

HELP FROM HARLEY

Name | Harley Gardiner

Degree | Bachelor of Arts (International Relations), Bachelor of Laws

Clerked at | Ashurst, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Herbert Smith Freehills, State Solicitor's Office

What's one thing that personally challenges your mental health in your studies? What is one guilty pleasure that brings you joy?

My main challenge is feeling like I never have time to complete assignments. It can be so difficult to not be doing assignments up to the last minute – and unfortunately, a mere reality when working and studying. In terms of a guilty pleasure, absolutely nothing beats a guilt free Netflix session!

PARIS' PERSPECTIVE

Name | Paris McNeil

Degree | Bachelor of Laws

Clerked at | Herbert Smith Freehills,
Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Allens and
Steinpreis Paganin

Generally speaking, what is one thing that personally challenges your mental health in your studies? What is one guilty pleasure that brings you joy?

Managing deadlines is a big one for me. Balancing work, study, and life can be challenging but having a routine and sticking to it even when I don't want to (because that's when I need it most) really helps me. My guilty pleasure is eating dry Milo out of the tin with a spoon!

So, you've submitted your clerkship applications; what's your mindset at this point? How do you handle your expectations?

I was so relieved the application phase was over but waiting for emails for interviews was daunting (especially as they don't all come in on the same day). I kept expectations realistic, remembering that clerkships are far from the be all and end all of law school. I found it useful when waiting for offers to draw some expectation flow charts that map out the actions I will take!

The waiting game is full of anticipatory stress; how do you prioritise your wellbeing? What practical things do you implement to combat this?

Offers day is particularly challenging as the firms generally call successful applicants between 9am-1pm. I would recommend not working that morning as you need to be by your phone, ready to take any calls.

However, I can say from experience that waiting by the phone for hours only to receive a rejection email later that afternoon is extremely unpleasant. I recommend filling that day with tasks which distract you to help time pass faster and to stabilise climbing anxiety levels. After 1pm, surround yourself with people who support you, and celebrate the end of a very stressful few months. If you didn't receive an offer or the offers you wanted, do something for YOU to mourn that loss. Then, as hard as it is, let go of that chapter and look to all the opportunities which await you in the future.

While you are waiting for offers, how do you navigate conversations with others who have applied for clerkships?

Be mindful that some students will want to talk about their clerkship process, and others won't. Setting those expectations early can help to avoid any uncomfortable or awkward conversations. Also, it's important that Curtin students support each other because no one else will understand your perspective and the stressors and constraints that trimesters place on you during this period.



NAIL IT WITH NICK

Name | Nicholas Anastas

Degree | Bachelor of Laws

Clerked at | State Solicitor's Office

Generally speaking, what is one thing that personally challenges your mental health in your studies? What is one guilty pleasure that brings you joy?

I tend to struggle when assessments compound and infringe my work/study/life balance. I have many guilty pleasures...but I don't mind the odd video game!

Why did or didn't you feel overly stressed during clerking?

I wasn't overly stressed because I just found the clerkship so interesting. That's why I applied to the SSO - I was excited about the work they do. Of course, there is a little bit of stress involved as with any clerkship, but if you enjoy it and the work, it's definitely less stressful.

What was a highlight when clerking? How did this affect your mental health?

There were many highlights. One that stood out was the full appreciation I got of the workplace culture at the SSO. At one point, I had to provide first aid at a medical incident with a colleague. Thankfully, everything turned out okay. Clearly, the incident itself was not a highlight but the support that not only my buddy received recovering, but also that I received as a first aider/bystander, was unexpected yet appreciated. I find this showed me, quite naturally, the character of the people in

If you're struggling with anything during clerkship season, the wellbeing portfolio is always available to direct you to helpful resources, or to lend a kind, non-judging ear! Also, don't forget that our CSLS Instagram page has a post outlining collated wellbeing resources for you if needed during this stressful season. Check it out @cslawsociety.



the office. Consequently, I felt safer in the work environment, and it brought me closer to the office.

When balancing the strenuous demands of uni, work, clerking and your personal life, did you implement anything in particular to enjoy the clerkship season? What's your top tip to thrive?

My top tip to deal with assignments due throughout a clerkship is to work backwards and set yourself a word quota - what you need to hit each day after clerking. Break it down into digestible and achievable goals...ones that make it easier to put out good quality work that you can chip away at! Aside from that, apply for places you're genuinely interested in. If you're interested in the work, you'll enjoy your clerking more, will do better and it'll be easier to stay 'well'.



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LAWYERS

INTERVIEW: TIPS AND TRICKS

NATASHA CATALANO

Now that we have discussed what clerkships and graduate positions are, it is time to look at the interview process. If you receive an offer for an interview with a firm, congratulations! Take a deep breath; the interview process is daunting but it's a huge positive that the firm sees you are a good fit.

Types of interviews

There are two types of interviews that you may be exposed to: individual and group interviews.

Individual interviews

The more common interview process is through an individual interview. This will usually be conducted by the firm's HR representative and a Partner or Senior Associate. Firms take different approaches in how they conduct the interview; some may conduct one round whilst others may have two. The interview will generally ask questions surrounding your CV and cover letter.

Generally, there are three key areas that a firm may focus on:

Personal/Behavioural

A personal/behavioural interview will fixate on who you are as an individual, your passions and goals in the legal context and your wider interests. This kind of interview will also assess your behavioural skills, including your communication and how well you work in a team. This is to determine whether you will suit the firm's culture. It is important to research the firm using their website, to discover their

values or community/pro bono initiatives that you can discuss during the interview.

Commercial

When applying for a larger corporate firm, it is likely the interviewer will want to ensure you have commercial awareness. This involves knowledge of emerging issues within commercial law or how the firm operates. For more information, check out our article on Commercial Awareness!

Personal and commercial

This is likely the style that a firm that only conducts one interview will utilise. This will include both personal and commercial style questions. This involves you trying to demonstrate your commercial awareness as well as relating your own personal interest and values to the firm.

Group interviews / assessments

Group assessments are more common than group interviews and these differ depending on the firm conducting them. This can involve conducting a presentation or solving a technical or commercial problem. The firm is assessing your teamwork skills and your personal management to lead and communicate effectively. It is difficult to find a balance, and as humans we are our own worst critics, but just attempt to engage and lead in the task but allow others to contribute. Do not put anyone else down for their ideas. Everyone is going through the process together, they are potentially just as nervous as you are, so be friendly and help one another.

Top 5 Tips for interviews

1. Be prepared

Do the research. Being aware of the firm's commerciality, key matters, and values will really set you apart from others. You will often be told the name of your interviewer - look them up to see some things they have recently worked on.

2. Arrive early

Be at your interview at least 15 minutes early; it is better to be extra early than late.

3. Do not be afraid to talk about yourself

This is the time to let interviewers know your achievements and initiatives. Brag a little!

4. Know your CV and cover letter

Do not assume once the application process is over you can discard your CV and cover letter. The interviewers will be basing their questions entirely off those documents. Always bring a copy to your interview and know them inside and out.

5. Prepare a STAR-style approach.

This approach ensures you answer the questions being asked. Discuss the following:

SITUATION: set the scene of an event you encountered - be specific.

TASK: articulate what needed to be completed in the situation.

ACTION: this is the main part of your answer, where you will highlight what steps you took to accomplish the task. E.g. leadership, management.

RESULT: present how your actions led to a positive result.

Sample questions

Personal

- What are your interests outside of law?
- Describe a time where you worked well under pressure? - use the STAR approach!
- What has been the most or least enjoyable unit?

Behavioural

- Explain a time you were required to think outside the box.
- Tell us about a time you had to balance the competing interests of others.
- What are your biggest strengths and weaknesses?

Legal

- Why are you interested in working in the particular area of law? E.g. commercial.
- What current issue do you see emerging throughout the next few years in the legal profession?
- What has inspired you to work in the legal industry?

Firm

- Why do you want to work at this firm? - explain how your values align with the firm and what sets them apart from the others.
- Why do you believe you are the best fit? - boast about your skills, tailored to the firm.
- What is one thing you would change about the firm and why?

Potential questions to ask

- How would you describe the culture at this firm?
- What tasks would a clerk experience on an average day?
- When you started working for this firm, how was it different to other places you have worked?

NETWORKING TIPS

RACHEL JUPP

The thought of networking with firm representatives is enough to keep most law students awake at night. So if you find networking daunting, just know you are not alone! Regardless of your career aspirations, it is crucial to develop your networking skills now. The importance of having contacts in your corner to support you, develop your skills, and provide advice cannot be overstated (particularly during clerkship season). Therefore, in this article I will hopefully ease some anxiety by providing some practical tips for how to start building up your network. I will then offer some guidance regarding how to conduct yourself in a networking situation. Enjoy!

Speak to your existing network and leverage older law students

Starting to build your network can be as simple as speaking to your family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Inform people in your natural network, for example, that you would like to connect with people in the profession or that you are applying for clerkships, and I can almost guarantee you will successfully make at least two acquaintances. Reach out and invite them for coffee so you can ask them some questions. Voilà! You have successfully networked and potentially have a mentor or two.

Do not underestimate the importance of networking with older law students. These students are your future colleagues, so use them as a safe space to practice your networking skills. They have recently been in your shoes so I can guarantee that they can provide you with excellent advice and will ensure you are ready to start dipping your toes in the industry. Who knows, they might even recommend you for your first paralegal role.

Update that LinkedIn profile

LinkedIn is an excellent resource to expand your network. Follow the firms you

are interested in, connect with their HR contacts working in clerkship and graduate recruitment, and reach out to law graduates with any questions you may have or even invite them out for a coffee to discuss their clerkship experience with the firm.

Attend CSLS events

A large number of firms sponsor and attend our CSLS events, so come along and become a familiar face. If you know the names of the representatives that will be in attendance at an event, use LinkedIn to see what area of law they practice in or an interesting matter they have worked on and ask a question related to that. Don't be afraid to also ask those natural questions that inevitably arise in a clerkship-related event. Not exactly sure how the firm's recruitment process works? Ask! It demonstrates your interest. Now you have firm contacts in your repository that can put a face to your name before you even apply for a clerkship.

Be true to yourself

You've gained the confidence to approach the Partner from a firm after a clerkship event... what now? Firstly, be yourself and demonstrate your unique personality!

When you are being your authentic self, the conversation will flow naturally. The firm wants to get to know you, they don't want to see your best performance of someone you think they would hire (they will see right through it). Secondly, remember that firm representatives are ordinary people who probably just want to engage in a normal conversation; so don't pitch yourself as if it is an interview.

Talk about something other than the law

It is natural that the conversation will revolve around a lawyer's work. This is great and obviously polite to demonstrate your interest, however, keep in mind that they have probably had this exact conversation with the previous ten students. If the opportunity arises, try to distinguish yourself by asking questions about their interests and hobbies and tell them about yours. If it comes to light that you are both Fremantle Dockers supporters, talk about the game from the weekend. You will likely be their favourite and most memorable conversation of the night!

Find a polite way to end the conversation

The conversation will inevitably run its course, so it is crucial you find a way to politely dismiss yourself without appearing rude or disinterested. This will be your lasting impression on the firm representative so make it count. An effective way to do this is to acknowledge you don't want to steal any more of their time or keep them from speaking to other interested students and thank them (by their name to show you have listened) for their time and the interesting conversation.



COMMERCIAL AWARENESS

HELEN DO

What is commercial awareness?

Commercial awareness is commonly viewed as an essential skill in law and business. So it isn't surprising that employers have increasingly sought after this characteristic in their clerkship and graduate candidates. This means students should be prepared to demonstrate their commercial mindset in order to stand out in clerkship questions, job applications, and interviews. Now, you might be wondering what exactly is commercial awareness? How can you gain this skill? And how can you demonstrate it? Well keep reading to find out.

Simply put, commercial awareness is knowing how a business works and what a company's day-to-day functions in a specific sector are. This knowledge is particularly important as a commercial lawyer giving legal advice. Your clients will expect you to understand and account for how the law will impact their business prospects. They will want to know what the most appropriate course of action is, and how all stakeholders may be affected by a decision.

How to develop commercial awareness?

Commercial awareness is not something you can pick up with a quick google search the night before an interview. It takes time, research, and a consistent effort to stay up to date.

The easiest and most mainstream approach to cultivating commercial awareness is utilising resources such as books, news sources, websites, and market

releases (ASX) to gain a broad understanding of the firm's sector(s). The modern business world progresses and changes quickly. You can look on the firm's website or LinkedIn to keep up with the latest matters and what the firm's practice groups focus on. Doing this routinely will help you develop a deeper understanding of the firm and its marketplace.

Another way you can gain commercial awareness is by connecting with colleagues or following law firms and their solicitors or barristers on LinkedIn or Facebook. One of the many benefits of these social platforms is that they prompt you to look into posts liked by friends and acquaintances, broadening your scope of awareness. You will also receive advertising prompts calling you to participate in extracurricular career and industry events, where you can meet and greet important figures involved in that sector.

Commercial thinking can also be developed in your current workplace. Take the initiative to look into how your workplace operates, the rationale of decisions made, and the challenges the business faces. If you work or volunteer in a legal environment, ask your colleagues about business developments, or sit in on client meetings to take minutes.

How to show commercial awareness?

As mentioned previously, commercial awareness will likely find its way into the application process. You may be asked more general questions about the market or specific questions about the law firm itself and its competitors.

Example questions you may be asked

- Discuss a piece of recent business news and your opinion on its effects?
- Tell us about an area of growth in the legal sector over the next five years and why it interests you?
- Why are you drawn to X firm over its competitors?
- At the end of your clerkship, what do you hope to have achieved?
- Describe a particular legal case or topic that sparked your interest before or during your studies, and briefly explain why?

The application process can be daunting, so having prepared answers in your repertoire will always be beneficial. Do not rely on superficial knowledge; make sure you understand all aspects surrounding your answers. Not only will this showcase your commercial thinking, it will also calm your nerves as you will be discussing topics you are well versed in.



STAY TRUE.

Staying true to your direction is what defines Clayton Utz. We've built a culture that's unlike any other law firm, but don't just take our word for it. A good lawyer needs compelling evidence so meet our people and judge for yourself.

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Academic brilliance certainly counts, but graduates who thrive here have something extra – a natural passion for connecting with people and a strong sense of self. That's what staying true is all about. If you have these qualities, Clayton Utz is for you.



CLAYTON UTZ



STAY TRUE.

I am a daughter of Vietnamese migrants who came to Australia in the late eighties in search of a better future. My parents have always struggled with the English language so it's really been my role to help them navigate their way through filling in forms dealing with Government departments and various legal issues. From a very young age this experience made me realise that it was likely there were many more people in a similar position to my parents.

I wanted to help those people the same way I'd helped my parents and that's when it clicked that becoming a lawyer was the thing for me. I am now a full time pro bono lawyer at Clayton Utz. This means that I help to implement the firms pro bono strategy by co-ordinating pro bono matters for our lawyers supervising our pro bono files and working on pro bono cases myself.

A large part of my role in the pro bono team is to help our lawyers manage challenges...

To listen to Hai-Van's full story, go to:

claytonutz.com/graduates

Academic brilliance certainly counts, but graduates who thrive here have something extra – a natural passion for connecting with people and a strong sense of self. That's what staying true is all about. If you have these qualities, Clayton Utz is for you.



CLAYTON UTZ



DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CLERK

HARLEY GARDINER

8:00 – 8:30 am

During my clerkship, I would typically arrive at the office between 8:00 and 8:30 am. While most firms will not require you to start any earlier than 8:30, arriving slightly ahead of schedule gave me time to get settled at my desk, fix up any IT issues, and check over my emails and calendar before the day fully commenced. Sometimes during this time, I would head to the staff kitchen or out to a nearby café to grab a coffee with my team or the other clerks.

8:30 – 11:00 am

Once I got back to the office, I would either continue with any outstanding work or, if I had some capacity, I would let my buddy or supervisor know that I was free to assist. One of the main things I struggled with during my clerkship was feeling like I was annoying my team members when asking for work. However, you must remember that you are there to help! Try not to feel anxious about reaching out. Different teams in different firms will have varying processes when it comes to assigning tasks. It may be as simple as flicking a few lawyers a quick MS Teams message, going up to their desk for a chat, or sending a team-wide email. Whatever it is, use common sense when seeking out work. If a lawyer has just arrived at the office or returned from lunch, give them some time to settle back in before approaching them.

11:00am - 12:00pm

During some clerkships, you may be asked

to complete an individual research task or a group clerk project which you will be required to work on throughout your clerkship. Where the clerks were required to present on a joint topic, we would often organise meetings to discuss and plan our presentation, just like you would in preparing for a group assignment at Uni. I would usually attend these meetings before lunch and use what was discussed to develop my own section of the presentation in between tasks. These projects/presentations are nothing to be concerned about, and you will definitely have some spare time to work on them.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Each day I tried my best to have lunch with some or all of the other clerks where we could debrief on our morning, support, and get to know each other. I was surprised just how close I became with my fellow clerks throughout the process - you do see each other every day for 3-4 weeks. Clerkships can be stressful, and it was comforting to know that you were not alone in the process and have someone to talk to. I have met so many great friends throughout my clerkships and I know we will continue to stay in touch no matter where we end up working.

1:00 – 2:00pm

A common misconception about clerkships is that you just turn up to the firm, sit down at a desk and work from 9 – 5. However, while you will be doing a lot of work, firms also have detailed and exciting clerkship programs. Throughout your clerkship, you will likely attend short

sessions discussing various aspects of the firm. You may be offered insights into interesting matters and clients or sit in on detailed presentations about the firm's respective committees and practice groups. These presentations generally last between 30 minutes and an hour, and you will be made aware of them through your calendar. When I attended these sessions, I made sure to bring a pen and paper to take some notes and prior to the session, spent some time brainstorming interesting questions to ask the presenter.

2:00pm – 4:00pm

In the afternoon I continued with my tasks for the day, perhaps taking a short break around 3 pm for a cup of tea! Sometimes, I was asked to sit in on client meetings, attend a court session, or run some documents down the Terrace to counsel. I really enjoyed the variety of tasks I was given. When you receive instructions for tasks, you should always ask when the lawyer instructing you would like it to be completed by. If I was asked to complete a task by the end of the day, I often try to have it completed and sent to the lawyer by around 4:00pm. This allowed me some time to make any changes that the lawyer required. However, don't get too stuck on this – sometimes you really need that final hour, and often the lawyer instructing you may not get around to reviewing your work until the next day.

4:00 – 5:30pm

Once I had completed or made any changes to my daily tasks, I would spend the last of the day prepping for the next. I would check my calendar and write a to-do-list for the following workday while it was still fresh in my mind. Before leaving, I would make sure to do a small lap around my team asking if anyone needed my help

with anything else for the day. Once I was cleared to go, I would usually head home. However, if it was a Friday, I would stick around for a drink and some socialising with my colleagues. Sometimes, the clerkship program may even have a clerk dinner scheduled with the graduates, which were always great fun!



	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday	All day Training	11:30 – 12:15 pm National Session – Matter Insight. 2:30-3:00pm Practice Group Insight – Property	11:00-11:30 am Clerk Project Meeting
Tuesday	All day Training		1:00pm – 2:00 pm – National Session – Matter Insight 3:30pm – 4:00pm Practice Group Insight – Environmental Planning
Wednesday	10:00-10:30 Practice Group Insight – Corporate 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch with the Graduates	11:00am – 12:00pm Clerk Project Meeting	
Thursday	12:00pm – 1:30pm Practice Group Insight – Disputes/Litigation	9:00 am – 9:30 am Practice Group Insight – Employment 5:30 pm – 7pm Dinner with the Graduates	11:00am – 11:30am Practice Group Insight – Banking and Finance 1:00pm – 1:45pm Clerk Project Run Through 2:00pm – 2:45pm Clerk Project Presentation
Friday	4:30pm – 7pm Welcome Drinks	4:30pm – 6pm Firm Drinks	4:30pm – 6pm Firm Drinks

THE TIERS EXPLAINED

MEGHANN LEAVY

During law school you may have heard law firms being described as a certain 'tier', but what does that mean? Traditionally, the legal industry has been divided into three tiers - top-tier, mid-tier, and boutique. This classification is generally made after considering factors such as size, number of legal staff, number of clients, the range of services, and the firms revenue. It is important to note this is arbitrary. Some prefer to classify firms based on other factors such as reputation.

Top-tier firms are generally the largest firms in Australia. These firms will typically have an office in most Australia capital cities and have offices overseas. Majority of these firms will be affiliated with international firms. Top-tier firms will provide a wide range of legal sectors and will be regarded as full service firms, meaning that no matter the client's legal matter the firm will be able to assist.

Mid-tier firms are relatively similar to top-tier firms. They may be slightly smaller in size but generally have a strong domestic presence. While many mid-tier firms are full service as well, some may specialise in a smaller range of services. These firms may not have as strong of an international presence as the top-tier firms. However, it is important to remember that these are generalisations, and it does depend on each firm.

Finally, boutique firms are generally smaller in size, workforce, and clientele. Boutique firms tend to specialise in one, or few, areas such as criminal, taxation, immigration, family, and so on. These firms may have a smaller reputation but there are generally more 'hands on' opportunities for employees.

At this stage in your careers, it is a good idea to think about what 'tier' firm you think is best suited for you. Different types of firms will be more attractive to different people. It is also important to remember that there are a plethora of other pathways outside of the 'tiers', such as government agencies, in house counsel, or community legal centres. There is never a wrong answer when thinking about what type of firm you would like work in but it is definitely something to cast your mind to!



Great change is here. Shape the future with Allens

At Allens, we're focused on equipping our people with the skills and experience they need to be the lawyers of the future. We're ready to define tomorrow. **Are you?**

With us, **you'll be more than a lawyer.** Our people are technical experts, but they're also trusted business advisers who think bigger, more broadly and more strategically. Together, we solve complex legal challenges, and collaborate across practice areas and disciplines to guide our clients.

We work across borders too, thanks to our alliance with Linklaters. This provides opportunities for our firm and our people, including annual rotations in Linklaters London, Hong Kong and Singapore being available to our graduate lawyers.

An early legal career at Allens includes highly **tailored training** through the Allens Academy. Developed in partnership with the Australian National University, our Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice will help you transition from law graduate to legal expert and trusted business adviser.

In a rapidly changing world, we seek opportunities to innovate, **embracing creative thinking**, new approaches and emerging technology. We don't just seek opportunities to benefit ourselves and our clients, we believe strongly in driving positive change to do right by our community too, as demonstrated through our strong pro bono practices.

Our teams are **open, inclusive and encouraging**, giving you the opportunity to learn and grow while feeling supported. You'll have the flexibility to drive your own career, and we'll recognise your achievements and hard work as you progress through the firm. **Are you ready to begin?**

Another fantastic initiative from Allens to engage future talent! As a candidate, I am excited at the prospect of joining such a fantastic and innovative firm.



ALLENS CONFIDENTIAL PODCAST
graduates.allens.com.au/allens-confidential-podcast



ALLENS MEET AND ENGAGE
meetandengage.com/allens



STUDENT NEWSLETTER
graduates.allens.com.au/life-at-allens



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/allenscareers/



LINKEDIN
linkedin.com/company/allenslawfirm

Find out more at graduates.allens.com.au



PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING



CURTIN PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

CURTIN LAW SCHOOL

To be admitted into the legal profession within Western Australia, applicants need to satisfy requirements contained within the *Legal Profession Act 2008 (WA)* and *Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2009 (WA)*. In summary, an applicant must have:

- attained approved academic qualification, i.e. law degree; and
- completed the practical legal training requirements.

Furthermore, the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia (Board) requires that applicants also submit:

- two certificates of good fame and character;
- National Police Certificate; and English language proficiency documentation.

Academic Qualification

Curtin University's Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is an approved academic qualification. Applicants must have completed their academic qualification within 5 years of applying for admission. If an applicant has completed their academic qualification more than 5 years before applying for admission, the applicant must apply to the Board to have their academic qualification approved.

Practical Legal Training

Curtin University offers practical legal training through the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Curtin PLT). It is the only practical legal training program in Western Australia offered by a university.

Curtin PLT is comprised of two components:

- coursework – students are required to complete seven coursework units: 5 core units and 2 optional units; and
- workplace experience – students are required to complete one workplace experience unit.

The focus of the Curtin PLT is very practical. With no exams, the coursework provides the opportunity to learn how to complete tasks that you would expect to be given as an entry-level lawyer. You get the benefit of regular contact with experienced Western Australian lawyers and barristers, who provide you with instruction and practical guidance as you work through each task.

Did you know that you do not have to wait until you have completed your law degree before applying for a place in the Curtin PLT? If you have completed your LLB core units and have only one or two optional units left, you may commence the Curtin PLT at the same time as completing your law degree. However, you must first obtain written approval from the Board to commence your practical legal training early.

If you would like more detailed information about the Curtin PLT or would like to learn more about applying for admission into the legal profession within Western Australia, please contact the Curtin PLT Team at curtin.plt@curtin.edu.au.

To apply, visit: curtin.edu/plt.

CURTIN PLT EXPERIENCE

JESSIKAH NIESTEN

You are about to finish your Bachelor of Laws, and you need to choose a place to do your Practical Legal Training. Why enrol in the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (GDLP) at Curtin Law School? The answer is simple: why not?

Full disclaimer: I was awarded the John Curtin Law Clinic Service Excellence scholarship to complete the GDLP at the Curtin Law School (while concurrently completing Honours). In any event, the reasons you may want to choose this program are as follows.

Firstly, completing the GDLP through Curtin Law School means that you have a 'real' degree to add to your collection. Curtin is the only university to offer this program in Western Australia (this means you get to attend graduation a second time, which is worth it if only for the fireworks at Bentley).

The second reason for choosing to do the GDLP at Curtin is for the practical experience. As I am interested in practising Criminal Law, I particularly liked having the opportunity to engage in trial preparation and to practice my advocacy skills.

Some of you may have done Real Property with Bec Flint in the Bachelor of Laws, and if you enjoyed her classes, she returns in the GDLP to teach trust accounting and Property Law. For the record, nobody is more thorough and patient than Bec!

The GDLP program at Curtin requires students to complete a 35 hour Clinic

Intensive. In addition to this requirement, I volunteered at the John Curtin Law Clinic. If you have never had an opportunity to complete the Clinic as an elective, I suggest you do so because it teaches you important practical legal skills and allows you to gain experience in a supportive educational environment.

Katrina Williams is the Principal Lawyer of the John Curtin Law Clinic and teaches in the GDLP program itself, running both the client interview and negotiation workshops.

The final reason to do PLT at Curtin is that the environment is familiar. Although I had already completed my degree, it was nice to be back at 57 Murray St because it gave me the opportunity to see familiar and friendly faces. There was a mix of people in our course, some of whom I had previously studied with and other students who came to Curtin from other universities. This was a nice way to ease into postgraduate study.

These are just a few reasons to consider doing your Practical Legal Training at Curtin Law School!

For more information about the course, email Curtin.PLT@curtin.edu.au.



Curtin University

CURTIN LAW SCHOOL

PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE

A specialised Practical Legal Training (PLT) course for law graduates who wish to apply for admission to the legal profession in Western Australia.

Curtin University's Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice is the first PLT course delivered by a Western Australian University.

- > **Accredited**
- > **Flexible blended delivery** (comprising of online self-directed modules and after hours face-to-face seminars delivered in Perth CBD)
- > **Delivered by experienced legal practitioners**
- > **Strong focus on technical legal skill development**

Admission Criteria

- > A **Bachelor of Laws, Juris Doctor or equivalent qualification** from a recognised university approved under the *Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2009 (WA)*; OR
- > Prior written approval from the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia to enrol in the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice; AND
- > Meet Curtin University's English language proficiency requirements.



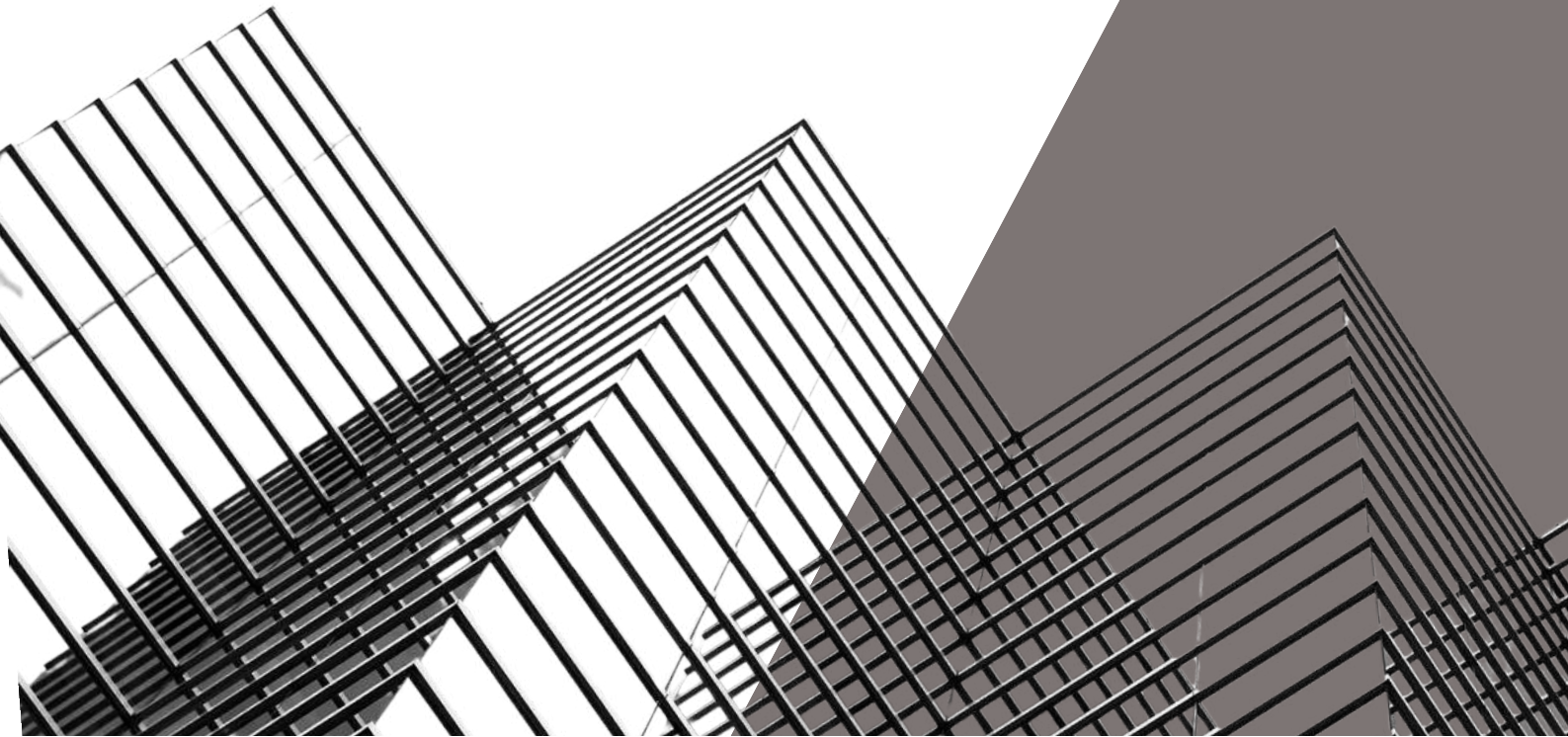
"I chose Curtin's Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice over other providers' programs, because Curtin emphasised practical learning.

The face-to-face sessions with those engaged in the profession and the fact that it was relatively easy to fit the program in with full-time employment, were also drawcards."

Surina Maharaj



COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY





ALLENS



What are your firm's key practice areas in Perth?

Banking and finance, projects and development (projects, real estate), disputes and investigations (commercial disputes) and corporate (mergers and acquisitions and capital markets).

What are your firm's core values and what makes Allens unique?

Driven by excellence, eyes on the horizon, in it together, courageous and creative and fostering greatness.

Comparing firms can sometimes feel like an impossible task. While we think there are a few things that make us unique – like our two-year graduate program which offers two 12-month rotations and a commitment to invest in your career for the long term, our illustrious list of alumni and the fact that we're one of Australia's longest running businesses – it's our culture and the way we work together that really sets us apart.

Culture can be a tricky thing to put your finger on from the outside. We've had almost 200 years to build ours, and it's what we think makes Allens such a great place to build a career, but don't just take our word for it. We've drawn back the curtain on our culture, so you can see whether it's one you'd thrive in. Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter and visit our early careers website for the inside scoop.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

Allens are proud that there isn't an 'Allens' type. We know that diverse perspectives help solve complex problems, strengthen teams and enrich client relationships. Ultimately, we are looking for students who are driven and are ambitious, not only about the law, but have interests outside their university life and career. Our people are our greatest asset, and it's having diversity and different personalities that we believe sets us apart. If you can demonstrate your ability to balance priorities, and exhibit that you're a dedicated budding commercial lawyer, we would love to hear from you. And finally, as cliché as it sounds, be yourself. Allens value authenticity. We want to work with clerks and graduates who value this too; we believe you're able to build better relationships if you are true to yourself.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships?

Allens offers two clerkships throughout the summer holiday period and one during the winter holidays. Historically 35-45 offers have been made.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

We offer clerkships to penultimate and final year students. For pre-penultimate students, Allens runs an introductory program called Dive-in. Applications close 29 April and the program will run in May 2022.

Allens > < Linklaters

»»» ASHURST «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

In our Perth office our expertise are: Banking & Finance; Capital Markets; Construction; Corporate and M&A; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Environment; Native Title; Projects; Real Estate; Restructuring, Special Situations and Insolvency

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Through our values and the way in which we work, collaboratively, by thinking differently and being passionate about the quality of work we deliver for our clients and internally for each other. As a global law firm, we've built a reputation for providing exceptional standards of service and established ourselves as a leading adviser to local and global corporates, financial institutions and governments, on all areas of law including finance, M&A, disputes and competition.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

The application process is very important, so put your best foot forward. Ensure your application has all the relevant documentation that is asked of you and in the correct format. Do your research! When it comes to interviews, professionalism is important but nothing can top enthusiasm and someone who is well researched and can not only talk about the Firm, but the markets and industries that we are involved in. The clerkship itself is kind of like a three week

interview so ensure you are presenting the best version of yourself and you are engaged throughout the program.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

We have three clerkship periods:
Summer 1: November - December;
Summer 2: January - February
Winter: June - July

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

We will consider penultimate or final year students for our clerkship.

The Ashurst logo is displayed in a large, bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

»» BAKER MCKENZIE ««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

In Melbourne, our key practice areas are banking and finance; corporate (including mergers and acquisitions, private equity and capital markets); energy resources infrastructure and corporate; funds; commercial real estate; construction; dispute resolution and litigation; employment and industrial relations; and IPTech.

What are your firm's core values and what makes Baker McKenzie unique?

Quality and excellence together with integrity, honesty, candor, teamwork and responsiveness are some of Baker McKenzie's key values. The values that make us a unique and great place to work are:

- We are passionately global, and leverage our global expertise for our clients at every opportunity
- We are a multi-cultural firm united by a genuine and robust culture of friendship, inclusion and collaboration. We pride ourselves on our diversity strategies and initiatives including BakerWomen, BakerDNA, BakerWellbeing, BakerPride, and BakerIndigenousEngagement
- We are commercial pragmatists and are committed to excellent service
- We strive to stay ahead of the curve. We bring entrepreneurial energy to our work and we embrace innovation
- We actively encourage and engage in pro bono work and community service programs.
- We want everyone at Baker McKenzie to reach their potential so we invest in world-class development and mobility programs for our people.

How can a student stand out in the application process?

Our top tips are:

- Cover letter: Research the firm and tailor your cover letter. Highlight what interests and excites you about working with the firm (and why).
- CV: Make sure to keep this around 2 pages in length. Use clear and meaningful headings, and consistent fonts and bullet points. Keep it current (around the last 5 years), and ensure you cover education, work experience and extra-curricular activities.
- Short answer questions: Make sure you invest the time in answering these questions properly. Use your best and most relevant examples and highlight your abilities.
- Make an effort to attend firm events/sessions (you might want to attend our Bakers' Dozen series!).
- Check and double check your application before submitting it.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships?

Intake 1: 28 November - 23 December 2022

Intake 2: 30 January - 24 February 2023

Intake 3: 26 June - 21 July 2023

We hope to recruit approximately 30 clerks across our 3 intakes.

Do you offer clerkships to penultimate students?

We accept penultimate and final year students. We also accept (and welcome!) applications from international students provided they have the right to work.

**Baker
McKenzie.**

»»» CLAYTON UTZ «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Banking & Financial Services, Commercial Litigation, Competition, Corporate M&A & Capital Markets, Environment & Planning, Forensic & Technology Services, IP & Technology, Major Projects & Construction, Pro Bono, Public Sector, Real Estate, Restructuring & Insolvency, Tax, Workplace Relations, Employment & Safety

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

The firm's core values are Trust, Respect and Co-operation. We're particularly proud of our globally recognised Pro Bono practice, that we were the first law firm to create the role of National Mental Health Manager, and of the way in which our people have embraced our diversity and inclusion initiatives.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

Clayton Utz employs people with a wide range of backgrounds, skills, interests and competencies. We look for people who can contribute new ideas, who take a creative approach to solving problems, are personable, practical, and commercially-savvy, as well as flexible.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

We offer Summer and Winter clerkships, and will have approximately 35 clerkship positions available for 2022/23.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

The clerkship is aimed at students in their penultimate year of study, if you are in your final year, please outline in your application why you weren't able to undertake a clerkship in your penultimate year by answering the relevant question. CU Up Close is a unique development opportunity for students in their pre-penultimate year of study, visit our Graduate Careers page to find out more.

CLAYTON UTZ

CORRS CHAMBERS



WESTGARTH



What are your firm's key practice areas?

Nationally, we have practice groups which specialise in the following areas of law: Arbitration; Banking & Finance; Class Actions; Commercial Litigation; Competition; Corporate; Employment & Labour; Environment & Planning; Financial Sponsors; Intellectual Property; Projects; Property & Real Estate; Restructuring, Insolvency & Special Situations (RISS); Tax; Technology, Media & Telecommunications (TMT); and Responsible Business and ESG. We also have a dedicated Papua New Guinea practice based in Port Moresby.

What are your firm's core values and what makes Corrs unique?

Corrs Chambers Westgarth is Australia's leading independent law firm. We're known for delivering legal excellence, exceptional client service and outstanding results. Through our long-term relationships with leading law firms across the world, we advise on the most significant global matters and connect with the best lawyers internationally to provide our clients with the right team for every engagement. At Corrs, you'll enjoy the benefits of working alongside a high-performing team with a shared commitment to our culture of excellence, collaboration, commitment and respect.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

We look for people who can make a positive contribution to the firm and help us in delivering legal excellence and outstanding client service.

One of the best ways to stand out is to ensure your clerkship application is tailored to your interests, skills and the firm you are applying to. Demonstrate your knowledge of the firm by referencing partners or deals that interest you and reflect this in your cover letter and your responses to the online application.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

In 2022/23, Corrs Perth will offer three, three-week clerkship programs held in summer or winter. Each program will have approx. 8-10 clerks.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate year students?

Yes, we do. However, pre-penultimate students need to recognise that they will be competing for clerkship positions with students who are further along in their legal studies and may have more depth to their work experience and extra-curricular activities.

Jennifer Jacobs

jennifer.jacobs@corrs.com.au
+61 8 9460 1621

**CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH**

»»» DLA PIPER «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Corporate, employment, finance, projects and restructuring, intellectual property and technology, litigation and regulatory, tax, real estate and pro bono.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

DLA Piper is a global business law firm based in the Americas, EMEA and Asia Pacific. We help clients succeed through innovative and pragmatic legal solutions. Leading businesses across the world trust us with their most complex matters, and rely on our seamless cross-border prowess and sector knowledge.

In everything we do connected with our People, our Clients and our Communities, we live by four values: Be Supportive, Be Bold, Be Collaborative and Be Exceptional. Wherever you are, and whatever your challenge, we speak your language.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

Our people come from a diverse range of backgrounds. That's what sets us apart. By opening up a range of different and unique perspectives, this allows us to service our clients better.

You will need a strong academic record, and a real passion for developing a career as a lawyer. But it goes further than that... among other things, we'll be looking for candidates who are naturally inquisitive,

have plenty of drive, and can show a genuine commitment to their chosen career path.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2020/21 clerkship season?

We offer approximately 35 summer clerkship positions across all of our Australian offices.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

We accept applications from penultimate and final year students for our summer clerkships.



➤➤➤ GILBERT + TOBIN ‹‹‹

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Corporate Advisory, Energy + Resources, and Disputes + Investigations.

Nationally, we also practice in Banking + Projects, Competition + Regulation, Intellectual Property, Pro Bono, Technology + Digital, and Tax.

What are your core values and what makes Gilbert + Tobin unique?

Our firm is committed to outstanding citizenship. Gilbert + Tobin's vision is to build a truly outstanding law firm, renowned for our commitment to client service and distinctive in our superior team of talented, creative and enthusiastic lawyers. We foster a vibrant and open culture providing personal and professional growth for all our people. We live out our responsibility to support our community and contribute to our society. Our pro bono legal services has a proud track record and we champion important causes, such as marriage equality and reconciliation with Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Our culture is unique, and at its heart it is a paradox. It is energetic and proactive, incredibly driven and ambitious - but also understated, funny and generous. We offer an informal and relaxed environment, approachable partners and lawyers, diverse teams, friendly people who care about the firm and the high-performance contribution they make irrespective of their role.

How can a student stand out in the application process?

While strong university results and academic achievements count, we are also looking for people who align with our firm's culture and values. We are not a prescriptive firm when it comes to our people; we invite individuality and diversity. We also hold ambition, imagination, creative thinking and entrepreneurial spirit in high regard. We seek clerks and graduates that will complement our practice groups and do not feel the need to take themselves too seriously.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

Approximately 8 clerks for each intake, Summer: November to December 2022 and Winter: June to July 2023.

Do you offer clerkships to penultimate students?

Preference is given to students in their penultimate or final year.



HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Corporate, Dispute Resolution, Employment, Industrial relations & Safety, Finance, Real Estate and Projects.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Connect, Collaborate, Lead, Excel.

We think it's a combination of being a truly global firm and having a leading domestic practice. This means that when you join, you'll be working on the most complex and interesting matters and also benefit from having an international network, exposing you to overseas opportunities. Despite the global nature of the firm, you will feel supported and connected to your local teams.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

The best applications we see are focused on that student's individual strengths. We don't recruit to a formula - we want to hear about your strengths and achievements including your pursuits outside of strict black letter law academia.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

We offer summer and winter clerkships. Across the two intakes, we offer approximately 30 vacation clerks.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

Yes, our clerkship program is open to non-penultimate year students, however we prioritise applications from penultimate year students. Our clerks and graduates often find it is better to time their clerkship and the commencement of the graduate program on either side of their final year of study.



HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS

»»» HHG LEGAL GROUP «««

What are your firm's core values?

The six key values that define HHG Legal Group, guide our behaviour and growth strategy are:

Teamwork, Client focus, Respect, Integrity, Continuous improvement and Fun.

How would you describe your firm's culture?

We are committed to attracting staff that not only demonstrate great legal knowledge, but who have the skills to communicate effectively and build close relationships with all types of clients. In addition, we look for those who display our standards of integrity and a commitment to helping those in need.

How does your firm distinguish itself from other law firms?

What really sets us apart from other firms is the HHG Service Guarantee. We understand that good service is subjective from client to client and guarantee that we will strive to deliver the best service, no matter how complex a matter is.

During which periods do you offer clerkships?

Typically, HHG takes on clerks anytime from October through to January however we also recruit graduates throughout the year, as required.

Do you offer clerkships to non-penultimate year students?

HHG Legal Group offers clerkships to both penultimate students as well as those completing their final year of studies.

What does your firm like to see in a clerkship or graduate job interview?

We look for people who are personable, demonstrate good initiative for getting relevant experience, even if not in the legal space. are amenable to working across WA, Great Southern and Peel regions, possess emotional intelligence, show commercial nous (across all practices), solid academic record and altruistic/ good community experience

HHG LEGAL GROUP®
TRUSTED SINCE 1919®

»»» HOPGOODGANIM «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Our expertise is categorised around areas of technical speciality and sectors. Our practitioners practise in many areas of law in all Australian jurisdictions and work with international clients, meaning the work you do in any given day is equally complex and exciting.

Our areas in corporate and commercial include, capital Markets, commercial contracts, competitions, construction, corporate advisory and governance, digital assets, dispute resolution, environment, finance, health and safety, insolvency and restructuring, insurance, intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, native title and cultural heritage, planning, property, resources and energy, taxation, technology, privacy and data, protection, workplace and employment.

Our HG Private includes, family and relationship law, family-owned business, estate and succession, personal taxation and reputation management.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Our values are:

- Be exceptional – Uncompromising on quality and striving for excellence
- Together – Deeply collaborative, both internally and externally
- Keep it real – Authentic to the core. Genuine, open and absolutely honest
- Spirited and caring – Witty, irreverent but with deep respect and care
- Top of our game – Forward thinking, curious, evolving and we challenge the status quo

We are fiercely independent; possess a unique culture and we are uncompromising in the protection of our values.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

We're looking for students that who will thrive in our relationship culture from day one. Every single member of the HopgoodGanim team has a role to play in what our clients experience and our Law Graduates are no exception to this. It's important we see this during the application and recruitment process for our Clerkship Program.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

We offer clerkships in October/November 2022, February/March, April/May and June/July 2023.

Do you offer clerkships to penultimate students?

Generally, we take penultimate students for our Clerkship Program.



HopgoodGanim

LAWYERS

»»» JACKSON MCDONALD «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Commercial, construction, corporate, dispute resolution and litigation, energy, environment, estate planning and business succession, insurance and risk, intellectual property, occupational safety and health, real estate, restructuring and insolvency, tax, trusts and superannuation and workplace and industrial relations.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Jackson McDonald stand by five integral core values. These are honesty and ethics, contribution to the community, mutual respect and teamwork, client focus and complete professionalism.

How would you describe your firm's culture?

At Jackson McDonald, you'll find a supportive culture where we work together to further our goals. Collaboration is encouraged at every level - partners, lawyers and support staff all work together to achieve common objectives. Our staff live by our brand promise of experience, confidence and clarity. Our people champion the highest levels of professionalism and give back to the community wherever they can.

Graduate Job Information

We look for enthusiastic self-starters, who can demonstrate the core competencies required for success - strong verbal and written communication skills; the ability to

work autonomously and in a team environment; and a developing ability to identify key facts and the relevant law.

At the outset of each year, we recruit a cohort of graduates to join the firm. All vacancies at the firm, including the graduate program, are advertised on SEEK, LinkedIn and our website. Simply apply by submitting the requested information outlined in the advertisement. A member of our People Operations team will contact any shortlisted applicants.

How does your firm distinguish itself from other law firms?

Jackson McDonald is one of Western Australia's largest independent full-service law firm. We have played an integral role in shaping the State by providing our clients with clear, concise legal advice that is tailored to their commercial and operational needs. Being proudly Western Australian is at the heart of how we operate. What defines every JacMac professional is the courage to be bold. To identify the most salient issues and proceed with confidence. To be honest and speak up for what we believe in. To take a stance and see it through. To leave things better than we found them.



JACKSON MCDONALD
MULTI-SECTOR LAW

JOHNSON WINTER & SLATTERY

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Our practice areas include class actions, competition, corporate, dispute resolution, employment, IP, information technology, energy and resources, environment and planning, tax, finance, real estate and restructuring and insolvency.

What are your firm's core values?

Looking after people is our top priority: our lawyers, business services professionals and our clients. Our ethos is: "we're in it together" - it's the cornerstone of our business and it guides our approach to everything we do.

How would you describe your firm's culture?

When you ask our lawyers "why JWS?" the most common response is: "because of the people." We pride ourselves on being down to earth, approachable, but always high performing. We put our lawyers at the forefront of Australian commerce and offer all the benefits that come with working for a large corporate law firm, but aim to be, quite simply, a better place to work. We value 'humanity' and 'collaboration' over everything else. We care about the wellbeing of our people and invest time in understanding their objectives to support their development, throughout their careers.

How does your firm distinguish itself from other law firms?

Johnson Winter & Slattery focuses on delivering the best legal work and client service, not internal targets and red tape. We have no targets for billable hours and

less internal hierarchies, so you will be free to focus on getting the best outcomes for your clients. Our flat team structure means you won't be tied down early in your career. You will have the opportunity to work with partners nationally, across a broad range of practice areas and sectors, giving you the best opportunity to diversify your skills and to shape your own career path.

How can a student stand out in the application process?

We're looking for graduates who have not only excelled academically, but have great communications skills, thrive in a collaborative environment and want to deliver legal advice to create the best outcomes for our clients. If you are enthusiastic, driven to succeed and want to continually develop your skills, you'll fit right in.

During which periods do you offer clerkships?

Monday, 21 November 2022 to Friday, 16 December 2022, Monday, 16 January 2023 to Friday, 10 February 2023, Monday, 26 June 2023 to Friday, 21 July 2023.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

Placements are offered to penultimate and final year law students.

JOHNSON
WINTER &
SLATTERY

»»» JONES DAY «««

Jones Day is a leading global law firm with more than 2,500 lawyers in 42 offices across five continents. In Australia, our key practice areas are global disputes, energy and resources, labor and employment, restructuring and insolvency, mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance and tax and superannuation.

Core Values

Since our Firm's inception, we have strived to adhere to a set of basic values which have been at the heart of our approach to every issue we face. Our basic values include integrity, competence, dedication, understanding and discipline.

The Graduate Process in Perth

Our Perth office runs an annual paralegal program rather than offering seasonal clerkships. Paralegals typically work with us one to two days per week. Graduates at Jones Day are members of our New Lawyers Group. Members of the group are encouraged to work with Partners and senior lawyers in different teams and offices to gain exposure to the Firm's practice areas and different ways of working. One of the highlights of the program is the New Lawyers Academy which brings together all new Associates from around the world to Washington DC, USA, for a week of training and to meet the Firm's leaders.

How to Stand Out

Jones Day looks for exceptional and enthusiastic individuals with strong analytical and communication skills. We seek out people with a desire to do the highest-quality work. Apart from academic achievements, it is important to demonstrate an ability to deal effectively with people in a professional environment. You should be flexible and creative in your approach to work, and be able to work cooperatively and responsibly in a team setting.



What are the firm's core values?

One of our core values is to create and sustain a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture that encourages satisfaction and productivity for all of our lawyers and professional staff. It is our strategic priority to maintain an inclusive culture that enriches the experience of our lawyers, enabling them to better serve our clients. We do this by:

- Ensuring that inclusion is always top-of-mind;
- Expanding the K&L Gates profile in the talent market; and
- Executing a talent development program that improves lawyer integration and retention.

How would you describe your firm's culture?

K&L Gates believes our culture is unique. It reflects the personality of our people as being down to earth, collaborative, straight talking, socially responsible and possessing a strong work ethic.

We recognise the individual needs and differences each person brings to the firm. Our aim is to create a supportive culture which fosters an environment where everyone can work to their full potential. This is achieved through our extensive range of learning and development programs; industry group collaborations; practice group meetings; flexible work programs and health and wellbeing programs.

Our people are ambitious and work hard to ensure that our clients' needs are met. We also like to have fun, connect with each other in an informal and social sense so coming to work is enjoyable.

How does your firm distinguish itself from other law firms?

K&L Gates is a fully integrated global law firm with lawyers located across five continents. In Australia we have four offices in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Our network of lawyers and legal professionals believe that clients need more than technical legal skills; they need insightful and practical advice on the diverse issues that affect their businesses, delivered with unparalleled client service. Our combination of practice strength, global platform, and unsurpassed client service is a true differentiator in the legal services marketplace. With a strong presence in key capital cities and world commercial and financial centres, we represent a broad array of Global 500, Fortune 100, and FTSE 100 corporations in nearly every major industry.

During which periods do you offer clerkships?

At present the firm is not offering clerkships programs. Instead the firm offers a casual paralegal program for final year students. We take onboard about 4-5 paralegals and involve them in meaningful work. Our casual paralegal job advertisements can be found at www.klgates.com and advertising commences January 2022 and concludes February 2022, with commencement of paralegal work in March 2022.

K&L GATES

KING & WOOD MALLESONS

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Banking & Finance, Dispute Resolution, Projects & Real Estate and Mergers & Acquisitions.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

We are driven by a simple purpose – to use our mastery of the law for the lasting prosperity of our clients, people and communities. Everything we do is grounded in a set of 8 global principles which guide the way we operate as a leading international firm – how we enable our clients to succeed, how we help our people to grow and achieve their best performance, and how we support our communities to thrive.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

Tailor the application and think about why you are applying to the firm. Take your time – don't leave writing or submitting to the last minute. Be honest in your application and don't be afraid to let your application reflect your personality.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

Our clerkship period runs for 3 weeks (Summer: November – December and Winter: June – July). The number of positions depends on business needs.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

No, however we have our “KWM Insight” program which runs nationally and is aimed at pre penultimate year law students. Look out for more information here

<https://www.kwm.com/us/en/careers.html>

KING & WOOD
MALLESONS
金杜律师事务所

»»» MINTERELLISON «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Our Firm's practice areas are Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Competition, Regulation and Trade, Corporate (including Mergers & Acquisitions and Energy & Resources), Dispute Resolution, Environment & Planning, Infrastructure, Construction and Property, Insurance, Real Estate, Restructuring and Insolvency, Sustainability and Climate Change, Tax and Superannuation, Technology, Media and Telecommunications and Workplace and Employment Law.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

At MinterEllison, we're driven by a strong sense of purpose. We create lasting impacts with our clients, our people and our communities.

We know, in a world of relentless disruption, we also need to think beyond the law. We're driving digital transformation and embedding a culture of curiosity and innovation. We're investing in adjacent consulting capabilities that enable us to provide seamlessly integrated solutions to our clients. And our people are committed to making a meaningful difference in the communities they live and work in.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

At MinterEllison, we are not looking for people to fit a mould. Academics are just

one piece of the puzzle and we recognise the strength that diversity can bring to a team. Work experience, extra-curricular activities, sporting participation, music and travel are all important criteria to us. We want you to bring your whole self to work - individual strengths and diversity are what build our teams up to be the successes they are.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

MinterEllison offers a Summer Clerkship Program in Perth from late November to early February. If you are successful in obtaining a clerkship with MinterEllison you will also be offered a graduate position for 2024 with the opportunity to paralegal in your final year at university. We estimate there will be c.8 positions available this summer.

Do you offer clerkships to penultimate students?

It is desirable, although not a requirement, that you are in the penultimate or final year of your law degree.

MinterEllison



NORTON ROSE FULLBRIGHT



What are your firm's key practice areas?

Banking & Finance, Corporate M&A, Projects & Construction, Ligation (including International Arbitration), Real Estate, Pro Bono, Financial Restructuring & Insolvency, Employment & Labour.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Quality – We're a team of the highest calibre, providing consistently high quality work.

Unity – We share our knowledge and we work to support one another across teams and borders.

Integrity – We respect colleagues and clients deeply, and we work to the highest ethical, professional and business standards.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

We continue to look for people that embody our firm values of quality, unity and integrity. Our values are the core of everything we do and we look for people who demonstrate how they can genuinely align with them. We encourage candidates to come prepared to ask meaningful questions that are important to them. We want to see people who have a balanced approach to work and life and for this to be illustrated when they meet with us. Finally, authenticity is absolutely vital.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

Two rotations over an 8 week Summer Clerkship Program (November 2022 to February 2023). 5-10 positions available.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

Our clerkships are open to all penultimate and final year law students.



»»» SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

Our key practice areas in Australia are Corporate, Construction & Projects, Financial Services, Commodities & Shipping, Energy & Natural Resources, Real Estate, Restructuring & Insolvency, Tax Strategy & Benefits, International Dispute Resolution, Litigation and Labour & Employment.

What are your firm's core values and what makes the firm unique?

Our values are Collaboration, Professionalism, Excellence, Diversity and Responsibility which shape our everyday actions and decisions, and play an integral role in our success.

How can a student stand out in the clerkship application process?

We are looking for people who will thrive in our culture and contribute to our success. In your cover letter, choose three qualities you possess that you think makes you a good fit in our culture, providing examples of how you have demonstrated these attributes.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/23 clerkship season?

We do not offer clerkships and instead we offer third-year or penultimate students

the opportunity to apply for paralegal positions based on business requirements, allowing you to gain insight and experience in commercial law. Applications open for our graduate positions on Monday, 25 July.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

We offer paralegal opportunities to third-year or penultimate students only to ensure a strong foundation of skills and knowledge to be successful in the position.

SQUIRE 
PATTON BOGGS

»»» ZAFRA LEGAL «««

What are your firm's key practice areas?

- Corporate
- Commercial
- Property
- Tax
- Wills and estates
- Litigation.

What are your firm's core values and what makes Zafra Legal unique?

Commitment to client outcomes. Efficient and effective legal service.

How can a student stand out in the application process?

We are looking for dynamic and innovative graduates who can show a keen interest to learn and be involved in a diverse range of matters. You will stand out if you can demonstrate good communication skills and a strong ability to work in a collaborative team environment, to deliver great outcomes for our clients. Most importantly, we want to learn about your personality, your interests and the qualities that make you the perfect candidate.

Which period(s) do you offer clerkships and how many clerkships are you anticipating to offer in the 2022/2023 clerkship season?

Two clerks by the year end of 2022.

Do you offer clerkships to pre-penultimate students?

Yes we do.



ZAFRA LEGAL
Commercial & Taxation Lawyers

»»» CONTACT LIST «««

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Be exceptional.

At Corrs, we bring together engaging, curious, ambitious individuals to create top performing teams.

corrs.com.au/graduates

CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH



COMMERCIAL LAW



EXPECTATION V REALITY

CLAYTON UTZ

VICTORIA BANDURSKI, LAWYER

I felt like there was an expectation that after graduating from law school, I should have known what area of law I wanted to pursue. Although I had a general idea, I wasn't prepared to make such a big decision so early on in my career.

Thankfully, the Clayton Utz Graduate Program provided me with the opportunity to do three rotations in different practice areas before I decided. Not only was I able to explore which area of law best suited me, but it also gave me the opportunity to develop different skills and be exposed to various types of legal matters.

As a graduate, I have been provided with more responsibility than I expected. I have conducted legal research, drafted agreements, conducted witness interviews, drafted affidavits, attended client meetings, run pro-bono matters, drafted advice, prepared for trial, and much more. It is important to note that although this might sound daunting, the senior lawyers did not expect me to know how to complete all the different types of tasks from the get-go as they understood that most of the work will be completely new to a graduate like me. As a result, I was provided with a great deal of support via structured training sessions and resources prior to commencing any tasks. I was also provided with more support than I thought would be available to me. As a graduate, a junior lawyer was assigned to me in each rotating team as my buddy. My buddies became invaluable resources as they understood what it was like to be a graduate and helped answer

all of my 'silly' questions. In addition to this, Clayton Utz also handpicked a senior lawyer to act as my mentor for the duration of the graduate program. Having a mentor meant that I had someone senior in the firm that I could open up to and seek advice from.

Whilst being a graduate, I also completed my practical legal training program (PLT). I remember thinking that it was going to be difficult to balance working full-time whilst also completing PLT. In reality, it was actually very manageable and there was lots of support available.

I thought joining a commercial law firm meant I wouldn't get to experience non-commercial matters. However, as a graduate, I was provided with the opportunity to be seconded to a community legal centre and not-for-profit organisations on a fortnightly basis. This exposed me to other areas of law, whilst also giving back to the community.

There have also been lots of opportunities to unwind and have some fun. The firm hosts quite a few social events which are a great way to get to know everyone. Over the last year, I have attended a quiz night, several fundraisers, lawn balls, a cocktail making class, a wine and cheese night, team lunches and dinners, as well as EOFY and Christmas parties (just to name a few).

FRONT END V BACK END

ASHURST

JADE CAMPBELL, GRADUATE

If you are unsure what the difference is between 'front-end' and 'back-end' work – you have come to the right place. I recommend having somewhat of an idea of which area you think you will be more interested in; you will get asked this many(!) times throughout the clerkship and graduate process.

Front-end is also best known as transactional work, whereas back-end focuses more on litigious disputes. You will notice that many firms split their teams into these two areas, with the exception of some hybrids.

I am currently in the Corporate Transactions team, a predominantly 'front-end' team which essentially means transactional work (or the work done at the beginning of a deal).

As an example, the Corporate team is often given the task of conducting 'due diligence'. Typically, when a company is interested in buying shares or assets in another company, they generally want to know what they are getting themselves into. The client would then look at the due diligence report and assess whether they want to continue with the deal. If they decide to go ahead, you may then be asked to conduct more detailed due diligence or draft the documents necessary for the deal to actually occur, such as contracts and deeds.

Where a dispute arises or the deal starts to go wrong, we then hand the matter off to a 'back-end' team... aka if you don't enjoy court-related work, a 'front-end' team is for you.

Some of my other fellow grads are in 'back-end' teams, like disputes and employment. Being in a 'back-end' team doesn't necessarily always mean you are initiating an action in the courts, it may also involve providing advice to a client on their likelihood of success in a proceeding. This may involve reviewing the contract that is subject of the dispute or seeking advice from other practice groups or Counsel. Some research may also be involved, including reviewing analogous cases with similar facts at hand or on a discrete point.

If your client wishes to commence proceedings against the other party, then the court process begins, as you would have learnt in your Civil Procedure unit. A junior lawyer's tasks may then be to get involved in discovery or have a first go in drafting submissions or witness statements.

In summary, it's a good idea to keep an open mind about which area you think you prefer, and I encourage you to preference teams for your clerkships in both – you never know where you may end up!



DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GRAD

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

OLIVIA DE KONING, SOLICITOR

6:00am

I wake up nice and early to go to the gym before work. After the gym, I'm wide awake and feeling ready for the day! I have some smashed avo on toast or if I'm running late, I pick up some banana bread from Eat House when I arrive at QV1. On the train, I read a book (think Twilight level of sophistication). As we get closer to the city, I have a quick look on my phone to see what work emails have come through and check my work calendar to see what the day has in store for me.

8:30am

I'm at my desk and the day begins. As part of our graduate program, we complete three six-month rotations in different teams. I previously rotated through the Disputes team and am now in my second rotation in the Employment, Industrial Relations and Safety team. I start the day off by drafting some forms for an unfair dismissal claim. The work in Employment is very "people" based and moves quickly, so you get to be involved in a range of different matters and a variety of work, from enterprise bargaining and industrial action to advice to employers on what to do in the ever-evolving era of COVID-19.

10:00am

It's snack time. In the Employment team we have 'Munchin' Mondays' – a snack and chat morning tea every Monday. We have a roster where everyone takes turns bringing in a savoury or sweet snack for the team.

This week someone has forgotten so they've done the standard I-forgot-I-was-rostered-on-this-Monday and gone downstairs to Mary Street Bakery to get a selection of donuts for the team. Delicious!

11:30am

I have finished conducting a respondent interview for an investigation we are running for a client. Investigation work in the Employment team has been a highlight of my rotation. It involves drafting allegations, interviewing the complainant and witnesses, reviewing the documentary evidence, putting the allegations to the respondent and making findings on whether or not the alleged conduct occurred. Another highlight of my rotation in the Employment team was going up to Port Hedland for a few days to assist a client on their internal investigations. I stayed in FIFO accommodation and caught a plane up to site with other FIFO workers. They were all in high vis, so I stuck out like a sore thumb in my HSF smart casual.

12:30pm

It's lunch time, so I head downstairs with some other grads to eat some sushi. We chat about where we're all going on our next rotation. I'm heading to the Environment & Planning team next which is part of our Real Estate practice. This will be my first front end rotation and I expect to learn a lot.

1:30pm

I'm heading down to the Supreme Court to be the instructing solicitor for Counsel in a matter I was involved in whilst in Disputes. I love having the opportunity to get involved in court work. When I was in my Disputes rotation I was lucky enough to get involved in a trial. The trial was based in Melbourne, but our client gave evidence in Perth (COVID time). During the trial, the client, myself, and an Executive Counsel were based on our client floor. I will always be grateful to Dave, our Client Services Manager, for never failing to arrange coffees, hot chocolates, and lunches to see us through. It was a great experience helping to prepare our witnesses to give evidence, and watching senior barristers work their magic during the trial.

4:00pm

The hearing is over and I get my steps in walking back to QV1. As an instructing solicitor, your role is to assist counsel during the hearing. This means making sure you can locate a document quickly. Whilst in Disputes, I also had my first ever court appearance. It was only an interlocutory hearing about subpoenas, which took a grand total of 7 minutes, and although I was told exactly what to say, everyone made a big deal of my first appearance and I won that month's "Onya Mate" award in Disputes!

5:30pm

Back at the office, I do a research task for an advice. Once I have finally found the golden nugget case, I finalise my research memo, submit my timers and head home.



PRO BONO WORK

CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH

ROBYN STUART, LAWYER - PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

From the beginning of my time at Corrs, I was given the opportunity to contribute to meaningful pro bono and community initiatives. The firm's pro bono program strives to make a meaningful contribution to society. Graduates in the Perth office have the opportunity to volunteer one day a week, throughout a six month period, at one of three community legal centres: Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, Circle Green Community Legal, and Street Law Centre WA. The Perth office also supports Law Access by providing legal advice and administrative secondees sourced from our legal assistants.

The firm is committed, and actively encourages individuals to support disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and groups, charities, and not-for-profit organisations. Lawyers at all levels are given the opportunity to undertake pro bono legal work, volunteering, and workplace giving - spanning across a diverse range of subject matters and groups. During 2021, Corrs:

Acted pro bono for Harold Thomas, the owner of copyright in the Aboriginal Flag, in the landmark case which saw copyright in the Aboriginal Flag assigned to the Commonwealth. Corrs worked on the matter for over two years. The Prime Minister announced in January 2022 that the copyright had been secured and the flag was now freely available for public use by all Australians. Corrs also worked with Mr Thomas to mint a non-fungible token (NFT) of the work, allowing Mr Thomas to retain the NFT and his moral rights in the Flag;

Acted pro bono for Mr Noel Zihabamwe on his complaint to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances in relation to the disappearance of his brothers in Rwanda; and

Established a new relationship with Refugee Legal, mobilising 70+ volunteers following the rise of the Taliban and the consequent deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. Over the last eight months, Corrs contributed over 1,000 pro bono hours in assisting Refugee Legal with its Afghanistan advice line, as well as assisting with the preparation of visa applications under Australia's Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program.

Personally, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be seconded to Street Law during my graduate development program. Street Law is a free outreach legal service for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in Western Australia. My role involved providing assistance to a supervising solicitor at a legal clinic in the morning, where I would take instructions and listen to client stories. Once the legal clinic concluded, I would undertake case work, which often involved providing further assistance to the clients we had seen at the legal clinic. Common tasks included obtaining identification documents for clients, providing civil and criminal law advice, assisting with applications in relation to criminal injuries compensation, fines and infringements, and liaising with a range of bodies and departments.

My time in a pro bono secondment at Street Law was extremely rewarding – providing an incredible opportunity to give back to the community and develop invaluable skills and experience.

Corrs also strongly encourages its staff to contribute to the community through the firm’s community engagement program. One of the initiatives of this program is the Ardoch Literacy Buddies program, which is popular amongst lawyers of all levels in the Perth office. The Literacy Buddies program involves staff taking on the role of a ‘Big Buddy’, and being paired with primary school children from socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Through the course of several months, we exchange letters with our ‘Little Buddies’ to provide support and assistance in developing their literacy and writing skills. Our Little Buddies will also visit us at the office, and we will visit them at their school. Participating in this program was a definite highlight of my first year at Corrs.





Ellen Betts is a law graduate at Squire Patton Boggs. She shares her experiences and how they have provided a solid foundation for a career as a lawyer.

In my final semester of university, I had the opportunity to work as a part-time paralegal in the firm's Corporate Practice. The transition from student to law graduate is a significant step – it is not until you start working in a law firm that you realise there is a lot more to being a lawyer than simply understanding the law.

I undertook legal research, drafted correspondence, and worked on *pro bono* matters and those concerning unique areas of law, such as data privacy. I worked directly with partners and senior lawyers on transactions for clients, giving me valuable practical experience to build my understanding of commercial law.

Studying and working was challenging, but the firm understood my position and I was supported from the start. The flexibility offered, the support of my team and my enjoyment in being at the firm ensured that I met my commitments to both work and study. **I was grateful for the opportunity to experience the culture of the firm, build relationships with staff, and familiarise myself with the firm's systems, work and clients prior to commencing as a law graduate.**

After graduation, I joined the Real Estate team for the first of my rotations through two or three practice areas. I have been involved in large commercial property settlements and continue to be involved in *pro bono* matters. I had the opportunity to assist the Labour & Employment team in the Sydney office, allowing me to explore my interest in other practice areas and collaborate with a broad range of people.

Through my time at the firm, I have enjoyed its collaborative culture where everyone is treated with respect. From the start, I have felt supported by everyone – from my fellow graduates to the firm's senior lawyers.

My fellow graduates and I are involved in organising firm-wide social activities, which has been an excellent way to get to know everyone. **We have also been offered training outside of the law, such as in mental health and diversity and inclusion, which allows us to support the wellbeing of each other and our communities.**

I am confident that the firm will continue to provide me with the tools, practical training and support to enable my future success.

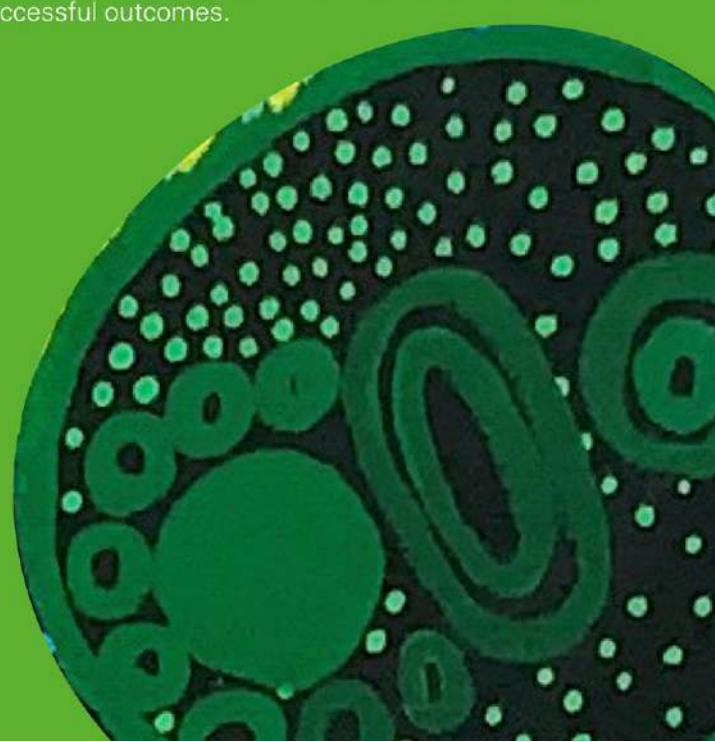
About Squire Patton Boggs

Squire Patton Boggs is a global law firm with 45 offices across 20 countries. In Australia, we operate in Perth, Sydney and Darwin. We provide clients with unique insight at the point where law, business and government meet, giving them a voice, supporting their ambitions and achieving successful outcomes.

Interested? Get in Touch

If you would like to find out more about available graduate or paralegal opportunities, please contact Mariah Abad at mariah.abad@squirepb.com.

*This artwork was created by our Perth office in collaboration with students from Dandjoo Darbalung at St Catherine's College, UWA. It represents their families woven into narratives of our values and this country.



Be

Be Yourself

You do not need to leave your personality at home to work here.

Be committed – Support our clients, our people and our community. We emphasise and reward collaboration, accountability and responsibility.

Be connected – Work alongside lawyers across the country and all around the world.

Be creative – Help oil and gas companies transition into clean, renewable energy providers or guide startups to access funding to transform innovative ideas into reality.

Be commercial – Adapt what you have learned about law to real-time scenarios for real people.

Be challenged – Set your own career path using the tools, know-how and options we offer.

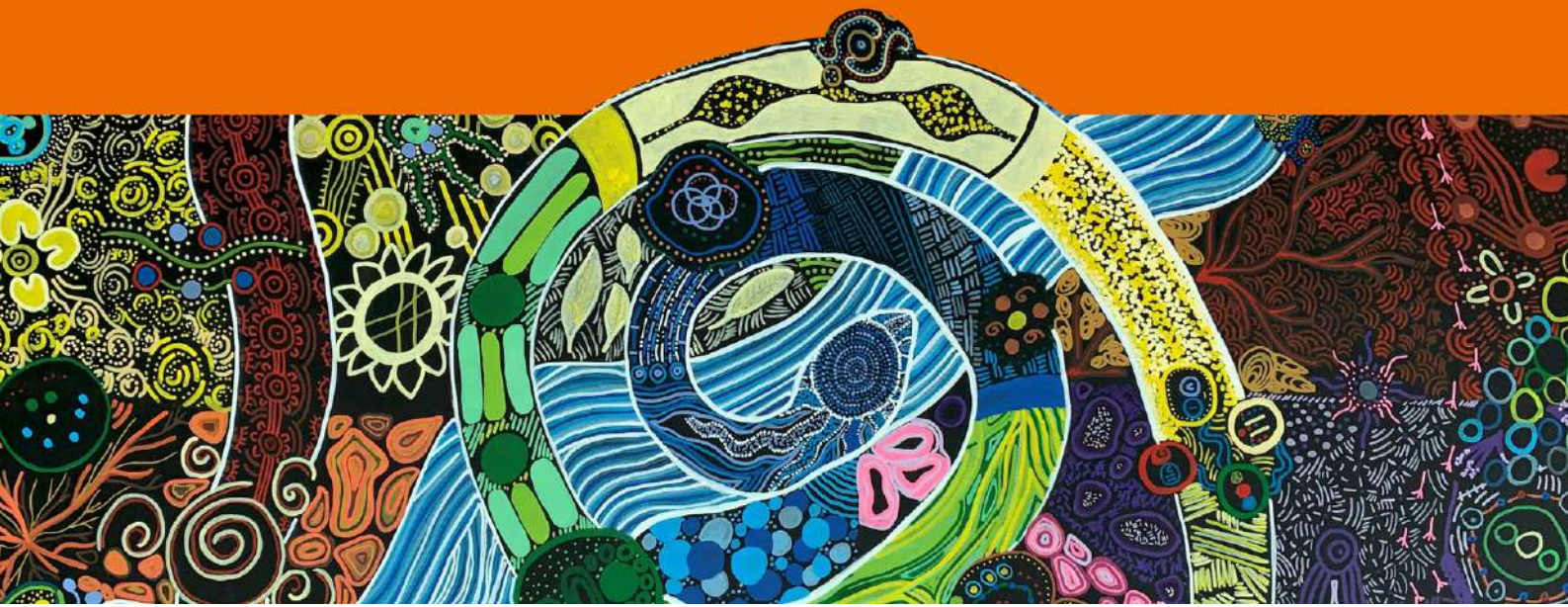
We are looking for people who will thrive in our culture and contribute to our success.

Be one of us.

squirepattonboggs.com



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MY CLERKSHIP EXPERIENCE

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

ANOUSCHA GREEN, SUMMER CLERK 2021-2022

I undertook an eight-week clerkship at Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF), rotating through the Litigation & Disputes and Projects & Construction teams. I found it to be the perfect combination of challenging, educational, social, and insightful experiences. This comparatively longer clerkship allowed me to develop a solid understanding of NRF as a firm, its culture and the breadth of work it undertakes. I found everyone – from graduates right up to the partners – incredibly down to earth and always willing to check in and have a chat.

During my Dispute Resolution and Litigation rotation, I completed a wide range of tasks that exposed me to the large scale of litigation and arbitration matters undertaken by this practice area. I was included in barrister meetings by taking minutes and encouraged to develop my legal research and writing skills by presenting research articles and case summaries to national litigation and arbitration teams. A highlight during this rotation included my research note on modern slavery being circulated throughout our Australian offices.

Following the office closure over the Christmas break, my Projects & Construction rotation was invaluable in developing my commercial practice and collaboration skills. I assisted drafting provisions in shareholders agreements, editing commercial documents, taking minutes during client meetings, and reviewing clients' contractual amendments. Feedback was plentiful and helpful, and it was a great feeling knowing

that the work I undertook contributed directly to the progression of clients' matters.

Admittedly, I was mildly terrified heading into this clerkship. University life felt worlds away from a global commercial law firm. Thankfully, NRF ensured we were gently eased into the corporate world. We were encouraged to ask questions, seek and provide feedback and adopt our respective practice areas' quirky traditions to ensure we felt as though we were truly part of the team (can't forget 3pm tea-time in the Projects and Corporate teams). All staff members were so welcoming and inclusive, and I was given every learning opportunity that I expressed interest in. Although the firm provides clerks with a 'graduate buddy', I found this label did not limit the extent of the support I received from lawyers of all levels across the firm.

Some highlights throughout the program include organising the 'Office Olympics' charity event, with all proceeds donated to the Wungening Aboriginal Corporation. As a clerk-hosted event, it was a fantastic bonding opportunity and engaged my communication and time-management skills outside my practice areas. I also really enjoyed the Pro Bono task, undertaken in conjunction with other clerks nationally. Beyond giving us a chance to mix with our potential future graduate cohort, it allowed me to undertake meaningful client work in the realm of climate change and present my findings to NRF lawyers across the country.

My advice to future clerks at Norton Rose Fulbright includes the following:

- **Be proactive.** This starts with your application and flows into your clerkship itself. During the application process, peruse NRF's website and LinkedIn for key matters that the firm and your interviewer have recently been involved with. A proactive approach benefits your clerkship experience, as lawyers will be eager for your assistance on any matter or piece of work that you demonstrate enthusiasm in.
- **Be yourself.** An eight-week clerkship teaches you a lot about the firm and yourself, and you won't know if you enjoy the fit of the firm (and vice versa) unless you bring your true self to the office every day. I love meeting people and ensured I greeted everyone with a smile and initiated conversation where appropriate.
- **Ask questions.** I admit I was nervous to do this in my first week, but it benefits both your learning and the progression of a client's matter to ensure you are fully across all aspects of your task before delving into work. Everyone understands that you may be brand new to a global commercial law firm and they are always happy to help you out and point you in the right direction.

Ultimately, you get as much out of this clerkship experience as you put in, so give it your best.

Good luck!



MINING LAW

DLA PIPER

JOANNE STEER, SPECIAL COUNSEL

RECOGNISED BY BEST LAWYERS AUSTRALIA FOR MINING LAW (2023)

At the outset, I must admit I'm not sure whether mining law in practice reflects the mining law unit at university, as I never took it. At that stage I was convinced I was destined to work in mergers and acquisitions, and I heard that there was a closed book exam involved - so I picked another elective instead. Nevertheless, having settled in the corporate team at a previous firm, it didn't take me long to fall into mining law. A senior lawyer reassured me that I would learn more in a month's worth of practice than I would have if I had taken that mining law unit, and I suspect she was probably right.

The appeal for me was (and remains) threefold. Firstly, as with many Western Australians, I have a strong family connection to the mining industry, as my father is a retired mining engineer (we recently came full circle, when I assisted a client to acquire an interest in a project he helped design well over a decade ago). Secondly, every day truly is a "school day" in mining. I am fortunate enough to deal directly with many technical experts within our client organisations - not just lawyers. Trust me, if you ask the mining engineer to give you a quick rundown on how the processing plant works, they will usually be only too pleased to oblige!

Last but not least, the mining industry is constantly evolving. My girlfriend works in climate change policy, and some may think this makes us quite the odd couple. Not at all! The energy transition is well underway, and I have spent the vast majority of the past couple of years

working on projects involving lithium, nickel, vanadium and other "battery minerals" (most of which are destined for use in electric vehicles or battery storage). We are assisting clients to explore and progress green hydrogen opportunities both in Australia and overseas, and I am currently working on a novel project involving the use of disused mine shafts and compressed air to generate clean energy.

In terms of what day to day life looks like in mining law, it is very much a case of "choose your own adventure". Within our team at DLA Piper, we have a large number of lawyers with different specialties, each of whom can lay claim to being a "mining lawyer". At the outset, we are often called upon to assist clients with due diligence on potential project acquisitions, and then to negotiate and document the terms of those acquisitions (this is usually where I come in, given my corporate background). We have others within the team who specialise in securing the approvals required to develop and operate a mining project, as well as in environment and native title.

Other colleagues with finance and capital markets expertise will step in to help our clients secure the necessary funding for their projects, and I am often involved again at this stage given my particular specialty in "offtake agreements" (under which the minerals ultimately generated from a project are sold). These agreements are often critical in securing debt funding.

Once a client's project has the green light, our construction arm will then take the lead on the various agreements required to actually design, build and operate it, as well as resolving any construction related-disputes.

If our clients' mining tenements are subject to challenge (e.g., for alleged breaches of the Mining Act), we also have specialists in mining litigation who provide advice and appear before the Mining Warden. In short, there are many potential opportunities should you pursue a career in mining law.

Finally, a word on the "elephant in the room", at least for those who identify as female. While the mining industry remains male dominated, this is rapidly changing. During my 13 odd years as a mining lawyer I have seen an exponential rise in the number of women in both legal and technical roles at client organisations, and increasingly stepping up to executive and board positions. Has my gender identity held me back in my career to date? Absolutely not, and I would recommend mining law to anybody looking for an interesting, challenging and rewarding career.



GRADUATE LIFE AT K&L GATES

K&L GATES

MIKHAIL SAFARUDIN, LAW GRADUATE AND CURTIN UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS 2021

Mikhail Safarudin is a law graduate at global law firm K&L Gates, having recently graduated from Curtin University in 2021.

Life before being a 'Law Graduate'

Prior to beginning full-time work as a Law Graduate, I studied a commerce and law double degree at Curtin University. Initially I did not want to pursue a legal career and only chose to study law to distinguish myself from other commerce graduates. However, after immersing myself in university studies and gaining valuable commercial and legal work experience, I saw myself having a career as a commercial lawyer.

My legal studies and experiences further developed my interest and motivation to work in commercial law, particularly on corporate and M&A matters. Given my interests, I applied to join the K&L Gates Graduate Program when the opportunity presented itself.

K&L Gates' Graduate Program

I was attracted to the K&L Gates Graduate Program due to its international presence, top tier work and opportunities for career growth. Additionally, K&L Gates' pro-bono and charitable commitments, whilst being a progressive and innovative global law firm, was a major appeal, as they provide opportunities for its employees to not only give back to the community but also further develop their practical legal skills. Working with high-calibre lawyers on complex, market defining transactions as

a graduate has been a great experience and allowed me to develop my skills. My experience has been enhanced by the firm's positive work culture and its prioritisation of employee wellbeing and diversity.

The K&L Gates Graduate Program runs for a duration of 12 months and involves each graduate rotating through three different practice groups every 4 months. The firm's practice groups are Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Real Estate and Corporate. Currently, I am completing my rotation in the Corporate team, where I have completed draft agreements and correspondence, conducted market research and attended client meetings. Being involved in major international transactions and client matters was daunting at first, but my team and other staff at the firm have been amazing at assuring and instructing me throughout. Everyone has ensured that there is a good support network available to the graduates. The firm provides fortnightly graduate training to improve my practical legal research and networking skills and assigned me a mentoring 'buddy'. All the resources provided by the firm have made the transition into full-time work as a lawyer seamless.

Also, did I forget about how much the firm loves to have fun and connect?! K&L Gates has an amazing culture and active social events calendar, which allowed myself to get involved and befriend the people within the firm very quickly. The weekly drinks, 'Konnect' activities and graduate

organised events such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt (see picture) are great fun.

Some helpful tips...

I would offer this advice to any new graduate:

- Embrace your time as a graduate by trying to learn as much as you can. As a graduate you are afforded extra time on certain tasks and have access to experienced lawyers. This is your time to learn so do not be afraid to ask too many questions or seek feedback;
- Do not put yourself down if you make a mistake! Mistakes will be made but you will learn from them. Just make sure to keep a good attitude and stay motivated; and
- Enjoy life - work can be overwhelming and may require late nights. Do not neglect your friendships and interests outside of work. Be steady and well-ordered in your life so that you can be fierce and original in your work!



K&L GATES



MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

JACKSON MCDONALD

ADAM VERSACI, SOLICITOR, CORPORATE COMMERCIAL TEAM

Mergers & Acquisitions: Is it all boardrooms, private jets and client dinner parties?

Not quite, but it's still exciting! If you are thinking of becoming an M&A lawyer, you can expect that your workload will resemble the EKG line of a healthy heart: peaks and troughs with the occasional increase in heart rate. The legal process and documentation for M&A transactions concerning publicly listed companies and private public or private proprietary limited companies are different. The area of focus of this piece is the latter but broadly speaking, the phases are the same.

An M&A transaction is split into 3 phases:

Pre-signing

During this phase, heads of agreements and/or letters of intent are prepared, confidentiality agreements and exclusivity agreements are drafted (if required), due diligence is conducted and the terms of the sale agreement are negotiated and finalised. Shareholders or the board of directors, or both, may need to approve the transaction. Regulatory authorities like FIRB may also need to be consulted where foreign ownership is a factor.

Completion

The documents are signed; you can breathe a sigh of relief... but not for too long - the M&A lawyer needs to assist in preparing the completion checklist and other completion documents.

The completion checklist sets out all of the items your client (be it the buyer or seller) needs to deliver to the other party. Aside from the checklist itself, the items may include consent documents to assign contracts, director appointments or resignations, board resolutions, PPSR matters, and the list goes on.

Post-completion

Money has left the trust account. Following 'funds flow', a lawyer's activity during this period might be limited to assisting with a post-integration agreement - which sets out how the two companies will operate now that one owns the other. There may be some administrative work (like filing documents) and even the creation of a transaction bible.

As an early career lawyer, it might be some time before you're seated at the table fiercely negotiating the structure of consideration, earn-outs, post-completion adjustment clauses, warranties, indemnities and what constitutes a material adverse change in the operation of the business. But, if you're lucky to be in the room, consider it a gift. Here you can learn about the material drivers for both buyer and seller. The astute lawyer will glean an insight into commercial considerations from people who are not lawyers, because an invaluable skill that every corporate commercial lawyer should strive to learn is when to be a lawyer and when not to be.

You will be responsible for preparing documents which all derive from the main sale and purchase agreement, so over time, you will come to know the sale and purchase agreement intimately.

The “deal” is the sum of all its parts. Each as important as the next. The main sale and purchase agreement will document the vital elements of the transaction, but understanding how this document works in with the other periphery documents will give you an overall picture of how the transaction works.

My advice to any budding M&A lawyers is to listen, learn, ask questions, get involved, and don't be afraid to make mistakes (this is how you learn). At first it will seem like you're trying to learn a language for the first time, and in many cases, you are, but in not as much time as you may think you will be speaking like an expert - hand gestures and all.



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GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

KING & WOOD MALLESONS

EMILY BRADLEY, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, BANKING AND FINANCE

Graduate program

I started my career at King & Wood Mallesons in 2016 as a law graduate in the Perth office. Similar to most of the international law firms, the graduate program at KWM consists of three six-month rotations, allowing you to try out different practice groups between choosing where you want to settle. I completed my first rotation in Projects (where I ended up working on predominately African work). My second rotation was in Banking & Financing (where I ended up settling) and I was lucky enough to complete my third rotation in the Corporate team in KWM's Hong Kong office.

While I enjoyed each of my rotations, my experience in Hong Kong was an unforgettable experience. As the meeting place of East and West and the financial hub of Asia, I was exposed to a diverse mix of work. The friends I made at KWM in Hong Kong still form part of my support network at the firm.

The work you do as a graduate in a big firm is varied. Because my experience was all in "front end" transactional teams, it comprised predominantly of drafting and reviewing agreements, attending negotiations, and writing legal advice about the transactions. Occasionally, you also help Partners prepare presentations to clients and other lawyers about market developments and updates in the law.

Rotations are a really good way to learn different skill sets and develop strong

networks within the firm. Big commercial law firms have a reputation for being full of corporate drones, but nothing is further from the truth. The people I worked with as a graduate were interesting and diverse, and I have good relationships with all of the Partners I worked with to this day.

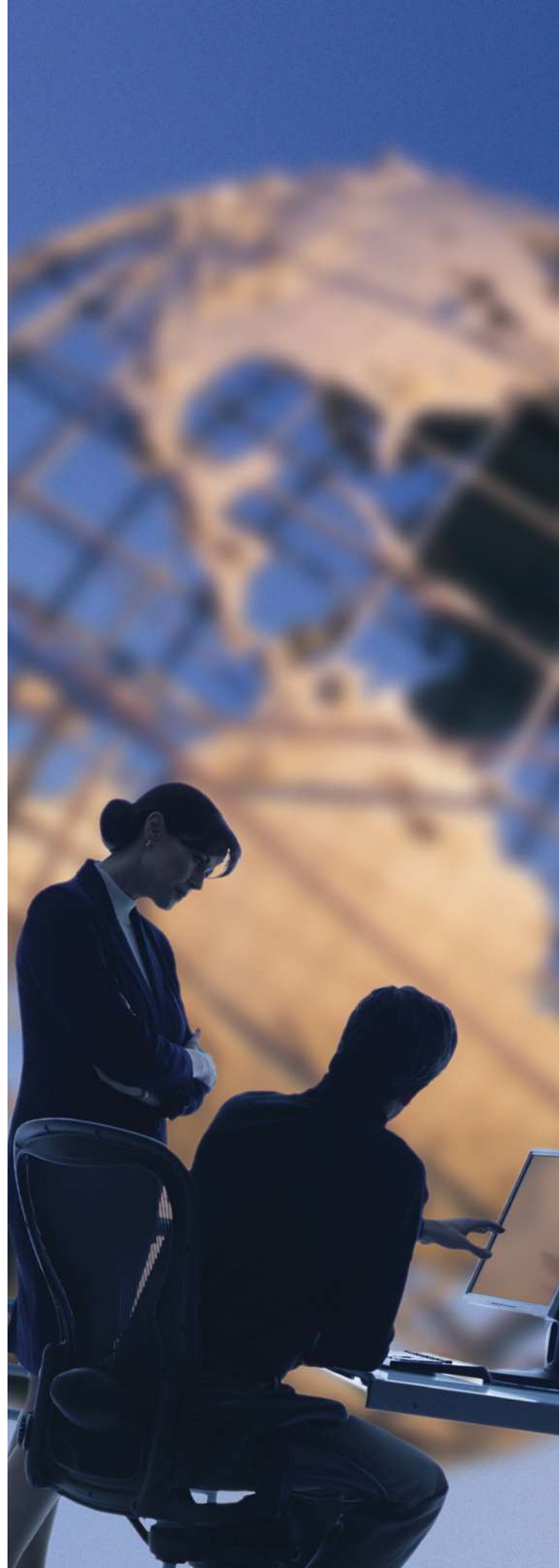
London experience

In 2019, I received a job offer to work at Slaughter and May in London, in their Financing team. The Partner I worked for in Perth was extremely supportive of my move, as he felt that it would help me gain significant exposure to a much wider range of transactions and financing matters, which is experience I could return with to the Perth team. I was thankful that my Partner's support meant I was offered a leave of absence from KWM.

I arrived in London at the end of 2019, and the first six or so months were quite normal: commuting in the dark, going to the theatre in the evening, and snow at Christmas. Things obviously changed significantly in March of 2020, but I was lucky enough to be working on transactions that needed to push on through the difficult early days of the pandemic. The financing team at Slaughter and May is a generalist practice (which is coincidentally similar to our working style in the Banking team at KWM Perth). During my time in London I was working on a broad range of financing including corporate financing, bonds, project financing and insolvency work – which meant I never got bored! London is such a dynamic legal market, and a real

hub for all sorts of work so if you have the opportunity to work in London (or overseas), I would highly recommend it. Choosing a firm like KWM can help you get there for two reasons. First, KWM trained lawyers are highly sought after in London (and New York, Hong Kong, and Singapore) because of the quality of the training they offer junior lawyers. Secondly, a firm like KWM is big enough and has been around long enough to know that losing people for a short period but welcoming them back only serves to enhance the firm's capabilities in the long run.

I returned to the Banking team at KWM in 2021 and I cannot speak highly enough of my time at KWM (both starting my career as a graduate and returning after London to work as a Senior Associate). I have been supported at every step in my career, and know that there will be further opportunities presented to me in the future. What they are, I don't yet know, but no doubt they will be interesting, challenging, and rewarding.



GRAD LIFE

ALLENS

LEWIS POPE, LAWYER

The transition from law school to legal practice is both exciting and daunting! You leave an environment that is very familiar (stress-inducing, but familiar) and you start a new endeavour. By the end of law school, you come to realise that most units are structured in the same way. You learn a bunch of legal principles, you include a bunch of cases and legislative provisions in your notes as authority for those legal principles, and that's essentially what you're assessed on, with a research assignment or presentation thrown in every now and then for good measure. Legal practice is completely different and you can often find yourself doing something new or unfamiliar on an almost daily basis. I thought I would use this article to try and illustrate some of the key differences between life at law school and life as a law graduate or junior lawyer. I'm speaking from my experience in commercial law, but I'm sure that similar themes would permeate the experiences of those in other areas.

A whole new world

You spend a lot of your time at law school learning the basics of the various areas of the law and honing your research skills. When you step into practice, however, it quickly becomes apparent that the ambit of what a lawyer might do during a standard day is much wider than what you learnt at law school. In fact, it can be quite rare to prepare a written advice in a manner similar to what you would do for a problem assignment at law school and advice is often provided over the phone or via email (though this, of course, depends on your practice area). Commercial and

transactional lawyers spend a lot of time, for example, preparing and drafting agreements for matters such as the sale and purchase of a business or asset. This is a whole new skill set that you learn on the job and get next to no exposure to at law school (except for that one assignment in Curtin's Intro to Contract Law unit). You learn how various types of agreements are structured, the types of clauses that are commonly found in agreements, and how to draft in a clear and easy-to-understand way. Litigators, on the other hand, learn how to draft various court documents and manage litigious disputes, which is an entirely different skill set. There's a lot to learn, and a lot to look forward to after you venture out of law school.

Every day is different

One week can look vastly different to the next in legal practice, as a lawyer's work is client-driven. There's both variety in the work that lawyers do and a variety of issues that can arise in relation to that work. In any given week a junior commercial lawyer might be, for example, jumping between assisting with the preparation of transaction agreements on one matter, assisting with legal research for urgent advice that needs to be prepared on another, and attending preliminary meetings and phone calls in relation to a new matter that is commencing. The work can be challenging as you're continuously learning as a junior, but the variety ensures that you're always growing.

Specialising in an area

Finally, when you transition into legal practice most people typically specialise in a particular area of law.

Commercial firms will often specialise (or have teams that specialise in), for example, employment, banking and finance, energy and resources, litigation, real estate, and corporate law, and other firms will specialise in areas such as criminal or family law. There are then, of course, avenues such as the State Solicitor's Office and Department of Public Prosecutions that are different again. It can be exciting to begin working in specialising in an area and I encourage you all to think about what might take your interest!

Law school is only the beginning

Law school is an awesome adventure and you learn a huge amount about the various areas of law and some of the core skills that you need to develop to become a lawyer. It is only the beginning, however, and I hope I've given you a glimpse as to what else you could expect if you elect to pursue legal practice.



WORK-LIFE BALANCE

MINTER ELLISON

PENNY BOND

LAWYER IN PROJECTS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

If you read the Australian Financial Review, or follow legal topics on Reddit or Whirlpool Forum, you may think that finding work life balance as a young commercial lawyer is a fiction. You may think that your days will be spent chained to your computer, monotonously reviewing your client's important documents, and ensuring that every minute of your 14 hour day is billable. I am pleased to report that this has *not* been my experience.

I am a young commercial lawyer working in MinterEllison's Projects, Infrastructure and Construction team. We assist our clients with large disputes (claims over hundreds of millions of dollars), which are usually resolved through Supreme Court proceedings or arbitration, and disputes over small claims, which may be resolved through adjudication or mediation.

Being a successful lawyer is a marathon, not a sprint. I firmly believe that to have a long and rewarding career in law, you need to make time in your day for the things that matter to you personally. For me, that means finding time for exercise and catching up with friends and family.

An ordinary work day for me may look a little like this:

6:00am: Wake up. Coffee. Pilates and/or F45.

8:30am: Arrive at work and check my emails. Draft my to do list for the day, prioritising anything urgent. Check in with my supervisors.

9:30am: Get started on that task that I was avoiding. Quickly realise the task is more

straightforward than I anticipated, admonish myself for not starting said task sooner.

10:00am: Coffee break with a colleague.

10:30am: Meet with a new client about a potential dispute. Draft a fee estimate for my Supervising Partner's consideration following the meeting.

12:00pm: Catch up for lunch with friends or go for a walk around Elizabeth Quay.

1:30pm: Meet with my Supervising Partner and Senior Associate to review a client's comments on the document we drafted.

3:00pm: Attend a CPD seminar with my colleagues on 'Time Management for Lawyer'... How relevant.

5:30pm - 6:30pm: Head home for dinner and to catch up on the latest episode of Ozark.

8:30pm: Log back on from home to complete any outstanding urgent tasks.

9:30pm - 10:30pm: Log off. Feed my cat. Sleep.

While each day is different, I try to always find time for exercise and to have dinner at home. Some of my colleagues prefer to start work later and work later in the office. I think the important thing is recognising what works for you and building your day around your personal priorities.

My top tips for finding work life balance as a young lawyer are to:

- Know what is important to you and communicate your priorities to your supervisor and teammates.
- Practise effective time management (for me, this comes in the form of to do lists and goal setting).
- Build 'down time' into your day.
- Join a great (supportive) team!



DISCOVER

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Your future.
Your choice.
Choose to make
an impact.



Conor McCavana, Lawyer, Perth shares his career journey, hints and tips.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm a lawyer in MinterEllison's dispute resolution team in Perth. I chose law because I love court work, and I'm happy to say that the partners here support that and give me opportunities to appear in court.

What rotations have you done?

I've had the chance to rotate in: PIC (Projects, Infrastructure and Construction); Competition, Risk and Regulatory; Insurance and Dispute Resolution. The length of MinterEllison's graduate program, from clerkship to lawyer, has allowed me to try enough areas that I'll feel confident picking the right practice area for me.

Have you undertaken any secondments?

Yes! I have been working one day per week at a community legal centre providing employment law advice. It's been a great opportunity to develop client-facing skills, and I'm glad MinterEllison emphasises creating lasting impacts in our community. I've heard directly from the CLC clients how valuable that service is, and I'm happy to be a part of that.

What was the last major project you worked on?

A Commission of Inquiry in Papua New Guinea (PNG) into the process of PNG obtaining a US\$1.3 billion dollar loan to participate in the PNG LNG project. It is a large matter with scores of witnesses and terabytes of documents. The partners on the matter were happy to have me and other juniors involved in preparing summons to witnesses, digging into the evidence, and drafting chapters of the final report.

So how did you start your day today

I worked from home because I prefer it when I have tasks that require long stretches of uninterrupted focus. I had breakfast and made myself webcam-presentable for a team meeting. We had a check in on how everyone is feeling and talked about what the week has in store for us. I had some small tasks to get off my desk: emailing a client for instructions, drafting a summons, and updating some submissions. Then I got stuck into reviewing documents ahead of a public examination in a few weeks. I'll be assisting counsel at the examination because I'll be across the documentary evidence.

Do you have any advice for those going through the clerkship process this year?

It (almost) goes without saying, but be yourself.

Firms will look for people who are a good fit for them. Do the same thing – look for a firm that will be a good fit for you.

Get as much practical experience in law as possible. Not only will you stand out as a candidate, but you'll also get a head start on your career.

EXCEL



DISCOVER

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ARTICLES FROM THE PROFESSION



MIGRATION LAW

SHALINI NALLARATNAM, LAWYER, MIGRATION SPECIALIST ESTRIN SAUL

Australia has a complex migration system comprised of legislative and regulatory machinery that strictly govern entry into Australia. It is an area of the law that is constantly evolving, making it challenging, unpredictable, and exciting. The migration process is daunting for many of our clients and it is our role, as migration lawyers, to advise and guide them throughout their journey.

I am a recently admitted law graduate and work in the corporate migration team at Estrin Saul Lawyers. In my role, I work with various stakeholders to fill skill shortages and offer strategic solutions to businesses looking to leverage global talent. The demand for skilled workers has permeated most industries, and therefore our client base is extremely diverse. On an average day, we can go from advising global corporations on workforce mobility to working with bustling local restaurants in Perth to staff their kitchens.

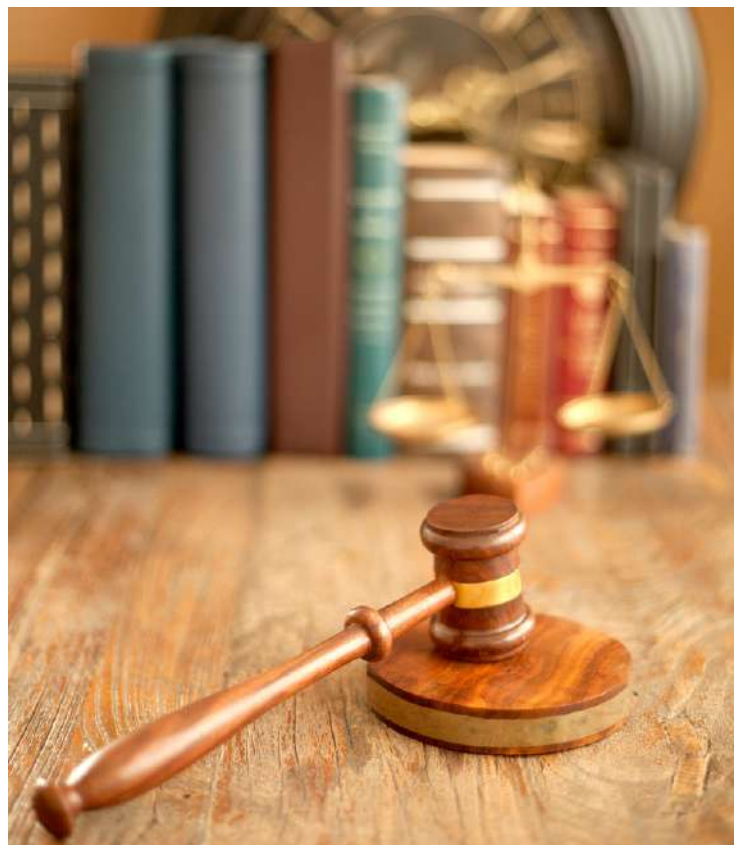
The challenges that emerge in migration often require creative solutions and an ability to problem solve quickly whilst dealing with a highly emotive and intricate factual matrix. Each client comes with a unique set of circumstances, so it is up to us to find a visa pathway that suits them best.

Migration decisions are not always fair. More often than not, we find ourselves advocating for the legal rights of our clients to the Department of Immigration directly or on appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Federal Courts.

These are invaluable opportunities to hold government decision makers to account, allowing us to play a vital role in ensuring the correct interpretation and application of the law is upheld.

If you have an interest in working with migrants and are passionate about administrative justice, you should definitely explore a career in migration law. There are many fantastic opportunities available, ranging from working with global service firms, community legal centres or private law firms.

In my role I am reminded every day of our enviable way of life and the freedoms that we enjoy and it is a truly rewarding experience to help our clients call Australia their home!



COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

ALEXANDER WITTKUHN, SOLICITOR CIRCLE GREEN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

I joined the community legal sector as a law student in 2018. Working in community legal centres has changed my understanding of what a lawyer can be, and the role of the law in the community. Along the way, I have been guided and trained by experienced, passionate, and generous people. I have found a career path that has already brought me enormous fulfilment and promises to continue doing so.

At a broad level, community legal centres ('CLC') are not-for-profit bodies which provide free or discounted legal services to disadvantaged members of the community. People may be disadvantaged by speaking languages other than English, belonging to a low socio-economic household, having physical and mental disabilities, or being subjected to family violence.

Working in the community legal sector has given me a new perspective on how the law affects our clients. Often, at the time that they engage with the community legal sector, our clients are in crisis and need legal assistance urgently; often there's a lot at stake for them. Among other things, our clients seek to avoid homelessness, to be safe against family violence, to combat discrimination and predatory behaviour, and to obtain adequate compensation for legal disputes. In seeking such outcomes, our clients are often forced to engage with a complex and daunting legal system. CLCs, therefore, play an integral role in helping obtain urgent legal assistance.

As a recently admitted lawyer, my day-to-day work involves advising and advocating for residential tenants. However, we work in a wide range of legal practice areas including immigration, employment, family, family and domestic violence, criminal injuries compensation, consumer law, and financial law. Above all else, we prioritise providing legal assistance to those that need it most.

CLCs engage with emerging changes and trends in the legal system from the perspective of the most vulnerable members of the community. In doing so, community legal centres rely on state-wide networking between community legal centres, not-for-profit organisations, government entities, and clients of the community legal sector. I have been privileged in my work to learn from experienced lawyers and academics. I have also been given opportunities to share my own knowledge. Fundamentally, this network is directed at identifying legal injustices in the community, and helping vulnerable people to remedy those injustices.

Lawyers in CLCs can get great satisfaction through challenging and diverse legal work in supportive and dynamic settings. More importantly, lawyers in CLCs can make a big difference in the lives of vulnerable people. When I joined the community legal sector as a law student volunteer I did not realise that I was starting a career in community legal centres. As a recently admitted lawyer, I am truly excited to continue working in this sector.

WORKING AT THE AAT

LAURA MCNAMA, ASSOCIATE

What is the AAT?

For those who have completed Admin Law, you'll already know this.

For those who haven't, the AAT is composed of Members who review decisions made by Federal Ministers and (usually) their delegates. Applications for review are received from a broad range of applicants but generally the majority stem from decisions made by delegates within:

- the Department of Social Services (Services Australia - encompassing Centrelink, Child Support and Medicare decisions);
- the Department of Home Affairs (Australian citizenship and visa decisions); and
- the National Disability Insurance Agency (which facilitates NDIS funding).

What do the Members do?

Members essentially stand in the shoes of the original decision maker and undertake a merits review. This determines whether an original decision should be affirmed, set aside and remitted to the original decision maker for further review, or set aside and replaced with a fresh decision made by the Tribunal. The AAT review process is helpfully documented on the website at www.aat.gov.au.

What do Associates do?

Associates are part of the Member Support Team. We provide the Members with support to execute their statutory duties

pursuant to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975 (Cth).

The support required by different members is varied but generally includes:

- correspondence with parties to matters, including organising and listing hearings;
- conducting hearings (setting up hearing, swearing in witnesses and documenting bookmarks for the transcript);
- undertaking legal research;
- proofreading, editing, and formatting decisions for publication;
- recording the status of matters and providing the Members with regular updates; and
- diary/calendar management.

What is it like to work as an Associate?

Working at the Tribunal is busy - it can be challenging and occasionally frustrating, but rarely boring. The work of an Associate involves balancing and prioritising a multitude of administrative tasks each day. We are fortunate to have a friendly, supportive team at the Perth Registry and regularly share tasks if timing requires it. Occasionally, Associates are also required to prepare for expedited visa hearings, which require us to collaborate and assist each other to manage competing priorities.

The role of an Associate provides an invaluable insight into the execution of administrative law. You have the benefit of working closely with Members and

learning from their knowledge and experience. You get to attend hearings and to see counsel, solicitors, and advocates in practice, which is beneficial for those looking to gain advocacy experience.

Working at the AAT is also a good opportunity to experience life in the Australian Public Service, which has many different career paths and opportunities. If you are considering applying to the AAT when a position becomes available, I would encourage you to go for it.

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WORKING IN ACADEMIA

DR HUGH FINN, PROFESSOR & ACADEMIC CURTIN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Legal academics teach, research, and engage.

If you like teaching and research, there are many opportunities to be involved within law schools.

Some legal practitioners teach law as part-time or casual lecturers and tutors. Teacher-practitioners are a vital link between the profession and law schools. The balance of legal practice and academic work can be challenging, but also very rewarding.

If you are thinking about a career as a legal academic, it can help to take a long-term view and to involve yourself in a range of different experiences – not only as a legal practitioner but in other roles, such as a policy advisor in government or as a company director. Volunteer work, whether legal or otherwise, can also help in developing a well-rounded perspective on the role of law in society.

Postgraduate study – such as an Honours degree or an LLM – can extend your ability as a legal practitioner, and give you better insight into what is involved in being a legal academic. Furthermore, if you love research and have an issue that you are passionate about pursuing (and are willing to commit a few years too), then you may wish to consider doing a PhD.

Legal practitioners are also involved in legal research, and many publish in academic journals and professional publications. Research is often a collaborative endeavour and teams of

practitioners and academics can work together to tackle complex, multi-disciplinary legal and policy issues.

A key aim of research is to engage – that is, to interact with others, with the aim of contributing to the broader social good in some way, such as through law and policy reform. As the Honourable Justice Sarah Derrington – President of the Australian Law Reform Commission and a judge in the Federal Court – noted in a speech last year: 'The value of the legal academy is to shape and mould the foundation of the discussion on contemporary legal issues.'



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

NYSSA CHERRY

CURTIN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

I started my legal career at Clayton Utz and after rotating through several different practice groups it was Intellectual Property (IP) that I enjoyed the most. I had already completed a Commerce degree in public relations and so I was interested in the branding and trademark aspects of IP. At the time I was heavily involved in dance and theatre and so I was also drawn to the idea of protecting artists and their creations through copyright law.

I worked at Clayton Utz for several years before moving to Sydney to work in a boutique corporate firm and then transferred back to Perth to work in a specialist IP firm called Mallon & Co. Sitting within the offices of a patent attorney firm, we were exposed to a good volume of patent work, but also a fair amount of trade mark and copyright matters. I found the nature of the instructions to be interesting and varied and I enjoyed the opportunity to practice across the different areas of IP.

There are two main roles that an IP lawyer generally undertakes. One is an enforcement role which involves prosecuting the IP rights of clients through court proceedings or alternative dispute mechanisms. The other role is a commercialising role, which involves helping the client to identify and protect their IP through licensing agreements, assignments of IP rights and confidentiality agreements.

As a junior IP lawyer, a typical day can include drafting letters of advice and court documents, making court appearances, researching IP cases and legislation,

conducting trademark, design and patent searches, drafting licensing and assignment agreements, and drafting trademark applications. IP can be a very exciting area of law to practice in. Depending on where you work, there is the potential to represent well-known brands, singers, artists, authors, and even movie stars as clients. If you are creative-minded, working in the area gives you the opportunity to deal in creativity, art, and innovation. For technology and media-minded people, there is a growing and emerging amount of IP work involved in these areas. There is also an ever-increasing role for those with an engineering or science background, particularly within the area of patents.

After having children, I decided I needed a more flexible role and so I started working as a sessional academic at Curtin Law School. In this role, I tutor students across several units in both the Law School and the Business School including IP Law, IP Law for Business, Public Relations Law, and Business Law. I find the job as an academic rewarding, and I love being able to use my knowledge and skills learnt as an IP lawyer to teach the next generation of lawyers. I have recently commenced my PhD in IP and I am thoroughly enjoying undertaking research in a cutting-edge area of the law.

If you are interested in working in the creative, innovative, or technological areas, I highly recommend a career in IP law as an exciting, interesting, and rewarding career choice.



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Contacts



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PERTH	
Positions	30-35
Clerkship programs	Summer & Winter
Applications for all 2022/23 programs open	27 June 2022
Applications for all 2022/23 programs close	31 July 2022
Offers made	16 September 2022

Please note: An application should only be submitted to the office where you intend to start your career as a graduate. Multiple applications will not be considered.





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IN HOUSE COUNSEL

BURT SOO, ACCESS CONTRACTS ADVISOR WESTERN POWER

When I graduated from law school, I envisioned myself working in a private law firm (or hoping to at least make it to the elusive interview stage for a graduate position) and taking the traditional path of working towards making partner.

With a degree in hand (and armed with a bare knowledge of *Donoghue v Stevenson*), I was fortunate enough to land a job with a busy boutique law practice specialising in commercial law and litigation.

I was also fortunate enough to have great mentors who guided me through the infant years of my practice. I was shown the ropes and they helped me grow as a junior lawyer. I had the opportunity to attend hearings across different levels of Court and to handle complex commercial matters.

Through that, I learned that the legal profession could be very rigorous. When you choose to be a lawyer, you are choosing a path that often requires putting in long hours coupled with demanding clients. Cases can start off at a fairly low stake and can shift into stressful high-stake scenarios overnight.

Working as a commercial lawyer also meant I had to learn the intricacies of my clients' business operations and understand their legal needs. After several years in private practice and being somewhat curious about what life on the other side was like, I eventually decided to take up an opportunity to work in-house as an Access Contracts Advisor with Western Power in their Access Solutions

Team. My role in this team is to negotiate and manage contracts relating to major customer transmission connections and provide legal and commercial advice for issues involving Access Solutions. Put simply, any major customer wanting to generate or use electricity comes through to our team for the provision of access to the electricity grid covering the southwestern part of WA.

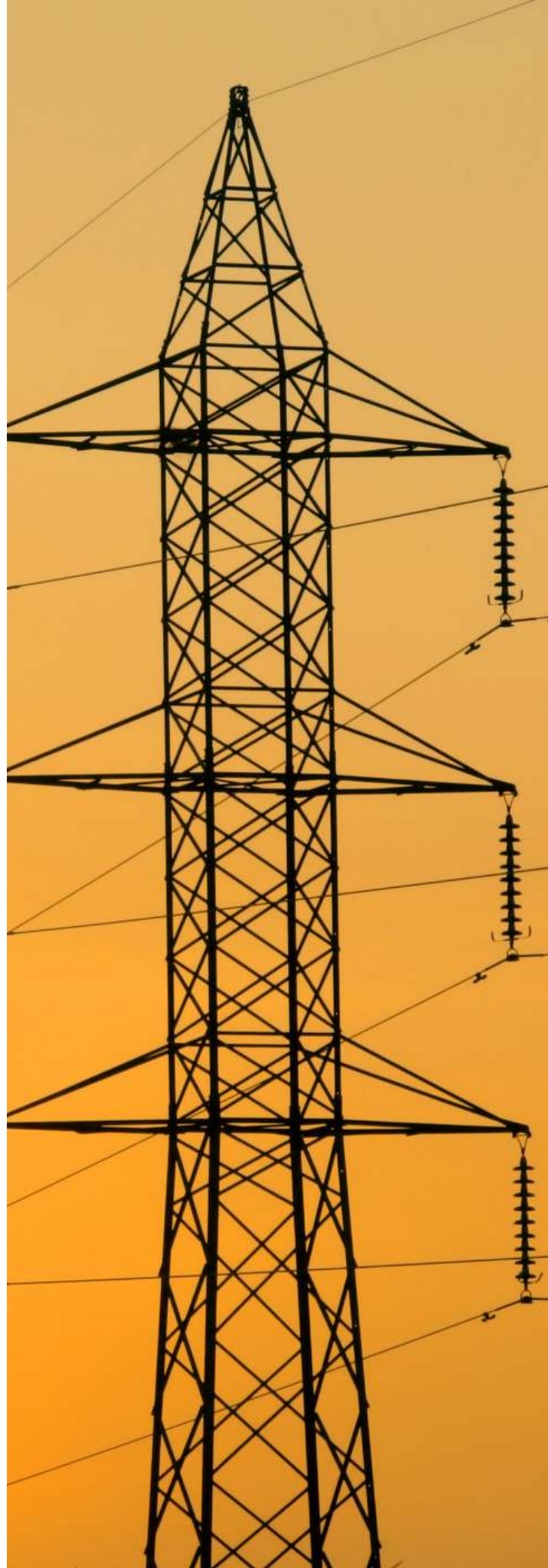
Working in-house means that no two days are the same; it is fast paced, exciting, and the breadth you need to be across means you always have to be on your toes. You get to see things through from start to finish; you design, execute, and are accountable for the strategies you put in place.

It may also mean that you will not have to religiously keep track of billable hours. The demands of recording your time can sometimes be frustrating and monotonous. Working in-house doesn't mean you'll be working any less hard; just that there isn't the same pressure to monitor your billable hours, which inevitably allows more flexibility. You can enjoy consistency in hours and may also enjoy longer, less interrupted holidays.

I must say that working in the energy sector at a time of change like this is also very exciting, particularly with the emergence of alternative energy sources and increasing uptake in renewable energy across the globe. It has brought me the opportunity to work on many world-leading technology projects of a type that our state has never seen before. For example, I recently worked on a miniature

pumped-hydro system project in Walpole, which involves two dams being built on a farming property, one high and one low, to transfer and store the water, and generate electricity at the same time!

While I would have never imagined a foray outside the well-trodden path of private practice, I have never looked back since making that move. For me, it is about having the opportunity to see a matter through from start to finish and being able to directly impact your employer's strategic direction and business outcomes. There are many ways to use your Law degree, and while some of them may not be the traditional paths that you would expect, there are a myriad of robust opportunities for alternative careers.



CRIMINAL LAW

CARLO PRIMERANO, LAWYER

CARLO PRIMERANO & ASSOCIATES

Starting out as a newly admitted lawyer over 23 years ago I had no idea what path my career was going to take and what area I wanted to practice in. I worked as an articulated clerk at a firm that practiced in most areas of law. In those days an “articled clerkship” was your first year of work after you graduated with a law degree. I had great exposure to the many facets of what people’s real issues were. I spent a lot of time as an articulated clerk in the Magistrates Court on my feet cross-examining judgment debtors in an attempt to get an order that they pay our client \$10 per week. It really was at this stage (and not during my time at university studying law) that I knew that I wanted to spend more time on my feet and less time at a desk.

After a period of practice in general litigation I spent much time at a firm that principally practiced in criminal law, family law and civil litigation under a very knowledgeable principal who had a specialty in criminal law and to this day is still as sharp as he was 20 years ago.

A further distinguishing feature of the practice in criminal law, is that you find practitioners have longevity in criminal law. Why? My view is that the practice of criminal law is very satisfying. You will have more good days than bad days. A bad day is generally and almost always no surprise. For example, if your client is denied bail or receives 12 months imprisonment that is not suspended, you generally find that your advice prior to the decision was almost “on the money”.

The great sense of satisfaction you feel in practicing criminal law is only (in my view)

held by others that practice what I term “coal-face law”; the type of law you practice that makes a marked difference to people’s personal lives. I say this as a lawyer that has also practiced in commercial and property litigation for a number of years. The so-called “coal face” lawyers and others that work within the realms of criminal law, family law, restraining orders, family violence, Drug and START mental health courts are more than happy to give and assist junior lawyers and others given that in most instances all people involved are motivated to achieve a certain “positive” result and outcome for the person involved. Practice in these areas I find presently to be much more collaborative than when I first started out and this only leads to a greater sense of satisfaction.

If its criminal law you aspire to practice, then choose to work alongside experienced criminal lawyers that allow you to assist on files and take you to the various courts so you can appreciate and understand the everyday practices and nuances of being a criminal lawyer. No matter what career path you choose in law, knowing that your efforts do make a difference will no doubt assure you a fulfilling and satisfying work life.

THE STATE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

GEMMA MULLINS, SOLICITOR

I graduated from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Laws in 2015 (as part of Curtin's first cohort of law students) and completed the Honours programme in 2017. In 2016 and 2017, I worked as a Judge's Associate in the Supreme Court of Western Australia, before taking up a position as a graduate at the State Solicitor's Office (SSO) in January 2018.

The SSO is an independent sub-department of the Department of Justice within the Western Australian public sector. Its mission is to protect and support the State of Western Australia in the public interest, and to assist the Attorney General in upholding the rule of law through the provision of high quality, impartial legal advice, and assistance. The SSO has a rich history (as it is more than 180 years old) and comprises approximately 175 solicitors.

My role at the SSO is best described as diverse. My day-to-day practice includes administrative law, criminal law, torts, equity, defamation, constitutional law, general litigation, and everything in-between. I enjoy having such a diverse practice, as it keeps things interesting and challenges me to learn new areas of law on a regular basis.

The opportunities at the SSO are as diverse as the practice areas. For example, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic I was seconded to the WA Police Service for a six month period to form part of a small team responsible for delivering the legal aspects of the State's response to COVID-19. More recently, I had the privilege of appearing as junior counsel to the Solicitor

General of Western Australia in the High Court, intervening on behalf of the Attorney General in a constitutional challenge. Within days of appearing as junior counsel in the High Court, I was back in the Magistrates Court prosecuting offences under the Biodiversity and Conservation Act 2016 (WA).

The SSO is filled with dedicated and hardworking lawyers (and wonderful support staff) who will go out of their way to help you become the best lawyer that you can be. There is always someone to turn to for advice – there is no shortage of colleagues willing to take time out of their day to discuss a legal or ethical conundrum. The SSO also provides excellent training and opportunities for development. For budding advocates, there is a junior counsel mentoring programme whereby junior lawyers are matched with a more senior lawyer with counsel experience, who will attend court appearances to observe and provide constructive feedback.

Solicitors employed by the SSO are public servants, and the role they perform is based upon a commitment to the service of the Western Australian community. I chose to work at the SSO, and continue to do so, because it is important to me that my work is undertaken on behalf of the public, and in the public interest. If that appeals to you, then I recommend that you consider applying to join our ranks.

TIPS FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

SANDRA RIOS, SOLICITOR
ZAFRA LEGAL

I completed my Law and Commerce degrees at Curtin University in 2020 and became admitted as a lawyer in August 2021. Since graduating, I have been practicing at Zafra Legal predominately in projects, commercial, and corporate law.

Starting your first job as a lawyer is an exciting new chapter that can be challenging at times. Here are my four tips that will hopefully help you as you enter the legal profession:

Try as many things as you can

It can be hard to identify your strengths and interests whilst you are studying at university. Although assignments are important, they are not always the best representation of what practicing in a specific area of law is actually like. Make the most of the opportunity to study electives that can broaden your horizons and expose you to other areas of law that may interest you. Your first year as a law graduate is the perfect time to put yourself out there. You will likely have rotations in various practice groups but don't be afraid to reach out to a colleague in a different team to try something new.

Ask questions and request feedback

The saying "you don't know, what you don't know" is relevant not only in your graduate year but in your working career. When you are provided with a task, use it as an opportunity to learn and grow. Supervisors and other colleagues are a great source of information. Although it may appear daunting, it is important to ask as many questions as required so you are able to deliver work to the best of your ability and to a high standard.

A question to a more senior lawyer regarding your proposed approach to tackle a matter before you commence can save you hours going down the wrong path later. Once you have completed a task, take some time to speak to your supervisors to discuss what you can improve on. Don't be too harsh on yourself, feedback, whether good or bad, is part of your learning experience.

Be patient

As you are progressing through your new journey, it can often feel frustrating and overwhelming. Learning and consolidating information often involves numerous mistakes and, with that, the feeling of failure and being inept. Continue to ask for feedback and take on new challenges which will enhance and develop your skill set. Try not to compare yourself to other lawyers in similar roles and focus on your own learning curve and achievements. Take it one step at a time and remember that you will not learn everything overnight.

Look after yourself

Do not underestimate the importance of this during the first year of your career. Finding the right balance that works for you can be challenging to achieve. As you grow into your new and exciting role, it can be difficult to manage and maintain interests outside of the office. Try to set yourself personal goals to pursue in your free time, as well as creating good habits which will hopefully continue as your progress in your career. Practicing time management, focusing on your health and wellness, as well as having downtime, are some tips for improving productivity and avoiding burnout.

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THE COURTS



JOURNEY TO A JUDGE

QUESTIONS WITH QUAIL

TANIKA SIMPSON

Judges are at the pinnacle of the justice system. Without them the court system would cease to exist. I had the honour of interviewing President of the Children's Court His Honour Judge Hylton Quail for the 2022 CSLS Careers Guide.

Pathway to becoming a judge

From a young age Judge Quail knew he wanted to be a criminal lawyer. Judge completed his law degree at UWA. However, he told me he "wasn't a particularly good student" and he had to do a history degree to get into law. "I was extremely fortunate that law turned out to be something I loved. It's hard for a young person to be able to identify what they truly love and often reality does not match expectation. From the day I left law school I loved being in the legal profession." "The great thing about studying the law and going to university for a law degree is that it qualifies you for so many different opportunities." Judge began practising in the early 1990's and was drawn to criminal and personal injury matters. For the better part of 20 years he was a solicitor, much of it as a sole practitioner.

Judge then took the Bar Readers Course and became a Barrister. He did this for 8 or 9 years and "loved it even more" commenting he "should have done it earlier". Barristers focus more on the law, advocacy and advice which he truly loved. This experience was "reinvigorating".

Judge also got involved in, as every young lawyer should, life in the profession. As we are drilled into at law school, "law is a

profession, not a job". It's not just about showing up, "the life of the profession is as important as the work". Judge was involved in the Criminal Lawyers Association, the Law Society, the Bar Association and the Law Council of Australia. These associations promote camaraderie and collegiality amongst young lawyers and educate the public through the media, all of which is important work. "Yes, it is extra work, but it is just what being a lawyer is. It is part of the all-consuming life of a professional, and I highly recommend it. It adds immeasurably to your experience of being a lawyer." Judge was involved in the mandatory sentencing debates and served as President of both the Criminal Lawyers Association and the Law Society.

Being a judge

Becoming a judge is not an application process. You get appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Attorney General and based on your work in the profession. His Honour was appointed to the District Court in 2018 and "loved it even more". As a lawyer your primary focus is on the facts, once you become a judge, especially in the District Court, your focus is on the law, the facts are for the jury. This is where Judge fell in love with the law again.

I asked Judge for his perspective on being a judge. As law students we learn to appreciate the important and fundamental role of the judiciary, but what is it like being a member of that institution? His Honour said his perspective

has not changed: “I think that is part of embracing the law and devoting yourself to it, you become part of and it a part of you. Becoming a judge in that sense is not foreign to someone who was a lawyer for a long time.”

After a few years he was appointed to President of the Children’s Court. His Honour was recently re-appointed for a further 3 years. Being President is rewarding and Judge enjoys working with children. It is “great being in a small court and being able to implement change and reform quickly”. However, it is also incredibly challenging and is sometimes the “most difficult judicial job in WA.” The Children’s Court is very different to adult courts. The Court is well resourced and there are more opportunities to make a difference: “Juvenile Justice in WA does work” but there is still room for improvement. The focus of His Honour’s first 2 years was Protection and Care. The aim is to move away from adversarial justice to therapeutic justice. This includes the launch of Dandjoo Bidi-Ak focussing on reunification of families whose children have entered State care. “The modernisation of P&C has led to a dramatic drop in back log and cases on hand.” Judge’s focus for his next 3-year term is on the criminal jurisdiction. It takes far too long for children to go through the court system, albeit it is still faster than adult courts.

As a judge, His Honour is very busy “I’ve never worked harder than I have as a judge.” His Honour starts his day early at 7:30am. This allows him to finish relatively early at 5pm to return to his family. In the morning he prepares for the day in court and deals with the administration side of court. Most days he is in court from 10am to 4pm. Judge presides over the most serious criminal matters, typically sex

crimes. All Children’s Court matters have no jury, so His Honour makes the decision himself. If his day is not preoccupied with a trial, he will have sentencing, case management hearings or reviews of magistrates’ decisions. There are few days where Judge is not in court. By no means are these free days. As President, Judge is responsible for the Magistrates in the court and other remote Children’s Court Magistrates sitting across the State. There are also constant matters from the government and reform.

Advice

We all know the stresses and pressures of law school can take their toll. However, as Judge reminded me, there’s more to law school than grades. “There is a real focus on academic achievement in law school and students are struggling for high marks, which students absolutely should do, but at least in my year, the best students did not go on to become the best lawyers. There are other qualities beyond academic ability which make good lawyers.” The quality of law graduates these days is much higher. Graduates have better research and writing skills, are more mature and confident, and their skills and readiness for the workforce is better. However, graduates are generally less resilient than they should be. The legal profession is a tough place. Lawyers need to be incredibly resilient and be able to deal with the pressure, criticism and losses that come with the job. Practitioners need to have protection mechanisms in place to deal with the nature of the work. Without these lawyers succumb to unhealthy coping mechanisms such as drinking and drug abuse. Judge told me his best mechanism is to “do and dump”. When you are exposed to the “worst human depravity on a daily basis your brain needs to become

like a computer in the sense that you have a fantastic short-term memory for cases and then finish and dump them aside.” It is easy to fall into the trap of aligning yourself with your client but you must remain objective. Subjectivity and uncritical thinking do you and your client a disservice.

Law can be all-consuming, so it is important to have a creative outlet and hobbies. His Honour enjoys fishing (recently chasing sailfish in Exmouth), gardening, sculpting, and collecting art. He is also a die-hard Dockers fan, with the flag flying proudly over the Children’s Court after every win.

One of the things that stuck with me the most from my interview with Judge was his perspective on career progression. As mentioned above, there’s a heavy focus on academic achievement in law school. This translates to legal practice in people’s desire to look for the next job or next opportunity. His Honour wisely told me that “focussing on getting to the next opportunity means you fail to take advantage of what is in front of you”. Judge himself never planned on becoming a judge. He was focussed and committed to the work he was doing. When asked what advice he had for students wanting to become judges he quickly shut me down stating “abandon that notion right away. You cannot plan or hope to be a judge. It is too far away. Work hard, don’t think about what is next or some 5-year plan, just do what you do, do it well and the next opportunity will come. If you end up practising in an area from which judges are chosen and do it well, you will likely be asked.” You must have confidence and believe in what you do. Always apply yourself. There is nothing worse than lack of preparation or incompetent representation: “bad lawyers

make me nervous as I worry that an important part of their client’s case has been missed”. Always work hard and do the job in front of you. You only have one reputation so be honest with everyone always and know your cases inside and out. That being said, university and legal practice are not just about studying and qualifying, it’s also about the collegiality. Don’t always trade in the good times for study. Get to know your peers and enjoy the journey.

Being a judge is hard. There are constant struggles and horrible matters coming across your bench. But it is a rewarding experience when you can play a part in positive change for a person. I hope this insight into the life of a judge was as interesting and informative for you as it was for me. Work hard and we will all be successful.



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Associateships are personal aide positions to judicial officers of the courts. Do you know those people that sit next to, or just below a judge in court proceedings? More often than not, they are judge's associates. Beyond staring down barristers or trying to look professional in court, associates take on a variety of tasks as part of their role.

To generalise, the first and often primary task of an associate is administrative. Associates manage matters, liaise with parties, prepare papers for the judge prior to hearings and proof judgments.

Secondly, legal research. A judge may ask you to research a particular area of law, provide a memorandum or even have a go at drafting part of a judgment (daunting but highly rewarding!).

Thirdly (and I know this is a bit of a cop out), miscellaneous. This could involve grabbing coffee for chambers, running personal errands for your judge (such as borrowing books from the library) or assisting in committee meetings.

However, as the adage goes (which we have become accustomed to in law school) your exact role will depend on the facts and circumstances. Each chambers will be different and may vary in the following ways:

- There may be a Research Associate role (which focuses primarily on legal research) and an Associate role (which focuses on administrative tasks);
- Associates in the General Division will liaise more with parties compared to the Court of Appeal (appellant) who often focus more on legal research;
- Criminal chambers vs Civil chambers.

Associateships are usually between one to two years, and it is a fantastic way to start your legal career if you have an interest in litigation, want exposure to a variety of areas of the law or if you are unsure of which area of the law you want to work in.

Applications

Applications for the Supreme Court of Western Australia and Federal Court judges based in Western Australia are generally advertised around March to April each year. However, judges of the Supreme Court can often advertise positions later on in the year so keep a lookout on the Supreme Court website and law society pages.

As associateships are full-time positions advertised a year in advance, ideally, I recommend applying in your final year of study. However, some judges hire students in their penultimate year. Alternatively, judges have hired applicants that have already graduated and have had a year or so of legal experience.

If you know anyone who is/has been an associate I encourage you to reach out to them and ask for any advice.

Most importantly if you are interested in an associateship **DO NOT BE AFRAID OF APPLYING**. Put your application forward and see what happens!

Tips for applications

For your CV

- Include any legal and/or editorial experience. Experience working in another court or with a barrister is worth emphasising
- Include your non-legal work experience (e.g., retail).

For your cover letter

- Be specific as to why you want to work for that particular judge.
- Mention some of your interests outside of the law.

Interviews

If a judge/associate invites you for an interview – congrats!

The interview process can vary depending on the judge. It may be a more casual conversation, or it may be more structured with the judge asking certain questions to each interviewee. You may also have a chat with the judge's current associates prior to meeting the judge or the associates may be present during your interview with the judge.

The main thing to remember for the interview (as generic as it is) is to be yourself. If you are invited for an interview, the judge/associates know you can fulfil the role. More often than not the interview is to see whether you would work well in that particular chambers, so be genuine and put your best foot forward.



LIFE AS A BARRISTER

PAUL YOVICH BARRISTER

Career

I joined the Bar in 2011, after more than 21 years in the profession. All of my time was spent in the public service, with the Crown Law Department (as the State Solicitor's Office was then known), and then the DPP. After 18 years I made the move to Francis Burt Chambers.

In some ways, that career path is not uncommon. The SSO and DPP are well known to provide excellent training and opportunities to develop skills as an advocate, and advocacy is often seen as the core work of a barrister. But my path was also atypical in that I came to the Bar comparatively late in my career, and for many years at the DPP, I never felt the desire to leave.

Moving to the Bar

During my time at the DPP, it was a very collegial workplace (and I am sure it still is). I did not expect the same level of collegiality at the Bar, but I was very pleasantly surprised to find that the Bar is also a very collegial place. Even when we are directly opposed to a fellow barrister in a case, my experience has been that relations are cordial far more often than not, and barristers regularly help each other with advice on cases, and refer work they can't do themselves to their colleagues at the Bar.

If there is one characteristic that I would say is the most important one for a barrister as opposed to other lawyers, it is "independence". The pressures that clients can sometimes put on solicitors, and the

close relationships that solicitors and regular clients can often develop, mean that it can be hard for solicitors to see things with the same detachment that is so important to what a barrister does. It can also be very hard for any lawyer to give clients bad news, or advice they don't want to hear. The fact that a barrister's relationship with the ultimate client is typically one more far-removed than the solicitor-client relationship means that barristers can more easily give that "frank and fearless" advice that clients need (even if they don't necessarily want it). I did not appreciate the value of that independence before I came to the Bar, but it has come home to me many times since.

Barrister work

On a more personal level, I have enjoyed my 11 years at the Bar a great deal. The work is varied, you are your own boss, so you are answerable to no-one for how many hours you bill (apart, perhaps, from your bank manager), and if you are too busy, you can (and should) just say no to work you don't have time to do properly. That is a luxury that most lawyers can't afford – nowadays, it seems there are very few jobs in the law that don't require long hours and work on weekends.

Challenges

That doesn't mean that it is easy to say no. Because we work for ourselves, and our overheads are lower than those of solicitors, it can be tempting to say yes to a brief even if it means you are working all weekend because you know that you will earn a direct reward for your work.

As a barrister I work long hours pretty regularly, but these days there are very few lawyers who don't, and it is some comfort, believe it or not, when you are sitting at your desk on a weekend when other people are having their leisure time to say to yourself "I could have said no to that brief".

You can also decide what kind of work you do - I have expanded the types of work I do a fair bit since I joined the Bar, although I still specialise in criminal law. So the work of a barrister is as varied as you want it to be. It is also interesting and intellectually challenging, and it can be very lucrative, although there is no guarantee you will earn a cent, and you don't get paid leave. It can also be stressful and exhausting. But lawyers exist first and foremost to serve the community by helping to uphold the rule of law. And it is very rewarding to feel that you are doing that.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

KATE BASTA-ZIMA, PARALEGAL

The big case. I dare to say that each law student is hoping for one. What's more, I'm pretty sure that some lawyers still do.

Working for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia ('ODPP') taught me that truly with a great case comes great responsibility. I was privy to observing some of the best prosecutors putting their big cases before the judge and jury, and it was a fascinating experience.

However, what is even more impressive is the work that goes on behind the scene. There are sometimes months, if not years, of preparation by the prosecutors, paralegals, police, and witnesses, just to name a few.

Working for the trial team means going through a huge volume of evidentiary material, which sometimes can be very unpleasant, if not disturbing when considering the graphic material that the team must familiarise themselves with. Luckily, ODPP recognises the impact this type of work can have on people and supports the team and their mental well-being by providing various resources.

Another aspect of the trial preparation that can take a long time is reviewing statements and meeting with witnesses to ensure proper disclosure. What often happens is that the witnesses might not be available, are hostile, or just anxious about giving evidence, which makes scheduling and performing witness conferences a skill on its own. Preparation of various documents, such as briefs,

statements of material facts or even jury books, is also time-consuming and requires precision.

What is really important to note is that all of this is happening simultaneously across various cases, and the cases are all at different preparation points. Unfortunately, this sometimes means that people have to work long hours. This demand on a team's productivity can elevate the risk of burnout and, when combined with pressure and the volume of cases, might lead to potential mistakes that could, in turn, lead to injustice. The more important thing is for the team to work like a well-oiled machine and support each other when needed. I am lucky to work with a great team at the ODPP, and I know that I can rely on others as everyone is dedicated and wants to ensure that the case is well prepared. People truly care about the work they are performing, and everyone in the office works in unison to achieve a just result and provide the best service to the community.

The crescendo of the whole work that everyone put into the case is seeing everything come together in the courtroom when the prosecutor presents the case skillfully and ensures justice.

The experience that I have gained at the ODPP is invaluable. Working there challenges me every day, and I dare to say it has made me not only a better team player but also a better person. I also understand now that every case is a big one and deserves its own focus and for justice to be delivered.

The background of the advertisement features a silhouette of a person looking through a telescope against a sunset sky. The telescope is mounted on a tripod. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange rectangle containing the K&L Gates logo. A semi-transparent grey box contains the main text of the advertisement.

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We are a fully integrated network of lawyers and legal professionals who believe that clients need more than technical legal skills; they need insightful and practical advice on the diverse issues that affect their businesses, delivered with unparalleled client service. Our combination of practice strength, global platform, and unsurpassed client service is a true differentiator in the legal services marketplace.

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We have nine core practice areas across Australia. As part of your clerkship you will complete rotations within at least one of these. In your graduate year, you will experience multiple areas across three rotations.

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FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAM

In conjunction with on-the-job experience, we provide formal training. On day one, you will receive an in-depth induction to the firm as well as training on relevant IT systems, followed by sessions over the course of the clerkship and graduate programs. These sessions have been designed to develop your legal knowledge and business skills, as well as to give you a broader insight into the various areas of law in which we practise.

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We define innovation as change that adds value, making innovation everyone's business.

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We truly believe that working together is better. Your supervisor and buddy will help you settle into the office and you will work closely with the partners, special counsel, senior associates and lawyers in your team. You will be provided with opportunities to build strong relationships, both within your team and the wider firm network. We provide and encourage a collaborative environment in which you can grow and develop.

We are looking for smart, imaginative and hard-working people with diverse backgrounds, experiences and ideas to join us. Perhaps our search for talented visionaries and your search for important and impactful work lead to the same place.

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STUDENT EXPERIENCE



VOLUNTEERING AND UNPAID WORK

NADIA CUSCHIERI

Unpaid work enables students to gain practical experience and knowledge in the legal profession. It also gives students the opportunity to network. It can even lead to further employment opportunities. Unpaid work also gives students the opportunity to find the firm or area of law that best suits them. A student may decide that practicing law isn't for them, and their law degree may take them on a different path, such as academia, business, or research. Unpaid work can take many forms including internship, work experience or volunteering.

The Legal Clinic (LAWS3005) and Legal Internship Unit (LAWS2011) at Curtin University gives students the opportunity to gain practical legal experience for an academic credit. LLB students, or students undertaking a double degree, who are enrolled in Curtin University can apply for the internship unit, provided they have completed Clinic or undertaken previous legal experience, a good academic standing and have completed a minimum of 200 credits. Most often, students spend one day a week at their placement. At the conclusion of the unit, students undertake an assessment aimed at building their oral and written communication skills. Students have the opportunity to choose their own placement or seek assistance from Curtin Law School. This unit is designed to give students an insight into the tasks they will undertake post-graduation. For those interested in the legal internship unit, you can email legal.internships@curtin.edu.au.

Work experience is similar to the internship unit, however it is not facilitated by the university. Students will often find themselves completing administrative and legal tasks such as reception duties, conducting legal research, and drafting documentation. You may choose to gain work experience alongside studying rather than completing the internship unit. Like the internship unit, students get a taste of what day-to-day tasks may be like after completing their degree. Work experience can assist students to determine what area of law they may like to work in, which firm or organisation they would like to work with, or whether practicing law is something they would like to pursue. It is important for students to ensure unpaid work, such as work experience, is lawful. Further information and assistance can be found at Fair Work Australia.

Volunteering usually occurs within not-for-profit organisations, such as community legal centres. However, students can sometimes undertake volunteering opportunities within firms. Volunteering tasks often include administrative tasks, liaising with clients and processing their claims or requests before a solicitor assists them.

Volunteering highlights how students can use their degree to give back to the community. It can also lead to employment opportunities like it did for me. If you are interested in volunteering, I highly recommend contacting your local CLC. These can be found at <https://www.communitylegalwa.org.au>

WORKING AS A PARALEGAL

ADRIANA GOUGH

PARALEGAL, CLAYTON UTZ

Working as a Paralegal can involve a number of different tasks, including the proofreading of legal documents, drafting of chronologies, large scale document review, legal research, and various ad hoc administrative duties. Law firms will often hire students as Paralegals on a casual basis to allow them to gain first-hand experience into life as a lawyer. Working in a Paralegal capacity allows students to gain exposure to the many specialities of law and put their knowledge and skills learnt in law school into practice.

I have been a Paralegal in the Forensic and Technology Services (FTS) team at Clayton Utz since November 2021. This role mainly involves conducting large-scale document review on a number of matters, and is a very fast-paced and interesting team to be working with. In the FTS team I am not limited to one practice area. I am able to assist with matters as they become available, such as Restructuring and Insolvency, Commercial Litigation, and Public Sector to name a few.

Prior to this position I had no paid paralegal experience and had only volunteered at a few community legal centres (CLC). This meant that I was completely new to the commercial world, and I had no networks within the firms, so it's safe to say I was incredibly nervous on my first day!

I have learnt several transferrable skills in this role so far, including time management, attention to detail, professional communication, and maintaining focus on a particular task.

However, the aspect of my life that has improved the most since becoming a Paralegal is my confidence. While I had an idea of the work expected of me in a Paralegal capacity due to my previous volunteer experience, there was a lot for me to learn. I was quickly welcomed with the very friendly, approachable, and social culture of Clayton Utz, which made starting my job much less daunting. Having been given feedback from FTS consultants, lawyers, and senior associates across the firm, who were all very happy to assist, my confidence in my ability and skills has improved tenfold. As they say, confidence is key!

Apart from all the skills and knowledge that can be gained in a Paralegal role, it is also a highly valued position by prospective employers. Although the Paralegal market can be quite competitive, there are many ways to find and apply for a number of roles. From my own experience, the 'Jobs' search function on LinkedIn often contains Paralegal roles, which can be applied for directly through LinkedIn. The CSLS also post job advertisements on their social media platforms for students.

Working as a Paralegal has been extremely rewarding, and I have made many friends and networks that will be invaluable in my career. It is certainly one of the most valuable experiences available to a student – so put yourself out there and apply!

BOUTIQUE LAW FIRMS

BRADLEY ROMANO

LAW CLERK, GEOGRE PAPAMIHIAL BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

When people think of law, they think advocacy, high-rise buildings and big salaries. However, often overlooked is small private practice and many of the benefits that arise from working with a smaller team of legal professionals and a more personal clientele. As someone who will graduate with four years of administrative and law clerk experience, I feel inclined to suggest the high life and long hours may not be for everyone and maybe working locally has some overlooked perks.

Benefits to Boutique Law Firms

Firstly, the 'relaxed' atmosphere associated with boutique law firms should not be ignored. In my time, I have worked closely with various practitioners of ranging experience, including, but not limited to, Solicitors, Counsel, Senior Counsel and once or twice, Queen's Counsel. Despite this, I have not yet come across a practitioner who was not understanding of my student-hood and kind enough to provide the time, advice and openness to assist my learning and develop my skills. In the last six months alone, I have watched my own work drastically improve in quality after working with counsel, who once learning of my inexperience, were able to provide guidance and advice with drafting generally, and for litigation purposes.

Further to practical legal experience, the smaller size of a boutique law firm requires every practitioner and clerk to work together in the administrative side of the practice, a skill that is essential to working effectively on any matter. This gives a greater appreciation for tasks such as file management, billing practices, and

general client management, which becomes a recognisable management skill benefiting any prospective employer down the line.

Finally, smaller firms also enjoy more relaxed practices in hiring new young staff and often take in new students with the intent to train them. This benefits students with who intend to undergo tutelage from a mentor over a longer period of time.

Potential Drawbacks to Small Private Practice

While the small firm may seem attractive, it does have some drawbacks some practitioners may be quick to point out. Arguably the most important factor of any clerkship is the exposure and recognition. While grades are a desirable factor to any hiring firm, past experience in a big company definitely goes a long way to sell a student's value as a clerk and maybe later, a practitioner. By working in a more relaxed and personal environment, you don't necessarily sacrifice your ability for a big firm career, however you do set yourself up in a position that requires you to build strong networking connections.

Is it worthwhile?

Absolutely! Personally, I enjoy the small practice, coming into work with colleagues I know, working on matters I can understand and doing significant, interesting and rewarding work. I think the average student writes off the smaller firms a little too quickly, especially in an industry with lots of competition - where experience is key.

CIRCLE GREEN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

NADIA CUSCHIERI LEGAL ADMIN ASSISTANT

Circle Green Community Legal Centre ('Circle Green') is an independent not-for-profit community legal centre specialising in residential tenancy law, employment, and migration. Their migration law stream extends to family and domestic violence law matters for newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Circle Green's vision is to make justice available for everyone. Circle Green is the merger of the Humanitarian Group, Tenancy WA, and the Employment Law Centre of WA. The services provided differ with each stream. The tenancy stream usually offers one-off telephone advice to clients whereas the humanitarian stream can complete representation. Circle Green also engages in community education, writing submissions and providing referrals.

Volunteers are often the first point of contact for clients. Therefore, the volunteers' role is crucial to ensuring the organisation runs smoothly and clients receive the services that they need. As a volunteer, your tasks will mostly be intake and admin focused. In the admin role, volunteers will sit at reception and handle migration and family law related walk-ins as well as telephone and email enquiries. Calls can take up to 30 minutes and volunteers take the client's name and contact details and some information on their legal matter. The admin role also requires the volunteer to scan, print and upload documents for client files and solicitors' meetings.

As a volunteer in the Tenancy stream, I have practiced both intake and administration roles. This opportunity completely changed my perspective on the legal profession and what it really means to help the community. Volunteering has been a challenging and rewarding experience and I have gained a unique insight into the world of law that not many other places offer. Often, the clients who seek the community legal assistance cannot afford the luxury of a private lawyer and are desperate.

At times it can be hard to talk with clients who are vulnerable and suffering. However, the feeling I experience after helping them navigate their tough situations is like no other. The solicitors and advocates in the tenancy stream have been able to provide tenants with the knowledge to reach satisfactory agreements and resolutions with their landlords, even preventing homelessness. In addition, I have been fortunate enough to work with some incredible mentors, where I have received hands-on experience on what working in the profession is like. Each day I learn something new from my role at Circle Green, whether it be extending my knowledge of the law or developing practical skills to combat difficult situations.

If you would like to get involved by volunteering at Circle Green, visit <https://circlegreen.org.au/volunteer/> and submit your cover letter, CV and academic transcript.

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Clerkship program

Our clerkship program offers you a real taste of life as a graduate and is the primary source for our graduate academy which feeds directly into our international opportunities. Wherever you look, you will be immersing yourself into new opportunities such as attending client meetings, visits to court, exposure to our deals, culture, practice areas and a lot of additional activities such as pro bono, fundraising, and social committee events.

Once you apply, your application will be reviewed taking in to account a variety of factors. If successful in securing an interview, you will also be invited to an information evening to learn more about our firm and meet our people.

Graduate academy

This is the most important part of your journey with us. It is also a journey in itself. Over the course of the program, you will develop a vast range of knowledge and skills, gain exposure to different sectors and work environments, and will ultimately build up the experience you need to become a qualified lawyer.

- We offer a 2 year program consisting of 4 x 6 month rotations. Our aim is for each graduate to complete at least one transactional and one litigious rotation during their program
 - All graduates will be enrolled in Practical Legal Training with The College of Law and will receive continuous training throughout the program
 - All graduates will be admitted to practice within their first year of the program (Nov-Dec)
- All graduates have the opportunity to apply for an international rotation and pro bono secondment
- All graduates will be supervised by a partner and mentored by a senior lawyer, in addition to being paired with a buddy who has recently completed the graduate program at the firm
 - 12 months into the program, graduates can be permanently placed in a team of preference as a lawyer. Others will benefit from 3rd or 4th rotations

International opportunities

Working in a global law firm means global opportunities – and that means getting the experience of working in our global offices. We are committed to our graduates building connections with their peers overseas, build upon their legal knowledge in a different jurisdiction and experience life on the other side of the world so that when they return, they can play a pivotal role in our global connectivity and contribute to our success as a truly global law firm.

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GETTING PUBLISHED AS A STUDENT

PARIS MCNEIL

The Western Australian Student Law Review (WASLR) is a student-run academic journal which provides Western Australian law students with an opportunity to publish their work. The WASLR is a generalist publication, meaning articles are accepted on a variety of topics and areas of law. Similarly, the WASLR accepts submissions by students from any of Western Australia's law schools. The WASLR is published annually on AustLII and submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. You can get involved with WASLR by publishing an article or case note with the journal or by becoming an editor.

Why Publish with the WASLR?

Having an article or case note published in WASLR is an excellent opportunity to showcase your work and set you apart from other graduates. Publishing an article early in your legal career looks great on your resume and will provide an insight into what a career in academia may look like. I published an article titled the Efficacy of Intimate Images Legislation in Western Australia in Volume 5 of WASLR and learnt so much about my writing style as well as how to improve the structure of my papers through the editorial process.

Tips for Submitting a Paper to the WASLR
Writing an article for publication is not as daunting as it might seem! Many students submit expanded versions of a research assignment or their finished product from the Advanced Legal Research unit or Honours degree. When the editors review the submissions, we look for articles which are thought-provoking, well structured,

convey an original idea or perspective, and are well researched. It's important if you are submitting a piece you wrote for an assignment that your work has a clear thesis. Sometimes when writing a research essay, students neglect to include a thesis in their work because they are answering a research question, so make sure to review your work and ensure your thesis shines through before you submit. Similarly, most assignments have strict word limits, so we recommend you flesh out any gaps in your argument and explore any points you have not considered. Finally, be open to constructive criticism. You will receive detailed feedback from the editors and should expect to spend 5-20 hours editing the article after acceptance.

Become an Editor

Editing student articles is a fantastic way to improve your writing and grammar skills, critical thinking and attention to detail - all skills which are essential to a career in the law. Similarly, working as an editor of a law review will make a great addition to your resume and provides you with an opportunity to collaborate with students from other universities and build your professional network.

The WASLR accepts applications for new editors every year, generally requiring a resume, cover letter and academic transcript. The WASLR recruits Junior and Senior Editors. Junior Editors generally conduct the first edit of the paper, looking for spelling and grammar, AGLC4 compliance and overall readability. Junior editors generally spend a maximum of 5 hours on each article. Senior Editors then

conduct an in depth review of the article, looking for structural issues, gaps in the argument and other ways that the article can be improved. Senior Editors might spend between 10-20 hours on each article they edit. Having been a Junior Editor in 2019 and a Senior Editor in 2022, I can attest to the rewarding experience that is being a WASLR editor.

Get in Touch

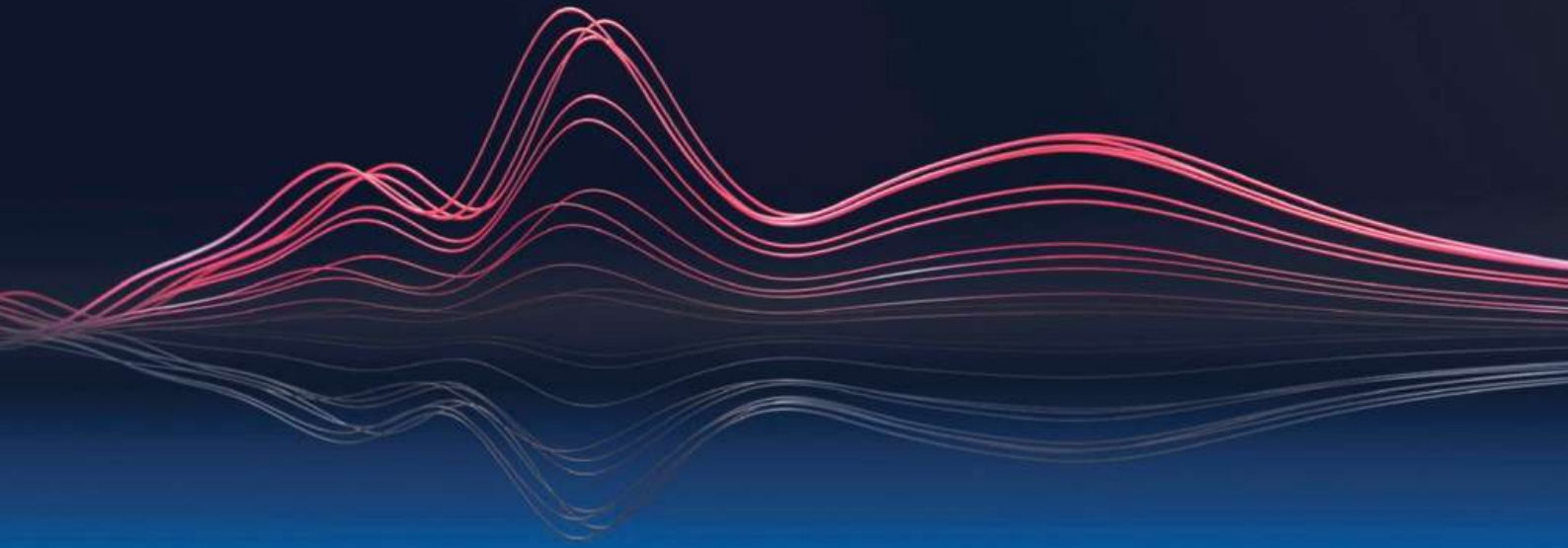
The instructions for how to submit to the WASLR are available on our website: <https://www.wastudentlawreview.com/submit>. Please take note of the submission guidelines and make sure your paper complies with the AGLC4.

You can also like our Facebook page for updates on editor vacancies and calls for submissions.



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around the world

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in which we operate

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Lawyers
in Australia

4

Offices
in Australia



Clerkship Programme

Our seasonal clerkship is designed to give you insight into what sets us apart. Our programme starts with an induction which provides a comprehensive introduction to the legal sector and the firm's strategy, practice groups, sectors and clients. It also builds your skills and networks. Following induction, you'll have the opportunity to experience working in a practice group and benefit from being

given real responsibilities. Whether you're attending a court hearing, contributing to a client meeting or assisting a large corporate transaction, you'll have plenty of opportunities to reach your potential. At the completion of your clerkship you will also be eligible for consideration for a graduate role on our graduate programme.

2022/23 PROGRAMME

Clerkship intakes:

Brisbane, Melbourne,	Summer – Nov/Dec 2022	4 weeks
Perth	Winter – Jun/Jul 2023	4 weeks
Sydney	Summer – Nov/Dec 2022 and Jan/Feb 2023	8 weeks

Graduate Programme

During your graduate programme, you'll experience three six month rotations in our different practice groups and Pro Bono and Law& teams, giving you breadth in your knowledge of the law as well as the practical skills that will stay with you for your entire career. By the end of your graduate programme, you will emerge with a clearer understanding of where your talent and

interests lie. The experience you'll have gained – and the networks you'll have nurtured – will provide a strong foundation for your future career at DLA Piper.

2023 PROGRAMME

Priority offers will be made to candidates who participate in our Clerkship Programme.

Find out more about our programmes and application dates:



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COMPETING AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

NICHOLAS ANASTAS ERLA MOOT WINNER 2021

Competing in extracurricular competitions is an exciting way to develop your advocacy skills and public speaking confidence. In 2021, I competed in the Australia Law Students' Association ('ASLA') National Negotiation and the Energy Resources Law Association ('ERLA') (formerly AMPLA) State Moot. Ultimately, we came within the top 4 teams in Australia in the ALSA Negotiation and won the ERLA Moot.

My competition experience started with my registration in the Open Negotiation for a bit of fun, although my partner and I ended up placing second! By a stroke of fortune, I was invited to compete at ALSA against the top negotiation teams from different law schools across the country. The ALSA negotiation competition consists of 3 preliminary rounds over three days, with different factual scenarios. It was a busy but exhilarating three days, and I was overjoyed to hear we had progressed to the finals. We then had another night to prepare for the quarter-finals, and we were to be notified on the day whether we would be competing in the semi-finals that afternoon. I doubt I will soon forget receiving the email we made it through and rushing back from lunch to savour each remaining minute of preparation.

Later in the year, I registered as senior counsel in a team of three for the Open Moot competition. I greatly appreciated the feedback I received in the preliminary round, which significantly moulded our approach to the grand-final.

Upon our team winning at the Herbert Smith Freehills offices, we were invited to compete in the state ERLA Moot. My junior counsel was unavailable to compete in this instance, so the junior from the opposition team at the Open Moot agreed to form the team with me. We defeated Notre Dame at the preliminary round in the Curtin Mock Court before facing Murdoch, the defending champions, at the Supreme Court before the ex-Mining Warden. This was an adrenaline-inducing evening, and it was so much fun to advocate in front of the ex-Mining Warden, let alone win the competition.

The effort that goes into preparing for these competitions cannot be understated. Some of them require a lot of work, but they offer an incredible opportunity to develop your oral and written advocacy skills. Two main lessons have stuck with me from these competitions. First, your opponents are just as nervous as you are. I understand these competitions can seem daunting but registering in the CSLS competitions allows you to develop these skills in a safe and supportive environment. Second, these competitions have a surprisingly social aspect. Not only does the CSLS work hard to cultivate an approachable competition environment; the judges are friendly and fair, and I have made some valuable friends and connections. Who knows where these competitions can take you - within a couple of months, you may very well be interstate negotiating a new fence for Sally.

NEW COLOMBO PLAN SCHOLARSHIP

NIAMH WILKINS

NEW COLOMBO PLAN SCHOLAR 2022

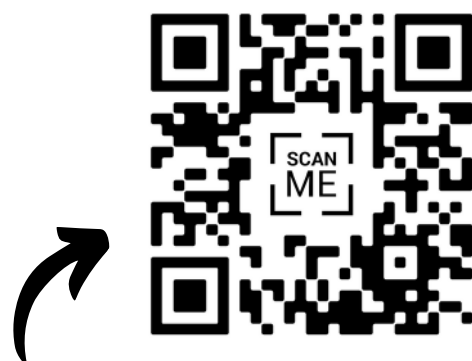
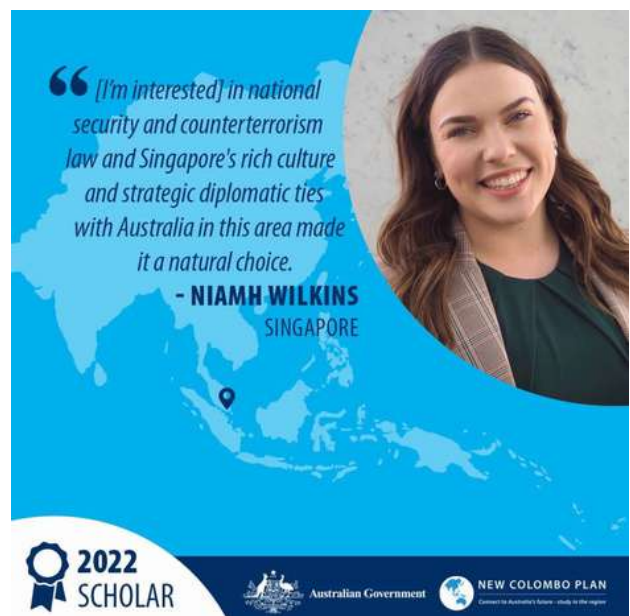
My name is Niamh, and I am a recent Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) graduate, current Curtin PLT student (that pesky Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice that you need to complete in order to be admitted as a lawyer), and, as the title suggests, a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Colombo Plan Scholar (NCP) for 2022.

I have graduated from what I now refer to as the 'first tranche' of my Law degree, and, at the beginning of 2023, I will be heading over to Singapore to complete an additional year of Honours in conjunction with Curtin Law School and the National University of Singapore. Excitingly, this year abroad (or thereabouts) will also consist of Malay language training, a range of legal internships and various trips around the Indo-Pacific! While my current dissertation topic remains TBA, I am interested in facets of constitutional, administrative, security, and counter-terrorism law, and equally eager to be learning in the vibrant and engaging hub that is Singapore.

I have only recently just returned from Canberra, where all NCP Scholars and Alumni engaged in a National Summit and Pre-Departure Training programme. I can only say so much in writing, but the whole NCP network is full of some of the most inspiring, engaging, and motivated young leaders. Perhaps one of them is indeed reading this very article unknowingly!

I only came to know about the NCP scholarship in the latter part of my degree, so consider this your official tip-off to an

immensely generous and prestigious scholarship! While the scholarship involves a competitive application process to both Curtin and DFAT, you will wholeheartedly be supported by Curtin Scholarship's Office throughout the process. If you are interested in strengthening Australia's ties with the Indo-Pacific, studying parts of your degree overseas, or just wanting a bit of a challenge, I can assure you this is something you should apply for. ...



SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

COMPLETING YOUR HONOURS

JESSIKAH NEISTEN

You have just finished or are about to finish your degree, and you have been invited to do Honours. Why would you spend another year at Law School doing more assignments?

Well, let me convince you that Honours is a valuable degree to have. Firstly, it helps you stand out from the crowd of Law graduates when applying for positions. It shows a future employer that, in addition to having sound legal skills, you also have advanced research skills and can write for publication.

An Honours degree ticks more than one box. If you are considering a path towards academia, this is the first step to help you along the way. After completing Honours, you may want to go into teaching or may even wish to start a PhD (never say never).

You would be surprised that it's nowhere near as gruelling as doing a full-time load at Law School. The only difference is that you have to really want to be there, and you need to be self-motivated.

Honours classes are held twice a week in the evening, so you can work and have a life whilst kicking your academic goals. The Law Honours team is very supportive and will do their best to make sure you not only get through your dissertation, but that you can work towards achieving the highest grade possible.

Part of the Honours course examines theoretical frameworks, which helps you get the most out of your research. You get to talk about interesting topics that will never come up in the Bachelor of Laws degree, and to learn from not only the Law

Honours Team but also fantastic guest lecturers.

Our class had an unforgettable discussion about Feminism in Law led by the Principal Lawyer of the John Curtin Law Clinic, Katrina Williams. We also had an ex-Honours student, Emma Garlett, deliver a thought-provoking seminar about Indigenous Methodologies.

If you are still unsure whether Honours is for you, I suggest enrolling in Advanced Legal Research as an elective. You get a chance to write a paper of a substantial length and to receive feedback along the way through various drafts (and not once is it too late to change anything!)

Your Honours supervisor will provide individual guidance on how to improve your legal academic writing. Taking on that feedback means that your work will become better. It may be difficult to hear criticism, but it's there to help you get the most out of the process.

Completing Honours also allows you to work towards publishing your dissertation. My supervisor is the Dean and Head of Curtin Law School, Professor Robert Cunningham. This means I will have the opportunity to co-publish with a well-respected Professor of Law. You can't ask for more than that from a course!

In short, if you have a CWA of 70+ and are interested in expanding your knowledge in Law while furthering your career prospects, then completing Honours is most definitely worth the additional time and expense. For more information, email Law.Honours@curtin.edu.au

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