



CLAYTON'S LAW

ORIENTATION GUIDE 2012



Message from the Editor

Over the course of the next few weeks, you'll come to realise the universal truth about law school – it's the best time of your life. In that spirit, make the most of your first semester as a Monash law student. You'll make some amazing friends – people who are completely different to you, and some who are scarily similar. All in all, your fellow law students are smart, funny, welcoming and, as our reputation suggests, somewhat fashionable. And you're all in the same situation – a fresh start at a maze of a campus.

My advice for orientation week isn't groundbreaking or original, but it's simple and easy to remember. Meet as many people as you can, and try to diversify your interests. There's a ridiculously huge variety of clubs and societies that the Clayton campus has to offer – everything from debating to Oxfam, from juggling to chocolate appreciation. Throw yourself into the university experience – whatever you want it to be. The same approach, I think, should be applied to your law degree. For starters, the LSS has plenty of programs which can help you to appreciate the full range of available study and career opportunities. Think about mixing up your subjects and apply yourself consistently across different areas of study.

I've only studied law for two years, but I can assure you that it's a deeply fascinating and rewarding course. It's difficult, challenging and a bit of an intellectual minefield, but know this: the task of getting your head around big, fundamental questions which are easy to ignore is one of life's most rewarding experiences. And the wonderful thing about studying law is that it allows you to do this. If you apply yourself to your studies and the entire university experience, you'll leave Monash with some profound lessons and an immeasurable wealth of memories for nostalgic benefit.

Ken Robinson, an English academic and commentator on public education, says that the

big challenge for modern universities is to prepare students for a world about which we know very little. It's increasingly likely that the jobs we'll end up doing haven't been invented yet, or will look substantially different to their present-day equivalents. Robinson's answer to this dilemma? Value creativity, above all else. Creativity is the most important and never-faltering source of practical vision and personal satisfaction. And it's for this reason that I submit a semi-daring proposition: don't treat your law degree as a commodity, even though it almost certainly is.

Seeing education as something that can be distilled to a certificate and marks is a distastefully narrow approach to learning. Seriously entertain the idea that you're not here to get a job – you're here because you want to learn about how the world works, and what we need to do to make our communities more equitable, inclusive and dynamic. If you keep an open and creative mind, your efforts to grasp critical legal ideas will inevitably be rewarded, and you'll have a great journey as a law student.

To ensure that I don't leave you on a point of pseudo-intellectual observation, allow me to indulge in some self-promotion. *Clayton's Law* is the official magazine of the Law Students' Society, written and produced entirely by students. Most importantly, it's a really fun way of getting involved with the Monash law community. As such, I really encourage all of you to consider contributing to the magazine. If you have a particular proclivity for prose, a commanding compulsion for comedy, or an insatiable inquiry for intellect, *Clayton's* is your perfect outlet for reading and writing. If you'd like some information about how you can write, edit or do anything for the magazine, send me an email at publications@monashlss.com.

Duncan Wallace
Editor, *Clayton's Law*

Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to the Monash Law Faculty! Your selection into law reflects your hard work and achievements, as well as the support that you have received from your school and family.

During your first year in the Faculty, whether at Clayton or at the Monash Law Chambers in the city, you will be facing many new challenges. For those of you who have come straight from school, you will be experiencing University life for the first time. You will need to juggle social life, campus activities, part-time work and your academic studies.



For those of you who are already graduates, who are transferring from other Monash faculties or from other universities, or who are mature-age entrants who have had other careers, you will need to acquire the skills necessary for studying law. All law students must learn how to use the law library, research both print and computer-based data sources and acquire the techniques necessary for discovering and applying statute and case law. All law students must also be proficient in word processing, e-mail and use of the Internet.

“ We will equip you for a range of careers including private practice... and work in industry, commerce, government and law reform ”

At first you may find settling into the Faculty difficult. Many of you will have excelled in your studies and you may have been at or near the top of your cohort of students. In the Law Faculty, however, you will be compared with your intellectual peers, many of whom will have done as well or better than you academically. Many of you will be balancing work and study.

“ You will learn about the social purposes and effects of law and become better equipped to challenge and improve unjust laws ”

Sometimes you will find this unsettling, but it will also be intellectually enriching and exciting. Although we provide a helpful and supportive environment for our students, your enjoyment and success will largely depend on your own investment of time and intellectual effort.

For students prepared to make this investment we offer an excellent legal education, which will equip you for a range of careers including private practice as a barrister or solicitor, and work in industry, commerce, government and law reform. During your time here you will have the opportunity to learn, question and criticise the legal principles which govern the relationships between individuals, and between individuals and the state. You will find some areas of the law difficult and some parts of the course complex.

You will refine your skills of intellectual analysis and argument, develop your reasoning ability and enhance your oral and written presentation skills. You will learn about the social purposes and effects of law and become better equipped to challenge and improve unjust laws or laws which need refinement to achieve their purpose. You will develop as a person, make friendships which last throughout your life and leave the Faculty well prepared for an interesting professional career.

During your course you should take advantage of the many opportunities to study abroad, particularly at Monash's Prato and Malaysia Campuses, to gain practical experience at our two Community Legal Centres and participate in the many extra-curricular activities offered by the LSS.

The co-operative relationship between the Law Faculty and the Monash Law Students' Society is an important feature of legal education at Monash. Student representatives sit on the Faculty Board and on Faculty committees. The Law Students' Society organises student-run tutorials and a variety of law-related competitions and other activities.

This Handbook has been edited and written by students, and is supported by the Faculty. The Handbook contains the information which students themselves believe is likely to be useful to new law students. Read it carefully, for it contains a great deal of valuable information. I wish you every success in your law degree and hope that you will make the most of your time here.

*Professor Arie Freiberg AM
Dean, Faculty of Law
Monash University*



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A Message from the President...

LSS President David Jancik welcomes you to Monash Law School.

Congratulations and welcome to Monash Law School! All of a sudden, you find yourself able to answer the question, "what do you do at uni?" with "Law, like a boss!"

Your time at Monash Law School is going to be one of the most rewarding and invigorating periods of your life. For the next four to twenty years of your studies, you will be part of one of the greatest law schools in Australia. A quick glance at the alumni of Monash Law will illustrate what I mean.

The extremely broad range of career options available to law graduates highlights the scope of skills taught during your degree, and the applicability of those skills to many areas of professional life. It also highlights the varying reasons why incoming students choose to study law. Some do it for skills in reasoning and argument, some for academic interest, some to one day be a partner in a high-rise city law firm, and some (if not most) to be able to say "lawyered!" in every conversation. But no matter what your motivation for studying law might be, I can assure you that you will thrive here if you put yourself forward.

“no matter what your motivation for studying law might be...you will thrive here if you put yourself forward.”

Now, for some practical tips! Firstly, the key to your success at law school is having friends to study with. With a group of law mates, you can learn from each other across all of your subjects and work together to smash out exam-time. Importantly, your mates will be there for you to relax and enjoy the social environment of law. We may study hard, but we party even harder. Go up to someone new during

orientation and during your first semester, say hi and make a new friend. I wouldn't be in law now if I didn't have the friends I made in my first semester. Trust me, this is the key!



Secondly, don't ever be afraid to ask someone a question if you don't know something. This rule applies for the rest of your legal life. In classes, asking a question of the lecturer or one of your classmates can make the difference between a pass and a fail. If you don't know where something is at Monash, ask somebody! Most importantly, always feel free to ask your Law Students' Society! We are here to help, and our office door (in the far corner of the basement) is always open to you!

Thirdly, and most importantly, have fun! Studying law can be one of the most stressful times of your life. It's unfortunate that recent studies show that law students suffer from above-average levels of stress and depression. It's absolutely vital, then, that you make sure to take plenty of time off study, have fun and enjoy your time as a student. The LSS provides a wide range of vital services throughout your time at Monash, including educational seminars and guides, careers events, competitions and some legendary activities. Participation in all of these areas will unquestionably enhance your degree and your time at Monash. We have an enormous amount of fun and good times planned for 2012, so make sure you go and have a chat to one of our committee members.

As Monash LSS President, it's my pleasure to welcome you to your new home. Come say hello and crack a cold beverage. Welcome to law!

LSS Activities

Vice-President (Activities) Michael Stern takes you through the main events of the LSS social calendar.

Six years of studying law cannot be tolerated without a little bit of fun on the side... and that's where we come in! The LSS Activities portfolio is responsible for organizing all of our parties and social shindigs. Below is a snapshot of just some of what's on offer for 2012.

LAW CAMP

Many law students look back on Law Camp as the best part of their entire law degree – and it's not hard to see why! 200 law students and an empty campsite in the middle of nowhere – the perfect recipe for an amazing weekend away. 2012 Law Camp will be hosted at Camp Rumbug on 2-4 March. Just remember, what happens at law camp *never* stays at law camp.

RIVER CRUISE

Every year the LSS descends upon the Yarra River with the sole aim of getting rowdy on a boat. The combination of an unlimited drinks package, a rocking after party and a funny dress-up theme makes the river cruise one of the most memorable events of the year. It'll be held early in Semester One so watch this space!

BBQs

Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? The LSS puts on many free BBQs throughout the year... we don't want our members to go hungry!

PUB CRAWL

The LSS throws a Pub Crawl each semester where we negotiate ridiculous bar specials with some of the coolest bars and nightclubs in Melbourne. In 2011 we ventured out to Katuk Bar, Temperance Hotel, Bridies and Station Hotel. In 2012, we have some exciting new pubs to explore, as well as some classics to revisit. Just remember, you've got to (pub) crawl before you can walk.



ANNUAL DINNER

After a two-year hibernation, the LSS Annual Dinner is making a comeback! For those who can't wait until semester two for Law Ball, Annual Dinner is a similarly formal event. More details to come!

FIRST YEAR DINNER

Attention all first years: this is the event for you. Three-course dinner, huge bar tab and many other first year law students crammed into somewhere classy. Don't be the only first year who doesn't go, and don't forget to suit up!

LAW BALL

Law Ball is arguably the biggest event on the entire Monash University social calendar. So epic is Law Ball that in the past people have cued from 6am to secure their ticket. In 2011, 1400 students descended on the Royal Exhibition Building for a formal three-course dinner, with an unlimited drinks package. We have some huge plans for Law Ball this year. Make sure you get in touch with our 'Law Ball Snitch' on facebook to keep up to date with all the goss.

THE TEAM

The 2012 Activities Portfolio consists of:
 Michael Stern (Vice-President)
 Chrystie Siapakas and Amanda Fung (Function Directors)
 Nathan Ramanlal and Dinesh De Abrew (Activities Coordinators)
 Tim Rankin and Maddy Reilly (First Year Representatives).

We hope to see many of you at our events throughout the year!

LSS Careers

Vice-President (Careers) Nikhi Wagstaff explains how the LSS can help you with your career options.

Welcome to Monash Law School! The Monash Law Students' Society (LSS) is your best way to get involved in university life and forge great friendships. In addition to being fun, the LSS also offers a more serious side through the Careers portfolio. The Careers team aims to assist LSS members acquire the necessary knowledge and professional savvy needed for entering the working world. And there's certainly a lot to learn! In fact, familiarising yourself with the array of available career options is almost comparable to learning a new language. So here's an introduction to some of the key 'Careers' terminology that you will become accustomed to hearing:

Clerkship: A three or four week work experience opportunity like an internship which is a critical stepping stone for being offered a traineeship.

Supervised Workplace Traineeship: An offer by a law firm to undertake your first year of legal work under their supervision.

Penultimate: The second last year of study, which for many students is their fourth year at university. Generally, most firms only invite clerkship applications from penultimate students.

But it's not as overwhelming as it may initially sound! The LSS will help you learn about these things and more at various events over the course of the 2012.

CLERKSHIP GUIDE

This guide aims to help LSS members navigate the clerkship process by offering comprehensive information on firm profiles and their respective areas of practice via a firm directory chapter. It also includes information on the application and interview process for the 2012/2013 clerkship intakes.

LAW FIRM SEMINARS

Come along to our lunchtime seminars to learn about Australia's commercial law firms before you apply for

clerkships in your penultimate year. The presenters, who are usually Human Resources representatives, along with graduates from top and mid-tier firms will provide insight into the unique culture of firms as well as the application process.



BARRISTER SHADOWING PROGRAM

The LSS Barrister Shadowing Program (BSP) allows LSS members to become immersed in the inner workings of a barrister's work life and aims to give students a more in depth view of a specialised area of law in a practical context. Applicants will be paired with a barrister and may assist their barrister with researching particular legal issues, drafting memoranda of argument, attending meetings and observing court proceedings as part of their experience.

ALTERNATIVE CAREERS

In the current employment context, it is increasingly common for law graduates to use their legal degrees to pursue career pathways outside the legal sphere. As such, the Careers team is committed to making students aware of such opportunities.

To this end, the LSS will launch the alternative careers website for the first time in 2012. It will provide a vital link between students and careers beyond the legal profession, allowing students to become better acquainted with the full spectrum of opportunities. Our career pathways seminars will invite students to consider the vast range of careers in government, community and private sectors.

We look forward to seeing you at these Career events! In the meantime, we encourage you to browse the LSS website for further information and event details.

LSS Education

Vice-President (Education) Matthew Hearn tells you how the LSS can help you to make the most of your studies and enhance your law degree.



The Education portfolio exists to support students with their studies at Monash Law. The portfolio runs many programs that focus on improving your law school experience and enhancing the quality of your degree. The Education portfolio also runs a number of social justice & equity (SJ&E) initiatives for you to become involved in.

STUDENT TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Most law students will tell you that there is a formula for doing well in a law exam. The LSS' Student Tutorial Program provides bi-weekly tutorials for compulsory and quasi-compulsory law units. The tutorials are provided to complement (but not replace) faculty teaching and are taught by students who have previously excelled in the particular unit. Held from week three of semester, the tutorials provide an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their understanding of a subject and practice exam problems in a collaborative environment. LSS members can also access 'SketchNotes' via the LSS' website, which provide a basic outline of a subject from which students can develop their own notes when preparing for assessment. Be sure to check the LSS website and Facebook page at the start of semester for the 2012 timetable.

JUST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The 'Just Leadership' program is a fantastic opportunity to develop your leadership skills and become actively involved in raising awareness for social justice issues. Participants hear from a range of high profile leaders from the legal profession, corporations, academia and community organisations to foster leadership development. Notable speakers in previous years have included the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria and Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, Marilyn Warren AC QC, Judge Paul Grant SC, Attorney-General Robert Clark and

former Attorney-General Robert Hulls.

Students selected for the program also have the opportunity to work on a practical project, based on an area of their personal interest. In previous years, students have written policy submissions to the ALRC, VLRC, and the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee. They have also organised an event to raise awareness for mental health issues among law students. The program is a great way to develop skills in networking, communication, writing and leadership, while becoming involved in a project that creates change in an area of your own interest. Applications will open in Week 3 of Semester One.

EDUCATION GUIDE

Whether you'd like to pursue a career in human rights, family law, criminal law, commercial law, as an academic or outside the legal profession, the Education Guide has some excellent suggestions on the subjects, opportunities and services available to you at Monash. The 2012 Education Guide will be launched in Semester Two, in time for you to choose your subjects for the second year of your degree.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY

The SJ&E branch of the Education Portfolio aims to raise awareness for a range of issues that affect law students and the wider community. SJ&E run a variety of events throughout the year on matters as diverse as human rights, Australian politics, mental health issues and assistance with managing your studies. We also invite a range of prominent speakers to present to the entire law student body, such as the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG and Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark. Be sure to look out for the exciting events we have planned for this year.

BOOK STORE & SCHOLARSHIPS

Law school is an expensive undertaking. As part of the Monash LSS' belief that finances should not restrict students from accessing course materials, book scholarships are provided to students each semester. We also run an e-book store on the LSS' website, where students can buy and sell their old textbooks. This is an extremely useful way to help deal with the ever increasing cost of law textbooks.

PRO BONO GUIDE AND VOLUNTEERING DATABASE

The benefits of volunteer work are endless. Volunteers often speak of the rewarding aspects of their experiences and gain professional skills that are greatly sought after by prospective employers. If you are interested in using your newfound legal skills to volunteer, the SJ&E Pro Bono Guide and Volunteer Database are the things for you. The Guide gives you an insight into volunteering opportunities available while studying law. The Volunteer Opportunities Database provides a forum for registered members to connect with organisations that require volunteers.

Positions may be long or short term and include both law and non-law related volunteering opportunities. Be on the look out for the launch of these resources in Semester One.

REPRESENTATION

Part of the Education portfolio's role is to represent all law students on various committees in the Faculty of Law. Our aim is to ensure that the Faculty are made aware of any issues faced by the student body and make the Monash Law program the best course it can be. Issues discussed in the past have included assessment policies, collusion, plagiarism, recording of lectures and the support services made available to students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you believe there is an issue facing the student body that you feel should be addressed.

Welcome to the Monash Law program. I wish you the best of luck throughout the year and look forward to seeing you around the University. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at education@monashlss.com.

RANDOM LAW STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Meet: Dinesh De Abrew

Course: Law/Arts II

Favourite law subject so far: Research and Writing

If you had to choose, Carlton or Collingwood? Both are deplorable, but if I had to choose I'd pick Collingwood

Beyoncé or Lady Gaga? Beyoncé

Favourite film: *Pan's Labyrinth*

Favourite book: *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt

Seinfeld or Friends? Seinfeld

Favourite holiday destination: Koh Phangan, Thailand

Non-law activities at Monash: Debating, eating vanilla chocolate cake at Wholefoods

Career plans? Not sure – potentially politics, law or consulting

Best piece of advice for first-years: Get really involved in the extra-curricular activities offered by various student societies at Monash. The LSS always runs quality events. Be sure to sign up and come along to as many as possible!

LSS Competitions



Vice-President (Competitions) Ryan Crouch takes you through all the details about LSS competitions for aspiring lawyers and advocates.

So, why did you decide to do law? Was it because you enjoy reading Justice Kirby's long-winded dissenting judgements before bedtime, or was it because you enjoy putting your problem solving and oral presentation skills to the test? I can tell you from experience that law school will give you ample opportunities to read legal arguments. The Monash LSS Competitions Portfolio is here to give you a chance to practice these vital problem solving and oral presentation skills.

REASONS TO GET INVOLVED

- *Meet fellow law students*
- *Liase with eminent legal professionals*
- *Get insight into different aspects of a legal career*
- *Feel what it is like to be grilled by a judge*
- *Build a profile in the legal community*
- *Have fun – it isn't all about the books!*

2012 Competitions will run in the early parts of both first and second semester. The competitions will be held mostly on Monday and Wednesday nights. Please read through the brief outlines of each competition below and put the key dates into your diary. The 2012 Competitions Portfolio is committed to providing well-organised and fun competitions designed to enhance your legal education. So get a team together, dig out a suit and tie, and sign up for competitions in 2012.

CLIENT INTERVIEW COMPETITION

Client interview competition is the perfect introductory competition as it requires no specific legal knowledge at all – in fact, in 2009 it was won by first years! It is an ideal competition for those who want to dress up and play lawyer. In pairs, students act as solicitors and interview potential clients who have found themselves on the wrong side of the law. The solicitors must ask the right questions of the client, and ascertain how the events of their case unfolded. Once you have a clear picture of the factual situation, you can start to think about your client's next move! For further information, please check the LSS website for the 'Competitors' Guide' – it's got everything you need to know about this competition.

Registration opens: Monday 27 February 2012
 Registration closes: Wednesday 7 March 2012 at 5pm
 Round 1 (all teams): Monday 12 March 2012
 Round 2 (all teams): Wednesday 14 March 2012
 Quarter Final: Monday 19 March 2012
 Semi Final: Wednesday 21 March 2012
 Grand Final: Thursday 22 March 2012



GENERAL MOOT

For those who have no idea what a moot is, let me endeavour to explain. Competitors represent a 'client' in a mock legal case in a simulated court environment. It is the competitor's job to research their client's legal argument, prepare required court documents and then finally act as a barrister to argue your case against the opposing team. Moots are the most serious competitions we conduct, and require a decent amount of preparation. But don't let me put you off, these competitions help your legal knowledge and skills more than anything else!

Each team consists of Senior and Junior Counsel and an optional member acting as a solicitor. The solicitor aids with research and strategy, but does not make submissions during the competition (for all you shy bunnies, this spot might be for you!) One team will appear for the Appellant, whilst the opposing team will appear for the Respondent. Teams have approximately 2-3 days' preparation time to generate a memorandum of arguments and list of authorities, which will be submitted to the judge on the morning of the competition. During this time, teams also prepare some more detailed arguments. On the evening of competition, the real fun begins! Each team presents their arguments before the judge. The judge will ask questions and pick apart the arguments to see how well you really know your stuff. These interruptions are a fantastic way for the mooter to score points if he/she can answer the judges' questions clearly, directly and knowledgeably.

Registration opens: Monday 12 March 2012
 Registration closes: Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 5pm
 Round 1 (all teams): Monday 26 March 2012
 Round 2 (all teams): Wednesday 28 March 2012
 Quarter Final: Monday 2 April 2012
 Semi Final: Wednesday 4 April 2012
 Grand Final: Thursday 19 April 2012



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT

Are you tired of doing the same old corporate law moots? Try sinking your teeth into the jurisdiction of the international courts! This mooting competition allows students to develop legal arguments in the context of war crimes and human rights abuses. If you really want to push your legal knowledge, then this moot is for you. This moot follows the same format as the 'General Moot', so for an overview of mooting, please see that relevant section.



Registration opens: Monday 2 April 2012
 Registration closes: Wednesday 18 April 2012 at 5pm
 Round 1 (all teams): Monday 23 April 2012
 Quarter Final: Wednesday 25 April 2012
 Semi Final: Monday 30 April 2012 (held at the sponsoring firm)
 Grand Final: Wednesday 2 May 2012 (held at the Federal Court)

PAPER AND ORAL COMPETITION

Do you love submitting the research assignments for your law subjects? Have you scored a 70 or higher for one of these assignments? If so, then why not re-submit your paper and try to score a prize for it? The paper and oral competition invites students to re-submit high level research assignments. The authors of the top 3 papers selected from the entrants are invited to present a 15 minute oral presentation on their paper to a board of legal professionals. The winner is based on the strength of their original paper, as well as the strength and professionalism of their oral presentation.

Registration and submission of papers opens: Monday 7 May 2012
 Registration and submission of papers closes: Friday 17 August 2012 at 5pm
 Top three papers are selected and authors notified: Thursday 30 August 2012
 Presentation Night (Grand Final Night): Wednesday 5 September 2012

LETTER WRITING

The Letter Writing Competition is one of the easiest competitions to compete in. The competition requires students to generate a 'letter of advice' to a fictional client based on a legal problem. The problem to be written about is posted on the Monash LSS website in early May and students have ample time to write the letter of advice over the holidays. Letters of advice must be to-the-point and understandable to a person with limited legal knowledge. This is a competition that should be attempted by people of all ages and experience.

Registration and submission of letters opens: Monday 7 May 2012

Registration and submission of letters closes: Friday 17 August 2012 at 5pm

Top papers are selected and authors notified: Thursday 30 August 2012

Grand Final Night and presentation of winning letter: Wednesday 5 September 2012

NEGOTIATION

These days, going to court is incredibly expensive! Legal professionals therefore favour alternate methods of dispute resolution. This competition is very popular as it requires no specific legal knowledge. You just need to be quick minded and know when to give a little ground to get what you want! Negotiation allows teams of students to bargain against their opposing team to reach a mutually beneficial position. Teams are given 'secret facts' that only they know about their client. These facts form the bargaining chips with which you must reach a favourable outcome for your client.

Registration opens: Monday 16 July 2012

Registration closes: Wednesday 25 July 2012 at 5pm

Round 1 (all teams): Monday 30 July 2012

Round 2 (all teams): Wednesday 1 August 2012

Quarter Final: Monday 6 August 2012

Semi Final: Wednesday 8 August 2012

Grand Final: Thursday 9 August 2012

**FIRST YEAR MOOT**

I was a first year once. I used to wonder how on earth it was fair to have first years competing against fourth years. But behold the First Year Moot: a competition reserved for only first years! Time to land some serious punches in your own weight division! The structure is exactly the same as the General Moot, so please see that section. The only difference is that the problems are all Contract Law problems and tie in neatly with your coursework.

Registration opens: Monday 6 August 2012

Registration closes: Wednesday 15 August 2012 at 5pm

Round 1 (all teams): Monday 20 August 2012

Round 2 (all teams): Wednesday 22 August 2012

Quarter Final: Monday 27 August 2012

Semi Final: Wednesday 29 August 2012

Grand Final: Monday 3 September 2012

WITNESS EXAMINATION

Defence Lawyer: "Officer, did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

Witness: "No sir, but I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender running several blocks away."

If you watch too much Law and Order, then we have the competition for you! The witness examination competition requires a small amount of evidential knowledge but is generally open to students of any level. It is probably the most enjoyable of all the competitions that Monash LSS have on offer! The competing student must conduct an 'examination in chief' (of their own witness) and also a 'cross examination' (of the opposing team's witness). Competitors are given both witnesses' statements of the facts so that they are able to adequately prepare questions that may be of use in proving their witness to be a credible one, or to rebut the credibility of the opposing witness.

Registration opens: Monday 6 August 2012

Registration closes: Wednesday 15 August 2012 at 5pm

Round 1 (all teams): Monday 20 August 2012

Round 2 (all teams): Wednesday 22 August 2012

Quarter Final: Monday 27 August 2012

Semi Final: Wednesday 29 August 2012

Grand Final: Wednesday 5 September 2012

MONASH LAW ALUMNI

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE MARILYN WARREN AC QC

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria

REV TIM COSTELLO AO

CEO, World Vision

THE HON. SIMON CREAN MP

Former ALP Leader, Minister for Arts, Regional Victoria and Local Govt

THE HON. JUSTICE LEX LASRY QC

Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria

JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC

Barrister, Human Rights Advocate

PROFESSOR RON McCALLUM AO

Senior Australian of the Year 2011, Professor at University of Sydney

JON FAINE

ABC Radio Presenter

CHARLIE PICKERING

Comedian and Presenter, The Project

THE HON. PETER COSTELLO AC

Former Australian Treasurer

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE DIANA BRYANT AO QC

Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia

PETER STEWART

Victorian Government Solicitor

ELLIOT PERLMAN

Barrister, International Best-Selling Author

PROFESSOR MICK DODSON AM

Australian of the Year 2009, ANU Academic

THE HON. BILL SHORTEN MP

Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

A WORD FROM YOUR FIRST YEAR REPRESENTATIVES

So you got into law school. Congratulations! Getting into Monash Law School is an impressive feat, but now that you're in, what next? We've discovered through our own experience that your expectations of what life in law school is like can be completely different to what you actually experience – so to help you with the transition into university, we've decided to clear up a few of the common misconceptions about law school.

Myth 1: Your lecturers will kick you out of class.

If you've seen *Legally Blonde*, you may be expecting your lecturers to kick you out of a lecture if you don't know the answer to a question. But don't fret – they won't pick on you to talk. The only thing you'll need to watch out for is getting kicked out for talking too much! It happens every year, so to avoid the embarrassment we'd recommend keeping your chat outside of the lecture theatre or, for those of you blessed to have Dr Sirko for Contracts, taking your parties outside! (If you don't understand what this means now, just give it a few weeks: you'll see.)

Myth 2: Law students are scary.

Sure there are some intelligent students out there, but you got into this course too! Everyone deserves to be here, so don't ever think that you're not smart enough. As you get to know your fellow law students, you'll discover that they're just as nervous as you are. A great way to meet some fellow first years is to go on First Year Camp, or get involved with other LSS activities throughout the year.

Myth 3: You will be unique if you have a Mac.

Another misconception you might have if you've watched *Legally Blonde*. Macs may have been original last decade, but if you bring your mac to a lecture you'll find out that you look like everyone else. If you really want to stand out, turn up to a lecture with some neat hand-written notes – people won't know whether to be afraid or in awe of you.

Myth 4: Your life will be devoted to study and you'll have no time for anything else.

Absolutely untrue! Sure, studying law is really

challenging, and requires some grunt work now and then. But there's no way that you can study all year without a break! It's very important that you keep your life balanced, and get out of the library for some fresh air and daylight once in a while. The LSS runs heaps of fun social activities throughout the year to get involved in, such as Booze Cruises, Pub Crawls, and the notorious Law Ball. And, for the more career-focused individuals, the Competitions and Education portfolio of the LSS will be running lots of events like the First Year Moot, which are great for helping to improve your knowledge and skills in the legal profession, and look great on your CV.

Myth 5: If you don't get HDs you won't get a job and your life will spiral out of control.

A lot of law school related stress comes from the competitiveness people have brought with them from year 12. Also, most of you will be used to straight As from your entire schooling careers. Unfortunately, you're all now together in the same bell curve, without the other 95% of the State to lift your marks. This does mean some of you will be getting much lower marks than you're used to, but don't stress! Firstly, this means that when you actually get a D or an HD, it will be really meaningful. Secondly, law firms know that uni is competitive; you'll be receiving a seminar about getting into law later this semester which we found surprisingly less focused on grades than we expected. Learning is far more about experience and understanding than your marks.

Hopefully after reading all this you should be feeling much more confident about law school. Remember, all your fellow first years are in the same boat as you, and everyone is looking to make friends. So say hi to the person next to you, or go grab lunch together. You'll be pleasantly surprised by how friendly everyone at uni is! Alternatively, if you're not willing to risk eviction from lectures or getting kicked out of the library by the famous Alex (the librarian – you can't miss him) for chatting, pop on down to the Law Student Society offices, and come say hi to us.

***Tim Rankin and Maddie Reilly
LSS First Year Representatives***

A Subject Guide to *Introduction to Legal Reasoning*

Mr Ross Hyams, Chief Examiner

ILR introduces the foundations and structure of the institutions and processes of the Australian legal system. It will help you answer questions like: where do I find the law on a given subject? How do I analyse and interpret the primary sources of law (cases and statutes)? How do I construct a legal argument and resolve legal problems? Who decides what the law is going to be? What policy considerations are taken into account in determining what the law should be? The unit specifically investigates the following areas:

a) Foundations and structure of the Australian legal system: This topic takes you through the history of the development of the English legal system, focussing on the growth of precedent and the use of case law. It traces the beginnings of statute law and the ascendancy of Parliament in the law-making process. The focus then shifts to the introduction of the English legal system to Australia and its effect on the indigenous population. It then follows the development of the Australian legal system after white settlement.

b) The development of the doctrine of precedent: This topic looks at the basics of legal argument and the creation of the doctrine of precedent. It introduces you to case law and provides you with skills in reading and understanding cases. It then investigates a number of specific cases in one area of law, as an example of how case law creates and develops precedent.

c) Acts of Parliament and delegated legislation—how it is created and how to use the appropriate tools to interpret it: You will be introduced to the process of creating statutes and delegated legislation. We then investigate the many tools available to interpret legislation, both those

provided by the common law and those created by statute.

d) Solving legal problems by understanding the interaction between case law, precedent and the interpretation of legislation: The skills of reading cases, understanding precedent and interpreting legislation are brought together in order to solve legal problems. We analyse fact scenarios in an attempt to use both precedent and statutory interpretation skills to suggest proposals for resolution of legal problems

At the conclusion of the course, you'll be able to:

- explain how the institutions of the Australian legal system shape the content and administration of the law;
- extract and formulate legal propositions from judicial decisions, and assess their scope, legal validity and weight;
- identify and articulate the legal issues raised by a given fact situation;
- locate efficiently the current law on a legal issue using library resources;
- interpret, analyse, synthesise and apply the law when located, to solve a legal problem; and
- make a legal argument, or provide an opinion, and to do so clearly, accurately and concisely.

This is an introductory unit and is absolutely foundational to the rest of your law studies. All the skills learnt in this unit are utilised in later areas of legal study and are essential for competence in your legal education and eventually in your practice as a lawyer. The unit aims both to impart knowledge and to assist you in developing life-long learning skills in order to become an independent, active learner and reflective lawyer.

Monash Law Library

Kay Tucker, Law Library Manager, explains how to make the most of the extensive resources and services provided at the Monash law library.

While studying law at Monash, the Law Library will become the central location for your learning, research and study needs. The Law Library is renowned throughout Australia for its outstanding collection and services, offering you a comfortable and attractive environment that allows both quiet study and group discussion areas. On the upper floors, it is a quiet sanctuary for your individual study and exam preparation, while the first floor provides space to meet with fellow students to discuss group projects or prepare for LSS moots.

Wireless networking and power points are available throughout the Library, allowing you to easily access the Monash network. Groups of PC workstations and powered tables for laptop use are available within the Library, and computer labs are located on the first and fourth floors. Networked printing is available from all the Library PCs, with printers located on the first and fourth floors. Electronic resources, such as legal databases, electronic books, journals and cases, are available from any PC or networked laptop, both at Monash and remotely from home or work, upon entering your Monash username and password. Listen to online lectures, some of which are also pod cast, access your unit's online reading list for prescribed and recommended readings, or use the Library's numerous electronic resources for your research.

The Law Library has an extensive collection of both print and electronic resources. Take one of our tours during Orientation week or Week 1 to become familiar with the layout of the Library and learn how to find the cases you need to read. Studying law involves becoming familiar with the sources of the law, especially the primary materials; legislation (statutes) and cases (court judgments). The first floor houses all Commonwealth and State

legislation, law reports of Australian, NZ, and UK cases, and government materials such as Hansard and law reform reports. A central reference area provides law dictionaries, reference style guides and other quick reference materials, many of which are also provided online.

As a first-year law student, make sure that you look at our *Holdings List and Location Guide with Abbreviations of Legal Publications*, located in the reference area and on each level, to help you find the cases required for your case finding exercise in LAW1101 Introduction to Legal Reasoning. The second floor of the Law Library houses our print journal collection and the third floor houses the books, including multiple copies of prescribed and recommended readings for your units. Overseas primary materials are located on the fourth floor, along with discussion rooms which can be booked at the loans desk for your work on group projects.

An open reserve collection of three-hour and overnight loans of texts prescribed for your units is located as you enter the Law Library, enabling you to browse and select the books you need. A self-loans machine enables you to quickly borrow books, or alternatively, borrow your items at the desk staffed by our friendly and knowledgeable staff. The large discussion and photocopy room near the entrance contains a lockable cabinet in which you can charge your laptop between classes. For some light relief, you may like to browse our collection of crime novels and DVDs.

The Law Library is a branch of the Monash University Library, so as a Monash student you have the advantage of being able to borrow items from and return items to any of the other branches located at Clayton, Caulfield, Peninsula, Berwick,

Gippsland and Parkville. The online catalogue allows you to request delivery of items held at other campuses to the Law Library. Take advantage of our SMS service which notifies you when requested items are available and when borrowed items are due back. Pick up an Opening Hours card, a handy pocket calendar that tells you when the library is open throughout the year, and a Managing Your Loans card which tells you how much and where you can borrow as well as tips on borrowing. Register for a CAVAL card if you wish to borrow from other Victorian university libraries.

LEGAL RESEARCH

Full-text electronic versions of legislation, case law, journals, and a growing number of books, are all available via the Library's website. The Library subscribes to many well-known databases, also used at most law firms and other law workplaces (such as government, courts, etc.) so use your time at Monash to become expert at researching legal materials using these databases. Databases such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, Lawbook's Legal Online, and CCH IntelliConnect should all be very familiar to you as you finish first year. The Law Library staff will teach you how to conduct legal research efficiently during the second semester unit, LAW1104 Research and Writing.

We will also visit some of your lectures in Introduction to Legal Reasoning and conduct computer lab classes in Weeks 3 and 4 of Semester 1 to help get you started with researching and writing for your Court Report assignment. Make sure that you book into one of these classes. For all students, one-to-one training sessions in the use of the Library's electronic databases are available by appointment with Law Library staff. See the Law Library's website at www.lib.monash.edu.au/law to access the key electronic services. Explore <http://guides.lib.monash.edu/law> to learn the essentials of how to research and write for Australian law.

LEARNING SKILLS

Learning and studying at university is a very different experience to learning and studying at school, and studying Law can be quite different to studying other disciplines at University. The Monash University Library provides services and resources to Monash students who want to improve their academic learning skills, including the quality of their academic English and approaches to study. Assistance is offered in such areas as reading, study and exam preparation, effective listening and note-taking, analysis, problem-solving and critical thinking, essay, report and thesis writing and oral communication and presentation.

Come to a drop-in session, class or workshop scheduled throughout the semester. Watch for classes on the plasma screen located in the Law Library, or check the website for details. Drop-in sessions offer a brief 10 to 15 minute consultation with a learning skills adviser about your assignment or academic skills. A longer appointment may be scheduled for a later date if deemed necessary. If you are an international student, make sure that you contact the learning skills adviser as soon as possible.

GETTING HELP

The Law Library staff are here to help you, so please ask if unsure about anything; whether it be an unknown legal abbreviation, how to find a case, or where a book is located. There is no such thing as a stupid question. Help is available at the Information desk on the first floor of the Law Library, email us using the contacts on our webpage, or send a question through to Ask.Monash. You may also like to use the Library's online chat service for remote, real time help. Details and links for help are at the foot of every Library webpage. We will do our best to help you find something and if we don't hold it, we will look elsewhere using our extensive links with other Australian and overseas law libraries.

Good luck and best wishes for your law studies.

Finding the Inside Lane: How to Get Ahead in Law Studies

Patricia Hughes, Learning Skills Advisor, tells you how to get your university studies off to a good start.

Doing well in your law studies is comparable to running a race. As neither short cuts nor lanes are signposted, finding the inside lane, or any other form of short cut, is difficult to say the least. However the following tips might help:

KNOW WHAT ASSESSORS WANT

They want you to be enthusiastic about their subject areas, so do the readings before you come to class. Otherwise you'll be left behind the starting gates, struggling to get through the field. They expect a critical response to the issues raised (which you find out about from the readings). They do not want their words (either from the lectures or their published research) regurgitated; they want your response to these. Your response must be justified (in class, from the readings; in exams and assignments, from the combined readings, plus research).

They expect you to follow instructions (especially in assignments and examinations). Answering three questions out of five means just that – not two. Similarly a maximum of 2500 words for an assignment does not mean tucking an extra 200 words into the footnotes. Use the style guides – details matter! – and the unit guides (study and reading guides as well if available).

RECOGNISE SIGNPOSTS

In lectures, the signposts frequently indicate areas of interest or even possible exam questions. Listen for clues and mentions of new case reports and new authorities. Use recognised note-taking styles so that you aren't trying to keep up with the lecturer's words (nor listening to the lectures until you know the words verbatim – see *ib* above). Use different reading strategies for different materials. Some, like cases and legislation, will need detailed reading – but only after you've identified the key ideas by skimming. Then

you'll have a context for the materials. The key ideas in a journal article are often found in the conclusion – read that first before skimming the sub-headings and looking for the thesis statement (which should be in the introduction). That might be all you need to read!

Use the reading notes and the lecture notes to build up topic summaries during semester – you'll need these for the exams. Your own summaries are better than anyone else's – they show your understanding in your own words. The headings of your summaries should reflect the headings from the unit guides. Remember that notes are just that – shortened versions of the original (with full sources including lecture details). Your exam summaries are shortened versions of your combined notes (lectures + readings + research).

SHOW YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Provide evidence using the correct style (AGLC₃ – see the Library's Key Law Resources web pages). Your evidence is legislation, cases and sometimes secondary sources such as journal articles. Get to know the legal databases well so that you can use them effectively to find the evidence you need without wasting time. Don't spend hours looking for a case that might not exist. Double check in a different database. If the same sources keep reappearing, these are the ones you should look at.

Don't forget to check a textbook or commentary service for a head start on the important legislation and cases. Keep track of your references as you work on your assignment. Do not leave it to the last minute – it can be very stressful trying to find that crucial case, textbook or journal article again! Discuss the alternative routes (but indicate your preferred route, together with reasons for this).

SHOW INITIATIVE

Prepare for lectures and come to seminars (Library and LSS). Make contact with others (LSS, tutes, study groups) Ask Library staff for assistance; they can help identify the most relevant resources for your assignment and help you to use them effectively. Respond to the topic – don't describe it, or talk around it. Your profession demands that you give advice on legal issues – start practising!

DO ASSIGNMENTS

These are excellent practice for establishing your professional life; assignments display your meticulous planning, researching and argumentative writing skills at their best. Regard them as you would a long-distance race; success goes to the strongest (and best prepared). Pace yourself – plan ahead to do well. A good answer needs preparation time. Understand the question and prepare a tentative response which may need moderating as your research deepens and your argument strengthens. Your response to the question indicates your position – do you agree with the proposal? Disagree? Why (not)? To what extent?

A generic question might be something like this: *The recent changes to X regulations should result in an improvement to Y situation. Discuss.* You respond by stating whether or not you agree, and to what extent, then discuss both the pros and cons of the effects of the changes. You will need to mention the present situation but not focus on it. Be prepared to modify your position as you work on the assignment. Use deductive not inductive reasoning, ie state your position upfront (and at the beginning, followed by your argument, then a firm conclusion reiterating your reasoning). If you decide to use the opposite inductive structure (which puts the evidence first, argument second, reasoning last), tell the reader at the start and give good reasons why you are using this pattern.

The default pattern of academic argument is the deductive approach; if you chose to run round the course in the opposite direction, don't blame your marker for wondering where you are! Focus on developing an analytical argument in response to the question. Descriptive writing drawing heavily on texts and lecture materials is unlikely to score well –

set materials help show you understand, but you have to show how this material is relevant to the situation or possible outcome. Keep reviewing your position. Your argument needs proof – go beyond the set texts and find your own materials. Use databases to find legislation, cases and current journal articles, and accurately reference these to prove both your research credentials and your argument's strength. Use your own words as much as possible; however avoid paraphrasing either cases or legislation. Summarising and discussing their relevance and significance is preferable (and you get more marks!). This approach covers both theory essays and legal problem-solving answers, but these use different styles of layout to organise the materials. For both, develop an argument explaining your position, taking both sides into account. Do not be too dogmatic on either agreement or disagreement – allow for dissenting views (your lecturer will be sure to point them out!). Avoid description – it doesn't gain marks. Analysis, and how the material affects the argument, does.

GET CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

Some vital assessment details are upfront – in the unit reading guide. It's no use reading about it after you've handed in the task! Study the lecturer's comments on your marked assignment, or go to the review sessions of the exams. Prepare questions to ask! Ask your tutor or lecturer for more feedback on how to improve; preferably arrange this by email in advance. Bring expression, referencing or language queries to the library advisors (subject librarians and learning skills advisors) before you go to your lecturer or tutor.

PLAN YOUR WORK CAREFULLY

Organise your argument into clearly marked sections, and use plenty of markers to keep your reader with you. The general organisation of your argument revolves around the paragraph. The topic sentence usually comes first for legal writing, elaborated in the rest of the paragraph. One topic sentence, one major idea per paragraph. Don't switch lanes in the middle of a paragraph –you'll lose your reader. Clearly link your ideas within and between the paragraphs. Use signposting terms to guide your reader through your argument. Keep your reader with you. A major step between paragraphs indicates you need a sub-heading. For legal problem-solving answers, you can

use a question-style heading as you will then answer this immediately. For other writing tasks, use short statement-style headings that indicate your argument (not the topic). One way to do this is to use a 'why' or 'how' question in your draft, then change this into a statement, e.g. in the draft, the question heading 'Why could these regulations have a negative effect?' becomes a statement heading, 'Negative effects of the proposed changes' in the final version. Essays without sub-headings do not score well (ditto for exams). Test your argument strength by pulling out the topic sentences and arranging these in a separate document. Look for logical development of ideas and the flow of reasoning. Remember to set your finished work aside for a while to clear your mind, then do a final check. Read it aloud to pick up grammar and spelling mistakes, and to check the flow of ideas. Check and double-check the referencing and the bibliography details. These steps take time! You'll need more than one draft to do these, and move your answer to a high grade. With practice, you'll get faster, not to mention get better results in all your work.

FIND YOUR VOICE

Use your own words, not someone else's. Display your research skills –reference meticulously and often. Find your own academic voice: paradoxically, it is built on other voices. Your voice emerges from your own expression –think of a musician interpreting a classical solo. Your own 'voice' is not referenced, so that it stands out from the other 'voices' being used to prove your position. Avoid direct quotes – quotes are used to emphasise your ideas, not to fill the space on the page. Use them sparingly, deliberately and effectively. Avoid paraphrasing legislation or cases – the originals can't usually be bettered. Summarise and comment instead (with references, of course!). Follow instructions exactly. Do not change the rules. Read and follow the assessment guidelines (they're to guide you before you hand in the work, not later!). Present your work as professionally as possible. Check your expression and referencing.

EXAM PREPARATION

Prepare your notes from the start of semester – pre-reading notes + lecture notes + further reading notes → topic summaries → issue summaries to be learnt.

Your summaries are memory-joggers – good summaries make good sense to the maker. Style is immaterial (as long as they are summaries, not text books!). You need to include legislation and cases in your summaries to prove your points. Check with your lecturers and tutors. Organise your answer under sub-headings; plan your argument points. An organised answer is seen as a potentially good one. Prepare an argument, not a one-sided rant. You must address both sides of the issues and propositions. Make sure you distinguish between a legal problem-solving question and a theory question – they need different structures. Acknowledge minor issues not covered – give a reason for their irrelevance to the question. Don't repeat the question, but do indicate which one it is especially if you have a choice of topics.

Leave space for alterations and additions – write on alternate lines. Besides, it's easier to read. Be kind to your marker! Follow the instructions and answer all questions. A pass is easily achieved in the first half of the allotted time; after that, you're applying polish. Three respectable lower grades will give a better result than one good answer (unlikely to be an HD though), one acceptable one, and nothing written for the last one. You can't get marks for what's not there. Ever heard of a winner who pulled out before the end of the race?

PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Keep your own goals in mind – concentrate on the endgame, but be aware of the other players. In the workplace you will be expected to bring your own strengths to the team, as well as being an independent self-motivated worker. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, develop the first and improve the second. Do you leave everything to the last minute? Can't balance your interests? Find out about time management techniques! Prefer verbally arguing your ideas to writing them? Join a mooting team! Do you rely on others' study material? Become an independent learner! Have trouble settling down to study? Establish your own study place! Do better in assignments than exams? Practise exam techniques! Avoid assignments in favour of exams? Are you kidding? Your working life will be assignment-style tasks, not exams. Start sharpening

your research and writing skills! Find you're having trouble keeping up with your reading? Learn about different reading styles for different texts! MIRAT doesn't work for you? Find out about IRAC or CLEO or one of the many other ways of organising a legal problem-solving answer! Can't find any reference materials? Seek help at the Library!

All these (and many more) have been problems for other students; use the support available (repeat list) or try some texts:

Brick, Jean, *Academic Culture: A Student's Guide to Studying at University* (2009)

Brogan, Michael and Spencer, David, *Surviving Law School* (2nd ed, 2008)

Cook, Catriona, Creyke, Robin, Geddes, Robert, and Hamer, David, *Laying Down the Law* (7th ed, 2009)

Fox, Richard, Campbell, Enid and deZwart, Melissa *Students' Guide to Legal Writing, Law Exams and Self Assessment* (3rd ed, 2010)

Krever, Richard *Mastering Law Studies and Law Exam Techniques* (6th ed, 2006)

Macken, Claire *Law Student Survival Guide: Nine Steps to Law Study Success* (2nd ed, 2010)

Strong, S I, *How to Write law Essays and Exams* (2nd ed, 2006)

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE!

When in doubt, ask! Approach your lecturers, your tutors, or the professional advisers in the Faculty and in the Library. All free of charge! No cost involved! Make the most of the opportunities. Enjoy your studies.

Coping With Stress

Anthony Lester
Student Counsellor

In law, as in life, positive performance requires resilience, focus and balance.

You have by now battled through many stressful and anxiety-provoking academic demands, be it VCE, a previous degree or the early stages of your law degree. Now that you're here, working smarter and not always harder can be the key. The challenges in law are many but with a bit of insight, objectives (a sense of purpose in doing the degree) and the right intensity and focus, chances are you will successfully make your way.

The workload is obviously challenging and for many it's a new kind of learning that demands more application and reflection than just memorising facts. Subsequently, some of you will take longer to get your head around this than others and you often won't get the results that

you have been otherwise used to.

Disappointment is something that many law students face, those who take care in avoiding self-deprecation, who can trade perfectionism for a strive for excellence and aim to build capacity across the degree will be better equipped to ride the bumps.

*Working smarter, and not
always harder, can be the key.*

A central element of working smarter is focus. The significant demands of law study can bring attitudes of 'think, breathe and dream law'; however, relentless focus on study with great intensity doesn't necessarily work. Shifting attention away from law at times, and wholly to other pursuits in our lives, enhances our capacity to attend to study with sufficient focus when we need to. When we focus wholeheartedly on some sport, social connectedness (no discussing who got the best results) or reading a good book in

your favourite café, we are protecting ourselves by maintaining positive mood, reducing stress hormones in the system and minimising the possibility of burnout. Not to mention protecting the brain's ability to reason and remember.

Many law students find developing and/or maintaining objectives can be challenged by the influence of others' attitudes about what you should achieve, aim for and end up with. Judy Allen and Paula Baron from Griffith Law School (2004) raised concern that fierce competition for the best results and pressure to

strive for a top commercial law firm career outcome can lead to incongruence with personal values and general dissatisfaction with regard to career prospects. Of course, there's nothing wrong with the pursuit of a corporate firm career necessarily, but remaining conscious of the values that brought you to law school and aware of the potentially influential attitudes of others can help. Appointments with the law counsellor can be made through Law Student Services in person or by calling 9905 3356. Counselling is also available through Health & Wellbeing on 9905 3156.

Coffee on Campus

Chris Hooper points you in the direction of the best brews on campus.

Although it's all the rage for Melbourne café guides to thrust sumptuous language at their readers to whip them up into a frenzy of caffeinated hysteria, coffee on campus is more an exercise in good timing and wise ordering practices than the vibrant and at-times pompous affair it is in the CBD.

To this end, when you hit that 3pm wall between lectures, and the last few hours of the afternoon seem to stretch out in front of you like a death march, I hope that what follows helps you to find that last ignition of energy that only caffeine can provide.

The campus has countless corridors and wings which hide a myriad of coffee-serving venues. Rather than try and list them all I'll leave that joy up to you and instead leave you with some rules which you can choose to follow or discard at



your leisure. They are nonetheless guidelines that I wish someone had told me in my first year.

First, and I think most importantly, don't waste your money ordering a coffee from anywhere that would otherwise be classified as a cafeteria – that is, a eatery which serves fried food and noodles etc with no dedicated barista. These places, while very cheap, are that way for a reason. The beans sit in the grinder for an unknown amount of time and the coffee machine is staffed by anyone who isn't busy stuffing chips into a bag or cone.

In this category falls *Grain Express* on the first floor of the Campus Centre. The coffee here is the cheapest on campus at \$2.80 for an espresso and \$3.00 for the rest – but that's where the attraction ends. *The Kitchen* on the ground floor

of the Campus Centre falls foul of the same criticism – although their chips are fantastic. Of note however is *Meeting Point*, not for its current brew mind you, but for the fact that it is about to open a “coffee window” next to *Peri Peri* which may be worth a look when it’s operational.

Another useful rule is to be wary of places that use production-line practices to make their coffee. This is where one person grinds the beans and draws the coffee while another froths the milk and finishes off the order. This technique is used to great effect in certain CBD cafes but, in this writer’s opinion, is a practice that’s yet to be perfected at any of the coffee spots on campus. A key example of this is *Artichoke and Whitebait* (formerly *The Deli*) which for some time claimed the laurels of making the finest coffee on campus, but has recently come to rest on its laurels. Although the food is still some of the best on offer, the coffee leaves something to be desired, particularly at busy times. The coffee there is still relatively consistent and certainly worth the money at \$3.30 for a small coffee to go (M: \$3.80; L: \$4.50). But don’t bother during the lunch break as it’ll take you far too long to even get the coffee into your hands and when you do, it might not be what you were expecting.

Coffee Wise (formerly *Coffee HQ*) follows much the same story except the food is no where near as nice and there’s nowhere to sit down. Their coffee machines however are very nice looking and they’re one of the few places that offer 4 size options rather than 3 (S: \$3.20; R: \$3.70; R: \$4.20; L: \$4.70).

Still in the campus centre, *Joe’s* – where most academic staff hang out – serves coffee that is well above reproach. But a diminishing clientele and, as such, reduced pressure means that the coffee here isn't what it was. Nevertheless, it's a solid alternative if *Artichoke* is packed full to

bursting with people eager for a caffeine hit. A regular coffee here will set you back about \$3.70.

Finally, there’s *Wholefoods*: this Monash stalwart has been around since 1975 when student unionism was the focal point of campus life. The café/restaurant also offers a great study space if it's not lunch-time. The quality of the brew really does depend on who you happen to get behind the espresso machine so go along a few times until you find your favourite barista. The best coffee I’ve ever had on campus was actually made here. Recently they introduced a single origin coffee option (the only one on campus) which puts it ahead of the competition in my books.

On the periphery: *Café Cinque Lire* is a fair hike from most parts of the campus. It sits in an area often called the ‘strip’ but you can find it by looking for Building 75 on a map of the campus. From the Campus Centre, the easiest way there is to head left (west) once you reach the lemon scented lawns and cut through Building 19. This place is also a popular destination for faculty members so don’t be surprised if you see your lecturer sitting at the table across from you. The coffee here is consistently of a high quality and reasonably priced. They also do a very good spicy hot chocolate for students with a sweet tooth. However, you pay a bit extra for the privilege; coffees go for \$3.50 for a small, \$4.10 for a medium and a whopping \$5.10 for a large. Note though that it’s one of only two licensed venues on campus...just saying.