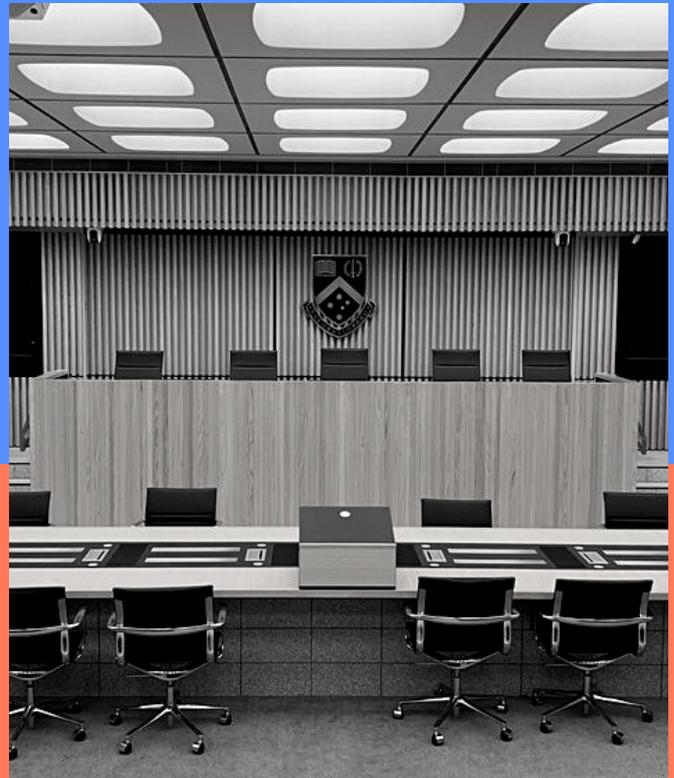


MONASH LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# MONASH LAW GUIDE 2022

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Our Clerkship Programs are our future pipeline for the Graduate Program. They are designed to give you a feel for what it's like to be a Graduate and they are a great place to start your career. See our website for application dates.



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A person with a backpack is walking across a narrow suspension bridge made of wooden planks, surrounded by a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The bridge is suspended by thick ropes and has a safety net on the sides. The person is seen from behind, walking away from the camera towards the center of the bridge.

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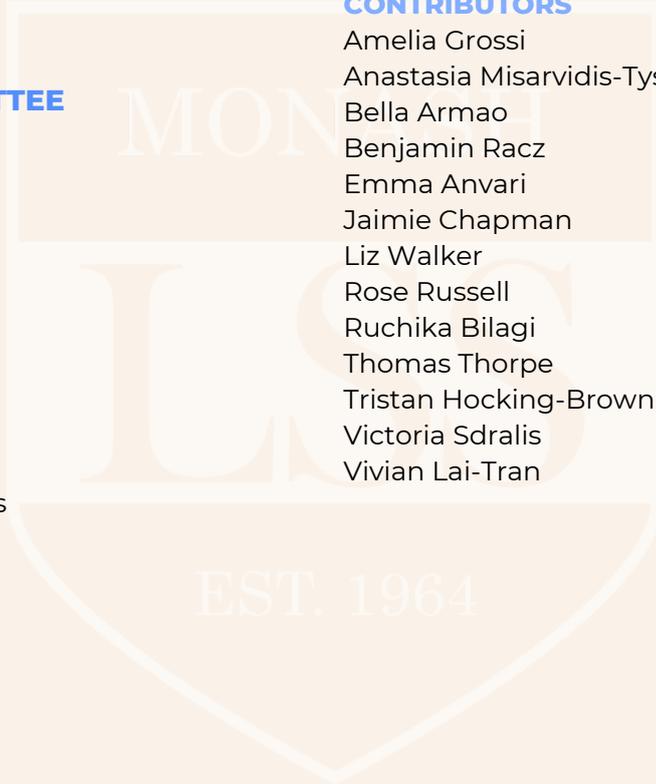
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# DEAN'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to welcome all of our new students and their families to our community here at the Monash University Faculty of Law. You are joining a world-class law school with a proud history and demonstrated record of academic excellence and engagement. We educate lawyers for careers across the globe, undertake research that makes a difference domestically and abroad, and engage with all arms of the legal profession and other organisations for the common good.

Our aim is to become a leading international, clinical, and technologically enabled law school in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. We operate from seven locations across two hemispheres and three continents, with our main Clayton campus and CBD premises, involvement in two community legal centres and a CBD clinical facility, and two overseas campuses in Prato and Kuala Lumpur.

As Dean of the Faculty of Law, I am enthusiastic about commencing this journey with you in your first year of study in law. Your place in the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Honours degree reflects your hard work at school or other university studies to this point. It is also a testament to the tremendous support that you have received from your family, friends, and others who have supported you in reaching this point. In commencing your studies with us in Monash Law, you are joining a community of new friends, peers, staff, and alumni that is a community of which you are a member for life.

We are confident that you will find academic and professional staff in our Faculty who are just as committed to your legal education, personal welfare, professional development, and university experience as you are.

Our hope for our students is simple and powerful. We want to expose you to a broadly-based and high-quality legal education of a kind that gives you personal, professional, and hopefully transformative experiences and opportunities for your career and life, enabling you to choose to make the most of your law degree during your time with us and beyond.

A law degree with good results and other transferable skills from your time at a top law school opens the door to many different career possibilities, within all arms of the legal profession as well as encompassing careers in government, business, and civil society, in Australia and across the globe. In a changing landscape for graduate career opportunities, especially in the legal services sector in the wake of mass pandemics and other disruptions, the skills you learn and the opportunities you pursue, both inside and outside the classroom, all have a crucial impact in positioning you to have the best career options available to you when you graduate.

You will find the transition into law from your previous studies challenging on many levels, whether you are coming to us straight from school, another course here at Monash University, or even another institution. You will need to learn the concepts, language, and practice of law and justice, as well as their ethical, institutional, and social dimensions. You will need to develop skills of legal literacy, analysis, research, and advocacy. You will also learn what it means to be part of a profession and the individual, organisational, and societal dimensions of being a member of a profession such as law.

Finally, you will need to develop skills that are as necessary for university study as they are for life-long careers, such as electronic and print-based research skills, time and project management, communication and writing skills, and interpersonal skills such as teamwork.

The resources available to you throughout your law studies at Monash are extensive, and will ensure you feel supported and confident as you tackle these challenges. In all of this you will have the tremendous support of the Monash Law Students' Society (LSS) behind you throughout your law degree. It is one of the largest and most active law student societies in Australia. The Faculty of Law supports and works closely with the LSS, providing a wide variety of academic, social, and career-oriented events for students.

# DEAN'S FOREWORD

In the end, you will make lifelong friendships and emerge with a qualification that you can use in a wide variety of legal and other careers in government, law, business, and the community at large. We hope that you will become a part of the ever-growing alumni of the Faculty of Law, who now occupy some of the most prominent positions amongst the judiciary, bar, law firms, and other occupations in Victoria, Australia, and across the globe. As the Faculty of Law celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014, we are mindful of the living chain of past and present students, staff, and friends of the Faculty, whom you now join in the next phase of your and this Faculty's exciting future together in our 59th anniversary year.

Throughout your degree, you will have tremendous educational and lifetime opportunities both locally and across the international network of Monash University campuses and partner universities. Law students have the opportunity to study at Prato in Italy and Sunway in Malaysia, or to undertake student exchanges and visits to many other leading universities overseas. We send students annually to national and international student mooting and similar competitions, all of whom benefit from what is now available to them in our new state-of-the-art multi-functional Moot Court and various LSS student competitions.

Our Clinical Guarantee ensures that you will have the opportunity for work-situated experiences that show you how the law affects clients and otherwise works in the real world, through professional practice subjects at our Monash Law Clinics at Oakleigh, Springvale, and the CBD, student placements and clinics, and other practical experiences. Transformative clinical experiences are simply one amongst a diverse range of elective possibilities open to you as you progress through your law degree, with most of our students at least considering overseas, mooting, clinical, research-based, and other elective unit possibilities.

You will also have the opportunity to be taught by some of the experts who write the leading legal textbooks, advise or work for governments, contribute to public policy and advocacy, consult in the legal profession and business, bring professional experience into the classroom, train the next generation of lawyers, and make a difference to access to social, economic, and environmental justice globally, nationally, and at home. The academics who teach and assess you are also possible supervisors (for research-based projects and units), employers (for work as student research assistants), referees (for prestigious scholarships and job and postgraduate study applications), career counsellors (given our staff's diverse work experiences inside and beyond the legal academy), and future professional peers and (in many cases) friends.

We welcome you to the community that is the Faculty of Law for what we hope and trust will be some of the most rewarding years of your life. You will meet life-long friends, future colleagues, and peers in your chosen professional destination during your time with us, and create lasting memories to carry with you for many years to come!



**PROFESSOR BRYAN HORRIGAN**  
BA, LLB (Hons) (UQ), DPhil (Oxon)  
DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Monash Law Students' Society (LSS), it is my great pleasure to introduce the 2022 Monash Law Guide. It is our hope that this guide will give you some insight into the various initiatives and opportunities that are on offer throughout your first year of law school at Monash and beyond.

You should all be commended on the incredible achievement of being accepted into Monash Law. Given the enormous challenges of the last two years, you should be extremely proud of all that you have accomplished. We are thrilled to welcome you with open arms and hope that you enjoy your time in law school.

During your university journey, you will have the opportunity to get involved in campus life and in numerous extra-curricular activities. Some great ways to get involved are through joining a society (such as the LSS), attending Orientation week events, or simply striking up a conversation with someone new in one of your classes.

It is no secret that a law degree is tough and that starting it can be overwhelming. When starting university back in 2018, I was nervous about the many new experiences that awaited. It took me a while to find my feet but once I did, I was able to take advantage of some of the many opportunities available whilst studying law at Monash. These included joining subcommittees both within the LSS and outside of it, getting involved in social justice programs, and participating in and judging legal competitions.

Eventually, I gained the confidence to run for the LSS Committee in 2020 - and now here we are! I strongly encourage you to put yourselves out there and do your best to meet new people. It is so important that you know you are not alone in this experience. You have over 500 peers right beside you, all going through similar challenges. The university experience can be so rewarding - try to make the most of it.

I would like to congratulate the LSS' Education portfolio on the production of this wonderful resource.

Special thanks are owed to our Director of Education, Anthea Digiaris, and our Education Publications Officer, Emily Lai, along with her wonderful subcommittee. The Education team has worked hard to collate personal anecdotes, information, and important advice that we hope will serve as a helping hand throughout the early stage of your degree.

I would like to thank the Law Faculty for their ongoing support of the LSS. Professor Bryan Horrigan has provided insightful words of wisdom in his foreword, a contribution for which the LSS is greatly appreciative. The relationship between the LSS and Faculty is central to the work of the LSS in providing the best possible opportunities and experiences for you.

I would also like to thank the sponsors of this Guide, Clayton Utz, Clifford Chance and Corrs Chambers Westgarth, whose generous support has enabled us to produce this high-quality publication.

I hope you find the information in this guide to be of interest and assistance. I strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to read the guide in detail. I wish you all the best for the year ahead and hope to see you around on campus soon!



**Natalie Adler**  
PRESIDENT,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY,

# EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2022 Monash Law Guide!

Congratulations on making it into Monash Law! I am thrilled to present this publication to you and I sincerely hope it benefits you throughout your transition to university life.

The Law Guide is made by law students for law students and while it does not cover everything there is to know about university life, I hope that it provides you with enough guidance and inspiration to assist you in your journey as a Monash Law student.

The Monash Law program is unlike any other. Founded in 1964, you are now part of an extensive and vibrant family full of rich history, accomplished alumni and bursting with opportunity. I would like to extend to you, a warm welcome to the Monash Law family and I hope you will feel right at home.

The Law Guide is divided into four sections: Seizing Law, Studying Law, Sampling Law and Surviving Law. It comprises a wide range of useful tips and information that you can hopefully carry with you throughout your time at Monash Law. From your first law assignment to being admitted to practice, the Law Guide has, for the most part, got you covered. While law school can be intimidating and confronting, I hope that the Law Guide can relieve a bit of pressure off your shoulders.

The authors of these articles know and understand how challenging yet rewarding studying law can be and are therefore well equipped to provide you with meaningful advice and guidance.

The Law Guide can not only assist you with your doubts and worries when entering law school, but it also contains information about a plethora of experiences that will make your time at Monash all the more liberating and memorable. I wholeheartedly encourage you to dive right into these opportunities and put your best foot forward in your first year.

A special mention and thanks are owed to the Monash Faculty of Law, the Dean of Law, Professor Bryan Horrigan, the LSS President, Natalie Adler and the LSS Committee at large for their support. I'd also like to thank Clayton Utz, Clifford Chance and Corrs Chambers Westgarth, who have kindly sponsored the 2022 Law Guide.

Lastly, I would like to pay a special thanks to the LSS Director of Education, Anthea Digiaris and the 2022 Law Guide Subcommittee, for whom the 2022 Law Guide would not be here without. I appreciate all their time and effort over the summer break. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with them and I hope to cross paths with them again in the future.

Cherish your time studying at Monash Law and I wish you all the best in all your endeavours.



Emily Lai  
Education Publications Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# INTRODUCING... THE LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

The Monash Law Students' Society (LSS) is the peak body for law students at Monash University, advocating for the interests of law students and providing on and off campus initiatives to further students' academic, social and personal growth. The LSS runs social activities, competitions and educational events, as well as providing academic, wellbeing and social justice-related support structures. Comprising five portfolios - Activities, Careers, Competitions, Education and Social Justice & Equity - and the Admin branch, the LSS Executive and Committee are determined to make 2022 the best year yet for all law students!

## THE G'LAW'SARY

**Allocate+**: this is the platform used by Monash to allocate classes and devise your timetable. Once you have selected your classes through WES (see below!), you choose the timeslots you prefer for your classes. This is found through 'my.monash' on one of the panel tiles.

**AGLC4**: The fourth edition of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC4) is what you will use to reference sources within your assignments. It is important to follow the AGLC4 to a tee to eliminate avoidable mistakes and losing marks!

**Case Note**: A concise summary and evaluation of a case, in light of an 'essay-style' question. You utilise other cases and secondary sources, as well as policy analysis, to come to your conclusion!

**'JAFFY'**: 'Just another f\*\*\*\*\* first year' is an acronym frequently used campus-wide to refer to first year students. Do not fear, it is an endearing term - we were all in your shoes once!

**'Lawbry'**: The Law Library is the hub of the academic and social lives of law students, with breakout areas and study sections for you and your friends to gather.

**Legal databases**: These are accessible through the Monash Law Library services page. Links to databases such as WestLaw, CaseBase and LexisNexis are found here.

**'LSS'**: The 'Law Students' Society': your law family for the next however many years of your law degree.

**'LTB'**: The 'Learning & Teaching Building', found adjacent to the Lawbry! You will have several workshops and seminars here over the course of your degree!

**My.Monash**: The online portal through which you can find your timetable, your academic record, library resources, a campus map, parking allowances, and many more things.

**Moodle**: Monash utilises the Moodle platform to access lecture recordings, lecture slides, assignment instructions, class forums and submission tabs. There may also be additional readings and other materials found here, depending on your class. It is important to check this frequently to stay abreast of your student obligations.

**OKTA**: Monash uses a dual-verification system in order to log onto the Monash portals - bot My.Monash and Moodle. Download the app on your phone and if you have any issues, contact Monash Connect.

**SWOTVAC**: This is the week-long break prior to the commencement of the examination period, following Week 12.

**TurnItIn**: Monash uses 'TurnItIn' to verify the authenticity of all written assessment tasks. This software looks for plagiarism.

**WES**: the 'Web Enrolment System' is the portal through which you enrol in classes, access academic transcripts, access exam timetables and view other enrolment documents.

**'WAM'**: Your 'Weighted Average Mark' will fluctuate depending on your grades throughout the semesters. This is converted into a 'Grade Point Average' (GPA) and appears on your academic transcript.



Please note that many articles contain hyperlinks to webpages and other references used throughout. To access these resources, please click on the underlined hyperlinks in the digital copy of the Monash Law Guide 2022 found on the LSS webpage (<https://www.monashlss.com/>).



**SEIZING  
LAW  
IN  
2022**

# MEET THE EXECUTIVE



**NATALIE ADLER (SHE/HER)**

## President

As President, I oversee the LSS Committee and work collaboratively with the Law Faculty and sponsors of the LSS. I am thrilled to be leading a team of committed and passionate individuals who will be working hard throughout the year to make sure that your time at Monash Law is as fulfilling and enjoyable as possible. I hope to continue the LSS' commitment to student advocacy, and help cultivate a welcoming and empowering community.



**TOBY NELSON (HE/HIM)**

## Secretary

As Secretary, it is my job to make sure that the LSS runs smoothly so that it can continue to support Monash Law students. This includes managing the internal functioning of the committee, as well as being responsible for the LSS' legal compliance and reporting. I am also tasked with managing our social media, marketing and IT departments. On behalf of the entire Administration portfolio, I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our many events throughout the year!



**ALISON KEMP (SHE/HER)**

## Treasurer

As Treasurer, it is my role to oversee and manage the financial side of the LSS. My team consists of myself and my two Assistant Treasurers, and together we ensure that the society's accounts are up to date and all our financial responsibilities are met. Though you may not see us all the time, rest assured that we are working tirelessly behind the scenes to support the LSS in providing its amazing events and initiatives.



**CAITLIN KALAJA (SHE/HER)**

## Director of Activities

The Activities Portfolio is dedicated to fostering friendships among law students across all years. As Director, I oversee the running of the LSS' array of events and activities including Law Ball, Law Camp, First Year Dinner, our fortnightly barbecues and our well-established Peer Mentor Program. With the help of my seven officers, LSS Activities has an event planned for every other week, both on and off-campus. We are excited to make 2022 an unforgettable year for law students old and new.

# MEET THE EXECUTIVE



**CHRISTIAN SANTORO (HE/HIM)**

## Director of Careers

While the other portfolios deal with your experience at law school, it is my role as Careers Director to support you in preparing for life after it. From networking events, to mentoring programs, and everything in between, the Careers Portfolio runs various events to guide you on your journey towards the legal profession. It is never too early to begin considering your career path, so I look forward to seeing you at our events this year!



**WEN WONG (HE/HIM)**

## Director of Competitions

As Competitions Director for 2022, I am in charge of organising the many competitions the LSS has to offer, alongside my team of five Competitions Officers and the Judge Liaison. We will be running a wide variety of competitions, from Moots to Client Interview to Negotiations. These will cater for all year levels, so please feel free to get involved, either as a competitor or judge! We look forward to seeing you at our competitions this year.



**ANTHEA DIGIARIS (SHE/HER)**

## Director of Education

The Education Portfolio aims to support you in navigating the academic side of law school. Our tutorials consolidate content while providing exam tips, and our health and wellbeing initiatives seek to promote wellbeing in all facets of student life. We also aim to improve the transition and create support networks for international students, and share accumulated knowledge via our publications. We are also your advocates should you experience difficulties with assessments or academic progress.



**ISABELLA BURTON (SHE/HER)**

## Director of Social Justice & Equity

The Social Justice and Equity Portfolio creates an inclusive space for law students and highlights non-commercial legal areas. The Just Leadership Program empowers students to advocate for change. Our Equity Seminars feature legal professionals from many social justice areas. Our Women's, Queer, BIPOC and Disability Support Officers run panels and mixers promoting equality. The SJE Guide provides insight into legal social justice work, and The Reasonable Observer allows students to read and publish SJE-oriented articles.

# INTRODUCING YOUR FIRST YEAR OFFICERS

G'day! We're Tash and Geoff, and we will be your First Year Officers for 2022! We're your first point of call for anything law or life related and together, we will do everything we can to make your first year of law at Monash as enriching and enjoyable as it can be!

Having both finished high school in 2020 and done Semester 2 of our first year completely online, we know all too well the challenges that we have all gone through over the past two years. We both got a taste of what the uni experience was like in Semester 1 last year and, to say the least, we absolutely loved it! No matter what the circumstances, we are determined to ensure that you can participate in the full slate of events that the LSS has to offer, and to make these events the best ones ever!

We're both second year law/commerce students and are always happy to answer any of your burning questions or help you with anything that you might need a little support with. The transition from high school to university, or from one degree to another, can be an intimidating and confusing time...but we are here for you and will make sure to guide you in the right direction!

Please feel free to shoot us a message over Facebook, or come and have a chat if you run into us on campus - we're so excited to meet you all and keen to work hard to make your year as smooth as can be.



## INTRODUCING FIRST YEAR ACTIVITIES

### FIRST YEAR CAMP

One of the most famous events on the LSS calendar will be making its belated return this year! Happening on the weekend before Semester 1 starts, Law Camp this year promises to be as fun and memorable as ever. Prepare for a weekend of new faces, activities and games, themed parties that go into the wee hours of the night and not enough sleep! There is no greater chance in first year to create everlasting memories and build friendships that will be your lifelines throughout law school.



### FIRST YEAR DINNER

This is the formal-like event that so many 1st and 2nd year students never got to have! We're talking about dressing up all fancy, getting a quality feed, meeting new people, and then dancing the night away in the heart of Melbourne. Can't ask for much more!

### MOVIE NIGHT

For a relaxed night of bonding and cinema, head on down to Monash's very own theatre for a dinner and movie! Nothing like a chill night out with friends to wind down before mid-semester break, and celebrate the milestones you have achieved so far!

**Natasha Tian & Geoffrey Gong**  
LSS First Year Officers,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

Congratulations on getting into Monash Law School! It is such a fantastic achievement to get here, but we all understand that the transition into university and law can be a difficult one. So you're starting law school - now what? The LSS Peer Mentor Program (PMP) is here to kick-start your law school journey and help you navigate the highs and lows of your first-year experience! For the past 14 years, the PMP has been responsible for facilitating the efficient transition of first-year law students by fostering positive social relationships, and we look forward to continuing to do so in 2022!

As a new law student, you will be allocated to a mentoring group of approximately ten first-year law students, and two mentors who will be in their second year or above of their Monash Law degree. Your mentors will be there to guide you through your first year of law. All mentors are enthusiastic students who have had their own personal experiences at university that will allow them to answer any questions you may have - whether they relate to study skills to ace your exams, making the most of campus life, maintaining a balanced lifestyle during semester, or any other uni-related issues you may come across during your first year. Most importantly, they have all been in your shoes within these past few years and want to help in any way possible!

In the lead up to week one, as well as during your first semester, the LSS PMP will provide you with numerous chances to meet and spend time with your mentors and fellow mentees, make friends, have fun, and prepare you for the exciting road that awaits you!

## O-WEEK

In conjunction with the Law Faculty, the PMP will be hosting your 'Course Day' experience on the first day of O-Week. On the day, after hearing from various members of the Law Faculty and LSS committee, you will be able to participate in a range of fun activities that will help you meet your fellow first years and familiarise yourself with the Clayton campus!

## SOCIAL EVENTS

With a focus on social networking, the PMP team will be organising several social events during Semester 1. These will be great opportunities for you to meet with your mentors and fellow mentees, enjoying some free food and drinks in between your classes! We will also be running a Trivia Night, allowing you to put your niche general knowledge skills to the test!

## STUDY SKILLS AND WELLBEING PANELS

In these sessions, you will have the chance to hear from a panel of law students offering their authentic and helpful insights into surviving your law degree! With discussions about everything law school related, you won't want to miss your chance to hear these pearls of wisdom!



Stefano Mascaro  
LSS Peer Mentor Program Coordinator,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# LSS ACTIVITIES

## BBQS

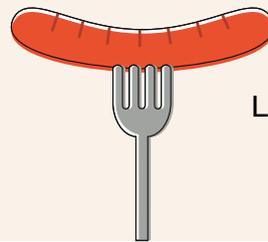
Who doesn't want good vibes, free food, and the chance to meet new people? Come down to the lawn outside the Law Building every second Tuesday and the LSS will welcome you with open arms, music, and a snag (or a vegan burger for those who are so inclined).

## BAR NIGHT

Start the semester off with a bang and meet us at one of the coolest bars in Melbourne for a night of drinking, dancing, and delightful company. This is a great chance to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones who truly understand both the joys and pains of studying law. Make sure you're available on the 10th of March, you won't want to miss this night!

## MYSTERY BUS

Is Semester 2 getting you down? Get ready for a night of mystery and intrigue. Similar vibes as bar night but more venues, more dancing, and more fun! Come with us on an exciting adventure through the streets of Melbourne as we hop from bar to bar in an absolute blockBUSTer of an evening. So keep the 11th of August free to jump on a mysterious bus and let the night take you wherever it leads!



Erin Page & Bronte Reark  
LSS Activities Coordinators,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# LSS FUNCTIONS

## LAW BALL

After a three-year break, the flagship event of the LSS Calendar is set to make a long-anticipated comeback in 2022! Planning is well underway, and the 2022 Law Ball is shaping up to be more spectacular than ever before! Join us for great company, exquisite food and flowing champagne sunrises.

Boogie the night away to incredible live music followed by a dazzling DJ set, guaranteed to get you up out of your seats and onto the dance floor! At the end of the night, ball-goers will be welcomed to an exclusive after-party in the CBD, to continue the excitement and fun into the evening!

This night is guaranteed to leave you with memories to last a lifetime! This event regularly sells out very quickly, so make sure to keep an eye out on LSS social media pages for updates on how you can obtain tickets.

## MYSTERY EVENT

After the first few weeks of Semester 1, it will be time to let your hair down and have fun at one of the best parties Monash University has ever seen! Details are still top secret, but will be revealed closer to the event and posted to the Monash LSS social media pages, so stay tuned!

This is one event you do not want to miss!



Sam Ponsford & Liv Weinberg  
Functions Officers,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# LSS CAREERS

The Monash LSS Careers Portfolio is here to support students on their journey to the legal profession through networking events, mentoring programs, skills workshops and insightful publications.

Our team works together with law firms, and other professional organisations, to provide students with information about potential career paths, the avenues by which they can attain their desired roles and how to best prepare themselves for securing a job after university.

We also release an annual Clerkship Guide that provides information to penultimate students about the seasonal clerkship process. This includes information about how to make your clerkship application stand out, how to prepare for interviews, and how to discover which law firm is the right fit for you.

If you have any careers-related questions, please contact Christian Santoro (LLB) and Sophie Buckland (JD), the 2022 Careers Directors, at: [careers@monashlss.com](mailto:careers@monashlss.com). You can also contact the 2022 Careers Officers, Ava, Emelia, Mili, Nathan, Tahli and Hilary at: [careersofficer\\_1@monashlss.com](mailto:careersofficer_1@monashlss.com).

Alternatively, if you have specific questions regarding the Clerkship Guide, please contact Nikkita Chandnani and Lisa Chhean, the 2022 Careers Publications Officers, at: [clerkshipguide@monashlss.com](mailto:clerkshipguide@monashlss.com).



**Christian Santoro and Sophie Buckland**  
Careers Directors,  
**LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),**  
**MONASH UNIVERSITY**

# LSS COMPETITIONS

LSS competitions are a fantastic way for you to develop your practical legal skills. Whether this is by making oral submissions while performing in one of our many Moots, or working on your soft skills in our Client Interview or Negotiation competitions, taking part in a competition will provide you with many useful skills you can bring into the workforce.

There are many competitions available for all law students, whether experienced or inexperienced in public speaking, and for those who have varying interests. Competitions include our General Moots (Junior and Senior Divisions), the First Year Moot, the International Humanitarian Moot, Witness Examination, Client Interview, and Negotiations competitions. In particular, we recommend that you all get involved in the First Year Moot, in which you get to practise your skills among other first year students with a scenario which is specifically tailored to the knowledge and experience of first years! All of our competitions have two opening rounds, in which every competitor takes part. - The top eight teams then move to the Quarter Finals, followed by Semis and the Grand Final. All of our rounds take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Sign up forms for the competitions will go live shortly before they begin. We will be running workshops for most of our competitions, so make sure you attend those if you're interested!

We are also always keen to welcome new judges to assist us in running the competitions!

Please direct any general questions to our competition officers at [compofficers@monashlss.com](mailto:compofficers@monashlss.com) and any questions regarding judging to our judge liaison at [judges@monashlss.com](mailto:judges@monashlss.com).



**Wen Wong**  
Competitions Director,  
**LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),**  
**MONASH UNIVERSITY**

# QUEER EVENTS



Emma Groves  
Queer Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

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The LSS Queer Portfolio is a space that welcomes and celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and intersectionality. Our events provide students with networking and mentoring opportunities, as well as opportunities to connect with queer students from other law societies. The portfolio aims to pass down invaluable advice from those with lived experience in the legal field as queer identifying individuals, laying the foundation for students to feel empowered as they embark on their legal career.

The Queer Portfolio events are open to all. Allies play an important role in the LGBTIQ+ community and are encouraged to attend these events.

## PROFESSIONAL LEGAL MENTORING PROGRAM - QUEER DIVISION

15 March 2022

This Program provides the opportunity for students to be paired with a queer legal professional from a professional background such as a commercial firm, community legal centre or the public sector. The program fosters a mutually beneficial relationship in which insight and experiences can be shared, all while building a professional network and providing students with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare to enter the legal field.

## QUEER MEET AND GREET

22 March 2022

This event will provide the opportunity for students to become familiar with the portfolio and meet other queer students and allies in an informal environment. Students can also familiarise themselves with upcoming queer events and opportunities.

## QUEER IN THE LAW - PANEL AND NETWORKING NIGHT

28 April 2022

Attendees will hear from a panel of queer legal professionals and have the chance to ask questions, before being able to partake in a networking night in collaboration with other law schools. Queer-identifying lawyers from a wide range of practice areas and areas of the legal field will be present, giving students the opportunity to build their professional network with individuals who can provide insight into what it is like to be a queer-identifying person within the legal field (and their specific practice areas).

## QUEER KEYNOTE

15 August 2022

The Queer Keynote will see students hear from a notable member of the queer community who will share their journey and experiences as a queer individual in the legal field. After the keynote has concluded, students will have the opportunity to ask questions and network.

## QUEER MIXER

25 August 2022

Held in collaboration with other law schools' student societies, the Queer Mixer is a purely social event, providing a great opportunity for students to meet other queer students, form student networks and have fun in a safe and welcoming space. Like all Queer Portfolio events, it is open to students who identify as members of the LGBTIQ+ community as well as allies.

## DIVERSITY PANEL

20 September 2022

With a focus on the many individuals that make up the queer community, this panel will provide students with the opportunity to hear from queer legal professionals with different lived experiences. This panel will highlight intersectionality and the importance of recognising that no two experiences and journeys are the same.

## THAT'S QUEERSAY!

That's Queersay! is an exciting new publication showcasing queer experiences within the legal field through interviews with a wide range of queer and gender-diverse legal professionals. The publication will also provide allies with the opportunity to learn more about the experiences of queer and gender-diverse individuals in the law, and what it means to be a supportive ally.

# WOMEN'S EVENTS

Madeline Kelly  
Women's Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

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The role of Women's Officer is to promote gender equality and empowerment amongst women and those that experience misogyny through a diverse range of events, networking opportunities and an inclusive Monash LSS Facebook hub. Our events are open to all students but have a specific focus on maintaining equal opportunities for women and those who experience misogyny in law.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the Women's Portfolio and would like to get in touch, please do not hesitate to contact the LLB Women's Officer, Madeline, at [womensofficer@monashlss.com](mailto:womensofficer@monashlss.com).

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PANEL

8 March 2022

In celebration of International Women's Day, the LSS will conduct a panel featuring accomplished women in law sharing their experiences and advice with Monash Law students.

## PROFESSIONAL LEGAL MENTORING PROGRAM - WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCES OF MISOGYNY STREAM

15 March 2022

For a second year, the LSS will be running an inclusive and streamlined mentoring program. There will be four streams: women and people with lived experience of misogyny, queer, BIPOC and general. Mentors will include lawyers from various practice areas and in different sectors. The program endeavours to provide students with insight and opportunities to create legal connections.

## WOMEN IN LAW BREAKFAST

31 March 2022

The Women in the Law Breakfast is a constant favourite on the LSS calendar and is designed to celebrate the success of women and legal professionals who experience misogyny. Despite its focus, all students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## WOMEN IN THE LAW: PATHWAYS & POSSIBILITIES PANEL

8 September 2022

This event is designed to maximise students' professional opportunities and provide insight, advice and practical tools to tackle the major obstacles encountered in the legal world. Speakers will be chosen from a range of legal careers and from different stages in their careers in order to provide the most practical and helpful advice to students.

## WOMEN'S MOOT

Workshop: 14 September 2022

Round 1: 19 September 2022

Round 2: 21 September 2022

Semi-Final: 3 October 2022

Grand Final: 10 October 2022

The Women's Moot Competition is jointly run by the Competitions and Women's Departments and provides an opportunity for aspiring barristers to practice their legal research and advocacy skills, as well as network with legal professionals. The aim of this program is to increase the accessibility of pursuing a career at the Bar, which remains heavily male-dominated.

## IMPOSTER SYNDROME WORKSHOP

20 September 2022

This new event endeavours to tackle feelings of inadequacy and imposter syndrome most commonly experienced by women and individuals who experience misogyny. This workshop will also aim to bolster career assertiveness and confidence through a range of reflective activities and discussions.



# JUST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



A prestigious initiative of the LSS' Social Justice and Equity portfolio, the annual Just Leadership Program provides selected law students with the opportunity to network with, and learn from, high profile speakers with expertise in social justice and equity issues related to the law. Selected participants are invited to attend nine seminars focused on relevant social justice issues, as well as the introductory seminar, graduation and Public Lecture. Seminars are conducted as a Q&A discussion, where participants are given the opportunity to ask questions and partake in eye-opening discussions with the panels of esteemed guest speakers, as well as with each other.

Each panel provides participants the opportunity to gain valuable insight from industry professionals and individuals with experience in the particular social justice issue. Past speakers include the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, Professor Gillian Triggs, and the Honourable Kevin H Bell AM QC.

Participants will conclude the program with an increased understanding of each topic discussed. Participants also enhance their leadership and collaboration skills by undertaking a group project relating to one of the seminar topics, throughout the entire program. Participants are granted creative direction over their project, with past projects ranging from written law reform and parliamentary submissions to resources and interactive seminars for students.

At the conclusion of the program, participants attend a graduation ceremony, where selected groups are chosen to present their project. Here, one group is awarded a bursary to support the continued improvement and completion of their project. The graduation ceremony is followed by a public lecture delivered by esteemed guest speakers, to which all law students are invited.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2022 program will open on Monday February 28, 2022 at 9am and will close on Friday March 11, 2022 at 5pm.

Students will be selected based on their commitment to social justice issues, relevant work experience and ability to work within a team. Please feel free to direct any questions to Tesslyn and Anisa at [justleadership@monashlss.com](mailto:justleadership@monashlss.com).

Anisa Sakhi & Tesslyn Chan  
Just Leadership Coordinators,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

## 2022 PROGRAM DATES AND SEMINAR TOPICS

**Introductory seminar:** Tuesday 22 March 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers:** Tuesday 5 April 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Addiction (Alcoholism and Narcotics) and the Law:** Tuesday 26 April 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Animal Rights and Environmental Justice:** Tuesday 10 May 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Rights of People with a Disability:** Tuesday 17 May 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Right to Healthcare & Housing:** Tuesday 24 May 6:30 - 8:30pm

**COVID-19 and the Law:** Monday 25 July 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** Tuesday 23 August 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Women's Rights:** Tuesday 30 August 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Rights of LGBTQIA+ People:** Tuesday 6 September 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Graduation and Public Lecture:** Thursday 6 October (time TBC)

In 2022, the LLB SJE portfolio is thrilled to announce the continuation of the wonderful Social Justice & Equity Seminar series online via Zoom. We believe that continuing the seminars online is more convenient and accessible for all students to attend, meaning no-one has to miss out!

There will be three seminars held each semester, featuring numerous distinguished guest speakers from the legal field and other professions. Seminar topics include First Nations Rights, Environmental Justice, Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking, Gender-based Violence and Transgender and Gender-diverse Rights and the law. We are excited to announce that for the first time, the LSS will be holding a seminar on the topic of Consent and the law, with multiple very interesting and experienced speakers lined up to speak on this very important subject.

Students of all year levels and courses are warmly encouraged to attend the seminars and participate by asking questions. These seminars will give students a unique insight into how the law interacts with a variety of social justice issues, what it is likely to work in a social justice field, and how and one can get meaningfully involved.

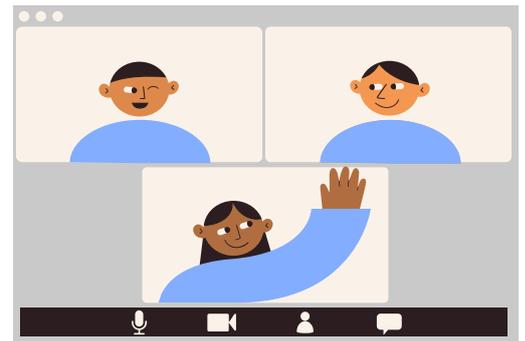
## SEMINAR DATES

10 March 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)  
29 March 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)  
12 April 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)

S1

2 August 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)  
16 August 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)  
30 August 2022 (6:30-7:30pm)

S2



## LAW AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Anastasia Misarvidis-Tyshing  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

The Law Ambassador Program (LAP) provides Monash Law students with 10 months of valuable personal and professional experiences. Ambassadors are selected by written applications that open at the beginning of each year (usually February/March).

During the program, Ambassadors split into different groups to create and manage a project aimed at either helping their peers and/or the community. In 2021, notable student-led initiatives focused on promoting mental health and wellbeing amongst law students, facilitating networking opportunities and encouraging diversity in the law.

Ambassadors are expected to represent Monash University at various events such as Monash Open Day, Orientation week and other Monash Law engagement activities.

The LAP also seeks to help develop students' soft skills and facilitates professional development training. These development workshops include how to communicate with impact, working in high-performing teams, and teaching the foundations of leadership. Additionally, Ambassadors have access to exclusive networking events, providing the opportunity to make new friends and industry connections amongst participants.

One of the key takeaways for me during the program was seeing the effect my team could have on the Monash community. It is a chance to get really involved with like-minded individuals, make friends and push yourself out of your comfort zone to achieve the change and/or impact you want to see within Monash Law.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY GUIDE

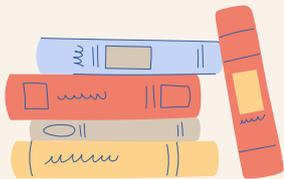
The Social Justice and Equity Guide is your one stop shop and starting point to your inroads into the social justice and equity landscape. Whether you're hoping to become the next human rights lawyer championing the major issues of the day or wanting to do pro bono work alongside your commercial career, the Guide will provide insight into opportunities across Monash, the local community, and the international one. Both the Guide and the 2022 Guide Launch taking place in March 2022 will feature prominent guests from the social justice field and provide invaluable advice on their experience in using their law degree to drive social change.

## THE REASONABLE OBSERVER PRESS

The Reasonable Observer Press serves as a space to generate discourse on social justice and equity issues at the intersection of the law. Keep up to date with legal commentary, current affairs and exclusive interviews with human rights defenders.

If you would like to contribute to the blog, please contact Vivian at [equitypublications@monashlss.com](mailto:equitypublications@monashlss.com).

Vivian Lai-Tran  
SJE Publications Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY



# EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

## THE BEING GUIDE

The Being Guide is a publication tailored to law students which provide tips, tricks and suggestions on maintaining your physical, emotional and mental wellbeing during semester as well as through 'off parts' of the year where you are not studying. Here, you will find everything from recipes and budgeting advice, to tips on moving out, as well as articles speaking to common experiences of law students, such as feelings of Imposter Syndrome and Inadequacy. This Guide is launched toward the beginning of Semester 2, so keep your eyes peeled for the launch event and make sure to have a read of this publication!

## THE ELECTIVES GUIDE

The Electives Guide provides students with insight into the electives run by the Law Faculty at Monash. Students who have previously completed any Monash Law elective over the past two years are invited to review the unit's content, structure, lecturing, assessments and enjoyability. The Electives Guide is updated at the end of every semester, and again before the commencement of the new semester. This publication honestly reviews Monash's most and least sought after law electives. It's important to note that these are the opinions of those who have studied the unit, and are not definitive of the experience you may have in undertaking the unit.

## THE CREATIVES GUIDE

Calling all law students with a creative gift or an appreciation for anything 'artsy'. Whether you've got a talent for painting, a knack for cooking, a poetic prowess or are the next Mozart, the Creatives Guide needs you. This online publication is revived for the first time this decade and is the ultimate opportunity for students to showcase their co-law skills. Anyone is able to apply, and application details will be available mid-way through semester via the LSS Website and on the LSS Facebook page. The publication will be released biannually, from the end of May 2022.

For more information, please contact Emily at [educationpublications@monashlss.com](mailto:educationpublications@monashlss.com).

Emily Lai  
Education Publications Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# BIPOC OFFICER



The BIPOC+ Office seeks to showcase our commitment to celebrating diversity in our LSS community by bringing together BIPOC+ students from all faiths and backgrounds. We have a variety of exciting events planned for the year to increase visibility and representation of BIPOC+ people in the law. We aim to give the BIPOC+ community safety, togetherness, and confidence in themselves to be a presence in the law field.

## BIPOC+ BAR NIGHT

24 March 2022

This event is open to BIPOC+ students and allies, allowing students to connect with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

## BIPOC+ IN THE LAW PANEL AND NETWORKING NIGHT

19 May 2022

This networking event features a panel of experienced lawyers and seeks to uplift the voices of BIPOC+ individuals in the law.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

1 September 2022

This forum will facilitate conversations around the unique challenges and experiences faced by BIPOC+ individuals in the law.

If you have any questions or would like to just have a chat, please contact Ashika at [bipocofficer@monashlss.com](mailto:bipocofficer@monashlss.com).

Ashika Mapa  
BIPOC Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

Jasmine Shepard  
Disability Support Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# DISABILITY SUPPORT OFFICER

The Disability Support Officer (DSO) is a new LSS role introduced in 2021 to provide a point of contact for law students living with disability, chronic illness or other impairments. The new Portfolio will help guide students to support services currently in place. The events will seek to create a strong network of law students with disability, chronic illness or other impairments with legal professionals that identify within this community. The Portfolio's aim is to ensure all law students living with disability, chronic illness or other impairment have access to all academic and social support needed to thrive.

## INTERSECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY IN THE LAW PANEL

23 March 2022

This collaborative event between the Disability and Mental Health and Wellbeing Portfolios recognises the connection between disability and chronic illness, and mental illnesses, that affect law students. This panel of legal professionals living with a range of mental health disabilities aims to reduce stigma around the topic and provide guidance for law students.

## MORNING TEA AND CHATS

5 April 2022

This informal morning tea event is intended to bring together law students that identify as having a disability, chronic illness or other impairment and allies to make connections and support systems with individuals in similar circumstances. This event will spark the beginning of a social support community that will continue through the Disability Support Facebook Group, as a safe space for law students with disabilities.

## DISABILITY IN THE LAW PANEL AND NETWORKING NIGHT

13 September 2022

This event will focus on the experiences of legal professionals living with disabilities, chronic illnesses or other impairments. It will cover the challenges they have faced, and how they have continued to thrive and succeed. Students will have the networking opportunity to ask more personal questions to the panellists.

Students that identify as living with a disability, chronic illness or other impairment or a carer are able to access various forms of support through the Monash Disability Support Services. The services can significantly aid such students in the completion of their law degree, as they include note-taking for lectures, flexible assignment deadlines and alternative arrangements for exams.

To chat about any of the above, please feel free to send Jasmine an email at [disabilitysupport@monashlss.com](mailto:disabilitysupport@monashlss.com).



**STUDYING  
LAW  
IN  
2022**



# TIPS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS



Navigating a law degree as a transferring student can be daunting as you may face a unique course progression when compared to the mainstream students. Don't fret though! Here are some tips that I have learnt through my own journey in law school that will hopefully make yours as seamless as possible.

## TAKING MORE THAN TWO LAW UNITS

A very common option taken by transferring students is to complete three law units and one unit of your other faculty. While this is a great way to extend your other discipline, it might not be ideal, especially for the first year of law. In my personal experience it takes time to find the method of studying, note-taking and note making that suits you the best. Use your first year in law to find out what works for you and do not pressurise yourself to complete 6 law units in one year. A vast majority of transferring students start taking 3 law units from second year onwards, but again, don't feel obliged to do so. There are many avenues to complete law units, such as summer and winter units, and still graduate at the same time as your cohort.

## FACULTY SUPPORT

One of the most useful resources available to guide you through law school is career counselling. If you need assistance in planning out your course progression or how to organise your units, you should submit an inquiry at [ask.monash](http://ask.monash). They can even provide a personalised course progression map that can help you visualise your units for your whole degree. The law faculty can also provide suggested unit splits to make your workload reasonable.

## PLAN AHEAD!

As a transfer student, planning out your whole degree is more crucial than ever. Law electives are sometimes offered only in one semester, some with limited spots, so you do not want to miss the chance to take a unit because you didn't plan ahead. Open up the Law Handbook and make a list of units that you are interested in; create the columns based on which semester they are offered.

Also, look at previous student reviews either on Facebook or on the LSS page to help guide your choices. Using the course map progression given from [ask.monash](http://ask.monash), try slotting your units into the relevant semester and year while remembering to complete the necessary pre-requisites. This plan doesn't have to be set in stone, but you will have given yourself the best chance to take the units that interest you.

## TRUST YOURSELF

Ultimately no one knows you better than you know yourself; use your first year to test the waters and to then guide your future course progression. Don't succumb to completing 3 law units just because other transfer students are. Law school is a rewarding opportunity so make it as enjoyable as you can!

Ruchika Bilagi  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# WHAT'S IN A LAW STUDENT'S BAG?

If you're anything like me, as the first semester of law school edged closer, your mind turned to what on earth to bring to classes. Unlike in high school, universities do not hand out backpacks for you to use, nor give recommendations of what to bring to class. It's lucky, then, that I can give you insight into what exactly makes up a first year law student's bag.



To begin with, you should choose a bag to bring to your classes. This could be a tote bag, a handbag or a backpack. Make sure it's both large and strong enough to carry plenty of study materials. At law school, it is important that you bring note-taking materials to all workshops and tutorials, such as a laptop or notebook. Many exercises at law school will require access to the internet and so carrying a form of technology with you to classes is important. Carry a diary to note any important dates. Bringing the relevant textbook to class can be helpful to refer to during workshops or to use for private study afterwards. Add a water bottle, snacks and headphones for taking breaks from study and you have yourself a law student's bag.



## SIMPLE STATIONERY SET UP

While lockdowns have had us all studying, more than we would like to admit, in bed, this year we are resolving to set ourselves up for success with some study setups for any spaces. Success at law school is somewhat analogous to a puzzle. Various pieces, such as diaries, calendars, sticky notes and to-do lists, are important for better organisation and thus success at law school. Having a calendar and diary to note upcoming assessment dates and study times is important. A diary with both a monthly and weekly view is helpful in this regard. You may want two separate calendars, one that only lists key assessment dates, and another which includes all daily events. To-do lists and sticky notes are effective for planning study time.

Ensure also that your space remains tidy and clean to clear your mind. A clean colour palette for your space, including folders and stationery, can be helpful in this regard. Arranging some photos related to studying and your goals neatly near your study space can also be useful to motivate your study. Ensuring a tidy study space is equally applicable to technological space. Keep your files tidy in folders when researching for and writing assignments. During exam time, condensing, printing and binding your notes and then storing them in a magazine file is a simple way to maintain a tidy study space. Don't forget a bottle of water to remain hydrated and some snacks to keep you motivated!

These are just a few pieces of advice you can add to your jigsaw for success at law school. Make sure to include your tried and tested techniques that you know suited your study style in the past to create your ultimate success at law school.

Julia Fullard  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# A GUIDE TO NOTE-TAKING IN LAW SCHOOL

There is no right or wrong way to take notes — the key is to find a way that suits your learning style. I hope the note-taking advice in this article will help you start law school on a more confident note.



## IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE NOTES FOR LAW EXAMS

Effective notes help you retrieve information faster so you can address more questions. They also help you understand the connections in each topic so you can analyse each question more systematically.

## COMMON NOTE-TAKING MISTAKES

### 1. WRITING EVERYTHING DOWN

It can be tempting to write down every word your lecturer says, but doing so does not necessarily ensure that you understand everything you write down. Instead, try skim-reading the text or listening to the lecture once without taking any notes. Afterwards, summarise the key points under each heading in a way that you understand.

### 2. NOT STRUCTURING YOUR NOTES

Without clearly structured notes, it may be difficult to find the information you need. This can be resolved using numbered headings and subheadings, indented bullet points and page breaks at the end of each topic.

### 3. NOT FOLLOWING UP ON READINGS OR LECTURES THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND

There will be parts in your readings or lectures that make you think: 'What does that mean?' or 'How do I apply that?', but are ultimately unresolved. It is good practice to follow up on anything that you find unclear so your notes are complete before exam time.

There are many ways to follow up on something you do not understand, for example:

- asking your lecturer/tutor at the end of class;
- conducting research on the parts you did not understand;
- asking your classmates to explain the parts you did not understand; or
- writing a follow-up email to your lecturer/tutor (after showing them that you have made an attempt to understand the material yourself).

### 4. NOT KNOWING THE END PURPOSE OF YOUR NOTES

Before making your notes, consider what you will use them for so you know what might be useful and what not. For example, if you expect to use your notes for an exam that requires you to quote from specific sections in a legislation, it may be more appropriate to note the section numbers instead of copying each section into your notes.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Monash [Law Library website](#) contains infographics, videos and recommended texts on note-taking that you might find useful.

Li Jian Sze  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
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# THE WRITE STUFF

The phrase 'legal writing' is one that immediately conjures memories of long indecipherable T&Cs, the wonderful use of the double, triple and even quadruple negative with a sprinkling of Latin or French to make certain no one – but lawyers – understand what is being said. However, as a newly-minted law student, you will to avoid all of the above examples if you want to impress lecturers and future clients.

## THE CURE – PLAIN ENGLISH

The cure for these examples of poor drafting is the plain English movement which seeks to remove the flowery prose from legal drafting. The deficiencies of legal writing have been identified by figures ranging from George Orwell to Justice Kirby who decry the use of the 'heretofores and whereas' of legal writing. This movement has become prominent in law schools, courts and in legislative drafting to make the law understandable by everyone – not just lawyers.

This is especially important for law students as the techniques and style developed in university will follow you in all your writing throughout your long career. It is also important to adopt plain forms of writing as a pragmatic approach to assignments, exams and drafting in order to maximise your time focusing on the quality of the work and not merely its impressive presentation.

### Ok, so how do I actually do this?

The best way to get comfortable with these new styles of writing is to find examples of the specific models you will write (often provided as a sample HD answer) and analyse the structure and the weight accorded to each argument. Another way is to practise and get feedback. The more you write with the purpose of clarity and brevity in mind, the easier the task becomes.

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# STUDYING WITH OTHERS

As you begin your journey into law school, and subsequently spend many hours with your head in a textbook, you will find that older law students, professors, and other faculty staff are constantly stressing the benefits of collectively studying.

In my time at Monash Law, I've found the greatest benefit to be in the unique perspectives offered by my peers. As you will learn, legal problems can be multifaceted and ambiguous, meaning that you will sometimes miss particular issues that others around you will pick up, and vice versa. Bouncing ideas off each other during group study may help foster a deeper understanding of the course material. It may also lead to improved performance in some assessments!

Studying with other people is a perfect way to form new friendships with other law students. After all, completing your law degree will take numerous years, and having those people by your side will not only allow you to succeed during your time, but will also allow you to enjoy completing your studies. These friendships may last many years past your degree and contribute to your networks.

Whilst studying with your peers can be very helpful during your law studies, it is always necessary to be wary of Monash's Academic Integrity policy, given that this is taken very seriously in law school. Hence, when you work with your peers, take care when using similar ideas or producing similar output, as this may constitute plagiarism or collusion. Such conduct would be in breach of Academic Integrity.

Whilst being conscious of Academic Integrity, do not let it deter you from studying with others. Indeed, it is apparent that doing so allows you to not only tap into a pool of ideas and resources that you can readily access, but it also allows you to feel like, and be a part of the awesome Monash Law community, and create long-lasting friendships.

So, whether you've previously found that studying with others works best for you, or that studying by yourself in a more tranquil environment suits you more, I urge you to try to reach out and form a study group with your peers, as I am sure you'll greatly benefit from it.

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# LAW CLASSES:

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Enrolling in your first university units is an exciting milestone, but the many different class options for each unit may seem overwhelming. Below I will step out what can be expected in each type of class. Remember to check the dates that Allocate+ is open for 2022, and ensure that your classes are finalised in time to avoid being automatically enrolled into a time that may not be your ideal.

### LECTURES

Usually held in a lecture hall or big classroom, lectures explain concepts, legislation and cases. A lecturer will deliver the content to a large number of students, typically accompanied by a PowerPoint. Taking down the notes from the PowerPoint prior to class can save some time during the lecture. These classes are not as interactive as tutorials, seminars and workshops, but some discussion can be expected. It is also usually expected that students have done the pre-reading - so check out Moodle before your first class! Following along with the unit schedule or reading guide can be useful.

### SEMINARS

Many law classes are run as seminars. Seminars enable a more active learning approach than lectures, and involve group activities to enhance your knowledge and comprehension. To enable full understanding and participation in these collaborative and interactive classes, doing pre-work, as you might before a lecture, is very useful.

### WORKSHOPS

Workshops are usually longer than tutorials, and may be held once a fortnight instead. Workshops are more informal discussions of the concepts discussed in lectures, and are another forum in which to clarify content you may be finding tricky. Group activities and class discussions enable you to ensure your understanding. Often, tutors request tables stay together in future workshops as a group, meaning they are a fantastic way to make new connections.

### TUTORIALS

Tutorials are generally held once per week for 50 minutes. Typically, a tutorial involves preparing the answer to a problem question at home prior to the tutorial (found on Moodle) and discussing these answers in class - in small groups and as a whole class. Therefore, watching the lectures prior to the tutorials is key. Tutorials are a great chance to prepare for exams, as often tutorial problems are past exam questions. It is also an opportunity to clear up any questions - both on content and answer structure. Attendance or participation may form part of your grade. These classes are typically smaller to allow for more discussion and assistance.

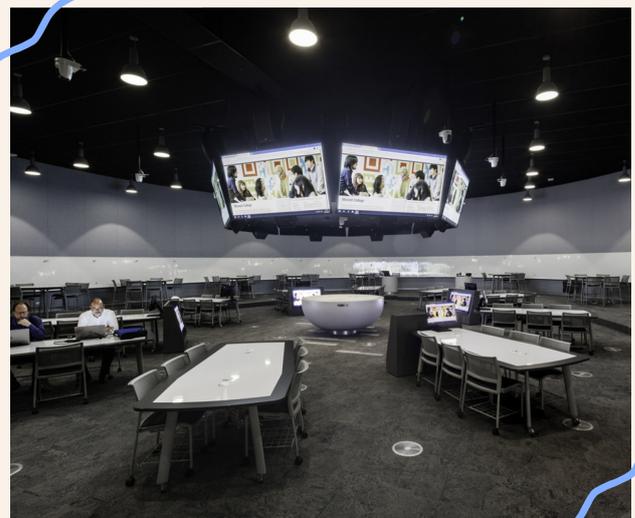


Photo by John Wardle Architects

Jessica Quinn-Quigley  
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# CASE LAW VS TEXTBOOK

What is the best way to learn case law? There are many answers to this question ranging from reading a case brief on a legal blog to reading cases in their entirety. However, as a student pressed for time and, hopefully, wanting to build a foundation of knowledge, neither of these extremes will be the best answer. This is where reading case extracts and textbooks enter the picture.

## CASE LAW

One of the best ways to learn legal reasoning is to simply read how the case was decided in the judge's own words. Case extracts can be found either in a casebook accompanied by commentary, or from electronic copies of reported judgements on legal databases (see the [Law Library website](#)). Reading case law gives you a holistic understanding of how the decision was reached by showing the reasoning and relevant principles. However, reading case law can be challenging as it is time-consuming and difficult to quickly identify the key principles. This is where the humble textbook can help.

## TEXTBOOK

Textbooks are a quick and convenient way to ascertain the principle of the case and see its context in light of newer decisions. Textbooks are also excellent in providing a framework on how to answer problem questions.

However, the drawbacks of textbooks are that they are essentially second-hand knowledge based on someone else's interpretation of the law. Relying solely on textbooks can also weaken your case-reading and research skills which are important in private practice.

## SO WHICH IS BETTER?

Neither – use both. Textbooks and case law complement each other in developing skills like legal reasoning, case-reading and research. I would personally recommend reading as much of the leading cases for each topic as you can and supplementing your knowledge with textbooks.

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# ACING YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

Law school assignments can be overwhelming and require a great amount of preparation. In this article, I provide a guide for the month leading up to an assignment submission. Remember that everyone works differently, so you may find a different method that suits you better.

## RECEIVING ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Take some time to understand what the question is asking. Assignment questions are almost always based on what you've learnt thus far so look to your unit content for clarification. The marking criteria is essentially a checklist to ensure you are meeting the requirements for a high quality essay, so be sure to keep referring back to this.

## WEEK ONE: RESEARCHING

Use this time to begin your research of relevant and reliable resources prior to writing. The Monash Law Library has collated a list of [law databases](#) which can be used to research cases, legislation and articles.

Also, begin to outline a structure for the assignment so that you have a general overview. Check out the Law Library [resources](#) for a suitable method to structure your essay.

## WEEK TWO-THREE: WRITING

Now you can begin writing. The Law Library gives [valuable tips](#) on how you can best construct your essay. For example:

- Do not be afraid to use headings and subheadings.
- Stick to writing in plain English.
- Be specific as possible when referring to statutes or cases.
- Instead of using strong language, opt for words like 'can' and 'may'.
- Write concisely to fit within the word limit.

## WEEK FOUR: EDITING

With tight word limits, [AGLC referencing](#), and grammatical corrections to check over, it's wise to leave two to three days to ensure your work is fully edited. A great tip is to check out the Law Library's helpful [editing checklist](#) before you begin your editing process.

## SUBMISSION

Submit before the deadline to avoid penalties! Enjoy the calm before exams.

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# HIGH SCHOOL VS LAW SCHOOL EXAMS

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You've made it into Monash Law – congratulations! It is no easy feat.

Transitioning to law school can be a bit of an adjustment – new teaching styles, less contact hours, different skills and techniques to succeed. Generally speaking, high school exams reward memorisation and rote learned definitions and require minimal application skills.

By contrast, law school exams demand a new set of skills and techniques. After studying the substantive elements of the law throughout each semester, law exams will assess your ability to apply the law to the facts presented before you, usually in a problem question. Remember, law school exams fundamentally assess your ability to critically think, apply the law, argue both sides of a case, and assess which argument is likely to succeed before the court. Therefore, rote learned definitions or paragraphs will not prepare you for the application required in the exam as the scenario is sight unseen.

And the best part is that exams are open book, but that does not mean you should not study or prepare. It does mean that exams will likely be harder, and you must understand the substantive elements of the law before the exam so you can apply it to the problem question.

## SO HOW CAN YOU BEST PREPARE FOR YOUR FIRST-YEAR LAW EXAMS?

Understand the assessment criteria. Without knowing what the assessors are looking for, it's hard to please them.

Create a concise exam script with adaptable statements of law with case authority. By preparing this in advance, you can use your time in the exam focusing on engaging with the facts.

Do not memorise chunks of text! As exams are open book, use your pre-prepared exam script to complete timed problem questions. The skill you are being assessed on is your ability to apply the law to the facts – memorising will not achieve this.

## EXAM GUIDE: PREPARING FOR LAW EXAMS

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### ORGANISING A STUDY ROUTINE

Undoubtedly, exam periods can feel overwhelming and challenging. To help manage the workload, find a study routine that works for your lifestyle and study habits to help you balance the workload. If you have a take home exam or legislation materials, reviewing these materials as early as you can will give you an opportunity to prepare and review your answers.

### PRACTICE EXAMS AND LEARNING FROM YOUR MISTAKES

Doing practice exams and reviewing your mistakes is one of the best ways to enhance your exam skills. Not only will it allow you to identify your knowledge gaps, it is also a great way to know what areas you should spend time studying leading up to the exam. Moreover, utilising the feedback and discussions from internal assessments, quizzes, tutorials, and workshops are also a great guide for exam revision.

### CONDENSE YOUR NOTES

During an exam, you will most likely not have time to flip through your notes to find the answer.

Hence, formatting your notes in a manner that is chronological, easy to read and condensed with only the most important information will be an efficient way to maximise your exam performance.

### TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

The most important thing during the exam period is making sure you take care of yourself physically and mentally. Remember to take regular breaks, stay hydrated, exercise and rest well.

### EXAM TECHNIQUES

When preparing an exam response, a common method used amongst law students to answer a problem question is using the IRAC structure which is as follows: (Issues, Rules, Application and Conclusion).

### STRUCTURING YOUR TIME

A useful tip when doing an exam is dividing the time allocated for the exam with the marks available. By doing this, you know how much time you can spend on each question and remember to schedule in extra time for reading and reviewing your answers at the end.

# PASS PROGRAM

Hi there - my name's Amelia. I'm a fifth year Law/Biomedical Science student and Senior Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) leader for Criminal Law and Torts.

Your first year of university is an exciting but somewhat chaotic time! The PASS Program exists to support students academically as they navigate their first year of university. PASS sessions occur weekly, and cover content from the previous week of lectures and tutorials. PASS is an opportunity to make friends, gain valuable study skills, ask questions and complete practice problems in preparation for exams.

PASS sessions are co-ordinated by a current student who achieved a High Distinction in the subject. Unlike lectures, our small-group sessions comprising 12-30 students allow students the opportunity to share ideas and practice legal thinking. We complete Kahoots, mock-debates, Q&A sessions and many other activities throughout the semester.

You can enrol in PASS through the University's scheduling system, Allocate+ however you do NOT need to be enrolled to participate. All students are welcome! I can't wait to meet you all in PASS!



**Amelia Grossi**  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

## THE LSS STUDENT TUTORIALS PROGRAM

The LSS Student Tutorials Program (STP) is a cornerstone of the LSS Education Portfolio, and consists of weekly tutorials for numerous law subjects, as well as occasional seminars on various academic topics.

During the semester, the LSS Education Portfolio offers weekly tutorials and revision seminars for 19 law units (core units and popular electives!), which are supplementary to faculty lectures and tutorials. These tutorials and seminars are run by engaging and high-achieving past students, and are designed to clarify key concepts and assist students with assignment and exam response structure. Students also have access to Sketchnotes and practice problems for each of these units via the LSS website.

We encourage our first year law student readers to keep an eye out for our legendary First Year Crash Course, which is designed to equip students with valuable study and legal writing skills.

In 2022, the First Year Crash Course will again be complemented by our Research Skills Seminar and, towards the end of semester, our Exam Skills Seminar. These seminars are designed to assist students to adjust to the rigours of university and equip every student with the skills required to excel as academic writers.

This program has been highly successful at assisting students to get the most out of their university experience, and has received extensive positive feedback. I hope that you will make use of these seminars and tutorials throughout the year. All of the above (and more) is included in your LSS membership!

I look forward to seeing you around campus!

**Demitri Kaminis**  
LSS Tutorials Officer  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The LSS' International Students Officer will look after all the international students and make you feel at home. Please don't hesitate to email Farsai (interofficer@monashlss.com) if you are seeking any help or advice. We will also arrange the following activities to help you have the best possible time while studying here away from home!

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LUNCHEON

Free Lunches are organised for international students at the start of each semester. All international students are welcome to drop in, grab a piece of pizza, and make some new friends. You can exchange your experiences as international students with each other, seek advice for your life/academic career in Australia, or just take some time out, away from the demands of your law studies to chat and relax with peers.

## MSA SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In addition to the services provided by the Monash LSS, Monash Student Association also provides international students with access to events and services that will make you feel at home, both on and off campus. Academic grammar videos and workshops will help you improve your academic writing. The Career Connect and 'Let's Chat' program would provide the greatest assistance in settling into a new country. Find out more here.

## PLAIN LEGAL WRITING SEMINAR

Writing in correct legal language is one of the first and foremost challenges for any law student and especially for any international students who may need extra assistance with English expressions. It is an essential skill while students are completing assignments, as well as drafting scripts for competitions as part of your law degree. Hence the Monash LSS provides plain legal writing seminars tailored specifically towards the particular needs of international students to assist them in achieving a better performance during their time at the law school. Please come along to our seminar and start speaking and writing like a professional lawyer from the first day!



Farsai Powthong  
International Students Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Jasmine Shepard  
Disability Support Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, CHRONIC ILLNESS OR OTHER IMPAIRMENTS

While you are in no way required to disclose your disability, chronic illness or other impairment to Monash, disclosure with the DSS will enable access to various support services. Evidence of your physical or mental health condition for a medical health professional is required to register with the DSS which will remain confidential to Monash staff and future employers. Once registered, the DSS will individually assess the adjustments required for each student based on their disability, chronic illness or mental health condition. The range of support services ranges from scribes, free access to mobility equipment and other assistive technology, extra time and rest breaks for exams, Auslan interpreters, providing materials on an accessible format through to accessible accommodation. While these are only a handful of the support services available upon registering with the DSS, registration additionally makes applying for special condition a more streamlined process.

## SERVICES FOR STUDENT CARERS

Students who act as a carer to a person who is elderly, living with a disability, chronic illness or other impairment or a mental health condition can register with the DSS as a carer. To the extent that this role impacts a student's ability to perform in their studies, the DSS will provide reasonable adjustments to ensure academic success at Monash. For more information about the DSS services, visit: <https://www.monash.edu/students/support/disability/services-for-students>.

# FIVE-DAY EXTENSION



The University has made available to students an extension of up to five days, which applies to most assessments (excluding quizzes, tests and final assessments) in exceptional circumstances. This allows students to independently assess their situation and to request an extension of up to five days from their Chief Examiner without receiving a penalty, when experiencing exceptional circumstances such as illness, loss or bereavement, hardship or carer responsibilities.

This University policy is subject to change so before relying on this short extension, always check the individual unit requirements on Moodle and the [Monash Special Consideration webpage](#) first to confirm that the five-day extension is available to you.



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Students can apply for Special Consideration where they require a longer extension. It is applicable to quizzes, tests, and final assessments. Students will be eligible if they believe they will not be able to or did not complete the assessment due to exceptional circumstances beyond their control. These include serious medical conditions, cultural obligations, student carer responsibilities and more.



### APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE!



Note that applications must be submitted within two working days after the due date of the assessment, so make sure to apply as soon as you can. Late applications may be accepted with a valid reason, so long as results have not been released. Students must attach required supporting documents, such as a medical certificate, a death notice or a police report.

### HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be made at [special-consideration.monash.edu](http://special-consideration.monash.edu), and further information can be found on the Monash University Special Consideration webpage. It is always important to double check the eligibility requirements and supporting documents before applying.



**Finally, it is imperative to remember that a late assignment is not the end of the world! A law degree is lengthy and there will inevitably be unforeseen hurdles along the way. Be kind to yourself, and always reach out for support sooner than later.**

Gabriella Kazenbroot-Phillips  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS)  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

## WHAT IS ACADEMIC INTEGRITY?

Maintaining academic integrity is essential throughout your studies at Monash. The values of honesty, respect and ethical responsibility are critical and, should you not uphold them, the consequences can be more than just a slap on the wrist – especially if you're a law student. Essentially, it's your academic moral code.

## WHAT IS PLAGIARISM AND HOW DO I AVOID IT?

You wouldn't steal a car, you wouldn't steal a handbag, and as a law student you definitely wouldn't 'steal' someone else's ideas and try to pass them off as your own. In academia, you must always acknowledge the authors and sources of an idea. Beyond the traditional copy and paste, plagiarism also encompasses paraphrasing, verbatim quoting without quotation marks, and even using your own work from previous assignments. You can avoid self-plagiarism by writing a new assignment each time. Please note that reproducing lecture notes without proper acknowledgement is also considered plagiarism. But if you follow the AGLC as gospel and attribute correctly, you should be fine!

## WHAT ABOUT COLLUSION?

Collusion occurs when there is an unauthorised collaboration on assessable work. Collusion, when unauthorised by staff, can be allowing others to copy your answers on an assessment (even if the answers are from a previously completed unit), working with your peers or people outside of Monash to produce work, and completing someone else's work for them. Even allowing someone to edit your work can amount to collusion. As such, you ought to be careful when preparing for assessments with friends to not reveal too much about your approach or answer before submitting.

For breaches due to intentional or reckless academic misconduct, the matter will be reported to the faculty's Associate Dean and investigated. Consequences include a zero grade for the task or the entire unit, a suspension from the course or an exclusion from Monash. As above, the disciplinary action will be recorded for seven years, or 15 years if the conduct results in an exclusion.

It's important to know that such a record, which you must disclose to the Victorian Legal Admissions Board, may impact your admission as a lawyer.

## AND CHEATING?

From copying someone's work, letting someone take an assessment for you and bringing unauthorised materials to an assessment, cheating is a serious offence. The University has many ways to detect cheating and, in extreme cases, can result in exclusion from the University.

## WHAT ARE ACADEMIC CHEATING SERVICES?

According to section 5 of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (Cth), an 'academic cheating service' is the provision or undertaking of work which is or forms a substantial part of assessments, or could reasonably be regarded as being or forming a substantial part of an assessment. Essentially, this means that you cannot advertise 'essay writing' services or complete someone else's assessment for them. Section 114B of the Act prohibits this and punishments of 500 penalty units (and even imprisonment) may apply.

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Should staff suspect you are in breach of academic integrity, they will notify you and ask you to respond. This response is ordinarily in person. Breaches due to poor academic practice that are neither intentional or reckless can result in a loss of marks, an exclusion of the relevant section of breaching work or the resubmission of the assessment. A warning will be recorded on a register for seven years regarding your breach.



Emma Anvari  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# ACADEMIC PROGRESS COMMITTEE



Lachlan McNeary  
Academic Support Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS)  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

The Academic Progress Committee seeks to monitor the performance of students as they progress through their degree. This includes ensuring each student is meeting the expected academic standard and that they are on track to complete their degree within the required timeframe.

You may be required to attend a hearing with the Academic Progress Committee if one or more of the following applies:

- You have failed to pass half of your units in an academic year.
- You have failed the same compulsory unit twice.
- You have failed to complete the necessary number of units in the specified timeframe (i.e. you must be on track to complete your law degree within 8 years).

After a hearing with the Academic Progress Committee, they may decide to:

- Allow you to continue the course without any conditions.
- Allow you to continue the course with conditions.
- Exclude you from your course of study. Nb. This will not prevent enrolment in another degree at Monash or at a different tertiary institution.



If you have any concerns or questions about this process please contact either:

- Academic Support Officer, Lachy, at [AcademicSupport@monashlss.com](mailto:AcademicSupport@monashlss.com) or
- [Monash Student Association Student Academic Advocacy and Support](#).

Free Counselling is also available to all Monash students which can be accessed at Campus Centre or by calling 03 9905 3020.

## REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT MARKS

If you receive a mark which you feel is not reflective of your work, you may be able to obtain a re-mark of your assessment. The process for obtaining a re-mark can be found by searching '[Monash University Marking and Feedback Procedure](#)' or by scanning this QR code.



### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE REQUESTING A RE-MARK:

- Students do not have an automatic right to obtain a re-mark, meaning that the Chief Examiner has the discretion to refuse a re-mark even if you believe that an error has been made.
- If you obtain a re-mark, the new mark will stand even if it is lower than your original mark.
- Fail marks are automatically re-marked and do not fall within the scope of this procedure.

## END OF SEMESTER ASSESSMENT

To obtain a re-mark for an end of semester assessment, it must be worth more than 30% of the overall mark for the unit.

It is first necessary to review your exam script which can be done via the link below. Upon review, if you feel that an error has been made you must write a memorandum explaining your reasoning and submit this to your Chief Examiner. For units completed in Semester 1, winter or summer the memorandum must be submitted within 6 weeks of the marks released. For units completed in Semester 2, the memorandum must be submitted by the first week of Semester 1 the next year.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN FORMULATING YOUR MEMORANDUM:

- Did you answer all the required questions and allocate your time effectively in accordance with the instructions in the exam paper?
- Did you analyse the facts correctly to identify the legal issues?
- Did you discuss issues that were not raised by the question?
- Did you place undue emphasis on some issues and insufficient emphasis on others?
- Did you identify and apply the right legal principles?
- Did you formulate the legal principles correctly and cite authority for them?
- Did you discuss any difficulties or ambiguities in the application of the principles?
- If the authorities relevant to the question were in conflict, did you discuss the conflict and evaluate the weight of each authority?
- If you raised a pertinent issue, did you deal with it fully and accurately or did you just raise it in a general sense without dealing with it fully?
- Did you reach some sort of conclusion on each issue that you identified?

## IN-SEMESTER ASSESSMENT

To obtain a re-mark for an in-semester assessment, it must be worth more than 10% of the overall mark for the unit. Before requesting a re-mark, you must ensure that you have considered all the feedback provided which may include individual feedback, general feedback, HD sample responses and any opportunity provided to receive further feedback.

If after reviewing all of the feedback provided you still believe an error has been made, a request for a re-mark may be made via the procedure outlined by the Chief Examiner (often through a written memorandum). This must be submitted within 10 working days of the mark being released.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**[Click here](#)**

**OR**



Lachlan McNeary  
Academic Support Officer,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# HONOURS

Whether you're in your first or final year, you're probably considering how you can make the most of your Law degree. While it's important to excel in the core units you take, it is equally as important to undertake other units that strengthen and further your professional capacities. As you move towards the end of the degree, this will likely take shape in the electives and Honours units you choose.

## So, what are Honours?

In both single and double Bachelor of Laws at Monash University, students are required to undertake an Honours component. Honours offer students the opportunity to demonstrate their academic and professional strengths. Here at Monash Law, this takes shape in a variety of different Honours units.

I hear you - how will I know what units are right for me? Is there a 'right and wrong' to your Honours? There's no correct Honours pathway, per se - it's best to undertake units that you are passionate about. There are many options available – whether you feel you have exceptional skills in one area of the law, are an avid mooter or are ready to get out in the field and practice your legal skills.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Students may select to undertake more practically oriented Honours and complete professional practice. These units enable you to develop your legal skills and get a taste of what it is like to work in the legal industry through a placement programme. There are many different areas of the law which Monash offers as placement; so, whatever you're looking at practising in, look no further than—

- LAW4803 – Clinical Placement;
- LAW4330 – Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP): Professional Practice;
- LAW4811 – In-House Clinical Placement; and
- LAW4328 – Professional Practice.

Visit the Monash Handbook website for more information.

## RESEARCH

Another option is to complete Honours in a research thesis or research project. Monash offers a variety of different opportunities in which you will need to employ advanced research skills and detailed analysis of the law. This is an avenue through which you can further your interests in particular areas of the law, and it is highly commended by future employers, particularly if you're going for a judge's associate position. Have a look at the below units for more information—

- LAW4327 – Honours Thesis;
- LAW4802 – Research Practicum; and
- LAW4801 – Research Project.

## COMPETITIONS

Perhaps research is not your thing; or, you excel in mooting, speaking and advocacy related roles. Monash offers Honours electives in mooting and competitions, which lead to further opportunities to strengthen both your written and spoken legal communication skills. If you're thinking of practising as a barrister or entering into lobbying, advocacy or arbitration, this may be an option to explore. Plus, you're a law student – let your competitive edge shine! These could be great units for you—

- LAW4805 – Mooting and Advocacy Competition;
- LAW4806 – Jessup Moot Competition; and
- LAW4807 – Vis Arbitration Moot.



Liz Walker  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# A GUIDE TO MONASH LAW PLACEMENT

Placement is an amazing opportunity to gain experience and discover your passion. Monash Law partners with many organisations and clinics, from Carlton United Breweries to the Coroner's Court, providing students with a guaranteed clinical legal education, fulfilling the mandatory law research elective. This means each student is guaranteed some legal experience in their undergraduate degree, and it also fulfils a compulsory requirement to complete your course! Check prerequisites, and when eligible, keep an eye out on your Monash emails for application forms!

## LAW4803 – CLINICAL PLACEMENT

LAW4803 is hosted by an external organisation (e.g., Tenants Victoria and Mills Oakley). Under supervision, students undertake a variety of activities for lawyers and clients. Emmaline Ohri, who undertook LAW4803 at the Association of Employees with Disability in her fourth year of Law/Arts, stated that she 'became so much more confident in [her] abilities to: draft and review documents, make phone calls to clients, conduct legal research and interpret legislation'. Emmaline highly recommends the unit as it 'allowed [her] to develop...legal skills in a safe environment and has really sparked [her] enthusiasm'.

I was lucky enough to undertake LAW4803, at JobWatch. This unit has increased my confidence, ignited my excitement and built upon what I have learnt at law school, leading me to highly recommend placement.

## LAW4811 – IN HOUSE CLINICAL PLACEMENT

LAW4811 is hosted by Monash Law Clinics in partnership with another organisation, such as Climate Justice and CoHealth. There is more of a legal research and writing focus.

LAW4811 and LAW4803 can be applied for at once. These popular placements are worth 6 credit points and typically 1 day per week for 12 weeks. Students complete assignments throughout the period.

## LAW4328 – PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

LAW4328 involves placement at either Monash Law Clinics Clayton (MLCC) or South-East Monash Legal Service (SMLS). Students interview clients, conduct legal research, undertake casework, liaise with other parties and organisations, and may even get the chance to appear in court for their clients.

Law student, Gemma Tripp, who is undertaking the unit at SMLS, stated that 'every day of placement is different' and that it has allowed her to 'put into practice some of the skills...learnt at law school'. She would 'definitely recommend the unit'.

## LAW4330 – FAMILY LAW ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ('FLAP')

LAW4330 enables students to undertake a family law focused placement in a family law program at MLCC, giving advice to clients, undertaking casework and even attending court, allowing students to develop their legal skills and confidence under supervision. It is highly regarded if you have undertaken a family law unit!

Both LAW4328 and LAW4330 are worth 12 credit points and run 2-3 days per week for 14 weeks, including several seminars.

Jessica Quinn-Quigley  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY



**SAMPLING  
LAW  
IN  
2022**

# ADVICE FROM TWO CLAYTON UTZ LAWYERS

## HOW TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

While striving for academic success and having a passion for the legal industry are certainly important, being able to show that you have interests outside of your studies will help you stand out to prospective employers.

Law firms don't just want to recruit students who are achieving the highest grades, they're also looking for well-rounded individuals with different life experiences who can adapt to change, have good people skills, and who are curious, resilient, and willing to learn.

Don't be afraid to show in your application the type of person you are, and how you would be an asset in the workplace. Extra-curricular activities, such as social sport or playing music in a group, for example, can demonstrate that you are someone who works well with others. Similarly, volunteering can show that you are passionate about a particular cause and engaged with your local community - and can bring that energy and enthusiasm to your work.

## SKILLS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL

Attention to detail is a must. Clerkship applications are a chance to demonstrate that you have honed your writing skills and are detail-orientated enough to avoid grammatical or spelling errors. A way to work on this skill now is to get into the habit of proofreading your work with a set of fresh eyes: stepping away from whatever you've written and coming back to it in a day or so. If you attempt to proofread an application or assignment immediately after finishing it, you may miss mistakes in the hurry to check the task off your 'to do' list. When proofreading, reading the work aloud or in a different format (e.g. converting your word document to a pdf) can be another way to pick up mistakes you might not otherwise notice.

Another skill that is important to keep developing is your ability to work well with others. Unlike university, it is very rare in practice that you will be given a task to start and complete on your own. As lawyers, we are constantly collaborating with and learning from lawyers at all different levels – whether a graduate lawyer, senior associate, or a partner directly. It's important you are able to work as part of a team, and be willing to listen to, and take on board, feedback.

## YOU'RE ABOUT TO START YOUR CAREER - EMBRACE THE POSSIBILITIES

Be open-minded, curious and enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead!

There are so many different areas of law, many of which are not taught at university. You may already have an idea about what type of law you would like to specialise in, or you may have no clue at all. It doesn't matter. Many partners at our firm started out as graduates in one practice area, and built a career in entirely another. The main thing is to stay curious and keep an open mind.



Practising law is very different to studying law, so our advice is to take every opportunity you can and (hopefully) you will find the firm, and area of practice, that is right for you.  
Good luck!

Thomas Thorpe and Bella Armao

CLAYTON UTZ

# DEBATING

The Monash Association of Debaters (MAD) provides students with an opportunity to debate philosophical, ethical, legal and current affair topics with fellow like minded students. Training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 5:00pm are a great place to practise the public speaking and critical thinking skills that are fundamental in debating, but also in studying and practising law. They are tailored to first year students and require absolutely no experience or knowledge in debating.

If you find you enjoy debating in this relaxed and social environment, MAD also provides you with the opportunity to take you talent further and compete in the Australian National Championships, the Australasian Championships, the Australasian Women and Gender Minority Championships and the World Championships against universities from around the globe such as Oxford, Harvard and Stanford, as well as other inter-university tournaments specifically catered to first years. MAD is also a great place to make friends and build social networks that are integral to getting through university.

MAD has a natural tendency to attract law students and so is a great place to meet mentors who can help you in your degree; but there are also plenty of non-law students as well and so it provides a unique opportunity to make friends with people from other faculties. Every training session is accompanied by free pizza and an opportunity to socialise with other students. Thus, MAD tries to create a fun, social and inclusive atmosphere for all first years to come to and make friends, while practicing skills which are integral to their academic and professional success!

Tristan Hocking-Brown  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY



## MODEL UN

Model United Nations (MUN) is an exciting opportunity for law students to hone their public speaking skills, creatively problem-solve pressing global issues and form lasting friendships along the way. Students are assigned a country or non-state actor in a UN committee where they must work alongside other 'countries' and 'actors' to draft a Resolution to an assigned global issue over the course of a MUN conference. For example, the UNHCR Committee in the 2021 Monash International Affairs Society's MUN Conference were assigned the topic of 'Protecting the rights of refugee women' and drafted a Resolution that outlined initiatives to increase access to identity documentation, health services and economic resources.

The Monash International Affairs Society (MIAS) runs a MUN program catering to beginners and veterans alike, consisting of training, mini-MUNs and larger conferences. MIAS' flagship annual MUN conference, MUNash, is an excellent opportunity for law students to build their diplomacy skills in a fun and welcoming environment. Packed with social events, guest speakers and giveaways, MUNash is a highlight of the university calendar as both an event to develop professionally but also make friends from a range of faculties.

For MUN'ers looking for something more, MIAS sends teams of students to participate in virtual and international MUNs such as the National MUN and World MUN conferences every year. Students are highly encouraged to apply to participate in this experience to take their diplomacy and negotiation skills to the next level while networking with university students from across the world.

Rose Russell  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# MONASH LAW REVIEW

The *Monash University Law Review* (the *Review*) is a highly regarded legal academic journal. It publishes scholarly articles on a range of legal topics written by members of the legal profession. In 2022, the *Review* will publish Volume 48. It was sponsored by law firms Herbert Smith Freehills, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, King & Wood Mallesons, Allens-Linklaters and Arnold Bloch Leibler in 2021.

## WHAT ROLE DO STUDENTS PLAY IN THE REVIEW?

The *Review* is managed by Monash University law students from both the JD and LLB, whilst faculty members retain a supervisory role. Students can apply to join the *Review* as committee members, where they will develop their editing, researching and legal writing skills as they review articles prior to their publication. Students will have access to the rigorous process involved in academic writing, and have the opportunity to read about cutting-edge legal innovation.

With further experience, students can become Assistant Editors who oversee the editing process of many committee members. Experienced members can also take on an Editor role, which involves finalising the entire publication, managing the *Review's* finances and events, and corresponding with authors.

Students who are part of the *Review* also have access to social and career-advancing opportunities, including an exclusive Clerkship Information Session, Annual Dinner and Mentoring Program.

### INTERESTED IN JOINING THE REVIEW?

Look out for emails about applications to join the *Review* or on the [Monash LSS Facebook page](#) or [Law Student Gazette!](#)



Daniella Cosentino  
2022 Law Guide Deputy Editor,  
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MONASH UNIVERSITY

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Applying for jobs online is something that many, from students to seasoned professionals, find overwhelming. Online applications are not always as simple as uploading a resume, and many legal positions, from internships to graduate positions, first require applicants to traverse through a number of (sometimes strange) questions.

### WHAT QUESTIONS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Additional questions in an application can range from 'Provide an example of a time you have been a leader', or as broad as 'Tell us about yourself'.

Monash Student Futures provides resources that lay out hundreds of questions as collected from graduates across the University, so I highly recommend students use these resources to prepare themselves for the application process.

Employers ultimately use these to narrow their selection, and the online format may make this more automated. Therefore, you should be aware of what they want to see.

### HOW DO I PREPARE?

When applying for any job, you should be well-acquainted with the selection criteria. Often these criteria, and the specific words they use, are the first hurdle for a job application. In order to prepare for and answer questions, you should familiarise yourself with these and reflect on your strengths and weaknesses.

### HOW CAN I STAND OUT?

- Keep your answers short and concise.
- Use key words from the job description and selection criteria.
- Develop a bank of answers that you can adjust for different applications.
- Be yourself and market your best qualities.

Eleanor Croagh  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# GETTING YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR: HOW TO GAIN EXPERIENCE WITH NO EXPERIENCE



Gaining legal experience and developing your professional skills in the early years of law without prior experience or connections can be daunting. However, it is definitely possible to compliment your degree with relevant experiences pre-penultimate.

This article discusses how you can boost your resume and engage in the legal industry.

## MONASH PROGRAMS

Monash Law and the LSS both provide opportunities for students to volunteer their time.

These include, peer mentoring, subcommittees, clinical placement, competing in LSS competitions (mooting, negotiation and deals, client interview and witness examination) and campaigning for more formal positions on the LSS.

## ONLINE INTERNSHIPS

Pre-penultimate year students need not wait until clerkship applications to get involved with large law firms and other reputable employers. The following is a non-exhaustive list of current programs ranging from self-led online internships to application-based programs - these are great because they specifically target earlier students.

- Allens Linklaters 'Dive In'
- Hall and Wilcox 'Paralegal Pathways'
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth Virtual Internship
- MinterEllison Virtual Internship
- Leo Cussen Centre for Law Criminal Law Virtual Internship

## PARALEGAL AND LEGAL ASSISTANT POSITIONS

If you are seeking legal experience before clerkships are offered, applying for these positions are a great way to connect with the industry. These positions are often advertised on the Monash University Career Gateway targeting first to fourth year students - don't be afraid to apply if you have no experience, no one is expecting this at these entry level positions!

## INVOLVING YOURSELF IS SUPER BENEFICIAL FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

- Short applications requiring little more than enthusiasm for the role are the norm;
- The time commitment is often small and concentrated to certain periods; and
- They create a wonderful opportunity for networking alongside being a recognised extra curricular.



## SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF A CASUAL LEGAL POSITION INCLUDE:

- Genuine exposure to different areas of law (criminal, commercial, family);
- Enhanced understanding of different types of lawyers (barristers, solicitors);
- Greater knowledge of the law complimenting your studies; and
- Expanding your network for future opportunities.

Eleanor Croagh & Lauren Trute  
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# TO BE OR NOT TO BE A LAWYER?

Yes, that is the question. But do not fear, no Shakespearian soliloquies lie ahead.

Fronting this looming question of whether to be a lawyer is inevitable for every law student. Whether it dawns on you in the depths of week 9 constitutional law, or whilst studying on the very, very silent fourth level of the Law Library, we've all been there.

Whilst this often stressful dichotomy occurs to all of us, you can be comforted by the fact that not everyone who studies law wants to be a lawyer. Many use the versatility of the law degree to develop phenomenal careers beyond the gavel.

Take Andrew Probyn, Monash alumnus (1994), now turned Political Editor for ABC news. He used his law degree to launch into a job at the Herald Sun in Melbourne in 1995, going on to climb to what is arguably one of the most influential journalism roles in the country. Mr Probyn credits the foundation of his understanding of history, government, fairness, and complex notions of human rights, to his Monash Law degree.

In an interview with Mr Probyn, he commented, 'What is law? It is a way for society to run. To understand law is to understand how justice can be achieved'.

This understanding is highly sought after by diverse career trajectories. Beyond journalism, law degrees are like bees to honey in government, consulting, advocacy, financial and property services, human resources, education, mediation, and the list really does go on.[1]

Entering law school, I was always told that law opens so many doors to careers in life. Whilst this is absolutely true, what is perhaps more important is knowing which doors you can actually walk through. And it is safe to say you have a pick of the bunch and plenty of time to decide. So, as Shakespeare once said at some point (I am almost absolutely sure), jump right in and start exploring.

Reference (AGLC4)

[1] The Law Society of New South Wales, 10 Jobs You Can Do With a Law Degree, (Web Page 2018)  
<<https://www.lawsociety.com.au/resources/resources/career-hub/10-jobs-you-can-do-law-degree>>



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## DIFFERENT AREAS OF LAW

It's the first question that you're asked as a law student ... 'Which area of law are you interested in practising in?' The extent of diversity in legal fields is so broad that it's overwhelming.

Although there are a multitude of areas of law, this article aims to pinpoint and break down just a few to help students assess which areas they may be interested in pursuing.

### CRIMINAL LAW

Criminal law defines criminal acts which are prohibited in society. The aim of this body of laws is to deter potential offenders from committing crimes, rehabilitate offenders, and enable victims to seek retribution for any harm suffered as a consequence of an offender's actions.

### COMMERCIAL LAW

Commercial law encompasses many branches of law including property, taxation, corporations, construction and contract law. If you're aspiring for a career in court, you're in luck as this area of law encompasses litigation. If court is not for you, not to worry, transactional commercial law (which does not involve going to court) may be an alternative option. Given the diversity of this legal field, you may be able to keep your 'options open' until you are settled on specialising in one discipline.

### FAMILY LAW

Family law largely regulates family relationships, including marriage and divorce as well as de facto relationship disputes. I find family law interesting because it continuously seeks to address changing societal issues. However, much like criminal law, practising in family law may incur an emotional burden due to the emotional nature of facts which are sometimes present in such cases.

### EMPLOYMENT LAW

This area of law involves the protection of employee rights with respect to health and safety, discrimination and unfair treatment. Common employment law disputes may stem from an employer's incorrect dismissal of staff which may be due to employers not being up to date with modern regulations. Thus, a fundamental role for employment lawyers may be explaining complex legal jargon to both employers and employees in order to avoid legal disputes.



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# A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MOOTING



Last year, I signed up to the First Year Moot, having no idea what was involved and no public speaking experience. While initially I was quite intimidated and very confused, the moot turned out to be an incredible experience. I learned so much about research, forming legal arguments and public speaking. This article will explain the basics of mooting, to hopefully encourage you to try it!

## WHAT IS A MOOT?

A moot competition is essentially an imaginary court hearing. The moot problem is usually an appeal from a lower court. Each side has to research, prepare written submissions and present oral arguments about a case. Each team has two speakers — the Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel — and may also have a solicitor, who assists with research but does not have a speaking role.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE COMPETITION?

1. The competition judges will 'take appearances', where each team introduces themselves and who they are representing.
2. The appellant's side presents its case, with the Senior Counsel speaking first and Junior Counsel speaking second. Each person's speech is usually around 20 minutes long. During this time, the judges will ask questions to clarify the speakers' submissions, challenge their arguments or test their knowledge.
3. The Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel for the respondent present their speeches.
4. The appellant may be granted a 'right of reply', where they are given a short amount of time to 'rebut' the submissions of the respondent.
5. The judges will deliberate before providing feedback to each team.

## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A MOOT COMPETITION?

Moot competitions require a lot of research. Textbooks and legal encyclopaedias are a good place to start to gain a general understanding of the topic and related cases. Then you should research individual cases to use as authority for your submissions.

After researching, you will need to put together detailed notes for your speech. Try to avoid simply reading out a script and instead write detailed dot points. Keep in mind that the length of your speech must allow for questions from the judges. During the moot competition, you should have all of your research materials available so that you are prepared for any questions.

## ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS

During each round of the moot, you will be given feedback by the judges which will help you to improve your skills. This is some of the advice I was given which may give you a head start in your preparation.

- While questions from the judges are often the most intimidating part of the moot, don't fear them — embrace them as a way to make your submissions stronger. Before the competition, brainstorm possible questions judges may ask and practise your answer.
- Using 'even if' arguments allows you to present a 'back up' argument in case the judges are not satisfied with your initial submission. For example, 'the appellant's act was dangerous, but even if it wasn't ...'.
- Avoid saying 'I believe'. Instead, say 'we submit'.
- It can work in your favour to make some concessions. This shows that you are presenting a balanced argument and may prevent judges challenging your submissions.
- Focus on the clarity of your submissions by placing your arguments in a logical order and always referring back to the facts of the case.

### SUMMING UP

I strongly encourage any students to take part in the First Year Moot — it is the perfect chance to try mooting while everyone is still learning the ropes and making mistakes. Keep an eye out for the LSS moot workshop later in the year to learn more!

Elli Mulder  
2021 First Year Moot Winning Team Member &  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
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# INTERVIEWS WITH LAWYERS WORKING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

## MALVINA HAGEDORN

### [What do you do for work?](#)

I am a pro bono lawyer at Russell Kennedy Lawyers. Our pro bono practice includes a diverse range of work which aims to increase access to justice for people who are marginalised and do not qualify for legal aid. I run a practice which specialises in immigration and refugee law.

I also supervise the Monash Law Climate Justice Clinic. One key role of the clinic is early development of climate litigation ideas, as organisations often don't have the resources to convert an initial idea to a meritorious legal claim. We also provide pro bono legal advice to organisations working on climate justice issues to facilitate their work.

### [What do you think is the role of the law in achieving social change?](#)

We talk about this all the time in the Climate Justice Clinic! I see the law as just one of many tools in fighting for social justice. It is key when you're working in any social justice movement to work collaboratively with people from different fields. There are limits to what the law can achieve without broader societal, political and cultural change.

### [What do you recommend for law students interested in social justice?](#)

If you're passionate about a particular social justice issue, find out which organisations are doing work in that space and volunteer! That is the best way to get a better understanding of the work and make connections.

## JILL WEBB

### [What do you do for work?](#)

I work with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations managing the Nation Building Program. Before that, I was a native title lawyer for 10 years, working with Victorian Traditional Owner groups on their land rights claims.

### [What is native title?](#)

At its core, native title is recognising that First Nations people have rights in land, despite the fact that their Country, culture and lore have been impacted through colonisation. Native title is one way that governments can recognise those rights. The work of native title is primarily around supporting a Traditional Owner group to negotiate rights to exercise authority to speak and care for that Country.

Elli Mulder  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),  
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### [What were your day-to-day tasks as a native title lawyer?](#)

A lot of the work involved bringing groups together so that they could work out for themselves who was in their group, over what Country they were asserting their rights and what their decision-making processes would be. That information became part of the evidence used in negotiation towards settlement.

### [What brought you to this work?](#)

What brought me to law was a real interest in progressing land rights and trying to undo some of the substantial injustice and trauma that invasion has created in this country. I felt that supporting work for land rights was something that I could contribute to.

## SOPHIE DE ROHAN

### [What do you do for work?](#)

I am a senior lawyer at Refugee Legal, a specialist community legal centre that provides assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and disadvantaged migrants.

### [What tasks might you do on any given day at Refugee Legal?](#)

I might respond to communications from clients, prepare legal submissions for the Department of Home Affairs or prepare clients for interviews or hearings. I oversee lawyers and volunteers in our Afghanistan project and family violence day service and respond to their queries, such as working out what options there are for a person's child to stay in Australia. I also run community legal education sessions and respond to our telephone advice service.

### [What do you love and find challenging about your work?](#)

I love hearing people's stories and viewpoints from around the world. I feel really privileged to be able to assist people to navigate this complex and damaging system and provide them with accurate advice.

Dealing with the government is challenging – the process is so onerous. It is really designed to deter people and to minimise their access to human rights. It can be a very degrading, demoralising and incredibly long process.

### [What is the impact of your work?](#)

I hope that the impact is ultimately empowerment, so people understand their legal options, obligations and rights. I think it is life changing work – when someone gets a visa and they can stay in Australia, they have the security to rebuild their lives after the experiences they have had. To play a small part in that is a really amazing experience.

# POWER WOMEN IN LAW



Thinking about being a power woman in law? Love it. Come and join the epic force of 56,180 female legal practitioners in Australia. Impressively, women comprise 53% of Australia's solicitors.

Each practitioner has had a unique journey during their legal career. Keep reading to spark your future career inspiration.

## POWER WOMAN NO. 1: THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE SUSAN KIEFEL AC

The Honourable Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC is Australia's first female Chief Justice of the High Court. Her journey to our most senior court is one of grit, determination and pure passion. Chief Justice Kiefel left school at the age of 15 and worked as a receptionist in a law firm in Brisbane. After finishing school part-time, Chief Justice Kiefel took a role as a law clerk, studying law during the night time. Chief Justice Kiefel was admitted to the bar in 1975 at the age of 21 and went on to complete a Master of Laws at Cambridge University. Chief Justice Kiefel became Queensland's first female Queen's Counsel. She has served as a Justice of the High Court since 2007, and continues to inspire aspiring legal professionals, showcasing that hurdles are no barrier to a phenomenal career in law.

## POWER WOMAN NO. 2: NYADOL NYUON

Since arriving in Australia as a refugee from Ethiopia, Nyadol Nyuon has dedicated her career to empowering others. After completing the Juris Doctor in Melbourne, Ms Nyuon has worked as a Commercial and Public Interest lawyer, a public speaker, a media commentator and a Human Rights Activist. Ms Nyuon's outstanding contributions to law, advocacy, diversity and inclusion were recognised by the Australian Financial Review's Women of Influence Awards in 2019. Ms Nyuon's activism for Australian-African communities also led to her receiving the 'Racism. It Stops with Me' award from the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2018. Additionally, Ms Nyuon has worked extensively to help combat discrimination against refugee women. For this work, she was awarded the Victorian Premier's Award for Community Harmony in 2019. Ms Nyuon currently works as a Senior Consultant with the Community Crime Prevention Unit with Victoria's Department of Justice, with a focus on innovative community support. Ms Nyuon's work is totally inspirational (to say the least) and encapsulates all that it means to be a powerful woman in law.

## POWER WOMAN NO. 3: ELIZABETH LACEY

Elizabeth Lacey, Principal of Lacey & Co The Integrity Group has had an impressive and dynamic legal career since graduating from Arts/Law at Monash in 2000. Her career has spanned from working on death row cases in Missouri to establishing MinterEllison's pro bono office in Perth. Ms Lacey's work has been driven by her passion for justice and human rights, having acted on behalf of Mohammed Saleh's family in Australia's first inquest into the death of an asylum seeker.

After working as an Associate to the Honourable Justice Anthony North, Ms Lacey (very humbly tells me that she) was then appointed as the youngest ever Deputy District Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia. If you are not already in awe of her achievements, Ms Lacey then went on to found employment law firm Lacey & Co in 2012. Incredible — I know! Ms Lacey's leadership style and law practice are guided by the principles of integrity, empathy, courage, creativity and of course, great humour.

With so many incredible role models in law, you are sure to find someone who will inspire your career. Take every opportunity to reach out to those leaders whom you look up to. A simple coffee catch up could be the start of something amazing...

Jasmine Morrison  
2022 Law Guide Subcommittee Member,  
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MONASH UNIVERSITY

# STEM & THE LAW

## THE IMPACT AND NEED FOR LAW IN STEM FIELDS

It can be hard to believe that sciences and the law, as two starkly contrasting fields of academic pursuit, are mutually reliant upon one another. Surprising, right? As society becomes increasingly modernised and driven by scientific discovery, the intersections between science and the law are more important than ever.

In STEM, the sky's the limit – save for legal boundaries! Every new medical device requires regulatory compliance for safe use and every new invention is protected by patents and copyright law (under the wider umbrella of intellectual property law). Students currently studying a double degree in law and science, biomedical science, engineering and IT will have this expertise upon completion of their studies to be regulating the future's innovation.

Monash gives all law students the opportunity to be exposed to STEM law through various electives. You can choose to study any of these after you complete all your core units from first and second year (LAW1XXX and LAW2XXX), although some may require the joint completion of core third-year units (LAW3111 and LAW3112).

### LAW4139: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE LAW

This unit will expose you to the policy and regulation behind some of the most essential, and somewhat controversial, biotechnological techniques. These can range from genomic modification technologies (including CRISPR editing) to agricultural GMO distribution. All of these scientific techniques are governed by extensive rules, as well as complex ethical concerns, especially concerning experimental procedure.

### LAW4304: FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Ever wanted to be the next Gil Grissom? Look no further! This unit examines the importance of forensic evidence in law. Forensic evidence is highly multifaceted, involving field investigations, biological evidence and comparison evidence (ballistics and fingerprinting). Given its significance in criminal law, anyone passionate about this field in particular should definitely consider this addition to their degree.

### LAW4312: LEGAL ISSUES IN MEDICINE

Law and medicine, a clash of intellectual titans. Here, students learn about the ethical pillars underlying the practice of medicine, and how they shape the care delivered by medical professionals to patients. Most topics are related to the study of torts, including wrongful birth, wrongful life and medical negligence, allowing you to expand upon your first-year knowledge. More topical issues are also covered, namely active and passive euthanasia.

### LAW4312: LEGAL ISSUES IN MEDICINE

A recent introduction to the Monash LLB, this unit delves into the legal complexities surrounding the use of artificial intelligence. Examples include the power of Big Tech and its implications upon democratic processes, uses of AI for surveillance and compromises to privacy as a result. The benefits of AI are also considered, such as how algorithms may be used to assist in judicial sentencing processes.

### ALTERNATIVELY...

Students may elect to undertake clinical placements or in-house placements (LAW4803 and LAW4811) in the new legal technology clinics. This may be pursued through either the Technology in Access to Justice Clinic or LawTech Clinic, or an in-house placement in the Innovation/Start Up Clinic (LAW4811).

Victoria Sdralis  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# CAREER CONNECT

**Your law career begins at enrolment, and as daunting as that may seem, there's plenty of support at Monash University to build your employability skills. Monash's Career Connect is one such service. Whether it's applying for clerkships in your penultimate year or legal volunteering applications early in your degree, Career Connect can help you hone your competitive edge.**

## WHERE DO I START?

It may be surprising that not many students know what employers look for in a resume, cover letter, or other job application documents. Career Connect's job application workshops and online Moodle modules, also known as 'How To' workshops, cover such topics from writing resumes likely to capture the attention of any recruiter, to interviewing in an engaging yet constructive manner. Once you've attended a 'How To' workshop or completed the online Moodle module, you can get an online review of the job application document you've worked on. This helps tweak your resume to perfection and set yourself apart from the candidate pool of other successful, volunteering stacked law student resumes.

In rare moments when you have spare time but the career-driven beast in you wants to improve, how about trying Leap into Leadership Online (LiLO)? This platform helps develop your skills by completing 12 leadership focused topics to enhance your employability. The Student Futures platform also helps you develop the 12 key skills all employers search for in valuable candidates by articulating the skills you've learned from all parts of your professional life.

## IN NEED OF GUIDANCE?

Career Connect runs career workshops which help develop and elevate your industry knowledge with over 30 career workshops, including law and consulting-specific offerings, led by an expert Career Success Coach. If you're ready to launch your applications, Monash's online portal, Career Gateway, is an invaluable tool where hundreds of job opportunities are provided alongside employability events. International students also receive significant support from Career Connect through workshops, employer events and jobs boards targeted specifically at international students.



Vivian Lai-Tran  
Guest Contributor & SJE Publications Officer,  
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# PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

After a long five-year grind through your law degree, further qualifications are required on your path to becoming a lawyer. You may have heard of the term 'PLT' before and never really understood what it meant — in this article, I aim to provide some clarity on this topic.

## WHAT IS PLT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

After finishing a law degree, students will need to obtain supervised practical experience in order to be admitted to the legal profession as a lawyer. Students can obtain their Practical Legal Training at a facility such as College of Law or Leo Cussen Centre for Law, although some students will be able to fulfil this requirement in graduate programs offered at large firms. Regardless of where PLT is undertaken, a diploma of Legal Practice must be obtained as a prerequisite to becoming an admitted lawyer.

## WHAT DO YOU LEARN IN PLT?

Unlike in a law degree, PLT aims to teach the practical day-to-day skills required by junior lawyers. Things like writing a Statement of Claim, reading an Affidavit, or drafting contracts are all examples of the things you will learn in PLT. Essays and exams will be a thing of the past when completing your PLT. It is essentially a hands-on learning experience involving a lawyer's daily tasks.

## WHEN DO YOU COMPLETE YOUR PLT?

PLT is conducted after you finish your law degree. The length of your PLT can be as short as 3 months if it is full-time, or 8 months if it is part-time.

## OPTIONS FOR COMPLETION

You can conduct your PLT online or via a mix of both online and in-person learning. The flexibility may be favourable to those who live remotely, or when it is simply impossible to attend in person.

## DOES IT COST MONEY TO DO YOUR PLT?

PLT costs approximately \$10,000 for domestic students, and \$15,000 for international students. For students who receive a graduate position at a firm, the cost of PLT will often be covered by the firm.

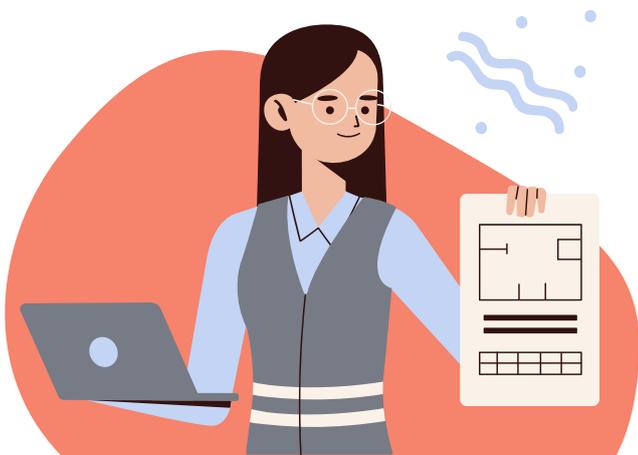
## IS PLT THE ONLY PREREQUISITE TO BEING ADMITTED?

No, PLT is one of three main criteria when you apply to be admitted as a lawyer. The first is your academic qualification (your law degree), the second is your Practical Legal Training qualification, and finally you must pass a 'fit and proper person' test. This essentially measures your character as a person to ensure you practise in an ethical manner.

These steps, while time-consuming, are crucial in ensuring you are best prepared to take on your professional career. Make sure to enjoy the process as you will have plenty of time to enjoy being a lawyer in the long run.

For more information, brochures can be downloaded from both [Leo Cussen](#) and [College of Law](#) websites.

Totti Romano  
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# THE ROLE OF LAW LECTURERS

**Law Lecturers are the foundation of our university degree and are here to provide support and guidance. Starting university can be intimidating, but by asking questions and proactively getting in contact with our teachers, this transition can be made smoother.**

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LAW LECTURER

The most efficient way to contact our lecturers and tutors is via email, and more often than not they will be more than willing to answer and respond to questions regarding the course. Lecturers also have prescribed hours for consultations displayed on the unit's Moodle page. Students can meet lecturers in person or on Zoom to seek clarification on harder concepts. The Discussion Board on Moodle is also a great way to ask questions, and see questions that others have answered. Each unit has a Chief Examiner who is responsible for setting assessments and overseeing the unit. They are your point of contact concerning upcoming deadlines and any final decisions.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

A final way to get support on the unit content is via PASS – an optional class taught by former HD students, which focuses on exam response techniques. Additionally, the LSS also provides weekly tutorials run by students who previously achieved an HD in the unit. Be sure to join as an LSS member so you can ask questions and participate in a welcoming environment!

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## INTERVIEW WITH NICK SINANIS

### WHAT DO YOU TEACH AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT MONASH?

Currently I teach Equity in the undergraduate and graduate programs (both JD and Masters) and I have been a lecturer in the Monash law faculty for just under 2 years.

### WHAT IS THE BEST AND WORST THING ABOUT YOUR CAREER?

The best thing is teaching students, building rapport with them and helping them succeed. The worst are the unavoidable delays in getting legal research published (a very different part of the job).

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE AREA ON CAMPUS? IF SO, WHERE IS IT AND WHY?

Due to Covid, there's unfortunately still so much of the Clayton campus that I haven't yet discovered, so I'd say the law library. Wherever I've studied the law (and I remain a student of it) law libraries have been important places of discovery.

### IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

It depends on the winnings! If we're talking really big, I'd retire early somewhere in the Mediterranean and become an artisanal cheese maker.

### WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR A LAW STUDENT?

Law is a discipline and discourse that students – even the very brightest students – can't be entirely prepared for. It will take time to adjust to it, and it will often take time for a passion for it to grow. That was my certainly my experience. My advice, therefore, is: persistence and patience.

# A CAREER AT THE BAR

Are you interested in becoming a barrister? We asked barrister Zubin Menon to provide us with insight into his career at the Bar so far.



## PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEGAL CAREER SO FAR.

I was admitted to practice in 2009. I started my career volunteering for a community legal centre (CLC) in Melbourne that specialised in family law and family violence. Over the next three to four years, I worked in a private firm in rural Victoria, another CLC and finally for a UK Government department. In 2013, I decided to join the Bar. I initially worked in criminal law, family law, family violence and child protection. Over time, my work has shifted towards mostly criminal law, including both prosecuting and defence work. In early 2021 I took a 12-month position as a Public Defender at Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) which meant I was exclusively briefed by solicitors at VLA.

## WHAT IS A BARRISTER AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM PRACTISING AS A SOLICITOR?

Barristers are lawyers who specialise in dispute resolution, litigation advice and advocacy in Courts and Tribunals. Barristers and solicitors usually work together.

Two major ideas differentiating solicitors and barristers are independence and the 'cab rank' rule. Barristers work independently; they are not part of a firm or organisation. The 'cab rank' rule requires barristers to take on cases if they are in the appropriate area of law, the work is funded appropriately, and they have time capacity. This rule ensures access to justice so that everyone has access to an advocate in Court.

## WHAT ARE THE MOST REWARDING AND CHALLENGING ASPECTS OF PRACTISING AS A BARRISTER?

The most rewarding aspects are the work and colleagues. The cases are often filled with interesting (sometimes quite emotional) stories from human life. Advocacy invites thoughtful creativity in using language to communicate and persuade. The profession is large, meaning everyone finds their collegiate 'tribe' who share your values, and from whom you can learn. These professional relationships are very rewarding.

As for the challenging aspects: many legal areas often involve subject matter that is confronting and working regularly in situations of conflict can be emotionally taxing. Although there is support around you, you are ultimately an independent practitioner responsible for all aspects of your practice; this offers flexibility and autonomy but can feel isolating. There is no manager or HR person checking in to see how you are going, so barristers often need to be proactive about their own health and well-being.

## ARE THERE PARTICULAR QUALITIES A PERSON SHOULD HAVE TO CULTIVATE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AT THE BAR?

The Bar increasingly has a more diverse membership attracting barristers from a range of backgrounds. Whatever your strongest qualities are – there will often be a way that you can put them to good use at the Bar. However, when I consider the barristers that I most admire, I am often struck by three things: their curiosity, integrity and empathy. Often, healthy curiosity to explore more than just what's on the surface makes great barristers. Integrity is a powerful quality that shapes all successful barristers. Lastly, so much of the work of a barrister involves relating to people. A willingness to try and understand another's point of view (even if you don't agree with it) is likely to be key to success.

## HOW CAN STUDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT WORKING AS A BARRISTER?

Check out the Victorian Bar website. The Bar's Student Engagement Committee is dedicated to building strong relationships between the Bar, students and their universities. The committee has a range of offerings to give students the chance to learn more. Get involved with Law Week activities: there are often barristers involved in events who can give further insight into the profession.

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# EXPECTATIONS VS REALITIES OF BEING A LAWYER



When we decided to study law, we perhaps didn't really know exactly what being a lawyer involved. We explored some popular conceptions of being a lawyer, observed against the lived experience of two lawyers. Mark Catchpoole, General Counsel, has over 30 years' experience as a solicitor and barrister, practising in commercial law, international arbitration and most recently, as Chief Legal Officer of an international architecture firm, Woods Bagot. Martin Nguyen is a partner in the Banking and Finance practice at Gadens, and was recognised in both 2020 and 2021 as a winner in the Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 Awards.

## 'Work as a lawyer is fast-paced, high pressure, and "high stakes"'

In Mark's view, these aren't inherent features of practising law. Business priorities and the culture set by the principals of the firm are more determinative. In fact, Mark says good lawyers are better characterised by being thorough, thoughtful, innovative and well-prepared.

Martin says it's driven by client needs and expectations — whether they need something urgently, or prefer a thorough outcome. Speed and pressure can also come from industry competition between firms to deliver the best services. In Martin's area (banking and finance) it's certainly fast-paced, in dealing with time sensitive transactions worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

## 'Strong verbal and written communication skills are essential'

Mark observes that communication involves conveying, but also receiving information. Listening well and absorbing information effectively is important to understanding a client's legal issues.

Martin adds that these skills are important for success in any career, not just law.

## 'Good lawyers think "quick on their feet" and have creative flair'

While lawyers should adapt with agility and adjust to evolving circumstances, Mark emphasises it's much more about being properly prepared. 'Lateral thinking' outside of standard procedures and routines is beneficial, but 'creative flair' is not really a thing — rather, knowing the relevant issues well, anticipating alternative arguments and variables is important.

Martin's view is similar — that strong and thorough preparation always trumps spontaneous ideas, and that most solutions arise from extensive research and experience

## 'Networking ability and great people skills make a good lawyer'

Mark doesn't think being an effective lawyer depends on this; but rather your character, expertise, and experience. Networking skills may contribute to some successful outcomes, like generating business or attracting clients, but Mark says this does not necessarily make you a 'good lawyer'.

From Martin's perspective, this is an important factor in being able to work well with colleagues and clients, especially when you are a partner. Having both great people skills and technical legal ability is a balance — it is not necessarily either one or the other. It's important to know that people with different strengths and weaknesses all find a place in law, and that a successful practice includes lawyers of diverse skills and personalities.

## 'Business and commercial acumen is important'

According to Mark, it's helpful for business success, but not necessarily important to being a good lawyer. The important thing is to develop expertise in your clients' industries or matters.

Martin says it depends on your goals and practice area. It is important to corporate law, or running a firm. But the breadth of the legal industry means there are many niches — your practice might only involve a specific piece of legislation, unconnected to business in general. In many areas, commercial knowledge can be helpful, but not essential.

Jonathan Dong  
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**SURVIVING  
LAW  
IN  
2022**

# LSS HEALTH & WELLBEING

Studying law can be overwhelming and stressful, and so looking after your health and wellbeing as a law student is very important. The LSS offers a range of resources, seminars and social activities designed to assist in improving the overall health and wellbeing of law students. Here's a taste of what's in store for 2022.

## MORNING TEAS

Be sure to stop by the law kitchen on the ground floor of the Lawbry for our morning teas held 2-3 times a semester. They're a great opportunity to unwind, make new friends and learn about Monash Law over a cuppa and a cookie!

## LSS THERAPY DOGS - BOOF & KAZ

Every Thursday we are fortunate enough to welcome Boof and Kaz to the Law Building. We encourage you to pat and play with these gorgeous, furry friends and who knows? They might help you to relax a little and bring a smile to your face.

## LAWYER PANEL

In Semester 2, a panel of legal practitioners will speak on how they look after their health & wellbeing as law graduates and lawyers. An opportunity for networking with the panel will follow, accompanied by light refreshments.

## STUDY SNACK STAND

Is it really exam season without the snack stand in the Law Library? In Week 12 of both semesters, the LSS will provide students with a variety of energy-boosting snacks in the foyer of the law building.

## WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

A true break from the hustle of law, this is a once-a-semester event not to miss. If the sun is shining, we'll be on the lawn outside the La enjoying tasty, nutritious snacks. Students can unwind on beanbags, do mindfulness colouring in, meditate or watch a sitcom!

## MINDFULNESS SEMINAR

In Semester 1, we hope to invite Clinical Psychologist and Mindfulness Consultant, Dr Richard Chambers, to speak to students about the importance of being mindful. Students will have the opportunity to practice mindfulness during the session and ask questions.

## BEING GUIDE

Launched in August and available on the LSS website, the [Being Guide](#) is a publication which offers health and wellbeing tips tailored to law students.

## R U OK? DAY

While we aim to raise awareness of the mental health struggles many law students face all year round, on R U OK? Day, we hope to provide a safe space in the Law Building for law students to be able to seek additional resources and support as desired.



Sarah Hearn  
Health and Wellbeing Officer,  
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# WELLBEING AND COUNSELLING SERVICES

## LAW SCHOOL IS A MOUNTAIN– BUT NOT ONE YOU HAVE TO CLIMB ALONE!

While we hope that this Guide has shown you how exciting and enjoyable studying law can be, there is no denying that it also comes with unique challenges. To have made it into law, you have already proven that you are smart, hard-working, and driven; but a common thread amongst us high-achievers is a tendency for perfectionism and unhealthy stress management. With piles of readings, high expectations, and a competitive atmosphere in the cohort, it is absolutely normal to become overwhelmed from time-to-time during your law studies. With this can come isolation, and a feeling that the friends and family around you just don't understand how damn hard it is. 'Imposter syndrome' too can be a law student's biggest enemy: the feeling that we don't belong here, that everyone is smarter or better than us and that we couldn't possibly succeed. But, when these doubts start to surface, if there is one lesson I have learned in my four years it is how crucial it is to remind yourself– every law student is in the same boat!

Leaning on your fellow peers who are enduring the same stresses is the best thing you can do to keep things in perspective, pick yourself up and keep moving forward. By talking through your struggles with a trusted friend, you might come to realise that you are not alone– that they are facing the same obstacles you are, and that it is a lot easier to work through them together. Though it can be really hard to be vulnerable with your friends and admit that you are doing it rough, just remember that everyone is facing their own battles, and so by opening up the dialogue you might be helping others feel comfortable sharing theirs too. Vulnerability builds trust and brings us closer together– and together is how we make it up the mountain.

## MONASH COUNSELLING

If you are more comfortable speaking to someone with no strings, all Monash students are entitled to a number of free counselling sessions each year. A diverse team of counsellors are on board to help you out, who have experience in supporting students through the common challenges of university life: be that academic performance, fitting in socially, relationship and family difficulties, anxiety or depression, sleep issues, self-esteem or discovering identity- all the things that young adults might be struggling with. No problem is too small, and there is no shame in getting some guidance– after all, this free service is there, why not access it!

You can choose from the team of counsellors based on gender and language backgrounds, as well as those who are trained LGBTIQA+ Allies, making it easy to find someone who understands you ([Meet the Monash counsellors here](#)). While these services are accessible on Clayton campus, situated on the ground floor of campus centre, recent appointments have adopted a Telehealth model over Zoom. Call (03) 9905 3175 to book an appointment, or access immediate counselling over the phone on 1300 788 336.

## NON-MONASH COUNSELLING

Although the free Monash services are a fantastic support and a great place to start if you need someone to talk to, you can also access free or subsidised counselling services if you have Medicare. Talk to your GP about creating a 'Mental Health Plan', and they may be able to refer you to a psychologist for up to ten counselling sessions for the year.



Ben Racz  
Guest Contributor,  
MONASH UNIVERSITY

# HOW TO (NOT) LOSE YOUR MIND IN 10 DAYS

Welcome aboard! You are now a Monash Law student and you probably worked really hard to get here, so firstly – congratulations. But getting here was only the first step and unfortunately, it's the first of many steps.

I don't want to scare you off too quickly – these should be some of the best years of your life after all. However for a lot of you, they may also be some of the most stressful years of your life. Lucky for you, I'm here to help. As someone who has experienced the pressures of law school, the anxiety of going on exchange, the hassle of doing a practical law unit and of course, the stress of getting a law job, I thought I would share some things I wish I knew when I started my journey.

Unlike many of my peers, when I started out I didn't know what a clerkship was, what a HD meant or who was on the High Court bench (to be honest I still probably don't). In fact, I didn't really know what a lawyer even did! So if that's you, you're not alone. The thing I wish someone told me was that none of that really matters as long as you're willing to learn, eager to try and happy to put in the effort.

## LESSON 1

Do not compare yourself to others! It can be stressful hearing that your friends have gotten part-time legal jobs and thinking that means you need one too – but don't worry, I promise you can still get a job without having prior legal experience (or a transcript full of HDs!). Every experience has value, so take what you've learned and use it. Also don't compare how you study to your peers. Some people might read every judgement in full and others will read a small casenote and that will be enough for them. Try to find out what works for you and have confidence in your methods. If it doesn't work, shake it up. I mean hey, you've made it this far right?

## LESSON 2

Take a break! Whether it be exercising, grabbing a drink with friends, spending time with your family or my personal favourite, eating an entire cake in bed while binge watching trash TV, you deserve to take some time for yourself. Make sure you prioritise your health and wellbeing above all else. Getting a HD after working your butt off is great, but enjoying your life is even better. The most important thing I learnt is that it's not one or the other! You can work hard and get good marks, but also make time for yourself (and even get eight hours of sleep – WOAH!) As my favourite saying goes; 'Treat Yo Self!'

## LESSON 3

Step out of your comfort zone! If that means competing in a moot, studying in the Netherlands, signing up for an LSS committee or even auditioning for the Monash Comedy Law Revue, now is the time to really push yourself. It's not all about books and papers – these other experiences are some of my most memorable and helped me get to where I am today. Embrace every opportunity you can.

So I'm hoping at least part of that made sense, and with any luck some of it may even help you. And hopefully you might even find that if you follow this advice, you don't lose your mind in 10 days.

Jaimie Chapman  
Lawyer,  
Corrs Chambers  
Westgarth  
(former clueless  
Monash Law student)



**CORRS  
CHAMBERS  
WESTGARTH**

# PRIORITISING YOUR WELLBEING

Joey Tran  
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While studying law may become difficult and overwhelming at times, taking care of yourself should be a priority. Here are some tips to stay on top of your mental and physical health.

## RELAX YOUR MIND AND STAY ORGANISED

One way to prioritise your mental wellbeing is through mindfulness apps such as Headspace, Calm and Aura. Equally important for maintaining mental health is constantly staying organised. Making to-do lists, daily timetables and utilising online calendars to spread out your university workload can help prevent burnout and last-minute cramming. Journaling may also be useful to get any anxious thoughts onto paper.

## CONNECT WITH OTHERS

During difficult times, it can be tempting to isolate yourself from others. Talking to a trusted friend or professional about your emotions can help put your mind at ease and help you better manage your feelings. Different Monash faculties offer peer mentoring programs which allow you to connect with older students who can give you advice about university, answer any questions and help you build confidence. Don't be afraid to reach out!

## GET ENOUGH REST

Maintaining a healthy sleep schedule will allow your body to replenish itself and promote healthy brain activity. If you are having trouble sleeping, try to optimise your bedroom environment by reducing technology usage before you sleep. Alternatively, the 'Sleepa' app has a range of relaxing ambiances that can help you wind down.

## STAY HYDRATED

Keeping a water bottle with you at all times and setting reminder alarms will help you stay hydrated and ensure optimal brain function.

## PRIORITISE EXERCISE

Being active can improve your mood and help you feel refreshed. To hold yourself accountable to a regular exercise routine, find a gym buddy! This is great motivation and introduces some friendly competition. Alternatively, setting aside 15 minutes in your day for an online workout is a great way to maintain your physical health.

# WHERE TO START?

When the words 'experience required' make you want to crawl into a hole and cry, these steps are where to start.

Erin Atalla  
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## LINKEDIN PROFILE

Create an account. Put in your high school, your degree, and any experience you have. You're set. You have instant access to a network with which you can connect to the whole professional world. You also have your (extended) resume in one place. Try and leverage the network you have built to gain inspiration for career pathways, and do not hesitate to reach out to potential mentors.

## APPLY FOR A JOB

Any job puts you far ahead of no job. It shows that you can be accountable, learn new skills, and will give you references in the future. In particular, anything relating to customer service is an ideal starting point.

## MOOTING

Anyone can participate in mooting. Just register, turn up, and put in a bit of hard work to gain the full benefits. Not only will you meet more people, but it will expose you to the world of advocacy and improve your public speaking. The LSS holds several mooting opportunities throughout the year, which is a good place to start.

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Facebook and Google advertise many LSS and other legal societies' forums and discussions. Exposure to the legal world helps you discover what's out there. You will get ideas about potential pathways, what interests you and what doesn't, and fast-forward your vision to beyond law school. Attending professional networking events is a great way to gain exposure to established practitioners.

## RESUME

Even without previous employment, your resume can highlight your best traits. Make sure you follow a clear and concise resume format. This is not the place for fancy gimmicks! Focus on transferable skills, such as your ability to work in a team because you played soccer during high school, or how your academic achievements in maths illustrate your attention to detail. Skills gained through academia and/or extracurriculars are relevant to potential employers and should not be undervalued.

And just like that, you are looking in the right places, learning where you want to be heading, and starting to build your resume.

# A TOUR OF THE LAWBRY

If there is one library at Monash that you should become well-acquainted with, it's the Law Library – lovingly referred to as the Lawbry by law students. Situated right next to the bus depot, the Lawbry is your go-to for borrowing textbooks, studying and catching up.

[Wondering what level to head to? Read on!](#)

## BASEMENT

The basement is where you will find some open study rooms to work with friends. Scan your M-Pass (student ID card) to enter. While you can chat in these rooms, volume should be kept at a moderate level, especially during exam season. The basement is also where you can find the Monash Moot Court and the LSS office, so be sure to drop in for a visit when you pass by!

## LEVEL 1

Level 1 is always hustling and bustling throughout the semester. It's the liveliest level of the library – perfect for catching up on life and readings. Chat among your friends as you study together on the larger tables, or if you prefer working on your own but need a bit of chatter as background noise, take a seat by the window and peer out at the bus depot. If you need some assignment help, you can also find a law librarian or learning adviser to help you out!

## LEVEL 2

Through the wooden door and up the stairs, the silence begins. Level 2 and upwards are all silent study zones and are perfect if you're looking for an individual study table. If you want to secure a spot during assignment season, make sure to get there early!

## LEVEL 3

Level 3 is where you can find law books to borrow. Rather than purchasing all the books in your reading guide, browse through the library catalogue and borrow them! If the numbers on the shelves confuse you, reach out to a librarian for assistance. There are also some computers and individual study desks on this level.

## LEVEL 4

The higher up the level, the quieter it becomes. Level 4 is basically dead silent – many would say you could hear a pin drop. Use the large tables to study in silence with friends or the individual desks if you need to smash out some assignments!



Credit: [Monash University](#)



The Lawbry may seem intimidating, especially as a first-year student. But with utilities and study spaces to work with friends, you may soon find it being added to your list of favourite places to hang out on campus!

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# FINDING YOUR 'WHY' IN LAW SCHOOL



'Why law?' - Perhaps the most dreaded question by law students, but the answer need not be so difficult! A law degree opens up a plethora of possibilities in terms of practice areas and work environments, equipping students with an endless inventory of skills necessary to excel in these fields. However, finding your 'why' will not only help you stay motivated and purposeful throughout your degree but also make for a better time at law school!

Whilst everyone's motivations are unique to some extent, here are four common 'whys' that inspire students to pursue a career in law.

## 01 SOCIAL SERVICE AND THE ABILITY TO IMPACT LIVES

Whether it be through defending a client on a murder charge or advising clients at a community legal centre, legal professionals have a profound influence on those around them and are able to fulfil their sincere desire to help people and society at large. Since the law is omnipresent, a legal career provides a great capacity to inspire social change and is one of the best tools to improve the lives of others. As a lawyer, you will be armed with the tools to educate your client of their rights and assist them in navigating the often unfamiliar, unapproachable legal system and achieving justice – an incredibly rewarding experience for many!

## 02 PROBLEM SOLVING AND INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE

Problem-solving is central to a career in law - lawyers can practise by solving disputes, helping clients plan to avoid problems, representing and advising individuals and businesses and by appearing or not appearing in court. Whether it be negotiating the terms of a contract in a corporate environment or handling complex commercial cases, a career in law will require you to think on your feet, strengthen your critical thinking, persuasive communication and attention to detail skills and make for an overall intellectually challenging yet rewarding career. So if you enjoy analytical thinking, serving others, and coming up with a solution, law is for you!

## 03 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

A career in law will not only allow you to have a positive impact on the lives of others but also reward you with a plethora of transferable skills that will enable you to grow personally, professionally and mentally. Through constant client interaction and collaborative work, a career in law is conducive to developing your empathy, compassion, teamwork and effective communication skills while simultaneously allowing you to build your network. The dialectic nature of the law requires one to consider both perspectives, develop sound judgement and practise nuanced, higher-order thinking. By studying how the world around us is governed, the very knowledge of the law can be empowering, allowing you to develop self-confidence, find your own voice and provide infinite opportunities to grow. The benefits are endless!

## 04 WHAT'S NEXT? - FIND OUT WHAT YOU LIKE!

Finally, the law is all around us and the fields and disciplines one can practise in are ever-growing, so the world is your oyster! Whether you have a passion for the environment or an interest in fashion and media, there is something for everyone. Through electives, practical experience, LSS programs and taking part in extracurricular initiatives, you will have many opportunities to sample different areas of law and find what is right for you. Personally, I took part in the first year moot and thoroughly enjoyed the analytical aspect of dissecting a set of facts, researching precedents and legislation, developing a strong argument and presenting to the judges, so find what's right for you!

Good luck!

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MONASH UNIVERSITY

# HOW TO GET OUT OF A MID-SEMESTER SLUMP



Law school can be quite a rewarding yet demanding experience that requires discipline, motivation and organisation for a smooth sailing semester. While most have a strong start to the 12-week semester, many find themselves overwhelmed and losing motivation amidst the numerous assignments, lectures, pre-readings before the mid-semester break. But never fear! I am here to provide you with the top 4 tips for getting right back on track and set you up for a successful exam period.

## 01 PRIORITISE, PRIORITISE, PRIORITISE

With a never-ending to-do list and a TV series' worth of lectures to watch, you may be wondering, where do I begin? At this point, working smarter not harder is key - out of all the tasks you need to do, prioritise attending those workshops that will allow you to optimise your marks in time for the upcoming exams rather than catching up on an optional reading from two weeks ago. This is about YOUR learning so find what works for you; whether this is study groups, practice questions, or active recall - you got this! Take this opportunity to reflect on your semester so far and consider what's working and what isn't and how you can set goals to improve. Even if you feel that you didn't do well on your first assignment or are feeling lost in class, remember that the exam tends to carry a substantial proportion of the marks so it's never too late to get back on track!

## 02 DIVIDE AND CONQUER

As we get to the pointy end of the semester and exams are fast approaching, time is money so narrow down what you are expected to learn, identify gaps in your knowledge and work from there. Use your reading guide as a bible for the cases and principles required and divide your tasks evenly across the time that you have remaining. The mid-semester break is a perfect opportunity to not only consolidate and summarise the content you have learned so far but also a good time to start planning ahead for the upcoming exam season. Begin developing exam study schedules, attempting practice questions and do NOT leave making your exam notes to SWOTVAC, your future self will thank you! Remember - the most amount of time you have to do something is now so get going!

## 03 REST AND RESET

The importance of your well-being extends far beyond your law degree so be kind to yourself! Acknowledging that you have studied hard for the first half of the semester and using this period to recharge is necessary for preparing you for the busy and stressful exam period ahead. Personally, I find going for a run or watching my favourite Netflix TV show are perfect ways to recharge, so go for a study break stroll, grab a coffee with friends, eat well - after all, a healthier mind and body means a happier law student, so recognise that assignments and exam prep can be stressful and celebrate the small wins!

## 04 DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS

When in doubt, always ASK! There is no such thing as a stupid question if it will help you with your studies, and more often than not, someone else might be wondering the same thing as you. Although it may be intimidating, tutors should be your first point of contact and they are more than happy to help so ask away! Also feel free to reach out to your law mentors for guidance if you'd prefer - you may be able to learn a lot from their experiences.

Finally, remember that you are not alone - every law student has experienced this at some stage so don't be disheartened! A little organisation and self-belief will go a long way.

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# DO I REALLY BELONG HERE?



## FIGHTING IMPOSTER SYNDROME AS A LAW STUDENT

So you've been accepted into Monash Law School – one of the best in the country, congratulations! You've worked so hard and consistently pulled through with exceptional results... but why is it that you can't help but feel like a fraud?

At one stage or another during your law degree, it's not surprising to experience imposter syndrome. This is particularly prevalent in law given you are surrounded by ambitiously-driven high achievers. It's common to downplay your achievements, credit it to mere luck or feel that you're not doing enough, when you have in fact put in significant effort.

For me, the imposter syndrome kicked in within my first few weeks of starting my law degree. As an ambitious student who strived to obtain high marks to enter law, I soon felt like the biggest fraud sitting in my first criminal law class surrounded by bright and inquisitive classmates. I would be lying if I said I no longer feel this way, but through the years, I have learnt that alleviating imposter syndrome is crucial for your wellbeing as a law student and as an individual.

[So what exactly can you do to address the feeling of not being good enough?](#)

### 1. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH YOUR LAW CLASSMATES

While you may be feeling like you don't belong, it is highly likely that your classmate sitting next to you is experiencing the same feeling. Though you may feel vulnerable admitting this to your classmate, the 'oh my goodness, I feel the exact same!' that they are likely to echo back provides an important sense of reassurance that you are not at all alone.

Forming study groups during your first year is a beneficial way to not only foster meaningful friendships but to share mutual concerns. It also offers the chance to learn study techniques and gain knowledge from high-achieving students.

### 2. VIEW THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OTHERS AS MOTIVATION FOR YOUR IMPROVEMENT

It's very easy to hop onto your fellow classmates' LinkedIn profile and become overwhelmed at their enormous list of experiences and achievements. Rather than comparing others' achievements with your own and using this to undermine your capabilities, consider how you too could pursue more opportunities to further yourself. Remember, everyone is different so it can be harmful to constantly engage in unhealthy comparison.

If you are curious about how a classmate landed a paralegal position at your dream firm, ask them about their experiences and consider what skills you could implement to get there too.

### 3. KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF AND BROADEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Be proactive in attending networking events and careers fairs to expand your understanding of the legal industry – even in your first year (it's never too early to find out more)!

Don't forget that Monash Career Connect offers a plethora of relevant job opportunities, career workshops and services that can enhance your career prospects. Another big tip is to reach out to tutors and lecturers. Having been in the same position as you, they can offer insight into paths you had not yet considered and provide assurance.



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# WHAT DO I WANT FROM MY LAW DEGREE?

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For many of us already well into our law degree journey, our future career choice might be informed by a long-held passion, professional experiences, or conversations with mentors. For others, however, deciding what area we want to go into can feel arbitrary and overwhelming. When considering potential pathways, it can be helpful to begin by reflecting on our personal interests, skills and priorities. A conscious effort to understand our motivations can help us meaningfully connect the career opportunities out there, with who we genuinely are as individuals.

## TAKE TIME TO MAP OUT FIVE AREAS

### WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS AND PASSIONS?

List what you want to achieve, and all things that genuinely excite, motivate, and inspire curiosity in you.

### WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES?

This involves an honest reflection of your personal characteristics and attributes.

### WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?

List any and all skills, talents or expertise you have.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VALUES AND PRIORITIES?

Remind yourself of your personal principles, ethics, and what's most important in your life.

### WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR WORK LIFE AND PERSONAL LIFE TO BE LIKE?

Consider what professional success you're seeking, or the practical difference you want to make.

Pragmatically speaking, what kind of lifestyle do you value or what sacrifices are you content to make?

While these examples won't all speak to everyone's outlook, they embody the type of fundamental questions you can think about before expending energy considering the myriad of job titles, firms, and graduate programs out there competing for your attention. For all the effort you've put into law, it's worth answering the question 'what do I want from it?'.

## 3 USEFUL STUDY APPS

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MORNING

NOTION

Rise and shine! Start your day by planning with Notion. Notion functions like a digital bullet journal which allows you to set daily, weekly and monthly to-do lists. Everything is very customisable so planning has never been more fun! Notion is also great for group projects, creating a collaborative workspace for everyone to share their documents and images.



AFTERNOON

FOREST

You've had your lunch, planned out your day and are finally awake and motivated enough to get some work done. Forest is a great tool to help you block out distractions and enter the state of 'flow' as you plough through your goals! You can set a time interval on the app during which you are not to touch your phone, allowing a tree to grow. Keep your trees alive by staying focused!



EVENING

MICROSOFT  
ONENOTE

Just before winding down for the night, summarise your lecture notes with OneNote. This is a popular note-taking program for students. Being able to personalise folders and tabs based on your subjects and topics will help you to stay organised. OneNote's flexible spacing encourages freedom and customisability in your note-taking.

# LET IT UNDER YOUR SKIN

## LEARN TO LOVE LAW AGAIN



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### WHY ARE WE SO JADED?

During Year 12, a large portion of my personality was centred around a passion for the legal system. However, when I began studying law, the difficulty of the content along with the self-driven mode of teaching caused me to underperform relative to my expectations. Soon, I began to lose motivation and write off a legal career. With many law students sharing such a sentiment, this is very concerning.

A passionate student has a greater propensity to take charge of improving their profile and responding to legal trends to shape their understanding and develop their ability. This may improve academic performance and employability.

### HOW TO REKINDLE THE PASSION

My jaded outlook began to change when a mentor told me to 'let the law under [my] skin' and seek ways to find a passion for it. Here are some ways to let the law under your skin:

#### SEEK MENTORS

Seeking mentors who have achieved the goals you are working towards may help reignite the drive behind pursuing a legal degree by presenting a manifestation of your objectives. Further, a close mentor may help set goals, and provide guidance which may overcome feelings of jadedness.

#### ATTEND COURT

Particularly for those interested in litigation, attending court can be a great way to see legal concepts coming to life. For me, attending court hearings helped me to see the people affected by the concepts that we study. Also, being in a room filled with brilliant legal minds who are working to solve a legal problem can be very inspiring.

#### PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Practical extracurricular activities such as mootings and witness examinations are designed to be a stimulating learning experience. Though not always true to reality, such activities provide a taste of applying legal concepts to real-world matters, and often involve collaboration with other people. Being able to enjoy the law and learn from it with peers is likely to ignite a dwindling passion.



## WIN TOGETHER

### DO NOT LET YOUR AMBITION MAKE YOU LONELY

Studying law is a gruelling endeavour that requires devotion and the ability to balance extra-curricular and career commitments. As a result, it is common that through busy assignment periods, along with the exam season, my closest friends and I fall out of touch.

Indeed, limiting time spent on social media during busy study periods may be helpful for improving efficiency. However, this mindset may come with the unintended consequence that you lose important support networks and feel lonely.

### HOW TO AVOID ISOLATION DURING BUSY STUDY PERIODS:

#### SET GOALS COLLECTIVELY

(TIP: This is still possible even if your friends study a different degree)

It is helpful to communicate your study and academic goals with your friends – even if you are studying different units/courses. This may entail talking about your intentions for each unit.

#### SCHEDULE CHECK-INS WITH YOUR FRIENDS

(TIP: If you think of someone, message them as soon as you can!)

A check-in can be as small as a 'how are you?' message, or a quick Maccas run and will help you remain connected.

#### BE VULNERABLE

Though it may seem like everyone else has it together, it is very likely that your peers and friends share similar study and work-related worries. Sharing your worries with them is likely to make you feel less lonely in high pressure times, by allowing you to forge a deeper friendship based on understanding and support.

#### REFLECT

It is important to regularly consider how you are feeling, and how well you are connected to each of your close friends. Consider: when was the last time you spoke with a friend? What can you do to better support each other?



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