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Careers

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# Clayton Utz is a leading Australian law firm, known for the strength of its independent culture and its confident and engaging approach.

Staying true to your direction is what defines Clayton Utz. At Clayton Utz, we've built a team of down-to-earth, collaborative lawyers who know that at the heart of exceptional client service is knowing what your client needs. We offer the sharpest legal minds. The clearest advice that cuts through the complexity, so our clients can concentrate on the things that really matter. And an unshakeable sense of what's possible.

With 167 partners and over 1,600 employees across six offices, we continue to build on our reputation for confident, innovative and incisive legal advice. We have 14 different practice areas: Banking & Financial Services, Commercial Litigation, Competition, Corporate/M&A/Capital Markets, Environment and Planning, IP and Technology, Major Projects and Construction, Public Sector / Government Services, Real Estate, Restructuring and Insolvency, Tax, Workplace Relations Employment and Safety and Pro Bono.

# **Clerkship Program**

If you're a law student in your penultimate year, our Clerkship Programs will expose you to the fast pace of a full-service commercial law firm and show you the law in action. You'll be working under the guidance of some of the sharpest legal minds in Australia, on challenging, complex and high-profile transactions and matters. You'll be mentored by partners and lawyers who are leaders in their fields, in a firm where individuality is embraced and innovation actively encouraged.

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.

# **Graduate Program**

It's not just about wearing a suit. There's always a gap between theory and practice, and post-university prospects can be daunting. How do you make the leap to working in the industry?

That's where we come in. Once you've completed your studies, our national Graduate Program gives you the perfect foundation for your legal career. Our 2.5 week orientation program is designed to ensure that you'll hit the ground running. It consists of PLT+, local training and a national orientation week in Sydney. Our rotations will help you discover different areas and find the right fit. From day one you'll be working on complex and sophisticated legal issues, and with our innovative learning and development approach, you'll get the support to become the best you can be.

**For more information**, please contact Danielle Sandys, Clayton Utz Graduate Resourcing Consultant, at <u>dsandys@claytonutz.com</u>, or visit the Clayton Utz website, <a href="https://graduates.claytonutz.com/">https://graduates.claytonutz.com/</a>



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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 lifelong 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 of the Faculty, whom you now join in the next phase of your and this Faculty's exciting future together in our 58th 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, researchbased, 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 researchbased projects and units), employers (for work as chain of past and present students, staff, and friends 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 lifelong 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

It is with the greatest pleasure that I introduce the 2021 Monash Law Guide. It is our hope that this guide will give you some insight into the fantastic initiatives that are on offer throughout your first year of law school.

You should all be commended on the incredible achievement of being accepted into Monash Law. Given the various challenges that 2020 has posed, 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 first semester of Law School.

During your university journey, you will have the opportunity to get involved in numerous extracurricular activities. I thoroughly recommend getting involved in campus life, whether that be through joining a society, attending O-week events, or simply striking up a conversation with someone new on your first day. University can be overwhelming but putting yourself out there and meeting like minded people will make your degree all the more enjoyable. It is no secret that a law degree is tough. Engaging in campus life can provide a much-needed respite from studying. Importantly, you are never alone, and you should always feel empowered to reach out to those around you for support, whether that be academic, or just to have some fun!

I would like to congratulate the Law Students' Society's Education portfolio on the production of this phenomenal resource. Special thanks are owed to our Director of Education, Megan Liew, and our Education Publications Officer, Liz Walker, along with her fabulous Education subcommittee. The Education team has worked hard to collate personal anecdotes, information, and important advice that we hope will serve as a helping hand in the early stage of your degree.

I would also 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 based on pragmatism and transparency, and we consider ourselves blessed to have such a mutually beneficial relationship.

Good luck for the year ahead, I hope to see you around campus!

Claire Tucker-Morrison

PRESIDENT, LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY (LSS),

MONASH UNIVERSITY

# **EDITOR'S FOREWORD**

A warm hello and big welcome to all of you who are entering your first year at Monash Law. What an exciting time to be joining the Monash Law community and commencing your University journey. I hope this guide serves you well as you navigate your academic, social and personal journey throughout the course of your Law degree.

Monash law school 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. A big, warm welcome to this family - I hope you will feel right at home.

Monash Law offers a variety of opportunities for you to 'make your mark' and further your professional and personal skills. From networking opportunities and events, to mooting and competitions, to participating in the LSS and joining various co-curricular activities, there is something for everyone. While 2020 has brought many challenges, it has also facilitated a lot of growth. You are to be commended for persevering through your final year of high school and for achieving the outstanding results you did. Take up every opportunity and challenge that arrives at your doorstep, and make the most of your student years.

This Guide serves as a 'road-map' to the Monash Law Community, your studies and the University at large. Have a read of the Guide and an explore of the campus. Start planning what you want to achieve over the course of your degree.

While studying law can seem like a mountain, remember to focus on 'the now' and live into where you want to go, and who you want to be. Everyone has a different story to tell and perspective to give, so stay true to who you believe you are. Fearlessly use your voice and say 'yes', even when unsure, because you never know where that 'yes' could take you. You have a family who will support you and cheer you on in every endeavour.

A special mention and thanks to Megan, the Director of Education, with whom I have had the pleasure and joy of working closely and exchanging ideas, the 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee who have put their heart, soul and expertise into writing for this publication, as well as the LSS Committee at large, who have contributed much of their time and energy to collating this Guide.

Enjoy your time studying law and good luck in all you do.

# Liz Walker

PUBLICATIONS (EDUCATION) 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 your academic, social and personal growth. The LSS run social activities, competitions and educational events, as well as provide academic, health & wellbeing and social justice and equity-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 2021 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 - both 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.

# SEIZING LAW

# **MEET THE EXECUTIVE**



# Claire Tucker-Morrison President

I am lucky enough to be entering my fifth year of Monash Law and I have the pleasure of representing your interests as President in 2021. I am so thrilled to be leading a team of passionate and dedicated individuals who are devoted to ensuring that, despite the inevitable challenges, your time at Monash Law is as enjoyable as possible. I hope to continue strengthening the LSS' commitment to student advocacy, whilst promoting a safe and collaborative law-school environment.



# Daniel Gates Secretary

The Secretary has two functions: first, I'm responsible for all the LSS' legal compliance and reporting, and second I'm in charge of the internal functioning of the committee. I directly oversee our social media, IT and marketing departments, and I'm also the go-to for any internal issues the committee may face. In a nutshell, it's my job to make sure the committee runs smoothly so it can keep delivering all its fantastic services to law students. In my spare time I like hiking, camping and arguing with strangers on the internet.



Alison Kemp
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.



Skylar Miao
Director of Activities

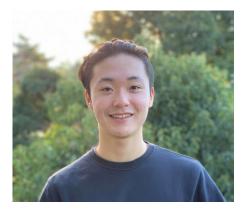
My name is Skylar and I am a fourth year law/commerce student. As Director of Activities, I am responsible for organising and overseeing events such as Law Ball, Law Camp, First Year Dinner, BBQs and Peer Mentor Program. In 2021 we are hoping to achieve a smooth transition from online to in-person university life with more social events. As such, we have planned many new and exciting events including Second Year Dinner and Cocktail Night. On behalf of the activities portfolio, we are excited to bring activities back and we cannot wait to see all of you there.

# **MEET THE EXECUTIVE**



Alicia Wise
Director of Careers (LLB)

As your Careers Director, it is my responsibility to assist and support you in the process of preparing for life after law school. From networking events, to mentoring programs, to riveting podcasts, and to the many informative seminars and workshops, my Careers team and I will work tirelessly to ensure that you are informed and prepared for all of your options after university. In addition to events regarding more unique pathways, we will also have several initiatives to support you throughout the clerkship application process. I look forward to seeing you at our events!



**Eddie Chen** *Director of Competitions (LLB)* 

In 2021 I'll be helping to oversee and run the many competitions the LSS offers each year. Our team consists of myself, five competitions officers and a judge liaison; together we ensure our competitors receive quality problems and judges. The LSS Competitions Portfolio is not only responsible for organising and running yearly competitions, but also innovating new competitions. We're excited to introduce some new competitions such as the JD & LLB Women's Moot.



Megan Liew
Director of Education

The Education Portfolio focuses on improving your time at law school. Our tutorials program consolidates course content while providing exam tips, while our health and wellbeing initiatives seek to keep everyone's minds and bodies healthy, to reach out and to give you the helping hand you need. We aim to smoothen the transition for international students and to foster a welcoming environment for everyone. We are also your advocates in the event of difficulties with assessments or academic progress.



Sarah Mason
Director of Social Justice & Equity (SJE)

The Social Justice and Equity Portfolio seeks to provide students the opportunity to engage with non-commercial areas of law, whilst also creating a safe and inclusive space for all. The Just Leadership Program allows you to advocate for change whilst our SJE seminars explore various fields of humanitarian law. Our Women's and Queer Officers run panels and mixers to promote equality and our SJE Guide outlines a wide variety of available social justice opportunities.

# **INTRODUCING...** YOUR FIRST YEAR OFFICERS

Hi Everyone! We're Sam and Ashley and we are your First Year Officers for 2021! It's our job to make your First Year at Monash Law School as rewarding, enjoyable and fun as possible!

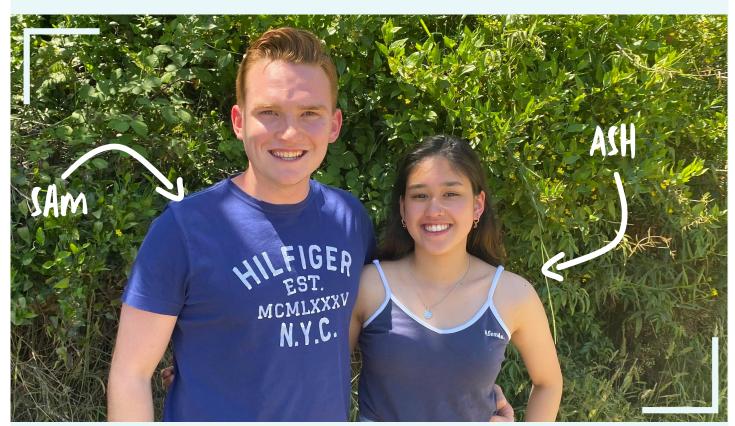
We are both caring, friendly, approachable and fun-loving Second Year Law/Arts Students who are completely dedicated to providing you all with the best year of your lives! 2020 was a rotten year for us all, so we are extremely passionate about providing you have about law or simply chat about any all with a 2021 that is filled with all the fun and awesome events, which we all missed out anything at all that we can do to support you on last year.

We've both had firsthand experience starting at University straight out of Year 12 and in transitioning to Monash Law School from another University or another course at Monash.

We know that this transition can be tough and are both thoroughly committed to ensuring your cohort has the smoothest transition possible into this new chapter of your lives.

Please never hesitate to shoot us a message on Facebook or come up and have a chat with us on campus! We are always around to give out handy study tips for first year subjects, answer any questions you might issues you might be having. If there is throughout your First Year at Monash Law School, or any ideas you might have, please let us know!

Sam Ponsford & Ashley Lee First Year Officers (2021) MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# **2021 ACTIVITIES**

# **BBQs**

Friendly faces. Free lunch. Every second Tuesday. On the LTB Lawn. Do we need to say anything else?

# **PUB EXCURSION**

Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean the seshes are too. Start your 2021 Uni year off with a bang! In the first week back meet us at the first bar of the night (TBD) and let us take you on a crawl down Chapel Street, stopping at our favourite hydration stations. Bring your old friends or come down and meet new ones guaranteed to support you through your law degree because we all know friends that crawl together, stay together.

# **COCKTAIL NIGHT**

Too fancy for a pub crawl? (Not possible) Too cool for the BBQs? (Also not possible) OR Overly eager for Law Ball? (Very much possible)Well you're in luck! Because it's time to suit up with your favourite outfits for our incredible COCKTAIL NIGHT! Slide into your favourite gown or button up your impeccable looking suits because this is not a night that you want to miss! Grab your mates and get on down to the most exclusive event on the LSS calendar, the LSS Cocktail Night awaits!

Sean Hanna & Lena Lay
Activities Officers (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **FIRST YEARS'**

# **LAW CAMP**

The most highly anticipated First Year event of the year, Law Camp allows First Year Law students to spend three days and two nights bonding through activities and games in a beautiful Gippsland location. The days will be filled with fun and engaging activities, whilst the nights will entail some incredible themed parties! You will sleep in organised cabins with your brand new friends and will be guided and mentored by older students.

This is the perfect opportunity to meet some new people and forge friendships which will last your entire degree.

# Sam Ponsford & Ashley Lee

First Year Officers (2021)

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **FIRST YEAR DINNER**

First Year Dinner is a mini version of Law Ball, held just for First Year students! Dress up with your new friends, enjoy a three course meal followed by dancing and music from one of Melbourne's best DJ's at an awesome venue in the CBD!

# **OUTDOOR FESTIVAL**

We are currently organising a brand new event especially for First and Second year law students! In light of the dramatic absence of live music in 2020, we have decided to hold an outdoor festival event. The day will showcase some of Australia's best up and coming artists, as well as an awesome DJ.

The aim of this event is to provide a social space for students to interact with each other, develop friendships and enjoy the mid-semester break!! Stay tuned for further announcements about some of the incredible acts we have lined up!!

# **FUNCTIONS**

# **SECOND YEAR DINNER**

Calling all second year students - we know your first year of Law wasn't what you expected, but don't worry! The LSS have got you covered with a Second Year Dinner just for you.

Pioneering this exclusive second year event, the LSS aims to make up for lost time and create an unforgettable evening of fine food, frolicking, fancy fits and - most importantly - fun. The night will consist of a seated dinner followed by dancing. Suit up and get down for the premiere of the LSS Second Year Dinner - an event not to be missed!

# **LAW BALL**

The much loved annual Law Ball is set to make a comeback in 2021, promising to be more spectacular than ever before! Previously held at The Peninsula in the Docklands and the Melbourne Exhibition Convention Centre in South Wharf, Monash Law Ball 2021 will be held at the Palladium at Crown. Join us for great company, exquisite food, and even more champagne sunrises.

Boogie the night away to incredible live music followed by a 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 festivities.

This night is guaranteed to leave you with memories to last a lifetime!

Delina Pham & Caitlin Kalaja
Functions Officers (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# LSS CAREERS

The Monash LSS Careers Portfolio is a combined LLB and JD portfolio that aims to provide both LLB and JD students (of all year levels) with a wide selection of high-calibre and informative events, with a view to introducing them to areas of employment and cultivating their professional networks.

We work together with law firms and other organisations to run a plethora of events throughout the year to help LLB and JD students explore the careers that are available to law students. We also publish an annual clerkship guide that aims to help students with their clerkship applications. All our events are available to both LLB and JD students, as our portfolios are combined to provide students with a greater diversity of events and opportunities to build their networks with legal professionals.

If you have any questions about our events feel free to contact our Careers Officers: careersofficers@monashlss.com If you have specific questions regarding the Clerkship Guide please contact our Careers Officers (Publications): clerkshipguide@monashlss.com.

Text from the Monash Law Students' Society Website page and by its content writers. See www.monashlss.com/careers-2 for more information.

# LSS COMPETITIONS

Law 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, and are a great compliment to the knowledge you learn in class.

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 the First Year Moot (*first year students only*), General Moots (Junior and Senior Divisions) the International Humanitarian Moot, Witness Examination, Client Interview, and Negotiations competitions, and many more.

All of our competitions (with the exception of the Deals competition) have two opening rounds, which every competitor takes part in - with a break to Quarter Finals for the top eight teams afterwards. 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 also plan on running workshops for most of our competitions, so make sure you attend those if you're interested!

Please direct any questions to our competition officers at compsofficers@monashlss.com.

Text from the Monash Law Students' Society Website page and by its content writers. See www.monashlss.com/competitions-1 for more information.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

# **QUEER EVENTS**

Ambra Soci Queer Officer (2021)

The LSS Queer Portfolio is a space that welcomes and celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and intersectionality. It fosters a culture that embraces all identities within the LGBTQIA+ community and encourages allies to grow with us. Our events provide students and legal professionals with networking and mentoring opportunities, as well as opportunities to connect with queer students from other law societies. The Portfolio's aim is to create a safe platform for students to feel empowered within the margins and build the confidence to surpass them upon progressing into the workplace.

### **Queer Mentor Program**

This year students can apply to through LSS' mentoring program to be paired with a queer legal professional. This will allow students to foster a mutually beneficial relationship in which insight, experiences and guidance can be shared. The program boasts a large variety of practice areas from which students can select. Our aim is that students will become equipped with the knowledge and the skills to overcome the barriers and challenges they may face as a queer person.

### **Queer Keynote**

Students attending the Keynote will be addressed by notable members of the queer community on relevant issues in the law. There will also be time for brief questions at the end.

### Queer in the Law - Panel and Networking Night

This event blends together the best parts of education and socialisation. The first half of the evening will be dedicated to providing students with a select panel of queer legal professionals. Students will be able to ask questions to the panelists. The night will then transition to a larger venue with students from other universities to facilitate networking.

### **Oueer Mixer**

This is the social highlight of our calendar. A fun and informal gathering for students to socialise with their queer peers from other universities.

### That's Queersay! Publication

2021 will see the launch of a new and exclusive online publication that will feature interviews with a comprehensive collection of queer and gender-diverse legal professionals. Each of the twelve edition will be themed in accordance with national/global LGBTQIA+ dedication dates and other relevant events. That's Queersay! will offer queer students a unique insight into the experiences and reflections of these professionals. It will also provide allies with an intimate immersion into the community and an opportunity to better understand the important role of allyship and how to perform it well.

# JUST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Just Leadership Program (JLP) is an initiative of the Monash Law Students' Society Social Justice & Equity portfolio. The program affords selected students the opportunity to listen to, learn from and network with high profile speakers with expertise in social justice and equity issues. Participants are invited to attend nine seminars focused on a range of social justice issues. The seminars are conducted in a Q&A format, allowing students the opportunity to ask questions directly to our panel of esteemed guest speakers. Past speakers include the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG; Professor Gillian Triggs; Andrew MacLeod and Julian Burnside QC.

Participants also enhance their leadership skills by undertaking a group project relating to one of the seminar topics. Past projects have included written law reform and parliamentary submissions and resources or interactive seminars for students.

At the conclusion of the program, participants are invited to attend a Graduation Ceremony, where the group with the most impressive project will be awarded a bursary to support the continued improvement and completion of their project. This will be followed by a Public Lecture, to which all law students are invited.

Ellie Hearnes & Amelia Grossi Just Leadership Program Coordinators (2021)

### **2021 PROGRAM DATES**

The seminar topics and dates are as follows:

- Introductory seminar (Tuesday 23 March, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of Asylum seekers and Refugees (Tuesday 20 April, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of People with a Disability (Tuesday 27 April, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of Older People and Elder Abuse (Wednesday 5 May, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of Animals and Environmental Justice (Tuesday 18 May, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Workers' Rights and Modern Slavery (Tuesday 3 August, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Tuesday 17 August, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Mental health and the law (Tuesday 24 August, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Rights of LGBTQI+ People (Tuesday 31 August, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Womens' Rights (Wednesday 8 September, 6:30pm-8:30pm)
- Graduation Ceremony and Public Lecture (Tuesday 21 September, time TBC)

### **APPLICATIONS**

Applications for the 2021 program will open on Monday 1 March 2021. 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 Ellie and Amelia at justleadership@monashlss.com.

# Women's Officer (2021)

# Issy Burton WOMEN'S EVENTS

The role of the women's officer is to promote gender equality and female empowerment through a diverse range of events and networking opportunities. These events are open to all genders but have a specific focus on maintaining equal opportunities for women in a largely male dominated field.

It connects aspiring students with seasoned female lawyers in order to pass down invaluable advice about pursuing a career in law as well as their views on the role of women in the legal profession today. Despite its focus, all genders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Semester 1

### **International Women's Day Charity Panel**

(Monday 8 March 2021)

This charity-driven event will celebrate the advancement of women's rights and empowerment. The panel will consist of female-identifying keynote speakers, speaking on their experiences as women in the law. All ticket sales for this event will be donated to charity organisations which promote female rights and education.

### **Professional Legal Mentoring Program - Women's Division Mentoring Program Launch**

(Tuesday 16 March 2021)

2021 will see the inauguration of a streamlined and inclusive mentoring program, enabling students to preference if they wish to be paired with a mentor who shares their gender or sexuality, as well as legal practice groups. Mentors will include lawyers from various practice areas and in different sectors, including top commercial firms and community legal centres, as well as barristers and judicial officers. Overall, the program connects students with professionals, allowing insight into professional life and building student networks. The female division of the program connects female students with female legal professionals who can provide insight into the challenges faced by women in law and advise on how to overcome gendered barriers.

### Semester 2

### **Women in the Law Breakfast**

(Tuesday 10 August 2021)

A sell-out event, the annual Women in the Law Breakfast will be held again in 2021, on the morning of Tuesday 10 August. The Women in the Law Breakfast is a fantastic event designed to celebrate female legal professionals.

### Women's Moot

- Workshop: Wednesday 18 August
- Round 1: Monday 23 August
- Round 2: Wednesday 25 August
- Semi-Final: Monday 30 August
- Grand Final: Wednesday 1 September

The Inaugural Women's Moot Competition will run for the first time in 2021 and it is a joint initiative between the Competitions and Women's Departments. The aim of this program is to increase students' perception of the accessibility of pursuing a career at the Bar, which remains a heavily male-dominated field. The competition is open to female-identifying and non-binary LLB and JD students. Requiring both written and oral submissions, this competition will provide a platform for aspiring barristers to practice their legal research and advocacy skills, as well as provide networking opportunities with female legal professionals.

### Women in the Law: Pathways & Possibilities Night

(Tuesday 7th September 2021)

In its fourth year in 2021, this event is designed to maximise women's professional opportunities, providing insight, advice and practical tools to tackle the major obstacles encountered in the legal world. Centering upon a theme of gender equality and female empowerment, last year's guest speakers included: a female barrister, who shared her experiences working as an international QC in areas of international law; a female in-house lawyer who shared her experiences working in house, as well as previously as a government lawyer; a lawyer in a commercial firm who shared her secondment experiences; and a lawyer who shared her experienced working in an innovative and technology-focused commercial law firm.

# **UITY SEMINARS**

In 2021, the Social Justice and Equity team have decided to continue to provide online Equity seminars via Zoom. Given how popular the online seminars were last year, we believe this will make the seminars more convenient and accessible to attend for all, so that no-one has to miss out! There will be three seminars held in each semester, covering a range of topics including Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Environmental Law, Institutional Abuse, Indigenous People and the Law and Mental Health and the law. We are also very excited to be introducing a new topic for a seminar in semester two, Addiction and the law, with various experienced and extremely interesting speakers lined up to talk about this important issue. It is strongly recommended that all law students attend these seminars, as it provides students an opportunity to ask individual questions to experts in an area of the law which they 17 are passionate about.

# **PUBLICATIONS**

Toby Nelson & Liz Walker Publications (SJE & Education) Officers (2021)

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY**

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY GUIDE**

The Social Justice and Equity Guide is an informative compilation of volunteer and career opportunities within the social justice and equity landscape. The guide outlines opportunities at Monash and in the community, both locally and internationally. The 2021 Guide Launch will take place on March 18, and will feature prominent guest speakers who will provide invaluable advice regarding their experience in using their law degree to drive social change.

### THE REASONABLE OBSERVER BLOG

The Reasonable Observer Blog is an online space focused on social justice and equity issues, and is the perfect way to keep up to date with legal commentary and current affairs. Our aim is to start an informative discussion about topical legal issues, with featured pieces including legal case notes, opinion pieces and snapshots on diverse areas of the law.

If you would like to contribute to the blog, please contact Toby at equitypublications@monashlss.com.

# **EDUCATION**

### THE BEING GUIDE

The Being Guide is a publication tailored to all Law Students to 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 can 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 Two, so keep your eyes peeled for the launch event and ensure 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 some of Monash's most sought after - and avoided - 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 through the LSS Website and on the LSS Facebook page. The publication will be released biannually, from the end of May 2021.

For more information, please contact Liz at educationpublications@monashlss.com.

# STUDYING LAW

# MAKING THE MOST OF LAW SCHOOL

The key to a positive university experience is to maximise your engagement in university life. It can be easy to isolate yourself in a new environment but there are a plethora of opportunities available at Monash that are designed to amplify your academic performance and employability, as well as your mental and social health. As a final year law student, I hope to pass on my top tips for ensuring you get the most out of university and effectively engage with opportunities available at Monash from the outset of your degree.

First and foremost, prioritise your mental health. Law school can be gruelling, but it will also be exciting and rewarding. Health and counselling services are available to assist in navigating the ups and downs of studying law, so don't be afraid to reach out. Excelling academically starts with developing connections with your peers and forming study groups to discuss concepts raised in class. While it may feel daunting to reach out to lecturers and tutors, they are always there to help with unit content, and should be your first point of call when any issues arise. Now is also a great time to browse electives available throughout your degree, including winter and summer intensives, Monash Law International Study Programs or other study abroad opportunities to flag your interests.

Continue to explore your interests and engage with as many clubs and societies across campus that appeal to you. Dive into the diverse social life university has to offer and connect with likeminded people. Attending LSS social events, competitions, Law Camp and Law Ball are great opportunities to meet new people and develop employability skills in a safe space. A strong professional network will be indispensable in the later years of your degree. Start connecting with students and mentors, attend networking events, establish a Linked-In profile and reach out for advice.

Gaining practical experience in law can be challenging, but there are opportunities available and it is important to develop a basic understanding of the profession. Be proactive, research early and consider clerkships and programs offered by law firms. Monitor job, internship and volunteering boards and don't let rejection discourage you from applying in the future. Employers also love a well-rounded CV so don't limit yourself. Tracking activity within your favourite areas of law and keeping up to date with advancements within the industry will assist in gaining a future competitive advantage and uncovering opportunities available that suit your unique pathway. There are also opportunities available within Monash including Clinical and In-House Placements and Professional Practice units that are a great way to gain experience while earning course credit.

Plan ahead but when in doubt, ASK! Course progression advisors, lecturers and faculty members can provide a wealth of information. In no way does this mean you need to have everything together. However, being aware of all the opportunities available will assist in making informed decisions for you and allow you to get the most out of your university experience.

Chloe Marriot
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# **STUDY TIPS & TRICKS**

Studying at university can feel overwhelming, especially considering how different it is from studying at high school. But don't worry! Here are some tips to help you feel more prepared.

# **Check Moodle before you begin!**

This is an important thing to do before you commence the semester. All of your pre-class work and assignments are there. Make a note of what tasks you have and when your assignments are due. This can help you to structure your week.

# Complete pre-class work!

Unlike school, where homework is assigned at the end of class, you are expected to have undertaken some level of preparation before you go to class. This can include lecture videos and readings that provide weekly content, in addition to problem questions. Answers to these questions should be prepared before class. It doesn't matter if they are correct - it's all about learning! Staying up to date with your pre-class work can make a huge difference, as it takes the pressure off at assignment and exam time and allows you to have balance. Some of this work is expected to be done before Week 1.

# **Prepare for lectures!**

Preparing for a lecture (whether pre-recorded or in person) can be beneficial. Copying and pasting lecture slides and creating headings to type under can save time while you're watching, as you do not have to type the content from slides during class.

# Prepare for exams throughout the semester!

Although exams may seem far away, preparing throughout the semester eases pressure come exam time. Completing the weekly problem questions for class (these are very similar to exam questions) ensures you have had some practice.

Taking notes on cases from lectures and readings throughout the semester can prevent you from having to write down facts for a large number of cases after the semester ends.

Adding these cases into a table with the headings "Case", "Facts", "Held" and "Principle" is a concise way of doing this and can be used in an exam. Ensuring your lecture and textbook notes during semester are concise, but still cover the main takeaways, will save time and stress.

# **Utilise your reading guides!**

These contain all you need to know, from each week's topics to cases, and can be used as a checklist of what you should understand. Highlight any areas of confusion.

# Make study more interesting!

This can be achieved through mixing up study locations, forming study groups, and ensuring you balance study with seeing friends and getting involved in university life.

# Ask for help!

If you are feeling confused, lecturers and tutors are more than happy to answer any questions during and after class or via email. Definitely reach out, as they are there to help! LSS tutorials and Sketchnotes can clarify and assist and asking friends and those in your classes can also clear up confusion. If you are feeling overwhelmed, reaching out for help is vital. Monash has support services and provisions such as special consideration in place to aid you.

Good luck with your 2021 studies!

Jessie Quinn-Quigley
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **TIPS FOR TRANSFERS**

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.

Take your time and do your best - everything worth doing takes time

### 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, notetaking 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. 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, 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 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **HIGH SCHOOL VS LAW SCHOOL**

Surprisingly, there are fewer differences between high school and law school than you might think! Here is an outline of their many similarities:

### **LSS Tutorials v Tutoring**

LSS Tutorials are the 'free tutoring' (only the cost of an LSS membership) service every law student needs! They are hour-long revision sessions of a unit's content (e.g. Criminal Law or Torts in your first year), conducted weekly by a law student who has completed that unit to a high (HD) standard. They are also accompanied with 'Sketchnotes', which are summarised, exemplar notes. LSS 'Tutes' and their supporting Sketchnotes cannot be forgotten but should never be solely relied upon!

### **Law Ball v High School Formal**

The biggest event on the law calendar: Law Ball! Taking place in September and with a Champagne Sunrise in every hand, it's the celebration of a year of study. It's the university equivalent of the biggest high school celebration you had, but it happens every year! It's not one to miss.

# Mooting & LSS Competitions v Debating & Speaking Competitions

If you were active in high school life outside academics, the LSS Competitions are just for you! Many law-exclusive competitions such as negotiations, witness examinations, deals and client interview competitions are conducted each year, as well as the most popular competition: Mooting! Mooting is a simulated court proceeding where student teams are given a legal problem which they present before a 'judge'. They are a great way to learn how the law works practically, apply your knowledge and meet new people.

### **Study Designs v Reading Guides**

In high school, there were study designs in your final years which told you all you needed to know about the outline of your studies. If you get stuck on an assignment or case law, the best place to go is to the reading guide! Every law unit provides a reading guide which outlines the cases you need to know and which sections of the textbook you need to read. If you want to learn more about a case in your reading guide, exploring the legal databases can be incredibly helpful! These include Westlaw, LexisNexis, and many others which can be found on the Monash Law library website. Legal databases are also very useful for your research assignments. If you ever get stuck, the learning skills advisors or the law librarians can assist you. There will be many opportunities to organise these meetings throughout your first year!

### **Law Exams v School Exams**

Law exams are both like and unlike school exams. Law exams are usually worth 50-60% of your final grade and pose a legal problem for you to advise a client on under timed conditions. This is very similar to high school exams, with both evaluative and knowledge based questions. However, a significant difference is that all law exams are typed on a computer and are open-book. Another difference is that there is no single way to do well. You could write an answer entirely different to your friend and both receive a wonderful score. It's all dependent on the quality of your answer; how logical, sophisticated and well thought-out your evaluation is.

### And another similarity...

They both have many wonderful people and are great environments to make new friends! They also require hard work to do well. Embrace every opportunity that comes your way and you're sure to have the time of your life at Law school!

Demitrios Kaminis
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **ACING LAW ASSIGNMENTS**

In between mountains of readings, pre-class and post-class work, as a law student, you are forced to juggle a handful. On top of this, you open Moodle to find out you have an assignment due that is worth 50% of your grade. Running on a few hours of sleep, you close your laptop in a fit of despair. How do you plan your time and approach to assignments so that you feel on top of the game?

Acing a legal assignment requires detailed research and sound critical thinking to dissect the topic appropriately. Therefore, to give you the best opportunity of attaining a coveted HD, here are a few things you should do as you go along:

# (1) When you receive the assignment

Read the instructions and note down the due date in your calendar. Then, designate times across the week where you will work on the assignment. Break down the topic and keep an eye out in the news for anything that may relate to your legal assignment. Brainstorm! Open Word and spill your preliminary ideas out. You can revisit your plan a few days later to see if you have any new ideas about the topic.

# (2) Preparing and writing your assignment

Conciseness and clarity are key. There is beauty in simplicity, and the ability to write in plain English is looked upon favourably in your assignments. If you are having trouble getting ideas on paper, utilise the resources available to you in the Law Library. In particular, an appointment with a Learning Advisor can help aid your research and clarify your assignment approach. Split the assignment up into smaller components to avoid overwhelming yourself. It is also satisfying to tick off the sections on your list as you go! Try to avoid the use of excessive abbreviations as a way to curtail the word count. Reference your resources as you go. Leaving this to the last minute may result in clumsy, careless mistakes in your footnotes and bibliography. Be sure to double check whether your assignment requires a bibliography!

# (3) Before submitting your assignment

Ensure that all citations are done using AGLC, and you have used the appropriate resources per the assignment instructions. Check the assignment requirements. A well-considered assignment often includes the little things like the appropriate font, page numbers and spacing requirements. It can be useful to reference the AGLC4 handbook for suggested formatting guidelines, such as how subheadings should look. Avoid submitting your assignment too close to the due time, as there may be technical difficulties.

Anna Huynh
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# FIRST 'FOL' ASSIGNMENT

For most of you, 'Engaging with the Legal System' is probably the first law assignment you'll do. Although it can be intimidating, it is one of the more unique assignments you'll do and can help you see the law in practice.

# **Getting Started**

This isn't an assignment you can pump out the night before, so don't be that person who finds themselves finishing their citations at 11:54pm. Give the assignment instructions a read as soon as they're released and read up on the relevant chapters for some preliminary understanding. This will help guide you so you know what to look for when you go to court. For approximately every 10% of its weighting, dedicate a week's worth of steady effort to the assignment.

### **Cases**

Grab a couple of people in your class and head out to the courts as soon as you can! Not only is this a great way to get to know some of your classmates, but the earlier you go the more options you'll have. Ask the staff for cases undergoing sentencing, as these will give you an overview of the whole case, and take copious notes. Go to the County Court if possible as these cases will give you plenty to discuss. To increase your mark, attend multiple hearings. A Magistrates' Court can be useful to grab a gauntlet of quick cases.

### **Structure**

Structure is easy to forget but good headings and structure will not only keep your writing focused, but will also make life easier for your marker.

# **Application**

Your mark will largely be determined by how you apply the cases you've heard. Connect your cases to your arguments and don't be afraid to show both sides of the discussion. Using cases that offer counterpoints to your main argument will add complexity and nuance to elevate your assignment to an HD level. Another tip: if you go to court early, you may be lucky enough to have your case made available on AustLII. This can be very useful for quotes.

# **Citations**

The biggest mistake you can make is underestimating citations. Although AGLC4 is a 300+ page behemoth, it is also the key to not losing simple marks. Albeit tedious, paying close attention to details such as whether to use round or square brackets is crucial. Your marker will go through your citations with a fine-tooth comb so be careful. Cite every point you make and lean on the side of overciting. If you need help, the Law library staff are your best bet.

# **Editing**

As every law student will tell you, there are never enough words. Figure out which phrases and statements aren't contributing to your overall meaning and cut them out. Succinctness is key!

Lasal Boyagama
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **FORMING A STUDY GROUP**

# Six reasons why you should form a study group

One evening in first year I joined some friends to discuss the legislation for our exam. Our voices filled the quiet corridors of the Learning and Teaching Building as we shared interpretations and speculated question scenarios. We annotated the fictitious statute until our pages became a mess of coloured highlights and scribbles. That night not only did I bond with friends, I also became part of a study group – a support network for which I am grateful. However this is not a dissenting judgement. Law students generally agree that forming a study group is critical to your success.

After chatting with my peers, I now have six reasons why:

### #1. A place to ask questions

While lecturers and tutors encourage students to ask questions, students may feel scared to raise their hand in fear of being judged by others. However, a study group is a safe environment for students to express their confusion and ask for help. A fourth year law student argues that "study groups are powerful in that they allow you to simultaneously help yourself and others".

# #3. Develops verbal confidence

It's important for students to feel brave enough to speak in front of others, as this is an important skill for performing well in tutorials and the workplace. In a study group, students can improve their oral abilities in a space where they feel comfortable.

# #5. Reduces insecurity

Law students often worry about how they are faring compared to their peers. Study groups can be useful as students often realise that their friends are struggling with the same topic that they are! Fourth year student Julian acknowledges that "there's a lot of anxiety involved if you're not sure whether you're ahead of or behind your peers" and asserts that "having a study group helps you know where you stand".

Sarah Hearn
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee, Deputy Editor
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

### #2. Improves understanding

Study groups provide the opportunity for students to explain legal concepts to each other in different ways. This can strengthen students' understanding. Moreover, through describing principles to others, a student's own understanding is heightened. Law student Jordan explains that while he has "learnt the content in lectures", he has "understood the content in study groups".

### #4. Increases motivation

Another law student considers that "the most valuable aspect of participating in a study group is the encouragement and support you get from your peers to stay on track with your studies". Being part of a study group encourages students to stay up to date and working through content together is much more enjoyable than reviewing concepts alone.

# #6. Forms friendships

Second year student Demitri believes that study groups help "break the ice" and "forge friendships". Moreover, attending a study session every week provides the chance to regularly catch-up with friends, which can sometimes be difficult to maintain during a busy semester. This ensures the formation of friendships which will last long after law school.



# **MAKING THE MOST OF TUTES**

There's no denying it, tutorials can be daunting. However, through preparation and participation they can be a positive learning experience. Monash Law Teaching Associates Karen Abidi and Nikolaos Nikolopoulos tell us how.

According to Nikolopoulos, getting the most out of a tutorial starts with turning up. He recommends that students prepare the best they can through picking out key ideas from their materials and considering the fundamental elements of the topics. Abidi advises that preparing in as much detail as possible will best place students to engage in discussion, identify the finer points of the analysis and fill in any gaps. On the other hand, Nikolopoulos says the tutorial itself is an exercise in learning so, if unprepared, students should not sell themselves short by not attending. Abidi also suggests that students should review the tutorial content after the tutorial to see if further revision is required.

When granting high participation marks, Abidi looks for students who have engaged with the tutorial material and contribute to the discussion. According to Abidi, students must know the law and have had a good go at applying it. Nikolopoulos rewards students who find their voice, ask and answer questions and expose their level of knowledge. Abidi argues that engagement and preparation create a positive feedback loop where students will find their classes more rewarding and satisfying, which will encourage them to keep on top of the content and prepare. Abidi also makes clear that the criteria for assessing participation can differ from unit to unit, so students should read over the assessment criteria to see what is required.

Abidi reassures students that if they have done a reasonable level of preparation, then making a 'mistake' is not an issue. She explains that formulating an answer to a legal question is complex, and there is usually not only one particular 'right' path or answer. Abidi reveals that if an answer is inaccurate, the tutor will guide the discussion in the appropriate direction. She notes that this is useful for the discussion as the tutor can clear up common misconceptions. Abidi suggests that if students don't feel comfortable coming to a conclusive statement, they could start the discussion with the key issue, legal test, or case. Abidi also recommends that if students are really struggling to participate, they can reach out to their tutor for some guidance and encouragement.

Nikolopoulos encourages students to consider tutorials as a law lab where legal and public policy experiments are undertaken and there are outcomes, not mistakes. He encourages students to remind themselves that the purpose of tutorials is to learn. He explains that the more students consider tutorials as their time to feel comfortable, involved and part of the Monash Law family, the more in tune they will be with the process. Nikolopoulos reiterates to students that the focus is on "you, your needs and your learning".

### Sarah Hearn

2021 Law Guide Subcommittee, Deputy Editor MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# RECOVERING FROM A DISAPPOINTING GRADE

A bad grade does not define it isn't the end the world ... it's an opportunity to learn.

On average, 40% of undergraduates will fail a unit, and many more will experience disappointment during their degree. In semester one 2020 I was one of those students. After weeks of hard work, I thought my equity assignment was perfect. So, imagine my surprise at seeing that it had gotten 52% and was "barely satisfactory."

If you're in a similar situation, know that hope is not lost. After I had a good cry, I got to work and ended up smashing the exam, leaving me with a distinction (76) in the unit, by following this three-step plan:

### Step 1: Grieve

It might be tempting to frantically email your tutor or start studying in overdrive. Don't do that. Instead, walk away and grieve. Expected or not, disappointing grades hurt, and you need to absorb the loss before continuing. Cry, watch trashy Netflix shows, go for a walk - whatever you need to do for yourself.

### **Step 2: Celebrate the positives**

Unless you got 0%, you have probably done something right. It is important to balance out the negativity with some positivity, no matter how small. Find one thing - anything- that you did well and celebrate it. Even if it is just writing your name correctly.

### **Step 3: Learn from the experience**

There are three main reasons we receive disappointing grades:

# Misunderstanding the content

If you...

- Missed key cases, legislation, principles, etc.
- Realise your answer didn't match the suggested
- Don't understand the suggested or model answer

### <u>Time management</u>

- Left a substantial portion of the work til the night before,
- Finished the assignment early and spent the remaining time nit-picking or rereading it, or
- Spent more time preparing or reviewing your notes than actually writing

# Lack of practice

If you...

- Had trouble structuring your answer,
- Had trouble issue spotting
- Felt you knew the content but didn't convey it properly, or
- Missed a few smaller points or issues.

### Final tips

You now have a practical plan, but self-doubt probably still lingers - I know that feeling. Unfortunately, my final tip is the hardest – accept that improvement is not linear. For better or worse, downturns are a natural part of learning, and recovering is not about never receiving a poor grade again, 28 but learning from the grade and growing as a student.

### Consider...

- Changing your study methods, i.e. focussing more on lectures or readings, how you take notes, etc;
- Focus on practice
- Ensuring you review the material throughout the semester

### Consider...

- Creating a study schedule to your needs, i.e. a block schedule or aim to complete tasks by a certain time or day,
- If you are more productive at certain times or need rest breaks, and
- Evaluating underlying procrastination habits

### Consider...

- Allowing yourself at least a week before the assessment to practice or write drafts,
- Reading feedback or HD answer guides and comparing your work and editing notes,
- Identifying structural problems and writing a skeletal answer structure for different topics

**Hayley Duncan** 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' **SOCIETY** 

# **'CASE NOTES' 101**

# Contrary to public opinion, perfecting the case note can be mastered as a Jaffy.

So, your Crim 1 lecturer has just announced the semester's assignment – i.e. the dreaded "case note". You might be wondering what this is but take comfort in the fact that at least 90% of your friends are in the same situation.

The Law Library guides can help, but following templates can lead you into the trap of submitting an oversimplified case note resembling something similar to what your friends have done. But, don't panic because we have the answers here for you.

There are effectively two components to the "case note". First, structure. Second, the commentary. Let's tackle these one by one.

### **Structure**

Case notes should be structured into four parts: (i) Facts, (ii) Procedural History, (iii) Decision and (iv) Commentary or Analysis. Hot Tip: Your lecturer will thank you immensely if you use these as numbered subheadings. You can find heading styles in the AGLC4.

The "facts" and "procedural history" must be as short as possible. If you don't know what "concise" means, you absolutely must crack open the dictionary. Master concise writing and you are halfway to getting the elusive HD.

Hot Tip: Details about the facts and appeals are found often in the opening paragraphs of the judgment or in the "key words" on CaseBase.

The "decision" should summarise the legal principle for which the case has become authority. It should be longer than the facts and procedural history but shorter than the commentary. Ideally, you want to identify what the majority and the minority judges on the bench had to say about the case.

Hot Tip: The majority reasoning is the "ratio".

Try to avoid falling down a tunnel of obscure legalese about legal jurisprudence or archaic English precedent.

The bulk of the marks is in the commentary — are important, is crucial!

# **Commentary**

The commentary or analysis should be full of your original, sophisticated and insightful thoughts on the decision. You want to query whether the majority were on track or whether greater regard should be had to the Great Dissenters like Kirby J. Consider the practical impact for the parties – what implications did the court's conclusion have for the parties and what can future litigants be wary of? You may also try to tie the decision to interesting industry or doctrinal developments – and yes, this might mean some research.

Ultimately, the purpose of the case note is to provide the greatest depth of understanding about one particular decision in the shortest possible time. The commentary enables the reader to understand exactly why the decision should be read.

Mastering the perfect case note will place you in high esteem amongst the future QCs and academics or solicitors that you may end up working for once you graduate from Jaffy status.

Hot tip: Don't underestimate the case note!

# Samira Lindsey 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **LEGAL ANALYSIS**

Let's be real, writing a legal analysis for the first time can be daunting. From case briefs, essays and even exam answers, here are five tips to make sure you are conducting great legal analysis and evaluation every time.

# Tip 1: Identify the key issues

Identifying the main issues and theories surrounding the question is the starting point for constructing a law essay. To distinguish the legal issues, you have to look at the relevant law and the common topics of discussion in research around the area. After highlighting the essential concerns, this forms the basis for the structure of your essay.

# Tip 2: Take a stance and justify it

The second most significant element of analysis is the argument. Depending on the action word in the question (to what extent, discuss, how), you will need to adjust the argument you are making. Justifying your argument is also essential and can be done through case authority, academic sources and statistics.

Take a methodical approach to planning your response — state your position clearly and concisely.

# Tip 3: Look at the other side and discredit it

A single line of argument is not enough to show the high-end legal analysis that examiners are looking for. You have to show that you understand and appreciate opposing arguments even if you favour a particular viewpoint. Discrediting the source is also important in showing why your argument is more persuasive. This can be done by pointing out flaws in the case law, or by looking at its impacts.

### Tip 4: Use resources and point out whether their comments are flawed or justified

Most essays involve using academic sources to develop your argument. You must use sources that are the most relevant to the issue then evaluate the use of these sources. This can be done by stating the reputability of the source or by highlighting any biases of the author. For example, Justice Kirby is going to favour a more progressive judgement, whereas Justice Callinan is going to promote a conservative view of the justice system. Don't only include comments favouring your argument and omit other opposing key findings or principles from a case as this will not serve you well.

# Tip 5: Look at the decision from a policy perspective

The last point of analysis that helps distinguish students is looking at policy arguments. This can be done by considering the broader impact of having the legal rule and the possible implications for future cases. There may be social, political, and economic reasons why the courts favour a particular interpretation. There may also be possible reforms that you can suggest to address the issue moving forward that have not yet been put in place by the courts or legislature.

Erin Page
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# PREPARING PRODUCTIVELY FOR EXAMS

Let's get this straight: law exams are challenging. Many students have fallen victim to disappointing results despite dedicating hours to exam preparation, and it's completely possible that this may happen to you too. Late nights spent painstakingly writing exam notes, compiling case summaries and three-hour long study calls may work for some, but they aren't necessarily the answer. The key to excelling in Law School is knowing how to productively make use of the exam preparation period, and it all begins with these study tips.

# Tip 1: Do not leave exam notes till SWOTVAC

Most – if not all – law exams are open book, meaning that you can bring notes to guide your responses. Be warned: writing exam notes is incredibly time-consuming. Not only are you consolidating your lengthy lecture notes, but also your readings, tutorial discussions and other resources for every examinable topic. Leaving exam notes until SWOTVAC means you have less time for practice exams, which should be given the highest priority. Instead, maintaining consistency by writing exam notes throughout the semester, preferably every week while the content is still fresh in mind, will save a lot of stress. Note: you cannot just use your lecturer's slides as this amounts to plagiarism.

# Tip 2: Revise with study groups

You are often required to consider opposing arguments when advising a client or responding to an essay question, meaning there is great room for discussion. Study groups allow you to consider points you have overlooked and to work collaboratively to construct strong practice responses. Set tasks to complete and meet up to cross mark and discuss key areas of difficulty. While fighting procrastination can be a real challenge in the build-up to exams, study groups ensure that you are held accountable and are a great source of motivation. There's something reassuring about knowing you are not alone when you stumble on a difficult concept!

# Tip 3: Meet with lecturers and tutors

As the exam period approaches, lecturers and tutors will often send an email detailing their consultation availability. Make good use of this while you can! While they are unlikely to read through and mark your entire practice exam, they can clarify challenging concepts and provide feedback on how to strengthen your responses. As your lecturers and tutors are likely to be inundated with student consultations from their other classes, it is crucial that you go in prepared. Ensure you have attempted the task to the best of your ability, prepare a list of specific questions and seek advice on how to tackle your weaknesses.

Productive exam preparation is a skill worth investing time in to develop during your Law degree. With the right methods and strong self-belief, acing your exams can become a reality!

Felice Lok
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY



# Binari Almeida Guest Contributor MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

**PASS** 

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) is a program that is run by the law faculty which aims to assist first year students. PASS sessions are run weekly and cover relevant content learnt in the previous week's lectures and classes, whilst also going through practice questions which can assist in preparations for exams.

These sessions are run by a current student who excelled in the subject and are therefore more likely to assist and answer questions that you have as students. Unlike law lectures and seminars, these sessions consist of smaller classes with a smaller number of students ranging from 12-30, which provides a more comfortable environment where students are allowed to ask any questions they like.

PASS is highly recommended as it helps with the transition from high school learning to university learning, and it is also a wonderful way to make friends in first year with other students. Enrolment is completed through WES after the semester begins, and although it is not compulsory it is highly recommended.

# LSS TUTES & SKETCHNOTES

Anthea Digiaris
Tutorials Officer (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

The LSS's Education team is committed to providing a comprehensive range of resources to students to assist them in their legal academic pursuits. From its renowned Student Tutorials Program to its student wellbeing programs and academic support services, the Education Portfolio is designed to cater to the needs of all students.

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 2021, the First Year Crash Course will be complemented by our inaugural Research Skills Seminar and towards the end of semester, our Exam Skills Seminar. For international students, our successful Plain Legal Writing Seminar also returns in 2021.

During the semester, the LSS Education Portfolio additionally offers supplementary weekly tutorials and revision seminars for over 17 Law units (core units and popular electives!) as part of the LSS Student Tutorial Program. These tutorials and seminars are run by engaging, vibrant, high-achieving past students and are designed to clarify key concepts and assist students with exam response structure. Students also have access to Sketchnotes and practice problems for each of these units via the LSS website. This program has garnered a great deal of positive feedback from students over the many years it has been running, and we anticipate 2021 will be no exception!

All of the above and so much more is free with the purchase of an LSS membership. See you soon!



# INTERNATIONAL **STUDENTS**

**Catherine Li International Students Officer (2021) MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS'** SOCIETY

### **International Student Luncheons**

The Monash Law Students Society is pleased to announce the return of our student luncheons held exclusively twice a year. We extend a warm welcome to all international students and all students on exchange to join us. Whether you wish to exchange personal experiences, seek advice regarding your academic career in Australia or even just take some leisure time away from studies, please feel free to come along and enjoy some relaxation with peers! We look forward to seeing you there!

# **Plain Legal Writing Seminar**

Learning to write accurate legal language can be one of the first and foremost challenges for a law student as they adopt an entirely foreign writing protocol. This is especially true for any students who may already be troubled by English expressions and syntax. Nonetheless, it is a vital skill for one who pursues a legal career, and it is one which will be developed and fortified within many assignments and competitions throughout your journey with Monash Law. Hence, the Monash LSS aims to provide plain legal writing seminars with one of your professors, with material tailored specifically towards the particular needs of law students to assist them in maximising academic achievement. Come down and be propelled forward into your future in law.

### 2021 International Students Insider Guides

Insider Guides are comprehensive, free guides for international students, carefully researched and created by expert locals and fellow international students. The guide would provide you a better insight and guidelines on how to live the best out of your overseas adventures. You may download these guides (PDF) from the LSS website, meanwhile limited hard copies would be distributed at the start of the year.

For any queries regarding your academic life at Monash Law, please contact Catherine at interoffice@monashlss.com.

# THE LAW BUILDING

The Monash Law Building will be the hub of your social and academic life over the course of your degree. Here's your ultimate guide to where to go:

### **Ground floor**

The ground floor of the law building is infamous for its buzz of student's voices between classes, and, well, during "study" sessions. On the ground floor, you will find class rooms (often utilised by seminars, notably first year classes), the kitchen (with functional taps!) and study nooks. In order to use the study nooks, go up to the first floor of the Lawbry to the Services Counter to get your card verified. You can also find the LSS office on the ground floor, to the right as you walk in.

### First floor

The first floor of the Lawbry has both Library and Student services counters as you walk up the stairs, to your left. There is ample space for group study on the first floor, so if you plan on organising a study group, here is the place to study. There are shelves of impressive documents, such as older indenture, judgments and legislation.

### Second floor to fourth floor

On the second to fourth floors, you will find important legislation, textbooks and any and all documents that you will need to get you through your degree. If you plan on studying in a quieter space by yourself, these floors will be your 33 second home over the course of your degree.

# STUDENT SERVICES

# **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)**

DSS is designed to support you in your studies throughout your time at Monash and if eligible, you should absolutely make the most of these services. Upon registration with DSS, you can access a range of services such as note-takers for lectures, flexible assignment deadlines, and alternative exam arrangements. These services are available to both students with disabilities and carers.

### Services for students with disabilities

If you choose to disclose a disability or physical or mental health condition that impacts your ability to study, DSS are available to support you! To register for DSS you must provide documentation from a medical professional to serve as evidence of your condition. This information stays with DSS and will not be passed onto Monash teaching staff or future employers. From Auslan interpreting, scribes, the provision of extensions and even accessible accommodation, DSS will try to support you and your academic pursuits. Other services include the provision of alternative formatting for learning materials such as electronic text or braille, and there is also the possibility for extra time and rest breaks for exams. There are a multitude of adjustments to exam conditions that can be made to accommodate individual-based needs and circumstances should you pursue them. Registering with DSS also means it will be easier for you to apply for special consideration.

# Services for students who are carers

Students who act as carers for a person who is elderly, has a disability or a physical or mental health condition can also access DSS. Where this role impacts your ability to study, reasonable adjustments can be pursued and made in order to support your academic success. To do this, you will need to register yourself as a carer.

For more information consult the DSS' website: https://www.monash.edu/disability

# SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

It is quite possible that at some point in your degree exceptional circumstances beyond your control will find you needing an extension on an assignment or to defer an exam. To be eligible for special consideration you need to believe you won't be able to or did not in fact complete an assessment as a result of personal circumstances beyond your control. These circumstances include things such as acute illness, loss or bereavement, hardship or trauma and have high thresholds.

Other circumstances such as involvement in military service, jury duty, emergency services or Monash Sport's athlete support program may also render you eligible. You should apply as soon as you can with the relevant supporting documents to evidence your claim for the faculty to consider. Consulting Monash Connect and the relevant online materials on special consideration is highly recommended to ensure success in your application. It's recommended you apply even if you're unsure whether you're eligible! Furthermore, if you're registered with Disability Support Services (DSS) you will not be required to provide a medical certificate when applying, but instead need to confirm your DSS registration and disclose that the reason you are applying is related to your registration.

# Emma Anvari 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee, Deputy Editor MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **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.

### 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.

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.

# LSS & ACADE

### What has the Monash LSS achieved in 2020 for education?

The Monash LSS Committee for 2020 strongly advocated against the use of Examity in Semester 1 exams, as well as fair and equitable exam conditions and regulations for online exams. The 2021 LSS Committee has continued on with this advocacy, including advocacy concerning the offering of law electives in 2021.

### What's new in education?

The Faculty of Law has created the Student Consultative Forum. This forum is designed to sit alongside the elected members of the LSS Education portfolio to ensure the consistent delivery of quality education and improve student experience.

There has been new legislation introduced dealing with cheating, plagiarism and collusion in a tertiary academic setting. The legislation can be found here: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019B00243. A summary of the measured contained in the bill can be found at https://www.teqsa.gov.au/legislation.

The University now requires all students to complete an online academic integrity module, which can be accessed here https://www.monash.edu/students/admin/policies/academic-integrity. Please ensure you complete the module and familiarise yourself with the legislation.

## **REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT MARKS**

If you receive an unfavourable mark, you may be able to have the assessment remarked. The process for obtaining a remark can be found online at https://www.monash.edu/law/current-students/assessments/faculty-remarking-procedures.

For in-Semester Assignments, the assessment must be weighted more than 10%, and the grade cannot be a fail grade (as such marks are automatically reviewed). You first must obtain additional feedback from the original marker. The Unit Guide or the Assessment Feedback document can usually inform you of the process of doing this.

If you have not had a response from the marker within 5 business days, email the Chief Examiner of the Unit and note the lack of response. If you are of the opinion that the marker's additional feedback is unsatisfactory, you may email the Chief Examiner. When doing so, write a memorandum which outlines the marker's alleged errors within two weeks of receiving your mark.

You may also be able to request a remark of end of semester Exams and Assignments, weighted at least 30%.

First, you will have to request a copy of your exam script, which can be done through www.monash.edu/law/current-students/assessments/exam-feedback-procedure. Then, review your exam script.

If you believe there has been an error in marking, you must write a memorandum (**see advice below**), detailing the marker's alleged errors and the deficiencies within your own writing.

For Semester 1 Units, this memorandum must be sent to the Chief Examiner <u>within eight weeks</u> of receiving your overall Semester 1 Unit score.

For a Semester 2 unit, the memorandum must be sent before the census date of Semester 1 the following academic year. You can expect a response and outcome within 21 days from the Chief Examiner.

The Chief Examiner has 21 days to provide an outcome. If you have not received an outcome within 21 days, please elevate the matter with the Associate Dean of Education.

**NOTE**: IF A REMARK OCCURS, THE NEW MARK WILL STAND, EVEN IF IT IS LOWER THAN THE ORIGINAL MARK.

# MIC SUPPORT

### When writing your memorandum, consider the following:

- Did you meet the learning objectives as required by the Assessment task?
- Did you answer all the questions appropriately and sufficiently?
- Did you allocate your time correctly as per the assessment tasks instructions?
- Did you analyse the facts correctly?
- Did you correctly identify the legal issues?
- Did you discuss legal issues which were not relevant?
- Did you correctly cite legal principles?
- Did you mention if there was any further information needed, and how this information would have changed your answer?
- Did you discuss any conflicts raised by the question, and evaluate the likely success of each argument?
- Did you conclude on each issue?

If you need further support, please email the Amelia, the 2021 Academic Support Officer, at academicsupport@monashlss.com.

# **ACADEMIC PROGRESS COMMITTEE**

The Academic Progress Committee (APC) conducts hearings to monitor the progress of students who are experiencing difficulties in maintaining an acceptable standard in their academic work.

This may occur if:

- You have failed to pass half your units in an academic year.
- You have failed to pass the same compulsory subject twice.
- You have not abided by conditions imposed by the Dean or the APC.

### Before an APC hearing, a student can:

- Get advice from the Monash Student Association Student Advocacy and Support. Information about this can be found at: https://www.monash.edu/law/current-students/assessments/exam-feedback-procedure
- Seek professional counselling if you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed by the situation. The University provides free counselling services, which can be accessed in the Campus Centre or by calling 03 9905 3020.
- Reach out to the LSS Academic Support Officer if you need further help, at academicsupport@monashlss.com.

### After an APC hearing, you may be able to:

- Continue your enrolment at Monash Law, with a normal workload.
- Continue their enrolment at Monash Law, but with conditions determined by the APC, including a reduced workload or seeking support services which are offered by Monash.
- Be excluded from enrolment at Monash Law. **Note:** This does not affect your ability to enrol in another degree at Monash or another tertiary education institution.

Further information can be found at https://www.monash.edu/students/academic-progress/hearings.

### **Amelia Preuss**

Academic Support Officer (2021)

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **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.

Do some research into which areas of the law you are particularly interested in this is an opportunity to expand your interests and skillsets.

### **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—

- LAW805 Mooting and Advocacy Competition;
- LAW4806 Jessup Moot Competition; and
- LAW4807 Vis Arbitration Moot.

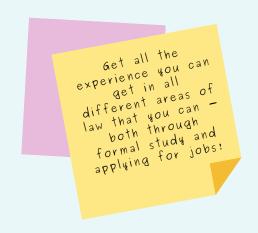
### Liz Walker

Publications (Education) Officer (2021)

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP

Looking for practical legal experience to compliment your law degree? Need to boost your CV? Clinical Placements connect Monash Law students to placements to enrich their experience during Law school.



The Clinical Placement is an 'umbrella' unit that houses a number of different placement opportunities (LAW4803 Clinical Placement/ LAW4811 In House Placement). LAW4803 Clinical Placements are hosted by organisations external to Monash University, usually at their premises. LAW4811 In House Placement are conducted in partnership with an external organisation, but are hosted at Monash Law Clinics in the CBD. Placements are one day a week over a period of 12 months and available placements differ between semesters.

Previously, law firms such as King & Wood Mallesons and Stary, Norton, Halphen have hosted students, as well as In House Legal such as Carlton & United Breweries and Tennis Australia. Students are able to preference such law firms in their application based on what area of law interests them most; whether it's insurance law, criminal law or intellectual property law, amongst other areas of law. International research clinics, court internships, community legal work, and government or governance clinics are also available for students. These opportunities are good exposure to practical legal work and also to what career path you're hoping to forge in law.

Students are required to have completed all first and second year law units (LAW1XXX and LAW2XXX units) as well as LAW3112 Corporations Law to be eligible for Clinical Placement. Students undertaking Sexual Assault and Family Violence clinics must have completed LAW4328, LAW4330 or LAW5050

Preference for a placement in these specialised clinics will be given to students who have completed these units. Specific placements may have further pre-requisites. Further, preference will be given to students who are near to completing their degree and who have not yet completed another placement. Applications are assessed and selected based on a combination of the Cover Letter, CV, and course marks (WAM). For some placements, the host organisation may wish to interview a shortlist of applicants and contribute to the final selection.

Assessment for Clinical Placement units include a host supervisor report, reflective journals and a video case report. There is some flexibility as to how marking weight would be balanced as appropriate for each individual placement. A seminar program is also required and is a hurdle requirement.

Vivian Lai-Tran Law Student



# SAMPLING LAW

# **EXCHANGE**

As I strolled nonchalantly through central Vienna's illuminated Christmas Markets in late 2019, clutching a hot Bratwurst to warm me against the light winter snowfall, Monash University's Clayton campus felt half a world away. It was, but I was on the way to class during my semester abroad at the University of Vienna in Austria, which would be credited towards my Monash Law degree.

While COVID-19 has unfortunately halted many of our travel plans, when international travel resumes Monash Law students will be able to take advantage of the university's myriad of overseas study programs. Monash's Semester abroad program allows students to undertake a looks great to prospective employers on your semester (or two!) overseas with a partner institution. While studying overseas, students remain enrolled at Monash and receive credit towards their Monash degrees. Monash has student exchange agreements with over 160 partner institutions in over 35 countries across Europe, the UK, the Americas, Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East, so there is no shortage of exciting options.

Alternatively, the Monash Law Prato Program enables students to study between one and four law units at the Palazzo Vaj palace in Tuscany, Italy. This is a popular program for students wanting to study overseas for a shorter period, while still getting a taste of travel and Italian culture. Furthermore, the Global Intercampus Program (GIP) allows Monash students in Australia to undertake one or two semesters of study at the Monash Malaysia campus near tropical Kuala Lumpur, with the possibility of receiving a generous grant and sponsored student visa.

**Findlay Miller** 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

From my own experience in studying abroad in Austria, the benefits of studying law overseas are immense. Studying in another country is a unique opportunity to travel, meet students from around the world, and experience living in a different culture. A free weekend during my semester abroad could just as easily be spent exploring the rooms of Vienna's baroque imperial palaces as catching a bus to nearby Budapest or Prague. Academically, overseas study allows students to study unique areas of law in an entirely different jurisdiction. I often felt that after returning to Monash, I had an advantage over other students from the courses I studied in Vienna. Overseas study also CV and fosters attributes like independence, confidence and cultural awareness which are bound to prove valuable through university and beyond. With the help of generous Monash grants and government loans, studying overseas is not only highly beneficial, but also surprisingly affordable.

So, as I would say in Vienna: Worauf warten Sie?



# **DEBATING**

The Monash Association of Debaters (MAD) provides first year law students with a brilliant space to practice their public speaking skills in a fun and inclusive environment. In semester one, debates are run in a 3 v 3 format. This then transitions into the British Parliamentary format in semester two. Meetings begin with a short training session and then follow with a practice debate. Dinner is also provided at weekly training sessions, giving members a chance to get to know one another and build the social networks that are integral when starting university.

Skills developed through debate are immensely valuable to law students, helping advance their public speaking abilities alongside critical thinking and argumentative skills. While debating does tend to attract a lot of law students, it is also a great way to meet others in different faculties. MAD provides weekly training sessions focused on certain skills and topics in a way catered to debaters of all skill levels. Weekly meetings further give members a chance to practice their skills in mock debates and receive invaluable feedback from their peers. Debaters will get to discuss topics of a broad range of subject matters, including economics, international relations and science.

MAD provides first year debaters with the mentorship and support necessary for everyone to thrive. Plenty of opportunities to participate in inter-university tournaments are also on offer, some of which are particularly catered to first years.

# MODEL UN

Model United Nations (MUN) offers students a chance to simulate the role of a delegate in the United Nations. Participants will be allocated to a specific council, centered around topical world issues. Within this council, students will be assigned a country to represent in drafting resolutions and speaking on such matters. For law students in particular, MUN provides a unique opportunity to build their collaboration skills and mediation skills, whilst also helping them to build confidence in their public speaking abilities.

Run by the Monash International Affairs Society (MIAS), the MUN program at Monash is accessible to new MUN'ers and veterans alike. Training and introductory sessions are run to help those new to the activity. MUNash, the large conference run by MIAS during the October mid-semester break, is an incredibly fun and rewarding experience. While it is a great opportunity to improve your MUN and diplomacy skills, MUNash is also an incredible chance to meet people facilitated by fun social activities throughout.

Additionally, MIAS sends two monash teams to the NMUN and World MUN conferences. If selected for either of these teams, students will be provided the chance to travel internationally to compete with students from universities across the world.

Stephanie Vesel
Guest Contributor
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

## **MOOTING, COMPETITIONS & DEBATING**

Ever wondered what it's like to argue a case before a judge? Does legal research thrill you? Do you harbour fantasies of being called "my learned friend" or "counsel"? If so, mooting at Monash might just be for you!

Mooting is a mock courtroom experience where teams of two or three students are given a legal problem and must find cases to support their client's position and present the case to a panel of judges. Courtroom formalities are enforced and it's important to stay calm and rational (we're not talking presidential debates here!).

In 2019, my friends Emily, Yu Xuan and I decided to enter First Year Moot - with some hesitation, since we were all completely new to mooting. After attending a workshop on the basics, we spent endless afternoons in the law library, poring over Westlaw and Casebase or rehearsing our speeches. This is how barristers must feel, I thought one day, hurrying across campus with a hefty file tucked under my arm, wondering when my next cup of coffee might be. No detail of our case escaped the judges' hawklike scrutiny and they didn't hold back on grilling us. We found our rhythm after a couple of rounds though, and went on to triumph in the grand final (held in the famous Monash moot court!).

The best thing about mooting is the way it forces us to think like lawyers - you have to consider a case from every angle while staying confident in your ability to persuade. Since winning First Year Moot, I've been a finalist in General Moot and judged the 2020 First Year competition (being called 'Your Honour" was very nice!).

If that all sounds like a bit too much preparation, you should still get involved with other LSS Competitions, like Client Interview and Negotiations. Here, you can roleplay a solicitor trying to get the truth out of a slippery client or negotiating a lucrative contract for circus dogs - the scenarios are always a lot of fun. Plus, you develop important soft skills to help you nab that elusive law job.

Finally, if you're looking for something more casual, you might enjoy Tuesday night training at Monash Association of Debaters (affectionately known as MAD). Whether you're already a formidable debater or a total novice, MAD is a welcoming, non-judgmental community and we provide free pizza every Tuesday.

Brynnie Rafe
Guest Contributor
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **MOOTING EXPERIENCES**

Last year myself and my team mates had the pleasure of participating in the Grand Final of the Monash LSS General Moot Junior Division.

A moot typically involves two teams of two barristers and an optional third solicitor competing against each other. Teams are presented with a mock legal problem, from which they are to draw arguments to support their client using the facts of the problem along with relevant case law. These arguments are then presented before a judge in a moot court scenario. This competition is a great way to test out your research, oral presentation and writing skills.

This was a great experience and I would highly recommend first years participating in this year's upcoming General or First Year Moot to test their advocacy skills. Aside from getting a taste of what many lawyers do for a living, this is a great way to bond with teammates, meet new people and receive advice from legal professionals who are experts in their field.

Ruby Wensor 2020 General Moot - Junior Division - Grand Finalist

# **COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES**

Volunteering at a Community Legal Centre (CLC) is great for two reasons. One, in assisting the community through interesting and challenging work, and two, whilst developing your own skills in communicating, note taking, reasoning, organisation and confidence. Through work undertaken at CLCs, students develop valuable work experience that can help with future career growth and opportunity. There are a number of CLCs in and around Melbourne where there are opportunities for volunteering and professional practice law electives.

### **MONASH OAKLEIGH LEGAL SERVICE**

The MOLS service located adjacent to Monash University's Clayton Campus is a legal centre which provides free legal advice to socially and economically disadvantaged residents. You can get involved at MOLS by volunteering in the night advice only sessions or through the Professional Practice law electives offered by Monash University.

### **SPRINGVALE MONASH LEGAL SERVICE**

Similar to work undertaken by MOLS, SMLS is also a community legal centre which provides free legal advice to local residents. I currently volunteer at SMLS as a caseworker, which is a fortnightly commitment and involves interviewing, note taking, communicating advice to the client under the supervised guidance of a qualified lawyer. The work also includes creating a file note and summarising the legal advice provided to the client. Prior to casework, I volunteered also on a fortnightly basis as a receptionist at the centre, which involved attending to clients as they entered the legal service and collecting details of the client and a brief overview of their matter. Volunteering at the legal centre is a fulfilling and at times challenging experience, and is completely different to textbook knowledge learnt at Law school.

### **ARSC HUMAN RIGHTS LAW PROGRAM**

The Human Rights Law Program is a community legal centre providing access to justice for refugees and people seeking asylum. See ASRC article for more details and how you can get involved.

Contact your local community legal centre and enquire about any volunteer positions!

Mahi Joshi
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE**

### WHAT IS THE ASRC?

The ASRC is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based predominantly in Footscray that supports people seeking asylum through the provision of resources and support services as well as through campaigns, advocacy, social and legal work.

### **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

The ASRC is in need for volunteers throughout the year to work in various departments and recruit new volunteer positions quarterly. ASRC's next major recruitment round is set to happen in January 2020 and then in April. Hop on over to ASRC's website to submit an expression of interest to volunteer!

### **ASRC INFORMATION NIGHTS**

The ASRC hosts several information nights to educate the public about the different ways they can engage with the centre, including volunteering, campaigning, fundraising and more. These nights are a great way for students and general members of the public to speak directly with ASRC staff and volunteers about the great work they do.

### **STUDENT PLACEMENTS**

The ASRC may offer a limited number of student placements each year. These placements are often organised through the university or education centre specifically. If interested, talk to Monash University directly

### THE ASRC HUMAN RIGHTS LAW PROGRAM

The ASRC HRLP is a community legal centre and a member of the Federation of Community Legal Centres that provides access to justice for refugees and people seeking asylum. The practice offers legal support including expert immigration advice and engages in community legal education and training. The Human Rights Law Program also offers a Practical Legal Training program. Students must commit to volunteering for 2-3 days per week for a minimum of 60 days. To apply to undertake the Practical Legal Training or a student placement with the Human Rights Law Program, send a cover letter and CV to amy.s@asrc.org.au.

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE, BY EIDDWEN JEFFERY

The benefits of volunteering at the ASRC are immense. Not only have I been able to network with a group of like-minded people, with whom I share core values, but I have also been able to widen my experiences and understanding of the world. Especially when it comes to understanding asylum seeker and refugee policy in Australia. When volunteering, I know that I am working within an organisation that helps provide for individuals and families that are having to re-build their sense of home. The range of services stretch over social needs (food, housing), medical (vaccinations, counselling), legal, education, employment and advocacy services. All of these services help to support and give individuals a sense of autonomy and respect. Each service has so many parts and jobs that everyone can contribute, helping lend your time and skill set towards a collective goal. For me it was administration, helping out on reception, through which I have had the opportunity to grow, support and improve the opportunities that are given to asylum seekers.

Mahi Joshi 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# 'ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE'

### The intersection of law and theatre

As Law students, the amount of time in our calendars available for extra-curricular activities can be tight. In your first year there will be hundreds of clubs and societies vying for your precious time, but I'm here today to make the pitch for student theatre at Monash. Now full disclosure, I have been heavily involved in student theatre throughout my degree both on stage and in the director's chair. I can say with full confidence that nothing has been as valuable to my law degree as student theatre.

But what skills can a law student gain from theatre? Only the most important skills a law student can have; confidence and time management.

Eventually, in every law student's degree, they will have to give an oral presentation or present a hypothetical case to an examiner. The key to success in these assessments is confidence – and nothing builds confidence like student theatre. No matter your acting experience or skill level, student theatre is a great place to experiment, learn and gain confidence in your performing abilities. Even a little bit of improv work in a safe supportive environment will help immensely with your ability to think quickly on your feet when questioned by a tutor or lecturer.

If performing isn't your cup of tea, no worries! Student theatre has dozens of backstage roles that don't require you to set a foot on stage. From stage management to marketing – or even writing if that takes your fancy – all of these roles will teach you important lessons about managing commitments and working in a team. As someone for whom group assignments have been the very bane of existence, I can assure you that the experience you gain from working with a diverse group of people with different skills is incredibly rewarding.

Beyond the skills you can gain from student theatre, joining the world of student theatre provides an instant community of diverse and exciting people. Studying law can often be very isolating and developing friendships with other students from other disciplines can help you experience other aspects of university life. While these friends may never understand why you get so excited about the principles discussed in R v Brown, they provide a healthy escape from the monotony of Law school. Not to mention the added bonus of how easily impressed they can be by minor legal facts.

### Give it a go!

Law is inherently dramatic and performative. Just look at how riveting 'Suits' is! So, why not join the Monash Uni Student Theatre (MUST) community, gain a few essential skills and make lifelong friends? I can honestly say that joining MUST in first year was the best decision in a year full of important decisions. I hope in writing this article I can inspire a few of you to follow in my footsteps and make the most out of your time at Monash.

For more information or to get involved with Student Theatre visit https://msa.monash.edu/theatre/

Gregor Campbell
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# 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).

### LAW4193: 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.

### LAW4542: AI, technology and the law

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
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **TECHNOLOGY & THE LAW**

### A snapshot into legal tech: AI, Chatbots and more

In an era where we can pay for coffee with a smartwatch or order groceries from our mobile phones, it is no surprise that technological developments are catching up in the legal industry.

### What is Legal Technology?

In a nutshell, legal tech refers to the software and applications that help legal professionals provide legal services to clients. It can come in any form, including:

- Chatbots
- Al-enabled research tools
- Phone applications

Legal tech is becoming increasingly popular as it takes away the time and effort associated with the more mundane tasks, allowing lawyers to focus more on the legal issues. There are a variety of tools being developed that allow lawyers to efficiently store files, record their time or sort through overwhelming bundles of documents.

Legal tech is also being used to increase access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Persons from a low socio-economic status can access legal services without having to pay exorbitant fees to compensate lawyers for trivial tasks which are now automated processes!

### Why is this relevant to me as a student?

This is a developing and exciting area of the law that many students may not be aware of. I certainly had no idea of this when I began my law degree. It is important to keep in mind that there is no set pathway for a law student and the growing legal tech industry further provides an innovative career route that students can take.

In recent years, legal tech start-ups such as Checkbox or Josef have become incredibly successful. The meaning of a 'modern lawyer' is truly changing so I urge you all not to feel pressured to follow a more conventional route. Entrepreneurs in the legal industry are becoming increasingly sought after and, according to Steve Glaveski, CEO of Collective Campus, investments in legal tech start-ups have increased by a factor of 20 over the past six years. This number is only expected to grow in the future. Furthermore, most leading law firms, like Allens and Clayton Utz, have set up their own departments purely dedicated to legal tech.

### How can I learn more/get involved?

You don't have to be a coding genius or tech whiz to get involved in the legal tech space! There are various ways you can get involved, regardless of your technical skills. OrganisationsBotL. is a student-run non-profit that is focussed on re-inventing the way Australian law schools prepare students for the future of legal practice. Following and potentially joining organisations like BotL. is a great way to get involved. The Australia Legal Technology Association also has a blog regarding the latest updates in the industry. This can be found at https://alta.law/blog/AcademicsMonash University runs a Legal Technology Clinical Placement unit (LAW4803) that you can also take later in your degree. CertificationOrganisations like Checkbox and Josef offer free short programs where you can dip your toes into app and chatbot development.

Christine Zhong
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# **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 Monash University Student

## PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

# (PLT)

Walking out of the law library one last time, I was excited by the prospect that I could finally enjoy weekends free of study and assignments. However, to much disappointment, this expectation was short-lived as I embarked on the final step to becoming a lawyer, Practical Legal Training (PLT).

Throughout my legal education, older generations would repeatedly ask about articled clerkships. Articled clerkships were abolished in Victoria in 2012, in favour of PLT in an effort to harmonise the legal profession across jurisdictions and address the increasing number of law graduates and limited graduate positions available at commercial firms.

Easily understood as an extension to your law degree, PLT trains law graduates as future employees, to be fit to meet the perceived needs of law firms and similar. Rather than test your research skills and understanding of the law, PLT strengthens your practical legal skills such as drafting affidavits, court documents and client letters.

The majority of law graduates complete PLT as a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from an accredited PLT provider. The two PLT providers in Victoria are College of Law (CoL) and Leo Cussen Centre of Law (Leo's). Traditionally, CoL is selected by graduates with full-time jobs or those seeking a relatively relaxed learning experience. In 2020, the majority of top and mid-tier commercial firms contracted with CoL to provide their graduates with PLT. Leo's is a great option for law graduates without full-time jobs, looking to develop a mentee-mentor relationship and seeking a more immersive learning experience.

Although the course structure differs between CoL and Leo's, there are generally three to four assignments for each unit. While practical and generally easy, assignment instructions often lack direction and are time-consuming to complete. Assignments are marked as complete or not complete. Not complete marks are common and when this occurs you are given detailed feedback and asked to resubmit.

In addition to the coursework, PLT requires you to undertake a legal placement and accumulate professional development points. Placement is unpaid work experience in a law firm and the aim is for you to learn on the job skills. The duration of placement varies from as little as 15 days to 75 days.

For domestic students, PLT costs approximately \$10,000 and student loans are available through the FEE-HELP scheme. If you are a graduate with a commercial firm, the firm will typically cover the fees.

Although costly and at times frustrating, upon completion you will finally be able to enjoy weekends free of assignments and you will be one step closer to being admitted as an Australian lawyer.

### **Georgia Wilson**

Monash LL.B. Graduate - Legal Technology Lawyer at MinterEllison

# SETTING GOALS TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR CAREER GOALS

Hi, my name is Liz, and I'm a law student. You're probably wondering what this article on 'setting goals' will entail. A few 'hot tips', a few 'do's and do not's', perhaps? Perhaps the secrets of the universe of 'how to ace law', and what not?

Everyone's experiences of obtaining legal jobs (i.e. legal assistant and paralegal positions) and internships (both law and non-law) are different - there is no 'hard and fast rule', or recipe book to cooking up the perfect application or to having the slickest resumé. Kicking those career goals are not contingent on following any rigid process. However, here are a few pieces of advice I have picked up along the way...

### Make contact lists and reach out to them!

While sometimes a game of 'who you know', creating professional opportunities is not necessarily contingent on having an elaborate network of professionals at the tips of your fingers. Attending career-oriented events is useful and making a list or 'database' of sorts of places and people you want to reach out to is useful. Never be afraid to reach out to someone you have met and ask for a coffee - people really like helping other people. Additionally, write a generic 'expression of interest' email to send to individuals, firms and organisations you may be interested in working at, using the company's HR email (usually found on their website) to send through your resumé.

### Set goals and operate on timelines!

Whether you're a task manager or consider yourself a 'do-er', goal setting is an incredible tool to not only achieve what we want to achieve, but to hold ourselves accountable to having direction.

Goal setting can look like longer-term 'SMART' goals, or shorter-term daily checklists. 'SMART' goals are

- Specific: specific and narrow, for effective planning and accountability;
- Measurable: able to be quantified (with evidence) that you're making progress, and able to be evaluated and adjusted if necessary;
- Attainable: realistic and reasonably accomplishable within the timeframe you have set;
- Relevant: aligning with your values and long-term goals, aspirations and objectives;
- Time-based: realistic, taking into account prioritisation of tasks in front of you, and motivation.

Checklists can look as simple as ordering tasks and shorter-term goals to complete in order of priority. For example, I utilise a 24-72 hour checklist, using an alphabetised system to prioritise tasks to complete in 24 hours as 'A - [task]', in 48 hours as 'B - [task]', in 72 hours as 'C - [task]', and longer (weekly) goals as 'D - [task]'. This helps me stay on task and focus and ultimately lifts my motivation to get stuff done.

### Get your resumé and LinkedIn going!

Update your resumé using a free trial with platforms such as Canva.com and make it 'grab-worthy'. An organised and concise resumé goes a long way in making you 'stand out from the crowd'. Additionally, having an updated, orderly LinkedIn profile assists with employers familiarising themselves with your work history, your personal values, and your interests.

### Get organised and diarise everything!

There are many organisational tools out in the ether that will assist with keeping your time management, organisation and goal-setting up to scratch. Whether a hard-copy diary, Google Calendar or Reminder system, or other apps keep you going, or perhaps you're not sure, staying organised enables you to maximise your time and kick those goals. Some recommended apps include Evernote, Slidebox, Any.do and monday.com which enable you to set timelines, attachments and other useful tools to achieve those goals and tasks. Hard-copy diaries are also useful - the mere act of writing down an appointment, task or event helps you remember it!

Liz Walker
Publications (Education) Officer, 2021
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# STAYING UP TO DATE WITH THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

The legal industry is ever-changing and evolving. It's vital for us as law students to be well-informed about new and emerging areas of law – not to mention the skills employers are looking for in law graduates. Emerging areas of law and legal industries such as AI, online family dispute resolution, changing defamation laws and constitutional challenges are key examples as to why it's more important than ever for us to be able to find practical ways to stay well-informed about these areas. I sat down with three practicing legal practitioners for some insight into their careers and their tips on how to stay on top of the law as it develops.



## Q. What surprised you about the legal industry when you first started out? Natalie Goharpey, Senior Counsel at UniSuper

How varied your experience could be depending on where you worked and the culture of that organisation, whether it was working in a particular area of practice, working for a government department, a boutique firm or top tier firm.



### Suganya Pathan, Barrister at the Victorian Bar

How quickly you do gain skills and experience – often especially when you feel like you have been thrown in the deep end on a matter – and how dramatic a learning curve it is in hindsight. Also, practical experience volunteering at a community legal centre was very helpful to my work at a commercial law firm, even though the subject matter could not have been more different.



### Nicole Mollard, Barrister, Mediator and Monash University Lecturer

I expected practicing lawyers to be very academically gifted like my law lecturers; and I was surprised to learn that having business acumen was a far greater indicator of future success in a big city commercial law firm than having high distinction, as opposed to credit, average grade in your law degree. (The fact that this surprised me is a big tip off that commercial law and I were not meant to be!)

### From the Experts:

### Q. How do you recommend staying up to date with what happens in an area of practice?

- Subscribe to case updates from Barnet Jade
- Sign up to the LIV (free for law students!)
- Follow lawyers on LinkedIn (the three above are great examples!)
- Subscribe to HCA's monthly summary
- Read the headlines in the daily papers
- Read the headlines in Inbrief (weekly newsletter of the VicBar)
- Subscribe to the Law Institute Journal (monthly)
- Sign up to the Victorian Law Foundation
- Follow DAAN Legal (for updates in international law and business consulting)
- Follow ALTA (for legal tech news)

Ultimately it is in our control if, when, and how we stay up to date with the law. Check out the above resources to find a way that interests you.

Best of luck for the future!

Mahi Joshi 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# A CAREER OUTSIDE OF LAW

Melissa Nolan is a distinguished Monash Law alumna who currently works as the Compliance Manager and Company Secretary at E.L. & C Baillieu Limited, an Australian stockbroking firm. Melissa talks to us about having a career outside of law.

### Can you tell us about your position?

I am the Compliance Manager for E.L & C Baillieu Limited and I am also the Company Secretary for the company, all of its subsidiaries, the holding company and the trustee company.

My position as the Company Secretary involves a lot of paper work. I make sure things are lodged on time, the paper work is right, call meetings and more.

As the Compliance Manager, I make sure that the firm is compliant with its various regulatory obligations, from its obligations as an Australian financial services licensee through to making sure that we have appropriate processes in place so that we are complying with legislative provisions.

In my day-to-day life, how I use law is understanding how to apply the laws and how to make them practical in terms of implementation in an organisation. Understanding how to read legislation is also really important because a lot of what I do is very technical and a lot of the guidance is very technical. In my position, you need to be able to understand how to read legislation, know where to find it, how to find the guidance around it, know how to engage with regulators when you have got questions.

## What would your advice be to students who are not sure whether they want to pursue a career at a law firm?

Keep your options open. There are lots of routes available and it is not just about wanting to pursue a career at a law firm. There are so many areas where a law degree can be useful- it could be in litigation, it could be in government, it could be at a regulator.

You really need to think about what is your end goal and then work out how you are going to get to your end goal. If you have a vision of where you want to be, you can figure out all the ways you can get there. Leave as many options open as you can so that you have the most flexibility of being able to do what you want with your future career.

You have to really think about what your end game is, how can you get there and talk to people. Talk to people about how they got where they got, seek out people that can help you with their opinions.

Your career is not over if you don't end up getting a placement at a law firm at the end of your degree. There are lots of different ways you can get to where you want to get to.

Isabelle de La Masse-Homsy 2021 Law Guide Subcommittee MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

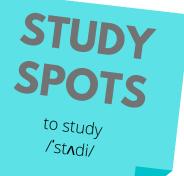
# SURVING LAW

# GETTING TO KNOW CAMPUS



The scenic surrounds of the Monash Clayton campus make enjoying a cuppa or a bite to eat even more of an experience. Have a look at these, recommended by fellow law students, for your lunch break with mates:

- Cinqué Lire café (15 Innovation Walk)
- Nesso Café (Ground Floor, LTB, Ancora Imparo Way)
- Church of Secular Coffee (32 Exhibition Walk)
- Secret Garden Eatery (13 College Walk)
- Taste Baguette (Ground Floor, Menzies Building)



Struggling to find the perfect place that will bring the motivation, the focus, and the finished essay? Looking for a location beyond the four walls of the Lawbry?

Have a look at these places and get that assignment done and to break free from that motivational rut.

### **Louder locations**

- Ground Floor, LTB
- Basement, Matheson Library
- Upstairs at Campus Centre
- Outside the Secret Garden Eatery
- First Floor, Hargrave-Andrew Library
- Lemon Scented Lawns, Campus Centre
- Woodside Building for Technology
   & Design

### **Quieter locations**

- Third Floor in an empty class room, LTB
- Top Floor, Matheson Library
- Top Floor, Hargrave-Andrew Library

... any top floor of any library, really!

Whether you need that 3pm caffeine hit, or have arrived at the ungodly hour of 8am on campus for a tutorial, do yourself a favour and stock your system up with enough "buzz" to get yourself going for (at least, hopefully) a few hours:

- COFFEE STOPS to drink coffee /drɪŋk / 'kɒfi/
- Grafali's, Campus Centre (well known for their EPIC jumbo iced-coffees)
- Taste Baguette (their chai lattés are superb)
- Artichoke & Whitebait (grab a delicious snack or lunch while you're here!)
- Papa Joe's Pizza (great slices for lower prices) & Schnitz
- Café Saporo (for the perfect cappuccino)

As well as Guzman Y Gomez, Schnitz & PapaRich.

Congratulations on getting into law school! It is a fantastic achievement to be here. Of course, the transition into university and into law can be a difficult one. We have allIIII been there. However, the Law Peer Mentor Program (PMP) is here to kick-start your law school journey and help you along the way!

For more than a decade, the PMP has been responsible for facilitating the efficient transition of first year students by fostering positive social relationships, and we look forward to continuing to do so in 2021.



2021 will be the first year ever that will see every single first-year law student allocated to a mentoring group! This means that every new student will be allocated to a group of approximately 10 first year students, and assigned two students who will be in the second year or above of their law degree. Your mentors will be there to guide you through your first year of law.

All of the mentors are enthusiastic students who are equipped to answer any questions you may have, whether they relate to study skills, campus life or exam prep, or any other uni-related issues you may come across in your personal and professional lives during your first year at university. Most importantly, they have been in your shoes within the past few years, know the position you are in and are here because they want to help! They will also be present at all events that we have planned to make your first year journey more enjoyable, especially in your first few weeks.

In the lead up to, as well as during your first semester, the PMP will provide you with numerous chances to meet and spend time with your mentors and fellow mentees, make friends, have fun, and gain insight into the exciting road that stands before you.

Natalie Adler
Peer Mentor Program Coordinator (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# A LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

### Aaron Chisholm Monash LL.B. Graduate - Tax Lawyer at MinterEllison

Hi me

24 January 2021

### How to succeed in law school without really going (too) nuts

Welcome to your Monash Law experience. There will be some incredible days – picture yourself relaxing on the lemon-scented lawns, sinking beers with your new mates. Your FOL books will see a *lot* less sun.

I don't want to burst your bubble, but (*I assume?*) you're here because you want a job after uni. I know this sounds stressful. I've set out some advice for you as you set yourself up on your journey.

This handy (and sometimes apt) mnemonic may help you recall this advice:

# <u>Chill out; Reflect; Adapt; Set goals; Hunt new experiences</u> (CRASH)

### Chill out

At some stage, when the beers have worn off, you're going to stress about this whole job thing. After a couple of years, everyone will be freaking out, talking about it (and regularly using the 'c word' (no, I mean clerkships) and your friends will start getting part-time legal jobs.

You'll feel inadequate because you didn't. But it's ok. It can be helpful but you don't need a law job (or HDs) to get a clerkship.

It's also very important to look after yourself, whatever this means for you. It could be gym (wish I did this), video games, books, or getting on the beers. It doesn't matter, just do it, however busy you are.

### Reflect

This is the most important question at law school: what do you want to do after uni? It might take some time to work out. You might not know until later in your journey, too. But it's important to reflect on this before you get lost in the 'way'.

You may not want to be a lawyer. That's fine. You may not want to do commercial law (which a lot of information at uni is geared towards). That's fine. Whatever you want to do, there is help available from Monash staff, the LSS and your mates (especially any older mates you have).

But don't forget, it's your journey.

### <u>A</u>dapt \*\*

\*\*Read 'S' first. Sorry, 'CRSAH' is a terrible acronym.

If things don't go to plan (they won't), don't panic. There are many, many ways to get where you want / need to be. You'll be rejected for jobs and clerkships, you'll get some s\*\*\* marks. It's fine. Plenty of my friends had speed bumps in their journey. They're all working now. One in London, some in Canberra, some in government and some in private practice. Some senior lawyers I have met through my journey have similar stories.

Whilst it sucks, these setbacks just mean you need to regroup and try something different. Oh, and look after yourself (and your friends).

### Set goals

Once you've reflected on what you want, plan how you'll get there during your degree.

Assuming you want to try your hat at clerkships, how do you get one? There are many ways to prepare.

You could get legal work experience (try Monash's Career Gateway). You could get some nonlegal experience and develop other soft skills (e.g. customer service, time management, writing and communication skills).

You could volunteer too. You can help your community and develop legal skills at community legal centres. You could also start or continue a hobby. Firms love to know who you are - not just what your marks are.

### **Hunt new experiences**

Be as open and eager as possible throughout your journey. You'll have some unforgettable experiences which may be outside your comfort zone (think studying in Florence, taking on roles in the LSS, or random internships that come your way).

However worried or scared you may be, embrace and seek out these opportunities and throw yourself into your uni experience. You really do get what out what you put in.

But you know what: if you don't follow these tips and do something different, that's ok... I ended up as a tax lawyer.

Yours faithfully Also me

**Aaron Chisholm** Monash LL.B. Graduate - Tax Lawyer at MinterEllison

# 'THE BALANCING ACT'

Let's face it, a law degree can feel like a full-time job. It can be hard to wrap your head around all the readings, tutes, lectures, and assignments, before adding in the social life of a twenty-something year old, a job, on-campus life, and exercise. It can be overwhelming, but **it's integral to your law school success that you make time for all those things that make you happy in life**, whatever they may be. This isn't easy to do, so I chatted to some fellow law students about their top tips for managing a busy uni agenda.

### The consensus: it's all about the balancing act.

Overwhelmingly, it was pointed out that uni grades are only at their best when appropriately balanced with other important aspects of life. You need to take time to foster your mental health and happiness. **The best way to manage your mental health and your study is to get planning!** Whether it's Google Calendar, a diary, or reminders in your phone, planning your time carefully is a great way to ensure you're compartmentalising work from play. This will help to avoid that feeling of guilt when you should be recharging. Where you can, plan your social events, work and exercise ahead of time so you can fit your study schedule to accommodate those important recharge moments.

Another student suggested **setting mini goals each week of the semester** such as which parts of your readings you want to get done by the end of each week. This ensures you stay on top of all your work and you won't need to start compromising the things you love as the semester gets busier. Utilise your mid-sem break as best as you can - set half the week for study, and half the week to take a complete break! That way you head back into the heavier part of the semester on top and recharged. Ultimately, **productivity goes hand in hand with doing things you enjoy,** and if you marry these two well you'll avoid the dreaded burnout. Know what your study limits are, and know when it's time to stop or take a break.

It is very hard to look after your wellbeing when you aren't maintaining a healthy study-life balance. If you commit time to doing things outside of uni that you love, your quality of work will be higher. Of course, during exam period and other busier times in semester it can be difficult to maintain these commitments. However, **the more time you put into the balancing act during the quieter periods, the more productive the busier ones will be.** 

Millie Page
2021 Law Guide Subcommittee
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# HEALTH & WELLBEING AT MONASH LAW

Balancing your physical and mental health and wellbeing is of utmost importance as you progress through your Law degree. The Monash Law Students' Society (LSS) understand this - and this is why we run many events to ease the stress and unease of studying law. In 2021, we intend to make your law student experience as enjoyable - and positive - as it can be.

### **Wellness Wednesday**

'Wellness Wednesdays' are pop-events run in Week 6 on... You guessed it, Wednesday... to bring back some joy and relaxation into your mid-semester slump. We provide an abundance of goodies, including freebies, snacks and other activities to break up the monotony. This will provide some much needed stress relief moving through the pointy end of the semester!

### **Mental Health Week**

Mental Health Week occurs toward the end of semester two. You have endured almost a year of your law studies and at this point, it is even more important to prioritise your mental health. Boost Juice, tasty snacks and other goodies are given away over the course of this week, with the highlight being the launch of the 2021 'Being Guide', a publication promoting your mental, emotional and physical wellbeing.

### **Mindfulness Sessions**

In 2021, we are running a seminar in order to equip students with the skills to refine their mindfulness practices, with a focus on stress and anxiety relief. There will also be refreshments, and we are very keen to see you there!

### **Morning Tea**

For the first time, the LSS is introducing morning tea sessions in the Law Building Kitchen. These sessions are for students to come and have casual conversations and chats with other students and members of the LSS committee, including the 2021 Health and Wellbeing Officer, Natalie, and the Director of Education, Megan. Feel free to come in, destress with some tea and biscuits, let us know how things are going and if we can help you in any way!

### **LSS Therapy Dogs**

Boof and Kaz, the LSS Therapy Dogs, are part of our Law School family. Visiting the Lawbry weekly, they collect pats and cuddles from all students. A great way to release some stress, take a break and cuddle something cute! Be sure to check out the LSS Health & Wellbeing events and publications for 2021 - stay tuned for more to come!

Megan Liew & Liz Walker
Director of Education & Publications
(Education) Officer (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CARING FOR YOUR MENTAL PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

More than ever, it is important to be introspective and care for every part of ourselves. Yes, we're talking about maintaining and caring for the 'holy trinity' of your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. From whatever you've heard from older friends who are studying law, studying another degree, or even from what's been said - and what you've 'vibed' - from this publication, maintaining a 'balancing act' (see page 59) is integral thriving in your academic, social and personal journeys and being the best version of yourself you can be.

The Monash Law Students' Society wholeheartedly believe that your mental health is crucial to your academic - and personal, and career - successes are dependent on having both a network of support to get you through some of the tougher, more challenging moments of your studies, as well as maintaining activities outside of your studies and work that make you happy.

While it's hard to find time in your day to balance everything on your plate, at the end of the day, it makes you a higher capacity individual. Without breaks, we would <u>all</u> run flat. Without hobbies and co-curricular interests, we would <u>all</u> feel unmotivated and unhappy. Without getting to live out what it looks like (*for you!*) to be a young adult and student, we would <u>all</u> be undeveloped personally, as people.

Caring for your mental, physical and emotional health and wellbeing is a trinity integral to achieving what you want to achieve, and getting the most out of the next four to six years of your life. This trinity is dependent each element being balanced and protected.

**Physical wellness** can look like anything from, for example, going for a walk everyday, doing a workout a few times a week, playing sport and physically challenging yourself, such as by a trip to the 1000 Steps in Dandenong. Health professionals recommend that as an aim 30 minutes of general, moderate exercise per days is what the body needs. Studies also find that maintaining your physical wellness uplifts both your mental and emotional wellness. It all comes down to science!

**Mental wellness** may range between taking *more* or *longer* study breaks during stressful points in the semester, ensuring to maintain your social life, dedicating time for YOU everyday, and so much more. Have a think about what makes you "tick", and what your personal needs are in order to maintain a happy sense of self and the world. Maintaining a strong 'mental wellness' programme also looks like "switching off" at appropriate times of the night, keeping tidy spaces and keeping your emotional wellness in check.

**Emotional wellness** generally is reflected in your mental wellness. Ensuring you are mentally well may range from maintaining balance within your daily, weekly and monthly routines, checking in with your mental health with a Counsellor, learning more about who you are, journalling, and maintaining your physical and mental wellness.

If you feel like you need help - always ask. Monash provide counselling services (see page 61) and online services such as Beyond Blue and Headspace. Never be afraid to talk to someone if you're feeling overwhelmed or unhappy.

Liz Walker
Publications (Education) Officer (2021)
MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE. YOU ARE WORTH IT. TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST

As a law student, it can often feel overwhelming and isolating. Despite having hundreds of others studying the same course, it can feel like no one truly understands what you're going through and the stress, anxiety, disappointment and overwhelming feelings you may be feeling.

Reaching out to someone is so, so important. Movements and organisations, such as 'R U OK', are important to raising awareness for mental health as well as providing consistent support, available throughout the years, for those who may be doing it mentally tough. Everyone is different and everyone's experiences differ. Maybe you don't feel comfortable talking about what you're feeling or what you're going through, but it's important to feel empowered to have a voice. After all, a load that shared is a load halved.

### **Family**

For those lucky enough to have family members with whom they feel comfortable talking and confiding in, this is a great option. If this isn't a viable option for you, for whatever reason, there are other options, too. You are not alone.

### **Friends**

It can often be hard to open up to friends, especially when they are in the same course and you feel like they aren't feeling the same way as you are. Having trusted friends is important and often, friends doing the same course - whom you trust - are good to talk to. Same theory goes as the classic 'if you have a question, ask it, because chances are that half the class as the same question'. If you are struggling with something, chances are someone else is having the same challenges with the same assignment, or the same social issues, similar family dynamic, or same identity questions. Opening the doors for an open dialogue builds trust and puts more minds to work on the same question. It also builds individual and group support. After all, we're all in this together.

### **COUNSELLING SERVICES**

### **Monash Counselling**

Monash Counselling is also available for each and every Monash student. It is situated in the Health Clinic on the Ground Floor of Campus Centre, beside the Pharmacy and opposite World Point. There are a number of Counsellors who have different specialisations including academic, social and general anxiety. Plus, if you don't feel comfortable with a specific Counsellor you can always see another one here. You can call Monash Counselling to make an appointment, but there is also phone counselling services, open 24/7: 1300 STUDENT (1300 788 336).

### **Non-Monash Counselling**

If you have MediCare, you may be entitled to get a 'Mental Health Plan'. You can get this from your GP. Essentially, this grants you ten free or subsidised sessions with a psychologist or psychiatrist. Your GP will refer you to somewhere - this could be Headspace, a private psychologist/psychiatrist, or whatever you prefer.

No problem is too small. Just because someone has 'other' - in your opinion, 'bigger' issues - does not mean yours aren't worth discussing or shouldn't impact you. Please reach out if you feel like you need help. Reaching out is the first step - and, although hard, it's worth it.

Natalie Adler & Liz Walker Peer Mentor Program Coordinator & Publications (Education) Officer (2021)

MONASH UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

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