



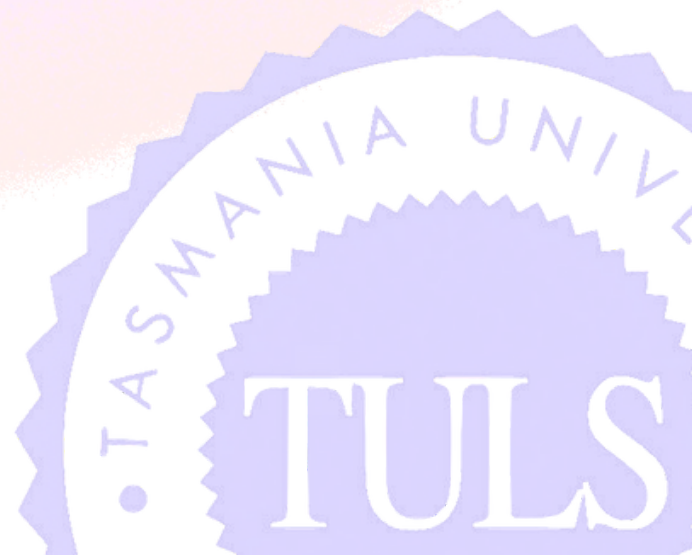
Pettifogger

Issue 4



About this issue

- Meet our newly elected TULS committee members
- Information on graduate experiences
- Clerkship application tips
- Hear from our sponsors



Arnold Bloch Leibler

Lawyers and Advisers

Great minds think differently

What can you expect from our program?

Your clerkship will provide you with a unique insight into the experience you would have as a Law Graduate at Arnold Bloch Leibler. You will quickly become immersed in our culture, have the opportunity to work with partners on active matters and be given real responsibilities.

What do we look for in candidates?

We value good grades and a sharp intellect, as our work is complex and intellectually challenging – but our shortlisting process doesn't end there. We value life experience, lateral thinking, commercial acumen, resilience, imagination and a passion for the law.

We appreciate people who use initiative and can accept shared responsibility for their career development, with a willingness to learn and a sense of humour.

"I chose ABL because of its unique offering to graduates – I found that ABL was one of the few firms which encouraged client contact and experience across a variety of different matters from day one."

Drew Hawkes, 2022 Law Graduate

Key dates

Applications open:
Monday 3 July 2023

Applications close:
Sunday 13 August 2023

Interviews:
September 2023

Offer day:
Wednesday 18 October 2023

Key contact

Hayley Brown
Human Resources Manager
hbrown@abl.com.au

abl.com.au/careers

Amie Myhowytc

TULS Secretary



Why did you decide to go for the role?

I decided to go for the role for a couple of reasons. Firstly, I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to challenge myself and step into an executive position on the committee. Secondly, I currently work as a transcription typist. I am always organising my life down to the minute, so I knew this was a role that I could do and enjoy as it involves taking down meeting minutes, organising meetings and being across everything the committee is involved in.

What are you most excited for?

I am extremely excited to get involved in more committee events and behind-the-scenes work and expand outside of areas of social justice that I mainly focused on as a Social Justice and Equity Officer. I am also excited to work with our incredible committee as it is my first year on the committee. I have so much to learn about leadership, teamwork and what goes into running the biggest society at the UTAS and I think this sort of experience is extremely valuable, especially as I've never been a secretary before. For me, it's important to get involved as much as I can while at uni, I'm so grateful for all the experiences I've had being involved in TULS and I'm generally just looking forward to get more involved in TULS.

Are there any events or features that you are especially keen for?

In Semester 2, I cannot wait for Law Ball. It is always a highlight of the year when the committee and everyone involved in the law school can get together and have a fun night. I am also super excited for the annual Women in Law event, I think it will be a really special and meaningful event to celebrate women in law and I'm also super excited to help Laura and Olivia put on the event!





Social Justice and Equity Officers

Olivia Bellchambers and Laura Harrison

Why did you decide to go for the role?

Social Justice is a significant personal value of mine. When I was growing up, I was involved in a lot of rallies, and advocacy events to raise awareness for issues I care about, so I was really excited when the opportunity arose for me to be involved in advocacy at a higher-level. I also really enjoyed being a part of the SJE Subcommittee in Semester 1 this year!

What are you most excited for?

I am so excited to work alongside Laura this Semester, and I'm also really keen for the Women in Law event! Laura and I have some amazing speakers lined up this year. I'm really keen to facilitate a discussion between law students and professionals regarding diversity, inclusion and celebration of women-led success.

Are there any specific things you are excited to engage in?

I'm really keen to work alongside the other amazing TULS members this year. The committee is full of amazing, talented people. I'm also keen for Law Ball, as always!

Why did you decide to go for the role:

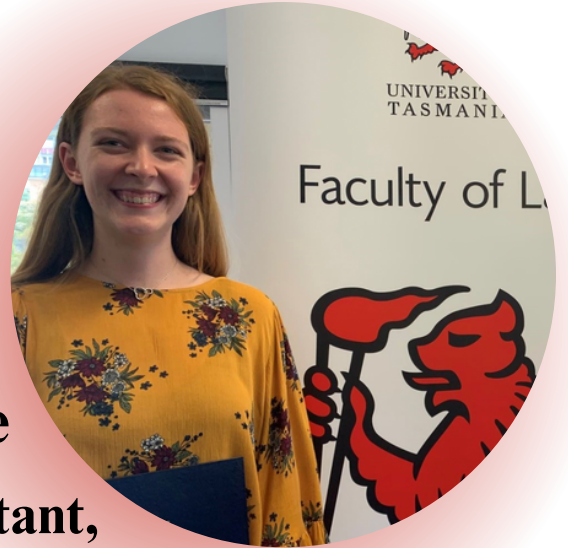
I decided to run for the role because I am passionate about social justice and equality and was excited by the opportunity.

What are you most excited for/ looking forward to?

I am looking forward to being a member of TULS and working with all the other officers. Most importantly, I am looking forward to working as a team with Liv to plan events and spread awareness.

Are there any specific events or features that you are excited to engage in?

I am excited to plan and present the Women in Law event and put our own take on the event.



Gabby Gee
Legal Assistant,
International Criminal Court

At the end of 2022 I was announced as one of the recipients of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship, alongside Chun Yu, for 2023. This scholarship was created by the Hawkins family in memory of Tim Hawkins, a University of Tasmania law graduate, who was killed in the Bali Bombings in 2002. The scholarship honours Tim's legacy, and provides Tasmanians with the opportunity to contribute to ensuring accountability for those responsible for committing war crimes. This scholarship provides me the opportunity to work as a legal assistant at the International Criminal Court to Tim McCormack. Tim teaches both the Summer unit on the Law Of Armed Conflict at the University of Tasmania, and works as the Special Advisor to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court on War Crimes.

I provide research in two main areas of law, International Criminal Law, specifically war crimes under Article 8 of the Rome Statute, and International Humanitarian Law. Days at work vary, depending on the different needs of prosecution teams investigating and charging alleged war crimes. For instance, some days I will attend meetings to hear how Tim, I, and other International Criminal Law lawyers can assist the different prosecution teams. This assistance I provide is legal research on specific International Humanitarian Law or International Criminal Law War Crime specific issues. I also have the opportunity to witness hearings and arguments at the highest level in International Criminal Law when a trial is ongoing before the court.

Some of my favourite aspects of this role include meeting lawyers from the court and hearing about their diverse backgrounds and the different pathways they took in order to practice at the Court. All of the lawyers I have met have been supportive of any work I've provided their team, and are happy to answer any questions I have about working in this field in the future. I've enjoyed the work itself, as it's always interesting, and provides an opportunity to further develop my legal research and writing skills. I've also enjoyed seeing the differences in Australian domestic law compared to other jurisdictions, as the court is quite international, so you meet lots of interns and lawyers from other countries, who are keen to learn how different legal systems operate.

One of the learning experiences I've had at the court is learning more about its hybrid nature of a civil and common law system, and how this changes the development of precedent compared to back in Australia. For instance, coming from a common law background where precedent is binding it was interesting to find decisions of the court's different chambers are instead only persuasive, meaning I've had to change the way I engaged in legal research. Other learning experiences I've had include discovering more about the situation countries under investigation.

I would absolutely recommend graduates from the University of Tasmania who have an interest in International Criminal Law and International Humanitarian Law to apply for this scholarship. You get to learn something new about these areas of law every day, and meet lawyers with extensive experience in these fields.

I recommend students interested in applying for this scholarship get involved in humanitarian or international law related volunteering or work while studying. For instance, getting involved with the Hobart Red Cross branch's International Humanitarian Law Advisory committee. I also recommend taking opportunities to develop your writing and legal research skills through mooting competitions.

I didn't do a legal clerkship or internship which led to this role. However, while studying I worked part time at the Hobart branch of the Australian Red Cross in the migration support program, and volunteered with their International Humanitarian Law Committee. These experiences helped me to broaden my understanding of International Humanitarian Law, and the work of the Red Cross.

Tasmanian Legal Practice Course

Upcoming Events



4 PM 13 JULY 2023

5th Year Drinks @ Legal Prac!
RSVP's still open



5:30 PM 26 JULY 2023

Practising law in Tasmania:
Panel Session

LTI - School of Law



TBC SEPTEMBER 2023

Zoom Info Session

Further info to come

CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

Are you a law student in your penultimate year of study? Our Clerkship Program offers you a chance to see the law in action and experience the fast-paced environment of a full-service commercial law firm. You'll have the opportunity to work on challenging, complex, and high-profile matters under the guidance of some of the sharpest legal minds in Australia. Our partners and lawyers are experts in their fields and will be there to share their knowledge and offer mentorship and support. Through our Clerkship Program, you'll be part of a firm where individuality is embraced, and innovation is encouraged.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

It's not just about wearing a suit.

There's a difference between theory and practice, so we understand why transitioning from law school to legal practice can feel daunting.

That's where we come in.

Our national Graduate Program bridges the gap between law school and practice by giving you the skills and knowledge to build a strong foundation for your legal career. We make sure you hit the ground running with our 2.5 week orientation, including PLT+, local training, and a national orientation week in Sydney. Throughout the program, you'll experience three different practice groups. These rotations allow you to explore different areas of law to find the right fit for you. You'll be working on complex and sophisticated legal matters, but with our supportive approach to learning and development, you'll be armed with the tools and guidance to reach your full potential.

You'll get...

- Three rotations of six months each in our national practice groups
- Mentoring from some of the best lawyers in Australia
- A buddy who'll give you all the practical tools to succeed
- Meaningful performance feedback so you know you're on the right track the right track
- Continuing legal education programs and professional development support
- The chance to give back by participating in our Community Connect and Pro Bono programs
- Social and sporting activities to get to know your peers

We hire most of our Graduates from our Clerkship Programs. Occasionally, additional opportunities may arise. These opportunities will be listed on our website.



Ella Harrison
Graduate,
Murdoch Clarke



I graduated from a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Business at the end of 2022 and went straight on to the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course (TLPC) in February 2023. TLPC is a fantastic way to kick-start your career in the legal profession, and especially for me as I wanted my career to begin in Tasmania. As soon as we started, job opportunities began flooding our emails. I felt prepared to start applying for graduate jobs – I had been fortunate enough to partake in two Hobart-based Summer Clerkships at two different firms the previous summer and I felt like those Clerkships helped me understand what graduate jobs were looking for.

I applied and was successful in obtaining a Graduate Position at Murdoch Clarke Lawyers in Hobart – where they gave graduates the opportunity to work one day a week during TLPC and begin full-time in August when we are admitted to the Supreme Court of Tasmania. I have recently undertaken three weeks of full-time placement where I tried all areas of law from commercial, to litigation, to family law.

During my one day a week, I am given tasks from all areas of the firm. These tasks usually involve researching case law and legislation, drafting legal papers such as Mediation Letters, Client Letters, attending (and recently conducting) property settlements, and much more. I have also been fortunate enough to attend court with lawyers at the firm, both at the Hobart Magistrate's Court and at the Supreme Court of Tasmania. I have also sat in numerous Mediations where clients settle their disputes. Luckily, I work on Friday's which is casual day – and there is usually a little end of week celebratory drink that follows in the evenings.

I love my role as a Law Clerk at Murdoch Clarke. I get to experience real life, practical tasks to prepare me for my role as a Junior Lawyer in August. The tasks and files I am working on now, are very similar to the work I will be completing after TLPC. I already have a great grip on the filing software we use, I am learning to understand how to speak to clients and how the daily processes of the firm work. While this sounds obvious, it is imperative to learn these things and we often are not taught how to do these things until TLPC or when we begin working. I did not realise how much I had to learn until I began at Murdoch Clarke.

I could not recommend enough how important it is to gain experience when given the opportunity – whether it be through Clerkships, Internships or Volunteering. Law firms look upon it so highly and love to see that you have gained experience elsewhere. When you go on to the TLPC, apply for all of the graduate opportunities that interest you – because there are so many jobs and not enough graduates! Applications can be daunting, but just remember to cover the criteria and answer the questions.

Employers want to see applications that address exactly what they are looking for, so remember to read the advert carefully and answer all of the questions. Something I found that worked really well for me, was to email the contact person any questions you may have. You may be unsure on how to answer a question or you may be worried about your experience – if so, send them an email or give them a call. They value applicants contacting them as it shows how eager you are for the position and it puts you fresh in their mind when they read the applications.

Even though I did not complete a clerkship for my current employment, doing clerkships definitely gave me an advantage in applying, interviewing and in practice. It is all about developing your skills and putting yourself out there. Do not hesitate and apply for anything that interests you – it will lead to great opportunities and it will help you find areas of the law you are passionate about.





Angus Calvert

Marshalls+Dent+Wilmoth

Since Graduating I have made the move over to Melbourne and been completing my Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (GLDP) at Leo Cussen Centre for Law. I have just finished my time and Leo's and am currently undertaking my required 3 weeks of professional placement (kind of like a clerkship) at Marshalls+Dent+Wilmoth Lawyers (MDW) in their CBD office. I'm currently placed in their Entertainment Law team but have been assisting a lot with matters for the litigation team as well!

It might be best to talk about my time doing PLT at Leo Cussen before getting into what I'm currently doing. I chose the 'In person' delivery model for the course which meant heading into the Leo's Office, which is in the CBD for the last 20 weeks. The course was split into five rotations, being an induction, Transactions, two specialist electives undertaken concurrently, disputes and finally profession ready. Through those rotations, we were drafting contract advice, reviewing due diligence packages, memos to clients or supervising lawyers and drafting settlement agreements as some quick examples.

Three times during the course, we had 3- or 4-day immersive sessions where we were assessed on things like our negotiation skills, advocacy, or ability to undertake client interviews. The time at Leo's was a great introduction to a lot of practical skills that I didn't get a change to hone through university in a super collaborative environment. I was able to make some super close friends in my cohort which will be super important as we transition from learning to getting jobs and practicing law.

On the topic of practicing law, as I mentioned I've been undertaking a clerkship at MDW and those days have been super varied so far, just assisting wherever the work arises. For some examples, in the media team I've been reviewing what they refer to as production packages, all the contracts that a film production company needs to make a movie, think cast, crew, location, equipment hire etc as well as researching and writing memos on some of the new legal issues in the entertainment area.

The work with the litigation team has been super interesting, one day has been entirely taken up by an estate mediation, which thanks to Zoom was happening in Queensland and Melbourne concurrently. Having to work with the lawyers and Barrister to adapt to the offers received from the other side as the mediation occurred was full on but super rewarding once a settlement was finally reached. I've also been attending the Supreme Court of Victoria on multiple occasions which has been a great experience, has made it slightly weird reading decisions by judges you were just in front of that morning though!

My favourite part of my clerking at the minute is the variety of work that I'm being exposed to, it is a medium sized practice, so all the lawyers appreciate having some assistance so despite being placed in the entertainment law team, I've had emails with requests for help from the whole firm. This exposure to a wide range of legal issues I think will super helpful as I progress my career, I've already seen so many things for the first time, and they are bound to come up in the next few years!

It was certainly challenging after leaving UTAS Law which has such a tight knit community and coming to a Melbourne and PLT where I knew absolutely no one. That being said, it was nice to have at least one familiar face in our cohort with fellow 2022 Graduate Bi Zhang Gary Chung and then later Jemma Smith who joined Leo's in a later cohort, so maybe the world isn't so large after all.

I think the biggest challenge has been the last two weeks, previously having no real firm experience, entering into a firm and not knowing what their expectations would be like and seeing so many things for the first time has definitely been a steep learning curve, but I have to thank everyone at MDW for being so welcoming and supportive, they turned what could have been a nightmare into a bit of a dream.

I absolutely would recommend the process in which I've taken to anyone. Particularly if you haven't been successful in the Graduate role applications it can be super disheartening to deal with the rejection from those programs (take it from me) but there are certainly other ways to achieve the career you are hunting for so hang in there!



Virtual Internships

Experience what it's like to be a lawyer.

As Australia's leading Practical Legal Training provider, Leo Cussen wants to give you the opportunity to experience different areas of legal practice before you become a lawyer.

We've partnered with Forage to build three Virtual Internship Programs designed to provide students with valuable insight into what it's like to solve real issues in legal practice.



Free



Self-paced



Add to your CV

You can complete the following Virtual Internships:

- Human Rights Law
- Criminal Law
- Family Law



Sign up to a Virtual Internship today and get a taste of what it's like to work as a lawyer.



Seasonal clerkships present an exciting opportunity to students eager to enter the legal workforce. Accordingly, it is important that clerkship applications are crafted meticulously, precisely, and in a manner that is bespoke but not superfluous.

Research the firms

Demonstrating an authentic interest in a law firm must be informed by accurate research. It is the best way to demonstrate knowledge and understanding about the firm's practice areas, its workplace culture, and any indications of/plans for future innovation. It is also a great way to ascertain which firms align with your interests. Some things to take note of and reference in your application include practice areas, firm culture, values, recent transactions and clients. You can find this information through having a look at the firms' websites, attending firm events and networking sessions, speaking to former clerks or current employees. News sources such as the Australian Financial Review and Lawyers Weekly are also a great way to develop commercial awareness and gain an understanding of market trends.

Start early

The clerkship application process can be daunting and time consuming. Starting your preparation as early as possible by taking note of important dates (eg deadlines, information sessions, networking nights, interviews) and considering which firms are of interest to you can help make the process more manageable. Using a spreadsheet to keep track of your applications and upcoming deadlines can also be useful.

Elaborate on why you want to work at the firm

Genuine interest comes across much better than a generic application. Avoid an absent-reasoned application for a clerkship at a firm. Rather, explain your unique interest in that firm in particular, and why it appeals to you as an aspiring legal professional. Consider why the firm you are applying for attracts your interest and integrate an explanation of that into your application authentically. A useful tip is to copy all of your answers into a word document when you are crafting your applications. This will help you with other applications down the line and is also a great way to prepare for interviews.

Look after yourself

Clerkship season is notorious for being an overwhelming and stressful process, especially when you are juggling multiple applications. A lot of people you will interact with throughout the process sympathises with you and so many of them have likely been through the same process before. Be confident in yourself and your own value. Make sure to continue with your regular daily practices, such as exercise and hobbies, to stay clear minded and calm about the process.

Patrick Stratmann and Betul Tumenci

Graduates

ashurst



