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Issue 5

PETTIFOgger



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Week 6 Semester 2, 2023

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Your Story, Your Career. Be the Whole Lawyer.

Discover Australia's
leading PLT program.



The legal profession is evolving. Clients and employers are not only seeking legal professionals with technical expertise, but lawyers who are empathetic, adaptable, creative and ethical. That's why we've updated our Practical Legal Training (PLT) program to give law grads the skills to confidently enter the legal profession and thrive.

The Whole Lawyer

Four professional capabilities are taught and developed throughout our PLT program to help you become the whole lawyer – technical capability, human skills, character, and adaptability.

The skills you'll develop within each of these four professional capabilities are designed to help you be successful and confident in your legal career from day one.

Technical Capability (TQ)

will enhance your ability to work with clients across a range of entry level practice areas. With the support of expert legal practitioners, you'll run simulated client matters to learn essential legal and business skills, processes and procedures to work effectively with clients.

Human Skills (EQ)

are critical for effective client interaction, negotiation, and advocacy. Through immersive learning and an optional industry secondment, you'll fast track your journey to becoming an empathetic lawyer with advanced emotional intelligence.

Character (CQ)

helps you to become a values-driven and self-aware lawyer, acting with integrity. Explore ethics, professionalism and reflective practice through a program of mentoring lasting 20-weeks full time or 30-weeks part time.

Adaptability (AQ)

has the power to transform you into a curious and creative legal thinker, capable of adapting to diverse circumstances and needs. Leo Justice Lab will set you up with legal tech awareness, critical mindsets and collaborative problem solving skills, to become a leading innovator in the future of law.

Transitioning into work

Commencing full-time work after finishing university can be a daunting experience. It requires you to observe new expectations about not only your work output, but how you conduct yourself in a professional environment, and manage your obligations in a way that preserves life outside of work. While this can be a difficult adjustment initially, it provides you with the learnings and experience to develop meaningful working relationships and a tactful approach to professionalism in the workplace.

There are general day-to-day behaviours that will support your transition into a professional work context. Dressing formally (if appropriate), arriving at work on time, and not rushing out the door at COB are tips that will demonstrate respect for and interest in carrying out your work diligently. Enthusiasm is also highly valued among graduates, and approaching work – however menial – with an open mind, eagerness to assist and willingness to learn will always be well received.

On the other hand, to ensure your work does not become domineering, it is important to take advantage of opportunities for social and personal time. Spending your weekends and time after work to recharge with friends, family and/or hobbies is a great way to ensure that you're best placed to approach the next work period with energy and enthusiasm.

The transition to work is a major lifestyle change that can feel overwhelming, but at the same time, it is a formative period and process that can hone your skills and capabilities to embark on your career ahead.

Patrick Stratmann, Graduate, Dispute Resolution



Work-life Balance

Striking the Balance: Navigating Work-Life Balance at University

Finding the right balance between work and personal life has become a crucial aspect of maintaining overall well-being. While we often think of “work-life balance” in terms of being a professional embarking on a career, it's important to keep in mind we face this tricky balance as law students attempting to maintain a delicate balance between academics, part-time work, social engagements, and sports. In this dynamic environment, understanding and achieving work-life balance becomes essential not only for academic excellence but also for your overall well-being and personal growth.

What is Work-Life Balance? Work-life balance refers to finding an equilibrium between the time and energy invested in one's professional and academic excellence and allocating adequate time and attention to nurturing personal relationships, pursuing hobbies, and taking care of one's physical and mental health.

The Importance of Work-Life Balance:

Maintaining balance helps prevent burnout and stress, fostering better mental and emotional health. To learn the practice of work-life balance now inevitably sets you up for a sustainable and fulfilling academic, and then professional journey. Lowered stress levels (resulting from a good balance in your undertakings) can allow for more focused and efficient periods of work, and thus better output. Further, allocating time for loved ones and social activities nurtures relationships and provides emotional support at times when the general stress of being a uni student becomes overwhelming.



Matilda Grant, 2023 TULS welfare officer



Achieving Work-Life Balance:

- **Boundary Setting:** Create clear boundaries for study, work, and personal time. Adhering to these boundaries ensures that all aspects of your life receive attention.
- **Priority Alignment:** Differentiate between pressing tasks and those that can be addressed later. Prioritize activities based on their urgency and importance.
- **Practice Planning:** Map out your week, factoring in lectures, study sessions, work shifts, social events, and downtime. Planning in advance minimizes last-minute chaos.
- **Self-Care:** Regular exercise, sufficient sleep, and mindfulness practices enhance physical and mental well-being, fueling your energy and focus.
- **Digital Detox:** Disconnect from screens periodically to rejuvenate your mind. Engage in activities that bring joy and relaxation.
- **Communicate:** Openly communicate your commitments with professors, employers, and loved ones. This transparency fosters support and understanding.
- **Reflect and Adjust:** Regularly evaluate your work-life balance. Adjust your schedule as needed to accommodate changing priorities and demands.

The pursuit of work-life balance as a law student does not have to be an elusive dream. By embracing self-care, setting boundaries, and managing time effectively, we can navigate the complexities of university life with poise. Remember, your journey through law school involves not only academic excellence but also holistic growth, lasting relationships, and personal fulfilment. Find time to strike the balance.

Should you require further guidance or have any inquiries, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Matilda Grant- Welfare@tuls.com.au



Tasmanian Legal Practice Course

The Tasmanian Legal Practice Course (TLPC) is a unique Practical Legal Training (PLT) course with access to outstanding support from the legal profession, judiciary, and magistracy for practical skills training, including weekly appearances in our Courts.

The Course is recognised nationally as providing excellent quality training and offers an intense practical experience unlike any other PLT program.



Harry and Abi, TLPC 2023

"When I graduated my arts/law degree I was still unsure as to what direction I wanted to take my career. I decided on TLPC as it seemed a logical next step in keeping all my options open. Another incentive for me was that the Course was in person, and I would get to do it with friends I had made at Uni.

The Course is a great intermediary between university and practice as you are taught to be lawyers, by lawyers. This is particularly fantastic if you wish to practice law in Hobart as it brings you into contact with numerous members of the profession. Another benefit of the Course was that during our 3 days a week we were able to get in the habit of dressing professionally while keeping similar hours as we would when working. I also made lifelong friends during the 6 months due to the intensive nature of the course.

TLPC really assisted me in finding a job as the Centre continuously advertised legal positions during the duration of the Course. This enabled me to research various firms as positions were advertised and apply for those that interested me. In the end it was meeting numerous young lawyers from the Early Career Lawyer Committee that convinced me to apply for the job I have now as I was able to chat to young lawyers from the firm I was interested in. Being able to work one day a week in this firm was extremely beneficial as it allowed me to balance work, prac workload and a social life. This one day a week also gave me the chance to become familiar with the workplace and the people in it prior to placement, and eventually commencing as a lawyer.

Overall, TLPC is an excellent intermediary between Uni and work as it not only teaches the basic skills of a lawyer but also exposes you to the profession and gives access to job opportunities."

- Abigael Stubbs, 2023 Trainee

"After completing Uni, I was a little lost regarding my next step. I called Susie from TLPC to discuss the course and my wish to find employment. This conversation reassured me that enrolling was the right next step in my career.

The course was different to Uni because it focused on legal communication and drafting skills that you actually utilise daily as a practising lawyer. For example, drafting a variety of legal documents and legal letters and emails.

I applied for my current employment through an ad advertised to TLPC trainees. I worked one day a week whilst completing the course. This workload was easy to juggle and my friends who worked two days a week also found that manageable.

I recommend the TLPC because of the face-to-face setup which allows trainees to get to know each other and work in an environment that matches an actual workplace. It offers a friendly and collegial environment to learn and test the types of skills that a practising lawyer requires."

- Harrison Nichols, 2023 Trainee

2024 Tasmanian Legal Practice Course

Where could it take you?



Applications Open Now!

**Centre
for
Legal
Studies**

Contact Us

tas.legalpractice@utas.edu.au

03 6226 4396

APPLY NOW



TRANSITIONING INTO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Jess Sabapathy



What was your experience like going from being a full-time student to working as a lawyer?

I found that the reality of being a practising lawyer – especially working in mental health and criminal law – was very different to what I had expected based on my studies. It's one thing to read about something in a textbook, and another to have a real person in front of you telling you about their experience of life and how that is reflected in the legal issue you're helping them with. There's something about the human element of working as a lawyer that it's hard to prepare for as a student.

How would you describe working in the legal profession?

It's hard to sum up the experience but in a few words – a privilege, stressful, human, interesting, funny, demanding and – at times – tedious.

What some of the professional expectations within the legal profession?

The expectations can be very dependent on which area you're working in, but the common expectations are:

- An eye for detail
- A willingness to work hard
- A genuine interest in the law
- Emotional intelligence

What has your favourite part of being in the legal profession been since you graduated?

My favourite thing about being a lawyer is working with clients – being trusted with their stories, helping them to tell those stories and guiding them through a complex system at vulnerable times in their lives.

How did the reality of working in the legal sphere differ from the perception you held of it whilst studying?

When I was studying, I felt like I had to be the smartest person in the room, and that I had to have a flashy approach to advocacy to do well. I often felt like I didn't fit in or I wasn't cut out for being a court lawyer because I'm naturally shy. I've since learned that conducting yourself with kindness and compassion as well as being smart can take you a long way in the legal profession.

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

ABC

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Appearance

People's perceptions of your professionalism may be influenced by how you dress for work. Gaining respect as a professional is heavily influenced on how you present yourself. Making a good first impression and looking professional includes dressing professionally, keeping yourself clean and maintaining good personal hygiene, and carrying yourself well.

Behaviour

Professional behaviour in the workplace encompasses your attitude, appearance, manners, and decision-making. Your actions have the power to enhance your professional reputation almost as much as your knowledge and expertise do. The following are examples of professional behaviours: treating your supervisors, coworkers, and clients with respect, exuding a positive attitude, being courteous, displaying sound judgement, being ethical, and dressing appropriately.

Communication

A optimistic mindset and excellent interpersonal skills are necessary for effective professional networks. In the workplace and one-on-one conversations, pay close attention to how you behave with your coworkers given that it's not always what you say but how you say it that counts. Make sure email correspondences, both inside and outside of work, are properly spelt and error-free.



TRANSITIONING INTO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Vicknesh Lakshmanan



What was your experience like going from being a full-time student to working in the legal field? and a bit about yourself!

Hey there, my name is Vicknesh, but you probably know me as Vick. After graduating in November 2022, I returned to Singapore to kickstart my legal career. Since my return, I've taken the first set of exams for the Singapore bar and am currently working as a trainee lawyer at a local boutique firm specialising in corporate and criminal cases.

The shift from being a student to a working professional has been quite a revelation with the corporate life becoming my new reality. Adapting to the 9-to-6 routine wasn't easy initially – juggling work, family, friends, and the steep learning curve was a challenge. Speaking of the learning curve, it's no joke. Of course, this can vary between firms. However, this is not all bad. From my experience the initial intensity paves the way for better understanding and competence down the road.

How would you describe working in the legal profession?

Stepping into the legal world has been a thrilling adventure of challenges and triumphs. The legal realm is like a fast-paced game, where staying adaptable is the name of the game. What makes this profession truly unique is that it's anything but routine. No case is a cookie-cutter; each one is unique and demands its own bespoke solution. It's an arena where old rules meet fresh ideas making every day exciting, though unpredictable.

What would you say are some of the professional expectations within the legal work field?

Be adaptable. This is not just a skill but an expectation of junior lawyers. As a recent graduate stepping into the profession, it's imperative not only to be eager to learn and acquire new skills but to also be receptive to embracing the firm's culture and practices. This entails coming out of our comfort zones and letting go of certain familiar practices, to align with the firm's approaches and the team's working styles.

In the legal field, effective time management and organisational skills are highly emphasised. Deadlines come from clients and the court, shaping the pace of work. Succeeding in this profession hinges on our ability to meet these deadlines. It's not only about keeping workflows seamless, but also about cultivating trust. Demonstrating reliability to colleagues and teams is a crucial aspect of excelling in our role.

What has your favourite part of being in the legal profession been since you graduated?

Beyond the intellectual challenges, the legal profession opens doors to an array of exceptional opportunities. Rubbing shoulders with some of the sharpest legal minds in the country is a privilege. It's not just about the courtroom theatrics; it's about engaging with policymakers, champions of social change, and other fascinating individuals who are shaping the world we live in. These encounters provide perspectives that stretch beyond textbooks, allowing me to witness the real-world impact of legal decisions and advocacy.

How did the reality of working in the legal sphere differ from the perception you held of it whilst studying?

As I transitioned from classrooms to courtrooms, the realisation hit hard – becoming the next Harvey Specter would take time. Maybe a lot of it. The truth is, the reality of working in the legal world turned out quite different from what I initially thought. While my studies laid a strong foundation, stepping into the junior ranks of the profession shifted the focus. It's not just about how much law you know; it's about how you contribute to the team with your unique skills, both tangible and intangible. This was a surprise that caught me off guard when I entered the workforce.

The early days can be tough. Unlike the supportive academic environment, the real world demands true self-directed learning. It's about dedicating yourself, picking up new skills, and actively contributing to your team. Perseverance becomes your closest ally as you adapt and thrive in the ever-evolving legal landscape.

In closing, my journey from a fresh graduate to a legal professional has been a path filled with growth, challenges, and at many a time, uncertainty. Nevertheless, it has been a rewarding one. As I reflect on my transition, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead to contribute significantly to the ever-evolving legal landscape! I hope my experience provides you with a glimpse into what lies ahead for those of you soon to graduate.

STAY TRUE.



Amna Parvez
Lawyer, 2022
Graduate Program

Staying true to your direction is what defines Clayton Utz.

We've built a very special culture that sets our firm apart -but don't just take our word for it.

A good lawyer needs compelling evidence -so hear what Amna has to say about her experience with us.



Working as a graduate lawyer at Clayton Utz

I came into law from a health science background and did not know the legal industry as well as most law students. So, when it came to clerkships applications, I felt quite lost about which firms to apply to. I found large commercial law firms intimidating and wondered whether they would be the right fit for me. Further, I found the clerkship application process of many firms to be strenuous and anxiety inducing which also shied me away. I applied for a clerkship at Clayton Utz because a fellow law student was working at the firm as a paralegal at the time and had a very positive experience. Clayton Utz had a pleasantly simple application process and provided thorough support during the interview stage by appointing each interviewee a buddy. I was fortunate enough to be offered a position in 2020's Summer 1 Clerkship Program.

Summer 1 Clerkship Program Experience

As a clerk, I was warmly welcomed by the people at Clayton Utz. Everyone was friendly and had a down to earth personality. I was given interesting and challenging tasks and provided plenty of support and feedback. I did not feel intimidated or out of place at all as I had feared I would. After my clerkship, I continued at Clayton Utz as a paralegal in 2021 and then started as a graduate lawyer in 2022.

Graduating and Starting as a Lawyer at Clayton Utz

Graduates at Clayton Utz start their career with a two-week PLT workshop and a week-long orientation program that is attended by all national graduates. My orientation program occurred during the COVID-19 border closure period, so I attended my orientation in Perth. However, graduates normally go to Sydney for orientation week. During orientation week graduates spend plenty of time together which really kickstarts team bonding and work friendships. This makes the graduate social events and daily work life a lot more fun. Some of the social events my graduate cohort attended included a paint and sip class, mini golf and graduate dinners.

Practice Areas and International Opportunities

Clayton Utz is a leading independent Australian law firm. However, it has strong working ties with many international law firms and clients. This makes Clayton Utz lawyers well equipped for international working opportunities and external secondments. The Perth office has a wide range of practice areas including Commercial Litigation, Restructuring and Insolvency, Corporate M&A & Capital Markets, Real Estate, Environment & Sustainable Development, Banking and Finance, Workplace Relations, Employment & Safety and Major Projects & Construction –there is something for everyone! These practice areas open doors for graduates and lawyers to transfer their career into any sector and direction.

Graduate Program Structure

What sets the Clayton Utz graduate program apart from others is that it offers graduates three six-month rotations instead of the industry standard of two rotations. Graduates who have an interest in a wide variety of areas of law or those who are looking to explore their options are well suited for this type of structure. My first rotation was in Restructuring and Insolvency, a practice group for which Clayton Utz is the industry leader. Currently I am on my second rotation in Major Projects and Construction where I have worked with many international clients. Both rotations have involved incredibly fulfilling work with hard working and motivated team members.

Dedication to Pro Bono Work

Another reason why Clayton Utz stands out for me is because of its dedication to pro bono work. Currently, Clayton Utz is the only leading Australian law firm with a separate Pro Bono practice led by a Pro Bono Partner. It is also the law firm that consistently provides one of the highest pro bono contributions in the industry each year. As a graduate, I was given a pro bono matter to work on. I was also seconded to Law Access to provide pro bono legal assistance to the not-for-profit. I really value this dedication to vulnerable members of the community and take pride in the pro bono services of the firm.

Overall, my time at Clayton Utz for the past 2.5 years has been incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. It has significantly changed my perspective of what it is like to work at a large commercial law firm. I highly recommend everyone to apply for a clerkship at Clayton Utz.



claytonutz.com/graduates

