

# BEYOND EAGLE STREET

2019

dream different

BEYOND

EAGLE ST.



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



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This work is an edited and expanded compilation of information based on a large number of sources. The Beyond Eagle Street Guide draws heavily on a variety of sources, including (but not limited to) information provided by the following sources, all of whom are attributed to the greatest extent possible throughout this Guide:

- » The websites of various firms and organisations
- » Previous employees, employers, graduates and students
- » Equivalent versions of equivalent and related guides by Law Student Societies/Associations
- » Information received from employers and organisations

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## *President's Foreword*

The Justice and Law Society (JATL) is a student society affiliated with The University of Queensland and TC Beirne School of Law. JATL has two primary objectives:

- » to promote student discussions about the intersection between law and social justice; and
- » to provide professional networking opportunities to students interested in pursuing careers 'beyond Eagle Street'.

A law degree is a powerful key that opens many doors. However, in my experience it often difficult to know exactly what is 'out there' in terms of career pathways for a law graduate. While most law students are familiar with the clerkship process adopted by the large commercial law firms, few are aware of the numerous and diverse alternative pathways.

The Beyond Eagle Street Guide seeks to remedy this by providing information on the many and varied options available to law students upon graduation, whether that be working in the community legal sector, the government, the courts, or in-house.

I would encourage all students to consider where they would like their law degree to take them. To those thinking they would like to venture off the well-worn path of Eagle Street, I wish you the very best and hope that you find this guide useful.



Penelope Bristow  
JATL President 2019





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My advice for graduating students is to lift your eyes beyond the immediate Eagle Street horizon and consider the eclectic range of opportunities for work that are out there. Your future may well be among the well-dressed city-dwelling lawyers, but it could as easily be something just a little more, shall we say, **interesting**.

*Matthew Jones*  
*Director, Liquor & Gaming Specialists*

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# 1. Community Legal Centres

A range of different volunteering opportunities are available in community legal centres (CLCs) across Brisbane and the wider Queensland area. An excellent starting point to engage with CLCs is the UQ Pro Bono Centre which offers a wide range of opportunities for students to participate in the delivery of pro bono legal services in Queensland. The Centre oversees the Law School's Clinical Legal Education Program, research support for pro bono activities, the Pro Bono roster and the Barrister's Assistance Team. Beyond the programs run by UQ, the following organisations are an excellent source of information about CLCs and volunteering opportunities:

- » CLC Volunteers: <http://www.clcvolunteers.net.au/index.php>
- » Community Legal Centres Queensland: <http://communitylegalqld.org.au/>
- » The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC): <http://www.nacalc.org.au>

## LIST OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES IN QUEENSLAND

Brisbane region	Wider Queensland Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service</li> <li>» Basic Rights Queensland</li> <li>» Bayside Community Legal Service</li> <li>» Caxton Legal Centre</li> <li>» Community Legal Centres Queensland</li> <li>» Environmental Defenders Office</li> <li>» LawRight</li> <li>» Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex (LGBTI) Legal Service</li> <li>» Nundah Community Legal Centre</li> <li>» Prisoner's Legal Service</li> <li>» Queensland Advocacy Incorporated</li> <li>» Refugee and Immigration Legal Service</li> <li>» Sisters Inside</li> <li>» Tenants Queensland</li> <li>» Welfare Rights Centre</li> <li>» Women's Legal Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services North Queensland</li> <li>» Central Queensland Community Legal Centre (Rockhampton)</li> <li>» Gold Coast Community Legal Centre &amp; Advice Bureau</li> <li>» Goondiwindi Community Legal Service</li> <li>» Junkuri Laka Community Legal Centre Aboriginal Corporation (Mornington Island)</li> <li>» Pine Rivers Community Legal Service</li> <li>» Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre</li> <li>» Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre</li> <li>» Robina Community Legal Centre</li> <li>» Suncoast Community Legal Service</li> <li>» TASC</li> <li>» Townsville Community Legal Service</li> </ul>

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LEGAL SERVICE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSIL), is a not for profit, community organisation contracted by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department to provide criminal, civil and family law services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their families in Queensland. ATSIL seeks to influence a positive change within the justice system to reflect an appreciation for the culturally specific and diverse circumstances that impact upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. The organisation also seeks to provide quality evidence-based research, advice and direction to rectify policies and practices that adversely and disproportionately impact on the legal rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Students currently studying law, justice, indigenous studies, advocacy are encouraged to apply for the Student Placement Program at ATSIL. Placements are available within either the Brisbane or regional offices. Students will be exposed to criminal law, family law and child protection, and civil law (which includes human rights law, coronial enquiries, and other legal services) matters.

<b>How to apply</b>	ATSIL is currently accepting applications for its Student Placement Program: <a href="http://www.atsils.org.au/student-placements/">http://www.atsils.org.au/student-placements/</a> Applications close on 29 November 2019.
<b>Requirements</b>	Your application must be supported by your school or tertiary institution, and should include an academic transcript and resume (no cover letter required)
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:careers@atsils.org.au">careers@atsils.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3025 3888

## BASIC RIGHTS QUEENSLAND

Basic Rights Queensland (BRQ) is a state-wide specialist community legal centre, providing advice, advocacy and free legal services to people having problems with social security or disability discrimination. BRQ offers opportunities for volunteers to learn and to develop essential professional skills, such as client interviewing, record keeping and a practical understanding of the process of administration review. Volunteers will predominantly act as a point of first contact taking down a client's information and passing it on to BRQ's telephone advice workers.

<b>Duration</b>	Volunteers are required to commit to a 3-hour shift once a week for a 6-month period.
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply send your resume to <a href="mailto:brq@brq.org.au">brq@brq.org.au</a> along with a couple of lines about why you would like to volunteer. Applications for the January - June roster are accepted in November of the previous year and applications for the July - December roster are accepted in May. Alternatively, students can also volunteer through the Pro Bono Centre's Clinical Legal Education Program (LAWS5180).
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:brq@brq.org.au">brq@brq.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3421 2510



## CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE

Caxton Legal Centre is an independent, not for profit community legal organisation providing advice, social work services, information and referrals to economically and socially disadvantaged members of the community. Caxton Legal Centre's vision is to:

- » build a just and inclusive society that values difference and diversity, and the rights of all people and their communities to the social and economic resources they need to exercise their human rights;
- » influence the development of law to recognise the needs of people who are socially or economically disadvantaged; and
- » assist people who would otherwise be denied access to justice due to social or economic disadvantage to exercise their legal rights

Caxton Legal Centre recruits student volunteers in three capacities: Front Office Student Volunteers, UQ's Clinical Legal Education and the Manning St Project.

**Front Office Student Volunteers** - Volunteers provide the first point of contact for clients as well as general administrative support and research assistance. Successful students will be highly motivated, resourceful and have the ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team. Students are expected to commit to a 4-hour weekly shift for a semester. As well as submitting a resume and cover letter, students must address the relevant selection criteria.

**Clinical Legal Education** - In partnership with Caxton, the UQ Pro Bono Centre runs a student consumer law clinic as well as a criminal matters clinic. Students gain credit towards their law degree by participating in these clinics (LAWS5180/7180). Students must apply for a place in the clinical legal education program prior to the semester starting. Students interested in these positions should register for the UQ Pro Bono Roster in order to be informed of the opening of applications.

**Manning Street Project** – The Manning Street Project is one of the pro bono initiatives available to students through the UQ Pro Bono Centre. Students work in small research groups during an academic semester, devoting about four hours per week of their time to work on a nominated research project. The aim is for each group is to produce a final body of work (e.g. a law reform report, issues paper). For more information visit: <https://law.uq.edu.au/pro-bono/student-opportunities/join-roster/manning-st-project>.

### How to apply

Student volunteer positions will be advertised on Caxton's website and social medial profiles: <https://caxton.org.au/support-caxton/volunteer-law-students/>.

Alternatively, students can also volunteer through the Pro Bono Centre's Clinical Legal Education Program (LAWS5180).

### Contact details

Email: [caxton@caxton.org.au](mailto:caxton@caxton.org.au)

Phone: (07) 3214 6333



## NUNDAH COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

Nundah Community Legal Centre is a free advice and referral service. It is a generalist legal services and assists with most areas of the law (excluding immigration matters, taxation law, major commercial and building matters, wills or ensuring powers of attorney). It operates within the Nundah Neighbourhood Centre and provides legal advice in face-to-face appointments:

- » Daytime appointments: these appointments are available by request during office hours
- » Evening drop-in appointments: this service is available on Wednesdays from 6.15pm and is staffed by volunteer solicitors and law students

Nundah Community Legal Centre recruits student volunteers to assist the Wednesday evening drop-in service. Volunteering provides students with the opportunity to develop practical skills, and to make contacts in the industry.

<b>How to apply</b>	If you are interested in volunteering, complete the expression of interest form on <a href="http://www.ncsgl.com.au/getting-involved/">http://www.ncsgl.com.au/getting-involved/</a>
<b>Requirements</b>	All volunteers are required to hold a current blue card.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:admin1@nundahcc.org.au">admin1@nundahcc.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3260 6820

### Testimonial for Nundah Community Legal Centre

*Catalina Birch*

Volunteering at the Nundah Community Legal Centre has truly been a wonderful experience. It has broadened my understanding of the law and opened up pathways to connect with lawyers, clients and like minded students. Ultimately it has provided me with a practical insight as to what it means to be a lawyer, all whilst being part of a supporting and challenging environment.

During my time volunteering I've dealt with issues involving family law, corporate law, employment law and even criminal law. Specialist solicitors are there to guide you every step of the way. That is what makes community legal centres so special: you have the opportunity to learn and gain an insight into various types of law and learn from different solicitors each session. It definitely is a perfect way to help determine whether you are the right fit for a particular type of law.

In terms of the workload, whilst all centres are different, I found it to be extremely flexible. I would volunteer once a month in the evening for a few hours. The team have always been very understanding, particularly in terms of assessment and would often give me tips for exam and study leave. I love being able to help those in need in our community, and support the lawyers who give up their time to also do so. I highly recommend volunteering. Be proactive throughout your degree and make the most of every opportunity that presents itself!

## LAWRIGHT

LawRight is an independent not for profit legal organisation that coordinates the provision of pro bono legal service for individuals and community groups in Queensland. LawRight operates a civil law referral service and direct legal services for particularly disadvantaged client groups, and undertakes law reform, policy work and legal education.

LawRight runs a number of programs including:

- » Pro Bono Connect Service – this service connects people seeking legal assistance with volunteer lawyers who provide advice on a pro bono basis
- » Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic – the clinic provides free legal representation and advice to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- » Refugee Civil Law Clinic – the clinic provides advice to refugees on numerous matters including fines, debts, consumer issues, housing and tenancy issues, social security issues, employment, police powers and discrimination issues.

Law students can volunteer with LawRight by participating in the UQ Clinical Legal Education program and gain credit towards their law degree. Students enrolled in LAWS5180/7180 have the opportunity to volunteer in one of the following clinics:

- » Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic
- » Access to Justice (A2J) & Innovation Clinic
- » Health Advocacy Legal Clinic (HALC)
- » Mental Health Law Clinic (MHLC)

LawRight also invites students to volunteer each semester. Volunteers are usually final year or penultimate year of their degree. Students have an opportunity to volunteer in a number of programs (usually for one day a week) including the:

- » Public Interest Referral Service
- » QLS Pro Bono Referral Service
- » Bar Pro Bono Referral Service
- » Self-Representation Service
- » QIRC Workers Compensation Service
- » Enforcement Hearing Service
- » Mental Health Advice Services
- » Tribunal Advocacy Service

### How to apply

Applications are usually called for around week 12 of the proceeding semester. For more information, visit:

<http://www.lawright.org.au/cms/page.asp?ID=61146>

### Contact details

Email: [admin@lawright.org.au](mailto:admin@lawright.org.au)

Phone: (07) 3846 6317

### Testimonials for Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic (Law Right)

*Rachel Tomassen*

When I applied for a research position with LawRight's Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic, I was only looking for some work experience. After six months, however, I'd learned a lot more. You don't have to be particularly interested in homelessness issues to find the pro bono work at LawRight interesting: it's the heart and soul of the community legal sector in Brisbane. The people there are incredibly committed and they're always working to solve one of the many inequalities and injustices of our legal system. Every week I would come in to the West End office for one day. My supervisors were very understanding about my university schedule. For about half the semester I had a class at 4 and had to leave early and if I had exams or needed to work on assignments, they'd allow me the week off. I mostly did policy work at a desk when I was there, researching particular issues and preparing briefings to assist the lawyers with everything from meetings with SPER to their approach to technological outreach. I always felt like I was doing something useful, or learning something new. All along, I seemed to be making a valuable contribution. At the same time, I met interesting people and learnt how the pro bono system really works, which gave me both perspective and experience in the legal system. Even if you aren't sure which particular social justice area you are most interested in, experience in the pro bono sector is invaluable. In particular, I'd recommend applying for LawRight - after my short time as a research assistant I felt much more well informed, connected and capable of solving problems in the legal world.

*Amanda Lamb*

I became involved volunteering at LawRight in the Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic, through the Pro Bono Centre. As I had heard positive feedback from previous students who had volunteered there, as well as other students that completed their Clinical Legal Education Program there too, I was eager to gain some work experience. The position was a research support role, where I was mentored by the coordinator and managing lawyer. My work primarily consisted of large research tasks, which would take several weeks to complete. They varied in their content, which kept things fresh, and were all in support of the clinics' policy work. This type of research was different to other types I had experienced, so I felt it took me a little while to become accustomed to it. However, my mentor was very helpful and aided me in this process. At first, the prospect of volunteering one day per week for 6 months, whilst studying full time and working part time and just balancing life in general, did seem daunting. However, I am so glad I did. The team at HPLC was very flexible and accommodating of my university and work timetable. I was able to take time off during exams, to which I then made-up later, or sometimes work differing days per week depending on my schedule. I was also able to start a month later than was advertised, in order to complete another work experience program. I found this work not only rewarding, but it also opened my eyes to various social and legal issues that I had not encountered during my degree. My advice would be to step out of your comfort zone early in your degree and volunteer. Not only may you find a passion for an area of law, but you may also make some friends and contacts along the way!



## PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICE (PLS)

The Prisoner's Legal Service exists to promote justice, human rights, equity and the rule of law in society and in the administration of prisons and punishment. The Service provides and promotes access to justice through legal advice, information and assistance to prisoners and their families; community legal education and law reform, advocacy and policy development. PLS regularly recruits student volunteers and offers summer internships.

### How to apply

Opportunities will be advertised on the PLS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Prisoners-Legal-Service-Inc-155606571259323/>)

### Contact details

Email: [pls@plsqlld.com](mailto:pls@plsqlld.com)  
Phone: (07) 3846 5074

### Testimonial for Prisoners' Legal Service

*Ben Wilson*

A friend of mine sent me a screen grab of the PLS website which was advertising for volunteers to help them with their SafeWay program which helps to find homes for prisoners who are trying to re-integrate into the community, usually on parole. I sent a cover letter along with my resume and I was called in for an interview after which they brought me on. Prisoner's Legal Service were extremely flexible. They asked for one day a week with at least a six-month commitment because of the time they take to train you. I have been able to work whichever day I wanted and they have been more than willing to let me take a week off here and there for exams and occasional holidays.

PLS have let me do pretty much any work I've expressed an interest in. I have: provided legal advice via helpline to prisoners, helped draft parole application, done in-person interviews at a variety of prisons near Brisbane and drafted submissions to a variety of legal bodies including the Queensland Parole Board, the Courts, a coronial inquest and the Human Rights Commission. The work is as varied as you want it to be and consistently interesting. Some of the submissions require the view of information which can contain quite graphic descriptions of violent or sexual crimes, in addition to working with those who have perpetrated those crimes. It happens often enough that I would not recommend PLS to anyone who thinks they would be particularly disturbed by such descriptions or who would be unable to remain impartial with the clients who committed those crimes.

If what you want out of a Community Legal Centre is a flexible schedule with friendly full-time staff and legal work that is as varied as you want it to be, my experience with Prisoners' Legal Service is such that I would happily recommend it to anyone.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE QLD

The Environmental Defenders Office Qld (EDO Qld) is an independent community legal centre, empowering the community to use the law to protect the environment. The EDO's goals are to protect clean air, soil and water for safe and healthy communities; restore and preserve nature, the Great Barrier Reef and wildlife; and advance clean energy and keep our climate safe.

The EDO runs three volunteer programs for law students:

- » **Day Volunteer Placement Program** - Starting in February each year, volunteers work one full day per week for a minimum of one semester. Rosters are organised each semester and are finalised in February and late July. If a casual vacancy arises during semester, applications on file will be reviewed.
- » **Law Student Volunteers** - In partnership with EDO, the UQ Pro Bono Centre runs the Environmental Law Clinic. Students gain credit towards their law degree (LAWS5180/7180).
- » **The Evening Advice Line Program** - Volunteers work one evening a week for a minimum of one semester. Rosters are organised each semester and are finalised at the end of February and late July. If a casual vacancy arises during semester, applications on file will be reviewed.

### 'A day in the life of an EDO lawyer'

*Bronwyn Bell – EDO Operations Manager*

A day in the life of one of our lawyers is full of variety. On any given day, our solicitors could be representing a conservation group or regional farmers in Court; meeting with government on law reform and policy; or travelling to rural and regional locations to deliver community workshops. Our lawyers work enthusiastically with members of the community to help empower them to understand their rights at law and to protect their environment and community.

Volunteers answer the phones, undertake legal research, assist on casework and projects and sometimes carry out administrative tasks.

### How to apply

To apply for the day volunteer or evening advice line program, email [edoqld@edoqld.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edoqld.org.au) with a completed application form (available at <https://www.edoqld.org.au/volunteer>), a cover letter, CV and a copy of your academic transcript. Alternatively, students can also volunteer through the Pro Bono Centre's Clinical Legal Education Program (LAWS5180).

### Contact details

Email: [edoqld@edoqld.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edoqld.org.au)  
Phone: (07) 3211 4466

### Testimonial for the Environmental Defenders Office

*Alex Ladd*

All students are forced to come to grips with the daunting prospect of gaining valuable practical experience while studying at university. We each come to this realisation at various points of our degrees, with varying levels of success. Fortunately, early in my degree, I discovered the academic, professional and, importantly, personal value of volunteering in its various forms. Some of the volunteering I have undertaken has involved conducting research as a group for both the Environmental Defender's Office and the PNG Supreme Court through the UQ Pro Bono Centre. I was provided these opportunities by signing up to the Centre's roster and applying for the opportunities that interested me and suited my schedule at the time. The great thing about many types of volunteering is the flexibility in terms of schedule (often running over break periods or accommodating exam periods), as well as low hourly commitments (often siloed off to a few hours a week, generally over a single day).

Beyond the tasks I have been fortunate to be a part of, identifying specific organisations that interest me for potential future opportunities has also been an important source of career planning. Further, many of the tasks are short-term and have allowed me to engage with a number of organisations, widening my practical understanding of the expectations and applicability of the legal profession in a variety of different arenas. I would encourage as many law students as possible to engage with volunteering while studying at university. It's the perfect time to see how the law can be applied in ways you may have failed to realize, provides vital support to organisations and individuals in need of such assistance and allows you to start building the foundations of your potential future legal career.

## LGBTI LEGAL SERVICE

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex (LGBTI) Legal Service is a non-profit community legal centre providing free and confidential legal advice and assistance to Queensland residents who identify as LGBTIQ+. The LGBTI Legal Service provides advice in relation to family law, domestic violence, surrogacy and parenting rights, criminal law, discrimination, victims support, civil matters, government decisions, Centrelink matters and employment matters. The Service also includes a law reform division which is actively involved in advocating for law reform for the LGBTI community.

### 'A day in the life of an LGBTI Legal Service lawyer'

*Renea Hart*

Due to our small size (three staff), we are a dynamic service where every day is different. We work closely with other LGBTIQ+ and community support organisations and often meet to discuss projects and identify gaps in our service delivery. We also have a lot of client contact. We speak to different clients every day to provide holistic solutions to their issues, rather than just legal answers.



<b>How to apply</b>	Most volunteer positions are advertised through the UQ Pro Bono Centre. However, you can also apply directly sending a cover letter and resume to <a href="mailto:mail@lgbtilegalservice.org">mail@lgbtilegalservice.org</a> .
<b>Requirements</b>	You do not need to identify as LGBTIQ+ to apply. You just need to be an ally that is respectful and willing to learn.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:mail@lgbtilegalservice.org">mail@lgbtilegalservice.org</a> Phone: (07) 3124 7160

### Testimonial for the LGBTI Legal Service

*Alastair Page*

I became involved in the LGBTI Legal Services after asking my social circles about any legal volunteering opportunities. Several older students were excited to tell me about a program that they were working on and invited me to be a part of it. After writing an application and completing the introductory seminar, I immediately began assisting with their ongoing projects. Taking part in the organization's goals has led me to some amazing experiences, from meeting fellow ally The Honourable Kirby J and at the time of writing this, helping compile submissions to the Commonwealth Review of Religious Freedoms. The submissions will have my name included among those that worked on the document when they are eventually entered into the federal registry, providing me with an immense amount of pride for the work that I complete with the organisation. As the majority of volunteers either study or work full time, organisers provide plenty of time to plan the hours that you will be spend on their projects. I would encourage anyone who is currently thinking about any form of volunteering to put your name forward as regularly as possible for whatever positions you can; gaining experience for your future profession may as well be a part of your reinvestment back into your community.

*Eliza Jane*

I began volunteering at the LGBTI Legal Service in 2015, at the beginning of my third year at university. I initially volunteered as a Legal Assistant, helping to organise fundraising events and community activities. Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to try out other roles including Evening Coordinator and Law Reformer. I also held the position of Secretary for a couple of years. All of these volunteer positions have given me exposure to different areas of operation within the Service, allowing me to gain and develop various skills while also helping out those in need in the diverse LGBTIQ+ community.

Currently, I work at the Service as an Administrative Assistant, and also volunteer as Stakeholder Relations Officer. As Stakeholder Relations Officer, I organise and attend events to assist with our community outreach. Working as an Administrative Assistant has been my most fulfilling role so far. I get to work closely with our Solicitor/Coordinator to facilitate the effective operation of the Service, including organising client services/advice and coordinating volunteers.

For those who want to get involved with community legal centres, volunteering is the best way to start. You should definitely do your research and choose an organisation that you are genuinely passionate about, and make sure that you show your commitment through active involvement

## REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICE

The Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) provides free advice on Australian migration law including sponsorship, reviews, permanent residence, citizenship, visa cancellation, refugee status, protection visas and detention. It does so through the operation of its general advice clinic, casework and education to refugees settling in Australia. RAILS recruits student volunteers as day volunteers. Day volunteers assist caseworkers and perform tasks such as interviewing clients, drafting client statements and legal submissions, researching country information and form-filling and assisting with case files.

<b>Duration</b>	Volunteers are required to commit to a day per week for three months.
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply send a CV, cover letter and academic transcript to <a href="mailto:admin@rails.org.au">admin@rails.org.au</a> . RAILS recruits volunteers throughout the year but particularly welcomes applications around February (to start during Semester 1), June/July (to start during the mid-year break) and November (to start in the summer holidays).
<b>Requirements</b>	To apply for a day volunteer position, you must be in your third year of study, have some legal work experience and a demonstrated commitment to social justice. Students who are earlier in their degree or have limited work experience may still be considered for evening advice coordinator.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@rails.org.au">admin@rails.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3846 9300

## TENANTS QUEENSLAND

Tenants Queensland seeks to represent the concerns of all Queensland tenants who live in rental accommodation, provides advice and advocacy services and is also involved in law reform efforts. The organisation provides many resources to assist tenants including a state-wide telephone advice service, tenancy publications, a tenancy law training program and tenancy law research and policy development. Furthermore, Tenants Queensland manages the Queensland State-wide Tenant Advice and Referral Service (QSTARS).

<b>How to apply</b>	To apply to the Brisbane office, send an expression of interest to <a href="mailto:volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au">volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au</a> .
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au">volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3832 9403

## WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE

The Women's Legal Service is a specialist community legal centre providing free legal and social work services to women in Queensland. The Service provides advice to women in the areas of family law, child support, domestic violence and child protection, community legal education and produces specialist publications. The Service operates through advice lines, interviews and advice sessions.

Opportunities for law students to volunteer are limited. More information of the roles available can be found at <https://wlsq.org.au/volunteer/>.

<b>How to apply</b>	Most volunteering opportunities are advertised through the Pro Bono Centre. Alternatively, students can email <a href="mailto:admin@wlsq.org.au">admin@wlsq.org.au</a> and ask about any available volunteering opportunities.
<b>Requirements</b>	Students must have demonstrated an interest in family law and the work of feminist organisations.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au">volunteer@tenantsqld.org.au</a> . Phone: (07) 3392 0644

### Testimonial for the Women's Legal Service

*Caitlyn Duke*

The Women's Legal Service (WLS) is a community legal centre which offers free legal advice to women in the areas of family law and domestic violence (DV). I had seen the position advertised on the organisation's Facebook page, and after a written application and a round of interviews I was offered a volunteer role.

I have had the opportunity to work both as an Administration Volunteer at the WLS' office and at the Ipswich Magistrates Court as a Duty Lawyer Paralegal. My role as an "Admin Vollie" began as a one day a week commitment (which became one day a fortnight once I commenced at the Ipswich court) and involves undertaking general administrative tasks such as filing, collecting mail and confirming appointments. Admin Vollies also answer the administration phone line, which is a challenging task that often involves answering calls directly from vulnerable women seeking to access the service.

The WLS runs Duty Lawyer programs at multiple Magistrates Courts to provide free legal advice, and sometimes representation, to women who are due to appear in DV matters. My role as a Paralegal to these lawyers requires me to organise the day's list of clients, balancing who the parties most in need of assistance are and directly engaging with clients before they get advice to fill in forms and explain any conflict issues.

Volunteering for the WLS has been an amazing learning experience which I have really enjoyed. Admittedly, the subject matter of DV can sometimes be really challenging to face and I have had a few clients whose stories I will never forget. In spite of this, I know I have benefitted from being exposed to the amazing work of the WLS and there is a really tangible feeling of women's empowerment amongst everyone there. My role has been equally rewarding and challenging and I encourage all law students to volunteer at Community Legal Centres - especially the WLS.



## SISTERS INSIDE

Sisters Inside is an independent community organisation which exists to advocate for the human rights of women in the criminal justice system and to address gaps in the services available to them. The organisation works alongside women in prison to provide support for children of mothers in prison, assist in bail applications, provide sexual assault counselling and provide indigenous support.

### How to apply

Sisters Inside have reached their volunteer capacity for 2019. Any volunteer positions that open up will be advertised on their website: <https://sistersinside.com.au/about/work-with-us/>

### Contact details

Email: [admin@sistersinside.com.au](mailto:admin@sistersinside.com.au)  
Phone: (07) 3844 5066

## YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

The Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC) offers free legal services, youth support and family support assistance and services to young people (generally aged 10-18). YAC focuses on assisting children involved in the youth justice or child protection systems or experiencing or at risk of homelessness. YAC can assist young people with:

- » legal hassles – including being charged with breaking the law or child protection issues;
- » information about legal issues;
- » problems at home or school;
- » family relationships;
- » lack of accommodation and/or income;
- » being the victim of a crime (Including abuse); and
- » discrimination issues.

YAC also supports the development of social and legal systems that are more responsive and appropriate to the needs of children and youth people and which take account of Australia's international obligations.

### How to apply

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to [admin@yac.net.au](mailto:admin@yac.net.au). Your application should include why you would like to volunteer at YAC, what you can offer, what you are seeking from this experience and the time you have available.

### Contact details

Email: [admin@yac.net.au](mailto:admin@yac.net.au)  
Phone: (07) 3356 1002

## QUEENSLAND ADVOCACY INCORPORATED

Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI) is a legal advocacy organisation for people with disability in Queensland. QAI's mission is to promote, protect and defend, through advocacy, the fundamental needs, rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability.

Student volunteers assist with a number of tasks including legal research, drafting, preparation of counsel briefs, photocopying and other administrative tasks.

<b>Duration</b>	Volunteers are required to commit to at least 6-10 full days to spread over 10 weeks, or over a shorter period by negotiation
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, contact QAI with a cover letter and resume to see if volunteer positions are open. The best time to seek volunteering opportunities is 2-4 weeks before the start of semester or towards the end of semester.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:gai@gai.org.au">gai@gai.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 3844 4200

## TASC

TASC (formerly Toowoomba Community Legal Service) is a small community legal service that provides social, educational, legal and advocacy services for disadvantaged people. TASC often joins forces with community organisations and government departments to improve delivery of their services, for example, services based in the Disability Services Queensland office. TASC has offices in Toowoomba, Ipswich and Roma.

TASC's Volunteer Program offers students the opportunity to undertake legal, paralegal, community development, multimedia, technical, and administrative work. TASC also provides training to volunteers through the Queensland Criminal Justice Centre, established in 2008.

<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, forward your CV and details of your availability to <a href="mailto:reception@tascnational.org.au">reception@tascnational.org.au</a>
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:reception@tascnational.org.au">reception@tascnational.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 4616 9700

## TOWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

Townsville Community Legal Service (TCLS) is a non-profit community legal centre that offers services that are readily accessible, informal and available to all members of the community. TCLS offers generalist legal services, welfare rights services, financial counselling services, family law advice, registered migration agency services as well as a seniors legal and support service.

TCLS's volunteer program is aimed at 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year students, however PLT placements are also available. Students assist staff solicitors by conducting research, drafting documents, answering calls and providing other general assistance to TCLS solicitors for a range of legal matters.

<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, email <a href="mailto:tcls@tcls.org.au">tcls@tcls.org.au</a> . Attach your CV and express an interest in volunteering. More information can be found here: <a href="http://www.tcls.org.au/01 cms/details.asp?ID=108">http://www.tcls.org.au/01 cms/details.asp?ID=108</a>
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:tcls@tcls.org.au">tcls@tcls.org.au</a> Phone: (07) 4721 5511

## AURORA NATIVE TITLE LEGAL INTERNSHIP

The Aurora Native Title Legal Internship introduces law students to career opportunities in native title, policy development, social justice and Indigenous affairs and aims to assist under-resourced and over-worked Native Title representative bodies, prescribed bodies corporate and other organisations working in these areas.

Students will support the organisations' legal and research staff in administration tasks. Other tasks may include legal research, preparing briefs to counsel, attending court and preparing and attending events at the host organisation. The Aurora internship program is very competitive. Of the 350 applications received each round, approximately 120 – 150 placements are arranged. Aurora can only accept a certain number of applications each round, so it is recommended that you apply early to avoid missing out.

<b>Duration</b>	The internship runs from 4 to 6 weeks during either the winter or summer holidays.
<b>How to apply</b>	Applications for the winter 2019 round are now closed. Applications for summer 2019/2020 will open from 5 August – 30 August 2019. Applications can be made online at <a href="http://auroraproject.com.au">http://auroraproject.com.au</a> .
<b>Requirements</b>	<p>Applicants must have completed or be studying Property Law. All applicants need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» a strong academic record</li> <li>» an interest in the area of native title, social justice and indigenous affairs</li> <li>» strong cultural awareness and sensitivity</li> <li>» good interpersonal and communication skills</li> </ul> <p>Each application must include a cover letter, a CV, a head shot, an academic transcript and two written references. For more information about the application process, visit <a href="https://auroraproject.com.au/about-applying-internship">https://auroraproject.com.au/about-applying-internship</a></p>
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:placements@auroraproject.com.au">placements@auroraproject.com.au</a> Phone: (07) 9310 8413

## 2. *Boutique to Small Firms*

### Boutique Law Firms

The first point to remember about boutique firms is that the term “boutique” is not simply a euphemism for small. Rather, boutique law firms specialize in a niche area of law. Therefore, a boutique firm isn’t about size; it’s about specialization. A boutique law firm can provide expert legal advice and services to individuals or businesses in one or a select few areas of the law.

Although midsize and large law firms have structured themselves to offer a broad range of services, a growing number of lawyers are setting up these smaller practices, choosing to focus the work of the entire firm on one area of law.

#### GRIFFITH HACK LAWYERS

Griffith Hack Lawyers is a specialist intellectual property firm. The firm aims to provide a range of intellectual property services including analysing the existing IP landscape to inform strategic and innovation investment decisions, assisting clients to obtain the maximum research and development funding available as well as guiding the integration of IP strategy with business strategy.

#### LEANNE BOWIE LAWYERS

Leanne Bowie Lawyers is a boutique Australian firm specialising in environmental, planning and resumption law. The team at Leanne Bowie are experienced in complex resource-based projects, infrastructure projects and a range of other development projects. Leanne Bowie Lawyers also provides policy and legislative advice.

#### HARMERS WORKPLACE LAWYERS

Harmers Workplace Lawyers was formed in 1996 and is one of Australia’s largest employment and industrial law practices with offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The firm focuses on innovative, high quality problem solving and a preventive approach across all areas of employment and industrial law.

#### NATHAN LAWYERS

Nathan Lawyers is a long-standing boutique law firm, specialising in commercial and business law, dispute resolution, family law, wills and estates, and conveyancing. The director has been admitted to STEP, the global professional association for practitioners who specialise in family inheritance and succession planning.

#### MULCAHY RYAN LAWYERS

Mulcahy Ryan Criminal Lawyers is a boutique Australian law firm specialising exclusively in criminal law. With more than 25 years of experience, they cover many criminal and traffic offences including drug offences, murder/manslaughter, fraud and computer related crimes.



## Small Law Firms

Small firms generally only have a handful of lawyers and possibly one or two support staff. Sometimes people refer to these firms as “suburban” law firms, because most are located in the suburbs. However, it should be noted that small firms are found everywhere, and sometimes close by to larger firms. The benefits of working at small firms are that your work may be more varied, you’ll gain more hands-on experience and you will have significant client contact.

### YHC LAWYERS CADETSHIP

YHC Lawyers is a small law firm that provides legal advice in the area of property, business and succession law. YC Lawyers offers a ‘cadetship’ program to law students wishing to work part-time in a small law firm before they graduate. The role involves file work, research and support work. For more information visit <https://www.yhclawyers.com.au/cadet-recruitment.html>

<b>Duration</b>	2-3 days a week.
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, email your application to <a href="mailto:hrcadet@yhclawyers.com.au">hrcadet@yhclawyers.com.au</a> . Your application should include a cover letter, CV and academic transcript. Applications close on 24 May 2019; however, another intake may be conducted in early August.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:hrcadet@yhclawyers.com.au">hrcadet@yhclawyers.com.au</a> . Phone: (07) 3160 3300

## Profile: Caitlin Fitzgerald

### Solicitor, McInnes Wilson Lawyers

*I would encourage all law students to have an open mind about their path to becoming a practicing solicitor. My experience is a testament to the fact that a clerkship is not the only way to get your foot in the door.*

*I did not arrive at my current role, one where I get to practice in my dream area of law, through a conventional 'clerkship path'. In fact, my journey did not entail a stint on Eagle Street, nor did it involve purely law firm experience !*

*I started my legal career as a secretary in the property section of a boutique firm. I found that showing enthusiasm and taking ownership of my work encouraged the lawyers to delegate more substantial work to me. I was then able to develop my skills in drafting correspondence both to the client and to the other side, and updating clients over the phone with the progress of their files.*

*From there I had the opportunity to work for a senior barrister providing both legal research and administrative support. This exposure to excellent legal advice and representation was an invaluable learning experience. It also confirmed my interest in personal injuries law.*

*I focused upon skilling myself for that particular area as I believed that would add to my value as a junior legal recruit.*

*I therefore commenced a role as a claims manager with an insurance company in order to understand how to determine the question of liability and the quantum of a personal injury claim for myself. I also had a high case load which sharpened those all-important time management skills!*

*As I was able to demonstrate to employers that I was serious about personal injuries law, and had the skills to hit the ground running, I then secured my first role as a law clerk in a private law firm. I received fabulous mentoring and progressed to a junior solicitor position, practicing medical negligence law.*

*I would not be where I am if I had clung to the notion that a clerkship followed by a graduate position was the only way to kick-off a legal career.*

*My experience has taught me the value of identifying what skills an area of practice calls for early on and equipping yourself accordingly. This could be through undertaking volunteer roles and working at companies and smaller firms- all places that call for the considerable talent of law students.*

### 3. *Legal Academia*

#### What is Academia?

The role of an academic in a university context generally has three component parts: research, teaching, and service. Research entails publishing work both as an individual and in collaboration with other academics. Being able to work in a group is therefore a key skill for those considering a career in academia. Teaching involves taking university courses, both as a lecturer and a tutor, and may involve acting as a supervisor for students in research higher degree and PhD programs. Service encompasses a broad range of things from coordinating extra-curricular programs, to facilitating university community outreach initiatives.

Academia is an attractive career for those with an inquiring mind and a passion for research. If you choose to pursue a career as an academic, you will have the unique opportunity to become an expert in an area of the law and contribute to the development of a field of legal knowledge. As respected experts in their chosen field, academics have influence on the interpretation and development of the law through their writing. Academics also play a valuable role shaping the next generation of lawyers through their work as lecturers and supervisors. There are also international opportunities available for those interested in academia. Academics may travel to other countries for conferences or to carry out research, and may be appointed to positions in overseas universities.

If you like the idea of working in a collegiate environment with no end of intellectual stimulation, academia may be the career for you.

#### Pathways to Academia

Securing a position at in a university faculty is no mean feat: such positions are often highly competitive. For those interested in a career as an academic there are certain things to be aware of to give you the best chance of landing a job as an academic.

First, it is increasingly important to have completed post-graduate research in an allied field of study. While requirements vary from country to country, law schools in many countries require at least a master's degree. Second, while academia is by no means an exclusive club for those with impeccable grades, a strong academic record will be invaluable. Third, it is important to start building a portfolio of 'publishable' research.

The faculty you apply to will be interested in seeing a genuine interest in producing research for publication. Take advantage of opportunities to contribute to school law journals or journals associated with a student law society. Finally, take advantage of the easy access to tutors, lecturers and professors that you have while at university. There are plenty of friendly academics, not just in the law faculty, who will be happy to discuss potential career paths with you, and mentor you along your journey.

## 4. The Bar

### What is a Barrister?

In Queensland, there is a division between the work of solicitors and barristers. A barrister is a specialist advocate who appears before Courts and Tribunals and is an 'Officer of the Court' who practises independently. Typically, barristers working at the private bar accept instructions from solicitors, including those employed by Crown Law, and act for clients in matters that reflect their interest and expertise. Barristers may also be employed by government departments including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions or Legal Aid Australia.

Barristers are often called upon to give legal advice and assist with dispute resolution and an increasing number of barristers are now specialising in Alternative Dispute Resolution and arbitration. Furthermore, barristers can become involved in law reform and pro bono work through the Bar Association.

### How to become a Barrister

In Queensland, the Bar is regulated by the Rules of the Bar Association. Like solicitors, barristers are required to have a law degree (either the Bachelor of Laws or the Juris Doctor). They must also complete the Practical Legal Training ('PLT') course and get admitted to legal profession, at which point they receive a solicitor's practising certificate. However, to become a barrister you must take the Bar Exams, which cover areas like legal ethics, practice and procedure, and evidence. Once you pass the exams, you may commence the Bar Practice Course, which runs for six weeks. Both the Exams and the Course are offered through the Bar Association of Queensland.

For more information visit: <https://www.qldbar.asn.au/#/practising-requirements>

### Opportunities for Students

There are a number of opportunities for students to network with barristers or gain work experience in a barristers' chambers:

- » **Barrister's Work Experience Program.** This program is run by the UQLS. Successful applicants shadow a barrister for two days in September or October. The program is usually advertised on the UQLS Facebook page around July.
- » **Barrister's Assistance Team (BAT).** This program is run by the Pro Bono Centre. Successful applicants are emailed whenever a barrister requests student assistance to carry out short-term research tasks. Opportunities to become part of the team are advertised by the Pro Bono Centre at the beginning of each semester.
- » **Wig's at the Bar.** This is a networking event run by the Justice and the Law Society in semester 2 which gives students the opportunity to talk with barristers, judges and JAs. It will be advertised on the JATL Facebook page.



## QLD OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

If you are interested in working as a criminal barrister, it is possible to complete work experience at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). The ODPP prosecutes criminal matters for the state of Queensland and offers a work experience placement program to law students. Applications should be made directly to the TC Beirne School of Law. More information is available: <https://law.uq.edu.au/current-students/careers-and-overseas-opportunities/work-opportunities/odpp-work-experience-placement-program>

<b>Duration</b>	4-week full-time placement during Winter (24 June – 19 July), Spring (9 September – 4 October) or Summer (18 November – 13 December)
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, email an application form, CV and academic transcript to Jo Williams (employability specialist, TC Beirne School of Law). Applications for Spring open 27 May and close 21 June. Applications for summer open 5 August and close 30 August.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:jo.williams@uq.edu.au">jo.williams@uq.edu.au</a> . Phone: (07) 3365 4222

### Profile: Edmund Robinson

Barrister, North Quarter Lane Chambers

*I completed my degree (Law and Arts) in 2010 and then spent six years as a solicitor practising commercial litigation, first at Allens and then at Johnson Winter & Slattery. In 2017 I decided it was time to make the switch and go to the Bar. I sat the three Bar exams (Evidence, Ethics and Civil Procedure), attended the six-week Bar Practice Course, and – voila – I was out on my own practising as a barrister.*

*My experience since has been almost entirely positive. One great advantage of the Bar is that barristers are self-employed, although the flipside is that that requires discipline and self-motivation. Another advantage is that being a barrister allows a lawyer greater latitude to practise a variety of types of law than is found at most law firms (apart from some general practice firms). Since coming to the Bar I have not only practised commercial law but also taken on other matters that interest me such as defamation matters and the occasional criminal law or family law dispute.*

*Although there is no doubt that there are some barristers who go straight to the Bar after university and make it work, my advice is that gaining some prior experience as a solicitor makes for a smoother start. That could be at a law firm, in a government department, in a community legal centre, in-house, or somewhere else. Whichever it is, you will find the experience you gain invaluable when you are a sole practitioner at the Bar.*

*All in all, although life at the Bar doesn't appeal to everyone, it is an extremely rewarding career for anyone who is intellectually curious, enjoys public speaking, and is prepared to weather the ups and downs of life as a sole practitioner.*

## 5. Judge's Associate

### What is an Associate?

A Judge's Associate assists a judge or court. In Australia, a judge's associate is a recent law graduate or lawyer who performs various duties to assist a specific judge.

### What does an Associateship involve?

Being a Judge's associate is a highly unique and rewarding experience. Associates are often in the early stages of their careers, and so it is a privilege to be able to work closely with a judge with extensive experience in the legal profession. In many instances, judges are incredible mentors for their associates, so the role provides an excellent foundation for a future legal career.

Being an associate involves attending court frequently, allowing you to observe a range of oral advocacy techniques and to become more comfortable in this particular environment, and also observing the judicial decision-making process in action. As such, the opportunity is certainly invaluable and directly relevant to anyone with an interest in being a barrister or working in litigation, though an understanding of how the third arm of government operates on a more practical level can have tangible career benefits across innumerable fields and positions.

Daily tasks do vary depending on the judge, but generally include assisting the judge in court, summarising upcoming matters, proofreading judgments, liaising with parties in relation to court arrangements and conducting legal research. Beyond this, there may also be opportunities to travel on circuit with your judge or to assist with extra-judicial tasks such as function planning and speechwriting. This aspect of the role, which involves observing the judicial role in its broader context, can also be rewarding and inspiring.

### How to Apply for an Associateship

Applications to be an associate to a Judge of the Supreme, District or Land Courts generally open in December approximately 14 months before you would commence. For example, applications for associateships in 2021 will open in December 2019. The process requires applicants to complete a set application form and to include a CV and cover letter. Interviews are then offered to short-listed applicants.

In the Federal Court and other bodies (such as the Queensland Law Reform Commission), the process can vary depending on the different registries. Information can be obtained by visiting their website or by contacting the relevant registry or chambers. As well as the State, Federal and High Courts, there are additional opportunities in the AAT, QCAT and the Fair Work Commission.

For more information, come along to the **Judge's Associateship forum** held in semester 2, which will be advertised on the JATL and UQLS Facebook page.

## Profile: Erica Wilkinson

### QCAT Associate

*I believe that my education at UQ has really shaped where I am working today. Volunteering at a community legal centre through UQ's Pro Bono Centre was a particular highlight for me during law school. I got involved with doing pro bono work as I wanted to help people using the skills and knowledge I learnt at university. Through the UQ Pro Bono Centre program, I volunteered at a community legal centre called Law Right while I was at university. I volunteered with LawRight's Self Representation Service at their Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) office and then later at their Federal Court office as well. At QCAT, I assisted people with a range of types of matters. Most were guardianship and administration matters, but there were also blue card review matters, child protection matters and other administrative review matters. Doing pro bono work was a great way to get practical experience at law. I was able to not only use the knowledge I had learnt at university but to learn more about how to interact with clients and other practical skills which are hard to learn from only studying law in a classroom. It was also interesting to see files progress from start to finish, to interact directly on with clients and to see a more human side to the law.*

*I am currently working as an associate to a Senior Member of QCAT. I am really enjoying my year as an associate so far. I like having a 'behind the scenes' view of the processes that occur in the Tribunal and having the privilege of being able to learn from members who are very knowledgeable about QCAT's areas of law and litigation.*

*I would highly recommend getting involved with the pro bono centre program at UQ while you are at university. I am sure that my experience at LawRight helped me obtain an associateship. I became interested in working at a court or tribunal after volunteering at the Self Representation Service and I think my experience with QCAT matters specifically helped me with obtaining an associateship at QCAT. I also recommend looking outside the box for work that interests you. For example, it is not only judges working in courts that have associates – there are tribunal members and commissioners who have associates too.*

*My tips:*

- » *Get involved with doing pro bono work while you are at uni.*
- » *Don't leave it too late to apply for an associateship. Some judges choose their associates years in advance!*
- » *Think outside the box and do your research about what jobs are out there besides top tier law firms on Eagle Street.*

## 6. Government and Public Service

Working in the public service offers a number of advantages:

- » There is enormous variety in the roles available and just being in a diverse environment opens your eyes to career options you might never have considered;
- » Secondments create lots of opportunities to develop your skills and there is astonishing mobility within the sector; and
- » The opportunities for work-life balance (part-time work, compressed hours, 48/52 or rec leave at half pay etc), although still subject to operational convenience, are better than you could negotiate in most private firms.

Legal skills are valuable in the public sector, in legal, policy and program roles. The Queensland public sector offers graduate programs, but there are a number of ways of 'getting a foot in the door'. If you accept an entry level role, there are frequent opportunities for advancement within and across departments. Contract work (often through a recruitment or temp agency) also often leads to opportunities for permanency.

### AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION (ACCC)

The ACCC is Australia's peak consumer protection and competition agency. It is an independent statutory authority and is the only national agency dealing with competition matters. The ACCC's role is to promote vigorous and lawful competition, to encourage fair business dealings and to protect consumers from misleading and deceptive conduct.

ACCC graduates take part in three, 14-week rotations. Graduates have the opportunity to work in the adjudication, corporate, enforcement and compliance, mergers and acquisitions or regulatory affairs groups within the ACCC. As a graduate, you may be involved in consumer liaison activities, product safety surveys, compliance research, or market analysis.

#### How to apply

Applications can be made on the ACCC website:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/careers/graduate-opportunities>

Applications for the 2020 program are closed, however applications for the 2021 program will likely open in March 2020.

#### Contact details

Email: [grad.jobs@accc.gov.au](mailto:grad.jobs@accc.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 6234 1013

### AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The AHRC is a national human rights institution and independent statutory organisation leading the promotion and protection of human rights in Australia. The Commission resolves complaints of discrimination or breaches of human rights under federal laws and holds public inquiries into human rights issues of national importance. It also provides legal advice to assist courts in cases that involve human rights principles and to parliaments and governments to develop laws, policies and



programs. The Commission also undertakes and coordinates research into human rights and discrimination issues nationally as well as in conjunction with other national human rights institutions to address such issues at the regional level.

The AHRC runs an unpaid internship program in July and December to provide students with a practical understanding of human rights promotion and protection. Through the program students will gain a broad appreciation of the scope of work the Commission undertakes. All internship placements are based in the Commission's office in Sydney. For more information, visit <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/jobs/interns>

<b>Duration</b>	Full-time placement of up to 6 weeks, or a part-time placement (at least 2 days per week) over 6-12 weeks.
<b>How to apply</b>	To apply, email the internship application form (found on the AHRC website), a one-page cover letter, CV, academic transcript and references to <a href="mailto:internships@humanrights.gov.au">internships@humanrights.gov.au</a> Applications close 31 May 2019.
<b>Requirements</b>	You must be in your final or penultimate year of study.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:internships@humanrights.gov.au">internships@humanrights.gov.au</a>

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The Attorney-General's Department is charged with upholding the rule of law and providing support to the Australian Government to maintain and improve our systems for law and justice, national security, emergency management, and natural disaster relief. The Department deals with a number of areas, including: families and marriage; rights and protections; legal systems; crime and corruption; national security; emergency management; and international relations. The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), one of four groups within AGD, provides legal services to the Commonwealth (legal advice and representation).

The Department offers a 12-month graduate program across two streams: policy stream and legal practice stream. All policy graduate positions are based in Canberra, while legal practice may provide positions in the Sydney and Melbourne offices.

<b>How to apply</b>	You can apply for the 2020 graduate program online at <a href="http://www.ag.gov.au/about/careers/graduateprogram">www.ag.gov.au/about/careers/graduateprogram</a> . You must submit your resume, a response to the questions in the application form and your academic transcript. Applications close 26 April 2019.
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:HR.Assist@ag.gov.au">HR.Assist@ag.gov.au</a> Phone: (02) 6141 6111

## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

The AFP has established itself as a key player in the Australian security landscape, rising to complex challenges and responding swiftly to protect Australians as new threats emerge. The protection of Australia and Australian interests, including protecting people, assets and critical infrastructure remains a key focus for the AFP.

The AFP offers a 12-month graduate program beginning in February or March. All positions are located in Canberra. More information at: <https://www.afp.gov.au/careers/graduate-program>

### How to apply

Applications open in February each year (for positions commencing in February or March of the following year). Applications must be made on the AFP vacancies page <https://www.afp.gov.au/careers/vacancies>. You will be required to submit a two-page cover letter, academic transcript, CV, employment suitability questionnaire, and a traffic history.

## DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides foreign, trade and development policy advice to the government. DFAT works with other government agencies to ensure that Australia's pursuit of its global, regional and bilateral interests is coordinated effectively.

DFAT offers a two-year graduate program in both police and corporate management. All positions are located in Canberra. Over the course of the program, policy graduates will generally undertake five placements of 5-6 months across key areas of the agency. Corporate management graduates will typically have 6-8 placements. On completion of the program, graduates take up a longer-term placement in the agency and become eligible to apply for overseas postings. More information at: <https://dfat.gov.au/careers/dfat-aps-careers/graduate-program/Pages/graduate-program.aspx>

### How to apply

Applications open in February each year on the DFAT current opportunities page (<https://dfatcareers.nga.net.au/cp/>). You will be required to provide a 500-word response to a question (addressing the key qualities and attributes outlined in the position description), a 100-word outline of who you are, details of two referees, along with your key academic and professional achievements, extra-curricular interests and work experience.

### Contact details

Email: [gradrec@dfat.gov.au](mailto:gradrec@dfat.gov.au)  
Phone: (02) 6261 9811

## ASIC

ASIC is Australia's corporate, markets and financial services regulator. It contributes to Australia's economic reputation and wellbeing by ensuring that Australia's financial markets are fair and transparent, and supported by confident and informed investors and consumers.

ASIC offers a year-long graduate program with four four-month rotations in either Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Traralgon. Graduates are involved in surveillances, investigations, analysing intelligence, data analytics, and consumer research. More information at:

<https://graduates.asic.gov.au/graduate-careers.html>

### How to apply

Applications open in March each year for positions commencing in January of the following year. Applications must be made through the ASIC website. You will be required to complete the online application form and upload a resume.

### Contact details

Email: [graduateprogram@asic.gov.au](mailto:graduateprogram@asic.gov.au).

## DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) assists the Prime Minister and Cabinet in policy matters, coordinates and monitors implementation of Government decisions, provides administrative support and facilitates government administration, intergovernmental relations and communications with State and Territory Governments. The Department provides policy advice on a range of issues, including: economic and industry policy, social policy, national security and international policy, and strategic policy.

The Department's offer a 12-month graduate program. Graduates are able to choose from the generalist stream, or major in one of the other two 'specialist' streams: Indigenous Affairs or Corporate and Government. The program is based in Canberra; however, rotations are available in regional areas. More information at: <https://www.pmc.gov.au/pmc/careers/graduate-careers>

### How to apply

Applications close at the end of April each year for positions commencing in February of the following year. Applications must be made on the PM&C current opportunities page. You will be required to submit your resume, references and academic transcript.

### Contact details

Email: [EntryLevelPrograms@pmc.gov.au](mailto:EntryLevelPrograms@pmc.gov.au)  
Phone: (02) 6271 6000

## THE TREASURY

The Treasury provides advice, analysis and legislation to the Government to support the effective management of the Australian economy. The Treasury is engaged in a range of issues from macroeconomic policy settings to microeconomic reform, climate change to social policy, as well as tax policy and international agreements and forums.

The Treasury offers a two-year graduate program, comprising of two one-year rotations. The program is based in Canberra. More information at: <http://graduates.treasury.gov.au/>

### How to apply

Applications open in March each year for positions commencing in February of the following year. Applications must be made on the Treasury's current vacancies page (<http://careers.tspace.gov.au/cw/en/listing/>). You will be required to submit an online application, your resume and academic transcript.

### Contact details

Email: [graduateprogram@treasury.gov.au](mailto:graduateprogram@treasury.gov.au).  
Phone: (02) 6263 2222

## RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

The Reserve Bank of Australia is Australia's central bank. Its duty is to contribute to the maintenance of price stability, full employment, and the economic prosperity and welfare of the Australian people.

The Reserve Bank offers a two-year graduate program. Graduates in the 'law' stream may be asked to analyse Australian or overseas trends, prepare briefing notes on statistical releases, research developments in financial markets, or contribute analysis to monetary policy discussions. The program is based in Sydney. More information at <https://www.rba.gov.au/careers/graduate-careers/>

### How to apply

Applications open in February each year for positions commencing in February of the following year. Applications must be made on the RBA's current opportunities page (<http://careers.rba.gov.au/caw/en/listing/>).

### Contact details

Email: [graduates@rba.gov.au](mailto:graduates@rba.gov.au).  
Phone: (02) 9551 8111



## AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is the principal revenue collection agency of the Australian Government. Its role is to effectively manage the tax and superannuation systems that support and fund services for Australians.

The ATO offers a 12-month graduate program. Graduate positions are offered in a number of streams. Law graduates are encouraged to apply for the 'taxation' stream. The ATO has offices in all capital cities and some regional locations. More information at: <https://www.ato.gov.au/About-ATO/Careers/Entry-level-programs/The-ATO-Graduate-program/>

### How to apply

Applications open in February each year for positions commencing in February of the following year. Applications must be made through the ATO's current vacancies page (<https://ato.nga.net.au/cp/>). You will be required to provide your academic transcript and personal information. A resume and details of referees will be requested later if you progress through the assessments.

### Contact details

Email: [EntryLevelPrograms@ato.gov.au](mailto:EntryLevelPrograms@ato.gov.au)

## Profile: Lea-Anne Gordon

Assistant Director - Department of Veterans' Affairs Canberra

*I completed my degree in 2004, though not qualified to practice law, I was very much in the legal working space. I studied part time off-campus and worked full-time in a Solicitor's practice in Canberra for a period of time during my study. My goal was to obtain graduate entry into the Australian Public Service, in 2006 I achieved this goal and was selected for the graduate program in both the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. I accepted the Department of Veterans' Affairs offer and have since worked in various business areas across the department.*

*I am very happy with this decision and the variety of work has been excellent. I have managed the departments Graduate program, helped to manage the relationship between my department and the Department of Defence, Department of Human Services and various other government departments. I have also been the Departmental Liaison Officer in our Minister's office at Parliament House. A law degree provides access to many fields and does not need to be narrow in opportunity or direction. I have been able to develop skills which complement my law studies and broadened my approach to how the law impacts on every facet of life.*

## Profile: Sian Littledale

Lawyer – Legal Aid

*I commenced law, knowing that I wanted to work with people, and to engage in advocacy on a day to day basis. Human rights and international law always attracted me, but Queensland doesn't have the most booming human rights or international law scene. So initially, I wasn't sure where I would end up, but I took as many opportunities as I could to work in areas of law that I was truly interested in. My experience of law practice began when I volunteered with the Refugee and Immigration Law Service in the early years of my degree. I gained so much insight into the basic skills of being a lawyer at that service from very experienced and dedicated lawyers. I also had the benefit of working at the Homeless Persons Legal Service, and the Women's Legal Service. I would strongly recommend volunteering at a community legal service, as it gives you the opportunity to work with very experienced practitioners, and at a service which is appreciative of your assistance. You also gain exposure to a section of our society that most law students would not be familiar with.*

*After my law degree, I was given the opportunity to work as an Associate, with both a Court of Appeal Judge and a Supreme Court Trial Division Judge. Around this time I spoke to a highly respected QC, who is now a Supreme Court Judge, who counselled me that the closest thing to upholding human rights in Queensland was being a criminal defence lawyer. This planted a seed in my mind, and along with my exposure to criminal law advocacy on a daily basis as an Associate, I felt confident that criminal defence law was where I wanted to practice. I spoke to various barristers, and made contact with people at Legal Aid Queensland. I sent them my CV and applied for every position advertised online. I was eventually successful in a job application, and started as a junior lawyer in 2017. I was attracted to Legal Aid because the organisation assists the most vulnerable people in our society, and has a very good reputation as delivering excellent legal services. My biggest advice for someone wishing to gain experience in criminal law is not to be afraid of reaching*

*out to people in the profession. You never know when a job may arise as a junior or trainee solicitor, and many criminal defence firms need clerks who are still at university.*

## Profile: Wendy Pei

### Graduate Officer – Queensland Treasury

*Working in government, particularly in a central agency like Queensland Treasury, is a job that I never thought I would end up doing when I was in law school. Before I applied for graduate positions, I was heavily involved with community legal centres and practice in administrative law. Through this, I realised that I was passionate about the due administration of laws and appropriate controls on government power as a means of upholding democracy. I realised at the end of my degree that I did not want to work in a private law firm as it was not commensurate with my experience or interests, and I wanted to work where my employer shared my values of integrity and excellence. For me, this meant working in government and in a department that strives for improvement and the delivery of quality services.*

*I came into Treasury as a graduate and rotated through groups involving tax policy and legislation, GST distribution policies, and in-house legal counsel. These rotations not only broadened my understanding of what I can contribute to the organisation beyond just being a lawyer, they also helped me develop good policy and drafting skills to suit all audiences.*

*However, after my graduate year, I realised I did want to be a lawyer, and so my current permanent role involves working in tax litigation in the Office of State Revenue. My daily tasks involve drafting briefs to counsel and Crown Law, collating evidence, discussing litigation strategies, and preparing for conferences and hearings in QCAT and the Supreme Court. My role gives me incredible exposure to working with barristers and lawyers across both public and private sectors, and my supportive leaders have let me take the lead on many matters, even though I am still the most junior in the team.*

*Working in government also involves a lot of flexible working arrangements, and the ability to use your overtime work to take time off, which allows for many employees to find a healthy work-life balance to manage family life well. Treasury is a place that is filled with many incredible female leaders who empower younger women like myself and who model the fact that if an organisation is willing to support you, there is a lot that you can do. Through its culture of inclusion and support, working in Treasury made me realise that so much of satisfaction in a job is about who you work with, as opposed to what you do.*

*I am glad that I chose an employer who shares the same values as me and who has leaders that are equally concerned about what I care about. At the end of the day, if your employer doesn't believe in the same things that you believe in, working there will be personally difficult, regardless of how much they pay you, or how prestigious the firm.*

## 7. In House Legal Work

### What is an In-House Lawyer?

Many organisations will employ legal counsel to work solely for the firm. The type of work will vary depending on the nature of the organisation, but can include contract law, company secretarial work, regulatory approval and compliance, banking and securities law, protection of intellectual property, employment law, or consumer law.

The experience of working in-house is one that is entirely distinct from working within a law firm. In-house practitioners often benefit from flexible working hours, an opportunity to participate in business decision making, an absence of billable quotas and a favourable work-life balance.

In addition, research by the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association has shown that 80% of in-house lawyers receive value added benefits:

- » 57% receive a bonus
- » 22% receive superannuation greater than the employer compulsory contribution
- » 3% receive fringe benefits tax benefits associated with working for a charity.

### Who Represents In-House Lawyers?

The Association of Corporate Counsel Australia ('ACCA') is the peak body for in-house lawyers. They host events, conferences, training workshops, and even have a yearly mentoring programme, which pairs less experienced in-house lawyers with mentors from a different industry sector.

More information: <http://acla.acc.com/>

### Further Educational Opportunities

The College of Law offers a Master of Laws (Applied Law), through which you may specialise in In-House Practice. The courses deal with the commercial aspects of being an in-house lawyer and include areas such as dispute and project management.

More information: <https://www.collaw.edu.au/learn-with-us/our-programs/postgraduate-applied-law-programs/in-house-practice>



## Pathways to In-House Work

Generally, lawyers who work in house are already qualified to practise as solicitors, and have extensive industry experience. In-house solicitors often start out in a law firm doing corporate and commercial legal work, before moving to an internal legal team. Many law firms also provide experienced legal counsel and provide graduates with opportunities to undertake secondments within in-house teams. Although many organisations have in-house legal departments, very few offer graduate-level positions. Employment positions are generally advertised on the organisation's website and secondments are usually arranged internally.

### COMMONWEALTH BANK

The Commonwealth Bank offers a summer internship program and an 18-month graduate program in their Legal Services team. The program involves three, six-month rotations in the Sydney office. For more information visit: <https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/careers/graduate-recruitment-program/legal-services.html>

#### How to apply

Applications for the summer intern program open in early July. Applications for the graduate program open in February for positions commencing in February the following year. You must submit your applications online through CBA's current opportunities page: <http://careers.commbank.com.au/commbank/en/listing/>

#### Contact details

Phone: 1800 989 696

## Profile: Krischelle Mangalindan

### In-house – EB Games

*Social justice played a part in shaping my early career in law. I volunteered in a number of Community Legal Centres when I was in law school. I volunteered at Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI), where I was involved in the Mental Health Legal Service, Human Rights Legal Service and Justice Support Program. I made friends and kept in touch with some colleagues after my placement, which resulted in me obtaining a paid position at QAI thereafter. I completed my PLT at Caxton Legal Centre and was the first PLT student in the Senior's Legal and Support Service (SLASS) where we dealt with Elder Financial Abuse.*

*I worked as a Graduate Lawyer at Cockburn Legal, a generalist law firm. Here, I gained exposure to a number of practice areas, including family, administrative, family, criminal and commercial law. I also made appearances at Court, which is something that I miss now that my current role does not require me to attend court. To bolster up my experience, I took on work at Community Resource Unit (CRU) which is a not-for-profit organisation that facilitates events and promotes meaningful life for people with disability. I also worked as part of the In-House Legal department at TriCare—where I did Retirement Village Conveyancing. I was always working - sometimes, I even worked at four different places in the same week! My first full-time Solicitor role was at David K Lawyers, a specialist Property Law firm. Here, I was mentored by excellent commercial property lawyers and developed my skills in the commercial property space. I advised on a wide range of Property matters including commercial and residential acquisitions and sales, property development, leasing, as well as other property-related matters.*

*All of the above experiences led me to my current role as an In-House Lawyer, at Electronics Boutique (better known as EB Games and Zing Pop Culture). Here, I work in the Property Department and handle the leasing portfolio in Australia and New Zealand. I also handle other ad-hoc commercial matters that come my way from other Departments.*

*I am fortunate to have quality work that challenges me, while also maintaining true work-life balance - this may, perhaps, be one of the best benefits of working in-house. The concentration of my workload is primarily in high-volume leasing and commercial contracts. However, as can be expected working for a large company, I am also exposed to a variety of other practice areas including Privacy Regulation, Corporate compliance, Intellectual Property, Celebrity Performance Contracts and more.*

*Moving from a law firm to working for a company was a big change! There were so many different, moving parts and numerous departments. Over time, I became immersed in the company, being involved with and invested in the bigger picture - which for us, is selling games! Working In-House is an excellent place to develop your commercial acumen, given that when you provide your legal advice, you must consider not only the legal risk, but also the commercial implications. I am not only a lawyer, I'm also part of the EB Games Team - I get to participate in and attend several conferences, training seminars and events throughout the year. If you get the opportunity to work In-House, I'd definitely recommend it.*

## About the Justice and The Law Society

The UQ Justice and the Law Society is a student society dedicated to promoting social justice through legal advocacy. Some of JATL's key objectives include:

- » Raising awareness of the interaction between the law and social justice
- » Examining the social context surrounding the legal system
- » Facilitating discussion about the law and its implications
- » Facilitating professional networking and career development.

JATL achieves these goals by hosting professional networking, social and fundraising functions along with regular educative seminars. JATL also publishes an annual academic journal and online blog which tackle tough social justice issues in the law.

For more information about the work we do and our upcoming events, or to become a member, please visit our website [www.jatl.org](http://www.jatl.org) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/justiceandthelaw](https://www.facebook.com/justiceandthelaw).

JATL's work would also not be possible without the assistance of our generous corporate sponsors. If you are a professional member, or are interested in supporting the work of the Justice and the Law Society we invite you to get in touch with our sponsorship officer at [sponsorship@jatl.org](mailto:sponsorship@jatl.org)



The 2019 JATL Executive Team



# BEYOND EAGLE STREET

## GUIDE

The Justice and the Law Society (JATL) is a student society under the University of Queensland's UQ Union

This Guide provides career advice about a wide variety of legal vocational pathways beyond the top-tier. The Beyond Eagle Street Event emphasises networking with barristers, magistrates, and judges' associates, and the exploration of mid-tier, boutique, and rural/regional firms, as well as government and in-house legal departments - among many other legal career avenues.

The Beyond Eagle Street Guide publication compiles the alternative career pathways and volunteering opportunities students can explore.

The 2019 Edition of the Beyond Eagle Street Guide was produced by:

The Justice and the Law Society's  
Careers Portfolio  
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Publications Portfolio



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