



Beyond the courtroom: The diversity of career paths for law graduates

Deakin Law School

Deakin Law School Law Degree

What we offer:

- High quality law instruction by academic staff who are highly regarded in their field
- Practical application of theoretical learning to ensure students understand how to apply it in practice

Diverse career opportunities



Diverse career opportunities

Deakin law graduates enjoy careers in the legal profession and outside it, both in Australia and overseas. These include:

- Practising as a lawyer in areas such as:
 - Cyber security
 - Corporate law
 - Criminal law
 - Health law
 - Public international and human rights law
 - Civil law
- Other roles include:
 - Politics
 - Company secretary
 - Government policy advisor (law reform)
 - Education
 - Industrial relations
 - Media



Work integrated learning (WIL) at Deakin Law School



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Practical Options at Deakin Law School

At least **one practical unit** is compulsory for every law student at Deakin.

This training makes Deakin graduates more attractive to employers as they already have many practical, employable skills they'll need in a legal career.

We offer four valuable options:

**Placement at a law
firm or community
legal centre**

**Mooting and
advocacy program**

**Overseas study
tour**

Deakin Law Clinic

Deakin Law Clinic



Deakin Law Clinic – What is it?

A community legal service

- Registered with the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner in June 2017
- Provides free legal assistance to eligible members of the public
- A teaching law firm for students of Deakin Law School

How we help clients:

- Clients can contact Deakin Law Clinic by telephone or via email.
- Clients meet with students supervised by practising solicitors (in person or on zoom).
- Clients see students during their enrolled times in the trimester
- We can assist by
 - Preparing letters of advice
 - Drafting court documents
 - Briefing legal counsel to appear in court
- Negotiation with other lawyers
- Providing referrals to specialist organisations



Deakin Law Clinic – What is it?

Staff:

- Program Coordinator and Principal Solicitor is Michele Tucker
- Our Clinical Solicitors are Sam Hawkins, Rebecca Tisdale, Kimberley Littorin, Hanna Dickinson and Matt Wilson.
- Karen Powell and Dr Nicole Siller oversee the Policy Advocacy Law Practice Area.
- Loraine Innes is our Law Clinic Support Officer and Sam Keogh is our Research Assistant

Referrals come from:

- Victoria Legal Aid
- Other community legal services such as Barwon CLS, West Justice, Eastern CLC, Monash Law Clinic
- Family Relationship Centres/Social workers
- Other practitioners
- Courts
- Other Practitioners



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Practice areas

Criminal Law Practice

Providing legal advice, procedural information, case work and court representation on matters including:

- Driving offences
- Violent offences
- Drug, dishonesty and property offences
- Infringements
- Intervention Orders
- Spent convictions
- Breaches of Corrections Orders
- Appeals against sentence/conviction

Family Law Practice

Providing legal advice on:

- Divorce
- Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIO)
- Parenting arrangements
- Property division of de facto and marital (property pools \$500,000 or less)
- Consent Orders
- Duty Lawyer – FVIO matters at Geelong Magistrates' Court

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Practice areas

Civil Law Practice

Providing legal advice on:

- Debts and infringements
- Contract law disputes
- Consumer law disputes
- Tenancy disputes
- Fencing/Neighbourhood disputes
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (excluding personal injury)

Employment Law Practice

Providing legal advice on:

- Discrimination
- Employment documentation & agreements
- Underpayments
- Unfair dismissal
- General protections claims
- Bullying claims

Policy Advocacy Law Practice

Develops community legal education resources.

Takes on policy projects concerning access to justice issues. Outputs include:

- Submissions to inquiries
- Policy papers
- Letters to government

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Who do we help?

We provide legal advice to the following people:

- indigenous people;
- people with a disability or mental illness;
- people for whom paying for legal services would cause undue financial hardship (ordinarily from households who earn less than \$80,000 per year);
- Centrelink recipients;
- people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD) affecting their understanding of English or the legal system;
- people referred through other pro bono programs which have means or other testing for obtaining pro bono legal assistance;
- small businesses (as defined by the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth)) who are not otherwise able to access legal assistance;

We provide legal advice to clientele who meet these criteria across Victoria.

The importance of practical experience

More students are entering the legal profession, making it a competitive market. Graduates need to set themselves apart.

- Having practical experience in a legal office is highly sought after by potential employers
- More students are studying law across more Victorian universities; teaching students good practice principles is key
- Entry into certain practice areas can be difficult, so it is vital for students to gain practical experience and begin to 'network'



The skills we develop and teach

Professional conduct:

- Ability to conduct legal research accurately and efficiently
- Ability to understand and apply legal ethics in a practical environment
- Being proactive in your approach to legal practice
- Exposure and professional interaction with police, court registry, court network support, prosecutors, counsellors, social workers, barristers and opposing counsel.

Key soft skills:

- Ability to work in a busy environment
- Ability to work collaboratively as well as independently
- Ability to handle difficult situations and finding solutions
- Ability to manage cases with up-to date files notes, correspondence and other relevant administration



The skills we develop and teach

Practical Skills

- Ability to understand how legal practice works
- Ability to interview clients and gather relevant information
- Ability to draft professional written communication
- Ability to conduct relevant legal research
- Ability to draft key legal documentation
- Legal documentation includes
 - Research memorandums
 - Letters of advice
 - Court applications and affidavits
 - Briefs to barristers/legal counsel
 - Court submissions



Student testimonial

"I participated in the Family Law unit at the Deakin Law Clinic in Trimester 2 of 2020 and it was the best part of my law degree.

The Clinic provides the perfect opportunity to develop the skills learnt in classes and apply them to real life situations. It helps to bridge the gap between university and practicing as a lawyer and I enjoyed it so much that I continued to volunteer there after the semester had finished.

Assisting clients at the Clinic and learning from my supervising lawyer greatly assisted my professional development and made the transition from student to lawyer significantly easier.

I am so appreciative for the opportunities the Clinic provided and for being a part of some the great work the Clinic does for the community."

– June 2022

Outcomes at Deakin Law Clinic

Student employability and focus

850

students have completed a practical unit at Deakin Law Clinic since 2017, approximately.

240

students have completed their clinical legal education unit online using Zoom and MS Teams, since July 2020, approximately.



We were one of the first clinical legal education programs to offer an online clinical placement for students.

Outcomes at Deakin Law Clinic

Client Outcomes

- Since 2017, we have provided legal assistance to approximately 800 clients in approximately 900 matters across our practice areas.
- We have provided free legal representation in several contested legal matters in matters before the Fair Work Commission, Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia, Magistrates' Court of Victoria and County Court of Victoria.
- We provide an important, free, duty lawyer service, once a week, at the Specialist Family Violence Court at Geelong Magistrates' Court, assisting clients with Family Violence Intervention Orders.
- We have been able to achieve significant client outcomes and resolution of disputes at great costs savings to our clients.



Client testimonial

Family Law Practice and Criminal Law Practice (collaboration)

“I was very satisfied with the service Deakin Law Clinic provided. They gave me a detailed timeline and plan for what to say when I represented myself in the Magistrates Court. Their interview process and the advice they gave me was much more detailed and helpful than the service from any other Community Legal service or Legal Aid that I've sought help from before... I am very grateful for the help that I received from Deakin Law Clinic.”

– June 2022

Graduate employment outcomes

- Maddocks
- Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Holding Redlich
- Harwood Andrews
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Landers & Rogers
- Kennedy Partners
- Mills Oakley
- Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia
- County Court of Victoria
- WorkSafe Victoria
- NDIS
- Arnold Thomas & Becker Lawyers
- Fair Work Commission
- Victorian Office of Public Prosecutions
- Victorian Government Solicitor's Office
- Rail Projects Victoria
- Transport Accident Commission
- Deloitte
- Mercedes-Benz Australia
- Minter Ellison
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- Brimbank Community Legal Centre
- Barwon Community Legal Service
- Geelong Lawyers
- Coulter Legal



More information:

deakinlawclinic.org.au

deakin.edu.au/law-clinic

