FIRST YEAR LAW GUIDE

A comprehensive guide to your first year of law.

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FOREWORD

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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First and foremost, I wish you a warm welcome to the Deakin Law Students’ Society (DLSS) and congratulations on beginning your journey through Deakin Law School! My name is Thomas Walsh and I am the 2019 President of the DLSS.

Of course, we understand that beginning a law degree can signal a new chapter in your life, and whilst you will find it to be incredibly rewarding and intellectually stimulating, at times, it can be challenging! Our aim is to support and provide you with opportunities and resources to develop personally, professionally, academically and socially and to overcome these challenges.

Whether it be First Year Law Camp, our First Year Crash Course Workshop or our First Year Negotiation Competition, we are confident you will find plenty of ways to involve yourself with the DLSS, so please don’t hesitate!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at president@deakinlss.org.

Thomas Walsh
2018-2019 President
Deakin Law Students’ Society
WHAT IS THE DLSS?

The Deakin Law Students’ Society is one of Deakin University’s oldest and largest student societies. We are a student-run organisation which aims to assist Deakin Law students to make the most of their time at law school.

Across our portfolios, we work to provide a range of events and services to assist you at every stage of your degree. Whether you want to improve your grades or make new friends, the DLSS is your one stop for all things Deakin Law!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Scan this QR code with your iPhone camera to find us online!

Follow us
PORTFOLIO INTRODUCTIONS

ACTIVITIES | DIRECTOR: BROOKELYN HILL

The main goal of the Activities Portfolio is to assist with the fostering and development of social student relationships. Here at the DLSS, we believe that having a supportive social network is the key to a successful study environment. Genuine peer support not only provides assistance with academic studies, but also allows for the development of necessary social skills for your future within the workforce.

We wish to create a relaxed environment where students can socialise and develop peer relationships. Conclusively, we operate with the aim to continue these friendships throughout your degree and well into your future legal career.

MIDNIGHT MYSTERY PUB CRAWL

March 1
Kick the year of right, and make some new friends before uni starts at our annual Pub Crawl!

LAW BALL

August 12
Law Ball is the staple event of the Deakin Law calendar. Grab a table of friends, get dressed to the nines to enjoy a 3-course meal and dancing at the Crown Palladium!

MYSTERY EVENT

DATE TBC
Watch this space for a brand new event joining the DLSS calendar lineup!
**FINANCE | TREASURER: SARAH TUCKER**

The Finance Portfolio ensures the smooth running of all the financial aspects of the DLSS so we can give you the best events possible! We interact with each portfolio and help with planning their activities and initiatives through the creation of budgets, making payments and advising on expenditure.

The Finance Team also help to organise some of the Society’s administrative elements such as our insurance policies, any financial reporting obligations and performing bank reconciliations.

Being part of the DLSS Finance Portfolio is a great way to gain valuable commercial skills and learn about the running of an organisation or small business as you’re tasked with the responsibility of communicating with our accountants, banks, as well as other Government entities.

**MARKETING & COMMS | DIRECTOR: CLARE CARROLL**

The Marketing & Communications Portfolio is responsible for the brand and image of the Deakin Law Students’ Society. We are the bridge between our society and you, so our key role is ensuring we maintain a positive relationship with all DLSS members.

The DLSS can be found on a range of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. The Marketing & Comms team works to create content and maintain these outlets throughout the year so you can stay connected with your Society and the Law School. The Marketing Portfolio also run the First Year Group on Facebook, which is where you can find all the information you need regarding your units, events and Law Camp as well as meet other people in your first year cohort.

We work closely with all portfolios in the DLSS to carefully create marketing plans for each of our events throughout the year. The Portfolio is also responsible for maintaining the DLSS website, merchandise, publishing the First Year Guide, 2019 DLSS memberships, organising O-Week and the DLSS booth at Open Day.
The Social Justice & Equity Portfolio aims to inspire law students to make a value-oriented, positive and lasting impact on society. We want students to recognise areas where social justice and the law intersect and encourage them to use their talents in promoting a more equal society.

Issues such as gender equality, LGBTQIA+ rights, racial diversity, environmental law, refugee rights, animal law and indigenous rights are just some of the causes our portfolio strives to address. Through interactive panels, oration discussions and workshops, we want to empower Deakin Law students to engage with social justice and equity causes at both a theoretical and practical level. We further aim to address issues by implementing policies to ensure matters such as equal representation are sought and continuously at the forefront of our activities.

In 2019, we have an upcoming Indigenous Rights Oration, a Volunteering in Law Workshop, a panel on refugee issues and a discussion on diversity in law.

The Sponsorship Portfolio’s main duties are to organise and secure sponsorships from professional organisations, as well as long-standing legal sponsors. The role has a variety of associated tasks from maintaining our external relationships, to sourcing and securing new sponsorship opportunities.

From negotiation and concluding deals on behalf of the DLSS, to working with each portfolio to ensure sponsor expectations are met, the Sponsorship Portfolio plays a universal role as we consider both the interests and intentions of the DLSS and our relevant sponsors.
To those wishing to gain an understanding of the legal industry whilst being able to utilise practical skills such as negotiation in real-life situations, the opportunity the Sponsorship Team provides you with is truly invaluable.

**COMPETITIONS | DIRECTOR: JULIA MOLLICA**

The Competitions Portfolio is responsible for the facilitation and coordination of all competitions run by the DLSS. Competitions are a brilliant way for students to put their theoretical knowledge into practical action. Furthermore, the team aspect of the Deakin competitions provides a brilliant opportunity for students to begin to meet others within their degrees.

The goal of the competitions team is to provide a friendly, collegial environment for students to test and further develop their skills in a variety of areas of law. Many of these skills are incredibly important once you enter into the legal industry, so competing in the various competitions run by the DLSS are one of the many ways the DLSS aims to assist Deakin students in becoming industry ready.

Furthermore, entry into DLSS competitions can at times act as a facilitator for competing in similar competitions at a higher level. Many of our Mooters have gone on to compete in the Willem c. Vis Moot in Hong Kong and Vienna, and the winners of the Senior Negotiation have the opportunity to travel to India to compete in the Herbert Smith Freehills-NLU Delhi competition.

However, there is no need to be concerned about competing against mooters and negotiators with years of experience. The DLSS runs junior competitions for both the Moot and Negotiations and also run a number of workshops throughout the year that aim to further develop your legal skills.
PORTFOLIO INTRODUCTIONS

EDUCATION | DIRECTOR: VERNON SINGH

The Education Portfolio’s role is to deliver a supportive and memorable experience for law students. We are here to make your lives in law school more enjoyable, manageable, positive and as stress-free as possible.

With activities for the mind and body, such as social sport, yoga and picnics, you’ll understand the benefits of taking care of yourself and why it is crucial for your studies.

We run workshops that help you understand what legal research is as well as how to write HD quality essays or case notes.

We also provide handy student-run classes called Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS), in case we haven’t spoilt you enough. These are run by students that have performed extremely well in a particular unit and are competent to give you tips on how to learn the content of a unit more effectively. Students who have attended PALS often say that the program is a good way to consolidate knowledge and learn a concept that you were struggling to learn in a lecture (class) or tutorial (seminar).

The Education Portfolio’s role is also to look out for student’s experiencing issues during their time in law school. This could range from the way a particular lecture was run or if an assignment wasn’t marked in a just manner.

Our goal is for you to look back and enjoy your time in the LLB or JD degree and take with you useful tips and tricks that you can use in your careers.
COMMERCIAL CAREERS | DIRECTOR: NIREN MENON

The Commercial Careers Portfolio exists in order to preserve Deakin’s reputation as a commercially astute law school and to enable students to be best prepared for the Clerkship process. Attaining a Clerkship is one of the biggest challenges faced by students that want to enter into the commercial law space, and it is our job to ensure students are equipped with all the knowledge about different firms and have the opportunity to network with firm representatives.

We host events such as Commercial Careers Fair and Meet the Professionals, events that have become central to the functioning of the Law School. We are also in charge of producing the Clerkship Guide, which gives students a comprehensive look into what each commercial law firm is all about.

While we are a portfolio that largely caters for students that are in their final years, we encourage all students, regardless of their year level, to attend our events. Knowing the ins and outs of the commercial law space is crucial for every law student. Given that it is where most of the legal jobs are found, developing that commercial acumen amongst students is our major priority!

INDUSTRY CAREERS | DIRECTOR: BEN ZERBE

Your law degree is the launching pad for the next phase of your greatest adventure: life. Over the next few years you’re going to start to wonder where all the abilities you’ll hone and the things you’ll learn are going to take you.

The Industry Careers Portfolio runs events and produces publications to help you see behind some of the doors your law degree might open for you.

Maybe you already see yourself in court defending the less fortunate or navigating divorce settlements and parenting battles. Maybe you want to help advise Government ministers or take your legal nous to the country’s biggest boardroom as an in-house counsel. Maybe you haven’t quite figured it out yet.

Whoever you are, wherever you’re at, the Industry Careers Portfolio is here to help you explore your career options and maybe find a dream along the way.
2019 COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE
President: Tom Walsh
Vice President: Claudia Lyons
Secretary: Annabelle Weinberg
Immediate Past President: Pat Keane
Director of Sponsorship: Munir Abdul

EDUCATION
Director of Education: Vernon Singh
Academic Officer: Sohpie McIntyre
Wellbeing Officer: Kelsey Walker
PALS Officer: Sam Wilkinson

INDUSTRY CAREERS
Director of Industry Careers: Ben Zerbe
Industry Career Officer: Emily Forbes
Industry Career Officer: Jess Riordan
Industry Career Officer: Minelle Fernando

FINANCE
Treasurer: Sarah Tucker
Finance Officer: Jed Lehmann

COMPETITIONS
Director of Competitions: Julia Mollica
Competitions Officer: Tanya Wesseick
Competitions Officer: Stephanie Seviloglou
Competitions Officer: Georgia Gilbert

COMMERCIAL CAREERS
Director of Commercial Careers: Niren Menon
Commercial Careers Officer: Lachlan Morgan
Commercial Careers Officer: Cameron Evans
Clerkship Guide Officer: Alexandra Smith

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY
Director of Social Justice & Equity: Bek de Keijzer
Social Justice & Equity Officer: Rachel Curtis
Social Justice & Equity Officer: Nikki Doan
Social Justice & Equity Officer: Harriet McCarthy

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Director: Clare Carroll
Marketing Officer: Eliza Sinclair
Social Media Officer: Zoe Sinadinos
Graphic Design: Darcy White
Publications Officer: Kim Koelmeyer
IT Officer: Zach Moon

ACTIVITIES
Director of Activities: Brookelyn Hill
Activities Officer: Despina Hrambanis
Activities Officer: Kirk Bustin
Activities Officer: Sarah Fak
JD Representative: Justin Murphy
JOIN THE COMMITTEE!

Do you want to make a difference at law school, be exposed to a range of events and activities and make new friends?

The DLSS has two First Year Representative positions up for grabs! As a First Year Representative, you will represent the interest of your cohort, as well as contribute to the running of the many activities and services the DLSS has to offer. It's a great way to hit the ground running and get involved in law school.

In your first lecture after Law Camp (the week of 25 March) you will be electing your First Year Representatives. Keep an eye out for applications closer to the date!
FIRST YEAR LAW CAMP
MARCH 22ND TO 24TH

Law Camp is the go-to event of a First Year’s social calendar. Nestled right after your third week of uni, it’s the perfect opportunity to get to know your new peers and feel your way through Deakin Law’s social fabric.

Come along for a weekend of fun activities, partying and making friends you will take through law school.
COMPETITIONS

Competitions give you the opportunity to flex your practical legal skills that you will use well into your legal career. These include thinking on the spot, being flexible in unpredictable circumstances and resolving conflicts among all kinds of people.

Throughout the year, the Competitions Portfolio runs a range of competitions that put you in real-life situations to apply your knowledge and exercise practical skills you don’t learn in lectures.

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

**JUNIOR MOOT**

The Junior Moot is a development competition which is aimed at introducing first and second year students to mooting.

A moot is a mock court proceeding, based off a fictional fact scenario. Mooting helps develop participants’ research skills, legal knowledge and oral advocacy.

**FIRST YEAR NEGOTIATION**

The First Year Negotiation is an introductory competition, which exposes participants to alternate dispute resolution (ADR).

Teams act on behalf of two fictional parties, and attempt to reach a resolution to their dispute. Negotiation works to refine participants’ problem solving, diplomacy and oral communication skills.
If you’re starting a JD with Deakin this year, congratulations on taking the next step in your education! We are excited to have you with us and hope to see you around at our events and social activities.

While our cohort may be predominately LLB students, we strive to provide services and events that the entire law school can benefit from, so don’t be afraid to get involved with all the DLSS has to offer!

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to raise with the DLSS, you can get in contact with our JD Representative, Justin Murphy at jd1@deakinlss.org.
To those commencing their law degree as an international student, welcome! Moving overseas to study is a huge step and we are happy to have you here at Deakin!

If you’re in need of a community away from home, we encourage you to come along to our educational and social events to meet like minded law students and make friends.

If you experience any issues or need any support during your study, the International Student Support Centre is located in building B and can provide assistance for everything from financial troubles to homesickness.

Further, we are also here to offer support should you need it. Feel free to reach out on our Facebook page and we will be sure to offer as much help as we can!
YOUR UNITS

**MLL110: LEGAL RESEARCH AND STATUTORY INTERPRETATION**

Welcome to the Deakin Law School and welcome to MLL110! This unit is all about legal research and statutory interpretation. Don’t worry if this sounds daunting, boring, or if you don’t know exactly what it means. The teaching team is here to show you the importance of - and fun you can have with - legal research skills and statutory interpretation. You will get to have interesting debates and discussions about what law is, learn about the history of the Australian legal system, the importance of indigenous law in Australia, how laws are made, how to actually find the law, and more importantly, how to understand that research. The teaching team in MLL110 are really looking forward to meeting you and working with you over this trimester. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions - law is challenging but we are always here to support you.

*Alice Meece*
Associate Lecturer
MLL110 Unit Chair

**MLL111: CONTRACT**

Contract serves as your first substantive law unit. It will give you an understanding of the general principles of Contract Law, including how contracts are formed, how to interpret terms in a contract, as well as how to terminate a contract and resolve contractual disputes. You will also be exposed to policy issues surrounding contract law, as well as gain an understanding of an important component of many commercial and personal legal relationships.

*Your Unit Chair:*
**Dr Wei Wen**
Lecturer
Your textbooks are your holy grail in law school. You will find that most law textbooks you buy contain the exact material you will be studying in your units, so it is definitely worth picking up for a more in-depth look into the material – lecturers can only go so far in a few hours.

If you can't swing the price of a brand-new edition, you can find secondhand books in a number of places such as Facebook groups, the DUSA Bookshop, and the DLSS Textbook Exchange. However, keep in mind that the law is always changing, so you may be prescribed a later edition which can only be purchased brand-new.
GETTING TO DEAKIN

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Deakin’s Burwood campus can be accessed through a number of public transport services. If you’re going to commute to uni be sure to leave some buffer time to account for delays or other hiccups. Also, don’t forget to download your transport concession card form from Student Connect to make the most of concession Myki!

BUSSES

201: Box Hill to Deakin University

*This bus runs express every 20 minutes between Box Hill Station and Deakin from 7am to 10pm on university days.*

281: Templestowe to Deakin University

732: Box Hill to Upper Ferntree Gully

767: Southland Shopping Centre to Box Hill

768: Box Hill to Deakin University

TRAMS

75: City (Spencer Street) to Vermont South

TRAINS

Box Hill Station - Lilydale, Belgrave Lines

PARKING

Parking at Deakin can either be prepaid by purchasing a permit, or paid on the day through the Cell-O Park app.

You can generally get a park at uni without too much trouble. However at the start of a trimester, as well as during busy study periods parking may be more of a challenge. Always leave a bit of extra time to find parking when you’re planning your journey just in case.
ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

Unfortunately, you don’t automatically become a lawyer once you receive your uni degree. Those wishing to pursue a legal career need to be admitted to the Supreme Court Roll before you can practice law in Victoria. Being admitted requires three main steps:

STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR LLB OR JD

It may seem obvious, but step one is completing your relevant law qualification. Within this, you will need to complete the “Priestly 11,” which is a collection of law units which must be passed in order to be admitted. These include units such as Contract Law, Constitutional Law and Evidence.

STEP 2: COMPLETE YOUR PLT

Once you’ve completed your law degree, you will need to undertake further Practical Legal Training (PLT) in the form of a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, or a traineeship with a firm. This ensures you have all the practical skills to make it in a legal office.

STEP 3: APPLY FOR ADMISSION

Now that you’re fully qualified, you must apply to be admitted to practice. You will have to demonstrate that you have achieved the first two steps, as well as provide evidence that you are a ‘fit and proper person.’ This means disclosing every discretion you have accrued over your life - everything from parking tickets to more serious offences, nothing is too small!

Once the Legal Services Board approves your application, you will officially be a lawyer in the state of Victoria!
BUSINESS AND LAW MENTORS

As a new student, your first few weeks at University can be daunting.

It doesn’t matter if you are mature age or straight from high school, a domestic or international student or whether you have come out of a pathways institution such as Deakin College, the Business Law mentors can assist you!

Mentors are current Business and Law students who are able to provide first-hand experience, advice and suggestions to make your time at Deakin more enjoyable and easy.
10 TIPS FOR STUDYING LAW

1. **READ, READ AND READ AGAIN**
   No matter how you look at it, law school contains a lot of reading. But they are prescribed to benefit your own learning, so take the time to do all your readings every week, and try your best not to fall behind.

2. **REVIEW BEFORE CLASS**
   Taking a look at the slides before going to class can help you come prepared with any questions you may have about the material, as well as make lectures easier to follow.

3. **CREATE A STUDY PLAN**
   Creating a study plan helps make your study a part of your routine, as well as ensure you make time for leisure and relaxation.

4. **GO TO CLASS**
   Actually turning up to class has a whole suite of benefits. You’ll be able to clarify any questions you have in real time, and be active in your learning.

5. **DON’T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE**
   Law assignments require a huge degree of reading, comprehending and synthesising material, which simply cannot be done effectively in a night.

6. **ATTEND REVISION LECTURES**
   Revision lectures are held in the final week of every trimester and are a crucial part exam preparation. These lectures go through the entire unit’s content, as well as provides practical tips on how to do well on the exam.
7  STAY SOCIAL
As much as law school is about work, it’s also about leading a balanced life. Be sure to come along to our social activities to have fun, blow off steam and make new friends!

8  COMPETE
A great way to test your lawyering skills out in real life is to sign up to one of the DLSS’ many competitions. Keep an eye out on DLSS’ social media as competitions are launched throughout the year!

9  PRACTICE EXAMS
Attempting past exams helps you gauge where your understanding of the unit is, as well as gives you a feel for the type of questions you can expect on your own exam. Past exams are made available on CloudDeakin, so you can download and attempt them at any time.

10  BE INFORMED
Subscribe to our quarterly zine Et Cetera to keep up to date on all things DLSS, law school and beyond.