

Judge Bob Bellear Legal Career Pathways Professional Legal Training Program

What is the Professional Legal Training Program?

The Judge Bob Bellear Legal Career Pathways - Professional Legal Training Program (the program) provides recent Law graduates with the opportunity to complete their formal on-the-job Practical Legal Training (PLT), to be eligible for admission as a solicitor.

It is a key component of our *Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy 2024-28* and contributes significantly to our target of 11% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce. This target has been set to ensure that Legal Aid NSW has a diverse workforce that is reflective of our client base.

Legal Aid NSW is one of a select few organisations that provide participants with a first-hand insight into the operation of a wide range of courts and tribunals across NSW. PLT students gain practical experience in a flexible work environment where they can acquire exposure to various matters of legal procedure.

Who is eligible to apply for the Professional Legal Training Program?

The program is open to **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Law graduates** who:

- are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and identify and are accepted as such in the community;
- have completed their university studies to obtain a Law degree (LLB or equivalent) **and**;
- are eligible to undertake their 15-week Practical Legal Training, to be compliant with the Legal Profession Admission Board PLT requirements.

The advertisement for the role sets out the criteria that applicants must address to be considered for the program.

We are looking for applicants who:

- have a sound academic track record;
- can work in a diverse and challenging work environment;
- are good communicators;
- are committed to offering excellent customer service and are sensitive to the needs of our disadvantaged client groups in a social justice environment;
- are interested in our legal practice areas;
- can demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and problem-solving skills;
- able to work in a high-volume work environment as a valued team member; and
- highly motivated and can drive their own self-development.

Legal Aid NSW Cadetship Program – information for candidates – September 2024

Salary, Locations and placements

PLT students are paid at the Legal Officer Grade I, 1st Year as per the *Crown Employees Public Sector salaries 2009 Award* and are also entitled to superannuation.

During your application, candidates will have the opportunity to provide location and practice area preferences and advise of when they will be eligible to commence their PLT. Placement preferences will be taken into consideration however, applicants should note that operational requirements are a priority and work placements will be based on this. Legal Aid NSW has offices located across NSW. You can view a full list [here](#). Please only select locations that you can travel to.

Please note that Legal Aid NSW does not cover costs for interview travel expenses, accommodation, living costs or relocation costs.

Legal Aid NSW practice areas

Criminal Law

The Criminal Law practice assists people charged with criminal offences appearing before the Children's Court, Local Court, District Court, Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeal, and the High Court. We provide [legal advice](#), [minor assistance](#), [duty appearances](#) and [case representation](#) at courts throughout New South Wales. Our specialist services include:

- Children's Legal Service
- Drug Court
- Prisoners Legal Service
- Walama Unit
- High Risk Offender Unit
- Indictable Appeals
- Indictable Crime
- Local Court Crime
- Supreme Court Bails
- District Court Appeals

Family Law

The Family Law practice helps adults and children resolve their family disputes and to achieve safe and workable care arrangements for children.

The Family Law practice helps adults and children resolve their family disputes and to achieve safe and workable care arrangements for children. We provide [legal advice](#), [minor assistance](#), [duty services](#), [Family Dispute Resolution Service](#) and [case representation](#) in commonwealth Family law matters, including child support matters, and in state care and protection matters across NSW.

Services provided by the family law practice include:

- Generalist Family
- Child Support Service
- Care and protection
- Early Intervention Unit
- Independent Children Lawyer
- Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Family Dispute Resolution Service

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Civil Law

The Civil Law practice helps resolve legal issues that impact on people's everyday lives such as debts, unpaid fines, discrimination, tenancy issues, Centrelink disputes and more. Our focus is on helping people resolve legal issues as early as possible.

We provide free [legal advice](#) in a wide range of areas, help at some [courts and tribunals](#), and [grants of legal aid](#) for matters which are eligible under our [policies](#).

Services provided by the civil law practice include:

- Generalist Civil
- Children's Civil Law Service
- Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities
- Housing
- Consumer law including credit, debt and mortgage matters
- Human Rights Team
- Government Law
- Refugee Service
- Mental Health Advocacy Service
- Coronial Inquest Unit
- Respect at Work Legal Service
- Disaster Response Legal Service
- Homeless Outreach Legal Service
- Elder Abuse Service
- Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Service
- Work and Development Order Service
- Prisoners Civil Law Service

How to apply

- Applications for the **2025 Professional Legal Placement Training program** will open in late 2024.
- All applications must be submitted via [I work for NSW](#).
- In preparing your application, you should read the [PLT Placement \(Aboriginal Identified\) Role Description](#) which sets out the role of the PLT student.
- You must address each of the focus capabilities as part of your application and ensure you answer the two targeted questions in the advertisement.

Find out more

- See the [Judge Bob Bellear Legal Career Pathways Program brochure](#) for more information on the program.
- If you have questions about the program, or would like help to apply, contact the [Aboriginal Services Branch](#).