



Judge Bob Bellear Legal Careers Pathways Professional Legal Placement Training Program

What is the Professional Legal Placement Training Program?

The Judge Bob Bellear Legal Careers Pathways Program - Professional Legal Placements Training Program (the program) provides recent Law graduates with the opportunity to complete their formal twelve-week 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 and contributes significantly to our target of 11% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment by 2023. This target has been set to help 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 Placement 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 PLT.

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 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 have the ability to drive their own self-development.

Locations and placements

During the application process, candidates will have the opportunity to provide location and practice area preferences and advise of when they will be eligible to commence their PLT.

This information will be taken into consideration during the placement process and candidates may be placed in a practice area of their preference and can potentially be placed state-wide. Applicants should note however, that whilst practice area and location preferences will be considered, operational requirements are a priority consideration and work schedules may change based on this.

Legal Aid NSW practice areas

Legal Aid NSW provides legal services to disadvantaged clients across NSW in most areas of Criminal, Family and Civil Law.

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 the State. The Criminal Division also provides advice and representation in specialist jurisdictions including the Parole Authority and the Drug Court.

Our specialist services include the Children's Legal Service including the Youth Hotline, Drug Court and the Prisoners Legal Service.

Family Law

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 and case representation in commonwealth



Family law matters, including child support matters, and in state care and protection matters across NSW.

Specialist services provided by the family law practice include:

- Child support (for carer and paying parents)
- Care and protection
- Early Intervention Unit
- Independent Children's Lawyer

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 to 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.

Community workers play a critical role in connecting people to legal assistance services. The Law for Everyday Life DVD explains how you can spot a civil law problem and where help is available. We also provide training in civil law for front-line staff, and education sessions for the public.

We specialise in the following areas of law:

- housing law
- consumer law including credit, debt and mortgage matters
- discrimination law
- social security law
- immigration law
- mental health law
- guardianship law
- veterans' law
- Legal help for victims of natural disasters
- Coronial Inquest Unit
- Employment Law Services
- Homeless Outreach Legal Service
- Human Rights Committee
- Immigration Service
- Mental Health Advocacy Service
- Mortgage Hardship Service
- Older Person's Legal and Education Program
- Sexual Assault Communications Privilege Service
- Social Security Service
- Veterans' Advocacy Service
- Work and Development Order Service

How to apply

Applications for the **2023 Professional Legal Placements Training program** are now open and will close on **4 October 2022**. All applications must be submitted via [I work for NSW](#).

In preparing your application, you should read the [PLT Student Role and Responsibilities](#) which sets out the role of the PLT student. Your cover letter must 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 and to read about past participants.

You can find information [here](#) to help you apply for a role at Legal Aid NSW.

If you have questions about the program, contact the **Aboriginal Services Branch** at aboriginalservices@legalaid.nsw.gov.au.

