

# explore

## **CRIMINAL LAW CAREERS GUIDE 2012**

Employment options for a career in Criminal Law

# explore

## **CRIMINAL LAW CAREERS GUIDE 2012**

Employment options for a career in Criminal Law

This Guide was created by members of the  
NSW Young Lawyers Criminal Law Committee

## About this Guide

This Guide was created by members of the NSW Young Lawyers Criminal Law Committee. The Guide is intended to assist final year university students and practical legal training students explore their employment options for a career in criminal law.

## About NSW Young Lawyers

NSW Young Lawyers is a department of the Law Society of New South Wales for lawyers under 36 years of age or in their first five years of practice. The NSW Young Lawyers' Criminal Law Committee is a group of young lawyers, barristers, judges' associates, researchers and law students who share an interest in criminal law issues. Our members include solicitors from private practice and the public sector.

## Editor

Emma Bayley

## Acknowledgements

Anoj Anastasius, Marthese Bezzina, Ben Broyd, Liam Cavell, Senior Sergeant Fiona Clarke, Alexandra Craig, Jared Ellsmore, Caitlin Emery, Karen Espiner, Lester Fernandez, Stephanie Fowler, Her Honour Magistrate L A Gilmour, Louise Hill, Rob Hoyles, Jill Hunter, John de Jonge, Matt Karpin, Sarah Khan, Nancy Lindfield, Alicia Lyons, Clara MacDermott, Anna McMurray, Pamela Mete, Tanya Mitchell, Stephen Mullarkey, Roger Munday, Sam Murray, Julian O'Connell, Dave Porter, Dr Julia Quilter, Prue Ramsay, Dominic Rowland, Alexandra Salib, John Sutton, Andrew Tiedt, Kate Tiedt, George Tomossy, Alanna Van Der Veen, Jane Waddell, Chris White and Samantha Yeung.

## Organisations not featured in this Guide

This Guide focuses on employment opportunities in the Sydney metropolitan area. The Guide includes only a small sample of the private firms which practice in criminal law. Other organisations in the criminal law field not featured in the Guide include the Australian Federal Police, Australian Government Solicitor, Australian Law Reform Commission, Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Trade & Investment, Early Childhood Education & Care Directorate, Homeless Persons' Legal Service, Newcastle University, NSW Sentencing Council, Office of Environment and Heritage, Office of State Revenue, Office of the Sheriff of NSW, Parliamentary Counsel's Office, Roads and Maritime Services, Shopfront Youth Legal Centre, University of New England, University of Technology Sydney, University of Western Sydney and Women's Legal Services.

Published by:

NSW Young Lawyers

170 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000, DX 362 Sydney

T: (02) 9926 0270 F: (02) 9926 0282

E: [ylgeneral@younglawyers.com.au](mailto:ylgeneral@younglawyers.com.au)

[www.younglawyers.com.au](http://www.younglawyers.com.au)

**Disclaimer:** The Criminal Law Careers Guide is intended to provide general information of an introductory nature. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the contents (including websites) at the time of writing (July 2012), the Guide is not intended and should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal or other professional advice. Any queries should be directed to the individual organisations concerned. The Law Society of New South Wales, the editor and the authors do not bear any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided or opinions contained in the Guide.

© 2012 The Law Society of New South Wales (NSW Young Lawyers Criminal Law Committee). Except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), no part of this publication may be reproduced without the specific written permission of the Law Society of New South Wales.

# CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd	5
Armstrong Legal	6
Barrister	7
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	8
Court Officer	9
Criminal Law Review	10
Crown Solicitor's Office	11
District Court of NSW	12
High Court of Australia	13
Hunt & Hunt	14
Intellectual Disability Rights Service	15
Judicial Commission of NSW	16
Justice Action	17
Juvenile Justice NSW	18
Land and Environment Court of NSW	19
NSW Law Reform Commission	20
Legal Aid NSW	21
Local Court of NSW	22
Macquarie University	23
Moin & Associates	24
Navado Legal & Financial Group	25
National Children's and Youth Law Centre	26
Nyman Gibson Stewart	27
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)	28
Police Integrity Commission	29
Police Prosecutors	30
Prime Lawyers	31
Public Defenders	32
Redfern Legal Centre	33
Reporting Services Branch	34
Supreme Court of NSW	35
University of Sydney	36
University of NSW	37
University of Wollongong	38

# FOREWORD

**The prospect of a career in the criminal law suggests excitement and adventure. It is, after all, what non-lawyers so often assume practising lawyers do. It is also that area of the law that attracts the greater share of public interest and attention, not to say controversy, fuelled by news items about acquittals of some notorious accused, the sentencing of some high profile prisoner, or the grisly details of what brings people before the courts to face trial. But the criminal law is so much more than these things.**

In many respects, the popular portrayal of criminal lawyers accords with reality. In many others it fails dismally to inform the uninitiated in an accurate way about what an aspiring lawyer could reasonably expect to encounter as a practitioner of the criminal law. Most remarkably, the sources of readily available public knowledge and information are small and inaccessible and largely anecdotal. The search for the facts in this area has for too long been a frustrating and difficult path to travel.

Until now! The Law Society of New South Wales Young Lawyers Criminal Law Careers Guide 2012 fills this void in an informative and easy to follow way. It lays out in a logical and comprehensible fashion an alphabetical list of currently available career options for budding criminal lawyers and others as well. It is a practical and useful guide not only for the current practitioner, but also for all those contemplating either a career in the law in general or a specialist practice in crime in particular. It is of value to the student still at school as well as those with more experience.

I was particularly impressed with the personal endorsements from current and former employees and principals of the organisations that are listed. Each gives a human insight into what an aspiring employee might expect. The many listed job prospects start with organisations that range from the most obvious ones in the public sector, such as the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Public Defender, to positions as Associates and Tipstaves with judges in the courts, to government organisations and private firms of solicitors as well as the private bar. There are even listed prospective employers for those contemplating a career in the criminal law in some capacity other than as a qualified or admitted lawyer.

There is every likelihood that the list of available employers and associated opportunities will increase and expand in subsequent editions of this work as it gains notoriety and acceptance as the place to look when starting the search. The logical and easy to follow manner in which the Guide is structured will ensure it provides all of the necessary and most valuable information to those who it is intended to benefit in a concise and intelligible fashion. Emma Bayley and her team from the NSW Young Lawyers Criminal Law Committee are to be commended and congratulated on this fine publication.

**The Honourable Justice Ian Harrison**  
Supreme Court of NSW

# ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE (NSW/ACT) LTD

[www.alsnswact.org.au](http://www.alsnswact.org.au)

“ I enjoy my role as a criminal defence lawyer at Redfern Aboriginal Legal Service because every day is different.

Rather than being stuck in an office all day, I get to go to court and meet interesting clients and nothing ever goes to plan. I learn something new every day; whether in terms of advocacy, the law, the bench, or my clients, and it never feels like work.

The criminal law world is interesting, challenging, and at times crazy, but never boring.

**Anoj Anastasius**, Solicitor



## Description

Since it first opened its doors in 1970, the Aboriginal Legal Service has been providing culturally appropriate legal assistance to Aboriginal men, women and children in NSW and the ACT, predominantly in the area of criminal law but more recently also in respect of care and protection proceedings.

Lawyers at the Aboriginal Legal Service work closely with Aboriginal Field Officers to ensure that services are delivered effectively and assist clients in the community. The Aboriginal Legal Service also has a vibrant volunteer and practical legal training program, and actively promotes internal recruitment and promotion from within.

Aboriginal Legal Service lawyers have the opportunity to work in a variety of locations throughout NSW and to engage in challenging 'coal face' criminal advocacy before various courts.

## Staff

Approximately 93 solicitors (87 criminal lawyers and six care and protection lawyers) and 93 support staff (33 field officers and 60 administrative officers).

## Employment

All solicitor positions are advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald and affiliated websites. Regional positions are also advertised at [www.rrlaw.com.au](http://www.rrlaw.com.au).

# ARMSTRONG LEGAL

www.armstronglegal.com.au

## Description

Armstrong Legal is the biggest private practice criminal law firm in NSW. The firm has an unrivalled reputation for outstanding advocacy, ethical and honest practice and a desire to do everything possible to help its clients.

Armstrong Legal is based on York Street in the Sydney CBD and its lawyers appear regularly in all criminal jurisdictions across Sydney and the state.

The criminal law team has grown from just one lawyer in 2002 to 11 criminal lawyers today. All members of the team experience constant and intensive advocacy opportunities.

The firm practices across the spectrum of criminal law. The broad range of the lawyers' experiences means lawyers are able to represent clients in everything from murders, to large scale fraud prosecutions to comparatively minor traffic matters.

## Staff

Approximately 11 solicitors and four support staff in the criminal law team.

## Employment

Positions are advertised on the major employment websites when they become available. Resumes can be mailed and will be kept on file.

“ The best part of working for Armstrong Legal is the opportunity to be part of the premier criminal law team in the State.

All the lawyers here are highly experienced and are always willing to suggest ideas, discuss how to deal with a matter or share their experiences.

It's difficult to imagine a better place to learn and grow as a criminal lawyer.

**John Sutton**, Solicitor



“ Working as a barrister in criminal law is exciting, stimulating, with constant opportunities to do new and different things, to learn, and to develop skills!

You can appear in important matters which affect peoples’ fundamental rights. Work can range from appearing before Magistrates and Judges, to appearing in trials before juries, for both prosecution and defence.

Particular highlights are the opportunities to work with enthusiastic solicitors and with Senior Counsel.

The Bar is very collegiate, especially within chambers, and has an open door policy which is taken very seriously. The Bar is the place to be for anyone who has a passion for advocacy.

**Lester Fernandez**, Barrister,  
Forbes Chambers



## Description

Barristers at the private Bar appear at hearings, sentence matters and bail applications in the Local Court and Children’s Court, and in trials and sentence matters in the District Court and Supreme Courts, as well as appellate work in the District Court, Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeal.

Barristers can both prosecute and defend. In addition, barristers may appear in quasi-criminal proceedings before various commissions (such as Independent Commission Against Corruption) and in other types of proceedings, such as coronial proceedings.

Barristers can also be employed as Crown Prosecutors or Public Defenders, where the focus is primarily on appearing in trial matters in the District Court and trial and appellate matters in the Supreme Court.

## Staff

There are approximately 2,140 barristers practising in NSW.

## Employment

You must pass three Bar exams (the pass mark being 75%) and then do the Bar Practice Course, which is a one-month full time course. You must be admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of NSW before you can commence practice. You then have to successfully complete the first year of practice (during which you are called a ‘reader’). During this year you practice under the guidance of one or two experienced barristers of your choice, called tutors.



# COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

[www.cdpp.gov.au](http://www.cdpp.gov.au)

## Description

The Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions ("CDPP") is an independent prosecuting service which prosecutes alleged offences against Commonwealth law in accordance with the Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth. The CDPP has a Head Office in Canberra, an office in Sydney and nine offices interstate. The CDPP has a long-standing practice in the prosecution of the importation of serious drugs, fraud on the Commonwealth (including tax and social security fraud) and commercial prosecutions.

Commonwealth law has significantly expanded in the last decade to include a range of offences including counter terrorism, money laundering, people smuggling, people trafficking (including sexual servitude and slavery), child exploitation including online sexual exploitation, offences impacting upon the environment and safety and a range of regulatory offences. Commonwealth criminal activity continues to evolve and expand and reflects contemporary society and now includes areas such as identity crime, cybercrime and serious and organised crime.

The CDPP considers matters that are referred by approximately 40 agencies or departments that have an investigative or regulatory function including the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Crime Commission, Centrelink, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Australian Taxation Office.

## Staff

Approximately 600 staff in Australia.

## Employment

The CDPP provides an ethical, high quality and independent prosecution service for Australia and is committed to recruiting and retaining staff of the highest calibre. Solicitor and paralegal positions are advertised on the CDPP website, in the Australian newspapers and on [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au).

“ The variety of the work and the advocacy experience is what initially attracted me to the CDPP and I haven't been disappointed.

My practice includes matters relating to airport assaults, drug importations, counterfeit money offences, importation of child abuse material, false passport matters and that's just to name a few.

Within my first month at the CDPP I was running my own summary hearings and in time was conducting my own District Court sentences, severity and conviction appeals.

The opportunity to have carriage of your own matters at such an early stage in your career is invaluable experience.

Work at the CDPP is challenging and rewarding. I would recommend the CDPP to anyone with an interest in criminal law and advocacy.

**Alanna Van Der Veen**, Solicitor



# COURT OFFICER

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/Corporate/ll\\_corporate.nsf/pages/careers\\_career\\_opportunities](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/Corporate/ll_corporate.nsf/pages/careers_career_opportunities)

“ I had little idea and no previous experience in Australian law as to what to expect before becoming a court officer, suffice to say that in my short experience it has been an interesting and sometimes uncomfortable experience.

In a short time I have witnessed many trials and sentencing matters. As an officer, you always have to remain unbiased and attentive throughout court sittings as unexpected things are just around the corner.

You get to observe at close proximity all the aspects of a criminal trial, albeit ones that can sometimes show the imperfections of our legal system.

**Dominic Rowland**, Court Officer



## Description

A court officer's duties are to prepare court and coordinate between counsel and the judge.

A typical day starts either by welcoming back sworn in jurors or by meeting newly summoned jurors. This requires collecting a jury panel, completing a roll-call of incoming jurors, identifying the jurors wishing to be excused and giving a brief explanation of the court, its functions and its protocols.

Once you are assigned a court room, a judge and court matter, it's time to get to court and start preparing. When the jury are ready (either to be empanelled or returning), counsel and accused are present (this can mean contacting the prison cells) and, most important of all, that the monitors are ready to record (forget this step at your peril) you can inform the judge's associate that you are good to go.

In court, it's an officer's duty to knock the judge on, administer the oath or affirmation to witnesses and liaise with the solicitors regarding any audio visual or digital evidence to be played. Court officers ensure the public are seated in the right areas and pass documents between the bar table, the judge, jury and witnesses.

In between court sittings, it's a matter of taking care of the jury, receiving and passing notes to the judge, noting down times and ensuring things run as smoothly as possible.

## Staff

Approximately 30 court officers.

## Employment

Positions are advertised on [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au) and through temping agencies.

# CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW

[www.lpcld.lawlink.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpcld.lawlink.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

Criminal Law Review ("CLR") is a unit of Legislation, Policy and Criminal Law Review, contained within the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice.

CLR was established in 1975 to advise the Attorney General of NSW on the reform of the criminal law generally, to monitor its effectiveness and to research policy issues relating to the law.

CLR provides advice to the Attorney General about all aspects of criminal law and develops and conducts the legislative program of the Attorney General with regard to the reform of criminal law. CLR provides advice to the State Government generally on the same topic.

CLR officers also attend Parliament and represent the Attorney General on various committees.

## Staff

Approximately seven solicitors and two support staff.

## Employment

Positions are advertised online at [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

“ Working in Criminal Law Review has provided me with the opportunity to actively participate in the creation and development of criminal legislation and policy in NSW.

I came from a background in criminal practice with a focus on advocacy. However, CLR has allowed me to look at the criminal law from a different perspective, to consider the policy rationale behind the law rather than simply how it should be interpreted and applied.

I believe my work at CLR has significantly broadened my skill-set as a lawyer and given me a deeper appreciation and understanding of the criminal law.

**Chris White**, Senior Policy Officer



“ The work that the Criminal Law Practice Group does is extremely varied. On Monday I might be appearing in a Local Court in regional NSW to prosecute a fisher for catching undersize lobsters, on Tuesday I might be advising on whether to prosecute a corporation for unsafe storage of explosives and on Wednesday I might be instructing counsel in the Supreme Court for an application against a serious sex offender.

The prosecutions we do involve anything from failing to provide proper warnings on poker machines to illegally practising as a doctor. Sometimes the Crown Solicitor is instructed to defend care workers facing private assault charges or apply for apprehended violence orders against police officers.

The variety means that the work is always exciting and challenging.

**Emma Bayley**, Solicitor



## Description

The solicitors in the Criminal Law Practice Group at the Crown Solicitor's Office conduct summary prosecutions of a wide range of regulatory offences. Prosecutions include first home owner grant fraud, illegally practising medicine, stamp duty fraud, fraudulent change of name applications, prohibited fishing, unsafe child care centres, unauthorised sale of alcohol, unsafe food products, illegal gambling, environmental harm, rail safety breaches, unauthorised water use and traffic violations. Solicitors regularly appear in prosecutions in the Local Court and Land and Environment Court and appeals in the District Court.

As well as prosecuting, solicitors conduct apprehended violence order applications, defend private prosecutions, conduct applications for serious sex offender orders in the Supreme Court and make submissions to the State Parole Authority and the Serious Offenders Review Committee. Solicitors also frequently advise the Attorney General, the NSW Police Force, Corrective Services NSW and a number of government departments on criminal legislation, guideline judgments, sentence administration, police powers, parole, contempt and the prerogative of mercy.

Solicitors also run educational seminars for clients and publish articles on criminal law issues.

## Staff

Approximately 17 solicitors, four solicitor advocates, five paralegals and 17 support staff in the criminal law team.

## Employment

Vacancies are advertised at [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au) and [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au).

# DISTRICT COURT OF NSW

[www.districtcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au](http://www.districtcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

Each Judge in the District Court of NSW personally selects their Associate. Legal qualifications are not required by all Judges but the opportunities to make links with the legal profession, undertake research and observe court advocacy and procedure make the position highly valuable for young lawyers.

Broadly, the position is grounded in record keeping, administration and organisational support to the Judge. The position offers the opportunity to develop essential skills for a young lawyer such as file management, case management and communication with the many other participants in the court process. In the criminal jurisdiction, the Associate is also the Clerk of Arraigns which involves arraigning the accused, empanelling the jury and taking the verdict. Other opportunities include accompanying the Judge on circuit to country locations.

In addition to the great opportunities for mentorship, exposure to advocacy and engagement with diverse legal matters, the position offers invaluable experience of the workings of the court and its various participants including Corrective Services officers, Sheriffs officers and court officers.

## Staff

Approximately 64 Associates.

## Employment

Send your application to the Judicial Support Coordinator.

“ Working as an Associate in the District Court has been a really exciting progression in my legal career. Every day presents interesting new challenges which flow from the diverse and high volume nature of the matters before the court.

His Honour Judge Knox SC presides over matters in the criminal and civil jurisdictions which has meant fantastic exposure to advocacy in the original and appellate jurisdictions and interesting legal research tasks.

I feel that the role is a fantastic way to consolidate my legal studies while gaining in depth exposure to the diverse opportunities for a career in criminal law.

**Caitlin Emery**, Associate to His Honour Judge Knox



“ I have learnt so much during my time at the High Court.

It has been a privilege to work closely with the Judge, to get an “inside look” at how the Court functions, to hear argument from top advocates and to be exposed to so many areas of law in such a short period of time.

As the High Court is a generalist court, applicants should have a broad range of legal interests, but there is certainly a lot of criminal appellate work for people with a passion in that field.

**Alicia Lyons**, former Associate to Her Honour Justice Bell



## Description

As the nation's highest court, the High Court hears a variety of different types of cases, including criminal cases.

Most criminal matters are appeals against conviction, but in recent years the Court has also heard some appeals against sentence.

An application for special leave to appeal may be brought by a defendant or the Crown. It must usually raise a legal question of importance and general relevance to be granted. The appeal will then be heard by a full bench and usually takes a day or two. The High Court does not hear any criminal trials.

Each of the seven Justices has two associates whose main tasks are to conduct legal research, prepare for hearings, proof judgments and “tip” (provide authorities and assist the Judge) in Court.

## Staff

Two Associates and one support staff per Judge.

## Employment

Associate positions are not advertised. Interested persons should send a cover letter, CV and academic transcript directly to the Judge.

# HUNT & HUNT

www.hunthunt.com.au

## Description

Hunt & Hunt is a national law firm with two offices in NSW - Sydney CBD and North Ryde. The firm provides advice to government, corporations large and small, not-for-profit organisations and private clients.

The Sydney Litigation & Dispute Resolution team has as one of its focuses regulatory prosecutions and administrative law, principally acting for state government agencies and other non-government organisations.

Lawyers in the team:

- conduct prosecutions on behalf of regulatory bodies such as Roads & Maritime Services, the State Debt Recovery Office and the Department of Trade and Investment;
- appear on behalf of the RSPCA in its prosecutions;
- defend corporate and private clients;
- provide advice in the collation of evidence in investigations and prosecutions;
- appear in administrative proceedings in the Local Court; and
- appear in appellate jurisdictions on questions of law and in proceedings seeking judicial review.

## Staff

The prosecutions team includes 10 lawyers and support staff.

## Employment

Solicitor and support positions are advertised on the firm's website and online. The graduate program is co-ordinated by the Law Society of NSW.

“ My work gives me opportunities that I could never get elsewhere.

I have appeared as an advocate in proceedings in the Supreme Court and I have prosecuted some truly fascinating cases.

I am offered such a broad range of cases that there is always something different.

**Kate Tiedt**, Solicitor



# INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE

[www.idrs.org.au](http://www.idrs.org.au)

“ Working as a solicitor at IDRS has been extremely rewarding.

I have had the unique experience of working directly with people with intellectual disability and the opportunity of being able to see and experience the difference you can make in their lives.

Not only do I get to play a part in assisting individual clients to protect their rights but also get to contribute to larger projects involving law reform and community education which means that I can play a valuable part in bringing about real systematic change and justice for vulnerable persons.

**Alexandra Craig**, Solicitor



## Description

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (“IDRS”) is a specialist legal advocacy service for people in NSW with intellectual disability. Through its specialist Criminal Justice Support Network service, with a network of trained volunteers available 24/7, IDRS is able to offer support and legal advice in criminal matters throughout NSW.

IDRS provides support for people with intellectual disability going to court for criminal matters and apprehended violence orders.

Trained volunteers meet with the client prior to court to explain what to expect, attend appointments with the client’s solicitor to assist communication, sit with the client at court during any waiting time, liaise with court staff on behalf of the client or help the client do it themselves, help to arrange any adjustments the client might need in court and assist the client to understand the outcome and any implications flowing from the outcome.

IDRS offers free telephone legal advice to people with intellectual disability in custody at police stations throughout NSW. A roster of volunteer solicitors assist clients understand their rights, alert police to any client needs (such as medication, or breaks), alert police if clients may have misunderstood questions, alert police when the language used needs to be simplified and advise on bail and forensic procedures.

IDRS also provides legal information to family members, carers, advocates or others who are seeking help on behalf of a person with an intellectual disability. Other services include law reform submissions, publications for solicitors and education for carers.

## Staff

Approximately four employed solicitors, 26 volunteer solicitors and 124 volunteer support persons throughout NSW.

## Employment

Paid positions are advertised on the IDRS website. To volunteer as a support person or a solicitor, contact IDRS. Full training, ongoing development and resources are provided to volunteers.



# JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF NSW

www.judcom.nsw.gov.au

## Description

The Judicial Commission of NSW (“the Commission”) is an independent statutory corporation established by the *Judicial Officers Act 1986*.

The Commission helps to improve the quality of judicial decision-making by providing education and training programs for judicial officers, assisting courts to achieve consistency in approach to sentencing and examining complaints against judicial officers. The Commission is recognised as an international leader in these areas.

The Commission has also developed sophisticated online judicial support systems, such as the Judicial Information Research System (“JIRS”). JIRS is a leading criminal law database in NSW. The Research Division of the Commission is responsible for the legal content of JIRS. It provides an array of information about the criminal law including the widely regarded *Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book*, the *Sentencing Bench Book*, sentencing statistics, recent law items for topical cases and legislation.

## Staff

Approximately five solicitors, two statisticians and two legal trainees.

## Employment

The Commission recruits law students as trainees through universities.

Interest in work experience should be directed to the Commission for consideration: [recruitment@judcom.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@judcom.nsw.gov.au)

“ Working at the Judicial Commission has helped me develop a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of all aspects of criminal law including sentencing, criminal procedure and the law of evidence. Working in the Research Division of the Commission would be a discerning move for anyone hoping to practice criminal law.

My role involves preparing case summaries and recent law items for JIRS. The items vary in their content and may address cases from other jurisdictions, recent changes to legislation or highlight general aspects of criminal law. I have also conducted legal research for the purpose of updating the Sentencing Bench Book.

The Research Division is at the forefront of the criminal law. It is an interesting and dynamic workplace for anyone wishing to engage with the criminal law.

**Prue Ramsay,**  
Trainee Research Assistant

”

“ Volunteering at Justice Action is a life-changing experience. It is personally satisfying, knowing that your actions actually have an effect on real people's lives.

I have contacted MPs, written letters to prisoners, drafted media releases, designed questionnaires for prisoner consultations, written research reports and policy recommendations, made complaints to the NSW Ombudsman and assisted my supervisor during cross-examinations.

The atmosphere at Justice Action is exceptionally friendly and open. Justice Action is a fantastic unique opportunity for university students to gain insight into the world of the criminal justice.

**Sam Murray**, Volunteer Intern



## Description

Justice Action is a community based organisation of criminal justice activists. The organisation has a particular focus on the rights of incarcerated persons and forensic mental health patients.

Justice Action provides a watchdog function overlooking authorities with a focus on criminal justice and health systems, and assists those who suffer from abuses of the system. The organisation represents individuals in assisting with their legal complaints and concerns, as well as lobbying for wide scale reform of the criminal justice system.

Justice Action has a commitment to creating a cohesive and productive working environment, dedicated to the pursuit of social justice. Justice Action volunteer interns provide prisoner, mental health and court support, engage in legal policy development, initiate campaigns and liaise with stakeholders. These activities seek to expose police and penal abuse, misconduct and corruption, promote social inclusion for all and advance meaningful change to the criminal justice system.

The organisation focuses on bringing in students from both legal and non-legal backgrounds as volunteers to give them invaluable experience in legal research skills, office interaction and lobbying practices. The variety of work means that there is always something new to learn and do.

## Staff

Approximately four support staff - some onsite and some visiting for issues.

## Employment

To apply to be a volunteer intern, please contact Justice Action through the website.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE NSW

[www.djj.nsw.gov.au](http://www.djj.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

Juvenile Justice NSW is an agency within the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice. Juvenile Justice supervises and cares for young offenders in the community and in detention facilities. It provides youth justice conferences for young offenders referred by police or the courts.

Juvenile Justice is responsible for the effective management of juvenile justice policies and services and has a responsibility to provide a positive vision for juvenile justice administration in NSW. Services are provided state-wide across three regions and include youth justice conferencing, juvenile justice community-based services, intensive intervention programs, specialist psychological services and juvenile detention facilities.

Juvenile Justice offers a wide range of career opportunities including working with young people in detention facilities, providing community services to young people in the community or working on operational and legal issues in the central office in Sydney. Working conditions include extensive training and a career path.

The Legal Unit provides legal advice to the Chief Executive, other senior staff, Director General and Minister regarding the interpretation of legislation administered by the agency, legislation impacting on the agency's operations, including privacy law, the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, compliance and other legal issues.

## Staff

Approximately two solicitors.

## Employment

Vacancies are advertised on [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

“ The Juvenile Justice Legal Unit provides effective legal advice to management and staff.

Juvenile Justice undertakes meaningful work to assist marginalised young people in the criminal justice system.

**Julian O'Connell**, Solicitor



# LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NSW

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lec](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lec)

“ Assisting a Judge in the Land and Environment Court was an invaluable experience for pursuing a career in environmental law.

It is also relevant to those interested in criminal law, particularly when questions such as how to apply sentencing principles to environmental crimes are raised.

The opportunity to view questions like this in action in matters ranging from water pollution to unlawful clearing of land is both exciting and highly recommended.

**Clara MacDermott**, former Tipstaff to the Honourable Justice Craig



## Description

The Land and Environment Court is a specialist superior court of record. Its jurisdiction includes merits review, judicial review, civil enforcement, criminal prosecution, criminal appeals and civil claims about planning, environmental, land, mining and other legislation. The court's jurisdiction is divided into eight classes as provided by the *Land and Environment Court Act 1979*.

The Court has Judges and Commissioners. Judges hear all criminal prosecution and criminal appeal matters. Criminal prosecutions are heard within Class 5 of the Court's jurisdiction. Criminal appeal matters largely follow Local Court procedures and are heard in Class 6 of the Court's jurisdiction.

Each Judge employs a tipstaff who is generally required to attend court, conduct legal research and assist in the preparation of judgments.

## Staff

Currently one Chief Judge, five Judges, nine Commissioners and Acting Commissioners, one Acting Judge and six Tipstaves.

## Employment

Employment Positions are generally not advertised, however, applications are accepted year round. As a guide, most Judges begin interviewing for tipstaves in June or July. Prospective tipstaves should direct applications to the Judge they would like to work for. Applications should be made by contacting the relevant Associate. Contact details for the Associates for each Judge are listed on the Court's website.

# NSW LAW REFORM COMMISSION

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc)

## Description

The Law Reform Commission (“the Commission”) is an independent statutory body that provides expert law reform advice to Government on matters referred to it by the Attorney General.

The Commission’s work contributes to making better laws and improving the lives of the citizens of NSW.

In undertaking this work the Commission:

- broadly researches the law and the academic and other commentary on it;
- can conduct or commission empirical research; and
- consults broadly with stakeholders and the community, and draws on experts in the field.

Their current work includes references on the law of sentencing, the law related to people with cognitive and mental health impairment in the criminal justice system and jury directions.

## Staff

Approximately eight law reform officers.

## Employment

Positions are advertised through [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

“ As a new graduate, the NSW Law Reform Commission has provided me with an incredible range of opportunities.

I have organised consultations with a wide range of individuals and organisations, and worked alongside highly experienced policy makers to develop my research, writing and policy analysis skills.

I have also taken part in policy discussions about incredibly interesting areas of law, for instance the impact of the criminal justice system on young people with cognitive and mental health impairments. My time here has strengthened my appreciation of the value of thoughtful, consultative law reform – a process the Commission engages in exceptionally well.

**Marthese Bezzina**, Assistant Law Reform Officer



“ It is a real privilege to work for such a vibrant and energetic organisation. It is rare to find a job in life that most of the time is both inspiring and rewarding.

Legal Aid has the flexibility you need to maintain a work life balance, whilst ensuring that there is never a dull moment in your work life. You represent people who really need your assistance every day and spend every Sunday night excited to go to work on a Monday morning.

Whether you are explaining the process to accused persons in the cells and getting them bail, instructing counsel in a big trial, or cross examining a witness yourself, there just isn't another job quite like it.

**Rob Hoyles**, Solicitor



## Description

Legal Aid NSW is an independent statutory body and one of the largest employers of criminal lawyers in NSW.

Legal Aid NSW is established under the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1979* to improve access to justice for economically and socially disadvantaged member of the community.

Legal Aid NSW achieves this by providing legal advice, advocacy, representation and community education.

Legal Aid NSW has 22 offices across NSW and seeks to provide access to justice in criminal, family and civil law divisions.

Within the criminal sphere, Legal Aid NSW can offer a very broad pathway into practice at many different levels. They represent clients in NSW Local Courts, District Courts, Supreme Courts, Court of Criminal Appeal and High Court as well as provide representation at the State Parole Authority, Children's Courts plus various other tribunals.

Legal Aid lawyers find themselves at the cutting edge, representing the most socially disadvantaged people with the greatest need for legal advice.

## Staff

Approximately 470 solicitors and 490 support staff throughout NSW.

## Employment

Legal Aid positions are regularly advertised online at [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

# LOCAL COURT OF NSW

[www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au](http://www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

The Local Court has jurisdiction over Family Law matters, Coronial matters, civil matters, with a jurisdictional limit of \$100,000 in the General Division and \$10,000 in the Small Claims division, and jurisdiction in criminal proceedings. The criminal proceedings heard by the Local Court are many and varied. They include proceedings against the person in summary matters and matters where the prosecution or defence does not elect to have the matter remitted to the District Court in accordance with the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*. The Court also conducts committal proceedings, bail applications and sentencing matters while regularly hearing apprehended personal and domestic violence order applications and drivers license appeals.

Local Court Magistrates are appointed to the Childrens Court from time to time and preside over matters related to the care and protection of children and young people, and also criminal cases concerning children and young people. The work of the Local Court is undertaken across the state, in both city and regional sittings, and it hears approximately 95% of all criminal matters in NSW (*Criminal Courts Australia, 2010-2011* No 4513.0 *Australian Bureau of Statistics* 24 February 2012, 7).

Each Local Court Magistrate presides over matters on their own, without the assistance of an associate, tipstaff, researcher or any other personal clerical support.

## Staff

Approximately 135 Magistrates.

## Employment

Positions for magistrates are periodically advertised. Interested persons must be Australian Lawyers of at least five years standing.

“ Being a Local Court Magistrate is challenging. There is constantly new and changing legislation which you have never encountered and are called upon to determine issues that relate to this legislation. Another challenge is ensuring that unrepresented litigants receive a fair and impartial trial by guiding them through the process, especially in defended hearings.

Statistics show that the only contact with the justice system most people will have is with the Local Court.

With these figures in mind, one of the greatest challenges I face is balancing the law objectively with the subjective factors that arise from social and economic disadvantage.

**Her Honour Magistrate L A Gilmour**



“ Macquarie University is the ideal place for anyone with an interest in criminal justice.

The two new undergraduate programs in Criminology and Public Policy, Law & Governance are not available anywhere else in the Australia. This means I can equip students to acquire a unique set of skills as legal professionals, public policy developers and social scientists and have fulfilling careers in the administration of criminal justice, law enforcement, government and social justice advocacy, or for further study at the postgraduate level.

I challenge my students to do more than just learn about the law – I inspire them to improve it.

**George Tomossy**, Senior Lecturer,  
Director, LLB Program



## Description

Macquarie University offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs relevant to students wishing to pursue a career in criminal law, including two new Majors from 2013: *Criminology* and *Public Policy, Law and Governance*. These two majors could be completed as part of a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Social Science, which in combination with a Bachelor of Law provide an ideal combination of skill sets and knowledge for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in the criminal justice system.

A hallmark of all programs is a commitment to the interdisciplinary study of law, which is designed to foster a sound understanding of legal doctrine as well as an awareness of the role of law in society and a developed sense of social responsibility.

Relevant units offered in the Bachelor of Law include: *Criminal Justice and Procedure; Crime, Policy and Governance; Human Rights and Moral Dilemmas*; and *Legal Governance and Professional Leadership*. Units offered in the Master of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism include: *Cybercrime; Comparative Policing; International Crime; Intelligence Analysis*; and *Organised Crime*.

Macquarie Law School and the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism have a dedicated group of academic staff including honorary associates, professors, lecturers, tutors and researchers. Staff in the Macquarie Law School and the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism aim to produce graduates who are dedicated to enquiry and shaping the future of the law.

## Staff

One dean, approximately 12 honorary associates, approximately 18 lecturers and senior lecturers, approximately eight professors and associate professors, and approximately 12 tutors.

## Employment

Continuing academic appointments in Macquarie Law School are advertised through the University's Job Opportunities page.

For casual teaching appointments, please send a cover letter and CV to the Dean of the Law School in May and November of each year.



# MOIN & ASSOCIATES

www.moin.com.au

## Description

Moin & Associates is a boutique general practice in Armidale with a focus on business and personal clients.

In the area of criminal law, solicitors in the firm work across a broad range of areas including:

- murder and manslaughter;
- sexual assault offences;
- robbery, theft and fraud offences;
- property crime;
- traffic offences;
- assaults and domestic violence;
- drug offences;
- firearm or dangerous weapon offences;
- perjury; and
- environmental and rural offences.

In addition to conducting a busy criminal law litigation practice, Moin & Associates undertakes litigation and dispute resolution for its clients in family law, commercial, insolvency and civil law matters.

## Staff

Four solicitors, one licensed conveyancer, two paralegals and five support staff.

## Employment

The firm welcomes resumes from practical legal training students who are passionate about criminal law, subject to positions being available.

“ Practising in regional and country areas like Armidale offers and exposes practitioners to a broad diversity of criminal law matters.

At Moin & Associates, I am an experienced criminal law practitioner responsible for the oversight of criminal law matters within our firm. I am a member of the NSW Legal Aid serious crime panel and have had carriage and conduct of a broad range of serious criminal law trials and sentence matters in the Supreme and District Court of NSW, as well as conducting hearings, committals, pleas and bails in the Local Courts.

The vast diversity within the criminal law area makes practising as a regional criminal lawyer stimulating and challenging. At Moin & Associates we are committed to our clients and their interests.

**Roger Munday**, Solicitor



# NAVADO LEGAL & FINANCIAL GROUP

www.navado.com.au

“ Working at Navado has instilled in me the very best tenets that our profession has to offer: honesty, humility, mercy, hard work and technical competence.

Our young lawyers are inspired by the senior solicitors in the firm who demonstrate on a daily basis their unwavering passion and enthusiasm for the practice of law and the pursuit of justice in their criminal matters.

At Navado, there is strong work ethic and culture calling for attention to detail which translates into a great environment for young lawyers to earn their stripes in court early in their career.

**Pamela Mete**, Solicitor



## Description

When it opened its doors in the Sydney CBD in 2001, Navado Lawyers & Solicitors set out to offer high quality reliable and affordable legal services to its clients. Navado provides a wide range of legal services, with a team highly focused on criminal law and criminal defence matters.

The firm's lawyers are dynamic, experienced, humble and willing to travel to any Local Court in the Sydney metropolitan region or regional NSW. Their team of assertive criminal solicitors have successfully represented clients in a wide range of criminal matters, ranging from minor summary matters to major indictable criminal matters, across Local, State and Federal Courts. Navado's criminal defence lawyers are skilled and formidable in all areas of criminal law.

Lawyers regularly brief counsel or senior counsel in criminal matters and the Criminal Law team enjoys working on complicated criminal law advocacy and strives at all times to cost effectively and pro-actively obtain superior results for clients. For a wide range of criminal legal matters, Navado is able to offer a fixed cost structure, for the provision of legal advice and appearance at court. Navado's lawyers care, deliver and strive to deliver intelligence and professionalism every time.

## Staff

Approximately six solicitors and six support staff.

## Employment

Navado advertises solicitor and paralegal positions on the College of Law website as well as on the Navado website.

# NATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LAW CENTRE

www.ncylc.org.au

## Description

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre ("the Centre") is a community legal centre working for, and in support of Australia's children and young people, their rights and access to justice. The centre undertakes work in three core areas: information and advice; rights monitoring and advocacy; and policy development and law reform.

The Centre operates "Lawstuff", a legal information website for young Australians and the wider community. Topics include police powers, cyber-safety, bail and the youth justice system. The Centre also manages the Cyber Project, an online legal advice service partnership with King and Wood Malletsons.

In addition, the Centre is currently undertaking a number of projects including:

- *New Voices New Laws*: a project involving direct consultation with young people to obtain their perspective on the legal response to cyber-bullying and sexting.
- *Not yours to promise*: best practice in responding to Australian child-victims of forced marriage. A first of its kind project to create a national recommended best practice procedure to respond to the issues faced by child victims of forced marriage.

The Centre also prepares publications on a variety of topics including child witnesses and the age of criminal responsibility for children.

## Staff

One principal solicitor, one senior solicitor, one seconded lawyer, one operations and project manager, one project officer, approximately 20 onsite volunteers and approximately 85 pro bono lawyers.

## Employment

Vacant positions are advertised on the Centre's website. Lawyers, law graduates and students interested in volunteering at the Sydney office or online should email [volunteering@ncylc.org.au](mailto:volunteering@ncylc.org.au).

“ Working at the Centre has been a rewarding and educating experience.

I have had the opportunity to engage directly with the Centre's clients and in the development of national and state policy and law reform.

I have been given the opportunity not only to apply my legal knowledge and skills but also to be innovative with the future direction of law.

Responding to issues facing children and young people ensures that the work we do is always engaging and contemporary.

**Samantha Yeung**, Volunteer



“ One of the best things about Nyman Gibson Stewart is the variety of work. My weeks regularly include a mixture of Local Court mentions, sentencing and defended hearings, as well as instructing Counsel in District Court or Court of Criminal Appeal sentences and trials. This ensures I am continuously learning and applying new skills.

As a young solicitor, the firm places great emphasis on knowledge-sharing and mentoring.

The collective experience of the senior solicitors is incredibly broad and their desire to share and guide the junior practitioners is, in my opinion, what makes Nyman Gibson Stewart one of the leaders in the field.

**Karen Espiner**, Solicitor



## Description

Nyman Gibson Stewart is Sydney's largest criminal firm practising exclusively in criminal law, with offices in Darlinghurst, Sydney and Parramatta.

Nyman Gibson Stewart is known for excellence and expertise in criminal law, attracting some of the most serious and high profile criminal law cases including murder, serious assaults and complex fraud matters. The firm is also well recognised for leadership in the field of traffic law.

Nyman Gibson Stewart has two accredited criminal law specialists and all solicitors appear in court on a daily basis. Solicitors attend Local Courts all over NSW, as well as the NSW District Court, NSW Supreme Court, Children's Courts and other tribunals and commissions.

Solicitors enjoy a variety of work including sentencing matters, bail applications, severity appeals, convictions appeals, defended Local Court hearings and District Court jury trials.

## Staff

Approximately nine solicitors and eight support staff.

## Employment

Solicitor and support staff positions are advertised online and via the Sydney Morning Herald. The firm also welcomes resumes from practical legal training students who are passionate about criminal law, subject to positions being available.

# OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS (NSW)

[www.odpp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.odpp.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (“ODPP”) prosecutes indictable offences in the District and Supreme Courts, as well as related committal proceedings and appeals in the intermediate and higher courts. The ODPP also prosecutes summary matters of a sensitive nature. The ODPP is staffed by Crown Prosecutors, solicitors and administrative officers, and contains a number of specialist units including a library and a dedicated research unit.

Solicitors perform a variety of roles, from instructing counsel in trials, to appearing in committal proceedings, summary hearings and jury trials.

The Legal Development Program offers entry level experience for practical legal training students who have completed their coursework component and newly admitted solicitors.

The ODPP has offices in Sydney, as well as metropolitan and regional locations throughout the state.

## Staff

Approximately 320 solicitors, 82 Crown Prosecutors and 208 support staff (including Witness Assistance Officers and legal clerks).

## Employment

Positions are advertised at [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au) and recruitment is in accordance with merit based selection criteria.

“ Working at the DPP is a challenging, exciting and very rewarding experience. I consider myself lucky to work with some outstanding people on a variety of important and engaging matters.

It is a job that comes with great responsibility, and which demands high levels of integrity and commitment, which makes it all the more satisfying to perform.

My experience of this organisation has been very positive and I would recommend it to anyone considering a career in criminal law.

**Matt Karpin**, Solicitor



“ Being a lawyer with the Commission involves a unique blend of administrative, criminal and many other areas of law.

It is a challenging role in that it requires a broad and versatile legal knowledge including the capacity to research and advise on the sometimes more obscure areas of the law.

It is also a rewarding and exciting job as your work contributes to the important function of oversight of law enforcement in NSW.

**Ben Broyd**, Solicitor



## Description

The Police Integrity Commission (“Commission”) is an independent statutory corporation established to detect, investigate and prevent misconduct by officers of the NSW Police Force and the NSW Crime Commission. The work of the Commission is divided amongst a number of business units. The Legal Services Unit provides services to all units of the Commission, predominantly the Investigations Unit. Investigation teams are made up of investigators, surveillance operatives, financial investigators and analysts. Lawyers are allocated to investigation teams on an as-needs basis. Duties of the role include:

- provision of timely, accurate and concise oral and written advice on matters of law and policy;
- timely and accurate drafting of legal process, correspondence, investigation reports and reports to Parliament;
- appearing with investigators in applications for search warrants, surveillance device warrants and telephone interception warrants;
- checking briefs of evidence and instructing counsel in hearings before the Commission and prosecutions;
- liaising with witnesses summoned to hearings and their legal representatives;
- appearing for the Commission in private hearings and in external court proceedings;
- assembling briefs to obtain legal advice from the Crown Solicitor or external counsel regarding the Commission’s functions and powers;
- preparing and updating policies and procedures for the conduct of the Commission’s functions and administrative activities; and
- responding to requisitions from external agencies.

## Staff

Approximately four solicitors and two paralegals.

## Employment

Vacant positions are generally advertised online on the Commission’s website and on Jobs.NSW, SEEK, CareerOne and MyCareer.

# POLICE PROSECUTORS

[www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

NSW Police Prosecutors are responsible for prosecuting matters on behalf of the NSW Police Force as well as other government agencies in Local Courts, Children's Courts and the Coroner's Court. Police prosecutors are responsible for prosecuting 95% of all criminal cases in NSW.

With the Accelerated Prosecutor Recruitment Program ("APRP"), the NSW Police Force is recruiting law graduates and fast tracking them into prosecuting. This program involves completing an Associate Degree in Policing Practice as well as some time performing and gaining an insight into general policing duties.

The APRP consists of five stages:

1. Making an application to the co-ordinator of the APRP. The applicant is interviewed to assess their suitability and then placed on a eligibility list. When selected from the eligibility list, the applicant continues the recruiting process.
2. The applicant commences the Associate Degree in Policing Practice through Charles Sturt University, consisting of 14 weeks Distance Education covering the fundamentals of policing and police procedure. This will involve residential schools and 80 hours placement at a police station.
3. 14 weeks on campus study at the Police Academy, Goulburn, covering the legal and practical aspects of policing, including driver, weapons and tactics training.
4. 12 month probation performing General Duties and starting the Prosecutor Education Program.
5. Transfer to Police Prosecutions to continue prosecutor training and prosecute on a full time basis.

## Staff

NSW Police Prosecutors are located in over 150 locations in NSW.

## Employment

Law graduates interested in becoming police prosecutors will need to apply to both Charles Sturt University and the NSW Police Force and pass a physical fitness test.

“ Being a police prosecutor is a very challenging and rewarding career.

As a police prosecutor you obtain excellent advocacy skills to enable you to appear at the Local Court, Children's Court and the Coroner's Court.

Police prosecutors have a very proud tradition and recently celebrated a century of service.

I would recommend being a police prosecutor to anyone seeking greater advocacy experience in the court room.

**Senior Sergeant Fiona Clarke**, Leader of the Prosecutor Training Unit



“ I have been extremely happy with my decision to focus predominantly on criminal law at Prime Lawyers.

Criminal law allows me to spend a significant amount of time before the courts representing clients in a large variety of matters ranging from relatively straightforward guilty pleas to instructing counsel in complex jury trials.

It is an exciting and challenging area of law which requires strong advocacy skills but also provides great satisfaction when successful.

Prime Lawyers has provided me with a fantastic working environment to pursue this career which is both friendly and experienced.

**John de Jonge**, Solicitor



## Description

Prime Lawyers is a leading boutique law firm with offices in the Sydney CBD, Parramatta, Sutherland, Wollongong and Chatswood. The firm practises in most areas of law and has a dedicated criminal law department.

Their junior criminal law solicitors are not limited to “office work”. Criminal lawyers at Prime Lawyers regularly appear in courts throughout Sydney in all types of criminal matters.

Emmanuel Apokis heads the criminal law team and is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law and a Director of the firm. Young lawyers at the firm benefit from his experience and the combined experience of the criminal law team.

Every day criminal lawyers attend different Local Courts throughout NSW as well as the District Court and Supreme Court in more serious matters.

Criminal lawyers at Prime Lawyers obtain experience in guilty pleas, defended trials, bail applications and appeals.

## Staff

Approximately 12 solicitors and five support staff.

## Employment

Solicitor positions are advertised online at [seek.com.au](http://seek.com.au). Even if we are not advertising, we invite candidates who have a passion for criminal law to submit their CVs.



# PUBLIC DEFENDERS

[www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.publicdefenders.nsw.gov.au)

## Description

Public Defenders are statutorily appointed barristers who act for legally aided people charged with serious criminal offences. They appear as defence counsel, mostly in the District, Supreme and appellate courts.

Much of their work involves some of the most serious criminal cases in the state, including charges of murder, manslaughter, serious assault, sexual assault, drug trafficking, people smuggling and terrorism. High profile cases include the recent “bikie” airport murder trial and the terrorism trial in NSW.

Public Defenders are regarded as one of the leading floors of criminal barristers in NSW. Appointments are made on the basis of extensive criminal experience at the Bar or, very rarely, exceptional experience as a solicitor/advocate.

Public Defenders offer unpaid practical legal training for law graduates passionate about social justice and criminal law. There is a paid temporary intern position available for Aboriginal law graduates wishing to complete their practical legal training.

## Staff

25 Public Defenders, two legal research officers and six support staff.

## Employment

Public Defenders are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Defenders Act 1995*. Positions for Public Defenders are advertised in the press, on the NSW Bar Association website and the on the Law Society website. All other positions are advertised on [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

“ My time at the Public Defenders has been a rewarding and enriching experience that has helped develop my legal and analytic skills and given me practical experience in preparing and conducting matters to be heard before a court.

It has been the perfect foundation for me to pursue a fulfilling career in criminal law.

**Stephen Mullarkey**, Practical Legal Training Student



“ I’m pretty sure I have the best job in the world. I get more interesting cases in a month than most lawyers get in a year. I get more test cases in a year than some lawyers get in their whole career.

I work with a wide range of talented criminal defence lawyers to help achieve police accountability through civil cases and law reform.

I can’t imagine doing anything else.

**David Porter**, Solicitor



## Description

Redfern Legal Centre is one of many Community Legal Centres operating in NSW, and is the oldest Community Legal Centre in NSW.

Redfern Legal Centre offers free legal advice across a range of practice areas, including police complaints and litigation. Redfern Legal Centre also operates the Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service for the Downing Centre, Newtown, Balmain and Waverley Local Courts.

Solicitors at Redfern Legal Centre perform casework (with an emphasis on strategic litigation), conduct community legal education, make law reform submissions and regularly appear in the media. Solicitors also supervise weekly advice evenings in their area of expertise.

Volunteer solicitors and volunteer legal assistants at Redfern Legal Centre work either during the day or in the evenings. Daytime volunteers do weekly shifts including research and casework under the instruction of a solicitor. Evening volunteers do weekly or fortnightly shifts including giving advice to clients.

## Staff

Approximately eight solicitors, 14 support staff and 70 volunteers.

## Employment

Paid solicitor positions are advertised on the Redfern Legal Centre website as they arise. Applicants for volunteer solicitor positions are accepted all year round. Redfern Legal Centre has two intakes for volunteer legal assistant positions per year.

# REPORTING SERVICES BRANCH

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/corporate/ll\\_corporate.nsf/pages/attorney\\_generals\\_department\\_court\\_recording](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/corporate/ll_corporate.nsf/pages/attorney_generals_department_court_recording)

## Description

The Reporting Services Branch of the Department of Attorney General and Justice is the primary provider of recording and transcription services to the courts and tribunals of NSW. All proceedings in NSW courts, being courts of record, are recorded. The Branch records all formal court proceedings, both criminal and civil, in major jurisdictions.

Court reporters record court proceedings by way of either machine shorthand or pen shorthand. Court proceedings are covered by CAT reporters (Computer Assisted Transcripts), pen reporters, sound reporters, realtime reporting and dual remote sound recording.

The transcript produced becomes the official record of the proceedings. The transcript includes the evidence, the submissions and, if it is delivered orally, the judgment. In criminal matters, a verbatim record of the proceedings is recorded.

The transcript can be ordered from the Reporting Services Branch. Subject to payment of transcription fees, the parties to the proceedings or their legal representatives are entitled to obtain a copy of the transcript. The court or registrar may also permit non-parties to obtain a copy of a transcript if they provide sufficient reasons in writing.

The transcript is also provided to the Court of Criminal Appeal if the decision or sentence in the matter is appealed. The transcript is important so that the Court of Criminal Appeal can look at the original decision and say if it was correct in law.

## Staff

Approximately 80 court reporters.

## Employment

Positions are periodically advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald and [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au).

“ I have been employed by the Reporting Services Branch since 1990. In that time I have predominantly reported and provided transcript for criminal proceedings.

It is an exciting, varied and sometimes stressful job. Every witness is different and every counsel's handling of a witness is different. The speed at which the judge, counsel and witnesses speak makes a huge difference to the stress levels of my job.

A court reporter plays a very important role in the courtroom and it is imperative that we record the proceedings accurately.

**Nancy Lindfield**, Court Reporter



“ Working as a tipstaff has been and continues to be truly remarkable. Being in a position where I am able to observe the trial process from initial voir dire arguments to the delivering of the verdict is an incredible learning experience.

Watching counsel deliver their arguments to researching very specific points of law has been extremely valuable in terms of broadening my understanding of the judicial process and the law.

Undoubtedly, the highlight has been working closely with my Judge who has the most incredibly brilliant legal mind which has caused me to re-evaluate the way in which I approach questions of law.

**Louise Hill**, Tipstaff to the Honourable Justice Megan Latham



## Description

The Supreme Court of NSW offers ample opportunities for young lawyers to be exposed to and work in the area of criminal law. The Court is divided into divisions. A young lawyer wishing to be exposed to the most serious of criminal law matters should apply to work for a judge sitting in the Common Law division.

It is most common for recent law graduates to apply for a position as legal tipstaff. The role of tipstaff varies between chambers. However, in broad terms tipstaves provide research and administrative support to the judge and perform some in court duties. The role of tipstaff is an excellent way to gain an understanding about the way in which the Court operates while giving a young lawyer important insight into the criminal law.

## Staff

Approximately 48 tipstaves and eight researchers.

## Employment

Contact individual chambers or the Judicial Staff Coordinator:

Supreme Court of NSW

Law Courts Building, Queens Square

Level 4, 184 Phillip St, Sydney 2000

GPO Box 3, Sydney 2001

Telephone: (02) 9230 8100

E-Mail: [supreme\\_court@courts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:supreme_court@courts.nsw.gov.au)

# UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

[www.sydney.edu.au/law](http://www.sydney.edu.au/law)

## Description

The first Law School to be established in Australia, Sydney Law School's strong history is matched by its innovative approach to education and professional practice. Its many features are underpinned by its commitment to excellence in legal education.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney offers a range of degrees in law catering to a number of different markets. Primarily it offers the LLB and the JD, the principal qualification required to practise law in Australia, but it also offers the LLM, a masters by coursework or research, a Masters in Criminology and the PhD.

An academic in the criminal law field might specialise in criminal law, criminal procedure or criminology, which involves an investigation of the sociology of crime, or jurisprudence and the philosophy of law. Some academics combine interests in a number of areas.

Staff are committed to educating undergraduate and postgraduate students in the law and in the moral purpose of the law through outstanding research-led teaching. The Criminal Law and Criminology research cluster is an association of academics with a commonality of research interests which encourages and profiles research performance. By setting an environment for discussion and mentoring, research clusters facilitate collegiality and collaboration between members.

## Staff

Approximately 32 Professors, 17 Associate Professors, 21 Senior Lecturers, 11 Lecturers, four research academics and one postgraduate fellow. The Law School also employs a number of research assistants and sessional teachers on a casual basis.

## Employment

Students who are interested in becoming an academic should consider undertaking a Masters or PhD and, in the meantime, they may wish to seek work as a research assistant or casual teacher. This can be done by sending a CV to Professor Greg Tolhurst at [Gregory.Tolhurst@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Gregory.Tolhurst@sydney.edu.au), Pro-Dean for research, or David Corey at [David.Corey@sydney.edu.au](mailto:David.Corey@sydney.edu.au), casual staff administrator.

“ Alongside teaching, the primary role of an academic is to conduct research into the criminal law with a view to shaping matters such as our understanding of it, its history or the law's future development. This may be achieved in a number of ways including making contributions to legal theory and academic debate, drafting submissions to Parliament and advocating for law reform, or by participating in public debate through the media.

Criminal law is a rewarding area of research, not only because it is intrinsically interesting, but also because of the fundamental importance of the criminal law to the functioning of democratic society.

**Tanya Mitchell**, Lecturer



**“** We are fortunate at UNSW Law to attract students and academic staff with a passion for criminal justice and human rights. The passion is infectious.

In the Master of Criminal Justice & Criminology, I particularly enjoy the mix of students with law, criminology and other disciplines outside law. It suits my leaning to an interdisciplinary approach to criminal justice.

This mix, combined with a good spread of international students, means that there are always new perspectives to any issue.

Finally, outside the classroom I love the depth and breadth of Faculty expertise – criminologists, human rights specialists, proceduralists, international law specialists and adjuncts who are leaders in criminal practice. This makes it a great place to work.

**Jill Hunter**, Professor



## Description

The Law Faculty at the University of NSW (“UNSW Law”) offers extensive fields of study in Criminal Law, Criminal Justice and Criminology. The courses address criminal trials, policing and investigations, the construction and regulation of crime and the ways in which crime is controlled within criminal justice and in other domains both domestically and internationally.

UNSW Law offers extensive criminal justice expertise. Teaching is conducted by a wide range of academic lawyers and adjunct teaching staff (practitioners, international scholars, judges, clinical and policy experts) who are leaders in their field.

Many of UNSW Law academic staff publish in the major Australian university texts, assist on law reform commissions and publish internationally. UNSW Law academics have a leading reputation for research and teaching in these areas and are renowned for a distinctive approach that effectively integrates criminal law within criminological, penological and criminal justice perspectives. This approach respects legality and principles of justice but moves beyond idealised accounts to consider criminalisation, process and civil rights law and procedure in practice.

Postgraduate courses include Crime Prevention Policy; Fraud, Forgery and Dishonesty; Juvenile Justice; Criminal Process in a Human Rights Framework; International Criminal Law; Taking Facts Seriously; Transnational Policing and Human Rights and Cybercrime, Security and Digital Law Enforcement. UNSW Law teaches its criminal justice courses in small groups, interactively.

## Staff

Approximately 23 professors, 16 conjoint and associate professors and 39 lecturers and senior lecturers.

## Employment

Vacancies are advertised on the UNSW website.

# UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

www.uow.edu.au/law

## Description

Established in 1990, the University of Wollongong Faculty of Law is a mature and still dynamic law school which offers high quality teaching programs and which has earned a reputation for excellence in interdisciplinary and applied legal research and scholarship.

The Faculty's LLB course, which admits only 200 students each year, employs seminar-based interactive learning with a strong emphasis on the development of professional skills. All LLB students complete a work placement as part of the university's Legal Internship Program.

The Faculty offers Australia's only postgraduate coursework program in criminal prosecutions, featuring both LLM and Graduate Certificate qualifications. These courses are designed for both prosecutors and criminal defence lawyers and include subjects such as Advanced Criminal Evidence, Applied Criminal Law and Criminal Trial and Appellate Advocacy.

Research on the topic of 'Crime and Society' is one of the research themes of the Faculty's Legal Intersections Research Centre, and associated faculty members have published widely in the fields of criminal law and criminology. Faculty members, in collaboration with colleagues at the UNSW Faculty of Law, are co-authors of one of Australia's leading criminal law texts – Criminal Laws (Federation Press, 5th ed, 2011).

## Staff

The Dean, Professor Luke McNamara, leads a faculty which employs over 50 full-time academic and administrative staff. In addition, each year more than 40 sessional lecturers, many of whom are practising lawyers, are engaged to teach into undergraduate and postgraduate subjects. The Director of the Faculty's Postgraduate Prosecutions Program is Professor Terry Buddin SC.

## Employment

Full-time positions are advertised nationally on the University's Current Vacancies web page. Expressions of interest in sessional (casual) teaching can be submitted year round, directly to the Faculty of Law.

“ After practising in the criminal law for over a decade, I've found a great home in the Faculty of Law at UOW. I love the variety of criminal law teaching work – one minute lecturing to first year criminal law students, the next teaching a seminar in Advanced Criminal Law, and then turning around to run an intensive in the LLM (Criminal Prosecutions) course with a cast of visiting judges, prosecutors and defenders. At the same time I get to pursue my passion for interdisciplinary criminal legal and theoretical research through our unique Legal Intersections Research Centre.

In a law school that is both small enough to get to know the students and genuinely committed to interactive classroom learning, there is nothing more rewarding than passing on my passion for the criminal law and seeing the 'light bulb' really go on in a student.

**Dr Julia Quilter**, Senior Lecturer







THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
**youngLAWYERS**

170 Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000, DX 362 Sydney  
T: (02) 9926 0270 F: (02) 9926 0282  
E: [ylgeneral@younglawyers.com.au](mailto:ylgeneral@younglawyers.com.au)  
[www.younglawyers.com.au](http://www.younglawyers.com.au)