

# THE OBITER



**ISSUE 2 2017**

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**

**LEO CUSSEN WRITING COMPETITION**  
**AUTHOR INTERVIEW: TINA POPA**  
**EXAM PREPARATION**



**LEO**Cussen  
CENTRE FOR LAW  
*beyond theory*



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear students

I hope you've all had a relaxing mid semester break and are getting through week eight with relative ease! I also hope that so far you've enjoyed what Dictum Society has put out there for students in semester one.

As mentioned in issue one – we will be having a General Meeting, and the date for this is now set. Please join us on Thursday 11 May at 6PM at City Queen campus for some food and discussion about your law society (location to be acknowledged soon via email, social media and our website). This is a chance for you to learn more about Dictum Society, and to provide feedback. You can submit feedback and ideas for agenda items online at [www.dictumsocietyvu.com/general-meeting-1/](http://www.dictumsocietyvu.com/general-meeting-1/).

I am also proud to announce the appointment of our new Marketing Officer, Georgia Murphy. Welcome to the team! If you are looking to get involved with Dictum Society on a more flexible basis, I highly recommend having a look at our new Working Parties. We currently have one in the area of Disability Services, and one in the area of Careers Services. Working Parties allow you to research and define issues, and participate in compiling a report with our findings and recommendations. You can dedicate as much or as little time as you like to this initiative. Head to [www.dictumsocietyvu.com/available-positions/](http://www.dictumsocietyvu.com/available-positions/) for more information!

Although we are excited to be involving new people, I must also highlight how impressed I have been with our existing Committee and Co-Opted members. Semester one has already seen us run an array of events and initiatives, and I could not be prouder of our Officers and Directors in this regard. To learn more about what Dictum Society might be doing that may suit you, please feel free to get in touch via our Secretary at [secretary@dictumsocietyvu.com](mailto:secretary@dictumsocietyvu.com).

Good luck with the remainder of semester one, I hope to see you all at one of our upcoming events!

**Leo Cussen Career Planning Session:** 6PM, 8 May 2017, Room 2.08, CQ Campus

**Commercial Careers Panel:** 6PM, 18 May 2017, Room 2.08, CQ Campus

**Exam Preparation Workshop:** 25 May 2017, CQ Campus

Meghann Clark  
President of Dictum Society



# LEO CUSSEN WRITING COMPETITION

The Leo Cussen Writing Competition officially commenced in our last issue, and we are proud to publish an excellent submission submitted by one of our students and member.

If you'd be interested in participating in the next competition, go onto our website dictum for more details. The Leo Cussen Writing Competition will be held throughout the year, each issue will contain a new topic sentence which students must touch upon in their submission.

There will be one winner per issue, chosen by the Dictum Society Publications team. Each winner will win a \$100 prize.

To win, all you have to do is be creative.

## HOW TO ENTER



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1. Deadline for submissions for : 1 July 2017, 11:59 PM
2. Email [publications@dictumsocietyvu.com](mailto:publications@dictumsocietyvu.com)
3. Provide your name, student number, mobile, course, year of study and campus.
4. Submissions are to be in English and must be unpublished.
5. Please use 12pt Arial as your font, and use double spacing.
6. PDF and Word Documents will be accepted.
7. Maximum 2 pages.

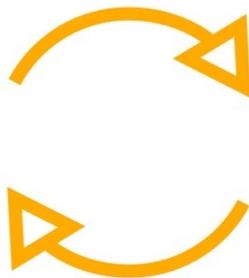
**\$100  
PRIZE!**



# LEO CUSSEN WRITING COMPETITION

DISCUSSION  
TOPIC

**'Can watching crime and law related TV shows and movies influence your law studies, or does studying law influence the way you perceive such TV shows and movies?'**



**Terms & Conditions Apply**  
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# LEO CUSSEN WRITING COMPETITION

## WINNING SUBMISSION

**‘As a result of the recent debate about the green figure in traffic lights, Victoria’s pedestrian crossings could eventually feature equal representation of female and male walking signals, due to the push for gender equality. Should the Law be involved in this movement?’**

### Introduction

Representation is vis-a-vis guided by participation, and the normalisation of women’s participation in our society is a positive step forward. The green lights are not about paying lip service to women, it is about a state of our society where ‘man’ is not the default expression for ‘person’ and undermining binaries of power where women are subordinate.

Not only should the law be involved in the movement towards equal representation - it already is. Law is nothing more than the guiding rules and expectations by which we interact culturally. The making of laws to provide for equity is a means to push society towards better outcomes.

### Theory Backing

Gender within our society is a manifestation of cultural expectations and shared knowledge. Scores of poststructuralist feminists write about representations of gender and how they are integral in shaping positive social narratives.

For Foucault, it is the panopticon that underlies our notions of gender - the constant ‘seeing’ and ‘watching’ of gender that both creates and polices gender expression. Adorno relentlessly critiques gender essentialism as a limiting factor in our dialogues of individuality. Butler takes it further with a focussed feminist lens - we do not ‘inhabit’ gender but rather gender is an expression made relationally to the cultural landscape in which we find ourselves. For Butler, it is performativity that ‘creates’ gender, and this performance then becomes leverage.



# LEO CUSSEN WRITING COMPETITION

The theories that I have touched on are guided by an underlying principle of power. Power informs all of our social interactions - it is a spectrum which we use to gain understanding about ourselves and others. Patriarchal understandings of masculinity that plague our society establish that it is the male identity that is dominant. Dominance then feeds into normality: the 'normal' identity is the dominant one, all others are negative and not 'normal'. The result of this is a society in which men are privileged in both representation and participation.

## Law & Policy

The green light is then a signal by which we understand how our society is ordered. This then must be considered in relation to the law: how does law tackle issues of inequity within our society? Sadly, Australia may need to look abroad. We have had only one female Prime Minister out of 29; One High Court Chief Justice out of 13; Only one state Supreme Court Chief Justice in the history of Australia. Our house of representatives maintains only a 28% participation by women.

This can be contrasted with the Rwandan situation. The 2003 adoption of the new constitution held a provision which required at least 30% female representation in government. These numbers then rose in successive elections to be the highest in the world at 60%+. This is of material benefit: Duflo & Chattopadhyay suggest that increased representation and participation of women in the political sphere allows for a snowball effect with more women becoming engaged, and for different issues to be explored - more often motivated by communal benefit. Specific law has pressed for equity in women's representation and the end result has been a reshaping of expectations and opportunity for the better.

## Is all this theory important?

Now let's take a step back. We have a case of a light being changed where it was completely functional. The purpose was to indicate to people when it is appropriate to cross the road. The 'gender of the light' is meaningless and to change the light represents both cost and labour. However, the light never required a gender in the first place, and those who are not able to see the light never required a visual cue. Here we must think deeper. The importance of these debates is that it shows there is a desire to progress our standard of equity. Australia needs to consider the benefit and worth of women and potentially implement laws that reinforce women's participation.

Trent Williams



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# LEO CUSSEN CAREER PLANNING SESSION

**6-7PM  
8 MAY**

**ROOM 2.08, LEVEL 2  
295 QUEEN STREET**



**SPEAKER:  
ALEX GIANNOPOULOS**

Alex is the Placement & Careers Advisor at Leo Cussen.

Alex brings several years of experience gained across the legal, recruitment and training industries. He commenced his career as a commercial litigation lawyer at a large national firm before transitioning into a specialist legal recruitment role at a global agency where he was responsible for recruiting legal professionals on behalf of Australia's leading companies and law firms. He now provides legal trainees with access to career advice and practical assistance in obtaining employment.

\*Catering provided



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**Start date: 10 July 2017**

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a more personalised mentoring program. Alternatively, you can undertake our full-time onsite course from Melbourne's CBD, where we find your professional placement for you.

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Our graduates work in a range of legal and professional environments around the world.



Access to career support services through graduate placement and career advisor.

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Email: [pltadmin@leocussen.edu.au](mailto:pltadmin@leocussen.edu.au) Web: [www.leocussen.edu.au](http://www.leocussen.edu.au)

# AUTHOR INTERVIEW: TINA POPA

**Alana Iacona: Congratulations on the release of your debut novel, Tina! A few of the students at Victoria Law School have read it and are loving it. Tell us about it.**

Tina Popa: I am so excited about releasing my novel into the world and glad it's been received so positively. It's a contemporary women's fiction novel involving Ashley Grey, the protagonist lawyer tasked with representing a botany professor charged with his wife's murder. Ashley is thrown into a world of scandal and corruption, and must prove the professor's innocence all the while dodging blind dates her mother has set up. It's a mix of law, mystery and romance!

**Alana Iacona: Sounds fabulous! So tell me about the inspiration for *Lusciously Lethal Law*?**

Tina Popa: The inspiration for the novel came to me one summer while studying Evidence Law. I was really in the mindset of thinking about evidence, court procedures and well... how would one go about defending a murder? I was also inspired by some of my quirky client encounters working in family law and knew I had to throw that into the mix.

The main characters Ashley, Sophie and Stefan were created that day and I instantly wrote the first few chapters of the novel and sat on them for years. It took me starting a PhD in law and building up the confidence to write to actually finish the story and put it out there for people to read.

**Alana Iacona: Ashley Grey is someone we can all relate to. What was the process of creating a protagonist like Ashley?**

Tina Popa: Ashley was a really fun character to create. She is in her twenties and a successful lawyer, yet she battles with the insecurities we all have. Dating disasters, career highs and lows, family problems and boy dramas. Ashley is an ordinary girl thrown into a chaotic world and it's how she handles it that really show character. Of course, she's got the help and support of her best friend Sophie who is really is another gorgeous character.

**Alana Iacona: Was your time as a law student at Victoria Law School an inspiration for the novel?**

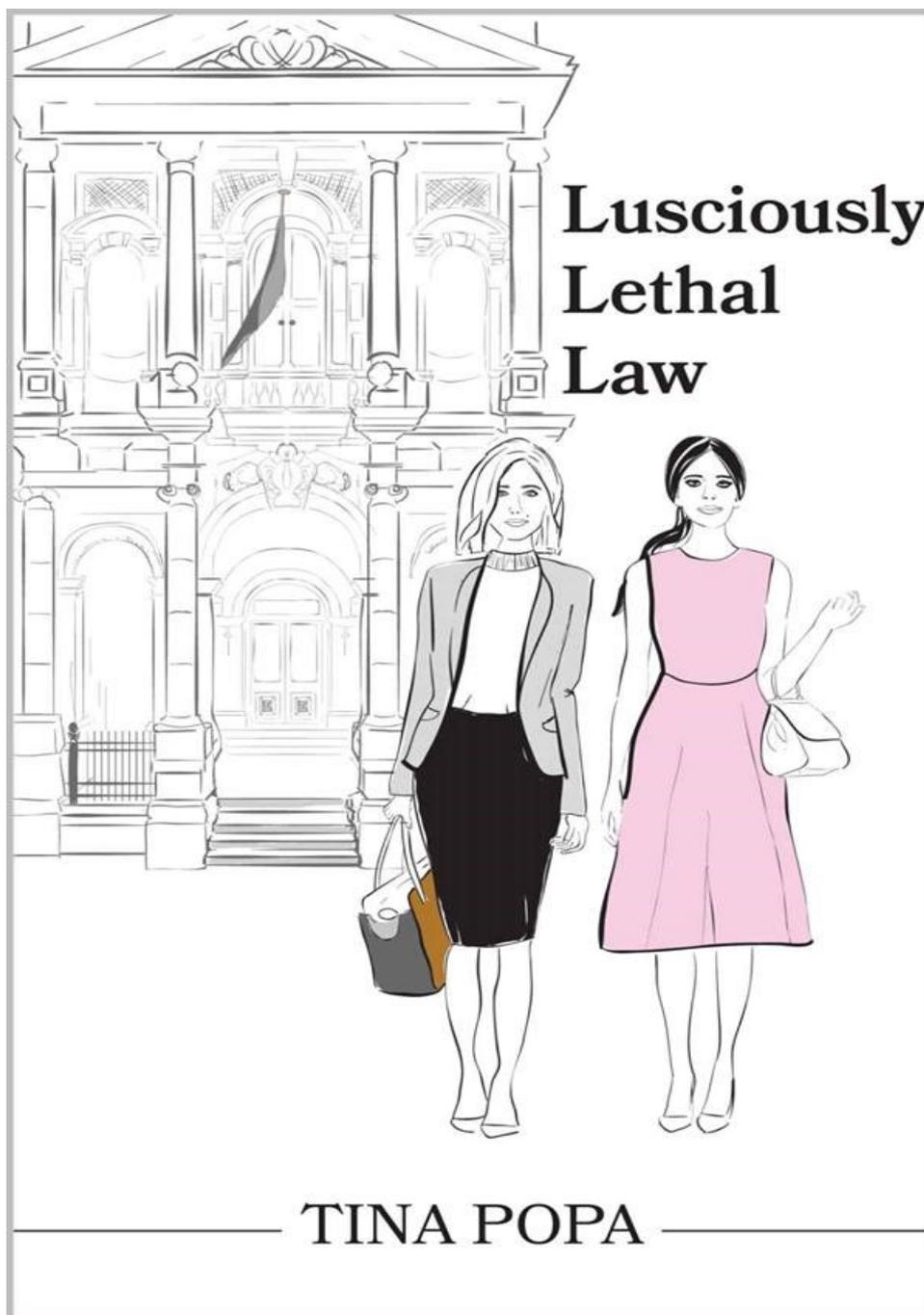
Tina Popa: It certainly was. I loved my time at Victoria Law School, the people I met and the unique characters that some of those people I crossed paths with inspired. Also, the court-room scenes in the novel are quite law heavy and I owe that entirely to my law degree and the work that I did in law firms while studying.

**Alana Iacona: In reading *Lusciously Lethal Law*, one of the highlights is that Melbourne landmarks feature so prominently. There's the court precinct, barristers' chambers, the State Library, Crown Casino, Melbourne trams. Was that intentional?**

Tina Popa: Absolutely! This novel is dedicated to Melbourne's beautiful landmarks. There are so many 'chick-lit' novels set in Paris, London or New York but none that show-off how wonderful our very own Melbourne is. It's something I wanted to bring attention to and depict visually when writing the novel.

**Alana Iacona: So where can we get our hands on a copy of *Lusciously Lethal Law*?**

Tina Popa: Ebooks are available through Apple iBooks and Amazon. Hard copies available exclusively through [www.tinapopa.com](http://www.tinapopa.com). Full of law, scandal, mystery and twists, how could you go wrong? You can also follow @tinapopaauthor on Instagram for all the latest updates on the next novel!



## TESTIMONIALS

Law reading I can get excited about! This is a well written, fun and entertaining read. The characters have such unique flaws, they're not cookie cutter perfect depictions, making them relatable to the reader – from a crazy family, to bosses who eat Coco Pops with Baileys for breakfast, to best friends who settle mediations with cupcakes. *Lusciously Lethal Law* has it all!

Alana Iacona, VU Law Student

Tina Popa has just published her own book and it is fabulous! Drama, romance and a murder mystery that you won't be able to put down - I certainly couldn't! Everyone do yourself a favour and get your hands on this!

Julie Everton, VU Law Alumni

When you can picture your characters in front of your eyes while reading a book, that is a winner.

Shelly Camorani, VU Law student

# FREE SEMINAR FOR LAW STUDENTS



## CAREER LAB #1:

# EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ADMISSION TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

**WHERE: THE COLLEGE OF LAW VICTORIA, LEVEL 10,  
459 LITTLE COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE**

**WHEN: 5-6PM, TUESDAY  
2 MAY 2017**

## INTRODUCTION

At the first of our series of six Career Labs, you'll discover all you need to know about getting admitted as a lawyer in Victoria. We'll demystify the steps required for Admission and what happens on the day of your Admission. At the lab we'll cover:

- ▶ Qualifications needed for Admission
- ▶ Being a 'fit and proper person'
- ▶ What happens at the Admission ceremony

This Lab is aimed at law students in all years, however it will be of most benefit to penultimate and final year students.

## CAREER LAB SERIES

Our series of six Career Labs throughout 2017, will equip you with practical tips and information to assist with making the transition from law student to new lawyer. Other topics in the Series will cover:

- #2 Developing a Commercial Mindset
- #3 Negotiating and Deal Making
- #4 Networking and Building a Personal Brand
- #5 Practical Tips for your Work Experience
- #6 Speed Mentoring for Law Students

Make sure you know when we're running our next Career Lab – sign up to our Mailing List!

**REGISTER**

Visit the Events section of our website at [www.collaw.edu.au/events](http://www.collaw.edu.au/events) to register your attendance



**THE COLLEGE  
OF LAW**

# 16-18 MAY

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# DICTUM SOCIETY SENIOR MOOT

## JOIN US AT THE GRAND FINALS!





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to the Top



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[legalworkshop.law.anu.edu.au/gdlp](https://legalworkshop.law.anu.edu.au/gdlp)

# ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Dictum Society currently runs advocacy orientated competitions, for the most part. If any of you are interested in research-based, writing competitions alone, then please go through the following information carefully. These competitions are highly recommended for those of you who wish to expand your extra-curricular activities, and gain wide recognition for your legal research and writing skills.

## Academic Competitions

### **The Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) National Essay Competition.**

**DUE DATE: 17 May 2017**

The NEC is open to all Australian law students and recent law graduates. Students are encouraged to submit an academic paper between 3,000 and 12,000 words on any legal issue.

The winner will receive a prize of \$1,000. The top four papers will also receive national exposure in the 2017 Australian Law Students' Association Academic Journal which is distributed to all Australian law student societies.

The due date for all submissions is Wednesday 17 May at 5.00PM AEST.

Further information about the competition, including the submission requirements and marking criteria can be found on the website: <http://alsa.net.au/essay-competition/>

### **The Australian Legal Philosophy Students' Association (ALPSA) Essay Competition.**

**DUE DATE: 31 July 2017**

The Australian Legal Philosophy Students' Association is proud to present the 2017 Australian Legal Philosophy Students' Association Essay Competition. The 2017 ALPSA Essay Competition boasts a judging panel comprising the Honourable Justice Patrick Keane of the High Court of Australia, Professor Jeremy Waldron of New York University, and Professor Brian Bix of the University of Minnesota.

The 2017 ALPSA Essay Competition will focus on jurisprudential perspectives on the proposed bill of rights for Queensland and entries are open until 31 July 2017. First prize will be a \$750 cash prize and publication in the University of Queensland Law Journal. Second prize will be a \$200 cash prize and third prize will be a \$100 cash prize.

Support for the 2017 ALPSA Essay Competition comes from The Julius Stone Institute of Jurisprudence, an Institute of the University of Sydney, the Australasian Association of Philosophy, and the University of Tasmania. Full details of the 2017 ALPSA Essay Competition are available on our website: <https://alpsaonline.wordpress.com/competitions/essay-competition/>.

Please send any queries about the competition to the ALPSA Competitions Director at

[molly.thomas1@uq.net.au](mailto:molly.thomas1@uq.net.au).

Susan Thomas

Director of Competitions

# GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR INTERVIEWS



## Know yourself

- Review what the firm is looking for. Do you have good examples to talk about for each one? Take time to prepare this.
- Review your application form. Especially if you made lots of applications. At Ashurst, the content of your application forms the basis of your interview.

## Know the firm

- What is their position in the market? Who are their clients, core practice areas and competitors?
- SWOT on the firm: have you thought about the firm's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?
- Check out recent news. Any rumblings of game-changing mergers, big client wins or partner hires?

## Know why you want to work for the firm

- Do you know why you are applying to that firm? If you do not, you will come unstuck. Remind yourself why they meet your career criteria.
- Think about the commonalities between the firms you have applied to. Can you identify from them the sort of firms you're attracted to? If you are struggling to find similarities, then you might need to re-think.

## Think about your presentation and how you come across

- Dress professionally and be well-groomed; your interviewer will want to be able to picture taking you to a client meeting a few years down the line.
- You will be nervous, that is to be expected, but think about your body language. Tone down the ear-scratching and arm-waving as this will distract your interviewer.
- Maintain eye contact and smile; this will help you to remain calm and composed. Take time to think before answering.

## Know what you want to get out of the process and what questions to ask at the end

- Questions at the end are for you but can impress too. Ask about the future of the firm, the strategy, and hot topics at the partner conference.
- You will probably get to meet a graduate so use them to get under the skin of the firm's culture. Ask them about their last really great day, their worst and the support they receive.

## You can't prepare for everything

- Most firms will be looking to see how you perform under pressure and will test you on topics you likely won't have been able to prepare for. Do not panic; take your time, try to think around the issue and remember that sometimes the obvious answer is the right one.
- You might be asked your opinion on an issue. Can you defend your position and will you accept that you may be wrong? Don't be afraid to hold your ground if you can back up your argument.

# FIRST YEAR GATHERING

Finding it hard to socialise with your first year peers? Do you need advice or a support mechanism provided by people going through the same thing as you? Join the Facebook group 'Victoria University First Year Law Students' for upcoming events for first years, updates on assignment deadlines, detailed calendars and much more that is aimed to make the first year process a whole lot easier. This Facebook group is run by Lucas Stall, Katia Ercoles and Annalise Jackson (along with support from our many first year members!). The group's primary aim is to provide first year students with a wide range of resources that are accessible as a team and as a cooperative cohort.

On 13 April, we held an event at the Asian Beer Café located in Melbourne Central. This event provided the attendees with a platform to socialise kick back and wind down before the holidays and as a breakaway event for the mid-semester break. Throughout the year our group aims to hold multiple socialising events, organise study groups and fundraisers within the College of Law and Justice and in the CBD. These initiatives will be shaped around current first year unit classes.

It's very important that each and every person makes sure to focus on some down time, assignments are stressful, thus it is important that we maintain our mental health during these times and try to fit in things we enjoy alongside our studies. Sit down and give yourself a pat on the back, half of first semester is over and we have survived successfully.

If you would like to get in contact with someone to find out further information email Lucas Sall [lucas.sall@live.vu.edu.au](mailto:lucas.sall@live.vu.edu.au), Katia Ercoles [katia.ercoles@live.vu.edu.au](mailto:katia.ercoles@live.vu.edu.au) or Annalise Jackson [annalise.jackson@live.vu.edu.au](mailto:annalise.jackson@live.vu.edu.au).

Hopefully everyone had an excellent Easter break and we hope to see you at each of the future events.

Lucas Sall

# BRACE YOURSELVES - EXAMS ARE COMING!

Starting to get a little bit nervous about exams as they loom in the not too distant future? Never fear, there is help available! Check out the two events below, stay hydrated and remember that this too shall pass.

Dictum Society  
Exam Preparation Workshop  
All Students

Dictum Society will be hosting an Exam Preparation Workshop on Thursday 25 May 2017 (the week before SWOTVAC!) that will include:

- Guest speakers who will discuss how to prepare for exams, and what to do from Week 12 to your first exam. The speakers will be announced in due course, keep your eyes peeled for emails and social media updates!
- Dictum Society also plans for a VU Counselor to come in and discuss techniques on how to handle stress, and what to do when you're overwhelmed.
- There will also be exam packs with a few goodies which will hopefully help you get through a tough part of the semester!

If you have any suggestions on what topics should be covered in an Exam Preparation Workshop, or other components to be included, please email [education@dictumsocietyvu.com](mailto:education@dictumsocietyvu.com) - we welcome your participation in helping to shape a really practical and helpful event. Thank you.

Jasmine Alcon  
Director of Education

# BRACE YOURSELVES - EXAMS ARE COMING!

College of Law and Justice  
Exam Preparation Day  
First Year Students

An exam preparation day will be held on the first day of SWOT Vac, Monday 29 May 2017 at City Queen campus in GLO1.

The first session begins at 9.00am and the last session will conclude at 4.00pm. The first session will provide you with information on how to prepare for exams and how to cope with stress.

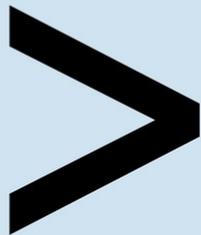
Following this presentation there will be one-hour revision seminars held throughout the day for each of the first year units including BLB1101 Australian Legal Systems in Context, LLW1000 Introduction to Public Law, BLB1102 Contracts, LLW1001 Criminal Law and BLB1115 Torts.

You are not required to attend each session. It is recommend you attend the first session on exam preparation and to attend the sessions relating to the units you are currently studying. This is a great way for students to begin preparing for exams, hit the ground running and be prepared. For more information, please contact [kathleen.raponi@vu.edu.au](mailto:kathleen.raponi@vu.edu.au).

Kathleen Raponi  
First Year Champion

# COMMERCIAL CAREERS PANEL

Lander & Rogers ashurst  
Lawyers



**THURSDAY  
18 MAY  
6-7 PM**

Have you ever considered a career as a commercial lawyer? Not sure what that means or how to get there?

Come along and listen to speakers from Ashurst and Lander & Rogers, take on this rare chance to ask questions directly right in time for clerkship applications!

Penultimate and final year students only due to clerkship eligibility requirements.

[www.dictumsocietyvu.com/commercial-careers-panel](http://www.dictumsocietyvu.com/commercial-careers-panel)

# ABOUT LEO CUSSEN

## Practical Legal Training

Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice:

- Course offered onsite and online, full-time and part-time
- Two intakes each year - January and July



## About Leo Cussen Centre for Law

Leo Cussen Centre for Law was established in 1972 and continues to be recognised as a centre of excellence for practical legal training and ongoing professional development for entry level lawyers through to senior legal practitioners.

Our training programs are practical and personalised, highly respected by the legal profession and taught by leading legal professionals.

Our courses are designed for law graduates seeking to apply for admission to practise law in all Australian jurisdictions.

## Why choose Leo Cussen for Practical Legal Training?

- Highly practical course with 'learning by doing', with no exams.
- Access to career support services through a designated Graduate Placement & Careers Advisor, who assists trainees with their job search and preparation.
- Benefit from small group training and daily interaction with your Mentor.
- If you want to train full-time onsite, we are the only Practical Legal Training that offers this in Victoria.
- In our Onsite course, we find your professional placement for you.
- You gain strong commercial and business acumen – run consecutive files, maintain client contact, meet deadlines and bill clients in practical settings.
- Our graduates have gone on to work in a variety of legal and professional environments in Australia and overseas.
- More face-to-face training in our Online course (13 days) which means more practical, hands-on experience for you, with more check points and support along the way.
- You will work with graduates from every Victorian university and from interstate and extend your professional networks as you train.

*Leo Cussen also offers the training modules for Supervised Workplace Training placements in Victoria.*

## To apply visit:

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Phone 1300 039 031

Email: [pltadmin@leocussen.edu.au](mailto:pltadmin@leocussen.edu.au)



# SEMESTER ONE COMPETITIONS

In the Competitions section of Dictum Society, we have completed the Junior Moot and are now in the process of running the Senior Moot.

To all the students who took part in the Junior Moot, you made a strong impression on the judges in a positive way. Thank you for taking part, and well done for going beyond standard expectations. It was wonderful to see all of your hard work displayed on the actual days. We hope you enjoyed your experience and look forward to seeing you in future competitions. Once again, we congratulate the Junior Moot Grand Final winners, Juma Makuer and Bol Mathiang.

Thank you to all the judges (students, academic staff, and legal professionals) for taking the time to support the students and the competition. A special mention to Vivi Tan and the Grand Final judges, Rajesh Sharma, Niki Howells-Schramm, and Andrew Dowling, for all their support and encouragement. I also take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in the running of the Junior Moot. These incredible lifesavers know who they are, and I am extremely grateful.

The next competition, the Senior Moot, will be held between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017. I invite you all to keep an eye out for the release of scheduled rounds and attend.

Susan Thomas

Director of Competitions

# JUNIOR MOOT

## Rhiannon Foley

On 29 and 30 March, Victoria University's students fiercely argued about the elements of contract law at the 2017 Junior Moot. Commencing their general rounds bright and early on Wednesday 30 March, a total of 16 teams presented their arguments to a panel of judges, defending both the claimant and the respondent in the proceedings.

As the qualifying teams progressed to the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Grand Final over the two days of intense debate, it was for the judges to decide whether Charcoal Architecture was obligated to pay for a tiling service which they regarded as incorrect and incomplete. While the advocacy skills of the participants were tested throughout the two days, many students showed their support for the qualifying students through attending the later rounds of the competition.

The relaxed-nature of the competition gave students with no previous mooting experience a taste of what university competitions can offer in an environment which encouraged mistakes and provided invaluable feedback. Although not all progressed, the students departed this competition feeling much more confident and motivated to continue perfecting their research and advocacy skills.

## Pavithra Jayasekera

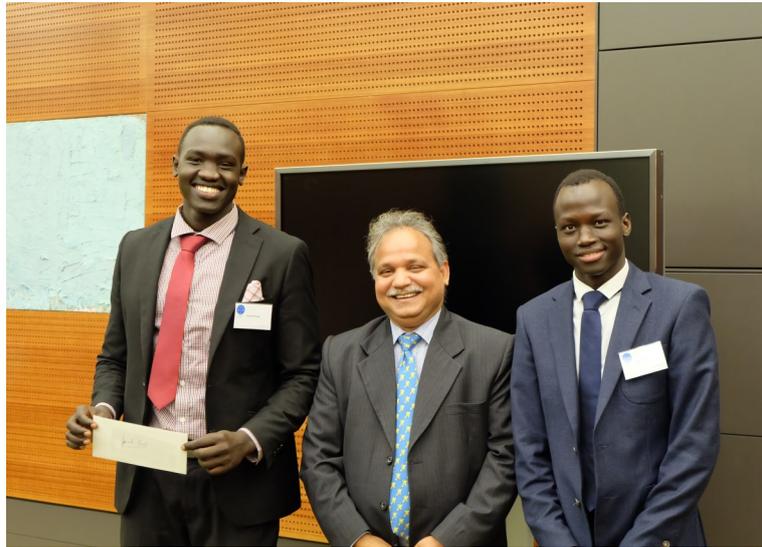
I was involved in organising the 2017 Junior Moot. Through my role as a Competitions Officer, I had the opportunity to go behind the scenes and witness the tremendous amount of work that goes into holding these types of events, as well as see the moot itself.

I personally am very impressed with the emphasis Victoria University puts on mooting. It gives students the chance to put themselves in a challenging situation, like what they would face in a real-life court room. Having sat as an audience member, it was inspiring to see students step up to the challenge of facing tough questions from arbitrators and responding with confidence. At times, they would stumble and be stumped with the issues, but they would always recompose and give it all they had. I have no doubt that people who participate in moots are setting themselves up to be brilliant future legal professionals and I commend them for signing up to be involved.

Of course, none of this would be possible without Dictum Society. It was hard work putting together the event. It involved liaising with various member of the university and dedicating personal time to ensure the event ran smoothly. I enjoyed every moment of it, and it was rewarding to see how much the students got out of it. I definitely recommend students to get involved in the Society, as a Competitions Officer or otherwise. I look forward to being a part of this community for the duration of my time at Victoria University.

# JUNIOR MOOT IMAGES

29 & 30 MARCH 2017



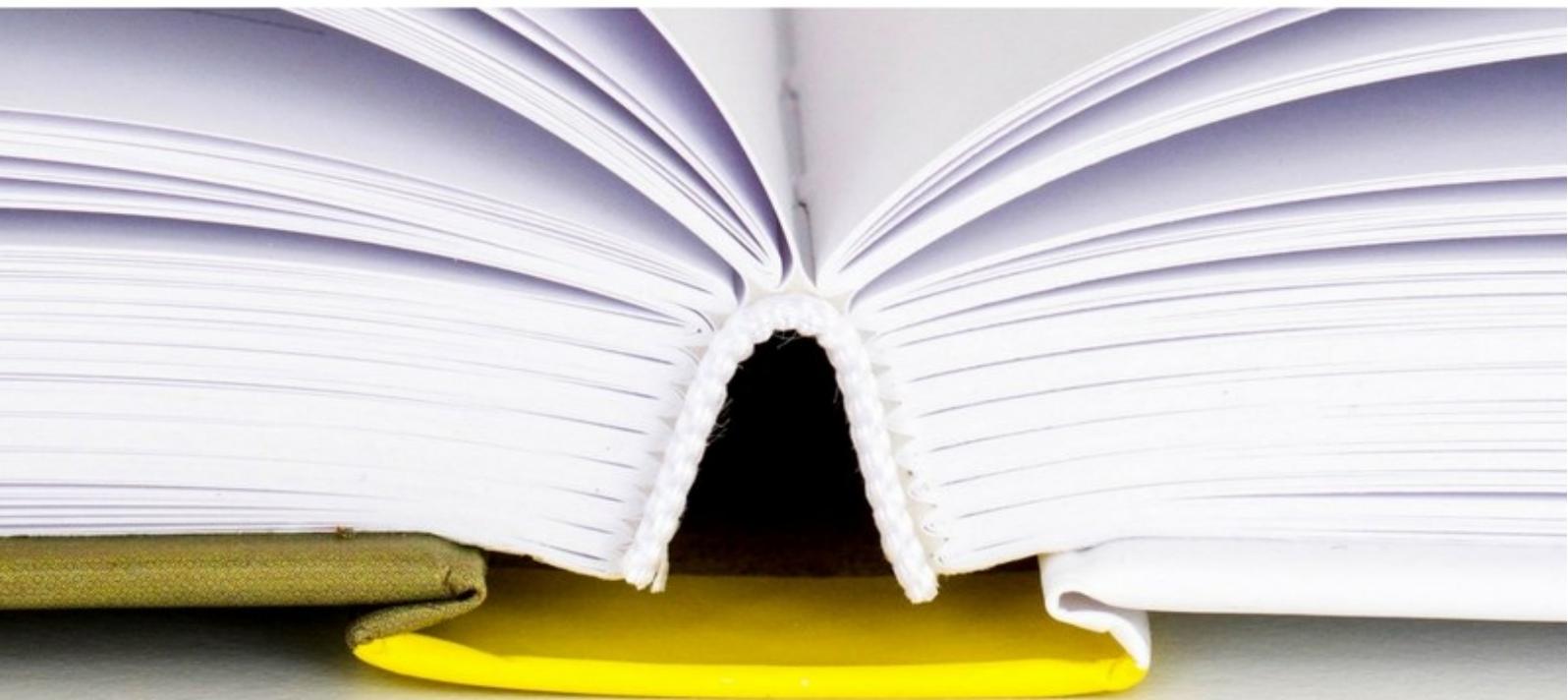
# JUNIOR MOOT IMAGES

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# WHY YOU SHOULD READ YOUR TEXTBOOKS



# REASONS TO READ YOUR TEXTBOOKS

## 1. DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Okay, so this one seems obvious but hear me out. University is a time in your life that is unique for a variety of reasons. One of the lesser known ones is that you're unlikely to have another time in your life where you have the chance to learn about something in such detail and delve into what makes it tick. Later, you'll have work, family, maybe a partner or other commitments that will get in the way. Make the most of your time and read that book. Your degree should be building foundations for your future career. The more familiar you are with a topic, the more you will be rewarded. That's the truth.

## 2. COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS GETS THAT MUCH EASIER.

The more you read the textbook, the more you know about the subject. I think we can all agree on that one. This may have bigger rewards later in your career but it also helps you right now. It could get you a good mark on those pesky assignments that are always floating around in the back of your mind and causing you stress. If you have done your readings, you can take solace in the fact that you don't have to learn about most things for the first time *while you're writing the assignment*. This is a big deal. It will make things go that much more smoothly.

## 3. YOU WILL BE ONE STEP AHEAD IN LECTURES

This one again seems obvious but again, hear me out. Learning things for the first time in lectures can seem stressful because there is so much to contend with. You have to deal with the many parts that make up a whole topic. Instead of sitting there wondering 'what the hell is this?' you'll instead be going through and confirming what you've already read when you listen and make notes. Any questions you had while reading are likely to be ironed out as the lecturer goes through the topic anyway so you'll have a great understanding once you leave the lecture room.

## 4. YOUR GRADES WILL INCREASE

The benefits are easy to forget but you won't be forgetting them when your grades start getting better and better. After the readings and the lecture notes, you'll have a pretty good understanding of the topic and this will be reflected in your assignments and exams. In exams, you'll know where to look when you need a quote, precedent or just need to clarify something. The effort you'll have put in during semester will pay off. Looking at your grades doesn't have to be a sad affair.

## 5. SHOWING OFF

There was only so much this article could sound like a disapproving parent and tell you things you already knew but didn't want to do. You will know much more about the unit. You will start, overall, knowing more than your friends. You'll be able to answer those pesky trick questions that your lecturer and tutor always ask. It happens every class. You'll stand out amongst everyone else. You may even start looking like a real-life Mike Ross (from *Suits*, which is highly recommended viewing). On the flip side, your friends may also start asking you questions so be prepared for that.

Thomas Diprose



# PREVENTING STUDY BURN OUT

## **PLAN IN ADVANCE**

This is one of the crucial mistakes that a majority of university students make. Preparing for tests, assignments and exams should be done with ample time to spare. Try to motivate yourself to start these assessments early by creating different environments to work in - outdoor studying could be a positive change. Forming study groups is a great way to begin work prior to assessment deadlines.

## **GIVE YOUR WORK A MAKEOVER**

Are you one of those people who rush their notes in class and never want to go back to them because they are so messy? Reworking your notes in a simpler, colour coordinated and visually neater form can improve your learning and also motivate you to go back and solidify what you've learned. If you are a visual learner, create flowcharts and diagrams which you can look at and better absorb the information that you need to for your studies.

You could also use pictures, colour and annotations as a change to the usual study notes which may make you engage with the content better.

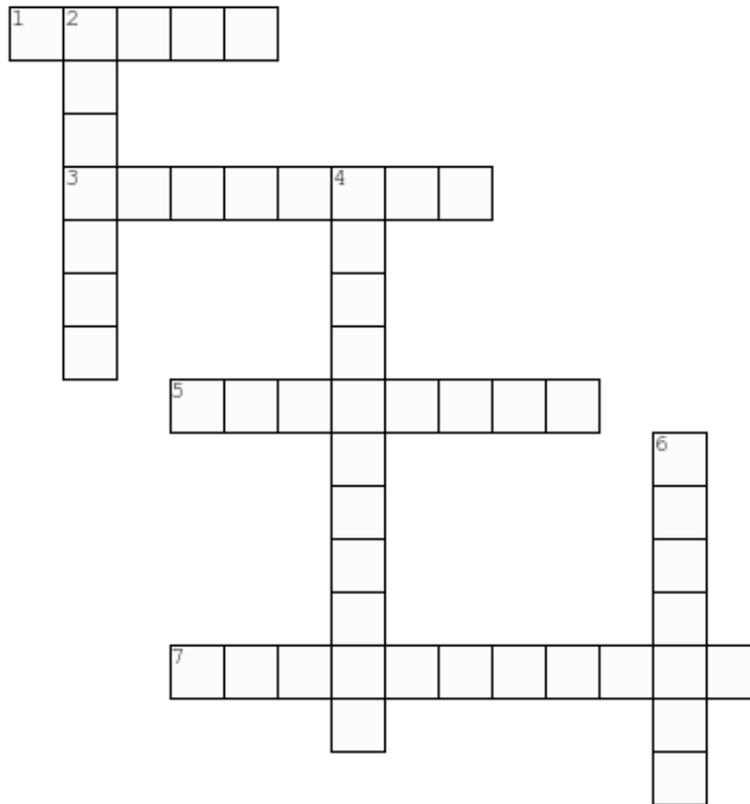
## **REMOVE ALL DISTRACTIONS**

Start by reducing the amount of physical distractions around you. This could mean putting your phone in a separate room, telling your family or housemates to leave you alone for an hour straight and even putting up a checklist to get done within a certain time period. The key to dropping procrastination is to "stop thinking, start doing." This can be done by making tasks easier and setting smaller goals. It helps create a mindset where the work is manageable and prevent you from procrastinating. In the words of Shia LeBeouf, 'Just do it!'

## **REWARD YOURSELF**

Keep a goal in mind, and once you have achieved it - reward yourself! This will increase your motivation and encourage a systematic method of studying, and you also deserve it! Rewards could be as simple as lollies hidden within a book which you need to read, or even promising yourself a pair of designer shades you have envied for months or simply going on Facebook and tagging friends in memes! During exam period this hack could reduce procrastination and increase productivity.

# EDUCATION



## Across

1. Activity, exercise or a regiment that develops or improves a skill; training
3. The act, practice, occupation, or profession of a teacher.
5. The acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught.
7. A foundation to provide students financial assistance

## Down

2. A sum of money charged for teaching by a college or university
4. The act of informing or the condition of being informed; communication of knowledge: Safety instructions are provided for the information of our passengers.
6. The act or practice of rendering aloud written or printed matter: skilled at forensic reading.

ANSWERS:

Across: (1) Study (3) Teaching (5) Learning (7) Scholarship  
Down: (2) Tuition (4) Information (6) Reading

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