



# LAW 551

## Professional and Community Engagement

S1 External 2014

*Dept of Law*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Debra Ronan

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Contact via [debra.ronan@mq.edu.au](mailto:debra.ronan@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

48cp in LAW or LAWS units and permission of Executive Dean of Faculty

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides the opportunity for students to engage with the legal profession and community through participation in a variety of workplace experiences including, but not limited to, law firms, legal centres, community-based legal organisations and services, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations. The experience may be via clerkship, volunteer work, or internship, and may be undertaken on a weekly or block basis. Students source their own placement, and nominate it for approval by the convenor. Applications for the unit are advertised by the convenor via email.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify issues that arise in professional practice and community engagement. In particular the personal and professional demands on, and expectations of, lawyers and public advocates in practice.

Identify and distinguish what it is to be a professional, especially in the discipline of law

Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately

Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

Apply the practical skills necessary in legal practice, including: • preparing file notes •

drafting legal correspondence • preparation of court documents • conducting client interviews • conducting legal research

Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice, including: • the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware • constructive engagement with work colleagues • willing and collaborative participation in the work environment • effective communication • capacity for critical analysis

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>Placement Participation</u></a>	0%	Ongoing
<a href="#"><u>On-Line Participation</u></a>	35%	Weeks 4,5,6,7
<a href="#"><u>Goals and Reflection</u></a>	25%	Weeks 2 and 13
<a href="#"><u>Applied Research Essay</u></a>	40%	Week 11

### Placement Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **0%**

**This is a pass/fail component.**

**To indicate satisfactory attendance and participation, the placement supervisor will certify to the unit convenor that each student:**

- **attended each day**
- **responded to directions and carried out required tasks**
- **participated constructively in discussions**
- **acted ethically, i.e respectfully, with apparent honesty, and was aware of potential conflicts of interest**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues that arise in professional practice and community engagement. In particular the personal and professional demands on, and expectations of, lawyers and public advocates in practice.
- Identify and distinguish what it is to be a professional, especially in the discipline of law

- Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately
- Apply the practical skills necessary in legal practice, including: • preparing file notes • drafting legal correspondence • preparation of court documents • conducting client interviews • conducting legal research
- Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice, including: • the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware • constructive engagement with work colleagues • willing and collaborative participation in the work environment • effective communication • capacity for critical analysis

## On-Line Participation

Due: **Weeks 4,5,6,7**

Weighting: **35%**

Students complete set readings and exercises on ethics and regulation of the legal profession; and may be required to participate in on-line discussions, wikis and blogs on ethical issues.

Details of exercises and questions including due dates, submission and assessment criteria will be discussed at the compulsory seminars, and full details will be provided on iLearn. The exercises will be submitted via links on iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify issues that arise in professional practice and community engagement. In particular the personal and professional demands on, and expectations of, lawyers and public advocates in practice.
- Identify and distinguish what it is to be a professional, especially in the discipline of law
- Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately
- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

## Goals and Reflection

Due: **Weeks 2 and 13**

Weighting: **25%**

This exercise will involve three stages:

1. Following the week 1 seminar, you will develop your aims and goals for your placement and consider the means by which you will achieve them.
2. In week 2 you will meet with the convenor by appointment to discuss your goals (5 marks)
3. In week 13 you will prepare a goal outcomes report and personal reflection; and think to the future (20 marks)

Full details of this exercise, including guidelines and assessment criteria will be discussed at the weeks 1 and 2 seminars, and on i-Learn. **You must contact the convenor during week 1 to make an appointment for your week 2 meeting.**

### **Reflective report submission**

The due time and date for the final reflective report is 10 pm on **Tuesday 10 June (week13)**.

The report should be submitted via the assignment link on iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and distinguish what it is to be a professional, especially in the discipline of law
- Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice, including:
  - the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware
  - constructive engagement with work colleagues
  - willing and collaborative participation in the work environment
  - effective communication
  - capacity for critical analysis

## **Applied Research Essay**

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **40%**

**You will be required to critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession. You will choose one out of a number of questions that will be provided on iLearn.**

**OR**

**You may nominate your own essay topic. You may identify an issue relating to an area of professional practice that in your opinion needs to be improved. You will prepare a critique of current practices and regulation in the area, suggestions for change, and what you as a practitioner would do in response to the issue. Students nominating their own topic must seek approval from the convenor for their topic before the end of week 7.**

Further details of this assessment task will be provided at the orientation seminar, and the set questions will be posted on i-Learn.

### **Research essay submission**

The due time and date for the research essay is 10 pm on **Monday 26 May (week 11)**.

The research essay should be submitted via the Turnitin link on iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately
- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

## Delivery and Resources

Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>.

PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Assessment values have changed from the previous offering of the unit

## Unit Schedule

### Professional / community participation

Students will engage in at least 30 hours of work experience at a law firm, legal centre, community based legal organisation or service, government agency, not-for-profit organisation or other relevant body.

### Macquarie seminars

Week 1: Getting ready for your placement. Placement orientation, aims and goals setting. Reflective thinking and practice.

Week 2: Review of regulation of the legal profession; what is meant by professional responsibility, ethics.

Week 7: Reviewing and reformulating aims and goals

Week 12: Debriefing. Career planning and next steps

### On-Line participation

Weeks 3,4,5,6 - Students complete set readings, and participate in on-line discussions, wikis and blogs on ethical issues.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Macquarie Law School Assessment Policy

Word limits in Macquarie Law School assessments are strictly applied. The word limit does not include footnotes or bibliographies where they are required. Unless explicitly indicated otherwise, referencing must comply with the current version of the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*. In the absence of a successful application for special consideration, any assessment task submitted after its published deadline will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero.

All research essays (excluding online quizzes) will require submission through Turnitin

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/hel>

p/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Identify issues that arise in professional practice and community engagement. In particular the personal and professional demands on, and expectations of, lawyers and public advocates in practice.
- Identify and distinguish what it is to be a professional, especially in the discipline of law
- Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately
- Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice, including:
  - the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware
  - constructive engagement with work colleagues
  - willing and collaborative participation in the work environment
  - effective communication
  - capacity for critical analysis

#### Assessment tasks

- Placement Participation
- On-Line Participation
- Goals and Reflection

### Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice,



including: • the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware • constructive engagement with work colleagues • willing and collaborative participation in the work environment • effective communication • capacity for critical analysis

## **Assessment task**

- Goals and Reflection

## **Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcome**

- Apply the practical skills necessary in legal practice, including: • preparing file notes • drafting legal correspondence • preparation of court documents • conducting client interviews • conducting legal research

## **Assessment task**

- Placement Participation

## **Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcome**

- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

## **Assessment tasks**

- On-Line Participation
- Applied Research Essay

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcome

- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

### Assessment tasks

- On-Line Participation
- Applied Research Essay

## Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.
- Apply the cognitive, interpersonal and communication skills necessary in legal practice, including:
  - the ability to engage in reflection and be self-aware
  - constructive engagement with work colleagues
  - willing and collaborative participation in the work environment
  - effective communication
  - capacity for critical analysis

### Assessment tasks

- Placement Participation
- On-Line Participation
- Goals and Reflection
- Applied Research Essay

## Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded,

sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Identify and respond to ethical issues appropriately
- Critique current practices and regulation of the legal profession.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Placement Participation
- On-Line Participation
- Applied Research Essay