



belonging
connecting
developing
challenging
transforming

legal & academic community
peers | senior students | staff
responsibility | identity
capacity | opportunities | horizons
empathy | justice | vocation





Case Study

Clinical legal education,
professional identity &
curriculum design

Flinders FYCP





LLBLP @ Flinders Law School

- Practical legal training skills embedded throughout degree
- Skills developed and scaffolded from first year onwards
- PLT placement



Flinders LLBLP

1	2	3	4
Legal writing	Drafting		Transactional Legal Practice
Interviewing	Interviewing	Criminal Practice and Advocacy	
Negotiation		Civil Litigation Practice	Legal Practice Management
Ethics		Ethics	Ethics embedded in all Practice topics
FYCP <i>Clinical exposure</i>		FLAC <i>Clinical experience</i>	Industry Placement <i>Clinical experience</i>



Clinical Legal Education @ Flinders Law School

- Tensions between
 - experiential learning & teaching
 - providing professional and competent services to client
 - managing limited university / staff resources
- Allows law students to
 - explore and grow a personal sense of ethical, moral and professional identity
 - develop wide variety of practical legal skills



Willis & Leiman, 2013, p.2.

‘the examination of what it means to be a professional or to practise in a professional manner, is [not] simply a matter of rational critique. [Instead] moral development, along with the process of transformation towards an ethical and compassionate professional, requires a development of a personal philosophy of ‘meaning’”



Dall'Alba & Sandberg, 2010, p107

'the kind of [real life] knowledge that makes explicit what was tacit and generates a richer understanding about practice'



Clinical Legal Education @ Flinders Law School

- Practical Legal Training [PLT] skills embedded throughout LLBLP
- Final year PLT topics
- *LLAW 3264 Social Justice Internship*
- Flinders Legal Advice Clinic

student



entry level lawyer



Flinders Legal Advice Clinic

- Free legal advice provided by interns under supervision of solicitors
- Commenced mid 2011
- 'Spoke & Hub' model
- Interns
 - Enrolled in *LLAW 3264* - 3rd /final year students
 - Volunteers – students or graduates



Flinders Legal Advice Clinic

Funding

- SSAF annually
- Law Foundation of SA Inc. grant (3 years)
- Legal Practice Management software from LEAP



Our Dream

Every LLBLP student spends at least one semester working in Flinders Legal Advice Clinic
(still a long way to go on this...!)

Could we start with first year students?



FLAC FYCP Project Aims

Allow FY students to

- Make specific connections with future career options
- Generate and encourage intrinsic motivation
- Gain real life experience of legal practice as early as possible
- Engage and connect with discipline and law school community
- Create opportunities for networking with more senior students and staff



FLAC FYCP Project Aims

Enhance FLAC by

- Supporting expansion of clinic
- Providing extra assistance for interns
- Increasing levels of service to clients
- Ensuring future clinic sustainability by generating interest among students who may wish to enrol or volunteer as interns in later years



What happens

FY student

- Books placement day online
- Watches online induction videos and reads induction fact sheets
- Signs confidentiality agreement
- Attends clinic 9am-5pm
- Attends and observes during interviews
- Types up interns' notes of interview



Integration

- FY Clinic placement attendance can be substituted for assessment exercise in *LLAW 1221 Professional Skills & Ethics*
- FY Clinic placements can be arranged at any time during the year
- *LLAW 1221 Professional Skills & Ethics* scheduled in semester 2.



Information provided to FY students

- during *New in Law*
- on FLO via *Becoming a professional*
- on FLO via *LLAW 1211 Legal Research & Writing*
- on FLO via *LLAW 1212 Criminal Law & Legal Method*

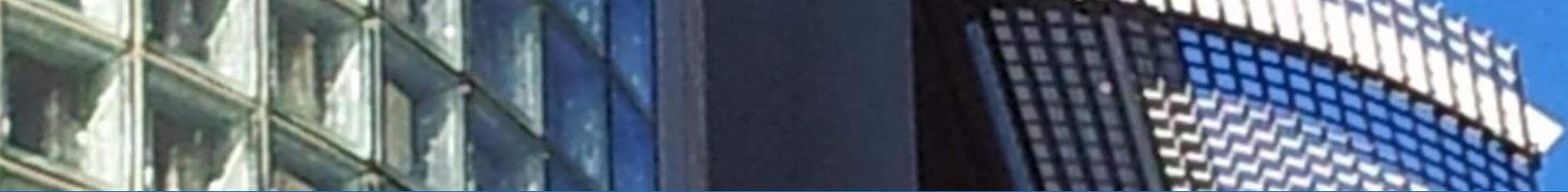


First Year Clinic Placement

Spend 1 day at **Flinders Legal Advice Clinic**

Unique Experiential Learning Opportunity
Available to any first year LLBLP student

Credit towards *LLAW 1221 Professional Skills & Ethics*



When

Tuesdays , Wednesdays or Thursdays during semester

Thursday Clinics operate during semester breaks too

Where

On campus

At Christies Beach Magistrates Court





What will I do?

- Work with Clinic interns and staff
- Meet real clients
- Observe interviews
- Type up file notes
- Deal with real files
- Use real legal practice management software





Book online

Go to **FLO** 'Becoming a Professional'

- Click on 'First Year'
- Scroll to 'FLAC First Year Clinic Placement'
- Click on links to make booking
- Complete online Induction Modules
 - Watch videos and read factsheets

Welcome to the "Becoming a Professional" FLO site

This site is for all law students, from first year to final year.

It is to help you with resources that may be useful to you in your transition from first year student to professional. It is primarily pitched at those of you who intend law-related areas, but many of the resources will be equally useful for those of you who choose another career.

If there's something you would like to see on the site, please post it in the general forum & we'll see what we can do.

 News forum

 General forum
5 unread posts

For everyone



First Year



Second year



Third Year



Fourth Year



The Future





Click [HERE](#) to book your Flinders Legal Advice Clinic First Year Clinic Placement Day.

Enter the Password **LLAW1221PSE** when prompted to do so.

Before you attend your Clinic Placement Day, you **must** watch all of the FLAC Induction videos and read all of the FLAC Factsheets below.

Confidentiality is very important to lawyers and in our Clinic. Once you have watched the Confidentiality video and read the Confidentiality Fact Sheet, you must read the **Confidentiality Agreement**.

You **must sign** a hard copy of this **Confidentiality Agreement** when you attend your Placement Day.

Where is the Clinic Office?

As from 14 April 2014, the Flinders Legal Advice is located in the Mark Oliphant Building, (Building 60 on the campus map) off Laffer Drive, on the west of South Road.

Once you arrive at the Mark Oliphant Building go up the main stairs to the first floor, turn right and continue to the very end of the corridor to a door on the right hand side of the corridor. Look for the Clinic signs.



The Mark Oliphant Building is Building 60 on the Campus Map on Laffer Drive

Parking at the Mark Oliphant Building

- For very early arrivals:
 - Some general parking spaces (for extended periods) along Laffer Drive but limited to 3 hour.
 - Some general parking spaces along Hugh Cairns Avenue (which runs off Laffer Drive).
- All the car parks seem to be permit only.
- The nearest University car park is Car Park 12 across from the Flinders Private Hospital. be very early - this car park is full by 9am.
- From Carpark 12, walk down to the South Road intersection where you can cross at the lights. The building 'right there' is the Mark Oliphant Building.

Catching the Loop bus

- The University Loop bus stops at Car parks 2, 4, 9 & 13 for students.
- The timetable can be found online here.
- Get off the loop bus at the stop in front of the Flinders Medical Centre.
- Walk down to the South Road intersection where you can cross at the lights.
- The building 'right there' is the Mark Oliphant Building.

-  Flinders Legal Advice Clinic Factsheets
-  FLAC Induction - Confidentiality 26.3MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Induction - Dress Code 9.6MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Induction - Clinic Behaviour & Expectations 17.3MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Induction - Minor Civil Claims 13.3MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Induction - Notetaking 12.1MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Induction -Getting the most out of observing 10.9MB video/mp4
-  FLAC Confidentiality Agreement 71.4KB PDF document

Video Induction





2014

Clinic operated on 59 days – 118 FYCP spaces
176 students enrolled in LLAW1221
52 FY students made bookings
46 attended
Very positive feedback from all FYs

Can we book in again?

When can we enrol/volunteer as interns?

Great to get to know senior students and staff

Loved experiencing real life legal practice

Rethinking possible future career directions



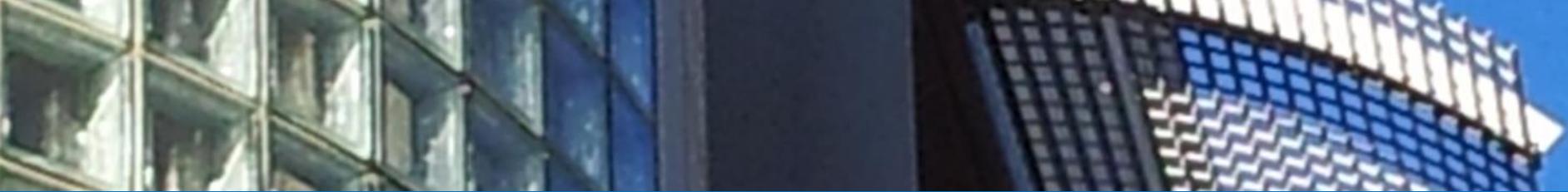
2014

Our FYCP students



Flinders
UNIVERSITY
inspiring achievement





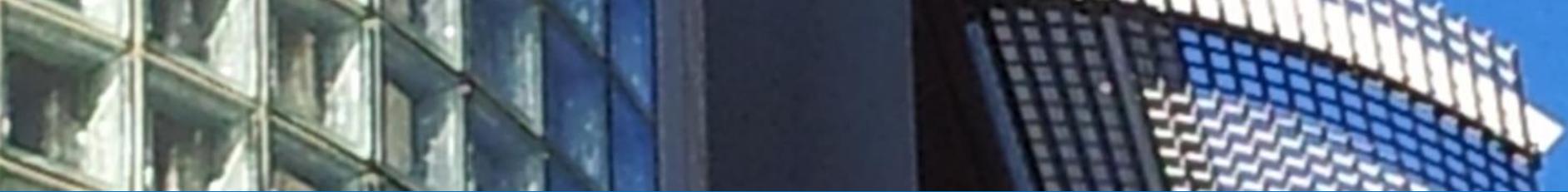
- **BEFORE:** What do you hope to get out of the clinic experience?
- *I want to learn about a solicitor's interaction with clients and the roles all parties play in a legal setting. I want to learn how to become a professional and ethical law student, and eventually lawyer.*
- *I would like to learn and observe how lawyers handle the interviewing of clients and also, just get a feel of how a legal working environment and set-up is like since I have never worked in a law firm or legal setting before in my life.*





- **AFTER:** How different was your actual experience of clinic from your expectations of clinic?
- *The main difference was the actual practical experience of actually handling a real-life client and working with peers on a real case that makes it so different from the chiefly theory-based learning from university and textbooks.*
- *The experience was a lot less daunting than what I thought it would have been.*





- **AFTER:** Has your idea of the role of a lawyer changed as a result of your participation in the clinic?
- *Yes. A lawyer has to be very careful and professional in their dealings with their clients. He doesn't necessarily has to just sit there all there with the law books and try to do research. He has to actually be very active in interacting and communicating with his clients and making sure he has got the right facts from the client as well. A lot of EQ and soft skills are involved too.*





Read more

Leiman, T. Ankor D. and Milne J.,

‘Beginning in the first year: Towards a vertically integrated curriculum for clinical legal education. A Practice Report.’

(2015) 6(1) *The International Journal of the First Year in Higher Education* 171.

doi: [10.5204/intjfyhe.v6i1.261](https://doi.org/10.5204/intjfyhe.v6i1.261)



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Tania Leiman is the Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning) at Flinders Law School, where she teaches tort law. She is also the Director of First Year Studies and a supervising solicitor at the Flinders Legal Advice Clinic. She has received several teaching awards, culminating in an Australian Learning & Teaching Council citation for sustained excellence in teaching that supports empowers and inspires first year students to engage with law. Her current areas of research include education of the heart, educating law students for a changing professional future, inherent requirements for legal education, clinical legal practice education, and managing the transition into legal education, particularly the first year in law study.

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Lucy Evans is the Deputy Director of Professional Programs at Flinders Law School, where she teaches the Practical Legal Training components embedded throughout the Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice. Lucy's role involves significant liaison with the local legal profession, assisting students with the transition to professional life, input into the University's clinical program and teaching in commercial law and civil procedure. Admitted to practice law in 1998, Lucy was formerly a commercial lawyer and made the transition to academia in 2008 when she commenced as a Lecturer at the Flinders Law School. Lucy is passionate about providing students will real life skills and experiences whilst at University.

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ABSTRACT

This presentation discusses Flinders Law School's innovative First Year Clinic Placement [FYCP] program designed to allow first year students early exposure to clinical experience and to the social justice ethos of a legal advice clinic.

Significant numbers of students choose to study law as the result of external, rather than internal, motivating factors, including gaining status (Sheldon & Krieger, 2004, 264); concerns about employability, pressure to assume adult social responsibilities and progress towards a future career (Ryan & Deci, 2000, 60). However, preconceptions about future careers often have little basis in reality, especially when compared to the increasingly varied reality of the lived experience of lawyers in the 21st century (Susskind, 2013; Remus, 2014; Friend, 2014; Nelson, 2014). Where ethical discussions seem to take place in the abstract, absent felt connection with real life implications, students may be left without a sense of purpose or vocation identified as being so necessary for effective transition both into, and then later out of, university (Lizzio, 2006) and for law student wellbeing more generally (Sheldon & Krieger, 2004). As Kift (2009) notes, 'students must be inspired, supported, and realise their sense of belonging; not only for early engagement and retention, but also as foundational for later year learning success and a lifetime of professional practice.' Clinical experiences are powerful in '[engaging and expanding] students' expertise and professional identity' (Stuckey, 2007, 113).

As FYCP demonstrates, commencing students gain significant value from clinic involvement, despite their minimal legal skills or knowledge. It can stimulate and refine for students the values, ideals, hopes and inspirations that start to shape professional identity (Sullivan et al, 2007, 92-93); form their personal narrative of a way of being in the world and challenge them to consider how this aligns with values governing the legal profession (Willis & Leiman, 2013, 665).





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