Monash Law School Foundation Initiative
Clinical Legal Services Program

Monash Law School has a tradition of providing Law students with a strong academic foundation combined with transferable practical skills.

Monash University’s Law School pioneered the establishment of Clinical Legal Education in Australia in the 1970s through two community legal centres which continue to deliver and innovate today: the Monash-Oakleigh Legal Service (MOLS) and the Springvale Monash Legal Service (SMLS).

The Clinical Legal Services Program aims to:
- Serve the public and provide Monash Law students with practical legal experiences.
- Provide free legal advice and assistance to members of the community who cannot afford legal representation.
- Expose students to the practical operation of the law and the legal system and enable them to understand the importance of pro bono legal work.
- The centres are substantially staffed by final year undergraduate Law students under the supervision of solicitors employed by Monash Law School and volunteers from the legal profession.

Monash Law School in conjunction with other Monash faculties recently introduced a multi-disciplinary clinic at MOLS. This multi-disciplinary clinic joins Law students with other students from the faculties of Bus/Eco (accounting), Medicine (social work) and Arts (interpretation and translation), to provide free practical advice and representation to the community. This clinic provides a comprehensive service, bringing together legal analysis, financial literacy, bio-psychosocial assessment and translation and interpretation.

Financial support for the Clinical Legal Services Program offered at each of the two locations is essential. The program costs over $1million a year to run and Monash Law School relies on private donations to supplement its resource allocation to ensure these clinics continue.

The Monash Law School Foundation asks for your help in continuing to offer this unique and invaluable experience to Law students and these services to the community.
Monash Law School Foundation Initiative

Equity Bursaries

Equity scholarships are awarded to students who come from one or more of Monash University’s defined equity or personal disadvantage groups such as those of indigenous Australian descent, people experiencing financial disadvantage, students from regional and remote areas and others.

Bursaries can be named in honour of a person of significance in the donor’s career or personal life, such as a supportive parent, mentor or former student.

The Monash Law School Foundation welcomes donations from Law Alumni who wish to recognise the unique education they received at Monash by providing needy students with financial support.
Monash Law School Foundation Initiative

The Dodson Indigenous Juris Doctor Scholarship

The Law School is proud to announce a new indigenous scholarship to demonstrate its commitment to the legal education of indigenous Australians during its landmark 50th anniversary year.

The Dodson Indigenous Juris Doctor Scholarship is named in honour of the outstanding achievements and contributions to indigenous affairs of the Dodson family.

The scholarship is being offered for the Master of Laws (Juris Doctor) program given the very limited number of Commonwealth Supported Places for this course and the significant cost of a full fee paying place (currently around $100,000).

One scholarship is available for 2014 and applications are currently open. The scholarship will provide:
- A free place in the JD program
- A scholarship stipend equivalent to an Australian Postgraduate Award: $20,000 per annum for a full time study load (48 credit points) or pro rata, paid until the minimum points in the degree are completed
- A personal academic mentor
- A travel grant of $2500 to attend the Prato program
- A Legibook voucher to a maximum value of $1000

To be eligible, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:
- be of Australian indigenous descent;
- hold or be about to complete an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification recognised for admission to the JD course; and
- enrol full-time or part-time as a JD student in 2014.

Applicants will be assessed according to academic merit (with minimum standards required) and the selection panel will give preference to applicants who can demonstrate evidence of community mindedness and active involvement in community work.

The Law School Foundation has generously agreed to fund the cost of the scholarship jointly with the Law School.

We would like to be able to continue to offer this Scholarship annually and your financial contribution to the Law School Foundation to support this initiative would be greatly appreciated.
Monash Law School Foundation Initiative
An Enhanced Mooting and Advocacy Program

The ability to advocate effectively for a client or a cause is a vital skill which is required in a wide variety of employment settings and central to a rounded legal education.

A mooting and advocacy program also equips students with many other skills: the ability to conduct thorough legal research and writing, work effectively in teams, undertake self-directed learning, and develop initiative and self-confidence.

Participation in national and international mooting competitions enhances the Law School’s reputation and helps attract students from all over the world.

Monash Law School has introduced a three-tiered strategy to enhance advocacy training:
1. introducing advocacy skills into several core units;
2. continuing to offer elective units such as Trial Practice and Advocacy, and supporting and incorporating the various competitions run by the Law Students Society into the Law School’s advocacy program; and
3. providing opportunities for the best and most enthusiastic students to gain elite advocacy experience in a range of national and international competitions.

In particular, the Monash Law School Foundation is keen to support the third initiative to extend the elite advocacy opportunities to as many students as possible, on a sustainable and equitable basis. The first two initiatives are already supported by the Law School. To do this, the Monash Law School Foundation asks for your financial contribution.
Monash Law School Foundation Initiatives

Student Ambassador Program

Since 2007 the Law School has been providing an Ambassador Program for some 50 current community-minded Law students. Recruitment to this prestigious program occurs annually and is highly competitive. Participants are chosen through an interview and selection process conducted by their peer Ambassadors, overseen by the Law School's Student Experience Manager.

The program runs over two years and provides invaluable leadership training and project management opportunities. Ambassadors are trained in areas such as Leadership, Project Management, Public Speaking, Emotional Intelligence, Communication Skills, and Interview Skills.

Ambassadors represent the Law School at events including Open Day and School visits and help build a sense of community. They run career focused events for Law students (eg ‘Law Beyond Practice’, ‘Women in the Law’, ‘Breakfast with Barristers’) and community building events (eg Staff vs Student Debate and BBQs).

In order to be able to continue to provide the Ambassador Program the Law School requires the financial support of the Monash Law School Foundation.

We ask for your support for this worthwhile program.

Peer to Peer Mentor Program

The Monash Law School's Peer to Peer Mentor Program has been running since 2008 and is available annually to all commencing Law students (about 450-500 first year Law students).

The program places students into groups of 20 based on their selected course and home postcode. Each group is matched with two Peer Mentors (also studying the same course and from the same suburb). Mentors operate in a ‘buddy system’, contacting Mentees regularly to provide both peer support in relation to their specific disciplines and to facilitate off-campus friendships and connections. A Peer Mentor newsletter is regularly produced, providing guidance and tips for first year students, and many large events are run to bring the groups together regularly.

This program has significantly enhanced the Law School community since its inception and has become entrenched in the culture of the Law School. Most current Law students have been through or are currently involved in the program. The Mentors also operate as an efficient information referral system which greatly reduces the burden on administrative staff.

The great success of this program has been acknowledged – it is often regarded as ‘best practice’ for a mentor program at Monash University, with many other faculties following suit, and in the wider tertiary sector.

In order to be able to continue to offer this valuable program, continuing financial support is required from the Monash Law School Foundation. Your support would be greatly appreciated.