

# Law Ambassador Program

2023





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# About the Program

The Ambassador Program is supported by the Monash Law Faculty through the Student Engagement & Employability portfolio. The program offers students the opportunity to manage initiatives they are passionate about while gaining valuable leadership skills, which are aimed at enhancing career development, professionalism and building employability skills. The program is designed to equip ambassadors with confidence and skills that makes them highly sought after by employers.

Ambassadors get involved in a range of initiatives including:

Personal and professional skills training sessions

- Creating and managing a project which will help their peers and/or the community
- Enhancing overall university experience and making new friends
- Invitations to select events for networking

The 2023 program included the following workshops:

- Orientation - Design Thinking and Ideation - conducted by Isabel Melles Taberner.
- Effective Leadership, Teamwork and Communication - led by Ian Grimwood, who is a Program Coordinator, Leadership at Monash University.
- Personal Branding and the Art of Networking - delivered by Julianna Dubinsky, who is a Program Coordinator, Career Service at Monash University.
- The Art of Pitching - delivered by Dr Tamara Wilkinson, who is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Monash University.
- In 2023 Team Mentors assisted Ambassador Group Meetings to help their team achieve goals. The Ambassador cohort met frequently to discuss their team projects, shared hints and tips and mentioned opportunities to collaborate with other groups.

The Showcase is an opportunity for the teams to share with academics, mentors, industry representatives, friends, family and other students how their projects enhanced the university experience of their peers, benefited the community and improved students' employability. Some teams may receive a grant from the faculty to continue to develop their projects into the future. The Showcase is an opportunity to celebrate our Ambassadors' success and hard work throughout 2023.

# Team Mentor Bios

## Magistrate Guillaume Bailin - A Reasonable Standard

Guillaume Bailin was appointed a Magistrate in September 2020 and has predominantly sat at Latrobe Valley, Melbourne and Ballarat Magistrates' Courts across all jurisdictions of the court but with a focus on in the criminal jurisdiction. Prior to appointment Magistrate Bailin was the Program Manager of the Indictable Crime Team at Victoria Legal Aid where he worked for a number of years managing a team and running homicide cases as an instructor, and prior to that held roles at the Office of Public Prosecutions, County Court and lectured in Criminal Law at Monash University. Magistrate Bailin holds a BA/LLBs(Hons) and LLM (Human Rights) from Monash University and is the founder of the Prison Legal Education and Assistance project which provides information for inmates across Victoria around the legal process, a student founded, led and run project which is one the largest community professional legal education programs in Victoria.

## Nick Li - Bridge Law

Nick Li is a Senior Associate in the Intellectual Property team at Allens. He graduated from Monash University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Biomedical Science. Nick has a keen interest in life sciences and specialises in healthcare regulatory, food and beverage law, and intellectual property matters in his day to day work.

## Jacqueline Bisas - EncycLAWpedia

Jacqui is a Senior Lawyer in the Civil Regulation team at the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), the Australian Government's central legal services provider. At AGS, Jacqui specialises in civil regulatory litigation for Commonwealth agencies such as the ACCC and ASIC. After graduating from Monash University with an Arts/Law degree, Jacqui undertook the graduate program at King & Wood Mallesons (KWM) and prior to joining AGS, was a Senior Associate in the Dispute Resolution team. At KWM, Jacqui was responsible for a broad range of complex commercial litigation and insolvency matters. Jacqui also has an Advanced Certificate in Insolvency obtained through University of Technology Sydney.

# Team Mentor Bios

## Amelia Barrow - Law and Life

Amelia is an Associate (Senior Associate from 1 July 2023) in Allens' Disputes & Investigations practice, with a focus on complex commercial disputes and regulatory investigations.

She was specifically attracted to the Law & Life program given her passion for improving mental health outcomes. Mental health is hard to ignore when you begin your legal career working on the high-profile (and demanding) Banking Royal Commission like she did.

Since then, Amelia has coordinated a pro-bono mental health advocacy program in conjunction with the Mental Health Legal Centre (to represent mental health consumers before legal tribunals) and continues to seek out avenues for promoting healthier work practices and building strong support-networks within the legal community.

Outside of law, she is an avid footy supporter and has a penchant for baked goods (which is becoming a dangerous outlet given the performance of her footy team).

## Madeline Oldfield - Lawtitude

Madeline leads Privacy Chrome and Web Partnerships for Australia/New Zealand. She is focussed on helping partners and ecosystems thrive for a healthy web, and to make the most of the Privacy Sandbox opportunity. Before this role, Madeline worked as a senior delivery practitioner within Google Cloud Professional Services to re-imagine and disrupt industries through big data and cloud-based initiatives.

Prior to Google, Madeline spent over 20 years as a trusted advisor, partner and coach leading large-scale enterprise transformations, civic reforms and ecosystem change as a consultant, and in-house, across the public sector, legal and regulatory, banking and finance, telecommunications, energy and digital industries. Madeline has won multiple international and domestic awards for her innovative approaches to legal x human centred design thinking, and is published in the MIT Computation Law Report.



# Team Mentor Bios

## Karen Finch - LawCate

Karen Finch is a passionate legal innovator and legal technology enthusiast. Karen brings together these two passions in her role as Founder and CEO of Legally Yours, an Australian LegalTech company transforming the way Australians access legal services. Classified as a tech-enabled RaaS platform (a.k.a providing Relationships As A Service), Legally Yours closes the justice loop by connecting Australians to fixed-fee lawyers around Australia for all their personal and business legal matters, and helps small law firms build, scale and grow innovative legal practices.

Karen is also a Co-Director of Pro Help Legal Australia, President of the Australian Legal Technology Association (ALTA), former Committee Chair of the Women of ALTA, a Legal Tech Editor for Idea Spies, and a passionate Ambassador of the small law movement in Australia.

## Vanessa Filipendin - NetworkedIn

Vanessa practices in the firm's corporate and commercial department. She has worked with a range of private and public clients in Australia advising on corporate law, capital markets, and mergers and Acquisitions.

Prior to joining the firm, Vanessa worked for two international firms in their private equity and equity capital markets teams. Vanessa graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts in 2021. She also ranked second overall in her law cohort and received the Monash Law Excellence Prize, recognising her outstanding academic achievement.



EST.

ARS

2018

## A REASONABLE STANDARD

WELLBEING FOR LAW STUDENTS

### OUR 2023 PURPOSE

A Reasonable Standard (ARS) aims to generate and facilitate open discussions regarding mental health for law students and young legal professionals. We address prominent issues that law students face during university life and beyond, hoping to break down stigma surrounding mental health within the legal industry. ARS delivers personable content through our website, online blog, and varying social media platforms, sharing invulnerable, first-hand experiences from law students and industry professionals. Aiming to promote a safe space for law students, we centered the focus of our 2023 work around a newly crafted motto:

*“Promote transparency, reduce pressure, enhance success”*

### OUR 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2023, ARS achieved....

- fortnightly blog posts uploaded to the website offering unique personal experiences for readers
- continued sharing social media content across multiple platforms
- conducted and released three interview-based podcasts with special guests penultimate law student Suhani Mehra and the honourable Magistrate Bailin

### OUR 2024 GOALS

ARS aspires to perpetuate our online presence, and continue providing helpful information for law students and young legal professionals. We believe that promoting educational material, and relatable content encourages greater respect for mental health – assisting others in their individual journeys through their legal career path. In 2024 we aim to:

- maintain presence on our website, online blog, and various social media pages
- increase online visibility & engagement
- diversify and expand podcast episodes to offer a broader depth of perspectives
- host a live panel Q&A event to discuss the importance of mental health with industry professionals





# BRIDGE LAW

Nailah Suha Zaman, Alex Murray-Xenidis, Meghana Jonnalagadda, Sotir Stojanovic, Rina Yamamoto, Sunny Jung, Bec Batrouney, Abhishek Rahul Dunessur, Xabier Walters, Jiahao Rao, and Felicity Irwin

## OUR PURPOSE

Bridge Law is an ongoing project that produces content aimed at high school students who are interested in studying law. We believe that every student, no matter their background, should have the confidence and opportunity to study law if they wish to. We aim to bridge the gap between the number of enrolments from students in public schools all over Victoria and private schools specifically in Regional Victoria and Melbourne's West



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2023, we published 11 pieces on our website, bringing the total number of pieces up to 24, since our website's inception
- We hosted a Zoom Webinar entitled 'So You Want to be a Lawyer' and had 100+ registrants
- We created an Instagram page which we have used to promote our webinar and website and post bite-size digestible information
- We made further connections with school counsellors within our target demographic

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continuing to maintain and update our website and Instagram page with relevant and useful information and resources
- Creating a 'How to become a lawyer' video resource for high school students with contributions from guest speakers
- School visits and presentations to high school students
- Creating and hosting workshops for high school students to equip them with relevant skills and knowledge to begin studying law



## BUDGET

- We are requesting \$500 (excluding GST) to continue maintaining our Instagram page and to promote our posts
- We used \$330 to fund our SquareSpace annual business plan. We are requesting an additional \$327 (excluding GST) in funding to support our website in 2024
- We are additionally requesting funding to purchase gift cards for speakers who assist in the preparation of the video resource

BY LAW STUDENTS



FOR LAW STUDENTS

## OVERVIEW

Established in 2019, EncycLAWpedia is a Monash Law Ambassador initiative which aims to **bridge the gap** between theory and practice for aspiring lawyers. EncycLAWpedia has interviewed a range of legal professionals to provide students with holistic information about various practice areas in the legal field. Each of our online guides includes an overview of a specific area of law, insights into the day-to-day work lives of professionals, as well as recent articles about developments in the industry. The initiative expanded in 2022 to include a podcast.

## 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

**Expanded** our array of guides to 2 new areas: Competition and Regulation, and Insolvency law

**Built** on our Environment and Planning guide with one new interview

**Boosted** our social media and website engagement, bringing in unique viewers and increased analytics

## 2024 GOALS

**01**

To continue interviewing young lawyers and recent graduates in a range of areas

**02**

To host a live panel event and collaborate on a project with another team.

**03**

To obtain funding for our digital assets and a live event at the value of \$1000

## Monash Law Ambassador Program 2023

# Law & Life

*Our goal is to enhance law students' mental health and encourage them to prioritise a better work/study/life balance.*

### WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR:

#### WELLBEING PLANNER

Re-usable digital template.

- Includes the 12 week semester/trimester period, as well as SWOTVAC and the exam period
- 2 study and wellbeing tips per day

#### MOVIE NIGHT

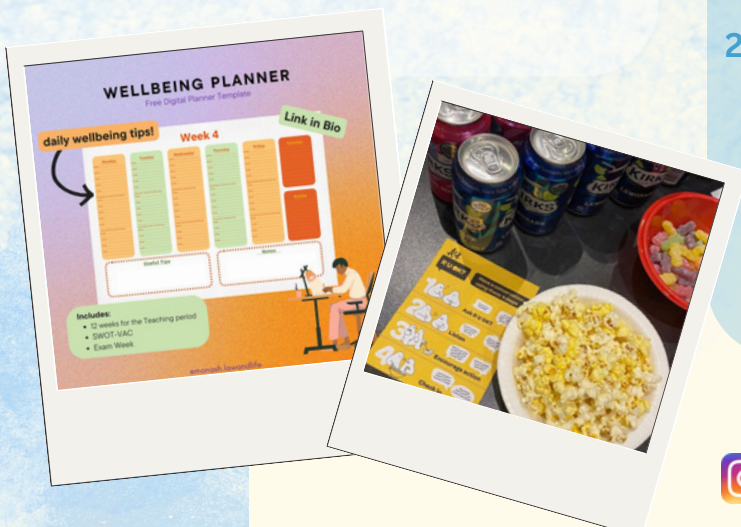
Held on R U OK? DAY (14 Sept 2023), encouraging law students to wind down and socialise with fellow law peers.

- Showcasing 'The Truman Show'
- Provided popcorn, lollies and drinks - catered for all dietary requirements

#### INSTAGRAM PAGE

Posted useful and engaging content at least twice a week.

- Including weekly 'Quote Wednesdays' and weekend informative posts
- Story highlights of relevant helplines
- **18** new posts made in 2023
- Over **400+** followers
- **89%** of followers aged between 18-34 years old (our target age range)
- **620+** profile visits



### THE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT:

#### INSTAGRAM PAGE

- Q+A function to be answered by Law Faculty psychologists and later-year students
- Exam tips & tricks from later-year students

#### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING NETWORKING EVENT

- Aims to increase social connection and create relationships with a commonly held importance for mental wellbeing

#### R U OK? DAY 2024 CUPCAKE DECORATING EVENT

- To inspire more casual conversation about the significance of mental health support whilst having fun



### BUDGET:

#### 2023 Costs

- R U OK? Day Movie Night Catering = \$73.34

#### 2024 Costs

- Panel + Networking Event
- Donations allocated for panel speakers to donate = \$100 x 3
- Catering = \$100
- R U OK? Day Cupcake Decorating Equipment = \$250



# LAWCATE

Locating opportunities in law

## Our Purpose

Since our inception in 2020, Lawcate has been connecting law students to opportunities in the legal industry.

We compile resources on volunteering, employment, clerkships, networking and events. We also create our own content, including conducting interviews and creating guides for law students such as clerkship advice, subject reviews and exam tips.

Now a team of 15, Lawcate has benefitted from the diversity of thought and experience of its members.



## 2023 Overview

In 2023, we focused on diversifying the range of opportunities Lawcate advertises to law students.

We placed effort into growing our social media presence and took important steps towards creating our own podcast, including conducting several interviews with fellow law students and industry professionals. Further, we received an overwhelming response to our EOI for featuring on our podcast.

Finally, we consolidated our **Lawcate App** after previously working alongside numerous app designers.

## Plans for the Future

Having been created in the midst of the pandemic, all of Lawcate's past events have been held virtually. However, we are keen to host an **in-person catered networking event** next year. This is a chief goal of ours as it helps law students to strengthen connections with their peers and meet potential mentors face-to-face.

We also wish to officially launch **our own podcast** on Spotify. This would be a fortnightly event, where we would interview law students, graduates and industry professionals. We would also seek permission to upload our 15+ prior interviews.

Finally, we understand the importance of having a strong social media presence and accordingly intend to create a Lawcate Tiktok account to boost momentum for our podcast.

## Our Budget

### 2023 COSTS

- \$192.00 on an annual Wix website fee
- \$135.00 on Adalo app subscription

TOTAL SPENT = \$327.00

### 2024 COSTS

- \$99.00 for Apple app publication fee
- \$25.00 for Google Play app publication fee
- \$192.00 for annual Wix subscription
- \$400.00 for catering service (\$10/head) for 2024 event

ESTIMATED COSTS = \$716.00

## Group Members:

Zara Barclay, Abbey Crawley, Delia Chen, Lyla Danish, Johanna Frauenberger, Eric Imm, Sinead Kelly, Jason Lianto, Sandy Nguyen, Rachel Samuel, Lauren Silke, William Slight, Jordan Rahmel, Evelyn Tran, Naomi Wijayasinghe



### OUR VISION:

To connect law students to their dream legal career, igniting their passion and equipping them with the skills to connect with future employers.

### OUR MISSION:

Provide educational, accessible resources to improve student's graduate employment applications.

## 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

### FIRM AND STUDENT SURVEY

We interviewed 36 different legal organisations to outline distinguishing factors and to ascertain their key selection criteria for clerks and graduates. We also surveyed the student body to assess the viability of the project, and found:

- 60% of the student body felt overwhelmed by the clerkship process
- 77% of responses indicated this was due to the competitive and intimidating nature of the clerkship process
- 100% would find an employability resource useful



### INSTAGRAM POSTS

We researched and created Instagram-friendly content on MBTI personality types and how they apply to different law careers.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

For 2024, we aim to concurrently launch our Instagram and Website, to provide an integrated link between 'bite-sized' Instagram posts and more detailed website content. We would also aim to develop our career quiz, to improve our partnerships with firms, and to increase the variety of educational content we can provide to law students.

### WEBSITE AND QUIZ

We began wireframing a website and career quiz, with the plan to link this with our Lawtitude Instagram, where users can access further information or resources, or pursue interests sparked by their engagement on our Instagram.

Presenting 2023

# 'Networked-in'

## Our Objective

As law students, we understand the pressures and challenges of succeeding both in our studies and in marketing ourselves through networking and gaining experience. By providing opportunities to network and hear from professionals with diverse legal backgrounds, our goal was to support and empower LLB/JD students by helping them explore their passions and interests in traditional and non-traditional ways. Hence, we held our 'Monash Law Networking Night' at Monash Chambers on the 10th of August, bringing together 10 panels and 54 students.

## Achievements and what did we do different?

We conducted a pre-survey before our main networking night event, and 90.9% of students said they felt barriers between professionals. Our team had implemented ways to strategically eliminate these barriers that hinder students from developing meaningful relationships. We made changes such as:

- Secured 10 panels from various backgrounds in law.
- Rather than students going up to a panel to network, we have pre-assigned them to small table groups up to 5-8 to network with one panel (30 minutes). The networking session occurred 2 times.
- Splitting up 10 panels in half, so the first 5 panels come to share their experiences and after the first networking session the next 5 panels came up.
- Sending emails to attendees before the event of 15 examples of networking questions to ask and printing them out for on the day with the schedule.
- Asking for feedback from students before and after the event
- Constant promotion on our Instagram @monashnetworkedin, personal linked-in and on facebook.

## Budget

### Expenses:

Costco Platters: \$322.88  
Drinks: 108.91  
Plates/Cups: 19.45  
A6 Table Holders: \$36.00  
Monash Printing Costs: \$21.30  
Office Works Costs: \$2.40  
Gift Bags: \$47.88  
Panel's gifts: \$130  
**TOTAL: \$688.82**

\$10.43 per ticket  
Qpay Balance: \$487.15  
Last years balance carried forward:  
\$105  
Official Event Provided Budget:  
\$150  
**TOTAL: \$697.15**

### PANELS

**Nicole Kirkwood** - Immigration Director at the Australian Visa and Immigration Experts

**Zev Vinokurov** - Case manager (lawyer) at Australian Financial Complaints Authority

**Ali Khan** - Corporate Lawyer at Gilbert + Tobin

**Chris Crewther MP** - Member of Victorian Parliament for Mornington and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Corrections.

**James Penny** - Barrister at the Victorian Bar

**Dr Jessica Mant** - Lecturer/Researcher, Faculty of Law Monash University.

**Dr Alan Davis** - Senior Lecturer at College of Law

**Karen Finch** - CEO of Legally yours (LegalTech company)

**Stefani Janson** - Lawyer (Family Law + Wills Estates) at Berry Family Law Melbourne and Co-founder of 'Incio' (career coaching)

**Emma Costa** - Solicitor at Refugee Legal

## Goals and Future visions

We had positive feedback from our attendees saying that Monash Law should 100% continue providing these networking opportunities. After the event, we had 83.3% of students answer that out of 4/5 they feel more comfortable with networking. We also had 100% of attendees vote that they have started to consider about their passions and interests in law. Hence, we believe that it is extremely important to provide accessible networking opportunities for law students as it will help break down the barriers and empower students to pursue their passions in law. Our vision is to continue to providing networking opportunities and also take on feedback from our attendees to improve our event.

2023 Members: Grace Lee, Riley Matthew, Audom Ou, Doonya Rathnabharathie, Michelle Tran, Nitika Ponnachan, Stephanie Zhang, Mevni De Silva, Aiswarya Saravanathevan, Keerthana Karal, Raihana RH, Karina Kakafikas-Bek, Kate Choi, Menelaos Kalla



2023



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