

Practical Legal Training



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Since its establishment in 1972, Leo Cussen Centre for Law has been and continues to be recognised as a centre of excellence for legal education. Our training is highly respected by the legal profession.

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01.

About Leo Cussen Centre for Law

Leo Cussen Centre for Law is recognised as a centre of excellence for practical legal training and continuing professional development for all legal practitioners from entry-level lawyers through to senior practitioners.

Leo Cussen Centre for Law provides high quality education, training and professional development to strengthen and support the administration of justice and the legal system.

Our training programs, which focus on ‘learning by doing’ with a strong emphasis on practical experience, are highly respected by the legal profession and taught by leading professionals.

We offer both onsite (full-time) and online (part-time and full-time) practical legal training for law graduates seeking admission to the legal profession through our Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, taught from our training facilities in the CBDs of Melbourne and Perth.

Leo Cussen also offers Supervised Legal Training (SLT) in Melbourne and the Articled Clerks’ Training Program in Perth, as well as some of the required training for overseas qualified lawyers seeking admission in Victoria or Western Australia.

We enjoy lasting contact with our Trainees and Articled Clerks as alumni, through ongoing professional relationships and attendance at our popular Continuing Professional Development programs.

02.

Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (PLT)

Real Practical Legal Training
Leo Cussen Centre for Law has been preparing law graduates for practice since 1972.

About the course

Leo Cussen has an excellent reputation training law graduates for admission to the legal profession for 45 years. We are widely recognised by legal employers as providing comprehensive and high quality legal training for entry-level lawyers, with a strong emphasis on the practical.

At Leo Cussen we offer personalised mentoring, where you will work in small groups with a diverse range of lawyer trainers that are integral parts of the Leo Cussen philosophy. We find this very effective in building confidence and skills in critical areas like client communication, drafting, and practice management.

Leo Cussen offers a friendly, supportive environment where you're constantly interacting with expert, well-connected lawyers, not to mention talented and ambitious fellow trainees, so building professional networks and starting lifelong friendships comes naturally.

Graduates are entitled to apply for admission to legal practice in Victoria or Western Australia with reciprocal admission in other Australian states. Our graduates have gone on to fill a wide variety of legal and professional roles.



Kevin Zhou
Associate, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

In Leo Cussen's onsite course, they arrange the professional placement for trainees. I found this particularly important at the time, as I lacked the local connections. I enjoyed the simulation of real tasks in a legal practice.

In conveyancing, we interviewed the client, managed the transaction, wrote letters, supervised the

settlement, and compiled folders for filing. The PLT is all about practice. As an international student, I found my training at Leo Cussen set me up very well. I have worked as a lawyer at Minter Ellison and Clayton Utz.



We believe that Practical Legal Training should be just that - practical.

Your Choice

Online or Onsite, full-time or part-time

At Leo Cussen you can choose the learning style that best suits you: full-time or part-time; online or onsite.

In our online blended learning program, you work principally online with 13 days face-to-face instruction broken into intensive blocks. These days are run in both Melbourne and Perth CBDs. Alternatively, you can attend the Leo Cussen campus in the Melbourne CBD, in the heart of the legal precinct, for the full-time onsite course.

Leo Cussen Centre for Law offers practical legal training for LLB graduates (or equivalent) leading to admission to the legal profession as an Australian Lawyer. All law graduates must complete practical legal training as a prerequisite for admission to the legal profession. This training can be undertaken either as ‘supervised legal training’ known as Traineeships in Victoria, or Articled Clerkships in

Western Australia, or a practical legal training course such as the Leo Cussen Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Leo Cussen’s Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice is approved by the Victorian Legal Admissions Board and the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia, and is recognised by the legal profession as providing comprehensive and high quality training.

The emphasis of Practical Legal Training (PLT) is around ‘learning by doing’. You will complete exercises to develop your understanding of legal practice such as advising your client, drafting legal documents and communicating with other parties. You complete highly interactive simulated files, which means you run the file from opening instructions to the closing letter. You participate in settlements, negotiations, will signings and court hearings.

Onsite PLT

Delivered face-to-face at our premises in Melbourne’s CBD, the Onsite PLT offers intense collegial training with the opportunity for daily contact with Mentors, other PLT trainees and visiting expert legal practitioners.

Online PLT

The Online PLT is a blended learning course with a combination of online and onsite activities. It is particularly suited to people used to working independently. You have an Online Mentor who is in regular contact with you and you attend an equivalent of 13 face-to-face contact days. You also work with practising lawyers from our staff and visiting expert legal practitioners.



Francine Clancy

Senior Solicitor, Victorian Government Solicitor’s Office

Commercial litigation had always seemed a “scary” thought, as I had barely been inside a court room let alone appeared in one as an advocate! During the PLT, I received some very positive feedback in the litigation and advocacy modules, which started to build my confidence.

As time went on, I realised that I was still passionate about commercial law, but my skills, strengths and

personality were much better suited to litigation rather than advisory. The skills I obtained through the PLT definitely helped me to “hit the ground running”.

I was offered employment in the Madgwicks Litigation team at the end of my PLT. I now work as a Senior Solicitor for the Victorian Government Solicitor’s Office.

Intake dates

Full-time courses (onsite and online)

Melbourne

There are two intakes a year for our full-time courses, in January and July.

Perth

There is currently one intake a year commencing in March. This is a new course for 2017 and more intakes will be offered in the future.

Part-time course (online)

Melbourne

There is one intake a year for our part-time course which is in January.

Applications

Melbourne

Open around February/March for July intake.

Open around August for January intake.

Perth

Open around October for March intake.

For the most up to date list of application and intake dates, please visit:

www.leocussen.edu.au/apply

Fees

FEE-HELP is available for this course for domestic applicants.

For all domestic and international course fees and further important information please visit:

www.leocussen.edu.au/dates_fees

Whether you study onsite or online, you will learn through:

- face-to-face classroom instruction in small groups
- self-directed learning
- running multiple simulated client files
- role plays
- one-on-one and group mentoring with an experienced legal practitioner

You will also be helped with job search and preparation by our dedicated Graduate Placement and Careers Advisor.



Molly McCaffrey

Investigator/Conciliator, Australian Human Rights Commission.

Leo Cussen’s PLT is the ideal bridge between the solo student life at university and the collaborative professional world, because you work intensively with other graduates on truly practical assessments.

The staff at Leo Cussen were passionate about passing on their experience to budding lawyers in addition to preparing trainees for admission to practice. Although I did not intend to practise law after University, the course has the most

comprehensive raft of compulsory and elective options so I had an informed view on many different areas of the law.

The Leo Cussen PLT made me feel confident when I obtained my first role with the State Ombudsman of Western Australia as the strategic decision making, file and client management skills I acquired during my PLT were invaluable.

02.

Course Structure

A. Compulsory	
Skills & Values	Trust & Office Accounting Lawyer's Skills Work Management & Business Skills Problem Solving Ethics & Professional Responsibility Resilience
Core Practice Topics	Civil Litigation Commercial & Corporate Property Law Criminal Law
+	
B. Elective Topics	
Choose one of	Consumer Law Employment & Industrial Relations Wills & Estates Banking & Finance (Victoria only) Planning & Environmental Law (Victoria only)
Choose one of	Administrative Law Family Law
+	
C. 3 Week Professional Placement (for Victorian trainees) 15 Week Professional Placement (for Western Australian trainees)	



A rigorous practical training program to better prepare you.

03.

Traineeship (SLT) Workshops - Victoria

Leo Cussen Centre for Law has an enviable record in helping firms and legal practices meet their Supervised Legal Training (SLT) requirements.

About the workshops

Leo Cussen has given thousands of lawyers the essential skills and knowledge needed for admission and to reach their career potential. Trainees attending our programs receive guided and intensive training from friendly, supportive and experienced legal practitioners. These programs allow Trainees to experience the benefits of face-to-face workshop style training, delivered by prominent Victorian lawyers who will guide them along the path to excellence. We treat our Trainees as individuals and work with them to draw out their individual strengths and skills.

Key benefits

- intensive, modular and designed to suit firms and legal practices
- held at Leo Cussen in Melbourne’s CBD or, by agreement, at a firm or practice
- instructed face-to-face and assessed by leading practitioners
- an exam-free zone; performance is assessed as you go
- designed for Trainees to demonstrate

understanding and competence in the National Competency Standards for Entry-Level Lawyers

- suitable for overseas qualified lawyers and requalifying lawyers, subject to the relevant Admitting Authority
- comprehensive course materials provided
- catered as required, depending on the length of the workshop

Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for trainee lawyers, overseas qualified lawyers and requalifying lawyers should be checked with the Victorian Legal Admissions Board before registering for SLT workshops: www.lawadmissions.vic.gov.au.

Workshop delivery

Trainees experience the benefits of face-to-face training in an intimate setting, receiving intensive, guided training from respected Victorian lawyers.

All training and assessment is conducted during the program, which is run from Melbourne’s

CBD – there are no exams or online content. Comprehensive hard-copy materials are supplied, and catering provided for each full day of training.

store.leocussen.edu.au/supervised_legal_trainees

Bookings

Our workshops are competitively priced, and most topics are scheduled a number of times each year. Places in each workshop are limited, so we suggest booking in early to avoid missing out. For upcoming dates and to register, please visit our website:

store.leocussen.edu.au/supervised_legal_trainees

Fees

Our program offers competitively priced training and assessment. For our most up to date fees, please visit:



Elizabeth Salpietro
Legal Officer, Royal Australian Air Force

I was attracted to Leo Cussen because of recommendations from other trainees. The program was very well run with excellent opportunities to practise skills in a simulated and safe environment. It was very beneficial learning from barristers and judges with such a wealth of knowledge.

In the workplace, while you get a practical understanding, there is not always a chance to cover all elements and questions you may have.

03.

Course Structure

Leo Cussen Centre for Law provides training in all mandatory topics pursuant to the Legal Profession Uniform Admission Rules 2015

Core Practice Topics

- Lawyer's Skills*
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility*
- Problem Solving
- Work Management and Business Skills
- Risk Management*
- Trust and Office Accounting
- Civil Litigation
- Property Law
- Commercial and Corporate Practice

*Must be provided (subject to VLAB) by an approved provider such as Leo Cussen, but firms and practices may use us as the provider for all of these topics.



We also provide two topics from the Optional Practice Areas

Topics

- Administrative Law
- Employment and Industrial Relations



*Small group training -
to provide the
finest practical
training experience.*

04.

Articled Clerks' Training Program - Western Australia

This program is specifically tailored to provide WA Articled Clerks with the finest training in practical legal skills to complement their work training.

About the program

Since 2011, Leo Cussen Centre for Law has been the only provider authorised by the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia to deliver the required Training Program to Articled Clerks.

We work with Articled Clerks as individuals and help draw out their strengths and skills through our workshop style training. Our training program is delivered by prominent WA lawyers who guide Articled Clerks along the path to excellence.

Training is delivered from Perth's CBD and all catering is provided. There are no exams or online content, as the training is delivered face-to-face and taught and assessed during topic delivery.

The course is designed for Articled Clerks to demonstrate understanding and competence in the National Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers.

Key benefits

- Instruction by leading legal practitioners
- Intensive, face-to-face workshops
- Perth CBD location with full catering

- Assessment during the course – no exams
- All materials included

Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the legal profession in Western Australia, law graduates must complete either:

- a 12-month Articles of Clerkship, which also must include completion of the Leo Cussen Centre for Law Articled Clerks Training Program; or
- an approved Practical Legal Training course such as the Leo Cussen WA PLT Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Program delivery

Articled Clerks experience the benefits of face-to-face training in an intimate setting, receiving intensive, guided training from respected Western Australian lawyers.

All training and assessment is conducted during the program, which is run from Perth's CBD – there are no exams or online content. Comprehensive hard-copy materials are

supplied, and catering is provided for each full day of training.

Bookings

Places in the program are limited, so we suggest booking in early to avoid missing out. The compulsory topics are completed within three weeks, and the optional practice areas (Employment & Industrial Relations and Administrative Law) in an additional four days. For upcoming dates and to register, please visit our website:

store.leocussen.edu.au/wa_articled_clerks_training_program

Fees

Our program offers competitively priced training and assessment. For our most up to date fees, please visit:

store.leocussen.edu.au/wa_articled_clerks_training_program

Registration process

Registration of Articles of Clerkship with the Legal Practice Board does not book a place in the Leo Cussen Articled Clerks' Training Program. You must separately make a booking with Leo Cussen in order to reserve a place in the Articled Clerks' Training Program.

Those intending to register their Articles of Clerkship are required to register with the Legal Practice Board directly. The Board may be contacted on (08) 6211 3600.



Victoria Graves
Lawyer, Mills Oakley Lawyers

My time at Leo Cussen provided me with the chance to interact with other articled clerks. We shared our experience and knowledge in a forum where learning was the objective. We were guided by industry experts and had the chance to work one on one with

top barristers. The experience was invaluable and has helped prepare me for working life.

04.

Course Structure

A. Compulsory

Core Practice Topics

Lawyer's Skills
Problem Solving
Work Management and Business Skills (including Risk Management)
Civil Litigation
Commercial and Corporate Practice
Property Law
Ethics and Professional Responsibility
Trust and Office Accounting



B. Elective Topics

Topics

Administrative Law
Employment Law



Build your skills and confidence with a mentoring program you won't find elsewhere.

05.

Overseas Qualified Lawyers Training

Admitting authorities for Victoria and Western Australia

If you hold a law degree from outside Australia and wish to be admitted to the Australian legal profession, you must first obtain guidance and approval from the admitting authority in the State in which you wish to practise. That authority can then direct you to complete individual training programs at Leo Cussen Centre for Law.

About the training

Overseas qualified lawyers seeking to be admitted to the legal profession in Victoria or Western Australia may attend Traineeship (SLT) Workshops in Victoria or portions of our Articled Clerks' Training Program in Western Australia. Approval needs to be granted by the Victorian Law Admissions Board or the Legal Practice Board in Western Australia.

Many overseas qualified lawyers have completed Ethics & Professional Responsibility (2 day workshop) and Trust & Office Accounting (1.5 day workshop) with Leo Cussen Centre for Law.

Victoria

In Victoria, you may be referred to Leo Cussen Centre for Law to undertake Supervised Legal Training under the authority of the Victorian Legal Admissions Board. In some cases you may be required to complete a full, 24-week Practical Legal Training course. Before you

apply for a determination from the Victorian Legal Admissions Board, you may wish to check the Uniform Principles for Assessing Qualifications of Overseas Applicants to the Australian Legal Profession.

Western Australia

In Western Australia, you will complete topics under the Leo Cussen-supervised WA Articled Clerks Training Program, under the authority of the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia.

Please contact the Victorian Law Admissions Board on 03 9604 2451 or the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia on 08 6211 3600 to discuss your specific admission requirements.

Training delivery

All assessment is conducted throughout the training. Comprehensive training materials are supplied and catering is provided. There are no exams or online content, as the training is delivered face-to-face with assessment taking place during topic delivery.

Bookings

There are multiple date options available for workshops throughout the year (February-December). Places are limited, so we suggest booking in early to avoid missing out.

To make a booking visit:

Victoria:

store.leocussen.edu.au/supervised_legal_trainees

Western Australia:

store.leocussen.edu.au/wa_articled_clerks_training_program

Fees

Our program offers competitively priced training and assessment.

For our most up to date fees go to:

Victoria:

store.leocussen.edu.au/supervised_legal_trainees

Western Australia:

store.leocussen.edu.au/wa_articled_clerks_training_program

06.

Meet Some of Our Graduates



The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Former Prime Minister
of Australia



Murray Baird
Assistant Commissioner
General Counsel, Australian
Charities and Not-for-Profits
Commission



Tom Vasilopoulos
Barrister, Victorian Bar -
Greens List Barristers



Julia Tonkin
Associate, Maddocks



Mercia Mitchell
Associate, Gadens Lawyers



Trish Cameron
Legal Aid Coordinator,
Suaka - Indonesian Civil
Society Network for Refugee
Rights Protection



Claire Wong
Criminal Law,
Papa Hughes Lawyers



Amanda Jowett
Associate,
Frenkel Partners Lawyers

07.

Apply Now

**Our Practical Legal Training Programs are
highly respected by legal professionals and
taught by leading legal practitioners.**

Apply

To apply and for more information
visit www.leocussen.edu.au/

P 1300 039 031
E info@leocussen.edu.au

For international student enquiries:

Fonda Gazis - Overseas Student Coordinator
fgazis@leocussen.edu.au or
visit www.leocussen.edu.au/international

Fees

please visit:
www.leocussen.edu.au/dates_fees

Notes

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Cricos Course Code: 039593D

Cricos Provider Code: 02224A | **Cricos Course Code:** 039593D

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