



Curtin University

JOHN CURTIN LAW CLINIC

Report: March 2019



Clinic students with Small Business Commissioner David Eaton and staff from the SBDC.

Dear friends and colleagues,

Curtin Law School has in a short period of time established an excellent reputation for innovative educational programs. None speaks more directly to our commitment than the John Curtin Law Clinic.

Practical. Relevant. Applied. Altruistic. Core aspirations of the Law School are reflected every day in the workings of the Clinic.

I offer my thanks to members of the profession who have assisted in the Clinic this past year. I congratulate Rosaline Tan, our Principal Lawyer for her outstanding work.

The student testimonials are a source of affirmation and pride.

Professor Paul Fairall

Foundation Dean of Law



Clinic students, supervisors and guests at the end of year Law Clinic Thank You event, November 2018.

Photography by Nadia Budihardjo (LLB, BA in Journalism), former Clinic student.

CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

Make tomorrow better.

curtin.edu/lawclinic

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Clinic students and supervisors in the Law Clinic.

Client feedback

"I want to express my deepest gratitude for the assistance I received from you recently. The team was highly professional and they explained things to me in a way I could understand and could make calculated decisions.

They were also flexible and went above and beyond and also worked in a timely manner. It really gave me some real comfort and confidence and in a challenging time, it was amazing to have this high level of support and assistance.

I must say that I was really impressed and I think it is wonderful that this service is available. Thank you so much! It really means a lot and I wish you all well in your future careers and endeavours!"



"...again, thank you — you should be very proud of your work as it has real life profound impact and is making a difference to business people's lives."



"I can't thank you and your students enough for the help you gave us in resolving this matter, in our favour."

Figures to date (end of 2018)

Since 2017, 5 cohorts, comprising 50 students and 10 volunteers

138 clients

272 substantive letters of advice on a range of commercial issues, including: commercial and retail shop leases, breach of contract, employment, franchising and consumer law

125 letters to other parties

27 claims or defences and 37 other court documents (e.g. affidavits and submissions)

~\$500,000 in billable work since February 2017



Clinic students with State Administrative Tribunal Member Dr Bertus de Villiers.

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Student feedback

“Over the course of my degree, I have been learning about a specific area of law in each of my units, whether it be criminal, business or property law.

The JCLC unit is unlike any of those units as it does not aim to teach any theoretical knowledge of the law but is dedicated to equipping students with the practical information and skills that will better prepare them for a life in the legal career.

Further, this unit did not force competition between students or grade performance beyond that of what was necessary. The focus was purely on helping students to learn and teaching them to embrace mistakes in the process of doing so. This unit couldn't have been taught in a better way and I am very glad I was able to participate in it.”

“I liked the combination of professionalism and friendliness that allowed students to learn in a comparatively low-stress environment.”

“A fantastic experience that honestly went over and beyond what I expected.”

“Exposure to meeting real clients gives me confidence to interact with clients; good place to improve legal writing skills; very experienced and nurturing supervisors; insightful weekly seminars.”

“Law Clinic provides a collaborative and friendly learning environment.”

“I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to develop these skills.”

“Legal Clinic has been my favourite unit of my Law degree. In my opinion, it has also been the most useful in regards to learning practical skills that will help me in my future career. ... I would highly recommend Legal Clinic to others.”

2018 Trimester 2B and 3B Clinic students

Alana Bell
Alicia Nguyen
Alisa Fedotova
Ashley Fan**
Bryan He**
Camilla Radenti
Carolyn Ryland
Cassandra Bailey
Emily Tho
Emma Lekias
Fintan Roberts**
Jasmine Lim**

Kai Yui Yeo
Maggie-Clare Shipp**
Preethi Rajendran
Riley Noonan
Samuel Vinicombe**
Taila Childs
Tiffany Jiang**
Timmy Yip
Vuma Phiri
Wydren Png
Yasmin Coutinho
**Volunteer also



Clinic students participating in a workshop on resilience with John Poulsen, Vuma Phiri and Dr Christian Duperouzel.