

The WSLSA Monthly

August 2026



Western Sydney
LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Western Sydney Law Students' Association was founded, the Dharug people.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to their cultures, and elders, past, present, and emerging.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Fatmah Al Shamri
Publications Director

WE'RE BACK ON-SITE AND ON-CAMPUS NOW!

Welcome to Spring 2026! Whilst you're waiting for warmer weather to arrive, try curling up on the sofa to the August issue of The WSLSA Monthly or getting out there for another round of events and opportunities. Personally, I'm sitting here waiting for September and October to come around so we can really get this semester on the road. But now it's time for us to get back on those textbooks and back in the spirit. For some, assessments are already upon us. For others, sit back and enjoy the ride.

Last month, we said goodbye to Autumn and hello to the holidays. In case you missed last month's issue, you can check it out [here](#). Better yet, check it out on our newly developed Publications Page on the WSLSA website over [here](#).

There's no time like the present. And that couldn't be any truer (is that even a word? Maybe accurate?) than it is right now, where we aren't just facing change this coming semester: we're out here embracing it with open eyes, ears and arms. Fun fact: the word 'august' means incredible. And if you're feeling incredible this August, keep reading and see where it's all at.

In line with the feedback received, a reminder for anyone who is keen to contribute short, one-page articles for The WSLSA Monthly or generally help out in any way to email at publications@wslsa.com.au.

Without further ado, here is this month's recap on what's going on at the School of Law.



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EVENTS AND NEWS



THE LAW SCHOOL TOUR WITH MEL STOREY:

It seems Australia's law school big sister has been touring stateside, and she hasn't forgotten Western Sydney University. Mark September 8th on your calendars, ladies and gentlemen- because Mel Storey is coming over live to school you on all things law in and out of the mainstream. Hosted by Sophia Fresnel and Fatmah Al Shamri, this event promises nothing short of clearing those pesky popular misconceptions and the holy grail of any law school event... good catering... REALLY good catering.

Is this just about right up your alley? Check it out on September 8th at Parramatta South Campus, starting at 6:30pm.

Be sure to look out for more details surrounding the event in the coming weeks and looking forward to seeing you all there!



AN EVENTFUL ORIENTATION!

For those of you joining us from our Spring 2026 Orientation Session and are now commencing the first semester of your law degree, allow me to officially welcome you to the wonderful world of the Western Sydney Law Students' Association (if we haven't already welcomed you enough).

Despite the early morning lull and the call of many warm beds, the session held on Tuesday, July 14th, was marked by some very helpful and reassuring advice for incoming students across our staff and student networks and was followed up by some lively conversations over at our stall.

End result? Plenty of tight-knit circles and curious students across degrees considering studying law. Not what we were expecting, but a great turnout regardless.

Whether you were receiving \$10 food vouchers in the morning or checking out the competitions intensives at the moot court, I humbly invite you to what looks like a pretty hyped up semester ahead.

EVENTS AND NEWS



THE LAW LAUGH- AN INTERVARSITY COMEDY!

You think you're funny, wise guy? Come up and prove it at The Law Laugh: an intervarsity event between the law societies of WSU, UOW, USYD, UNSW and more! You'll definitely want to hear more about this on our socials soon enough, so let me give you the long and short of it here.

What happens when you take a bunch of law students out for the night with a couple of comedians? You get a Golden Gavel of epic proportions. Picture comics, skits, the works and the tricks for the chance to win prizes and a great time.

So tell a friend to tell a friend..... and tell that friend to tell theirs all about: The Law Laugh.

www.wslsa.com.au



INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT: RICS

This month, RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) returns to The WSLSA Monthly for the benefit of Law and Construction Management Students alike. Check out the next few pages for all sorts of opportunities, perks, events and benefits. They've got your back with a 13-module program in construction and a networking night featuring top-quality curry in Barangaroo.

You might be wondering what else is in it for you. You'll be working as part of a team in one of the most highly-demanded fields in Western Sydney, guaranteed to support your career. For students currently enrolled in Alternative Dispute Resolution or have already taken the subject, supplement your learning with their Introduction to Dispute Resolution Services in Australasia book, which you can download via the link on the next page.

As students, look out for free tickets to score for some of the featured events. And as future industry leaders, look for all sorts of experiences, connections and guidance. Looking forward to seeing what's next in store!

So don't turn away just yet. Plenty more opportunities in store over on the next few pages.

RICS Spotlight

Connecting Students with a Clear Career Pathway

As the global professional body for land, property, construction and infrastructure professionals, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is committed to bridging the gap between academia and the industry. Through professional standards, career development programs and industry engagement initiatives, RICS is helping develop the next generation of professionals while supporting excellence across some of Australia's most significant projects.

For students at Western Sydney University, particularly those interested in law, construction, infrastructure, property and dispute resolution, there has never been a more exciting time to engage with the sector.

Leading Industry Through Professional Expertise

One of the most important ways RICS supports the industry is through our Dispute Resolution Service (DRS). Operating across Australasia and globally, the RICS DRS provides professional and cost-effective alternative dispute resolution services, including adjudication, expert determination and mediation.

Construction and infrastructure projects are becoming increasingly complex, making efficient dispute resolution critical to successful project outcomes. RICS appointed experts, mediators and adjudicators are recognised specialists who bring extensive experience across property and construction sectors. Bound by internationally recognised professional and ethical standards, they work independently to support fair and effective outcomes for all parties involved.

For students considering careers in law, contracts, commercial management or construction, dispute resolution represents a growing area where legal, commercial and technical expertise intersect.

Want to learn more about DRS in Australasia? Download our Introduction to DRS in Australasia book here: [Dispute Resolution Services in Australasia](#)

Advancing Education Beyond the Classroom

RICS is also addressing critical capability gaps through our new Commercial Management Fundamentals Program, a comprehensive professional development initiative designed specifically for the Australian construction sector.

The 13-module program covers the full commercial lifecycle of construction projects, including:

- Procurement and tendering
- Contract administration

- Construction law
- Variations and change management
- Claims management
- Risk management
- Dispute avoidance and resolution
- Negotiation and emotional intelligence
- Ethical and professional standards

The program has been developed to provide structured skills and knowledge that are often underrepresented, while aligning with globally recognised RICS competencies and standards.

Notably, the program is highly relevant for students and graduates considering careers in:

- Commercial management
- Construction law
- Quantity surveying
- Project management
- Procurement
- Claims and dispute resolution
- Infrastructure delivery

By combining academic knowledge with practical industry application, initiatives such as this help ensure graduates are prepared for the commercial realities of major projects.

Learn more about this program here: [\(Australia\) Commercial Management - Fundamentals](#)

Bringing Industry to Life

In addition to formal education and training, RICS regularly hosts professional networking and industry engagement events that provide valuable opportunities for students and emerging professionals to learn directly from industry leaders.

Upcoming Sydney-based initiatives include:

Best Practice in Program Set Up, Management and Delay Analysis, delivered in partnership with Sydney Water, exploring project scheduling, delay analysis and extension of time claims.

Register here: [Sydney: Best Practice in Program Set Up, Management and Delay Analysis](#)

The North West Treatment Hub Site Tour, offering first-hand exposure to one of Sydney's major infrastructure programs and insights into how large-scale projects are planned and delivered.

Register here: [Sydney: North West Treatment Hub Site Tour](#)

RICS NSW Curry Night, a popular networking event that brings together professionals from across the built environment sector in an informal setting, helping build valuable industry connections.

These events provide opportunities for students and early-career professionals to gain exposure to real projects, meet industry experts and better understand potential career pathways.

Register here: [Sydney: RICS Curry Night](#)

We also provide limited **free student spots** at these events, please reach out to student representative Edward To at truong.edward.cml@gmail.com, and tell us which event you would like to attend.

Get Involved with RICS

For students who want to take their involvement further, RICS offers opportunities to contribute directly through student engagement initiatives, including representation on the RICS Matrics Committee, a global network focused on supporting students and early career professionals entering the industry.

Register your interest to join your local Matrics committee here: [Expression of Interest – RICS Matrics / MEG Committee – Fill out form](#)

RICS also provides clear pathways towards internationally recognised professional qualifications and membership. Through routes such as AssocRICS and MRICS, members gain access to a global network of more than 130,000 professionals, internationally recognised standards and ongoing professional development opportunities.

Whether you're interested in construction law, dispute resolution, project delivery, infrastructure, property or commercial management, RICS provides a pathway to connect your studies with meaningful professional opportunities.

As Western Sydney continues to experience unprecedented growth through major infrastructure and development projects, the demand for skilled, ethical and commercially astute professionals will only continue to increase. RICS is proud to support students as they prepare to become the future leaders of the built environment industry.

Interested in learning more? Explore RICS membership pathways, student opportunities and Matrics engagement initiatives at www.rics.org.

THE AGE OF AI: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR LAW DEGREE

By: Bianca Stanton

In the past few years, Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, identified that only four jobs were immune to being replaced by artificial intelligence (AI). These included biology-related positions, energy-related jobs, professionals who design AI tools themselves and professional athletes.

However, the legal industry failed to be included in this list, posing the question: what does this mean for legal practitioners?

Despite its growing popularity, it is unlikely that AI can outright replace jobs in the legal profession. Instead, the incorporation of AI into law firms is said to transform the role of legal professionals.



“This is absolutely not a story of AI taking jobs. We are in a phase where legal firms must shift to quite different Humans + AI working structures that can create more value for clients, not necessarily with fewer people,” said Ross Dawson, a business futurist and entrepreneur.

AI is defined as technologies and systems comprising software and/or hardware that can learn to solve complex problems, make predictions or undertake tasks that require human-like perception and cognition.

According to research by the Queensland University of Technology, AI tools can now perform standardised, repetitive and linear tasks instead of junior paralegals in law firms.

“AI systems are becoming increasingly capable of analysing legal structure, identifying deficiencies, mapping legal elements to facts for pleadings analysis, comparing documents, extracting propositions, and synthesising procedural information,” said Laina Chan, barrister and CEO of legal AI risk firm MiAI Law.

In automating mundane and time-consuming tasks, legal practitioners can instead devote their time to higher-order tasks that warrant human judgement, accountability and critical thinking.

“The most successful junior lawyers will be those who treat AI as a highly capable but fallible colleague, freeing themselves from administrative exhaustion to focus on true, high value legal strategy – the very reason they chose law in the first place,” said Denise Farmer, General Manager APAC at cloud-based legal technology platform Clio.

However, in terms of legal practice, AI lacks lived experience, resulting in the technology adopting a mechanical application of the law. Regardless of its administrative assistance, there are concerns that this approach will halt social progression.

THE AGE OF AI: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR LAW DEGREE

“The practice of the law... is meant to be more than a mechanistic application of A to B in applying the law. A judge or a lawyer has life experience as well as education that is being applied to a specific case. The case law must progress, it must allow societies to progress, and it must allow us to become our better selves. If it would only be based on artificial intelligence and our existing data, we would be stuck in a loop of past data, going around and around,” said Judge Pēteris Zilgalvis in an episode of the Open Court series.

In addition to these concerns, the need for in-person appearance in legal practice remains a safeguard against AI replacement.

Elizabeth Engelos, a law academic at Griffith University said that even if one day AI can achieve critical thinking and legal reasoning skills, it cannot appear in court.

Looking to the future, aspiring law students are urged to develop skills that AI cannot replicate to become valuable to the legal industry. These skills include strategic thinking, advocacy, negotiation, factual analysis, procedural understanding, commercial reasoning, and client communication.

Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM8Chmkd22o&t=3s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHY5i9-0tJM>

<https://lsj.com.au/articles/ai-to-slash-graduate-law-jobs-over-next-decade/>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/mAQDcA20EOQ>

<https://bond.edu.au/thinking-steps/ideas-impact/what-ai-means-for-next-generation-of-lawyers>

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/l_XFZvZmkoY

EVENTS AND NEWS



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



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• JD WORKSHOP SERIES •

JD WORKSHOP 1

CAREERS & TRANSITION INTO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Practical career advice for JD students preparing to enter the legal profession.

DATE
Wednesday, 5 August

TIME
5:30pm

VENUE
Moot Court (Building EO, Room G.44)
Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus



SPEAKER
HODA NAHLOUS
Partner, Mills Oakley

Hoda Nahlous is a Partner in the Corporate Advisory team at Mills Oakley, specialising in mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, capital markets, restructuring and strategic corporate advisory.

Before joining Mills Oakley, Hoda was National Co-Head of Corporate M&A at KPMG Law Australia and NSW State Lead for Deals, Tax and Legal. She has also worked as senior in-house counsel at a leading global investment bank.

Recognised by Best Lawyers Australia and Legal 500, Hoda advises Australian and International clients on complex commercial transactions and governance matters, bringing extensive industry experience and practical insight into the legal profession.

Best Lawyers 2026 **LEGAL 500**

IN THIS SESSION, YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

-  Transitioning from law school into practice
-  Career pathways in corporate law
-  Networking with confidence
-  Building professional skills employers value
-  Practical advice for JD students
-  Q&A

CAREERS AND TRANSITION INTO THE WORKPLACE:

On Wednesday, August 5th, JD and LLB students are invited to attend the first workshop of the JD Workshop Series, all about Careers and Transitioning into the Legal Practice. The session will be taking place at the Moot Court (Building EO, behind the Boilerhouse) at 5:30pm for anyone interested, and we've got plenty of reasons to get you interested. Guest speaker Hoda Nahlous, partner at Mills Oakley, will be speaking on how to navigate practice and especially corporate law in addition to key skills such as networking. If you're a JD student, come for the practical advice. And for the LLB students, you haven't been left out: there's going to be a Q&A session in store where you can learn from one of the industry's best in in-house counselling, commercial transactions and more!



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

IN-HOUSE PATHWAYS IN LAW:

The Law Society of New South Wales is holding yet another event. School of Law, the Pathways in Law series continues with an online session hosted on Monday, August 3rd, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. This session will definitely appeal to the students who can envision themselves as legal counsel.

Seems interesting enough? Register here:

<https://www.lawsociety.com.au/events/student-events/pathways-law>



A SNEEK PEEK INTO NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

Next month, we're welcoming Springtime with an abundance mindset. Couldn't get enough of Bianca's words and wisdom? Expect more student-written articles and a highly anticipated Careers Night. And some....

EVENTS AND NEWS



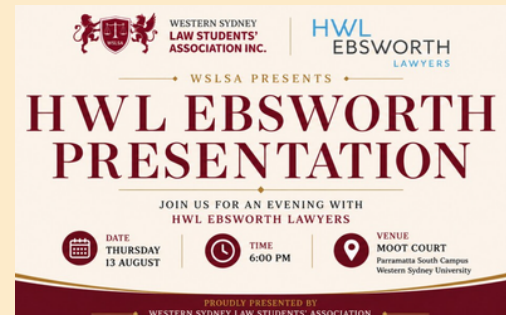
REPRESENTING WHO YOU ARE: SELF ADVOCACY IN LAW!

It has been said that the courtroom is where change happens. In our laws, our values, our societies... And it is done so by the brilliant minds of the legal personnel behind every case, great and small. These minds aren't diamonds in the dirt, and any law student can be the brilliant mind shaping change. But to make that change, you've got to advocate it.

Partnering with the Law Society of NSW, the Western Sydney Law Students' Association is pleased to be hosting a social justice initiative: Representing Who You Are, on Tuesday, August 25th (Week 6) from 4pm-6pm at Conference Room 4 on Level 9 of Western Sydney University, Parramatta City Campus.

Register [*here*](#)

Come for the exploration of power and inclusion in academics and the legal profession, stay for the light refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



HWL EBSWORTH PRESENTATION:

A busy month ahead in terms of events, to be sure! HWL Ebsworth is one of the leading law firms in the commercial branch. For those of you who attended Clerkship Night back in June, their name should ring a bell. If not, get excited to meet them and prepare to learn a thing or two.

The presentation will be featuring nothing short of career opportunities with HWLE, life at the firm and pathways for the aspirational go-getters.

Whether you're exploring your interest in an upcoming clerkship, figuring out which firms you'd like to work for, passionate about commercial law or keen to broaden your horizons from the words and wisdom of experienced practitioners, all law students are welcome to attend.

The event will be taking place on Thursday, August 13th (Week 4) from 6pm-8pm at the Moot Court at Parramatta South Campus.

Registrations can be made [*here*](#)

Yet another event, where the highlights, and yourself, are highly anticipated. Hope to see you there!

EMAILS FROM THE SOL

New announcement from Dillon Zhou

Job Opening - Law Clerk at Crisp Law

Dear Students,

Please see the Law Clerk position at Crisp Law (Sydney NSW) that has been shared with us and may be of interest should you wish to get practical experience and work under the direct supervision of the Senior Partner.

Full details and how to apply are on SEEK: [Law Clerk - Crisp Law](#)

Best of luck to those who apply!

[Law Clerk - Crisp Law Job Opening.pdf](#)

Kind Regards,

Dillon - School of Law

[View Announcement](#)



GO GLOBAL IN INDONESIA!

Plenty more from this in the coming weeks: 15 students have the opportunity to study in Indonesia this Summer, with credit points for the subject: Indonesia Law, Governance and Culture. The study tour will take place over 2-4 weeks to engage with legal systems and institutions abroad.

If this is something you're interested in, contact Dr Jeremy Kingsley at j.kingsley@westernsydney.edu.au and have fun abroad!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH CRISP LAW:

We've all been there: when we've put the textbooks away and seized the day.... and kind of neglected our emails during our vacation mindset. If you're someone with an interest in contracts and construction, then get back on those emails, or better yet- stick around for an opportunity from Crisp Law.

As a law clerk, you will be joining the team in a capacity which involves comprehensive legal research. This is a full-time gig, so any class of 2026 or 2027 will want to be taking a closer look at this role. Highly eligible candidates must be available 4 days a week at minimum, with a skilled use of legal research tools and the ability to work and communicate effectively in a team setting.

I see you through the screen.

If you're eligible and seriously considering the role, apply over here at: <https://au.seek.com/job/93016119>

Good luck to prospective applicants.

LAW STUDENTS: AN ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITY!

Are you a student who's passionate about intersectionality? Have I got your attention? Well then, HUMN1041: People, Place and Social Difference is definitely the subject for you. The subject provides a hands-on learning approach towards understanding the communities which students live in. As a law student, you will be evaluating the role which access to opportunity plays in addition to affirming the role of advocacy in stimulating action and reform.

For more information, email Dr Alanna Kamp at a.kamp@westernsydney.edu.au

CLOSING REMARKS

Welcome back to Spring! As you can tell from this issue, we're leaning towards a more student-led and student-focused approach to these installments.

On a more news-worthy note, our next two issues will be a little more on the celebratory side to celebrate the end of the 2026 academic year. Careers Guide, Careers Night, Mid-Sem Mingle, Law Ball, you name it. Oh! And even a new initiative.... the WSLSA's first ever wellbeing guide, anyone?

It's time to pick up the pen and pick up the pace now as assessments start to pile up now. All the best!

If you have any inquiries, please feel free to refer to the following emails on this page.

If you have any topics or events which relates to law students that you think would be useful to know, contact the Publications Director.

Until next month,

Fatmah Al Shamri
Publications Director

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