

SAPERE AUDE

YOUR 2016 GUIDE TO BALANCING YOUR HEALTH, PASSING THE BAR, AND ACING THAT NEXT JOB APPLICATION

INFORMAL GUIDE

TO A
FORMAL WORLD



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SPECIAL EDITION - AUTUMN 2016

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AUTUMN 2016

DARE TO KNOW PUBLICATIONS

Dare to Know Publications is a Western Sydney University student-run club that aims to promote community engagement through student publishing. The club strives to create interaction between academics, industry professionals and community members that provide networking and skill building for students. Dare to Know Publications is the platform of communication that allows students to pursue their passion and gain practical skills associated with their studies. Celebrating diversity and critical thinking, Dare to Know Publications is the living embodiment of the motto, 'Sapere Aude' – Dare to Know.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The year is 2016 and we are celebrating the fourth year of Dare to Know Publications.

Dare to Know Publications is a student club that aims to promote cross-disciplinary student communication and participation. In 2013, we published our first student magazine, *Sapere Aude*, targeted to law students. In 2015, *Sapere Aude* launched online and in 2016, we welcome a new sponsor, Carroll & O'Dea, to our community. Another highlight of 2016 is Dare to Know Publication's commitment to launching an Australian-first student led project. With our aim to reach out to all students and the community, these projects reaffirm our commitment to cultural and intellectual diversity and promoting the law as an accessible source of justice and change.

With these developments we have witnessed some tremendous outcomes. The students who have been involved in the development of *Sapere Aude* have all received positive feedback during interviews and from employers. In this issue, you will hear from leading industry professionals about the value of extra-curricular commitment. The environment we cultivate is one that promotes flexibility and independent initiative – a project run by students for students, to ensure they gain the editing, research and leadership skills that will set them apart in their future endeavours. We also have positive feedback from students who have appreciated the opportunities provided to them by the magazine. Not only do we encourage networking and leadership development, but also the freedom to pursue projects that our writers are personally passionate about. This year, Dare to Know Publications is working with a small group of dedicated students to launch their inspiring, Australian-first project. It is this creativity that our publishing house seeks to cultivate and the work ethic I am proud to support.

On this note, I would like to thank our growing team at Dare to Know Publications' *Sapere Aude* and the continuing support of Western Sydney University and our growing community. I encourage all students to attend our events, submit research pieces, or join our editing teams. We are here to take your study experience to the next level and to strengthen the connection you have with the student body – make it your year of *unlimited* and join us today!

Yours faithfully,
Marija Yelavich

Keep up with Sapere Aude, and visit our WEBSITE
daretoknowpublications.com/

DEAN'S LETTER

It is with great pleasure that as Acting Dean I welcome you to the School of Law at Western Sydney University and introduce this, the first edition for 2016 of 'Sapere Aude' – Dare to Know. As I write the Dean, Professor Michael Adams is in India on business for the University, forging new relationships with Law Schools on the sub-continent.

Becoming a law student represents a fundamental change in your life. It is the first step on the road to entry in to the legal profession and on the path to your chosen career whether that be in the practice of law or in some other field. A law degree will take in you in many directions; such are the skills and knowledge you will gain over the next few years. The study of law is not just about rules and regulations, it is about how to analyse and solve problems. Those are the skills of the lawyer. Being a lawyer is no ordinary job. Law is about service to the community and standing up for and protecting the rights of others. Reputation and integrity are as important to a lawyer as knowledge of the law, for the advice you give and the decisions you make throughout your career will impact on the lives of others. The story of Deng Adut, who featured recently in the rebranding campaign for Western Sydney University and which many of you will have seen, is a wonderful example of how a legal education can make a difference to your life and how you can make a difference in the lives of others.

In 2016 the Law School celebrates its 21st birthday. We have much to celebrate. Today our early graduates are making their way in the profession. Some have gone to be partners in law firms, including the bigger law firms in Sydney; while others are in firms all over the world. Many are practising as barristers. Some have undertaken higher education at places such as Oxford and Harvard. A few have become judges' associates to justices of the High Court. Later this year the School will launch its Master of Laws in International Governance. In 2015 we introduced a law alternate unit – Foundations of Chinese Law, which recently saw a group of our students undertake study in China and have this count as part of their law degree course. I look forward to the continued growth of this and other initiatives in 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chief Editor, Ms Marija Yelavich, and the whole team involved with Sapere Aude for their continued efforts in making this the excellent publication it has become. I wish you all well in your studies and I look forward to meeting many of you during your time at Western Sydney University.

Dr Stephen Janes
Acting Dean, School of Law

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THIS IS HOW THE WEST IS WON

CARROLL & O'DEA LAWYERS

OPINION

Carroll & O'Dea Partner Scott Dougall writes for 'Sapere Aude' on why the opportunities for law graduates are in Sydney's West.

Every now and then another TV series based in a high-end law firm comes along complete with the corner window office, glass walls, expensive art and a cast replete in tailored suits and thousand dollar shoes, lunching with the clients in 5 star restaurants as they fine tune settlements in multi million dollar deals.

And on the surface, what's not to like?

From 'LA Law' to the current favourite 'Suits' for the uninitiated, life at a Top End of Town law firm is something akin to reality program of the rich and famous.

And indeed the allure of the Big End Firms extends well beyond the Hollywood Hills, with local industry mystique feeding the desire of many a law graduate.

For as long as I can remember the prospect of getting entry into a Top Tier firm has held the same gravitational pull for many graduates as the Earth is drawn to the Sun.

Yet the simple laws of supply and demand dictate that very few will successfully enter that orbit.

For all my years as a lawyer, and once like you a hungry graduate seeking my first clerkship, the appeal of the big firms in the heart of Sydney's business district has always run strong.

But as a lawyer who has built a successful and stimulating career in Sydney's West, I'd like to prosecute the case that in fact the career that delivers real rewards may not necessarily be found in the big end of town.

More importantly, the opportunities on offer in Sydney's West may mean you as a young graduate have a more active legal career, earlier than your peers.

The reality is that the market for law graduates is overwhelmingly crowded and there are more lawyers than there are opportunities for them. In my years of practice, it has never been as bad as it is today. That means the already fierce competition for clerkships and internships in order to undertake PLT is even more ferocious.

Sydney's West has the advantage of having perhaps one of the highest concentrations of law firms in the state, let alone the country.

From large players with local offices, such as Carroll & O'Dea, through to the sole practitioner, there are many firms and these are only continuing to grow.

That means the opportunities for young graduates are here, but you have to go after those opportunities and grab them with both hands.

My advice to any young graduate seeking an internship or PLT placement is to stand out from the crowd and Sydney's West is the place you can do that.

And what I mean is make a name for yourself, early, when your peers in the big CBD firms are still undertaking research for the senior partner.

Because firms in Sydney's West are smaller, that means you are more likely to be doing more senior work sooner because you'll need to take on board greater responsibilities early.

That includes handling client matters, going to court and working more closely with senior lawyers from whom you can learn and refine your skills and knowledge.

This sort of early engagement means the opportunity to showcase your communication skills and this is one of the most important things to work on.

Effective communication and networking skills are vital to success and they are what I look at in determining who is best suited to a clerkship or internship at our firm.

Western Sydney is a community and being able to establish networks quickly, build them and nurture them, is critical to success in creating a strong practice and local reputation.

All of this is possible in Western Sydney.

This area has provided me, and I hope will continue for decades to come, with an incredibly rewarding and stimulating career in law and to University of Western Sydney Graduates, I would highly recommend looking local when considering your next steps.

Follow Carroll & O'Dea on Facebook and Twitter @carrollodea
Media contact: Perception Partners, Julian Brophy +61 408 276 749



CARROLL
& O'DEA
LAWYERS

HOW TO BE A PERSON

FIRST, AND A LAW STUDENT

SECOND

Jerome Doraisamy is a lawyer from Sydney who personally understands the significance of mental health issues faced by law students and young lawyers. His book, 'The Wellness Doctrines for Law Students and Young Lawyers,' addresses the prevalence, causes and effects of psychological distress anxiety and depression, with case studies of over 45 legal professionals and health experts. This book is aimed to serve as a "survival guide" for law students, incoming and current legal graduates, and young lawyers.

Whenever I get asked to tell somebody about myself, the first answer that pops into my head is the proclamation that I'm a lawyer, and that I've worked in various legal fields, from commercial practice to academia and research to government to consulting. The impulse to discuss our work, in response to that general icebreaker question, is a natural instinct that most of us do as a matter of social etiquette. But what we do in our 9-to-5 makes up only so much of our day, and does not necessarily have an impact upon who we are as people.

By its very nature, law is an all-encompassing profession. When we are at law school, we find ourselves buried in voluminous readings and assignments, and once we are in practice, we may be required to work longer hours than those in other industries. For the most part, this is okay – law is a challenging but rewarding profession, and provides significant intellectual stimulation. But there are inherent dangers, as there are in any professional strand, in letting law become the be all and end all in your life. The impetus to ensure that you have a life outside of law begins with your journey through law school.

In my opinion, one cannot be a productive, successful lawyer without first being a healthy, happy person. We need to have consideration for self if we are to be holistic, well-rounded individuals, both in the personal and professional spheres. In short, we need to have balance.

I play social sport twice a week with old school mates, I walk up to 10km every day (having a Fitbit bracelet helps a lot), read at least half an hour every night before bed, and listen to three different podcasts daily. I enjoy more than my share of trash TV, such as The Bachelor and Geordie Shore. Plus, I spend a lot of the day with my headphones in, enjoying the subtle sounds of either classical or electronic music.

These are things that work for me, and of course they may not work for you. It is incumbent upon you to find activities and interests that are going to be of most benefit to you.

Having a balance, and prioritising yourself as a person rather than a professional, has so many flow-on benefits, including:

- It refreshes you and re-charges your batteries for when you do come back to your desk to do work;
- It gives you something to look forward to when you are studying or working, and is thereby able to alleviate whatever stress you might be feeling;
- Physiologically, you will have greater endorphin rushes and better sleep; and
- It will make your weekly schedule much more enjoyable.

All of these points are crucial because we need to be able to develop resilience in order to manage our state of wellbeing. However the last point is often overlooked because it seems simplistic or even childish to acknowledge our need to have fun. But, if there are ways that we can ensure that we are able to get greater pleasure out of life, and make ourselves better legal professionals simultaneously, why wouldn't we do that?

Make time, rather than find time, to achieve balance in your life. And the next time someone asks you who you are, bear in mind that you are a person first, and a law student second. Not only are you more than what you do in your 9-to-5, but you will be better at what you do by being holistic.



The Wellness Doctrines

WHAT DOES A FIRM LOOK FOR?

Student, Peter Lees talks with Human Resources at Gorman Law

Interview:

- First day or interview turn up on time or early, 1 minute over and you're late and off to a bad start.
- At the interview most of the time they will ask if you have any questions! Make sure you have an answer.
- Travel distance, can be an issue if you live too far away, if you do live far away you will have to convince them you can get to work consistently on time
- Never ask what the pay is! Maybe at a second interview if it is appropriate but if you ask it at the first one you will never get back for the second round.

Resume:

- They check work history, really like to see you have stayed in a position any position for a reasonable amount of time and haven't bounced around jobs. Love to see you have worked in an admin role, answering phones filing anything like that in any type of industry
- Love to see on your resume 3 key words: **ORGANISED, PUNCTUAL AND INITIATIVE**
- Don't boast, they can tell when you have done this. Just sell yourself and the skills you have.

The Ideal candidate is:

- Dedicated
- Has Pride in their work
- Well presented
- Someone that has achieved inside an outside the classroom – extra curricular
- Not afraid of new things and is willing to learn
- Also not afraid to speak up when appropriate, for example, to tell a senior when you believe they have made a mistake. If you see something has been done wrong, speak up about it

Unpaid Work:

- In this day and age you have to be prepared for unpaid work
- You are now competing with other students and even graduates for unpaid positions in the legal industry.
- Don't let this put you off, this is now how things work, many places now do 3 month trials if you show you can stick it out unpaid for 3 months even just for 1 or 2 days a week they will most likely offer you a job.
- At the very least it is experience and/or a good reference on your resume!

2016 KEY PROGRAM DATES

SUMMER CLERKSHIPS

Summer clerkship programs are designed to give students practical exposure to the legal environment and insight into the work undertaken by various practice groups. Usually targeted to penultimate and final year students.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| April – June | Time to start preparing your CV and cover letter |
| June | Applications open |
| July | Applications close |
| August | 1st round interviews |
| September | 2nd round interviews commence |
| September | Offers made for summer clerkship |
| September | Offers must be accepted or declined |

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Graduate programs are varied and highly competitive. As a graduate, you will undertake real work, building relationships with partners, lawyers and clients and becoming an integral part of the Firm.

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| February | Round One Applications Open |
| August | Round Two Applications Open |

These dates are a general indication only. For specific dates and details, visit the Western Sydney Career's Office or the website for your desired law firm.

Take your study experience to the next level and make your resume shine. Show your potential employers that you can lead student projects or research like a professional! We are a student publication: *run by students, for students* - let us bring your passion to life!

As a student club, you must REGISTER your membership through Orgsync:
orgsync.com/96542/chapter

For more information, VISIT our website:
daretoknowpublications.com

LIKE A CAREER AT THE BAR?

- Peter Godkin - Barrister - Elizabeth Street Chambers -

Childhood dream

Since I was twelve, I wanted to be a barrister.

Understanding that the roles, skills and temperaments of solicitors and barristers are very different, I knew that the work of a solicitor would drive me bananas (but good on you 'attention to detail' solicitors who greatly assist me!).

I love the big picture problem solving aspect of being at the bar. Effectively, as a barrister, I am a persuader. My role is to persuade the judge to interpret the law to the benefit of my client.

Fast track

So, to university I went. I studied the Juris Doctor at the University of Technology Sydney and accelerated my degree. A full-time load was eight subjects per year; I completed ten subjects each year.

Knowing that I did not want to be a solicitor or a corporate lawyer, but wanted to advocate, during my last subject at university, I started studying for the New South Wales Bar exam.

I sat and passed the bar exam on the first sitting in February 2014. I was admitted as a lawyer of the New South Wales Supreme Court in April 2014, and completed the Bar Practice Course in May 2014.

My first year at the bar

Building a business at the bar is difficult. As I was fresh out of university, I was learning to be a lawyer at the same time that I was learning how to be a barrister – and yes there were some mistakes – and the bar can be a very unforgiving place.

Fortunately, I found supportive chambers and two great tutors.

However, because of my lack of legal experience, getting paid work was difficult. I soon realised that I needed the experience in order to get the work, but I could not attract the work without the experience.

So, I did a lot of pro bono work – including a great opportunity in the NSW Supreme Court where my client was a prisoner who was fighting for the right to have access to a raw fruit and vegetable diet for religious and health reasons. The NSW Corrective Services' attitude was: 'this is a prison, not a hotel', but we successfully argued in Administrative Law and received a verdict in favour of my client. For the judgement see *Monteiro v State of NSW* (No 2) [2015] NSWSC 1901.

Additionally, it was important to network and build relationships. I had a lot of coffees and lunches. Additionally I put a lot of time into teaching for

professional development. This is a great way for barristers to gain exposure to solicitors.

In reality, the first few years at the bar are tough. Although there are cheaper rates in your first year, in the second year, the expenses increase. It is difficult to build a strong bar business.

How to pass the bar exam

In between pro bono gigs, there was still a lot of time with not much to do. So, coming from a teaching background, and fresh from my university and bar exam success, I developed a course which prepares lawyers and students to sit the bar exams.

The philosophy is that passing the bar exam is a very teachable skill. The course concentrates on what to study, what not to study, how to minimise what you need to memorise and also takes students through a methodical strategy of tabbing and highlighting which enables candidates to find information in their legislation very quickly.

Although passing the bar exam requires a ridiculous amount of time and effort, student feedback has been that people have been pleasantly surprised how doable it is after implementing the strategies taught in my course. Check out the website: www.howtopassthebarexam.com.au.

The benefit of going to the bar directly from university is that you are 'in the zone' for study, and another six weeks full-time study prepares you adequately to blitz the bar exam. Of course the disadvantage of going straight from university is that you have no legal experience – but there are ways to gain that experience, as I discovered.



Peter Godkin

Barrister at Elizabeth Street Chambers
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YES, LAW STUDENTS HAVE LIVES!

Each publication, we ask students to publish their adventures and expeditions.

If you have any stories to share, email us at:
sapereaude@daretoknowpublications.com



SAMMY DARWISH

B Laws / B Communications

It had long been my intention to keep a journal for personal reasons and to improve my writing skills. I realized soon after my arrival in Lebanon last year that in light of the geopolitical circumstances of the country and the coincidence of my own tertiary study, I was well-placed to record my experiences in Lebanon in a manner that was candid, entertaining, and informative to other readers. The journal totaled sixty hand-written pages, and was one of the most satisfying projects I had done in my life. Here are some excerpts:

27th November - Beit Lif, South Lebanon

On the morning of the 24th, I rose in the morning, put on a button-up shirt, a woolen coat, and my least mangled pair of jeans. I would have loved to wear at least some leather shoes, but I had to make do with a pair of low-top Vans. Appraising myself in the cheap, warped mirror attached to the inner-door of my wardrobe, I nodded sagely at the results. I looked competent, but unthreatening; neat, but not overly formal. My appearance was of a greater concern than usual that day because I had decided to visit the local UN base. My success or failure, and the extent of either, would be dictated by the response of the checkpoint guards. Recent events had forced them to err on the side of caution at all times; this was of the utmost importance, as they would ultimately determine to whom I would be sent.

I hopped on my motor scooter and began the journey to the top of the mountain where the base is situated. After the usual business of dodging potholes and shouting at passing cows, I slowed as I reached the newly paved road that led to the base entrance. I rearranged my features into a relaxed, yet thoughtful expression, and wore a genial smile as I stopped at the checkpoint.

I immediately went on the offensive. If a foreigner wishes to overcome the language barrier and get their own way, the ideal target will speak Basic English but be lacking practice in conversation. In the face of a confident English-speaker who refuses to slow down their speech or choose easily understood words, the unfortunate listener will likely succumb after half a minute or so. It is important only that they understand you want something, at any rate. Hopefully they will palm off the burden of discovering exactly what that something is to someone superior in rank or standing to themselves. After glancing at my passport, a rifleman asked me about applying for Australian citizenship. I mumbled “entrance requirements” and “diplomatic capacity” as I followed another guard who led me into the base.

I entered a small office where I found two undoubtedly Lebanese civilians wearing UN caps. I sighed and seated myself across from the more officious-looking of the two. I outlined my intention to survey a number of UN peacekeepers deployed with UNIFIL. He raised his eyebrows and gave me a queer look, then told me that he could type up the survey for me. At this point, due to the difficulty in procuring a workstation and functional printer (not to mention being lucky enough to find them at a time when there was

any electricity at all), the questions were merely notes scribbled barely legibly in my 2015 diary.

I gratefully accepted the offer. He proceeded to type up the survey at a painfully slow rate (using two fingers), and showed me the finished product. After a number of minor edits, he proceeded further to add two more mistakes which, despite his profession as an interpreter and his apparently firm grasp of English, he did not correct after I drew his attention to them.

After printing twenty copies, he filled out one himself and recommended that I go to Naqoura, where the UNIFIL national headquarters was based. His thoroughly dastardly strategy was to gain access to the hospital, and once there, discreetly interview as many people as I could before being kicked out. I thanked him for his help and immediately took his advice. I walked out of sight until I reached the hospital located on-base, and then closed the door behind me. I managed to get an interview and completed survey with a rifleman and nurse. Feeling my luck was about to change, I stuffed the results into the motor scooter and fairly fled the GHANBATT base.

29th November - Tyre, South Lebanon

...The point in my journey that caused me such a delay was a place called “Al-Bass”. It is a central transit point; for the most part a large roundabout, surrounded by shops, small restaurants, taxis and vans. It is the point through which most roads from the south pass on their way further north to Saida or Beirut. It is always busy, loud, full of smoke and rich with the smells of petrol and roasting chicken. As I mentioned, Beit Lif is relatively remote. For that reason, taxis will only leave Al-Bass to go there with a full car – this usually means five passengers with a woman seated front, but I’ve travelled with up to seven passengers in a single car before.

I’m usually happy to wait the half-hour or so, taking in the sights and observing the countless handshakes, gesticulating shop-owners, arguments and scuffles, and always the dozens of near-misses between cars. If you’re lucky, you’ll witness a near miss that could have been, and gawk interestedly at the drama for a few minutes. Only in Lebanon do you see bumper-to-bumper traffic passing through a roundabout at 40 km/hour. But tonight I was held waiting for at least an hour. Finally, a uniformed soldier joined us and we were on our way. The taxi-driver and all the passengers simultaneously lit up cigarettes and hung various limbs out of the windows. The driver received a phone call – Oh Jesus, here it comes. The phone call, concerning a request for the driver to deliver goods, appeared to cause the

driver no small amount of consternation. He hung up, immediately turned to face us (not bothering to slow down), and began his tirade.

Taxi drivers here do not simply speak - they sermonise. What right did Mr. X have to demand that the goods be delivered before the night’s end! Didn’t he know he had a full car! Didn’t he know he wasn’t his slave, working all night on top of driving to the end of the universe for a damn sack of onions! He went on like this for a good 15 minutes. Only another phone call (on a similar topic it seemed) served to divert his attention away from the sheer monstrosity of his indignation.

We passed through the town of Qana, looking for a bakery where we were to apparently pick up another passenger. After a few wrong turns, we found him. A broad-set, uniformed policeman got in the car, and again we were on our way. The taxi-driver and policeman appeared to be on familiar terms. For this I was glad, as the policeman, being amongst friends, was not afraid to exhibit the full force of his most colourful personality.

He began by thanking the driver and without preamble began the story of the day’s events. From what I could gather, he was describing the conduct of corrupt local-government level officials and of his own superiors. His vocabulary, whilst not limited, put great emphasis on the reproductive organ (usually his own) and its various conjugations. In addition, he described in great detail the physical habits of the current target’s mother and sisters. Suddenly remembering something, he laughed loudly and pulled out his phone. “Remember him?” he cried, showing us a mug shot of an apprehended criminal. “Got caught breaking-and-entering, the bastard!” He proceeded to show us a few more pictures of the man and numerous articles of documented evidence. I tsked and cursed, as was expected of me. Apparently satisfied, the policeman put his phone away and continued his conversation with the driver...

5th December - Hay Silm, Beirut

Lycée Kafra is a small private school located in the village of Kafra, approximately 4km from Beit Lif. I was lucky enough to find work as a casual English teacher there in the year of 2014/15, where I spent 10 months or so in Lebanon. The students pay high enrolment fees, but the quality of tuition there is excellent. It is a prestigious school, run by an upstanding and remarkably intelligent woman. Her husband is also evolved in politics, but I’ve heard nothing to believe that he takes any part in the rampant corruption that marks the rest of Lebanon.

She is exceedingly capable, deeply pious, and runs the school with an iron fist. Totally indefatigable, she spends more time prowling the schoolrooms than she does in her office. In fact, more than once she has stridden into my class while I am teaching to drag out troublesome students, literally by the ear.

The classes are quite small, averaging about 12 per class. I was given the valuable opportunity to teach

KG classes more than once (and I nearly died, more than once), and the children, even at that young age, have already become accustomed to speaking English in their classes as a matter of course. All classes at Lycee are run in English, with the exceptions of Arabic, Religion, and History.

It is this early grounding in English that is invaluable for young students, and one that is completely lacking at the government school in Beit Lif. Some of the blame for this can be placed on the government and the local community itself. Historically, Beit Lif has been marginalised for reasons too complex for me to explore; as a consequence, political parties based on religious and ideological lines (such as Haraket Amal and Hezbollah) have stepped in to provide essential services that these remote communities so urgently require. Such parties have been historically anti-western, and for decades could not recognise (or refused to recognise) the necessity of English for accessing higher education. Thankfully, these parties have become more accommodating to cultural change in recent times, and are moving towards a more inclusive and non-sectarian ideology that considers the benefit of

Lebanese as a whole, as opposed to the benefit of a particular religious or ethnic group. These groups have adapted to changing attitudes and have thus strengthened their social and political position.

Lycée Kafra also cultivates and inspires religious and cultural unity through various activities that include all students. After singing the National Anthem, they all chant the Shia prayer, blessing the family of the prophet. They fully participate in all Shia days of prayer by crafting posters, decorations, singing songs, and acting in plays. As many of the children have family members in the local militia, they even mourn the deaths of these soldiers if they are killed in battle. Because of the events across the border, it is sadly an event that has greatly increased in frequency.

I remember during my teaching when an Israeli precision bomb killed a number of higher level militia members in Syria; amongst those killed were one or two family members of children attending Lycée. A day of mourning and celebration was held and a number of students took turns on stage singing anasheed (defiant anthems). It was upsetting and painful to see these children who, for the most part, were the same as any other school-aged students; playing video games and football, chatting with friends, going out to the beach – but at the same time, being violently affected by regional events that, in all reasonableness, should not be affecting them at all.

These are incredibly complex and exhausting issues – and they are adult issues. It simply felt wrong to see posters of killed community members plastered on the walls of the school hall, to see the children mourn their deaths, to cry; and to see hand-drawn posters of soldiers blowing up tanks with bodies drawn to one side – no doubt crafted by the hands of a student no older than eight or nine.

12th December - Downtown Beirut

Streets in the urban centres of Beirut change quickly from upmarket, extremely upmarket, to practically falling apart within a dozen metres or so – and sometimes less. Dazzled by the flashing lights, exquisite apartment blocks, and flashily dressed men and women, the area felt akin to the more affluent inner-city streets of Sydney or Melbourne. But barely a stone’s throw away from the richly adorned and beautified apartments of the Beirut elite stands a haunting remnant of the Lebanese Civil War; a lone standing, bullet ridden, burnt-out concrete shell of the old Downtown cinema – a conspicuous reminder of the past whose dereliction could have only been intentional.

Beirut is quite unique in this respect. Truth to be told, I love to see these skeletal reminders of days past wedged uncomfortably between newer high-rise apartment blocks; they demand an audience, and are as much a part of Beirut as the mayhem on the roads and the parties on the streets.

Perhaps this is part of the reason I’m not overly fond of the classier suburbs of Beirut. You can be sure that any suburb of Lebanon that has been immaculately repaired and cleaned is feeding from the hand that has kept the rest of the country in ruin.

18th January, 2015

I arrived safely in Sydney five days later. Looking back over the journal, I am deeply satisfied. I’m to return to Lebanon in the not-too-distant future, and I will be sure to keep a journal once more. Travel has given me a greater understanding of the geopolitical environment of the Middle East (particularly in light of the Syrian Civil War) and thus a richer understanding of other global events – as I do not believe it is an overstatement to describe the events here as having far reaching and global consequences.

If you have the means, I urge you to do the same. Don’t overthink; just pack your bags and go somewhere new. I promise that you will discover as much about yourself as you do about your destination – and you will become wealthy in ways you never imagined.

AGAPE

- Yes, Law Student's Have Lives -
- Mark Nasralla - Bachelor of Laws -

Over the summer holidays, myself and a group of friends flew over to the United Arab Emirates and Egypt for a holiday. During the holiday, we intended to stay at St Anthony's Monastery by the Red Sea for a few days. The purpose of this was to get away from today's world in a bid to get closer to God by living the way the ascetics lived.

Every morning we would meet inside the church at 4am, we would join the monks in their communal prayers followed by singing and chanting the psalms and hymns in the Coptic language from the book called the *Psalmody*. At approximately 6am, we would celebrate the Divine Liturgy and after its completion we would partake in a communal meal called by the monks as *Agape*. After the meal we would begin our work in the monastery. This work consisted of helping out in the kitchen by cooking and cleaning, the upkeep of the church and on an occasional basis, painting icons. We were advised to continually recite the psalms whilst we work such that our minds don't wonder elsewhere and thus the recital of the psalms kept our focus on the Lord. At sunset, we would once again meet in the church to partake in the communal prayers and once these prayers were completed, we were free to do whatever we wanted. However we were advised to utilise this time for personal reflection and meditation - I used this time to catch up on my sleep!

It was a truly humbling experience to see the pure simplicity of the lives of the ascetics. The monks were so content with their lives despite having nothing but the four walls in their cells, and here I am living in a beautiful country with everything I need and much more, yet I'm unhappy due to unnecessarily wanting more and more. It really goes to show that living in complete communion with Christ is truly enough.

Setting that aside, the monastery was beyond beautiful - the architecture was out of this world and it was amazing how there were churches inside caves. Those churches were definitely the major highlight of the whole trip. My experience in this monastery taught me that our quality of life is down to how we see things - the ascetics had nothing but still were happy, therefore we can definitely be happy with our fortunate circumstances.

Did you know? St Anthony's Monastery is the first monastery in the world? Isn't that hella cool?

Mark Nasralla



THE INJUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Opinion -
- Mark Nasralla - Bachelor of Laws -

According to Section 56 of the *Civil Procedure Act 2005*, it is a lawyer's job to help administer justice. However, as far as I am concerned, lawyers do not receive any real training on what constitutes justice. We think we understand what it is, but I believe it'll be of great difficulty trying to get a general agreement on what justice actually is.

The fundamental ethical norms of our society naturally play an important role in determining a theory of justice. The presumption of innocence until proven guilty, and the requirement that all people who go to court are entitled to legal representation, both illustrate the way various ethical choices have been played out in our society. Likewise, the choice that all people are entitled to justice - *not only the powerful*.

However, is this really the case? There are many examples, both large and small, where there has been injustice due to the fact that a party to the litigation could not afford legal fees. This results in them attending court as self-represented litigants going up against an opposition represented by lawyers. This ultimately means the party who has the most finances is the one who will most likely win the case...*meaning justice* is only relevant between equals in power. This was particularly evident in a personal experience of a good friend of mine whom I will address as 'X'. X was the defendant in a matter regarding the recovery of a debt owed as he was allegedly at fault in a motor vehicle accident. Unfortunately, X could not afford legal fees so as a result I prepared his submissions (due to extensive experience in debt recovery), drafting his defence and preparing his evidence for the hearing. I am of the opinion that his evidence had some merit, but unfortunately the evidence was not even looked at during the hearing and judgement was entered against him for upwards of \$40,000. Is this because he was a self-represented litigant up against a barrister who treated the courts as his playground?

There are several different causes of injustice within the law these days:

1. Injustice which results from a system run by fallible human beings; and
2. Injustices which result when an individual does not have effective access to law.

The system is not perfect

There are many examples of the legal system failing because it is simply run by fallible human beings. A *simple* mistake can have large consequences. Some matters just don't seem to have much merit, unless you look very closely. This can lead to carelessness: the problems faced by clients with unpopular causes may seem less deserving of attention; the problems faced by clients with mental or social disabilities are too readily dismissed as figments of their disturbed lives.

There is another element to this, which is difficult to classify. *When an individual or group is unpopular, it is much easier to deny them justice*. Consider the plight of boat people in recent years. It has almost become 'politically correct' to treat boat people harshly. Politics has translated the preemptive stopping of boat arrivals into a campaign that saves lives. And what is absurd is that both major political parties openly boast that Australian treatment

of refugees is so inhumane that it does not compare to the violence faced in their home country...that these people would prefer to stay home and face ISIL than face us.

Ultimately, the Australian public has been misled into believing that boat people are dangerous and therefore we end up preferring the party which can be harsher to them. This is profoundly unjust to boat people who are most of the time ultimately found to be refugees entitled to our protection as a basic human right.

Injustice begins when political and media phobias enter the colloquial discourse and our community forgets to think for themselves. Injustice begins when we regard one group more entitled than another.

Access to justice

In civil litigation matters, legal aid is practically unavailable. This is probably because funding bodies are of the opinion that cases regarding money and property are far less important than cases regarding children and crime. The absence of legal aid in civil litigation can work profound injustice, especially when the opposing litigants can afford their own lawyers. This ultimately means justice is only available to those who have money. When one party to the litigation is a well-resourced company (such as an insurance company), the individual litigant's rights are irrelevant: they will almost certainly have to sacrifice their rights because they cannot afford to vindicate them. Tenancy, consumer and credit disputes all have a profound impact on the affected litigant - to deny them access to legal aid will likely result in injustice.

By global standards, our country is falling behind. The UK government has outdone us almost three times over, spending £2 billion (\$3 billion) of taxpayers' money a year on publicly funded legal advice, spending of \$68.36 per head. As opposed to Australia's \$23. The result of this is that Australia has an underfunded system that ends up proving costly due an increase in court time which increases fees and other litigation expenses. In other words, increasing the funds going towards public legal advice would be a positive investment of public money because it saves money elsewhere.

If the Australian government wanted to be honest about *access to justice*, they would increase the funds towards legal aid. By changing the conversation- a conversation that focuses on equal access to justice, then maybe we will see the government allocate more attention to budget demands.

Conclusion

Unless we have personal experiences (such as the one of my friend X), we will not see such corruption of the legal process as it represents. But *the fact is that injustice within the law still exists*. It may not affect us now, but if we ignore it, we betray one of society's most basic ideals, and we corrode the very system which exists to protect all of us.

STUDENT EXCHANGE: CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF

- WHO -

Marija Yelavich
Third Year
B Laws / B International
Studies with, B Critical
Thinking and Leadership

- WHERE -

Aarhus University,
Denmark

- WHAT -

Law
European Human Rights Law
Climate Change and Energy Law
Law of Armed Conflicts

- WHY -

In a nutshell, I wanted a break from ordinary studies and a new experience that would challenge me. I also always had a dream to study independently overseas and delve into the romance of Europe's history. I chose Europe because it was familiar, but Denmark because it's certainly unconventional. It was the balance that I needed to feel safe and not too over my head.

THE PROCESS

Begin talking to your School coordinator the year before. Find out what Universities are available to you, and what country would suit your character and budget.

TIP: You generally find that \$8,000 - \$10,000 should be your absolute minimum to live simply. Anything more than that will certainly be beneficial.

You will need at least seven months to prepare for exchange. Contact the Western Sydney Go Global team. Their website has all the information you need to prepare, including eligibility, scholarships and the Government OS-HELP loan.

TIP: Make sure your GPA and unit credits satisfy your preferred University's requirements. Some law programs require students to be in their fourth year minimum.

As you go along your application process, you will continue to discover new and more important things you need to complete...so keep a checklist and draft a calendar.

TIP: To enter most European countries you need to complete a type of Citizenship application. This should be completed well before you fly overseas and is usually the most expensive step in your application!

Organisation at the beginning will ensure you enjoy your entire experience without any stress or confusion.

FINAL TIPS:

1. Always ask if your host University can organise a buddy for your arrival. Usually offered for law programs, your buddy becomes your best friend and main source of practical support.
2. Do your research for your travel card...what are the rates? What kind of currency is accepted? Is cash or card more preferable?
3. Bring the basics with you! You will save loads of money if you bring basic stationary, hygiene and health products with you.
4. Read to prepare as much as you can! You will be surprised with how much information there is online about your host country. It will give you and your loved ones a piece of mind to know these little things.

For more information about exchange, visit:
<http://www.uws.edu.au/globalmobility/goglobal>

Law Students Decoded

The easiest test you will ever take!

Which one of these texts are you most likely to receive from your boss?

- a. You wouldn't receive a text message because that is an unprofessional form of communication.
- b. Don't even bother showing up for work on Monday!
- c. You did a good job on that Report.
- d. Make sure you're free for Friday night drinks.

It's Friday night drinks, and you arrive with your friends. What's the very first thing you do?

- a. Drinks? I have study to do.
- b. Hit the dance floor!
- c. Go straight to the snack bar.
- d. Did someone say free wine?

You've been put into a group assignment. How do you react?

- a. Ask the teacher to put you in another group.
- b. You skip that class for the rest of the semester.
- c. Take the lead and delegate tasks.
- d. You complete your assigned task and that's as much effort they'll receive from you.

What would you do if your friend called you three hours before the assignment deadline and said they completely forgot...

- a. Express your disappointment in them (the

truth will set you free!) and offer words of wisdom.

- b. You're just as shocked as they are...you forgot too!
- c. Email them your copy but make sure you send the PDF version.
- d. Log into Skype and work on the assignment with them.

You're reading a dissenting opinion with great enthusiasm, but your best friend disagrees. What do you decide to do?

- a. Get your facts clarified and then tell them why you think they're wrong.
- b. You decide to just agree and continue your day.
- c. Listen to both arguments and rationally choose the logical argument.
- d. This is why they're your best friend- opposites work together best!

You and your friend aren't on speaking terms and its most likely because...

1. You were supposed to go somewhere but you cancelled last minute.
2. You 'accidentally' tweeted an embarrassing photo of them from last year's Law Cruise.
3. They weren't there for you when you really needed them.
4. They didn't back you up when you answered the question wrong in your lecture.

MOSTLY As THE HERO

You're the type of person who can easily transform study and work into a day at Disneyland. Although you love your friends, they appreciate your dedication and focus, and you know they are there when you need to let off some steam.
2016 Goal: Don't be so angry at your friends, they're just trying to help you...maybe go out this weekend and enjoy some fresh air.

MOSTLY Bs The Outgoing One

You're the person in your group who can keep a smile on everyone's face. Sometimes you frustrate them with your ill library manners, but they'll always be there to escort you out of the club safely.
2016 Goal: Try to focus more in class, and start an academic calendar.

MOSTLY Cs THE LEADER

You're the person who everyone looks to for advice and guidance. You're selfless and mature, and you're not afraid to use logic as the key to an argument- even though at times it doesn't achieve the outcome you necessarily want.
2016 Goal: Be spontaneous and join a student club!

MOSTLY Ds THE CRUISER

Ps get degrees and the Friday night hero usually gets the least paper work to complete on Monday- that works for you, yeah? You're the funny one who can be depended on to always be there. But you also expect this loyalty in return, and therefore are constantly frustrated with those who let you down.
2016 Goal: Remove toxic people from your life and swap your Tuesday drinks to a library session...you may meet a like-minded friend!

WSU STUDENT SERVICES FOR WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

- STUDENT WELFARE SERVICE -

CONTACT welfareservice@uws.edu.au

WEB www.uws.edu.au/welfareservice

VISIT OR CALL

Bankstown - Building 1
09776338
Campbelltown - Building 5
02 4620 3013
Hawkesbury - Building H3
02 4570 1965
Parramatta - Building EF
02 9685 9366
Penrith - Building P
02 4736 0674

WHAT THEY PROVIDE

Academic advocacy, advice and support. Understanding UWS policies, processes and forms Special Consideration applications. Review of Grade applications and withdrawal without academic penalty. Support at academic and non-academic misconduct hearings. Appeals against exclusions and conditional enrolment. Financial support and advice. Textbook vouchers. Emergency financial assistance. Emergency food cards. Tax help. Financial information and resources. Other issues. Centrelink. Accommodation. Sexual health matters

MATES AT WSU

Provides first years students with the opportunity to be connected with older students.

For more information, visit:
www.uws.edu.au/mates

WSU LIVING LOCAL

Provides students with a means of searching for accommodation local to UWS campuses.

For more information, visit:
www.uws.edu.au/livinglocal

TAKE YOUR STUDY EXPERIENCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND MEET LIKE MINDED STUDENTS AT OUR MARCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH
7-8PM
THE ACADEMY ROOM, EB, PARRAMATTA
SOUTH CAMPUS.

Championing diversity and independent thought, we welcome all students. Our team at Sapere Aude is made up of students at all stages of their degree and from across a range of disciplines. Great for networking and strengthening your resume, join the publication at our March meeting!



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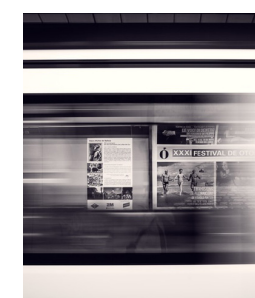
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Add to your resume, write a passion project and work closely with your chosen academic or industry professional! We have students who have interviewed leading legends or who researched an issue of personal interest to produce a publication-worthy piece. Open for opinion or research pieces, we want to connect you with the community.



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