



Ngara Yura Program



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION®

Application for the New South Wales Bar Association's First Nations Law Students Clerkship Program 2021

About the First Nations Law Students Clerkship

The New South Wales Bar Association is pleased to offer up to three paid clerkships to First Nations law students in Autumn 2021. Clerks will complete 3 x one week rotations, spending:

- a. One week at the Supreme Court of NSW placed with a Judge;
- b. One week at the District Court of NSW placed with a Judge; and
- c. One week at the NSW Bar with a barrister.

This year for the first time clerks will also have the opportunity to spend a day at the NSW Land and Environment Court.

During the Court rotations, clerks will be based in a Judge's chambers and Court Registry. Clerks will attend court, discuss the cases that the Judge is hearing and learn about the Registry's operations. During the Bar rotation, clerks will be placed with and 'shadow' a barrister. This may involve attending client conferences or Court and undertaking research tasks. The clerkship will take place on mutually agreed dates, depending on court and university timetables and subject to any COVID-19 restrictions. Please note this is subject to negotiation, taking into account the availability of the clerks, the Courts and supervising barristers.

Eligibility

Applicants who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and have successfully completed the first year of a law degree at a recognised Australian University are eligible to apply. Students in their penultimate and final year are encouraged to apply.

The New South Wales Bar Association uses the definition of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders as adopted by the High Court in the *Tasmanian Dams Case* (*Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 158 CLR 1) which is a three- part test:

- (i) a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent,
- (ii) who identifies as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and
- (iii) who is accepted by the relevant community as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander.

**Please complete the form below and return it by email to Elizabeth Pearson,
Director of Policy and Public Affairs, via epearson@nswbar.asn.au .**

Applications close at 12pm on Monday 1 March 2021.

NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION
Selborne Chambers, B/174 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000
DX 1204 SYDNEY, Telephone: +61 2 9232 4055 Fax: +61 2 9221 1149 E: enquiries@nswbar.asn.au



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Purpose of the form

To best tailor the content of the program to the participating clerks, the New South Wales Bar Association's Clerkship Committee (**'the Committee'**) would like to know a bit about you, including your:

- Academic results in your legal studies at the time of this application;
- Interest in pursuing a career in law (including possibly at the Bar);
- Involvement in or contribution to the wider community;
- Previous legal experience; and
- Leadership qualities and overall personal characteristics.

Notification of confirmation of enrolment

Upon the Committee confirming the enrolment of each participating vacation clerk, the Committee shall notify each participant by email enclosing a copy of a Letter of Employment (to be signed and returned to the NSW Bar by the applicant as soon as possible).

Information

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this application or the clerkship, please contact Elizabeth Pearson via epearson@nswbar.asn.au or 02 9232 4055.

By submitting this form, you agree:

- that you meet the eligibility criteria set out above;
- to be bound by the provisions of this application and selection procedure; and
- to commit your time to the full three weeks of the clerkship program.



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PERSONAL DETAILS	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
TEL:	
EMAIL:	
ACADEMIC DETAILS	
UNIVERSITY:	
DEGREE(S):	
YEARS OF STUDY	



Ngara Yura Program



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LAW SUBJECTS COMPLETED:	
Copy of your academic transcript(s) attached: <input type="checkbox"/>	

BACKGROUND:
<p>The New South Wales Bar Association uses the definition of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders as adopted by the High Court in the <i>Tasmanian Dams Case</i> (<i>Commonwealth v Tasmania</i> (1983) 158 CLR 1) which is a three- part test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent, (ii) who identifies as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and (iii) who is accepted by the relevant community as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander. <p>Any First Nations person who would like to apply for a clerkship must supply either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a certificate of Aboriginality, if they hold one, or • a letter of support from an Elder in their community (a sample letter is set out in <i>Attachment A</i>)
Certificate or letter attached <input type="checkbox"/>



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Please tell us a bit about your background as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ie. Your First Nation, if you know it; where your traditional country is; family history; your mob)

INTEREST IN PRACTICING LAW

Please let us know why you think you might be interested in practising law



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AREAS OF LAW INTERESTED IN:

What areas/subjects of law interest you and why?

REFEREES:

Please nominate at least one referee (no more than two), who you feel is able to support your application

REFEREE NO. 1
NAME:

POSITION:

CONTACT
DETAILS:

TEL:



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EMAIL:	
REFEREE NO. 2 NAME:	
POSITION:	
CONTACT DETAILS:	
TEL:	
EMAIL:	

NAME OF APPLICANT:	
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	

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- to commit your time to the full three weeks of the clerkship program.