

## Application for the New South Wales Bar Association's First Nations Clerkship

### Eligibility for the First Nations Clerkship

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 (see criteria 1-3 below).

To be eligible to apply, you must:

1. be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent,
2. identify as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander,
3. be accepted by the relevant community as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and
4. have successfully completed the first year of a law degree at a recognised Australian University.

To satisfy criteria 1-3 above, any First Nations student who wants to apply for the Clerkship must supply either:

1. a certificate of Aboriginality, if they hold one, or
2. a letter of support from an Elder in their community as set out in **Attachment A** of this application.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students in their penultimate and final year are encouraged to apply.

### About the First Nations Clerkship

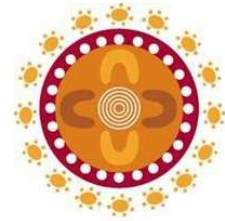
The New South Wales Bar Association is pleased to offer up to three paid clerkships to First Nations law students in 2025. Clerkships will take the form of a scholarship.

Each clerkship will consist of rotations over a three week period, which may include: the Federal Court of Australia, Supreme Court of NSW, the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW, The District Court of NSW, the Local Court of NSW, the Children's Court of NSW, the Coroners Court of NSW, and a barrister's chambers.

During the court rotations, clerks will be placed with Judicial Officers and will attend court, discuss the cases that the Judicial Officer is hearing and learn about the Registry's operations. During the Bar rotation, clerks will be placed with and 'shadow' a barrister, which may involve attending client conferences or court and undertaking research tasks.



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The clerkship will take place in June - July 2025, with details of timing to be agreed, depending on court and university timetables. Please note this is subject to negotiation, taking into account the availability of the clerks, the courts and supervising barristers.

**How to apply:**

**Please complete Parts 1-4 of the Application Form below and return by email to NSW Bar Association via [dppa@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:dppa@nswbar.asn.au)**

**Applications close at 5pm on Sunday, 11th May 2025.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this application or the clerkship, please contact Laura Toren, Policy Lawyer, at [dppa@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:dppa@nswbar.asn.au) or by phone on 02 9232 4055.



## First Nations Clerkship - Application Form

### Purpose of the form

The information you provide in this application form will be used to verify that you meet the eligibility requirements of the Clerkship. The New South Wales Bar Association would also like to know a bit about you so that, if your application is successful, the content of the program can be tailored to your interests, including your:

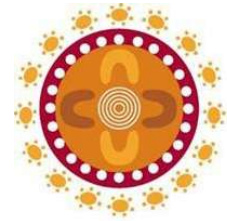
- Academic results in your legal studies at the time of this application;
- Interest in pursuing a career in law (including possibly at the Bar);
- Involvement in or contribution to the wider community;
- Previous legal experience; and
- Leadership qualities.

### Part 1: Personal information and academic background

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
ARE YOU OF ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
PLEASE IDENTIFY THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY/NATION WHERE YOU ARE ACCEPTED AS AN ABORIGINAL PERSON OR A TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER:	
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND	
UNIVERSITY:	
DEGREE(S) YOU ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING:	



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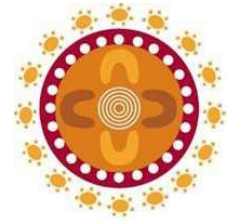


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YEAR OF STUDY:	
LAW SUBJECTS COMPLETED:	
<b><u>Copy of your academic transcript attached:</u></b> <input style="margin-left: 100px;" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>INTEREST IN PRACTISING LAW</b> Please let us know why you think you might be interested in practising law.  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
<b>AREAS OF LAW YOU ARE INTERESTED IN</b> What areas/subjects of law interest you most and why?  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	



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## Part 2: First Nations Certification

Please note this information will be used to verify your eligibility for the First Nations Clerkship. By providing this information, you consent to it being used by the Association and other individuals involved in administering the First Nations Clerkship for the purpose of assessing your application for the First Nations Clerkship.

By providing a certificate of Aboriginality or a letter of support from an Elder in your community, you confirm that you have obtained the consent of the Elder(s) or other person(s) identified in that document for their personal information:

- to be provided to the Association and other individuals involved in administering the First Nations Clerkship for the purpose of assessing your application for the First Nations Clerkship; and
- for Association and other individuals involved in administering the First Nations Clerkship to contact the Elder(s) or other person(s) regarding your application.

If you do not provide this information, we will be unable to process your application.

I understand that this program is only offered to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I am of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, that I identify as an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander, and that I am accepted as such within my community.

I have provided proof in the form of (please tick applicable box, you can tick more than one):

- a certificate of Aboriginality;
- a letter of support from an Elder in my community (in accordance with Attachment A of this application form).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Part 3: Referee/s**

By providing these details, you confirm that you have obtained the consent of the referee(s) for their personal information to be provided to the Association for the purpose of assessing your application for the First Nations Clerkship (including for the Association to contact the referee(s) regarding your application).

REFEREES	
Please nominate at least one referee in support of your application.	
NAME:	
POSITION:	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
NAME:	
POSITION:	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	

**Part 4: Applicant Statement**

By submitting this form, I agree:

• That I meet the eligibility criteria for the First Nations Clerkship	<input type="checkbox"/>
• To commit my time to the full three weeks of the Clerkship	<input type="checkbox"/>
• To the New South Wales Bar Association collecting, using, sharing and storing the information in this form in accordance with the Privacy Statement set out below	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Privacy Collection Statement

The New South Wales Bar Association (“**Association**”) is committed to managing your personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles.

The personal information requested in this form is collected by the Association for the purpose of administering the First Nations Clerkship. If you do not provide this information, we may be unable to progress your application.

The information that you provide in this form will be shared with members of the Association’s First Nations Committee for the purpose of assessing your application and administering the Clerkship. It may also be shared with other barristers involved in assessing your application and/or administering the Clerkship. If your application is successful, the information that you provide in this form will also be provided to the Judicial officer/s, any court staff assisting them with the Clerkship and barrister/s with whom you are placed.

For further information on how the Association collects, stores, uses and discloses personal information, and how an individual may obtain access to and, where necessary, correct their personal information, please see the New South Wales Bar Association’s Privacy Policy (“**Policy**”) available at: <https://nswbar.asn.au/disclaimers/privacy-policy>. The Policy also contains information about how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how the Association will deal with any such complaint.

## YOUR APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Before submitting your clerkship application, please make sure you have included the following:**

- Personal information provided
- Academic background provided
- Academic transcript attached
- First Nations Certification completed
- Details of at least one referee provided
- Part 4 Applicant statement signed and dated

# ATTACHMENT A

## Letter of Support

To the Chair of the First Nations Committee  
NSW Bar Association  
174 Phillip Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Chair,

I am an Elder of the \_\_\_\_\_ Aboriginal (or Torres Strait  
Islander) community.

I write this reference to confirm that I know \_\_\_\_\_ of

\_\_\_\_\_

His/her family is known to me as a part of my Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) community and I support him/her participating and benefiting from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs such as the First Nations Clerkship.

I can be contacted by telephone on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

Print Name:

Date: