

OBITER

#1

*the university of canterbury
law students' society*

2025



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Editorial



Kia ora and welcome to our 2025 issue of Obiter, whether a seasoned reader or first timer, we hope you enjoy yet another fantastic addition of our University of Canterbury Lawsoc magazine.

This addition has more than just a few things to look at, talk about, and celebrate. Check out these contents for yourself:



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As your 2025 obiter officers we are thrilled to announce some exciting new initiatives we have planned in the upcoming year. From YouTube videos... tiktok page... and potentially even video tutorials! But there's one thing we're excited to present this orientation week alongside this magazine: the new and revised website!

Head on over to uclawsoc.com and take a look!

A special thanks to:

Stephen Todd
Steven Moe
Edenlea Allerby
James B
Sophie Lumb

From Antonio and Britney :)

To expand upon what Britney's written above - hello! If you're not a lawsoc member yet, I highly recommend you sign up via the website (on the right).

I was thrilled when we decided on an early 2000s (y2k/frutiger aero) theme for this issue. I really enjoy doing art design so whilst it was challenging at times, it was incredibly rewarding work.

If you're a fresher - you're also in luck! We tailored this magazine to include the must-knows of legal life at UC.



Kia ora and welcome to 2025 at the best university in New Zealand!

If you are reading this, you have landed in the right place at the right time. Hopefully, you have joined LAWSOC on this sunny Clubs Day, enjoyed one too many sausage sizzles, filled your puku, soaked up some rays, and are now back at your overpriced flat, sifting through your Clubs Day goodies. Lucky for you, this is your reminder of all the amazing perks your LAWSOC membership brings!

Let's talk events.

This term is packed to the brim with opportunities. If you are ready to spread your wings and start applying for clerkships, keep an eye on our social media. We've got events on events lined up to help students like you connect with top firms. Whether you already have a shortlist of dream firms or are still figuring out your next steps, these events are for YOU.

Even if you're not ready to apply yet, attending these events will give you invaluable insights into the legal industry.

Also, let's not forget our **legendary social events**. First up is Lawnch Bowls on Thursday, 27th February (next week!). This is the perfect chance to mix and mingle with your peers, lecturers, and firm representatives before the term kicks off. Plus, you get to show off your lawn bowling skills - though I dare you to bowl better than me. Beyond that, we have got Cocktail Night, the Ball, and a ton of quizzes (all with a legal twist) to help you connect, have fun, and feel like you truly belong in law school.



Sophie Lumb's President's Address

Ready to go the extra mile? Enter our competitions.

Feeling ambitious this year? That's what being a law student is all about. LAWSOC's competitions, including witness examination, paper presentation, client interviewing, and the crown jewel – mooting - are a great way to apply what you have learned in class. Competing gives you a taste of life as a lawyer, and if you win a regional round, you'll get the chance to represent UC at nationals or even in Australia!

In summary, LAWSOC is here for you.

Whether you are here for the social events, academic support, or career-building opportunities, we are dedicated to making your time at UC unforgettable and setting you up for success. Welcome to the club that has your back every step of the way!

Live laugh love LAWSOC!
Sophie B Lumb
2025 LAWSOC President

Dean's Address



Kia ora koutou,

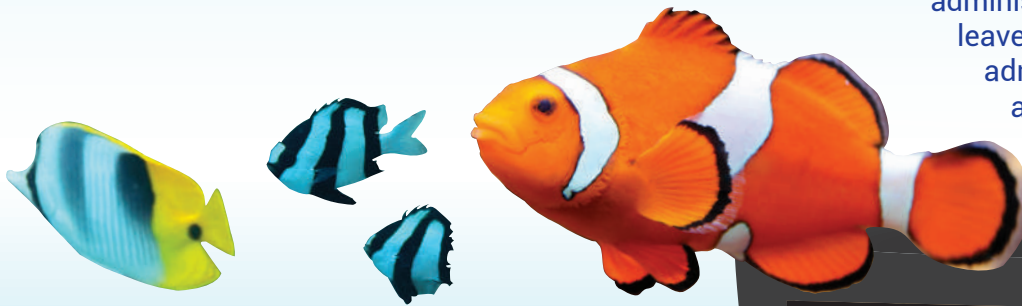
A heartfelt welcome to the 2025 academic year at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | Canterbury University's Faculty of Law | Te Kaupeka Ture whether you are returning to the Law Faculty or are completely new to the University and embarking on studies for the LLB, the BCJ or postgrad law. My academic and professional colleagues and I are very much looking forward to meeting you in the lecture theatres, around campus, or at one of the fantastic events and competitions our eight law and criminal justice clubs are running this year.

I hope you had the opportunity over summer (I hope you found some sunspots) to relax and to spend some time with friends and whānau- ready to start the year with your batteries charged and to immerse yourself in the law and university life, to meet new friends, and to make the most of what Ōtautahi Christchurch has to offer.

If you are new to Christchurch, the University campus, and/or the Law School and it all seems a bit confusing you will not be alone. I was in that position last year and my experience has been that everyone here is super friendly and happy to help – so please ask if you need assistance.

Now let me tell you a bit about the law school. Your Faculty of Law has a proud tradition dating back to 1873 when the University was established. It is known for its innovation and dynamic approach to legal education in New Zealand and is a leading organisation within the University community, the wider social community and also the professional community of, Ōtautahi, Canterbury and Aotearoa

This year will be an exciting one for the Law Faculty: We will welcome four new academic colleagues this year: Abigail Osiki (employment law), Isa Alade (FinTech), and assistant lecturers Bill Burke and Tamahou Thoms. Since the end of last year, we also have a new Faculty manager: Elizabeth Schmidt while Simon Arnold took over the Faculty manager position at Engineering. Excitingly, Alix Morales, one of our academic administrators, will be on parental leave this year. During that time our administration team and students are very lucky since our alumnus, Dr Ibnu Sitompul, has agreed to fill in for Alix.



This year will be the inaugural year of our Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic internship and the first year we will send a team to the Willem C Vis Moot competition in Vienna.

The Faculty will host a number of exciting conferences, inter alia, throughout the year we will have number of events celebrating 35 years of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and at the end of the year we welcome the Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand conference.

Last but definitely not least, we will move into our own space around August (touch wood!). The Law Faculty will make the first four floors of Karl Popper its home. We hope that the ground floor will provide an inviting and flexible space for student (and staff) events.



On the sad side from the Law Faculty's perspective, we had to say goodbye to Professors Liz Toomey and Stephan Todd who both deservingly retired last year and to Dr Adrienne Paul who unfortunately moved to Auckland.

To an interesting and fun-filled 2025!
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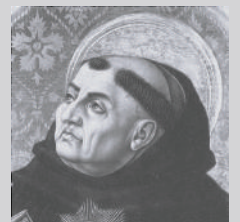


higher truth or human edict?

Naturalism posits that law is discovered through natural order and understood by innate reasoning

What is law? This is the first question you're asked when you start your degree. Yet it seems unfortunate that the question, and jurisprudence more broadly, is quickly sidelined after your first essay in LAWS101. So, as an introduction to freshers, and a recap for seasoned students, I will attempt to set out the contrasting views methodically. By no means, however, is this article definitive.

Naturalism is the view that there are universal moral principles, inherent in nature and discoverable through reason. Accordingly, these principles govern ethical behaviour and form the basis for justice and law. In this way naturalism posits that law, and truth more generally, is objective and based on higher, metaphysical realities. This is clear when Aristotle states "[t]o say that what is is not, or that what is not is, is false; but to say that what is is, and what is not is not, is true". Aristotle considered that law based off of higher truth would enable society to flourish. Thomas Aquinas expanded Aristotle's ideas, asserting that natural law reflects God's eternal law. Aquinas posited that just laws align with this divine order, as unjust laws (*lex iniusta non est lex*) defy God's will. Thus, law is not man-made but a manifestation of divine truth.



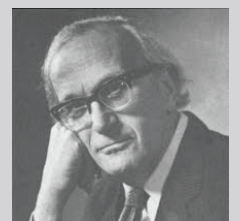
St Thomas Aquinas



Positivism posits that law is created through human authority, and understood through empirical observation

Positivism is the view that law is a man-made system, established through authority and enforceable by institutions. Unlike naturalism, positivism does not find validity in moral values; rather, it holds that law is valid if it is created according to recognized rules and procedures. In this way, law is taken as subjective to the society in which it is created. John Austin defined law as "*the command of the sovereign, backed by sanctions*."

Positivists, consider that law is a social construct, and while moral considerations may influence lawmakers, they do not determine legal validity. H.L.A Hart refined positivism by distinguishing between primary rules (which regulate conduct) and secondary rules (which govern how laws are created and applied). Those secondary rules, which Hart considered rules of recognition, find validity in general public acceptance. This is shown when Hart states "[t]hose who use them ... manifest their own acceptance of them as guiding rules".



H.L.A Hart





In this edition of law school legends we took the opportunity to interview Stephen Todd, who recently retired

tales, tunes and torts with Stephen Todd

Please outline your work with the UC Law Faculty

I joined the faculty in 1982 as a senior lecturer and was promoted to professor in 1994. I recently retired after 42 years here. My key work at Canterbury has been writing the Law of Torts in New Zealand. When I arrived, there wasn't a suitable resource for teaching torts, so I decided to write one. The first edition was published in 1991, and I'm planning a tenth edition in a year or two—after a bit of a rest.

Why did you choose UC?

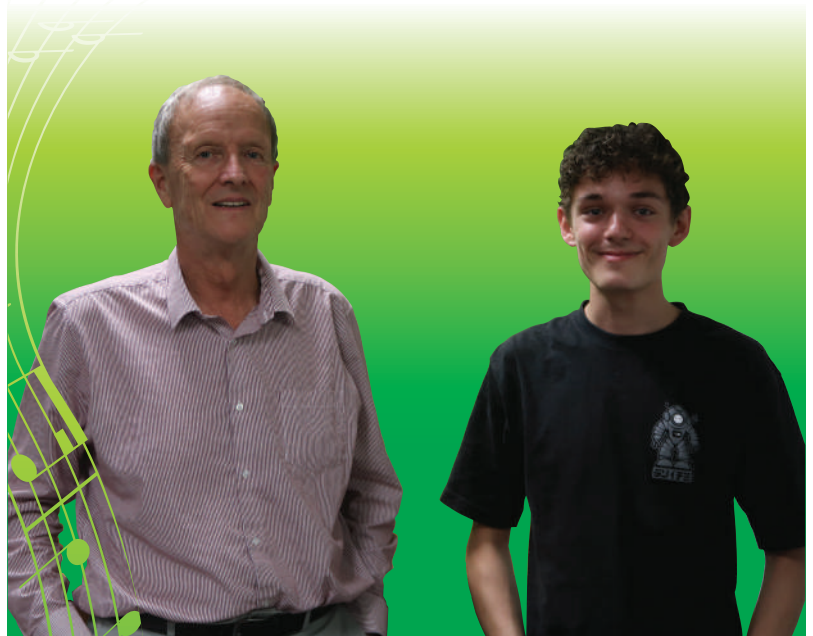
I originally came as a visitor while on leave from the University of Sheffield in the 1980s. I liked New Zealand and the people I worked with, so when a permanent position opened, I applied. Moving was a big decision, but I thought it was a great place to raise my four daughters. They attended Ilam School and could walk over to the university after school. The secretary in the office liked to entertain them, and used to provide them with paper, pencils, scissors, glue etc for them to muck about with.

Do you have any memorable moments from your student days?

I completed my undergraduate and a postgraduate degree at the University of Sheffield. I liked living in Sheffield and certainly enjoyed my time at university. I remember in particular the pub crawls, and also the rag parades where we would sail down the River Don on a home-made boat while raising money for charities. We had to work too, of course, but we managed to balance studying with having a good time.

Do you have a favourite judge?

I'd say Lord Denning, though his judgments are less prominent today. He was certainly an iconoclastic and innovative judge. Another standout is Lord Reid, who was highly regarded for his leading contributions to decisions of the House of Lords in the 1960s and early 1970s.



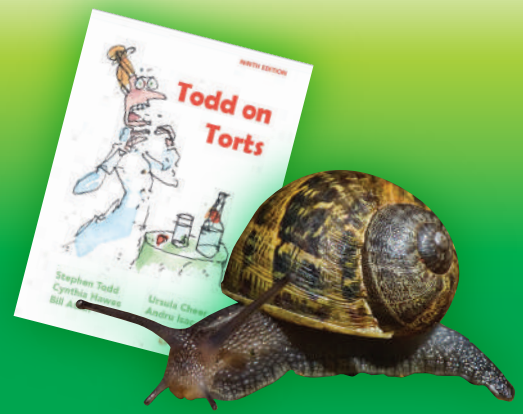
Could you explain what inspired your book *Leading Cases in Song*?

This book is my favourite publication. I originally wrote a couple of songs for the Law Revue, which inspired me to write more and which led me to the idea of writing a songbook. The work involved matching a lot of amusing cases with cheerful Gilbert and Sullivan tunes. For example, I recall lying in bed thinking about *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball* and wondering what tune I could use for a song about Mrs C hearing about the wonders of the defendant's smokeball, reading the advert and deciding to buy it.

After falling asleep I woke up in the middle of the night with an idea: might The Lord High Executioner from "The Mikado" be transposed to a song called The Smokeball Flu Preventioner? It seemed to me it could, and I quickly wrote the title down in case I had forgotten the idea when I woke up in the morning. I used to spend many hours in front of my computer listening to songs and working out what tune would work with what case, and eventually I came up with the book of songs. Writing the book was a most enjoyable experience.

What advice would you give to students pursuing careers in law?

A career in law can be rewarding, but it's essential to enjoy what you do. My academic career has allowed me to teach, of course, and has given me full opportunities to write, to attend conferences around the world, and to meet many interesting people. In England I practised briefly as a barrister, but on coming to NZ I found my passion in academia. Pursue something you're passionate about, and you'll do well.



If you could change one area of tort law, what would it be?

I'm particularly interested in failed sterilisation cases and, more recently, the IVF cases where the wrong sperm or embryo has been used. Courts have tried to resolve such cases appropriately, but there's room for improvement in the law. I would give a remedy based on wrongful interference with the parents' reproductive autonomy, and also develop a claim specifically for a child living a life with disabilities against any person who caused the disabilities.

Do you see tort law as a tool for social justice, especially in cases like *Smith v Fonterra*?

Tort law is inherently a tool for social justice, although sometimes there is difficulty for the courts in deciding where to draw the line. In *Smith v Fonterra* the Supreme Court declined to strike out claims against seven NZ companies for allegedly contributing to damage caused by climate change, but finding a remedy in respect of a major world-wide problem seems to me more suited to government intervention than private law actions. Courts face challenges in articulating a suitable cause of action, in resolving causation problems and in crafting practical remedies, whether damages, injunctions or declarations. These are complex issues that push at the boundaries of tort law. Speaking broadly, they raise the whole question of the relationship between the courts and Parliament and how far courts ought to intervene in this area.

What are your plans for the future?

I am going to carry on with some academic work, in particular the torts and (probably) the contract books. I am currently working on a new project: writing about amusing legal cases as stories for children. I was inspired by my six-year-old grandson, who asked me what a tort was, and now he always wants to hear more about funny cases. As he was so interested I sat down and wrote 10 stories, bound them up and gave them to my 8 grandchildren at Christmas. I am always on the lookout for new and entertaining decisions, and hope to turn the stories into my next publishing venture.



Is ACC a good scheme?

Yes, ACC is a well-constructed system for dealing with injuries coherently and fairly. It avoids the social problem overseas of relying on common law liability, which very frequently leaves many victims of personal injury without compensation. While ACC has its challenges, it's an effective solution for New Zealand.

Why haven't other countries adopted a similar scheme?

There are various systems overseas, but New Zealand does seem to have the most comprehensive. When ACC was introduced it upset vested interests, particularly those of lawyers who lost work, but lawyers here, to their credit, broadly supported it. Smaller countries like New Zealand can more easily implement such schemes. Politicians elsewhere may hesitate due to concerns about bureaucracy and costs, but ACC has proven to be broadly affordable and beneficial.

Sophie Hargreaves,
2024 Summer Intern

Mathew Brown,
Partner, Wellington

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WHO'S THE NEWEST EXEC IN TOWN?

Meet the EXEC

This year there's a lot of exec to meet - 18 to be exact!

To know them better, Britney and I have asked three questions:

1. Biggest LOL fresher moment? 2. What animal would you be? 3. Weird habit?

Vice President

Ally Basa

There are two things Ally is a pro at: music and yapping. She's crazy in a good way, and passionate about lots, like badminton, drums and singing. We can be sure Ally's law camp will be off the charts.

1. Having a bit too much to drink before heading into town, and spending three hours in the bus interchange bathrooms before a 6am flight
2. Cat
3. Still dabbing even after 2016

When someone tells you "I'm from Hawkes Bay", you wouldn't expect them to be eccentric. Yet Fleur subverts expectations! If Fleur led a communist regime, its mantra would be "Equal labor, equal leisure, work hard, play harder!" - but Fleur is a literary enthusiast, so there'd be no book burning!

1. Ate a burnt stick that taste like "smoked salmon".
2. Chihuahua
3. Doing handstands when I can

Social

Fleur Bary

Treasurer

Jane Tingley

Jane is a classic kiwi, keen on the outdoors and a beer to relax. Her financial prudence has no limits, and you can often find her thrifting for deals at Toffs. No doubt we can trust Tingley as our trustee.

1. Thinking that law was going to be a breeze.
2. A sugar glider
3. I have a bad habit of losing my phone, anywhere and everywhere.

President

Sophie Lumb But certainly not dumb!

Sophie has climbed the ranks quickly, brandishing an ethos of maximising the club's efficiency and student focus. Australian and former ballerina, Sophie's gracefully plied into her position as president!

1. Should not be public knowledge.
2. Cougar.
3. Always cooking enough food to feed a small village.

Social

Isabella Paerata

Bella's keen to make the events this year great. She's a real tough cookie and keeps the troops in line. Bella may love to procrastinate, travel, and sleep, but don't worry - this Law Ball won't be a snore ball!

1. Sleep walked and woke up in the tupu courtyard (I was on the 6th floor)
2. Leopard
3. Singing mid convo

WHO'S THE NEWEST EXEC IN TOWN?

Meet the EXEC

A dependable friend and Jane's designated study buddy, Britney is on top of her workload, doing her honours thesis on plant variety rights.

Obiter She'll never leaf you hanging.
Britney Campbell

1. Crying on the phone to law staff during my EoY online LAWS101 exam because my word count was 600 words over and there was nothing I thought I could cut out in time.
2. A goat (erratic)
3. Eating the same breakfast and lunch meal prep for 2 yrs +

These edu/welfare officers get the job DONE!

Edu/Welfare
Georgiana House

Georgie brings a certain je ne sais quoi to the club - the bark and the bite, the charm and the chaos - leaving everyone wondering what her next move may be. She doesn't beat around the bush, she cuts straight through it!

1. Joining LAWSOC
2. Meerkat
3. Rewatching the same TV shows over and over

2nd Yr Rep

Andrew Blake

A theatre kid who's maybe a Brit or maybe a Scot? Andrew has a balanced lifestyle of lots of movies and a few brews ;) Andrew and Coco are bound to bring the brains, the banter and the energy to make 2025 an absolute blast.

1. The stat interp question in LAWS101. Banning cats was not what I thought I'd be writing about in university!
2. Hyena (iykyk)
3. Forcing people around me to do dances from "Just Dance"

Hello! I am Antonio. Punctuality might not be my thing, but at least my punctuation is alright Like some of the others here I study. Law. Oh yes, but it is my legal duty to inform of a conflict of interest in writing my own bio :(

Obiter
Antonio Sidonio

1. Biking everywhere (still do).
2. Snow leopard
3. Triple checking the door is locked everytime I leave the house - "I've played these games before!"

Toby is your typical Wellington chap. Fortunately for us Toby was blown down by those pesky Wellington winds to study law and commerce. You can catch Toby at the gym on his winter arc.

Edu/Welfare
Toby Spackman

1. Pushed too hard on leg day at the gym and needed to get my calves taped to walk
2. Unicorn
3. Mass freezing individually glad wrapped and buttered hot cross buns so they can last for the year (60 in 2024)

2nd Yr Rep

Coco ain't loco, but she is an eager beaver! When this Aucklander is not running in circles or scrapbooking, she's watching Suits to educate herself on the legal world.

1. Being escorted out of the Foundry (twice)
2. Otter
3. Drinking copious amounts of chocolate milk

Coco Pett

Meet the EXEC

Maggie's an adventurer at heart - sailing to Finnish lands but back to finish her degree. Maggie's big on balancing her time, spending it mainly with family and friends.

1. Vomiting in an uber and avoiding the clean up fee by doing it in my covid mask.

Score!.

2. Beaver.

3. Organising my phone apps by the colour of the rainbow

Promo **Magdalen Gibson**

Ethan hit the ground running at university - doing everything from UCom to competing in negotiations.

Now he's comps officer - the student becomes the master. Ethan's a big fan of Lord of the Rings. When applying for exec he must've thought to himself "you shall not pass... on this great opportunity!"

1. Forgot my access card and got locked out of my room a hall record 12 times

2. Llama

3. Wearing my lucky Chicago Bears socks whenever I've got something important

Law Revue

Caitlin Montford

Seeing Cait on campus is a pleasant surprise, albeit rare. Montford keeps things mysterious, and we can bet she'll have an ace up her sleeve with law revue.

1. Thinking I was too mature for fresher antics and now I'm out every weekend
2. Lizard
3. If my cutlery doesn't match I flip out and have to match it to the best of my ability



Promo **Juliet Knowles**

Juliet chose law, since, like many, she was told she was good at arguing. You would think that loving country music and beauty mecca loops are diametrically opposed - but not for Juliet!

1. Going in to see the first year advisors to change courses

instead of doing it online.

2. Ladybug

3. Ensuring I haven't posted on socials before sleeping.

Promo

Janre Lim



From the Philippines but having moved to Methven at the age of 13, Janre has seen many landscapes, from tropics to tundras. No doubt this has influenced his creative flair!

1. Arrived at K1 late so I decided to skip the lecture
2. Wolf
3. Doom scrolling

Kira is a calm and hardworking student. But whilst Kira may keep her nose on the grindstone, her feet are on the dancefloor. The world is Kira's disco, and she doesn't miss a beat.

1. Finding a stick in my dinner at uni hall
3. Being unable to remember making a coffee until it's cold

Comps

Kira Seaman

Bio above!



Comps

Ethan Cleland

Filling in the new role as sports officer is Nick. Smart, talented and an esteemed footballer.

I guess you could say he's ballin' in several ways.

Sports

Nicholas Dalziel

1. Dropping an entire bottle of whiskey off my shelf trying to hide it from the room inspector, smashing it all over the floor and making the room smell like whiskey. Very subtle.
2. Orangutan
3. Spending too much money on Lego



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Study how and where it suits, with regular start dates to fit in with your timeframes.



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Events



Lawsoc hosts variety of events, ranging from competitions to a ball. Here's a timeline of just a few key events this year! See uclawsoc.com/events for our full list.



Starting the year off with a bang - or should I say a roll, is the "lawncn night", which is the 27th of February. At this event we'll play lawn bowls - the perfect event to meet new people. Then, the following day is the junior launch night where freshers can meet their fellow first years.

For second years, fairly soon after launch night, on the 8-9th March we'll be having our infamous law camp. Rumour has it there'll be massive changes this year! Later, on the 27th March will be a classy cocktail night, to which everyone is invited.



Between March and May is a series of exciting law competitions. It consists of mooting, negotiation, witness examination, client interviewing and paper presentation. These competitions will give you practical skills and a competitive edge in the work force (and they're really fun!). There are both senior and junior comps, for the youngsters. For dates and more info, go to uclawsoc.com/competitions

On the 19th of July there is our law ball, an event of epic proportions which you must not miss. Get in quick because tickets tend to sell out for this one! Then, as the year comes to a close experience watch the law revue, a show of legal wit where satire meets skits.

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Steven Moe

In this article, we interviewed Parry Field partner Steven Moe.

Could you explain how your upbringing influenced your decision to study law and how it shaped your career?

Looking back, I didn't have lawyers in my immediate family, but I knew some, like Ken Lord, who worked at Parry Field Lawyers. He invited me to work there one summer, which opened my eyes to the potential impact lawyers can have. Over time, I realised that being a lawyer is about creating change and helping others. I've built a career focused on making an impact. I wish someone had told me early that law is a way to help many people, it's not just about academics and the pay.



What did you enjoy most about your time at UC, and do you have any memorable or funny stories?

During my time I realised that University offers so much freedom to get involved in clubs and different activities outside of study. I made a lot of really good friends at Canterbury and they make up some of my fondest memories. It's a unique time where you can learn new things, like a language or something outside your field, which I'd encourage everyone to try. Once you start working, you realise how structured life becomes.



With over 420 episodes of your Seeds podcast, what inspired you to start it, and what's your biggest sense of achievement from hosting this?

I started Seeds seven years ago, and record weekly. I really wanted to showcase the amazing people I kept meeting whose work often goes unnoticed. Media tends to highlight negativity, but I wanted to share stories of these inspiring people and encourage others that their work does matter. One interview that stands out is with someone who had brain cancer and passed away three months later. His family thanked me for preserving his voice and story, which could be shared with future generations. To help one person on one family – it is moments like those which are why I keep doing this.

How did living and working overseas influence your career and current work?

I spent a year teaching English in Osaka, Japan when I was 21, during my law studies. This experience shaped me significantly, as I learnt skills of cross-cultural understanding and new perspectives which can be very limiting during sole law study. Later, I worked in London, Tokyo, and Sydney at an international law firm with 8,000 employees. These roles taught me efficiency, deal-making, and practicing law on a global scale. I've brought these skills back to Christchurch, but my work now has a national focus.

Any advice for upcoming lawyers that you'd like to share?

Be proactive and look for ways to add value in every situation. For example, if you're asked to write a legal memo, do an excellent job but also consider additional issues that might benefit the client. Taking initiative, like drafting a cover email, saves time and demonstrates your commitment. Always ask, "How can I add value?" Your efforts will be appreciated.

Could you share the core message of The Apple Tree and what inspired you to write it?

I wanted to dispel the misconception that lawyers aren't creative and I wanted to give expression to my own creativity. The Apple Tree reflects my belief that the seeds you plant today may not sprout overnight but they will grow, even if you don't see immediate results your work does matter. Someone that I respected read my short story and actually said it made them cry so I thought the deeper emotional value was worth publishing. I collaborated with illustrator Cricket McCormack to bring it to life. The message is simple: your actions matter, even if the impact isn't visible right away.

Your other publications, like The Social Enterprise Handbook and The Startups Legal Toolkit, have influenced many. How did these come about?

The Social Enterprise Handbook started as a series of short articles. One day when skiing up Mount Hutt, I realised these could form a book, so I compiled them. Writing a book may seem daunting and like it would take forever, but it's manageable if you take small steps and I'd encourage anybody who's reading this that it's not that hard to write a book, you just have to start writing little bits and then bring them together. I know it's been read by thousands, shaped businesses and inspired others, so this was a seed which was planted which has now had far reaching impacts.

Steven Moe has written several books - two of these shown to the right are "The Apple Tree" and "Social Enterprises".



How do you manage challenges, work-life balance, and disappointment?

I've learned to reframe failures as compost for future success. This mindset came from interviewing Michael Mayell, founder of Cookie Time, who said his early failed startups taught him invaluable lessons. If something doesn't work out, I view it as an opportunity to learn and grow. It's also essential to be very clear of your identity and base your identity on who you are as a person, not your job title because this can lead to a crash and feeling of failure if something does not work out. A law degree offers many career paths - focus on finding a role that aligns with your calling and the good you want to do in the world.

Any final word you would like to offer?

You are a leader, even if you're only leading yourself. Think about the person you want to become and start building that foundation now. Whether it's learning a language, working abroad, or shaping your career, take proactive steps toward your goals. We're all becoming someone - decide who that will be.





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NEW ZEALAND LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Kia ora e te whānau! On behalf of the New Zealand Law Students Association (NZLSA), we want to welcome everyone at Canterbury back for another year of fun, friends, and maybe even a little study along the way! NZLSA is here to represent, support, and advocate for law students across Aotearoa. To learn more about what we do check out our website or find us on our socials.

ABOUT US

NZLSA acts as the parent body for all six on-campus Law Student Societies (LSS) including your university's very own LAWSOC.

NZLSA negotiates sponsorship for the five regional competitions held at each law school: Mooting, Negotiation, Client Interviewing, Witness Examination, and Paper Presentation. Regional champions then progress to the annual NZLSA Conference to compete for the national titles.

Enhancing legal education is at the heart of what NZLSA does. In 2023, we introduced the National Education and Wellbeing Survey, which has received nearly 2,000 responses in the last two years. The survey is set to return in 2025, and we encourage everyone to complete the survey when it becomes available in April. In 2023, we also relaunched the New Zealand Law Students' Journal, which aims to publish high-quality research by New Zealand law students and to provide opportunities for students to participate in the legal publishing process. NZLSA also plays an active role in representing student interests. Two NZLSA representatives sit on the Council of Legal Education, chaired by Campbell J of the Court of Appeal, making submissions where necessary on issues relevant to law students.

THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

The NZLSA Council is comprised of the six law student society presidents and the NZLSA executive, and meets regularly throughout the year to share ideas, collaborate on initiatives and discuss issues relevant to law students nationwide.

Isaiah Ong
Emily McCrostie
Marcus Widvey
Lucy Vellenoweth
Angelica Herbst
Liam Connolly
Maha Fier
Meghan Grant
and Rita Shasha

President
Administrative Vice President
Treasurer
Competition Vice President
Education Vice President
Marketing Vice President
Conference Convenor
Council of Legal Education
(CLE) Representative



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<https://nzlsa.com>

2025 KEY EVENTS

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

- **Bell Gully Open Mooting:** Mooting is the most prestigious legal competition, involving drafting written submissions and presenting oral arguments in a simulated court proceeding. National winners qualifying for the largest moot competition in the world, the Philip C. Jessup International Moot in Washington, D.C. Previous winners from the University of Canterbury include Tipping J formerly of the Supreme Court.
- **Buddle Findlay Open Negotiation:** Negotiation is a practical competition where teams of two negotiate a problem for their respective clients using common and confidential facts. National winners qualify for the International Negotiation Competition (INC). Your university's own Nathan Collins represented New Zealand in Italy in 2023.
- **IPLS Client Interviewing:** This competition involves interviewing a client to extract as much information as possible and offering preliminary legal advice. National winners qualify for the Brown-Mosten International Client Consultation Competition. Victoria University of Wellington's Isla Clarkson and Jimmy Fiso represented New Zealand in Poland in 2024 and will compete again in Scotland in 2025.
- **MinterEllisonRuddWatts Witness Examination:** Witness Examination is a mock court hearing where competitors act as counsel for either the plaintiff/prosecution or defence, conducting an opening, examination-in-chief, cross-examination and closing. Regional winners are invited to compete at the ALSA Conference, and will receive partial sponsorship from MinterEllisonRuddWatts to compete in Australia.
- **LexisNexis Paper Presentation:** This competition involves researching and writing a 3,000–5,000-word legal essay on a topic of their choice, and then presenting it to a panel of judges. Regional winners are also invited to compete at the ALSA Conference, and receive full sponsorship from LexisNexis to travel to Australia!

NZLSA CONFERENCE

NZLSA's annual conference rotates among the six law schools, with the University of Auckland hosting the 2025 Conference from 27-30 August. The Conference hosts the five national competitions, where students qualify to compete against the world's best overseas! NZLSA's Patron, Glazebrook J of the Supreme Court, attends the Conference to judge the national mooting final and delivers a keynote speech at the Closing Gala. To attend, delegates must win their respective LSS regional competition. For details, contact your LSS competition officers.

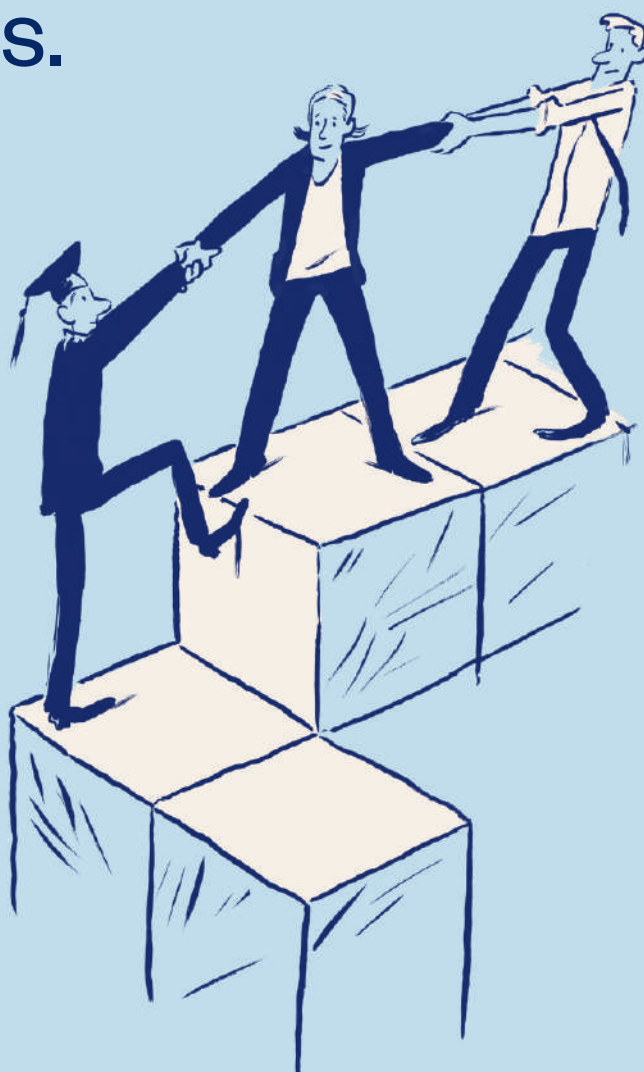
AUSTRALIAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

All regional winners have the opportunity to hop across the ditch each year to compete against Oceania's best at the ALSA Conference! ALSA is a much larger version of our Conference, with delegates from all 38 Australian law schools. The week-long event features competitions, social events, and educational panels. This year, ALSA will be held in Canberra from 28 July to 3 August! (Pictured, middle: last year's team at ALSA in Hobart!). More information on ALSA to come.



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