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WHY AM I STUDYING LAW?

Law courses are usually very tough to enter and can involve a great deal of hard work ... Law is a terrific field because it offers the opportunity for intellectual absorption, as well as career preparation ... The increase in law students in recent years has caused the LLB to transform from a purely professional degree to a popular generalist qualification.

‘The Good Universities Guide’¹

1 Hobsons Pty Ltd, ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’ (Melbourne: Hobsons Pty Ltd, 2012), at 165.

Introduction

Congratulations! You did it. You made it into law school. Now the hard work really begins! You are about to join an honourable profession that has dedicated itself to a number of ideals, such as: the pursuit of justice; equality before the law; the pursuit of truth; the pursuit of the maintenance of the ‘rule of law’ (a term to be discussed below); the pursuit of a satisfying career; the pursuit of intellectual stimulation; and, for some, the pursuit of a comfortable living.

Congratulations on
making it to law school

You may have entered law school in search of one or more of the above ideals, but whatever the reason, getting there is only half the battle. Staying in law school, managing the enormous workload and meeting the challenge of understanding what are at times difficult concepts are the real challenges. The attrition rate in law is high—in some law schools, up to two-thirds of students who commence studies fail to graduate with the coveted Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or equivalent. While this book cannot increase your intellectual ability, it will provide many useful hints on how to deliver what a university law school demands. Simple things—such as being able to analyse cases and solve legal problems in a structured fashion that display a high level of analysis and synthesis—will allow you not only to succeed at the study of law, but also to maximise your potential.

Gaining entry to law school
is only half the battle

The first thing to accept is that studying law is very different from other disciplines (a point to be discussed in more detail in Chapter 3). Second, most students enter a university law school to undertake a combined law degree straight from their final year of secondary school, and will soon find that, unlike school studies, the study of law at university in Australia does not rely on ‘rote’ learning; that is, memorising parts of judgments and statutes is relatively useless! Not even law firms look for that ability any more, at least not since the advent of sophisticated legal databases accessible through the World Wide Web. Within two hours of the High Court handing down a decision in Canberra, any lawyer around the country (and, indeed, overseas) can download the case, read it and apply it. Therefore, the ability to regurgitate judgments is a task now performed by machines.

Studying law is not about
‘rote’ learning

What does the study of law entail?

The study of law in Australia is about critical analysis and synthesis. When we say ‘critical’, we mean that you need to be able to consider the law and how it

affects—and is in turn affected by—the society within which it operates. Put simply, law does not exist in a vacuum, so your ‘critical’ analysis requires you to consider the social, economic, historical, and philosophical implications of the law and its impact on the community it serves. When it comes to ‘analysis’ it is important to be able to identify the legal issue(s) and then cite the appropriate authorities, but then you must be able to analyse the fact pattern before you can argue the facts and law in a coherent manner that produces a well-reasoned conclusion. ‘Synthesis’ requires you to take your critical analysis and mount an argument that is informed by the current state of the law together with persuasive reasoning as to why a court should vary or overturn its previous decisions.

Studying law is about critical analysis and synthesis

Lawyers should know what the law is when they enter a courtroom. If they do not know the law, then by rights they should not be charging their clients fees for service! Every day, in courtrooms around Australia, lawyers seek to explore the difference in facts between their client’s case and the case that is the current precedent (‘precedent’ meaning a court decision that states the current law in relation to the issue before the court). Every day, lawyers seek to exploit the grey area of facts that may allow a court to apply precedent, distinguish precedent (where precedent is not applied because some essential difference exists between it and the case before the court), or perhaps overturn precedent (where the court, considering a similar fact situation, decides that the precedent was wrong). The use of precedent will be discussed in Chapter 5. For the moment, all you need to appreciate is that in this process, lawyers rely on analysis and synthesis. They analyse the facts in a way that will allow the court to apply or distinguish the accepted precedent, or they find new law or a variation of existing law, and then they argue their point. The sooner you learn the intellectual skills of analysis and synthesis, the sooner you will start to ‘think and act like a lawyer’. Thinking like a lawyer is a guarantee of good marks being achieved in assessed tasks at law school.

Learn the intellectual skill of legal analysis and synthesis; ‘think and act like a lawyer’

What is law all about?

While different lawyers would answer the above question differently, from the community’s perspective the law provides a set of rules within which it operates. The importance of law is that people know what they can and cannot

do. Without laws, society would be disorganised. Even simple things such as travelling on the roads would be reduced to chaos, with people not knowing which side of the road to travel on and who to give way to at intersections. You can imagine raising the level of importance of this analogy to violence within our society and the need for laws to protect the defenceless in society.

The law provides a set of rules within which the community operates

So the law is about the development and the maintenance of the rules by which we live. But it is a bit more complex than that. In Chapter 8 we will explore the development of the law and embark on a historical journey that will help to explain further what law is all about, but first, let us look at the rule of law.

The rule of law

So while the question ‘What is law all about?’ can be answered simply by stating that it is about a set of rules, that is not a complete answer. A second concept to understand is a concept called ‘the rule of law’. The rule of law is an English doctrine that essentially means that all people are equal before the law. It does not matter if a person is a government official, a police officer, a judge, or a bricklayer; all people will be treated the same before the law. A notable exception is the sovereign. The rule of law has three important components:

The rule of law essentially means that all people are equal before the law

- i) the law is predominant, so the government has no arbitrary power over the citizen;
- ii) the law administered by ordinary courts applies equally to all; and
- iii) the citizen’s personal freedoms are protected by the law rather than by any special constitutional guarantees that favour certain sections of the community.

The reason that the rule of law is important is because our courts are the guardians of the rule of law and the law itself serves to ensure the survival of the rule of law, thereby protecting all people equally. The preservation of the rule of law is, some would say, the most important answer to the question ‘What is law all about?’

Careers in the law

According to the 2012 Australian Graduate Survey,² 70.1 per cent of law graduates are in full-time employment; 19.7 per cent are in further full-time study; 4.6 per cent are in part-time or casual employment; and 5.4 per cent are unavailable for full-time study or work. Of those available for full-time employment, 81.7 per cent are working in the law.

In addition, ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’³ (based on collection results from 2012) states that about 83 per cent of law graduates gain employment upon graduating. Australia-wide, those law graduates gaining immediate employment end up in the following job areas:

- 55 per cent in private legal practice;
- 19 per cent in the public sector (government legal and non-legal departments);
- 23 per cent in private industry (in legal and non-legal roles); and
- 2 per cent in employment abroad.

Even though only just over half of all law graduates are employed in private law firms, law graduates are employed in a wide variety of law-related jobs. In fact, there is barely a job that can be performed that does not have legal ramifications. For example, those who supervise or manage employees in just about any capacity need to be aware of industrial relations and occupational health and safety laws. Likewise, when conducting business in Australia today, the governance of organisations is covered by a plethora of legislation, foremost of which are the complex requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and the *Competition and Consumer Act 2012* (Cth). Both statutes have federal watchdogs—in the form of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) respectively—that enforce the aforementioned statutes governing trade and commerce in Australia. Outside of the corporate watchdogs, consumers have numerous pieces of consumer legislation protecting their rights. So the conduct of all types of business

There is barely a job that can be performed that does not have legal ramifications

2 <http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/Research/GradJobsDollars/BachelorAll/Law/index.htm> (accessed 5 April 2013).

3 Hobsons Pty Ltd, ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’ (Melbourne: Hobsons Pty Ltd, 2012).

in Australia is intrinsically linked to law. Hence the value of a law degree in the conduct of just about any business in the country.

But let us get back to careers in the law. For those 55 per cent of law graduates who enter private legal practice, predominantly as solicitors, the areas of practice are many and varied. It is not uncommon to find most large commercial law firms having a number of practice areas, including the following non-exhaustive list:

- aviation
- banking and finance
- biotech and health
- capital markets
- communications media and technology
- competition law
- construction
- energy
- environment and planning
- family and child services
- financial services reform
- funds management—real estate and superannuation
- government regulation
- infrastructure
- insolvency and restructuring
- insurance
- intellectual property
- litigation and dispute resolution
- mergers and acquisitions
- native title
- patents and trade marks
- privacy
- product liability
- project finance
- real property
- resources

- securitisation
- tax
- workplace relations
- private practice.

All of the above means that there is something for everyone who wishes to enter the legal profession. The practice areas offered by the large firms are replicated in common practice clusters in medium and small firms. Small firms, or those commonly known as ‘general practice’ firms, tend to include criminal law as a practice area. Because of the high level of specialisation within the law, lawyers in large and medium firms tend to specialise in one or two areas of the above-listed areas of practice. Generally, law graduates in larger firms will be rotated through three different areas in their first 12–18 months as a solicitor, after which they will be settled in one area where they will continue to gain the necessary experience and skills of a specialist lawyer.

Public sector

Of the approximately 19 per cent of law graduates that end up working in the public sector, those that practise law will find themselves doing some specialist tasks. For example, lawyers may just be dealing with commercial leasing documents or with construction contracts frequently used by the government department they are employed by. Just like any organisation, the government—whether it is state, territory, or federal—has specific needs to satisfy when it comes to legal services. While only solicitors are generally employed by government departments (with the exception of state, territory, and federal criminal prosecution authorities), those solicitors will find themselves doing a variety of skill-based work within the specialist area they operate in. For example, interviewing, drafting, advice work, presentations, and briefing counsel are just some of the tasks government solicitors become involved with on a day-to-day basis.

Lawyers working in the public sector will find themselves doing some specialist tasks

Generally, when the government is suing or being sued, it will brief a member (or members) of the independent bar in the state or territory they are being sued in or are taking action in. In this way, like privately run organisations, they do not have to go to the expense of actually employing barristers to act on those occasions when litigation is likely. There is one notable exception.

The offices of the various Directors of Public Prosecutions (state, territory, and federal) employ Crown Prosecutors to bring criminal prosecutions before the courts. These prosecutors are members of their respective state or territory bar associations and act as advocates on almost a daily basis for their respective directors.

Corporate counsel

Of the approximately 23 per cent of law graduates that work in private industry, those that practise law will find themselves doing a number of specialist tasks. For example, a common combination is to have specialist corporate or in-house counsel dealing with issues such as: industrial relations; contract drafting and maintenance; and matters relating to corporate governance and regulation. As with government departments, even though the areas of law

The areas of law that in-house counsel practise in is wide ranging

may be specialised, lawyers will find themselves doing a wide variety of tasks. The areas of law that in-house counsel practise in is as wide ranging as the kinds of businesses found in Australia and its trading partners.

Solicitor or barrister?

Following admission to their respective state or territory Supreme Courts, lawyers have a choice as to whether they practise as a solicitor or a barrister. While in some states, for example Victoria, a firm of lawyers may describe themselves as ‘barristers and solicitors’, an individual lawyer may only hold a practising certificate as one or the other at any point in time. A practising certificate is the legal requirement of legal practitioners to practise and is

A lawyer may only hold a practising certificate as either a solicitor or a barrister at any one time

administered by the respective law societies or institutes and bar associations in each state and territory. Practising certificates allow legal practitioners to call themselves either barristers or solicitors, and usually tell a client that the lawyer is covered by professional indemnity and trust account fraud insurance.

Solicitors make up the vast bulk of the legal profession and handle the sort of work described above, and more. They are often described as being those lawyers who conduct general aspects of giving legal advice, transaction-based law (such as the drafting of contracts), and the general requirements of the conduct of litigation. While solicitors handle the bulk

of work generated in legal practice, in litigation they serve the purpose of: administering and managing the litigation; communicating with the client(s) and witness(es); assisting in the process of research and information gathering; and instructing the barrister(s) regarding the client's instructions.

Barristers are those lawyers that act as advocates for litigants in courts and tribunals. In addition, most barristers undertake the writing of opinions on specialist areas of the law. Barristers are specialists in advocating a client's case in court, and for this reason they are experts in the rules of evidence and the rules and procedures of court. It is important to understand that solicitors are not prevented from acting as advocates in any jurisdiction and that many solicitors spend most of their time in court acting as advocates in a variety of matters. However, depending on the type of matter, many solicitors will brief a barrister to appear as they are the expert section of the legal profession that specialises in court advocacy.

Judges and parliamentarians

Finally, it should be mentioned that two other high-profile jobs attract many lawyers. First, the judiciary, which is charged with the important task of judging cases that require adjudication. Judges are generally drawn from the senior ranks of barristers. This is logical because barristers are experts in advocating cases before judges sitting in courts. Therefore, barristers have an excellent knowledge of the rules of evidence and rules of court and are the obvious choice for elevation to the bench. However, some senior solicitors and academic lawyers have been known to take up positions on the bench. Second, many politicians in both state and territory parliaments as well as federal parliament have law degrees. Given that parliament is largely about making law, it is not surprising that many lawyers seek a career in local, state, or federal government.

Judges are generally drawn from the senior ranks of barristers

Why study law?

Intellectual stimulation

The study of law is in some respects no different to other academic disciplines in that it is intellectually challenging and very interesting. If you have a desire to study law to determine the way in which it affects different parts of the

Think about how the law
could be changed to better
serve our society

community, or how it could—or should—be changed to better serve our society, then you have picked the right discipline. Studying law gives you that opportunity.

There is no doubt that some professions or vocations are repetitive in the tasks that people have to perform, and law is no exception. Lawyers routinely undertake activities that are repetitive. However, depending on the area of law practised, lawyers generally find the job an intellectually stimulating one. It is not only the law that changes frequently, depending on what area you practise in, but also the rules of court that change, to allow for new methods of conducting the court's business. Certainly in the area of litigation, the court rules and procedures are dynamic and keep up to date with technological and other changes occurring in society. The courts issue practice notes to assist lawyers to understand the methods by which they manage their workload.

Despite the fact that some areas of the law move slowly because of settled principles, for example, contract law, other areas change frequently, such as taxation, industrial relations and immigration law. In recognition of the fact that the law and its administrative procedures change regularly, the various law societies, institutes, and bar associations in each state and territory require lawyers to achieve a certain level of continuing legal education for each year that they practise. Most law societies, institutes, and bar associations have similar systems of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) that may include the following features:

- The participant must undertake around 10 hours of MCLE per year prior to the renewal of each year's practising certificate.
- The activity qualifying the participant for MCLE must be of significant intellectual or practical content and must deal primarily with matters directly related to the practice of law.
- The activity qualifying the participant for MCLE must be conducted by persons who are qualified by practical or academic experience in the subject covered.
- The MCLE must be relevant to a legal practitioner's immediate or long-term needs in relation to the practitioner's professional development.
- Activities qualifying for MCLE can be a face-to-face activity, or an individual professional development activity such as teaching or training

others in the legal profession. There must usually be a minimum number of hours of face-to-face activities.

- Sometimes, the law society, institute, or bar association may prescribe certain authorised providers of MCLE activities.

The law offers almost constant intellectual stimulation and the limit of one's intellectual stimulation may ultimately depend on the type of matters presented to the lawyer by his or her clients. In this respect, members of the legal profession acting as solicitors are entitled to turn down a client if the area of law is not one that the lawyer is proficient in. This ensures that clients receive highly professional and competent legal representation. This serves the client well and it serves the court system—and therefore the community—well by ensuring the efficient and competent resolution of civil disputes and the prosecution of criminal matters.

Solicitors may turn down a client if they are not proficient in that area of law

Postgraduate studies

These days, most university law schools offer extensive postgraduate research degrees that can assist those lawyers wishing to continue learning and developing professionally. A vast array of specialisations are available in the various Master of Laws (LLM) programs at most university law schools. These degrees can be taken either by coursework or by thesis, usually the latter leading to a Master of Law with honours (LLM (Hons)). For those with a yearning for research, most university law schools offer Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs that enable research that will make an original contribution to the body of legal knowledge in Australia culminating in a thesis of about 80–100,000 words. Finally comes another degree that falls between a Masters and a PhD, called the Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD). The SJD usually requires a candidate to pass a component of coursework and to conduct some original research written up as a thesis (usually of about 50–80,000 words). While Masters degrees are common in the legal fraternity, the SJD and PhD are quite rare. An academic career generally requires a SJD or PhD, but a higher degree by research is not essential for the practice of law.

Most university law schools offer extensive postgraduate research degrees

Remuneration

Let us explode one of the great myths about law. Not all lawyers make six-figure salaries. In fact, very few lawyers make six-figure salaries and those who do usually work, or have worked, seven days a week and 12 hours a day to get to the point in their career where they can earn such a large salary.

Not all lawyers make
six-figure salaries

According to the ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’⁴ the average gross starting salary for law graduates nationally is \$53,201 per annum. This represents one of the highest starting salaries of any profession and is certainly on par with other professions and vocations. However, salaries for lawyers tend to climb quicker with experience compared to many other professions, particularly in commercial law firms when senior lawyers become associates and partners who share the profits from the firm. But, as stated above, this is the exception not the rule. Given that many law graduates will end up in suburban practice,⁵ the potential remuneration is limited by the number

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of hours that lawyers in a small practice can work and the limited financial resources of their clients. However, it is not unknown for suburban practitioners to be making large sums of money equivalent to—and sometimes outstripping—many lawyers in large city practices.

But a cautionary note is in order for all those seeking to enter the legal profession in a law firm regardless of size—no lawyer has an easy run when it comes to earning a living. It does not matter what size firm you work for, few lawyers would objectively state that they do not have to work hard for a large salary. The practice of law is hard work and the remuneration generally flows to those that work hard to earn it. What the law can deliver on is that the hard work is generally worth it—the job is usually satisfying and interesting, and under such conditions hard work is not such a bad element of the job!

The hard work is generally
worth it—the job is usually
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4 Hobsons Pty Ltd, ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’ (Melbourne: Hobsons Pty Ltd, 2012).

5 Hobsons Pty Ltd, ‘The Good Universities Guide 2013’ (Melbourne: Hobsons Pty Ltd, 2012), at 165.

To help others

Given the importance of the law in our society, lawyers are uniquely placed to help others who need its protection. While most lawyers would argue that they help people along the way by simply performing their jobs, there are career directions for lawyers that more directly help others who cannot avail themselves of the protection of the law. The community encourages the notion of lawyers helping others by the funding of various bodies to assist those that cannot afford legal representation. Many lawyers work for the Legal Aid Commission, a state- or territory-based statutory authority that seeks to provide legal representation for those who need but cannot afford it. Legal aid serves a very important purpose by providing legal representation to many people who would ‘fall through the cracks’ of our system of justice. Unfortunately, because of the limited resource of legal aid, it is means-tested in all states and territories. This means that people above a certain income will not be granted access to legal aid. Also, some types of matters do not attract legal aid, for example, commercial matters involving trade and commerce.

Lawyers are uniquely placed to help those who need the protection of the law

Community legal centres are an important link between the community and the legal profession. One of the oldest community legal centres in Australia is the Redfern Legal Centre, located in the inner city of Sydney. According to the centre’s website:⁶

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) is an independent, non-profit community centre dedicated to promoting social justice and human rights. We offer free legal advice, referral and casework to disadvantaged people living in the City of Sydney, Botany Bay and Leichhardt local government areas ...

We also provide community legal education and advocate for the reform of inequalities in laws, the legal system, administrative practices and society as a whole. Our specialist areas of work are domestic violence, tenancy, credit and debt, employment, discrimination, and complaints about police and other government agencies.

We also provide volunteer opportunities for lawyers and law students.

6 <http://www.rlc.org.au> (accessed 5 April 2013).

According to the National Association of Community Legal Centres website, there are approximately 200 community legal centres nationwide, operating in every state and territory of Australia:⁷

Some CLCs offer specialist legal services in areas such as child support, credit and debt, environmental law, welfare rights, mental health, disability discrimination, tenancy, immigration, employment, the arts, etc. Some CLCs provide services targeted to particular groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children and young people, women, older people, refugees, prisoners, and the homeless. There are around 200 CLCs across Australia.

The clients of CLCs are those who face economic, social or cultural disadvantage, are often experiencing multiple inter-related problems, and frequently their legal problem may affect their and their family's entire life circumstances.

...

CLCs are located throughout Australia in urban, regional and remote locations. They are part of their communities and respond flexibly to the changing needs of those communities, offering creative, effective and targeted solutions to legal problems. CLCs also consult and involve their communities in their operations and management, always striving to make their services accessible and appropriate, to listen to their communities about their understanding of their needs and the solutions they want. It is the relationship with their community that distinguishes CLCs from other legal services.

While providing legal services to individuals, CLCs also work beyond the individual. CLCs undertake community development, community legal education, capacity building and law and policy reform projects that are based on people's needs, are preventative in outcome and strengthen and empower the community they serve.

Some CLCs receive no or very little funding and are largely or entirely staffed by volunteers. All other CLCs receive funds from a variety of sources including state and federal governments and philanthropic organisations. The sector harnesses the energy and

7 National Association of Community Legal Centres Inc. (NACLC): http://www.naclc.org.au/cb_pages/clcs.php (accessed 5 April 2013).

expertise of thousands of volunteers across the country. CLCs are committed to collaborating and working in partnership wherever possible, with government, legal aid and other publicly funded legal assistance service providers, pro bono contributors, the private legal profession, community services agencies and other community partners to ensure the best outcomes for their clients and prevent social exclusion.

According to the NACLC, in 2011/2012:

- 195,000 clients were assisted by CLCs (this is a count of all clients who had an active matter over the 2011–12 financial year)
- 230,695 matters were handled by CLCs (this is a count of all matters that had an active case or an advice during the 2011–12 financial year)
- 237,266 advices were provided
- there were 74,406⁸ active cases.

Law students who can manage their study load and any paid work commitments should consider volunteering for work at a community legal centre. It is an excellent way to get some ‘hands-on’ experience of understanding the practice of law and, after a while, the chance to participate in preliminary client interviewing—an important skill for the effective lawyer to develop. Any opportunity to link the theoretical learning of the law, conducted at university, with the practical application of the law, conducted by volunteering at a community law centre, is a valuable experience that will not only deepen your learning experience, but also help you gain employment after graduation.

Law students should consider volunteering at a community legal centre

Because it goes with my other degree

A law degree for an undergraduate normally consists of a combined law degree program where the LLB is linked with another non-law degree. Given the interdisciplinary approach to tertiary education adopted by most universities today, there are numerous combined degrees on offer. Gone are the days when

8 These figures are for centres funded through the Commonwealth Community Legal Services Program only.

Combined law degrees
produce graduates with
a greater understanding
of the world

one could choose only between Arts/Law, Science/Law and Business/Law. Today, one may select Health Science, Policing, Aviation, International Studies, Music, Social Sciences, Languages—the list goes on and on! Not only are universities producing graduates with a greater understanding of the world around them, but they are also allowing students to follow interests that may extend beyond the law.

Further, certain combinations may sit well with the law degree. For example, a person with a flair for languages who would like to travel may combine languages and law with a view to joining the Department of Foreign Affairs as a career diplomat. Statistically, the most popular combined law degree is a business or commerce degree combined with a law degree. The reason this is so is because in the business community today, rarely can a corporate decision be made without recourse to the law. The law affects: corporate governance; the raising of capital; the treatment of shareholders and directors; auditing and reporting mechanisms; the declaration of dividends; the quality of goods and services; and much more. In other words, every step a corporation makes is watched by a statutorily empowered corporate watchdog, most commonly the

Rarely can a corporate
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ASIC or the ACCC. Even businesses that are not corporate entities are regulated by a vast array of consumer regulation. Given such a climate, it is not surprising that many businesses and corporations seek to employ graduates with a legal education.

Students should consider two important questions when choosing their combined law program: first, ‘What would I like to do with my life and career?’, and second, ‘What are my interests?’ If students can satisfy the answers to both questions with their choice of combined law degree, then they are probably on the right path. While most people would agree that employment is a means to an end—that is, a way to earn a living—the best possible option

The best possible option
for employment is a job
that you actually enjoy

for employment is a job that you actually enjoy. As a tertiary student you have a very short period of time to ensure that your chosen career option will lead you to an enjoyable working life. Make sure you make the right decision!

But a word of advice—simply put, a law degree will never hurt your chances of employment. A law degree displays more than just knowledge of the law. It shows that you have committed yourself to a long course of difficult

study and have succeeded. It shows that you have been able to grapple with difficult concepts and intelligently work your way through them. It shows that you should have developed good communication skills. It shows that you are able to analyse facts and issues, synthesise them into a plausible argument, and produce a solution. Further, given most law courses employ problem-based learning, it shows that you have the ability to problem-solve and this is a valuable skill in all manner of careers, particularly law. In summary, a law degree sends a message to an employer that you have:

A law degree displays more than just knowledge of the law

- i) commitment
- ii) application
- iii) intelligence
- iv) problem-solving skills
- v) communication skills
- vi) an understanding of the doctrinal foundation of law, and
- vii) an appreciation of the place of law in the broader historical, social, cultural and economic contexts.

These skills, or most of them at least, are desirable for any job. That is why lawyers are sought after in the job market and have a very high rate of employment after graduation.