Call for Submissions to University of New South Wales Law Journal Issue 37(3)

‘CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FACING THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL PROFESSION’

The UNSW Law Journal is currently welcoming submissions for Issue 37(3). The Journal publishes three Issues across each year, each containing both a general component and a thematic component. The thematic component of Issue 37(3) is: ‘Contemporary Issues Facing the Australian Legal Profession’.

Submissions may critically address any challenges or new developments currently confronting the Australian legal profession, and ramifications for the identity and practices of the profession. Submissions need not specifically or exclusively consider the legal profession in New South Wales. Submissions comparing the Australian legal profession with a foreign legal profession are welcome. Interdisciplinary approaches are also welcome, provided they adopt a primarily legal focus.

The topic for the thematic component has a broad reach. Authors may wish to consider the following topics (but are not limited to them):

- The experience of the contemporary Australian legal practitioner, encompassing issues such as mental health, wellbeing and substance abuse;
- The corporatisation of the profession and the influence of economic pressures on practice;
- Issues of discrimination and equality within the profession, including the relevance of gender, sexuality and disability;
- The legal profession’s capacity to adapt to technological advancements and the associated advantages and disadvantages, particularly in respect of confidentiality obligations;
- Aspects of professional regulation, including licensing and registration, advertising, and the arguments for and against a national regulatory system;
- The disciplinary system and responses to breaches of professional duties and obligations;
- The processes of admission and readmission to the profession, and the appointment of senior counsel;
- Legal ethics and aspects of ethical practice, such as engagement in alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice;
- The role of legal professionals in improving access to justice, such as through pro bono work;
- The effects of the globalisation of legal practice and international trends in the regulation of legal services on the Australian profession;
- Interdisciplinary approaches to legal services, including the interaction of legal professionals with social workers, medical practitioners, and police officers;
- Issues with client communication, such as client care, the duty to obey instructions and legal professional privilege;
- Aspects of workplace culture, including support systems, bullying and harassment;
- The status of the billable hour and the adoption of alternative fee arrangements;
- The role of continuing legal education and professional development; and
- An advocate’s duties and obligations within the adversarial system.
The submission deadline for both the thematic component and general component of Issue 37(3) is 7 July 2014. Publication is set for the second half of 2014. In addition to submissions for the thematic component, authors are welcome to submit on any topic for the general component. Changes to these deadlines will be indicated on the Journal website: http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/.

We are accepting articles of between 7000 and 12 000 words in length (excluding footnotes). The style guide for the Journal is the third edition of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation, available online at http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/aglc, as supplemented by Journal’s ‘Additions’, available on our website at http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/submission.

The Journal is an independent, peer reviewed publication. Although all submissions received are subject to rigorous peer review, decisions as to publication remain at the discretion of the Editor, in council with the Executive Committee of the Journal. Please note that the Journal does not accept articles that have been or will be published elsewhere, either in identical or substantially similar form. If articles are posted on online repositories, such as SSRN, they should be removed at the time of submission to ensure the anonymity of the peer review process.

If you are interested in or have any queries about submitting an article to be considered for publication in Issue 37(3), please contact the Journal at law.journal@unsw.edu.au. If you intend to submit an article, it would be greatly appreciated if you could give some early indication of your proposed topic or area of research. If you are aware of a colleague who may be interested in submitting an article, please feel free to forward this call for submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Vogt
Editor, Issue 37(3)