



DE MINIMIS

A newspaper for the students of Melbourne Law School. Established 1948. Revived 2012. Made officially unofficial 2015.
Volume 6, Issue 14
Tuesday, 18 August 2015

LAW REVUE DEBUT

OR, 'HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE LAUGHED AT BY HUNDREDS OF STRANGERS?'

Docklands: Paris of the South. Who hasn't spent an evening exchanging sweet nothings with lovers underneath the Big Wheel's light?

No? No. We haven't either. So yes, Docklands has the sex appeal of a mushroom. But it does have one thing going for it. And that is that it plays host to this year's Law Revue.

'UniMelb Law Revue: On Ice' is the latest incarnation of a much loved and acclaimed University and comedy institution.

The show has been running for over 60 years and in that time it has launched the careers of Working Dog (The Castle, Thank God You're Here), Magda Szubanski, Sammy J, Celia Pacquola and Steve Vizard....not that we're name dropping.

And since it's on at the moment, 20th, 21st, 22nd of August, tickets at thelawrevue.com, we thought we'd give you a little taste of what it's like to be in the show. And plug it shamelessly.

(Did I mention it's on the 20th, 21st, 22nd August? And that if you come on the 20th as a law student you get

access to dodgem cars? HOW COOL IS THAT!?)

So what's it like to be in it? It's terrifying.

Now of course, Melbourne is the city of comedy. Not only does it host the third largest comedy festival in the world, but it also has a thriving comedy scene.

This means that the audiences have seen a lot of comedy. Which also means that the pressure is on for comics to produce fresh material.

This makes writing the show a terrifying experience. But it can also be a fantastic incentive to work harder and be funnier than you ever thought you could be.

And of course, it's already terrifying because of the nature of live comedy. It's one of the only art forms where you get immediate, honest feedback from the audience.

And if that feedback's bad, then good luck powering through the rest of your show. That being said, this fear produces the adrenaline needed to create the bizarre, energetic, impromptu magic that the best shows have.

Lastly, the entire point of comedy is to make a lemon of yourself in public. It takes a strange type of person

who is willing to stand up and say, "please laugh at my most humiliating secrets."

That time you ripped your pants in a job interview? It becomes a sketch. That time your mother found you naked and covered in gravy? Well... maybe if you're desperate.

But the nature of comedy is taking your most painful moments and inviting the public to laugh at them. That in itself is terrifying. But at the same time it's thrilling; you can make someone laugh.

So yes, doing Law Revue is terrifying. And that's precisely why you should do it. If you've got the itch, the dirty secret, the persistent whisper that you are funny then you must do something about it. You have to try it.

Go for the auditions, write sketches, practice material on unsuspecting parents and friends. It's terrifying. But it's the way that magic is made.

And don't forget, 20th, 21st, 22nd of August. Did I mention that?

Verity Johnson is a cast member of the 2015 Law Revue. The three final nights of the Revue are 21, 22 and 23 August. For more info, visit www.thelawrevue.com.

Interview

SARAH GOEGAN INTERVIEWS JULIET AKELLO ON CAREERS IN THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

With clerkship season underway, and amidst the onslaught of endless information sessions and promotional material, the prospect of selecting a career path can be daunting. I sat down with Juliet Akello, a County Court associate (having previously worked at the Werribee and Footscray branches of Western Community Legal Centre (WCLC)), to talk community law, navigating the careers jungle, and the opportunities available to young lawyers.

Where did you study law?

I studied a JD at the University of NSW.

How did you get into community law?

I did a 3 month internship at a CLC that had an affiliation with my university. After having worked there, I absolutely fell in love with the community sector. So I had an idea that that's where I wanted to start.

I never wanted to go down the 'normal' way of applying for clerkships or going into a corporate firm. Instead of stressing myself out and putting in applications for clerkships, I booked a holiday and went overseas, and had the time of my life.

What was your first post-uni position?

When I finished my degree, I decided to do College of Law, and while doing that I put an application to volunteer at WCLC. I did my practical legal training there, loved it, and



Footscray Community Legal Centre. Source: Public domain.

I was lucky enough that an opportunity came up for a position once I completed my practical legal training.

What got you involved in the taxi drivers' legal service run at WCLC's Footscray branch?

I had been an employed lawyer at WCLC, and I worked on a taxi client file. Whilst looking through the file, I spoke to the manager saying that I couldn't believe the crazy things happening within the industry.

He then approached me about working on secondment at Footscray for 2 days a week.

What is the benefit of CLC work and volunteering?

It's an amazing experience because you get to do a lot of things you might not otherwise do in other sectors. When I first started I was handed a file within my first couple of weeks and told to go appear for a client at the Family Court for a divorce application.

About three months after I was asked to do duty lawyer work at the Werribee Magistrates' Court.

I was talking to a friend of mine who started off at a commercial firm, and three years later she told me that one of the partners made her contact a barrister to talk about a matter they were working on, and she was so excited that she was given that opportunity.

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SARAH GOEGAN INTERVIEWS JULIET AKELLO ON CAREERS IN THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

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I was quite shocked because I spoke to a barrister about 3 weeks after I started working, and I had briefed a barrister within 3 months of having started out as a lawyer. So you really hit the ground running.

Describe your new job?

I'm going to be working as a judge's associate. I'm an unreserved associate, so I don't have an allocated judge as such, which I think is an amazing opportunity for me, because I want to join the Bar, and that's a good way to go about it, because you get to learn about advocacy skills from both barristers and judges.

Ah, so you'd like to be a Barrister. Which area of law would you like to practice in?

I have an idea, but I'm not 100% sure of what law I want to practice as a barrister, which is why the reserve associate position is so appealing for me, because you get to work with different judges in different areas of law, and that kind of exposure might 'pin me down' to one area of law.

That's comforting, particularly for students like myself, who aren't sure of which area they'd like to practice in. What advice can you give people in this position?

I don't think there's anything wrong with being uncertain. I had no idea where I wanted to go when I finished uni.

Just get as much experience as you can. Try apply for a local CLC, do some volunteer work, perhaps apply for paralegal positions if there are corporate firms offering them.

Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and contact an organization you want to work with.

Look at some of the more 'novel' ways to try and find a job, because the job market, as it currently is,

that's probably how you would have to go about it. So, make yourself known.

What advice do you have for the clerkship/traineeship process?

When writing applications, don't make silly mistakes, make sure you know the organization you're applying for. Don't send an essay in your cover letter – be concise, look at what is being advertised, and incorporate that in your application.

Finally, what helped you survive law school? Any top study tips?

Beethoven. During exam time, I just put some Beethoven on, put my head down and studied. Get a study group together, and DO PAST EXAM PAPERS. Do not walk into an exam without having looked at past exam papers.

Sarah Goegan is a JD student.

Don't like the content? Write your own!

De Minimis is written by, and for, the students of Melbourne Law School.

We welcome any and all quality writing that might interest our readers.

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Satire

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE REASONABLE MAN

Hey guys, the Reasonable Man here. Just thought I'd write in to keep you up-to-date with my life in the Common Law, where I've been in a bit of hot water in WA's State Administrative Tribunal.

Now, you know I love the law. And last week I loved being a lawyer at Ashurst.

I also love my fiancée who, last week, was a lawyer at DLA Piper.

So what could be more romantic, for a lawyer, than agreeing to do your fiancée's legal work for her? It's a match made in heaven.

Just imagine the scene: we're sitting at the dinner table, my sweetie and I, gazing into one another's eyes. She leans across the table, and whispers

in my ear, "darling... what I really feel is missing from our relationship is a serious breach of your professional ethics.

And you know what, I'm just a bit lazy, and not very good at my job, so would you mind just doing my legal work for me?"

She made a persuasive argument.

All that was needed to spice up our sex life was some confidential and privileged documents from DLA Piper...which I then palmed off to some junior Ashurst staff anyway, because 'in for a penny, in for a pound'.

And while I was busy violating the confidentiality of my sweetheart's clients, I also just figured, "you know what, we just got engaged, and printing and mailing out invitations is expensive. Imma just do it at work... being a lawyer, bebeh!"

So I did that too.

If that doesn't prove to you just how much I love my fiancée, perhaps what follows will. I pay attention to

her: you know, the things she says and does.

And I notice that she doesn't say and do things like a lawyer. She's just not very good at it, hence the conundrum that we're presently in.

And I watch a lot of *Suits*, and notice that pretty much everyone on that show uses black Uniball deluxe fine-tips.

And, well, there were a few of them just lying around, unused (in the Ashurst stationary cupboard). So I swiped a few for her... and some Post-it notes... and some paperclips. I was just a little hard pressed for a birthday present, okay?

And I think it was pretty thoughtful of me.

Yours Sincerely,

Reasonable Man

David Allinson is a second-year JD student.



Cartoon by Harvey Ng.