

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

n e w s o u t h w a l e s

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES?

Community Legal Centres (CLCs) are independent, non-profit community organisations providing free legal advice, information and referrals for individuals and communities across NSW.

There are both generalist and specialist legal centres. The generalist CLCs usually only provide services to those people living in their catchment area and practice a wide range of issues. Specialist CLCs provide specific legal services to the whole of NSW.

WHAT DO CLCS DO?

- ▶ They are committed to social justice and promote access to and reform of the legal system.
- ▶ They provide quality legal services to the community including:
 - giving legal advice and referrals
 - some representation in courts
 - representation for public interest and test cases
- ▶ They aim to empower their clients to do as much as they can in regard to their legal problems.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

There are many opportunities for volunteers at Community Legal Centres. Each centre has a different policy regarding volunteers. Please see the following list.

What kinds of things will you do as a volunteer?

This depends on the centre, but in general you can expect to gain experience in wide range of tasks including:

- ▶ Interviewing clients
- ▶ Case management
- ▶ Drafting
- ▶ Policy research

WHAT PAST VOLUNTEERS HAVE SAID....

[Working at a CLC was] the best part of my law degree. Great to get practical experience in a range of areas, work closely with staff and students as a team.

Volunteering gave me an insight into what kind of lawyer I want to be and I also realised a larger range of career options that I had not previously thought of.

For more information visit the NSW Community Legal Centre website.

www.nswclc.org.au

Or

Kingsford Legal Centre online.

legal@unsw.edu.au

SYDNEY AREA

GENERAL LIST

INNER CITY LEGAL CENTRE

94 Oxford St, Darlinghurst 2010 / PO Box 368, Darlinghurst 2010

Contact Jan Squires: 02 9332 1966

Volunteers are required for a shift once a week (Mon-Fri 10-1 / 2-6).

KINGSFORD LEGAL CENTRE

11 Rainbow St, Kingsford 2032

02 9398 6366

Students at UNSW can participate through the intensive and non-intensive elective courses at the Centre.

MACARTHUR LEGAL CENTRE

4 Broughton St, Campbelltown 2560

02 4628 2042

Volunteers initially can take part in phone advice sessions and face-to-face advice on Tuesday nights, and then may move on to casework (1/2 day once a week/fortnight). Law students of any level, preferably from the local area, including UWS students. Also takes PLT placements.

MACQUARIE LEGAL CENTRE

1st Floor, 250 Pitt St, Merrylands 2160 / PO Box 460, Merrylands 2160

Contact Information and Referral Officer: 02 9760 2211

Volunteers must commit to at least 1 shift of four hours per week for at least 3 months (9-1 & 2-5). Currently a long waiting list.

Intake of volunteers twice a year around April and October. Prefer final year law students.

MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE

338 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville 2204

02 9559 2899

Volunteers taken on a needs basis. No special requirements. Students once a fortnight. Two intakes a year. Only in evening advice sessions (6:30-9:30pm - twice a week) - long waiting list.

MT DRUITT AND AREA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

76 Rooty Hill Rd, Rooty Hill 2766

02 9675 2009

Volunteers taken on a needs basis.

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE

73 Pitt St Redfern 2016

02 9698 7277

Intake of volunteers twice a year (March and July). Half day per week commitment after two induction sessions. Must commit for at least 3 months. Application form. Take students from third year onwards.

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY LEGAL CENTRE

28-30 Pirie St, Liverpool 2170

Contact centre directly: 02 9601 7777

Require 1/2/3/4th year students. Each student is under the supervision of a solicitor. The time commitment is flexible (between one half or full day per week). Kinds of work includes policy work and or casework (file work etc) depending on the students interests and availability.

SPECIALIST

ARTS LAW CENTRE

Legal assistance for the arts community, including tax, accounting, contracts, insurance, employment and free or low cost publications.

43 Cowper Wharf Rd, Woolloomooloo 2011

02 9356 2566 artslaw.com.au

One-year waiting list for evening volunteers. Day assistants by interview. Send formal letter and application by post or email. prefer final year students.

COMMUNICATIONS LAW CENTRE

Public interest research, teaching and education covering media and communications law and policy.

The White House, UNSW, Kensington 2052

02 9385 7385

admin@comslaw.org.au

UNSW law students may participate through Internet Legal Practice and Social Justice Internship electives. Waiting list for other volunteers. Preferable if have media/communications experience. Email resume.

CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL CENTRE

Advice on borrowers rights, consumer credit and debt, banking disputes, bankruptcy, excessive interest rates, harassment, reposessions, statements of claims and summonses, unfair lending practices, superannuation and insurance.

Level 1, 72-80 Cooper St, Surry Hills 2010 / PO Box 538, Surry Hills, 2010

Contact Co-ordinator Karen Cox: 02 9212 4216

f. 02 9212 4711 CCLC_NSW@fcl.fl.asn.au

Takes both volunteers and PLT placement. Fax or mail application.

COURT SUPPORT SCHEME

Information, support and referrals for criminal matters in NSW local courts. Does not provide legal advice

174 Broadway, Broadway 2007

Contact Alan: 02 9288 8700

Positions available. Take on any law students. Only take students to Family Law Court in Parramatta. Minimum one day per week, six to nine months per year.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LEGAL CENTRE

Legal advice, representation and assistance for matters involving discrimination on the basis of disability.

99/1-5 Meeks St, Kingsford 2032

Contact Alistair McEwin: 02 9313 6000

Take PLT placements and undergraduate law students, preferably third year with an interest in human rights law.

PLTs at least three days a week, for undergraduates more flexible but prefer commitment to 6 months. Student casework can involve client interviews, submissions on legal reform and policy and general legal practice management. Openings in Nov-Dec.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS' OFFICE

Telephone advice and conducts matters for individuals and groups acting in public interest law matters relating to the protection of the environment.

Level 9, 89 York St, Sydney 2000

02 9262 6989

1-3 volunteers work at the Office per day. Preferable to have completed environmental law.

HIV/AIDS LEGAL CENTRE

Advice and representation for people with HIV/AIDS related problems, including discrimination, superannuation and insurance, medical treatment, wills and estates, guardianship and powers of attorney.

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills 2010

Contact Co-ordinator Peter Lonsfield: 02 9206 2060

Relies very heavily on volunteers. No special requirements, other than having an open, non-judgemental attitude, call for interview.

Take on third year law students onwards.

IMMIGRATION ADVICE AND RIGHTS CENTRE

Telephone legal advice on migration and citizenship. Also representation can be provided for appropriate cases. The centre also runs training programs for registration as a migration agent and updates to migration law.

Level 4, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills 2010

t. 02 9281 1609 f. 02 8281 1638

Take both volunteers and PLT placements. Fax results in indicating type of work you would like to be involved in. Prefer full-time, minimum of four hours per week.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LAW CENTRE

Legal information, advice and representation to children and young people in Australia. Areas include civil and administrative law especially education, discrimination, children in care including state wards, victims compensation and children's rights generally.

32 Botany St, Randwick 2031

02 9398 7488 nycl@unsw.edu.au

Students can volunteer from 3rd year onwards, required to work one day a week.

PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE

Advice and test case litigation and policy work on public interest matters. Includes health and community services, welfare, discrimination and human rights, utilities and competition policy.

Level 1, 46-48 York St, Sydney 2000 / 02 9299 7833

Students studying law at University of Sydney can participate through the uni, and take 4 PLT students each year. Not other volunteers. Not taking on any volunteers.

REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE

Telephone advice and appointments for asylum seekers seeking refugee status, both in the community and in detention centres.

Suite 8C, 46-56 Kippax St, Surry Hills 2010

02 9211 4001; admin@racs.org.au

Take PLT students. Apply via email with cover letter and resume. Must commit to one day a week for a minimum of six months.

WIRRINGA BAIYA ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women who are or have been victims of violence.

Marrickville Hospital, cnr Marrickville & Livingston Sts, Marrickville, 2204

PO Box 785m Marrickville 1475

02 9569 3847

Students studying law at University of Sydney can participate through the uni, and take PLT (Practical Legal Training) students. Take on all law students, no minimum day of work.

WELFARE RIGHTS CENTRE

Information and advice on all social security matters. Help and representation may also be provided at all levels of the appeal process.

5th floor, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, 2010

02 9211 5300

Working hours: Mon-Fri 9-5.

Always in need of volunteers, take on any students, positions available. Students involved in telephone advice service and casework.

OTHER AREAS

GENERAL LIST

BLUE MOUNTAINS CLC

1st Floor, 80 Main St, Katoomba 2780
02 4782 4155

A small number of volunteers can be taken on. Preferably during 3rd/4th years. Commitment level to be determined on an individual basis. Positions currently available though they prefer final year students.

CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

Shop 22, Wyong Plaza, Wyong 2259 / PO Box 246, Wyong, 2259
Contact Co-ordinator: 02 4353 4988
Call between 9.30 - 4 Monday to Thursday for information.
PLT placements. One person per month, mostly admin work.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE FOR WESTERN NSW

51 Bultje St, Dubbo 2830
02 6884 9422 or 1800 655 927
Takes volunteer students for placement during uni holidays. Time commitment and requirements are flexible. Half day shifts: 9am - 1pm & 2 - 4pm.

FAR WEST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

5 Chloride St, Broken Hill 2880
08 8088 2020 or 1800 300 036. Don't take on volunteers.

HAWKESBURY/NEPEAN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

13 Bosworth St, Richmond 2753
02 4588 5618
Take on law student volunteers for specific projects. Only vacancy is Wednesday night. Take PLT placements. Resumes to Tracy Leahy.

HUNTER COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

123 King St, Newcastle 2300 / PO Box 84, Newcastle, 2300
Contact Principal Legal Officer Brian Kelly: 02 4926 3329
Take 2-3 volunteers at a time.

ILLAWARRA LEGAL CENTRE

7 Greene St, Warrarong 2502 / PO Box 139, Warrarong, 2502
Contact co-ordinator directly: 02 4276 1939

Only take on student volunteers in regards to particular projects; for example: law reform campaigns with regards to no loitering zones and other welfare rights issues and PLT placements.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE LEGAL CENTRE

300 King St, Newcastle 2300
02 4921 8666
Contact Director: John Boersig - j.boersig@newcastle.edu.au
Students studying an LLB at the University of Newcastle can participate through that course. There may be some administrative roles available for students as needed. Uni students on half day placements once a week.

NORTH AND NORTH WEST COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

169 Rusden St, Armidale 2350
02 6772 8100 or 1800 687 687
Approximately 15 volunteers (mostly Armidale Uni students) for 3 hour shift weekly. PLT placement. Take on students during holiday time.

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

10 Club Lane, Lismore 2480 / PO Box 212, Lismore, 2480
02 6622 3386
Takes many types of volunteers: admin, library, court support and PLT placements. Speak to the volunteer co-ordinator.
Half day shifts: 9am - 1pm & 2 - 4pm.

SHOALCOAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

50 Junction St, Nowra 2541 / PO Box 1496, Nowra, 2541
Contact Co-ordinator: 02 4422 9529
Maximum of 2 volunteers. Flexible time commitment. Take on first years and students during holiday time.



Compiled by the Kingsford Legal Centre 2002

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