
First We Count All the Lawyers

A new report from the Centre for Legal Education dispels the myth that Australian universities are producing too many lawyers.

Career Intentions of Australian Law Students surveyed more than 4,000 final year students at 26 universities. Less than half gave as their first preference for a career practising as a solicitor or barrister in the private profession. The study shows that the broader benefits of a law degree are well understood by today's students who look to their legal knowledge to enhance their career options.

It is often said that young people enter the legal profession because it will bring "high income" and "high status". In this survey, while these issues were mentioned, the most popular reason for studying law was "an interest in the subject matter of law".

A surprisingly large number of respondents (22%) planned to work in the private legal profession for not more than five years - again showing the tendency for the law to be the underpinning of a broad range of careers.

For one quarter of the respondents, law was a graduate degree and 34% were mature age students. More than a quarter of the students were enrolled in law combined with "business-related" studies.

Career Intentions of Australian Law Students is the latest report from the Law Foundation's Centre for Legal Education.

The CLE promotes and advances legal education by conducting policy oriented research, collecting and disseminating information and providing support to other bodies involved in legal education.

They produce a quarterly newsletter and regular digests and reports. For more information about *Career Intentions of Australian Law Students* or any other publication, you can contact the Centre on (02) 9221 3699, fax (02) 9221 6280 or email cle@fl.asn.au. Copies of the report are \$30. □

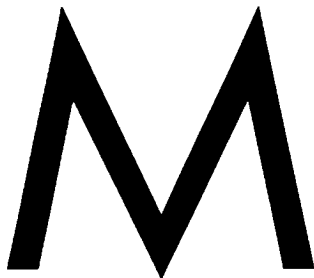
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

No-one loves a pedant, I know, but I can't resist the temptation: reference 'From the President' Winter '96 issue.

Shakespeare didn't say "first thing, let's kill all the lawyers"; he said (or wrote) "The first thing we do, lets kill all the lawyers". See Second Part of *King Henry the Sixth*, Act IV, Sc. II, lines 86-7.

Regards,
Michael O'Brien



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