

## Speakers

- Judge Liesl Chapman –  
District Court of South Australia
- Marie Shaw QC –  
Shaw & Hendersen Chambers
- Dr David Plater –  
Adelaide Law School
- Azaara Perakath –  
Office of the Director of Public  
Prosecutions
- Vaishnavi Rajarmanan –  
Iles Selley Lawyers



Thank you for attending

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The Careers Team Presents

# Criminal Defence Seminar



## What is Criminal Law (key takeaways)

- Criminal law is a fascinating area of law. Whether it's to get a taste for whether it is the area for you, or something you know you would love to do for your career, this area can be very rewarding.
- Practitioners within the field are exposed to a varied set of experience, from bespoke legal research to regular court appearances and more, allowing you to develop a well-rounded set of skills.
- Many of the skills are transferrable to other areas of the law, such as developing legal prose and a cohesive, coherent and persuasive argument.
- While many view representing the accused as a side of the law which is dubious, it definitely should not be perceived this way and is just as important to maintain the balance of our justice system.

## Where to Practice (or gain experience)

### 1. Chambers

- When working in Chambers, you will work very closely with a barristers and/or solicitors who will hear and try a case. Barristers need to produce eloquent, succinct and (most importantly) persuasive legal reasoning in order to convince the presiding Judge and jury that their clients' case is the correct view. This is a great way to learn how to draft complex legal documents, and is often the direction many solicitors head in towards the more refined stages of their legal careers.

### 2. Associateships

- a. An associateship is a great way to gain an insight into the procedure and complexities of criminal law litigation. Working directly with members of the judiciary (in the case of the District Court) or with a Magistrate (in the case of the Magistrates Court), you will see first-hand how a Judge/Magistrate will reason their decision, and understand the intricacies of how a case unfolds.

### 3. Private practice:

- Working in a criminal law firm typically lends itself to a choice between prosecution or defence – which is great! You are able to decide which side of the coin you are most interested in most, and hone your skills to ensure you can represent your client to the best of your abilities. Working in private practice is a great way to sharpen your legal drafting of Court documents, and in particular your submissions.

### 4. The Government

- Prosecuting on behalf of the Government (both State and Federal) can be a very rewarding (yet obviously very challenging) way to diversify your skills and experiences by gaining experiences in a broad range of areas of criminal law. The DPP is the primary body responsible for prosecuting criminal offences, and plays a vital role in ensuring 'law and order' in our society.