

The Speakers

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Where Can I Work?

While public law is not as heavily advertised as criminal or corporate law, there are several places that you can consider working in. These include:

- Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)
- South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)
- Attorney General's Department (AGD) (State and Cth)
- South Australian Crown Solicitor's Office (SCO)
- Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities (OCEO)
- Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) (State and Cth)
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
- Australian Tax Office (ATO)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)
- Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO)
- Legal Services Commission (LSC)
- Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC)



PUBLIC LAW
SEMINAR

Careers
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What is Public Law and Key Takeaways

Public law is a fascinating area of law. Whether it's just for building experience or whether it's something you want to do for the rest of your career, there are some great things about this area.

- People in this field are exposed to a varied set of experiences, from legal research to regular court appearances and more, which develops a well rounded set of skills.
- A lot of the skills that you'd pick up here are transferable in non-legal contexts which could set you up for careers in business, management or government.
- This area provides an alternative side to the legal profession while applying a range of legal skills, such as communication, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.
- Government departments are an excellent way to be involved in government operations without being involved in politics.

Key Areas of Public Law

AGD:

The SA and Federal AGDs perform a wide variety of public law tasks. Almost all branches of public law in some way are connected to the AGD such as OPC and CSO so moving between sections is an excellent way to diversify skills and experiences until you find something you like.

CSO:

The Crown Solicitor's Offices advise the SA Government on a range of legal issues. The CSO is compartmentalized with many smaller more specialized sections such as public law, native title etc providing many different streams of public law to be involved in.

Key Areas of Public Law (Cth)

AAT:

The AAT is the Federal equivalent of SACAT, handling a variety of administrative appeals on matters of fact. More administrative decisions are reviewed externally by the AAT.

DPP:

The SA and Federal Departments of Public Prosecutions are responsible for prosecuting criminal and certain commercial offences. This area plays a vital role in courts and people in this sector will gain valuable experience preparing documents for court cases or for being involved in the cases themselves.

OPC:

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel drafts legislation and regulations put before the Parliaments of SA and Australia respectively. This is a specialized field that requires attention to detail and statutory interpretations skills.

AGS:

The Federal equivalent of the CSO, handling advice on a variety of issues to the Federal Government including human rights / discrimination, debt recovery, administrative law, freedom of information and more.