

## THE "RIGHT" PATH?

### issue 9



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### *AULSS Elections*

- Monday – Wednesday, Week 10

### *Suits & Scrubs*

- Friday, 15 October (Week 10), 8pm
- Atlantis Bar and Lounge

### *AULSS Annual General Meeting*

- Monday, 18 October (Week 11), 6pm
- Ligertwood 333

### *Exam Preparation 101*

- Wednesday, 20 October (Week 11), 12pm
- Ligertwood 333

### *Closing Party*

- Wednesday, 20 November
- LOCATION TBC

Are you like me and are constantly going through an existential crisis about whether law is the right path for you? I wish I could tell you your five-year plan becomes clearer in your final year, but let's be real, it is a bit farfetched that people assume you should have your life together by your final year. I mean I take my hat off to people that do have their life sorted but I cannot say that I am one of them, and to be honest, I am completely okay with that! I am learning lots as I am debating what I truly want my career to look like, including the skills I have learnt throughout my degree. For those who are reaching the end of their first year and debating whether law is for them, I hope this issue of 'Tale of First Year' clears up a few things for you and helps you in your debate with yourself!

### *"Bad" grades do not mean law is not for you*

This one can be hard to wrap your head around, especially if you are a student who has gone from getting 90%+ grades to lower grades in university. There are people who are exceptional at law – the ones who are always seamlessly getting distinctions and high distinctions – but it is okay if you are not there. Please do not let lower grades encourage you into thinking that law is not for you! It is especially important to note that lower grades do not mean that you will not be a kick-ass lawyer! University is tough and a new environment for most, which comes with a whole set of challenges that affect you both in and out of your studies so please do not be discouraged if your grades are not where you want them to be. The best part is that you have a few years to still grow!

### *Try various electives*

The core courses can be quite difficult and at times makes people regret choosing law but trust me, an elective could change a lot! Many older students will tell you that what they initially saw themselves practicing in the future when they were a first year is vastly different to what they now want to practice as they are going into their final years. This is, more often than not, down to a wonderful course coordinator of an elective, who has made them approach law through a new lens. There are a wide range of electives you can choose from (check out our cheeky Electives Guide that will be coming out soon) and there is likely one for everyone! The best part about electives is that you can try various and often, niche areas of law that you may enjoy later practicing in. There are also various electives that give you an insight into the

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practical sides of law, such as 'Clinical Legal Education' and the 'Law and Justice Internship', which you may wish to try out in your later years. Your ability to try different types of law is especially important to remember as you are thrust into a world of seemingly only corporate opportunities – they are not for everyone and that is completely okay!

### *Try competitions*

Another thing that I could not recommend more is trying out some of the competitions offered by the AULSS. You will soon come to realise that despite the wonders of the Law School's law degree, one aspect that is lacking is practicality. You may have an advocacy assignment here or there that allows you to dip your toes into the practical side of your degree, but in reality, they are far and wide between the heavy amounts of reading we do! For that reason, I really encourage you to try out the various competitions, as they will give you an insight into whether the practical aspect of law thrills you, especially when you are feeling as though your degree is boring and not at all for you. Trust me: after every advocacy assignment, I get a massive thrill and change my outlook on whether I want to do law!

### *The skills are transferrable*

If trying a cool elective or a nerve-wracking competition did not encourage you to practice law, never fear, as the skills that you learn are so incredibly transferrable and there are various law-adjacent careers that you can try. A law degree gives you invaluable skills in organisation and time management skills, critical and lateral thinking, research skills, and teamwork skills. These are very transferrable to any career you may choose to do, from teaching to policy work or even cultivating a career in research! So, you would definitely not be completing your degree in vain, merely because practicing law does not appeal to you.

### *Take a break or try something else*

Last and most importantly, you can take a break or transfer into something else you enjoy!! It is often taboo to talk about "dropping out" but honestly, if law does not speak to you, it is okay to try something else. You do not want to get to the end of your degree wishing that you changed your path in university. Granted you can always change your career 5, 10, 15 or even 50 years into your career and go back to university, but do not feel as though you have to "stick it out" in law if it is not

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something you enjoy. At the end of the day, you have to enjoy what you study and what you want to make a career path, so if you truly feel as though law is not for you, talk to someone at the University about transferring into something else. And always remember, you can always take time away from your law degree and come back to it even stronger! Many people I know have done this and have found a new love for the law.

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I hope this issue has calmed any nerves you may have had but as always, you have a variety of wonderful resources around you! For ease, here are some details to these sources:

### **Law School (especially the godsend that is Alex Jones):**

- *Phone:*
- *Email:* [lawenquiry@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lawenquiry@adelaide.edu.au)

### **Faculty of Professions**

- *Phone:* 8313 4755
- *Email:* [professions@ask.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:professions@ask.adelaide.edu.au)

### **Student Life**

- *Phone:* 8313 5663
- *Email:* [counselling.centre@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:counselling.centre@adelaide.edu.au)

Last but not least, please remember that I and the wider Education Portfolio are always here if you need anything!

All the best,  
Nadeesha x