



Issue 4, December 2012

The UQ Pro Bono Centre is an initiative of the TC Beirne School of Law at The University of Queensland, and was established with the aim of providing students with opportunities to use their legal training to assist disadvantaged members of the community. Welcome to the latest edition of the Centre's newsletter featuring a round-up of our news, community partnerships and student success stories.

FEATURES



UQ Pro Bono Centre welcomes new Director

The TC Beirne School of Law is pleased to announce the appointment of solicitor and alumna Monica Taylor to the role of Director of the UQ Pro Bono Centre.

[Read more](#)



Young refugees given hope for family reunion

A group of young Afghan refugees has taken a step closer to reuniting with their families with the help of law students from the UQ Pro Bono Centre.

[Read more](#)



Talking Justice Behind Bars

Going to work behind bars has enabled a group of UQ law students to gain practical insight into the criminal justice system and a better understanding of those affected by it. [Read more](#)

UQ PRO BONO CENTRE NEWS

UQ donation helps Prisoners' Legal Service

A spring clean by academics from The University of Queensland Law School has led to a donation of forty legal textbooks to the Prisoners' Legal Service (PLS) in Brisbane. [Read more](#)

Increased presence at the Manning St Project

The Manning St Project worked on a variety of public interest and law reform projects during 2012.

Students Jessica Faithfull, Eleanor Foote and Carl Tessmann made a significant contribution to the policy work of the Prisoners' Legal Service (PLS) by researching and writing an entire chapter entitled 'Education Behind Bars' for PLS' 2011 Report on Queensland prisons. [Read more](#)

New initiatives with Legal Aid Queensland

A meeting to discuss possible collaboration between the UQ Pro Bono Centre and Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) has resulted in two new opportunities for students.

A summer placement has been created for two UQ law students in LAQ regional offices in Cairns and Bundaberg. Ethel Ndombi and Danielle Little have been selected through the Roster and will take up their placements in November and January respectively. The students will have full exposure to the workings of the regional LAQ office, including prison and court visits.

In addition, two students undertook research on mineral royalties and landowner rights on behalf of LAQ through the Manning St Project.

UQ law students contribute to a successful appeal against sentence

Two University of Queensland law students have contributed to a successful appeal against the sentence in the case of Leslie Andrews, a 63 year-old Aboriginal man convicted of unlawful wounding in March this year.

Working under the supervision of lawyer Dan Rogers and criminal law expert Professor Heather Douglas, students Mai Holdom and Heath Manning helped to prepare an outline for Mr Andrews' appeal during their placement at the UQ Pro Bono Centre's Criminal Law Matters Clinic. [Read more](#)

Student volunteers tackle community legal issues

The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Arts Law Centre of Australia and the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services are among the organisations that have benefitted from support provided by the UQ Pro Bono Centre in 2012.

Over the course of the year the UQ Pro Bono Centre matched 79 UQ law students with 16 law firms and community organisations seeking pro bono assistance with local projects. [Read more](#)

New community legal clinics open up more opportunities for law students

Following the success of two new additions to the UQ Pro Bono Centre's Clinical Legal Education (CLE) program, Centre Director Monica Taylor hopes that law students can look forward to more opportunities to take part in the program next year.

The Centre offered a total of 63 student places across its seven CLE clinics, including nine placements in the new Criminal Law Matters Clinic and Environmental Law Clinic which both opened in 2012. [Read more](#)

UQ community education programs gather momentum

Law students from the [Asylum and Refugee Law Project \(ARLP\)](#) have taken its successful outreach program to more Queensland schools, delivering lectures and seminars on asylum and refugee law to high school students.

The students visited Year 10 students at the Prince of Peace Lutheran College in July, Year 11 students at Caloundra Christian College in October and conducted a presentation on forced migration and the law to 40 school students and parents at UQ Open Day in August.

Led and co-ordinated by Ellen Bevan and Kate Stacey, the ARLP's tutors for semester two were Alice Pinkerton, Bronwen Perberdy, Shilpa Maniar, Sarah Brown, Danielle McKeen and Balawyn Jones.

[The International Humanitarian Law Project](#) visited All Saints Anglican College on the Gold Coast to deliver a lecture to almost 100 year 9 students in June, and presented a workshop on the Laws of War as part of the UQ Young Scholars Program in November.

The tutors this semester were Catherine Drummond, Alexandra Wolhuter, Kym Dryden, Mathew Daniell and Ganesh Jegatheesan.

Help us to make a difference

Participation in UQ Pro Bono Centre programs offers law students an opportunity to use their legal training to help disadvantaged members of the community by undertaking work in community legal centres, through community education and outreach initiatives and pro bono work.

A financial contribution to the Centre will ensure more students can participate in these transformative learning experiences and continue to make a significant difference to people's lives. For instance, a gift of \$1,000 will fund at least one law student place at a community legal clinic.

As a donor you can make a personal connection with your nominated project and meet the students you support, or remain anonymous if you wish to do so.

To find out how to donate or for information about sponsorship opportunities please visit law.uq.edu.au/giving

Thank you

The UQ Pro Bono Centre wishes to thank all of its stakeholders and student volunteers for their commitment and hard work in 2012. We look forward to working in partnership with the legal profession to expand our pro bono contributions in 2013.

Contact Us

This newsletter is produced by the TC Beirne School of Law. We welcome your comments and feedback and also ideas and suggestions for future issues. Please email us at marketing@law.uq.edu.au.