THE INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE (ILC) SEEK APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE UNSW LAW STUDENTS FOR A PAID POSITION, ONE DAY (7 HRS) PER WEEK, CO-ORDINATING THE "INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIAN COURTS: CASE SUMMARIES" (IPIACCS) PROJECT.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The laws, cultural practices and knowledge-systems of Australia’s First Peoples continue to exist and evolve; there may sometimes be a tension between an Indigenous person’s obligations under ‘customary’ law and their duties under mainstream Australian law. At the same time, most Indigenous people continue to be affected by discrimination and severe socio-economic disadvantage. These complex issues are increasingly being considered by Australian courts when an Indigenous person has been convicted of a criminal offence and an appropriate sentence must be determined.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of IPIACCS is to create a publicly-accessible online database (available on AustLII) of case summaries which catalogue and analyse Australian courts’ varying approaches to Indigenous persons – their backgrounds, obligations under ‘customary’ law, cultural practices, kinship issues and other relevant factors. The scope of the initial phase of this project will be restricted to sentencing cases from the trial and appellate divisions of state and territory Supreme Courts over the past twenty years.

This database will be designed, firstly, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services as a clinical tool for lawyers representing Indigenous clients, and secondly, as a resource for policymakers, researchers and law students.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Although the IPIAC Case Summaries will be drafted by suitably-qualified student volunteers and ILC staff, the Project Co-ordinator will take overall responsibility for the integrity, quality and productivity of the project. This may include responsibility for the following tasks:

1. Co-ordinating the IPIAC project
2. Overseeing the quality of the case summaries
3. Managing the project budget
4. Reporting to the ILC Management Committee
5. Establishing and maintaining relationships with Indigenous organisations and community members
6. Representing ILC at community and legal meetings.
a) Identifying cases and devising appropriate research methodologies.
b) Maintaining a user-friendly spreadsheet of case summary data.
c) Recruiting, training and managing talented student volunteers.
d) Editing drafts and publishing final case summaries.
e) Quantitative and thematic data analysis.
f) Administration and correspondence.

The Research Co-ordinator will work from the Indigenous Law Centre, and will be remunerated at Level 5 Step 1 ($39.02 per hour).

Requirements
Applications will be considered from law students who fulfil the following criteria:
i. Completion of at least 2 years of law studies (JD students, at least 1 year).
iii. Demonstrable understanding of and sensitivities to Indigenous legal issues.
iv. Ability to work autonomously and successfully lead a group project.
v. Ability to draft case summaries that are concise, unfailingly accurate, and draw out facts that are not emphasised by existing case reports.
vi. Availability for at least one day per week over the Summer Semester and over Semester 1, 2012.

The ILC welcomes applications from LLM and PhD students.
Indigenous students are particularly encouraged to apply.

How to apply
If you have any questions about the position, please email Daniel Wells wdnw@unsw.edu.au.

To apply, email your CV along with a letter addressing the above requirements to ilc@unsw.edu.au.

Applications close Friday 30 September.

Applicants may be required to attend a brief interview at the ILC.