



Victorian Government
Solicitor's Office



VGSO TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM 2016

The Victorian Government Solicitor's Office (VGSO) provides strategic advice and practical legal solutions to the Victorian Government and its statutory authorities.

APPLICATIONS OPEN MONDAY 20 JULY 2015

WHY CHOOSE VGSO?

AND WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM?

OUR TRAINEES

The role of a VGSO Trainee Lawyer is wonderfully diverse, constantly challenging and always engaging.

Our Traineeship Program offers you a unique foundation for a rewarding career as a lawyer, whether in government or private practice. You will work on interesting, high-profile matters, with a great deal of autonomy and responsibility.

You will work with talented, highly motivated and enthusiastic colleagues, who will help to mentor and guide you.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The VGSO operates in an open-door environment where knowledge is shared in a supportive and collegiate manner. You can also expect regular feedback to assist you in the development of your skills, confidence and ability.

WORK/LIFE BALANCE

The VGSO values the importance of encouraging a flexible working environment. We offer a range of options such as flexible working arrangements, part-time employment and generous leave provisions.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We encourage all of our legal practitioners to participate in learning and development activities to further enhance their skills and expertise. The VGSO's Learning & Development Program is tailor-made for

individual careers and allows for learning on the job through numerous channels:

- opportunities to attend courts and tribunals;
- drafting complex advices;
- practical involvement with specialised areas of law;
- further development of research skills and involvement in significant agreement negotiations; and
- participation in the monthly Learn and Connect Program with a wide range of training sessions.

Trainee Lawyers also receive training through Leo Cussens to successfully complete the values, skills and practice area components of the Traineeship Program.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

AND DO YOU HAVE THAT 'SOMETHING ELSE'?

The VGSO places great emphasis on our core values, *professionalism* and *working together*. During the recruitment process we look for candidates who are interested and committed to working in government, appreciate the importance of client responsiveness, demonstrate the requirements of

acting as a model litigant and are friendly and take pride in their work.

We select Trainee Lawyers who are motivated, demonstrate initiative and good interpersonal skills, have strong academic results and lead balanced lives.

If you think you have that 'something else' the VGSO is looking for, see the back of this brochure or visit our website for full details on how to apply for the 2016 Traineeship Program.

“THE VGSO SUCCEEDS BECAUSE IT IS A TRUSTED ADVISOR OF CHOICE FOR GOVERNMENT LAW. MY AIM IS TO ENSURE WE CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR PART TO THE VERY BEST OF OUR ABILITY.”

Peter Stewart, Victorian Government Solicitor



CLASS OF 2014

CLASS OF 2015



WHAT DO OUR PAST TRAINEES SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM?



Erin Richardson

Solicitor in the Workplace Relations & Occupational Safety Branch

2014/15 Trainee Lawyer

One of the most attractive features of the traineeship at the VGSO is the diversity of legal practice: we advise government clients on everything from constitutional law and human rights, to commercial contracts and Royal Commissions. In my four unique rotations, I was

fortunate to work on a wide variety of matters in areas including privacy law, freedom of information, torts, administrative law, coronial inquests, equal opportunity, vexatious litigants, and employment law.

I particularly enjoyed the autonomy and trust I received as a trainee, which I found invaluable for my learning and development. During my traineeship I was given the opportunity to run my own files and advices under supervision, instruct counsel at court, liaise with clients and witnesses, and negotiate with solicitors on the other side.



Oliver Cox

Solicitor in the Commercial, Property & Technology Branch

2014/15 Trainee Lawyer

As trainees enjoy a high level of independence and involvement in matters, the rotation in the Commercial Property & Technology (CP&T) Branch at the VGSO provides a Trainee Lawyer with a fantastic opportunity to develop as a young lawyer. The CP&T Branch works in

many varied areas, including native title, charitable trusts, corporate governance, crown land, resources and procurement to name a few. What is unique about being in CP&T is that while you develop skills in contract drafting and conveyancing, which are key to being a good commercial or property lawyer, you also gain exposure to complex legal issues. Working exclusively for government clients means that there is an extra layer to each matter, with different considerations and processes being involved on what might otherwise be an ordinary transaction.



Jordina Rust

Solicitor in the Government & Public Law Branch

2013/14 Trainee Lawyer

During my time in the Workplace Relations & Occupational Safety branch as a Trainee Lawyer, I worked on a wide range of workplace law and industrial relations matters. These included unfair dismissal, performance management, workplace bullying, disciplinary processes and managing the employment law aspects of organisational restructures.

I was also fortunate to be involved in workplace litigation which included representing clients before the Fair Work Commission, observing negotiations relating to matters before the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and witnessing a discrimination proceeding before the Human Rights list at VCAT.



Amy Galeotti

Solicitor in the Police Branch

2012/13 Trainee Lawyer

I really enjoyed my time as a trainee at the VGSO. Rotating through four of the office branches enabled me to gain exposure to diverse areas of law and to various clients across government. As a Trainee Lawyer at the VGSO, I was involved in interesting, high-profile work right from the beginning.

Trainee lawyers are given the conduct of their own files and get regular opportunities to draft advices and instruct in court, with plenty of support from senior lawyers. I was also able to undertake secondments at the Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner and at Victoria Police, where I further developed my client skills.

I found the people across the office to be really friendly and encouraging, and received terrific support in my day-to-day work and for completing the requirements for admission.

WHEN TO APPLY

All dates in relation to the recruitment of Trainee Lawyers are subject to the LIV guidelines <http://www.liv.asn.au/>

2015 TRAINEESHIP RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION CALENDAR

Applications open:	9:00am Monday, 20 July 2015
Applications close:	11:59pm Sunday, 23 August 2015
Arrangements for interviews commence:	Monday, 14 September 2015
Offers made:	10:00am Monday, 28 September 2015
Traineeship commences:	Tuesday, 8 March 2016

HOW TO APPLY

AND WHAT SHOULD YOUR APPLICATION INCLUDE?

Your application, including the items below, should be submitted to Amy Scanlon, Human Resources Advisor via amy.scanlon@vgso.vic.gov.au

Your application should include:

1. A cover letter explaining why you want to work at the VGSO and why you think you would be suited to being a government lawyer.
2. A complete curriculum vitae, including details of your relevant work experience, community involvements, memberships and other interests.
3. A photocopy of your relevant academic transcript(s).

CONTACT US



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For further information about the VGSO, our Traineeship Program or our application process and dates, please visit www.vgso.vic.gov.au/working-vgso/traineeship-program or contact VGSO Human Resources:

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