

PROFs Text

Taking you to the Bar

Newsletter of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies
Issue 2: October 2007



INSTITUTE of
PROFESSIONAL
LEGAL STUDIES



At IPLS our focus is excellence and to maintain and challenge the standards of professional legal training in New Zealand.

The provision of a practical skills based course remains the cornerstone of the IPLS course, however, to diversify the application of the practical skills we are introducing increasing transaction depth to the course. Another interesting development is our Summer School courses, both online and onsite, which are proving to be extremely popular. Finally, to all of those students who are studying for exams, we wish you all the best and an enjoyable summer break.

Bernadette Wilson
National Director

Summer
Schools
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Part-time Online Course

Available in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch
Intake 5D 3 December 2007 to 26 April 2008

Full-time Onsite Course

Intake 4 26 November 2007 to 7 March 2008 – Dunedin only

Intake 5 3 December 2007 to 14 March 2008 – Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch

These are filling up fast and some already have wait lists, so be quick if you would like to secure a place.

Course
Dates
For
2008
Finalised

Part-time Online Courses (19 weeks) Available in all centres

Intake 1D	21 January 2008 to 31 May 2008
Intake 2D	3 March 2008 to 12 July 2008
Intake 3D	7 April 2008 to 16 August 2008
Intake 4D	19 May 2008 to 27 September 2008
Intake 5D	4 August 2008 to 13 December 2008
Intake 6D	8 December 2008 to 2 May 2009 (Summer School)

Full-time Onsite Courses (13 weeks)

Intake 1	17 March 2008 to 19 June 2008	Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch
Intake 2	4 August 2008 to 31 October 2008	Auckland, Wellington
Intake 3	1 December 2008 to 13 March 2009	Available in all centres (Summer School)



Staff Profile: CATHY BAILEY Course Development Manager

Cathy joined the Institute part time in 1995, while practising as an Associate of a local law firm. Admitted in 1985, she has practised in a wide range of areas, with an emphasis on conveyancing, estate planning, family law and litigation. Passionate about education, Cathy has since taken up the fulltime role of Course Development Manager for the Institute. This sees her involved in working closely with stakeholders to ensure that IPLS training resources, for both online and onsite trainee lawyers, meet the needs and expectations of the Profession.

A key part of her role this year has been to expand IPLS training resources into exciting growth areas and electives such as alternative business structures, due diligence, franchising, joint ventures, financing transactions and corporate authorisations.

Job Seekers

If you are looking for work check out our website: Job seekers link: www.ipls.org.nz
For employers we offer free advertising. Just send your job ad to: h.murdoch@ipls.org.nz

Websites of Interest

www.teamfactors.com Team Factors is a business concerned with improving connections between professional services firms and their client organisations. This site has a vast array of excellent articles on practice management issues.

www.insideoutlegal.co.nz Check out this site for the latest legal news (including up to date articles on topical legal issues) and events as well as their blog site.

Law Firm Profile: **ANDERSON LLOYD LAWYERS**

IPLS would like to congratulate Anderson Lloyd Lawyers on being runner up in the Large Organisation category of the 2007 EEO Trust Work and Life Awards.

Anderson Lloyd is a South Island based law firm with offices in Dunedin, Queenstown and Christchurch. It employs 86 lawyers and legal staff and 58 secretarial and support staff.

We spoke to Sara Coop, who is the General Manager of HR for Anderson Lloyd, about some of the firm's initiatives.

What work/life initiatives does the firm have in place?

Currently 55 of out of 144 staff are using some sort of flexible working arrangement. Such arrangements include part-time work, term-time working and job sharing. Career breaks, study leave and domestic leave are also available and staff can work from home when they need to. We also provide an annual \$150 reimbursement to staff for any activity that promotes general personal health and wellbeing. In addition the firm has an active social club, which arranges sports events, drinks and meals as well as charity fundraising events.

What benefits have you seen for the staff and the firm?

We feel our initiatives are contributing significantly to creating a work-life balance for our staff. Staff retention is high and so too is staff commitment to the firm. Over half our lawyers are women with over a third represented in our firm's partnership.

Student Profile: **ADAM COPLAND**

Adam Copland, an Otago law graduate, recently completed the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) Online Professionals course. He was admitted to the bar in June 2007.

What did you like most about University in Otago?

The socialising was very conducive to achieving a good work/life balance. The functions run by Law Soc were fantastic and a good way to meet fellow students.

Why did you choose to study law and practice law?

In my first year, I did first year medicine and first year law, and found that I preferred law. It was really the teaching staff that influenced my decision to pick law. They made it really interesting and were very approachable.

Where are you working and what areas are you practising in?

I am working at Duncan Cotterill, in the Resource Management Team, in Christchurch. As well as RM work I do a bit of general practice work as well.

What did you like most about IPLS Professionals?

It was the people I met, especially meeting other lawyers who will be my peers throughout my career.

What have you found most useful from the IPLS Professionals training?

The simple stuff I learnt at Profs that was not covered at law school and it can be applied straight away in practice, like the style of writing letters, drafting wills, drafting court documents. I felt well prepared for Court work and in fact I had my first court appearance a week after being admitted.

Any words of wisdom for other university graduates?

Enjoy yourself at Varsity and don't take it too seriously, you have your whole working life to be serious. Choose papers that you will get something out of, it will be more use to you when you are working. Finally, it is very important to know what you are talking about in this profession, 'winging it' is not an option when you're facing questions from a Judge.

When I am not working you will find me...

Usually doing something outdoors.

Job Hunting – Hot Tip

When applying for a job, if possible, hand-deliver your CV to the Practice Manager or the Human Resource Manager. This will automatically distinguish your CV from the others and will show initiative and confidence, two qualities that employers are looking for. Make sure you dress as if you are attending an interview, to make a good impression. You may well be offered an interview and a job then and there.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or have any queries

Phone: 0800 PROFS NZ or visit: www.ipls.org.nz

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