

CLIMATE JUSTICE LAWYER

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	Law Experiential Education
FACULTY/DIVISION	Faculty of Law
CLASSIFICATION	HEW Level 8
DESIGNATED CAMPUS OR LOCATION	Monash Law Clinics, Melbourne CBD

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

At [Monash](#), work feels different. There's a sense of belonging, from contributing to something groundbreaking – a place where great things happen. You know you're part of something special and purposeful because, like Monash, your ambitions drive you to make change.

We have a clear purpose to deliver ground-breaking intensive research; a world-class education; a global ecosystem of enterprise – and we activate these to address some of the [challenges](#) of the age, Climate Change, Thriving Communities and Geopolitical Security.

We welcome and value difference and [diversity](#). When you come to work, you can be yourself, be a change-maker and develop your career in exciting ways with curious, energetic, inspiring and committed people and teams driven to make an impact – just like you.

We champion an [inclusive workplace culture](#) for our staff regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. We have also worked to improve [gender equality](#) for more than 30 years. Join the pursuit of our purpose to build a better future for ourselves and our communities – [#Changelt](#) with us.

The Climate Justice Clinic (CJC)

The CJC commenced in 2019 and has since worked with a wide variety of clients and partners, including established environmental advocacy organisations, grassroots activist groups, lawyers and law firms, academics, scientists, and economists, in Australia and the Pacific region.

Through their involvement in the CJC, approximately 200 students have received practical, case-based training in the important and emerging area of climate change law. Approximately 15 of these students have returned for extended periods as volunteers to support the CJC's work and deepen their knowledge in this field.

Significant CJC work includes the 'Guidebook to Public Land Management in Victoria', a submission to Senate inquiries into 'Greenwashing', research contributions to international and national litigation, legal advice to environmental not-for-profits, and legal research assistance to support the work of national and regional environmental movements.

Over the last four years, we have continually reflected on our practice and identified that the CJC is most effective when supporting and responding to the needs of the community and organisations directly involved in the climate justice movement. This approach ensures maximum impact for the CJC's advice work, research, litigation support, publications, legal education and a range of other measures.

Monash and the Faculty of Law values staff diversity and champions inclusive practices. We are committed to equitable decision making and apply the principles of [achievement relative to opportunity](#) in our selection processes.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Climate Justice Lawyer supports the Director, Monash Law Clinics and Senior Manager – Partnerships and Clinics, in the provision of timely and authoritative advice on a wide range of matters arising related to CJC.

The Clinic is excited to expand its work by appointing a CJC lawyer (PQE 5+) for up to 3 days a week, to further develop the CJC and its work. This purpose of this role would be to:

1. Develop climate justice legal intervention opportunities in partnership with impacted communities. For instance, this could include scoping litigation opportunities to enhance climate change considerations throughout the Victorian planning scheme. It may involve targeted 'test case' litigation or the development of material to help lay persons articulate a climate change argument.
2. Drive impactful legal advocacy projects in partnership with climate justice organisations, beyond litigation.
3. Continue to strengthen relationships with organisations, communities and individuals within the climate justice movement to identify areas of need and longer-term legal opportunities.
4. Track and report on key CJC achievements and developments.

Reporting Line: The position reports to the Director, Monash Law Clinics and the Senior Manager – Partnerships and Clinics.

Supervisory Responsibilities: Not applicable

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budgetary Responsibilities: Not applicable

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintain relationships with existing CJC supervisors, seconded supervisors, clients, donors and supporters. Develop and maintain networks between the CJC and the wider climate justice movement.
2. Contribute to strategic planning and the achievement of the goals of the CJC, Monash Law Clinics, and the university.
3. Foster and expand existing client and partner relationships, in the context of the above role description.

4. Manage, coordinate and produce timely, accurate and practical legal advice and services in support of the goals of the CJC, in a manner consistent with the ethical and legal obligations of a community legal practice;
5. Prioritise work and effectively manage the workload and client expectations;
6. Develop and maintain a variety of coordination activities including formalising precedents, procedures and processes for the future growth of the CJC, and to maximise its impact.
7. Report on Key Responsibilities and including recording and measuring the CJC's activities.
8. Coordinate and oversee the planning, management and effective implementation of continuous improvement activities relating to the practices and procedures of the CJC, coordinating a variety of administrative and business development activities, including Develop and maintain existing CJC student volunteer program.
9. Produce quality research, advice and documents appropriate to the needs of clients and the CJC, including maintaining and extending the reputation of the CJC through academic publication and presentations.
10. Develop and maintain existing relationships with internal and external stakeholders whilst also fostering and expanding networks to understand the advice and legal assistance being sought
11. Other duties from time to time as directed by the Monash Law Clinics particularly in consultation with the supervisors of the CJC.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:
 - A tertiary qualification in law (LLB) and be a qualified legal practitioner, either practising or entitled to practice in Victoria; and
 - have three or more year's post-admission experience.

Knowledge and Skills

2. Substantial experience in a legal practice ideally within a field relevant to climate justice.
3. Experience in identifying, interpreting and applying legislative requirements relevant to the particular matter being handled.
4. Excellent planning and organisational skills, with demonstrated ability to manage multiple competing legal and organisational tasks.
5. Highly-developed relationship management and consulting skills, including the ability to interact, influence and negotiate and work cooperatively in a team environment
6. Highly-developed analytical and conceptual skills including demonstrated ability to quickly assimilate new concepts and information and deliver positive, innovative solutions
7. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to draft legal documents, provide authoritative advice and effectively communicate complex information in a clear, succinct manner
8. Experience working in a university or similar environment and ability to quickly acquire knowledge of university legislation and associated legal issues

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- Travel to other campuses of the University may be required

- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted
- A current satisfactory Working With Children Check is required

GOVERNANCE

Monash University expects staff to appropriately balance risk and reward in a manner that is sustainable to its long-term future, contribute to a culture of honesty and integrity, and provide an environment that is safe, secure and inclusive. Ensure you are aware of and adhere to University policies relevant to the duties undertaken and the values of the University. This is a standard which the University sees as the benchmark for all of its activities in Australia and internationally.