

# Your **government.** Your **law career.**



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## Our department

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) is part of the South Australian public sector. AGD develops and delivers laws, policy and services that support South Australians, protect our rights and strengthen our communities.

AGD incorporates a number of agencies which focus on promoting justice, anti-discrimination, consumer protection, community wellbeing, and safety within the workplace.

Staff with law backgrounds are employed in a variety of roles across AGD, including:

- advising on changes to the law
- rights protection
- lawyers at the Crown Solicitor's Office
- lawyers at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- lawyers at the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

## Law careers

Life as a public sector lawyer is quite different to what you might have seen or heard about working in law. Our lawyers and solicitors work hard, and like any workplace might need to work some long hours to get the job done. Importantly though, we understand that to allow people to give their best, people need time to learn, work individually as well as in teams, and unwind.

As an employee of the public service, you'll have the chance to contribute to our state, enjoy flexible working arrangements and gain access to a range of positive work conditions.

## Crown Solicitor's Office

The Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) is the dedicated provider of legal advice and services to the Government of South Australia. If you think of any major initiative in The State, it has probably involved the expertise of CSO.

CSO employs over 250 staff who provide legal advice and represent multiple specialist areas. CSO also has an Outposted Lawyer Program, which gives lawyers the opportunity to work with government departments on-site and provide either specialist or broad-based legal service in areas as diverse as environment, health, education and transport.

It takes a certain type of person to work at CSO. You have to be passionate about the law. You have to be passionate about South Australia and the part you play in the community. You also have to be able to combine those two passions and channel them into ensuring that the government's policies and projects achieve lasting, meaningful outcomes for the community.

### Areas of law that we work in

- **Government, Constitutional and Administrative Law**  
Provide advice and representation to Ministers, Chief Executives, Statutory Authorities, and Public Officers on their powers, roles and responsibilities, consistent with the rule of law. Opportunities include contributing to the development of constitutional principles in litigation in the High Court on behalf of South Australia.
- **Commercial and Property**  
Undertake the full breadth of commercial and property legal matters, including contributions to major State initiatives. Involves working for some of South Australia's most prominent, high-value, and strategically important projects—such as multi-million dollar public infrastructure developments—as well as intellectual property, information and communications technology matters.

- **Civil Litigation**

Manage critical civil and commercial litigation for government, including contractual disputes, intellectual property matters and negligence claims, including as part of our specialist medical negligence and asbestos response teams. Opportunities include representing the State in coronial inquests and in response to Royal Commissions and other public inquiries.

- **Child Protection**

Represent the Department for Child Protection in the Youth Court of Australia, to protect children at serious risk from physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse. Opportunities include running trials in the Youth Court and advising on the use of statutory powers to support vulnerable South Australian children.

- **Employment Law**

Provide advice and representation to government as the State's largest employer across the full range of employment and industrial law issues. Opportunities include providing complex and highly sensitive legal advice and support in matters arising under the ICAC Act and in relation to government appointments.

- **Environment and Planning**

Provide advice to the State about environmental protection, climate change, planning and development, housing supply, biosecurity, water resources and more. Opportunities to act as solicitor and counsel in environmental prosecutions, administrative appeals and judicial reviews, and to contribute to law reform for the benefit of future generations.

- **Criminal Law**

Represent Statutory Authorities and Public Officers in regulatory prosecutions including work health and safety offences and breaches of consumer protection law. Represent police and other agencies, obtaining warrants and responding to subpoenas. Provide advice on criminal law reform and the exercise of powers by law enforcement agencies.

- **Victims of Crime**

Provide advice to support the fair and efficient administration of the Victims of Crime compensation scheme, for the benefit of South Australians impacted by crime and without recourse to other assistance. Opportunities include taking action to recover funds from offenders for the benefit of victims.

- **Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage**

Provide advice and representation to the SA Government in the fair and effective resolution of native title claims and to support the protection of Aboriginal heritage across South Australia. Opportunities include contributing to the development of this dynamic area of law including in landmark cases in the higher courts.



## Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

A career in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) will provide you with an interesting, challenging and rewarding work environment. As an employee of the ODPP, you will have opportunities to prosecute, or to assist in the preparation of South Australia's most serious criminal matters.

The Solicitor Section is the largest legal section of the office. Solicitors working in this section resolve around 80% of all major indictable files, with the balance being prepared for a trial. As a solicitor, you will work on matters throughout the criminal justice process, including Magistrates Court committals, pre-trial hearings in the Superior Courts and appeals following conviction and/or sentence. The subject matter of our files is varied. Solicitors appear in all criminal courts when submissions are made on guilty pleas, when disputed facts hearings proceed and in relation to permission to appeal and appeal arguments.

The Trial Counsel Section undertakes the prosecution of criminal trials within the District and Supreme Courts.

Senior staff within both legal sections also undertake appeal work in the Court of Criminal Appeal and in the High Court of Australia.

Throughout our work, the legal officers are supported by the Business Services Section, comprising Witness Assistance Officers, law clerks, secretarial and general administrative staff.

ODPP is committed to providing a flexible working environment to assist staff to balance their work with family and life responsibilities.

## Legislative Services

Legislative Services is a small, dynamic team within AGD that provides legal advice and support to the Attorney-General on legal policy, law reform, and the development and implementation of the department's legislative program. Legislative Services work closely with the Attorney-General's advisers and Parliamentary Counsel to develop and review legislative proposals affecting legislation committed to the Attorney-General, as well as legislation aligned to the department and its Ministers.

Working in Legislative Services provides a unique and rewarding opportunity to work on the development and passage on a significant portion of the State government's legislation through Parliament across a broad spectrum of subject matters, including the administration of justice, the criminal law, integrity bodies and state electoral processes.

Legal Officers attend Parliament to support and advise Government Ministers about Bills, and to provide written and verbal advice on Bills and law reform proposals to Ministers of the Crown and senior management of Government entities. Legal Officers are also involved in national law reform work in cross-jurisdictional working groups formed under the auspices of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.

## Office of Parliamentary Counsel

The Office of Parliamentary Counsel provides specialist services for maintaining and drafting laws and advising the government on legislative matters. The office drafts legislation for government and for private members of Parliament.

## Your opportunities

### Paralegal and graduate solicitor pools

CSO | ODPP

The Crown Solicitor's Office and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions run independent pool processes to recruit legal, paralegal and law clerk staff.

Successful applicants for each category are placed in a pool and notified as suitable vacancies arise. Successful applications are valid for at least 12 months.

Advertisements for applications to all pools are usually made on an annual basis and are advertised via [iworkfor.sa.gov.au](http://iworkfor.sa.gov.au).

### Practical legal training placements

CSO | ODPP

The Crown Solicitor's Office and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions offer placements to students wishing to complete the Practical Legal Training component of their professional qualifications.

Placements are offered up to 3 times per year and placement duration is dependent on the students' practical legal training requirements.

These placements will suit students who are high achievers in both their academic and personal lives, with good interpersonal skills, relevant work experience and references.

## Summer clerkships

CSO | ODPP

AGD's Legal Summer Clerk Programs offer law students in their final years of study an opportunity to gain practical legal experience within a government environment and the ability to undertake supervised work within a legal practice. Students are paid for the full 8 weeks and are allocated to a section within their chosen business unit - either the Crown Solicitor's Office or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

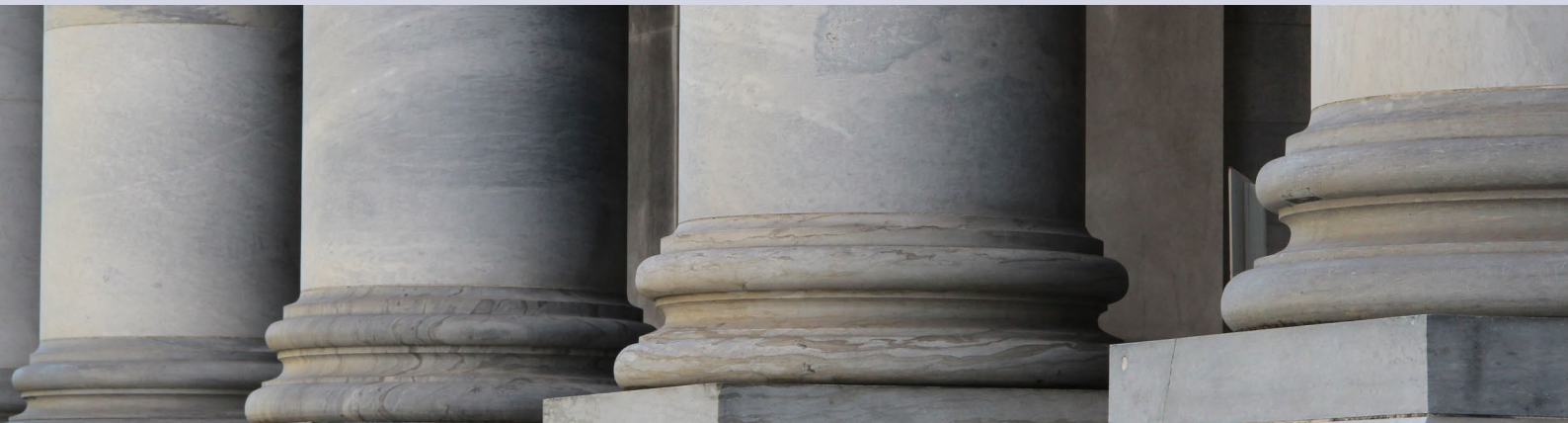
Your application should reflect both academic and personal achievements as well as any relevant legal work experience. To be successful, your application should showcase your interpersonal skills, ambitions and your passion for the law.

The Crown Solicitor's Office offers up to 4 placements each year, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions offers 3-4 positions each year. Clerkships are highly sought after and extremely competitive.

A clerkship position is dedicated to First Nations students each year.

### Legal vacancies

Public sector vacancies are advertised online. You can subscribe to job alerts for legal roles, and find out more about working for the Government of South Australia at [iworkfor.sa.gov.au](http://iworkfor.sa.gov.au).



## Aboriginal employment

AGD is committed to the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are passionate about providing a culturally respectful work environment and promoting development opportunities through training, mentoring and peer support.

### Cadetship Program

AGD provides opportunities for First Nations law students to receive support throughout their law degree.

Through the Cadetship Program, participants can undertake a cadetship that includes

- 50 days of paid employment each year of full-time study
- mentorship and guidance from experienced professionals and
- ongoing support to help you succeed in your studies and career.

The program is designed to provide practical experience, professional development and a strong foundation for a future career in law.

## Aboriginal Employment Network

The Aboriginal Employment Network supports Aboriginal people looking for work. If you register as a job seeker, you will receive regular updates about training and employment opportunities. Aboriginal engagement coordinators across The State can also support you in securing and staying in a job or training.

Visit [www.aes.org.au](http://www.aes.org.au) for more information.

### Summer clerkships

A clerkship position is dedicated to First Nations students. See page 4 for more information about Summer Clerkships.



**Attorney-General's Department**

Web [www.agd.sa.gov.au/about-us/careers](http://www.agd.sa.gov.au/about-us/careers)

**Crown Solicitor's Office**

Web [www.agd.sa.gov.au/law-and-justice/crown-solicitors](http://www.agd.sa.gov.au/law-and-justice/crown-solicitors)

Email [cs0-reception@sa.gov.au](mailto:cs0-reception@sa.gov.au)

**Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

Web [www.dpp.sa.gov.au](http://www.dpp.sa.gov.au)

Email [DPPWebmaster@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPPWebmaster@sa.gov.au)



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Attorney-General's Department