

PRACTICAL TRAINING COURSE 2009

Information Session

Training Tomorrow's Lawyers

Judith Dickson, Director PTC





Leo Cussen Institute

- Established by Act of Victorian Parliament in 1972.
- Established to provide training to articled clerks and to the legal profession
- 1974 – First Practical Training Course
- 2004 – Online delivery PTC began
- Training for admission to practice AND
- Training for ongoing professional development



How Do I become an Australian Legal Practitioner?

- Law Degree at approved Australian Law School
- Practical Legal Training
- Admission to the legal profession
- Obtain a practising certificate



Why Train at Leo Cussen PTC?

- Longstanding reputation for excellence
- Employability & transferability
- Do lawyers' work - Current Matter files
- Strength and breadth of practical training
- Mentor system
- Goes beyond the basics - Electives
- Networking opportunities



PTC at Leo Cussen Institute

Two intakes a year

- 24 weeks including professional placement
- On-site and Online delivery training in
 - Legal Skills
 - Practice Areas
 - Confers a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice
- Admission to the Legal Profession



Features of the PTC

- Full time course – 21 + 3 (weeks)
- Broad coverage of practice areas
- Focus on ‘learning by doing’-practical
- Mentor system – small groups
- Current matter program – running an entire file & appearances (advocacy)
- Professional Placement (3 weeks)
- Course Reference Materials



Practical Training Methods

- Topic Work – skills & practice areas
- Current Matter Program - Files



Practical Learning Activities

- Interviewing
- Advising
- Letter writing
- Drafting
- Legal Research
- Negotiating
- Advocacy
- Problem solving
- File management



National Competency Standards

Topic Work

+

Assessed Activities

+

Current Matter Program

= COMPETENCY TRAINING



Current Matter Program

Files conducted by PTC
trainees as part of their
'Legal Practice'

‘Current Matter’ Files

- The File
- Letters
- Documents



Supervised by Mentors

- Hearing
- or
- Settlement
- or
- Will-signing (etc)



Assessed by Practitioners
and Mentors



Mentors

- Supervise small groups of PTC trainees throughout the Course
- Act as 'supervising partner' in Current Matters
- On-going feedback to trainees through the Course
- Provide a role model



The Learning Environment

- Professional workplace
- Collegial
- Social
- Online discussion forum
- Experienced legal practitioners
- Professional network



Assessment

- Assess lawyering activity eg
 - Bail application
 - Negotiation
 - The File
 - The settlement
- No exams
- Competent or Not Competent



Your Commitment

- ***Time***
 - Onsite: 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday
 - Online: minimum 25 hours per week plus 16 days onsite
- ***Approach and Attitude***
- ***Cost***
 - FEE-HELP
 - 2009 Fee: \$6600 (local students)
\$13950 (international students)



Outcomes

- Certificate of Satisfactory Completion
(required for admission to the legal profession)
- Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice
- Admission to legal profession in Victoria



Leo Graduates

- Partners/employees in Australian and international law firms
- Lawyers in government departments
- Lawyers in community legal centres
- Politicians
- Academics
- CEOs and Managers
- Policy and research lawyers
- More.....



“The Practical Training Course was a fantastic training in legal practice. Running my own simulated files in the Current Matter program was a realistic opportunity to experience the demands and pressures of legal practice without the fear of making mistakes.”

2007 Leo Cussen PTC Graduate

“The Practical Training Course gave me experience across a breadth of areas of legal practice. The training and the extensive materials were excellent preparation for my first years as a practitioner”

2000 Leo Cussen PTC Graduate



Contact us-Apply Now

Leo Cussen Institute
360 Lt Bourke Street, Melbourne
Tel: 9602 3111

Administrator PTC: Sophie Lambrou
Administrator Online: Debbie Leine

Email: ptcadmin@leocussen.vic.edu.au
jdickson@leocussen.vic.edu.au

Onsite course: www.leocussen.vic.edu.au
Online course: www.leocussenonline.com



Application Process Onsite PTC

- Go to: www.leocussen.vic.edu.au
- Click on Application Form link
- Read Important Information document
- Complete Application online, save, print out and submit in hard copy (Onsite PTC)
- Applications close **31 March 2009**.



Application Process Online PTC

- Go to: www.leocussenonline.com
- Click on Enrol
- Click on View All Courses
- Follow prompts to complete Application form
- Save and submit **via the online system**
- Applications close **31 March 2009**.

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Thank you

