

PDS LAW GRADUATE PROGRAMME

Gain practical experience in a criminal defence practice environment. Develop your legal knowledge and skills and apply them in the real world.

What we do

We provide legal advice and representation to defendants who are granted legal aid in criminal cases. We also oversee the duty lawyer services in the courts where we operate.

We receive around 16,000 cases a year and our mix of senior; intermediate and junior lawyers are employed to undertake a full range of criminal legal aid cases. The PDS are an independent, sustainable, and resilient criminal law practice providing excellent service to our clients for a just New Zealand.

ABOUT THE LAW GRADUATE PROGRAMME

The PDS Law Graduate Programme provides recent New Zealand university law graduates with an opportunity to gain practical experience in a criminal defence practice environment. Law Graduates have the opportunity to develop their legal skills to enable them to practice as a criminal defence lawyer.

As a PDS Law Graduate you will:

- Work on criminal legal aid cases
- Undertake legal research, draft legal submissions and affidavits
- Observe client interviews and court appearances
- Develop key relationships with the Judiciary, the Crown, Police Prosecutions, court staff, the private bar and local community groups

What we offer

- 6 months fixed term, full time and salaried positions in the Auckland/Hamilton region.
- Opportunity to attend parole hearings, the district court, prison visits, and police station visits.
- High quality and practical mentoring and coaching from senior criminal lawyers.
- Professional leadership within the PDS and the wider Criminal Bar.
- A collegial and supportive team environment and flexibility within the workplace.

You will spend 4 days a week at one of our 4 offices in the Auckland/Hamilton region and one day a week having a formal training session with all of our law graduates.

What we look for

We are looking for graduates who have recently completed a tertiary qualification in law and:

- Have knowledge of criminal law and a passion for human rights
- Have experience in social justice (e.g. community law centre)
- Are versatile self-starters who have a strong work ethic and are client-focussed

Advertising for the 2019 intake will begin in May with an anticipated start date in July 2019. Visit www.pds.govt.nz for more information about the PDS and career opportunities.