

W+K Pro Bono Internship

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

wotton
kearney

A founding member of **LEGALIGN**
GLOBAL

If you're chasing a career-shaping opportunity that lets you help people in need at the same time, you may want to apply for a Wotton + Kearney pro bono internship.

This exciting program offers pro bono experience both within Australasia's largest specialist insurance firm and at the Seniors Rights Service, a community legal centre.

"I found my experience at the SRS and Wotton + Kearney to be really valuable. I was truly touched by the work the firm does to support and empower older persons, refugees and self-represented litigants... I would also recommend other students participate in internships at W+K. Everyone at the firm was really supportive and it was a great opportunity to gain exposure to the legal industry, learn and develop skills."

2018 W+K PRO BONO INTERN

What the internship involves

The W+K pro bono internship program is aligned with your university's internship program. While you are involved with it, W+K will provide supervision and mentors who include partners, lawyers and paralegals who are also engaged in pro bono work.

Throughout the program, you'll spend half of each day at W+K's Sydney office in Castlereagh St and half at the Seniors Rights Service in Surry Hills, or work remotely when circumstances require it.

As an intern you'll be involved in a range of highly varied tasks as the W+K pro bono team takes on matters spanning seniors rights, refugee law, human rights, self-represented litigants and community legal education. Your work is likely to include tasks such as undertaking legal research, writing briefs, preparing community legal education material and supporting lawyers in providing telephone advice to clients at the Seniors Rights Service.

This experience will help you develop legal research and writing, communication and interpersonal skills. Other interns have told us they also gained analytical skills, organisational skills, and an increased ability to recognise legal issues and exercise judgment.

What we're looking for

W+K is looking for students who can demonstrate:

- ✓ commitment to social justice and an interest in helping people who are experiencing disadvantage, particularly elderly clients
- ✓ strong written and verbal communication skills
- ✓ excellent legal research and analysis skills, and
- ✓ flexibility and ability to work well independently and in a team.

The Seniors Rights Service clinic runs on Tuesdays. If Tuesdays don't suit, you may be able to negotiate other arrangements with us.



Leaders in our field

W+K has one focus – insurance law. Founded in 2002, W+K has grown from two partners to become one of Australasia’s undisputed leaders in our industry with more than 300 employees across offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Auckland and Wellington.

Our dedication to insurance makes us the home to many of our industry’s most talented legal experts and the law firm of choice for some of the largest insurers, brokers and industry participants. Our experience extends across a broad range of industry sectors including construction, energy and mining, financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, public sector, property, retail, SME, sports/leisure, technology and transport.

We have built a reputation for leading some of the Australasian insurance market’s largest, most complex and high profile disputes. We have been recognised by our clients as a Band 1 firm for insurance law in the Chambers & Partners legal rankings for seven consecutive years.

In 2017, W+K became a founding member of *Legalign Global*, an alliance between five of the world’s leading insurance law firms with Alexander Holburn, BLD Bach Langheid Dallmayr, DAC Beachcroft and Wilson Elser. This alliance gives our clients access to more than 2,000 lawyers operating in more than 60 offices across Australia, NZ, Europe, UK, Latin America and North America.

As industry leaders, we take our commitment to our community seriously.

44 PARTNERS | **220+** LAWYERS

57%
FEMALE



43%
MALE



Community Footprint



Wotton + Kearney is committed to our pro bono and corporate social responsibility program, Community Footprint, which was established in 2012.

Our pro bono team is led by W+K Partner Heidi Nash-Smith who was recognised with the Pro Bono Partner of the Year Award for two consecutive years by Lawyers Weekly in 2018 and 2019. Heidi has significantly grown the firm's pro bono practice over recent years and now coordinates the efforts of more than 90 lawyers in undertaking pro bono and community work.

PRO BONO

Our lawyers advise on a wide variety of pro bono matters and assist many vulnerable members of our community who are unable to obtain legal aid or afford legal representation. Through our partnerships with organisations like **Seniors Rights Service, Justice Connect, LawRight, the Refugee Advice & Casework Service, Refugee Legal, Climate Justice Programme, Fair Work Commission and Subiaco Justice Centre**, we strive to help alleviate some of the pressure on vulnerable people and address society's unmet legal needs.

COMMUNITY

We have formed long-term partnerships with local charities across Australia and New Zealand, forging strong relationships and helping to effect change in our society.

One of the ways we help is to partner with one charity each year to focus our advocacy, fundraising and volunteering efforts. This year we are partnering with the **Black Dog Institute (BDI)** to support their work to reignite a dialogue around mental health. We've previously partnered with **International Justice Mission Australia (IJM), So They Can** and **OzHarvest**.



About the Senior Rights Service

The Seniors Rights Service is one of W+K's community partner organisations. It provides free, confidential advocacy, advice, education and legal services to older people in NSW.

The Seniors Rights Service legal service provides advice, assistance and education to older people in NSW, addressing issues including consumer issues (debt management, unfair contracts), human rights (elder abuse including financial, discrimination), planning ahead (wills, power of attorney, guardianship), accommodation issues (granny flats) and other issues.

Seniors Rights Service advocates help recipients of all Commonwealth funded aged-care services, their carers' or family members to understand their rights under the *Aged Care Act 1997* (Cth). They help them to advocate for themselves to resolve issues and complaints with aged care providers to ensure optimal care is achieved. Solicitors also advise the residents of retirement villages (self-care units and serviced apartments) on issues arising from disputes with management or interpretation of contracts under the Retirement Villages Act 1999 (NSW).



INTERESTED?

To find out more about this opportunity, and whether it offers a course credit option for you, speak to the internship coordinator at your university's law faculty. They will talk you through the next steps.

Internship coordinators interested in W+K's internship program should contact W+K's Pro Bono Consultant, Leanne Ho at leanne.ho@wottonkearney.com.au



www.wottonkearney.com/community