



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8294 The Inhouse Counsel – Law, Skills and Practice - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8294

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1A

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Private and Commercial Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The aim of the course is to address the law and specialised skills that a growing part of the legal profession, inhouse counsel, needs to be able to perform their role effectively and ethically.

Inhouse counsel are the key legal advisor for their client and interact with the senior decision makers of their organisation as well as external stakeholders. Inhouse lawyers typically need broad-ranging knowledge of the law but also a keen awareness of commercial drivers. At the same time the inhouse lawyer is subject to the ethical and professional requirements of the legal profession, giving rise to novel challenges. The inhouse counsel needs a range of skills and the ability to deftly apply them, including leadership and teamwork, independence and collaboration.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Thinking and Practising like an In-House Lawyer
- The In-house Counsel Team – Leadership and Collaboration
- Shaping the Organisation's Culture
- Interacting with the C-Suite
- In-house Lawyers and Ethics, including independence, client identification, confidentiality and legal professional privilege
- Managing External Partners and Outside Bodies
- Technology and Legal Services Delivery
- The Compliance Role
- Managing Large Scale Litigation
- Managing Major Transaction.

Course Aims

The aim of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the role and responsibilities that a growing part of the legal profession, inhouse counsel, need, to be able to perform their role effectively and ethically. Students will learn the specialised skills required of in-house counsel through a combination of theoretical and practical instruction.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand the role and responsibilities of contemporary in-house counsel within organisations or corporations; and how to meet these obligations ethically (PLO1).
CLO2 : Demonstrate specialised knowledge of how theories of organisations, management, and laws apply to in-house counsel and their organisations (PLO 1, 2).
CLO3 : Learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate in role as an in-house counsel, including with internal clients (management and boards), external legal partners (outside counsel) and outside bodies (government agencies and regulators) (PLO 3).
CLO4 : Learn how to identify, mitigate and manage organisational risks and provide legal advice to key stakeholders within the organization, including senior management and the board of directors (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand the role and responsibilities of contemporary in-house counsel within organisations or corporations; and how to meet these obligations ethically (PLO1).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal Advice to Board/Management• Class Participation
CLO2 : Demonstrate specialised knowledge of how theories of organisations, management, and laws apply to in-house counsel and their organisations (PLO 1, 2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Assignment• Legal Advice to Board/Management
CLO3 : Learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate in role as an in-house counsel, including with internal clients (management and boards), external legal partners (outside counsel) and outside bodies (government agencies and regulators) (PLO 3).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Assignment• Class Participation• Legal Advice to Board/Management
CLO4 : Learn how to identify, mitigate and manage organisational risks and provide legal advice to key stakeholders within the organization, including senior management and the board of directors (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Assignment• Legal Advice to Board/Management

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Group Assignment Assessment Format: Group	30%	
Legal Advice to Board/Management Assessment Format: Individual	50%	
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	20%	

Assessment Details

Group Assignment

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Demonstrate specialised knowledge of how theories of organisations, management, and laws apply to in-house counsel and their organisations (PLO 1, 2).
- CLO3 : Learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate in role as an in-house counsel, including with internal clients (management and boards), external legal partners (outside counsel) and outside bodies (government agencies and regulators) (PLO 3).
- CLO4 : Learn how to identify, mitigate and manage organisational risks and provide legal advice to key stakeholders within the organization, including senior management and the board of directors (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).

Legal Advice to Board/Management

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the role and responsibilities of contemporary in-house counsel within organisations or corporations; and how to meet these obligations ethically (PLO1).
- CLO2 : Demonstrate specialised knowledge of how theories of organisations, management, and laws apply to in-house counsel and their organisations (PLO 1, 2).
- CLO3 : Learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate in role as an in-house counsel, including with internal clients (management and boards), external legal partners (outside counsel) and outside bodies (government agencies and regulators) (PLO 3).
- CLO4 : Learn how to identify, mitigate and manage organisational risks and provide legal advice to key stakeholders within the organization, including senior management and the

board of directors (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the role and responsibilities of contemporary in-house counsel within organisations or corporations; and how to meet these obligations ethically (PLO1).
- CLO3 : Learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate in role as an in-house counsel, including with internal clients (management and boards), external legal partners (outside counsel) and outside bodies (government agencies and regulators) (PLO 3).

General Assessment Information

Further information on assessment will be included on the course's Moodle page.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Course readings will be specified on the course's Moodle page.

There is no prescribed text book.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Michael Legg					Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up,

then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.