



Ross Ray QC Scholarship

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ross Ray QC Scholarship program supports two South Pacific lawyers to attend the Australian Bar Association's prestigious Essential Trial Advocacy Course. The course will be held in Adelaide, Australia from **1 July – 5 July 2024**.

The Ross Ray QC Scholarships commemorate the late Ross Ray QC, member of the Victorian Bar and inaugural Chair of SPLA, and his dedication to advancing South Pacific lawyers and legal associations.

The Australian Bar Association and the Law Council of Australia are partnering to provide two scholarships, each valued at up to AUD \$8,000.

The scholarship includes:

- Return economy airfares and transfers;
- Accommodation and main meals for five nights in Adelaide;
- Registration; and
- All course materials and equipment.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The ABA Essential Trial Advocacy course (**ETAC**) provides barristers with an opportunity to receive training in the essential skills of presenting an application, opening a case, examining in chief, cross examining and making a closing address. ETAC is residential and conducted over five days. The coaches are Australian judges and senior and junior counsel selected by the Advocacy Training Council (**ATC**).

The underlying philosophy of all ATC courses is that the skills of a barrister are best learned in an environment that is as close to the real experience as possible. This involves creating a realistic brief, asking the barrister to properly prepare as they would for a real hearing and then giving them the opportunity to perform in an environment of challenge and respect.

The aim is to engage the barrister to develop a deeper understanding of the relevant objectives for each performance task, promote thoughtful preparation and reinforce best practice by an ongoing process of practice and review.

The focus is on each barrister and exploring ways of improving their performances. The course involves a combination of lectures, demonstrations, performances by participants, group reviews and individual coaching sessions.

Advocates prepare a Federal Court brief and perform opening addresses, examination and cross-examination of witnesses and give a closing address. Considerable emphasis is placed upon case analysis and thoughtful preparation.

Each barrister is briefed for the Applicant or Respondent to appear in the Federal Court. The case is detailed and requires a good deal of close examination and thought. Barristers are expected to be ready to perform on the first full day of the course, it is essential that extensive preparation is undertaken before the course commences. Past experience suggests that **at least three full days** of preparation is required.

As part of that preparation, each barrister prepares and submits prescribed written work before the course commences. This may include a chronology, an outline of opening address, an outline of the examination-in-chief for each witness, cross-examination points and an outline for the closing address. These documents are submitted before the course and refined as the course proceeds.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to apply if:

- a) You are admitted as a lawyer/barrister in a South Pacific jurisdiction (including Micronesia); and
- b) The jurisdiction in which you are admitted is a member of South Pacific Lawyers' Association**; and
- c) You have a minimum of two years of court experience in criminal or civil advocacy.

**American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Applications close Monday 13 May 2024.

For any questions or related enquiries, please email charlotte.stubbs@lawcouncil.au

ROSS RAY QC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To be returned via email to charlotte.stubbs@lawcouncil.au by **Monday 13 May 2024**.

Personal Details			
Name			
Surname			
Academic Qualifications			
Admitted in:	(Year)	(Jurisdiction)	
Are you admitted in any other jurisdiction? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, please specify:	
Referees			
Referee 1		Referee 2	
Name		Name	
Occupation		Occupation	
Email		Email	
Contact number		Contact number	
Questionnaire			
<p>Q1. Why would you like to participate in the Essential Trial and Advocacy Course? (Max. 300 words)</p>			

Q2. Please outline how you would benefit from the scholarship (i.e. how the course would help you to further your career goals, and any specific skills you would like to work on). (Max. 300 words)

Q3. If you were to be awarded the scholarship, please outline how you would ‘pay it forward’ by sharing your new knowledge and skills and assisting other practitioners in your home jurisdiction (Max. 300 words)

I have attached a current curriculum vitae outlining my relevant experience in legal practice, including position descriptions and number of years of court experience.

I confirm that I have read the contents of this form, and understand the inclusions of the scholarship and eligibility requirements contained herein.

I confirm that the information contained in this form is true.

Signed		Date	
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