

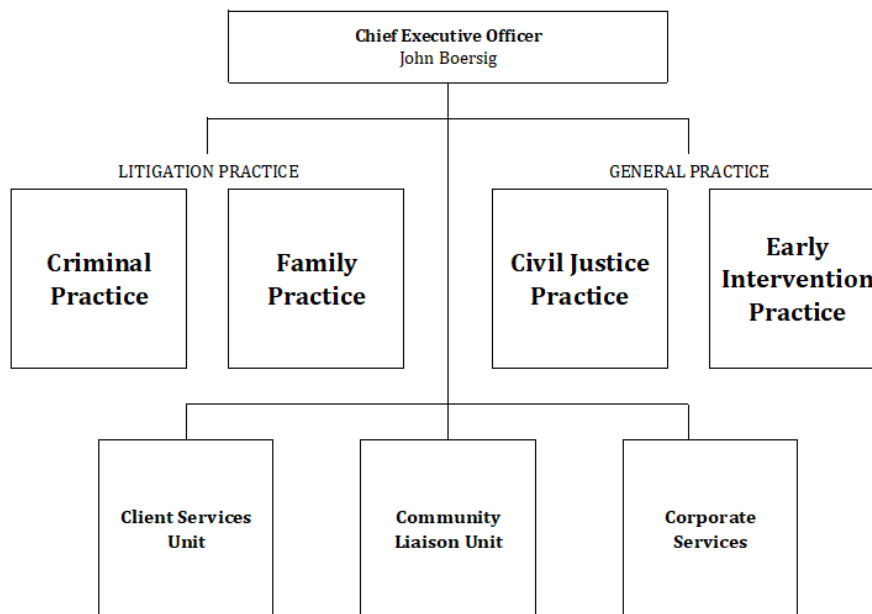
Position Title	Experienced Lawyer
Classification	Legal 3
Responsible to	Senior Lawyer or Head of Practice
Number of direct reports	Up to 5
Number of indirect reports	Nil

Legal Aid Commission (ACT) (Legal Aid)

Legal Aid was established under the *Legal Aid Act 1977*. Its mission is to promote a just society in the Australian Capital Territory by:

- ensuring that vulnerable and disadvantaged people receive the legal services they need to protect their rights and interests
- developing an improved community understanding of the law, and
- seeking reform of laws that adversely affect those we assist.

Further information about Legal Aid can be found at <http://www.legalaidact.org.au>



Legal Aid ACT Lawyers

Lawyers provide legal advice, representation in ACT and Commonwealth courts and tribunals, engage in outreach services and community legal education and assist with law reform proposals. Lawyers represent clients in courts and tribunals and may appear as counsel in superior courts.

Lawyers are expected and encouraged to work across and rotate through sections and practices from time to time, in order to enhance professional development or to meet operational needs.

Legal Aid lawyers have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as a member of the private legal profession, including the same professional and CPD requirements.

Position Dimension and Relationships

Experienced Lawyers will undertake a range of work by providing information, advice, and community legal education, and by representing clients in Courts and Tribunals.

Experienced Lawyers participate in Family Law Dispute Resolution, Helpline, the Domestic Violence Unit and the Youth Law Centre; as well as conducting outreach services in community centres or venues and attending Correctional Centres such as the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Experienced Lawyers may be expected to supervise a small team of legal and support staff, including internships and/or student placements. A Family Practice Experienced Lawyer will have the ability to appear as an Independent Children's Lawyer.

Experienced Lawyers are supervised by senior lawyers, with regular training and career development opportunities, and may be expected to mentor graduate lawyers, student placements and/or oversee a program within a practice.

Duty Lawyer services are provided on weekends at the ACT Magistrates Court, and Legal Aid ACT lawyers are expected to roster onto this service at least twice each year.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Under general direction, the Experienced Lawyer will:

- Represent Legal Aid in a professional manner by upholding the ACT Public Service Values
- Provide legal information and advice at face-to-face interviews, or by telephone as required
- Provide information, referrals and minor assistance to clients
- Attend Territory and Commonwealth Courts and Tribunals as an advocate or duty lawyer - providing advice and appearing in applications, pleas or hearings as appropriate
- Attend remand and prison facilities to provide legal advice and information
- Provide outreach services established by the office and provide legal advice and other services as required
- Conduct civil, criminal or family law case work on behalf of legally-assisted clients
- Appear as counsel or brief counsel to appear, as appropriate, for clients in applications and hearings before courts and tribunals
- Undertake community legal education
- Provide supervision, guidance and mentoring to lawyers and student placements
- Participate in the preparation of law reform submissions and responses to law reform proposals
- Be responsible for applying WHS to daily tasks performed in the workplace, report all matters beyond your authority and take all practical measures to ensure that your workplace is safe and without risk to health or property
- Comply with all Legal Aid ACT policies and procedures
- Perform other duties as directed, consistent with the classification level of the position and in line with competencies

Selection Criteria

Essential:

1. Hold a restricted Practising Certificate in the ACT
2. Thorough knowledge of ACT and Commonwealth law and procedure including ability to research and interpret a variety of legislation
3. Highly developed written and oral communication skills and the ability to conduct cases; well-developed advocacy skills
4. Initiative, sound judgement and the capacity to respond to requests for assistance in urgent matters while working in a team environment
5. Ability to work with First Nations people, people experiencing physical or mental illness, and people from disadvantaged or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Desirable:

1. Five years post admission experience would be highly regarded

