

STUDENTS ON LAW COMMITTEES – ELECTIONS 2010

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT STATEMENTS

Sana Malik – Faculty Board and Postgraduate Studies Committee

My name is Sana and I am in my first year of the Monash JD program, prior to that I did my undergraduate degree in Arts at Monash with a major in Criminology and a minor in Comparative Literature. My studies in Criminology and work experience in the law were what interested me in pursuing a Law degree, and part of this inspiration was to make a difference in the lives of marginalised communities.

I am particularly interested in giving a voice to women and minority groups, and I hope that by being a member of the equity and diversity committee I can work towards this. My current place of employment, a law firm based in suburban Melbourne, places great emphasis on work life and family balance, and I hope to address this issue during my appointment as the productive role of women in the workforce is growing. I also hope that as a first generation Australian, my input as a member will inspire students and others to participate and represent diverse community backgrounds.

I strongly believe that this can be achieved through career advancement for women and diverse groups that strive towards a common goal of achieving equity outcomes. I am honoured to be on the committee and look forward to participating in my role!

Guy Manuell – Faculty Board

I recently commenced the Juris Doctor degree at Monash as a mature age, full-time student. However, my other degrees have been obtained as a part-time student.

My election to the Law Faculty Board will enable me to represent both part-time and full-time students from the perspective of practical experience. It is critical that the Law Faculty considers the needs of all students in its deliberations.

My previous employment in financial institutions, large companies (as a corporate treasurer) and as the director of a treasury consulting company over the past 40 years has provided me with extensive experience as a senior executive and company director. I believe that this background is helpful in dealing with the issues that would be considered by the Law Faculty Board.

I hold an economics degree and a Master of Arts (ancient history) degree from Macquarie University and a Master of Commerce degree from the University of New South Wales.

I would be grateful for your support.

Andre Oboler – Faculty Board and Postgraduate Studies Committee

Who is Oboler:

Andre Oboler, JD student (started Oct 2009). I have extensive experience representing students at Monash and overseas. My passion has been in the areas of Education, Welfare and Quality Assurance. Postgraduate Law at Monash is growing and undergoing changes, I want to use my experience to represent you in this process.

What does Oboler believe:

I believe in student involvement, open channels of communication, and a strong working relationship between students and staff. I believe student societies, Monash Law Students' Society in our case, play a vital role in adding value beyond the class room experience. I believe Monash has an excellent postgraduate representation through the Monash Postgraduate Association. I believe there is no "typical" postgraduate and the faculty, Law Students' Society and the MPA must work together to continually improve in the way the needs of our diverse community are met. I believe I can help make this happen and act as a link between the ordinary postgraduate and "the powers that be".

Oboler's Experience:

I'm a Monash graduate, Computer Science (Hons) 2002. I've as a course representative, Faculty Education Board member and Faculty Board member for Monash's Faculty of IT. I have a PhD from Lancaster University (UK) where I served as Vice President of the Graduate Students' Association, on University Senate and University Court. I was an officer of the National Postgraduate Committee (UK) and the student observer at the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Vote Oboler for experience and commitment

Andrew Pingree – Faculty Board and Postgraduate Studies Committee

Hi everyone,

I am a LLM(JD) student and I have been enrolled since 2006. Being the clients of the University, students need and deserve an educational service of the highest standard. Monash is very capable of delivering it. I have heard a

lot of students express concerns on different matters. Sometimes courses could be ameliorated, while in other cases communication between students and faculty could be improved. Both ways, improvements are possible to the typical university self-education model, and that is most definitely so when considering the particular challenges of law studies.

I hope that I can have the privilege of hearing as much as possible from students and work constructively for the students. Our needs hardly will be met by staff whose information is limited to little more than the feedback questionnaires we fill in. We need a real voice with a practical focus.

Daniel Stepanenko – Faculty Board and Postgraduate Studies Committee

As a long time student of Monash University, having completed a Bachelor of Science and begun the Monash Juris Doctorate (JD), I am proud of our university and have a keen interest in participating in its administration and development. I have a desire to become more involved in the Faculty of Law by representing the unique cohort of postgraduate law schools of which I am part. My intention is to be nominated as a postgraduate student representative on the Law Faculty Board and/or Postgraduate Studies Committee.

Having entered the Faculty of Law from an entirely different field, I value the diversity found in our postgraduate law programs; immediately, I felt that this contributed to my learning experience. This is why I would like the opportunity to assist in maintaining a rich cohort during the expansion of the Monash JD and Masters. Also, I am eager to investigate and advise on the cohort's perspectives of program content. I will be able to accurately report the views of the postgraduate student body through direct interaction and organisation of formal surveys.

Personally, I have flourished under the demands of tertiary study, and have experienced the lifestyle challenges associated with balancing postgraduate study and work; these are key traits required to successfully represent our unique cohort. I have previous experience in working with a study body, having participated in the Monash Biomedical Society during my previous degree, and look forward to bringing the same commitment to my role in the Faculty of Law.

Robert Stilling – Postgraduate Studies Committee

I am in the third year of the LLM (JD) program and am the current student representative on the Law Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee, which is

the body responsible for monitoring and approving new subjects in all LLM programs. I seek your vote for another term.

I believe the issues of most importance to LLM students are relatively simple: course value, teaching quality and resources, degree reputation, flexibility of delivery, and ease in dealing with the Faculty.

To that end in the past year, I have raised on your behalf issues including:

- developing a system for full-fee paying JD students to transfer to Commonwealth-supported places;
- the introduction of academic prizes for postgraduate subjects; greater breadth in JD elective subjects;
- class size limits for over-subscribed subjects; and
- greater provision of support materials such as online past exams for postgraduate subjects.

The committee has also expanded the range of elective subjects available and sought to streamline postgraduate subject information and course assessments.

Representing students is a responsibility I take seriously. Progress is being made on many important student-related issues and keeping me as your representative on the committee will ensure momentum is not lost. I ask for your support.
