

Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme

The Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme is a regulatory framework for Australian legal practitioners in Victoria and New South Wales.¹ It is anticipated that Western Australia will join the scheme in 2022. The scheme covers:

- admission to the Australian legal profession
- legal practice
- business practice and professional conduct
- legal costs between a legal practitioner and their client
- dispute resolution and professional discipline
- functions and powers of the Legal Services Council, the Commissioner and local authorities, and
- one set of rules for the seamless provision of legal services.

Further information about the Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme is available at:

<https://www.legalservicescouncil.org.au/Pages/uniform-framework/uniform-framework.aspx>.

Victorian Legal Admissions Board

The Victorian Legal Admissions Board is a statutory body established under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (the Act). The Board is responsible for:

- overseeing the admissions of lawyers in Victoria, which is governed by the *Legal Professional Uniform Admission Rules 2015*
- administering the appointment of Public Notaries in accordance with the *Public Notaries Act 2001*, and
- the accreditation of academic law courses and practical legal training providers.

The Board is also responsible for the governance, management and strategic direction of the regulatory authority and is accountable for upholding its functions in accordance with the Act.

The Board has delegated some of its functions to committees (including the Victorian Legal Admissions Committee, Academic Course Appraisal Committee, Practical Legal Training Committee, and the Secretariat Committee) and is supported by Committee members and a Secretariat office.

Board membership

The Board consists of five members:

- the Chief Justice, or a person nominated by the Chief Justice, who is chairperson of the Board
- a retired Judge nominated by the Chief Justice
- a person nominated by the Law Institute of Victoria
- a person nominated by the Victorian Bar, and
- a person nominated by the Attorney-General who has experience in the provision of legal education.

Members are appointed for three years and may be reappointed. Members are not remunerated.

Members are generally expected to attend around six meetings per year and must be available to respond to circular resolutions via email between meeting dates. Meetings may be held at the Board office in the Melbourne CBD, or via videoconference. Meetings are held outside business hours.

Members are also expected to participate on at least one of the delegated committees which meet at various times throughout the year and also respond to circular resolutions via email.

¹The Legal Profession Uniform Law is applied in Victoria and New South Wales by the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (Vic) and the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014* (NSW).

Members must avoid any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. They must also use their position to promote the best interests of the Board and the scheme, and only use information gained in the course of their duties for the intended purpose.

Skills, experience and requirements

Recommended skills, experience and requirements for Board membership include:

- experience in the requirements of legal practice
- demonstrated connection and understanding of the competency standards and expectations of an Australian Lawyer
- fairness, integrity and high ethical standards
- transparency, honesty and impartiality, and
- willingness to devote time to work on the Board outside scheduled meetings.