

USQ Law Society Executive Nominations 2024

Nominations Per Position:

President: Frank Kabalu and Carolyn Robinson

Treasurer: Lyla Evans

Secretary: Jorja Morgan

VP Toowoomba: Farhan Khudir

VP Ipswich: Ian Remfrey

VP External: Ramsey Gharazeddine

VP Education and Careers: Gemma Keogh

VP Competitions: Carolyn Robinson

VP Law Review: Matthew Acheson and Ian Remfrey

VP Stakeholder: Kaylene Waters

VP Administration: Vanessa Ward

Statements:

President

Frank Kabalu

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a dedicated individual who values community engagement and collaboration, always eager to foster dynamic and inclusive platform for law students to succeed.

What experience do you bring to the position?

Over the last two years as the Vice President (Ipswich) of the USQLS, I have actively participated in steering the society towards positive and meaningful directions. This role has provided me with substantial experience in member engagement and stakeholder relations, all while nurturing a vision for the society's progressive growth. I bring to the table not only organisational skills but also a proactive approach in connecting with members and stakeholders, with the enthusiasm to elevate the society's influence and reach.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

As I aspire to step into the role of President, my goal is to escalate the society's stature by introducing innovative initiatives that resonate well with our members and establish stronger connections within the industry. I envision a society that serves as a nurturing platform for aspiring professionals, enabling them to hone their skills and foster meaningful networks.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

My journey with the USQLS commenced two years ago when I took on the role of Vice President at the Ipswich branch. This position enabled me to spearhead various initiatives and events that were designed to create a welcoming and enriching environment for all members. Having been closely involved with the society's functioning, I have a well-rounded perspective on its operations and potentials. I am eager to leverage this experience, coupled with fresh perspectives, to foster a society that is not only vibrant but also a beacon of growth and opportunity for its members.

Carolyn Robinson

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a 40 something woman who identifies as a wife, mother and law student. For as long as I can remember, it has been my dream to become a lawyer. I have completed 10 units of my LLB with 14 to go. I have worked in the legal industry for over 15 years not including the time taken to have my babies and raise my children.

What experience do you bring to the position?*

I bring a mature, professional outlook on life and believe that balance is key. I bring leadership skills, excellent communications skills, tested organisational skills and life experience to this role. I believe in justice and advocacy for those who struggle to advocate for themselves. I am a leader but also acknowledge that a leader is only as good as the team they are working with.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?*

I hope to achieve an increased engagement with our Society both from internal and external students for 2024. I understand my role would involve discussing important issues with the Head of School and maintaining a working collegial relationship for the benefit of all stakeholders. I would like to rally our Executive to see a vision of what we could achieve, then plan, execute and strive to achieve those goals. Teamwork makes the dreamwork!

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?*

I have served as the VP Admin for 2023 producing the USQLS Newsletter on a monthly basis. I have assisted at the Vulnerable Persons Conference in 2023 and am participating in the Client Interviewing Competition currently underway.

Treasurer

Lyla Evans

Give a brief description about yourself.

My name is Lyla Evans, I live in the Toowoomba region, and I am a final-year LLB student at the University of Southern Queensland. Currently, I work as a legal administrator at a law firm, and I am the Vice President of Competitions with the USQ Law Society. In my spare time, I enjoy birdwatching and am an avid equestrian. I am a dedicated and passionate individual, with strong organisation experience, and I possess a range of transferable administrative and financial skills. I am committed to contributing positively to the USQ Law Society.

What experience do you bring to the position?*

I am an active and engaged current executive member of the USQ Law Society. I have experience in management, governance, and event organisation (including the USQLS Championship Moot and Client Interviewing Competition). I also bring the ability to work collaboratively, and I enjoy working as part of a team with a diverse range of perspectives and skills.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

I aim to continue the excellent work of the previous Executive Team, by ensuring the ongoing growth and development of the Society. If elected, I will strive to provide value to members, and ensure the continuing strong financial position of the Society.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

I am currently Vice-President Competitions, and previous to this I was an Officer with the USQ Law Society. I have been an engaged and active member in my time with the USQ Law Society.

Secretary

Jorja Morgan

Give a brief description about yourself.

Currently I'm a first-year business and law student completing my second semester. I consider myself a hardworking and dedicated individual who's always willing to help out when needed. I also consider myself a very organized person and make it my mission to be on time whenever my attendance is needed.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I was the 2023 First Year Toowoomba Representative, as a result I've had the opportunity to meet and engage with new people and develop my networking in the legal industry. I was also a member of my high school debating team for a number of years, which has enabled to be develop my public speaking skills, which I hope to bring into this position. I've also had the opportunity throughout the semester to work as part of a team, along with being an officer for the USQLS, which has enabled me to develop my team building and communication skills. Finally, I consider myself a very organized person, which would benefit me in ensuring that I can efficiently uphold the requirements of this position.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

I hope to ensure that the USQLS is run in an efficient and effective manner, along with ensuring that everyone is kept up to date with the latest information regarding social and networking events. On a personally level, I hope to further develop my leadership skills and expand my networking within the legal community.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

I was the 2023 First Year Toowoomba Representative and have attended a number of social events such as the monthly woman in law breakfast run by the USQLS. I have also volunteered my time to help out at a few different university events such as the student expo to encourage students to join the law society. I have also endeavoured to attend all meetings whenever it was possible and, in my capacity, to do so.

VP Toowoomba

Farhan Khudir

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a 3rd year Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) and Bachelor of Laws student. I work as a Associate Support Officer at UniSQ College and a Student Success Advisor. I also run a English Conversation Club which is part of the PASS program at UniSQ. I speak four languages including English, Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkish as well as some German. I am also an Editorial Officer with USQLS Law Review team.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I will bring my customer service skills, problem solving skills, event organising skills, peer mentoring skills, dispute management skills, and my languages ability skills into this position.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

I would like to meet new people and make connections. I also want to learn more about how USQLS manages its events.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

This year I became the USQLS Law Review 1st Editorial Officer. I have also helped USQLS in the Student Expo day at the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ).

VP Ipswich

Ian Remfrey

Give a brief description about yourself.

My name is Ian, and I am an absolute nerd. I got into law as I saw it as the ultimate puzzle of how our world functions. I enjoy reading and understanding how the processes of our world function, how mountains move nations, and how nations move mountains. This nerdism has allowed me to learn from seasoned professionals, across fascinating industries. On the weekends I enjoy playing the videogames and having a good laugh with family and friends.

What experience do you bring to the position?

Beyond my experience volunteering with the USQLS, I competed in various USQLS Competitions, gaining insights into the competition landscape. Further, from working in a litigation law firm in Brisbane City, I absorbed so much experience and information on the litigation landscape, which I would like to pass onto my fellow law students.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

I would like to collaborate with the Ipswich cohort, academia, and legal professionals to assist our law students in tackling the challenges that arise while studying law, and connecting them with the opportunity that get them to their future.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

My prior experience with the USQLS includes being a first-year student representative, which I was able to liaise between first year students, USQ, and the USQLS to enhance the student experience for first year law students. Secondly, in 2021 I was Editor-In-Chief of the USQLS Law Review, which with the amazing editor team and VP Law Review, we worked with the submissions from students, academics, and other legal professionals to produce the Winter-2021 and Summer-2021 editions.

VP External

Ramsey Gharazeddine

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a hard working, ambitious and goal driven person. I work in construction as a Senior Engineer and Project Manager. I operate a couple of side businesses as well and currently studying JD at USQ.

What experience do you bring to the position?

Managerial, calm and stress free decision maker. I solve problems for a living and in my companies that I am a director of as well. Can strategically and methodically resolve issues by allowing for the best possible outcome that majority require to be in place.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

Gain experience in a society group and increase my network within the University students whom are part of the same path that I am on.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

Only recently joined as external rep 1st year.

VP Education and Careers

Gemma Keogh

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a Juris Doctor Student studying part time while working for a not-for-profit helping young people experiencing homelessness in Victoria. I am excellent at managing my time and value a work life balance. Being sure to regulate my study time alongside other extracurricular activities. I value studying hard and aiding others who may be struggling, either personally or professionally. I love spending time with my friends and family and enjoy walks with my border collie to wind down.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I have been studying remotely for the last 3 years, through QUT, UniSQ and a few other institutions. I know the need to make all things education and career accessible to the vast majority of students and I am willing to listen to and advocate for every student in this space.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

Networking, clear outcomes post study, support with meeting your PLT and admission requirements and facilitation of strong academic supports during times of transition.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

Member and VP External 2023

VP Competitions

Carolyn Robinson

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a 40 something woman who identifies as a wife, mother and law student. I have completed 10 units of my LLB with 14 to go. I have worked in the legal industry for over 15 years not including the time taken to have my babies and raise my children.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I bring a mature, professional outlook on life and believe that balance is key. I bring leadership skills, excellent communications skills, tested organisational skills and life experience to this role. I believe in justice and advocacy for those who struggle to advocate for themselves. I believe that the Competitions offered by USQLS give students an opportunity to test their skills and receive constructive feedback.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

I hope to achieve an increased engagement with our Society both from internal and external students for 2024. I understand my role would involve organising Competition events. I have this year participated in the Client Interviewing Competition and now understand the benefits of real world experience these Competitions bring.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

I have served as the VP Admin for 2023 producing the USQLS Newsletter on a monthly basis. I have assisted at the Vulnerable Persons Conference in 2023 and am participating in the Client Interviewing Competition currently underway.

VP Law Review

Matt Acheson

Give a brief description about yourself.

My name is Matt Acheson. As an engaged law student at USQLS, I have been an active member of USQLS in 2023. In a challenging environment with a large cohort of online students studying law in the post COVID-19 environment, the law program has moved to an interim 3 term system, The adjustments to this schedule have occurred in an era with additional external influences like artificial intelligence impacting undergraduate education across Australia. My interest in law studies has stemmed from a strong justice, ethics and professional standards interest I have developed in working as a specialist doctor. As a result of professional work I study very much part time for a pure interest in jurisprudence and the current developing legal and political environment in our nation. I was offered to assist with a Vice President role in Careers and Education as my first experience with USQLS this year and I have tried to grow, learn and develop with the more senior students involved in USQLS and the executive. I have engaged with sponsors and stakeholder students about careers, and discussed and progressed potential areas of improvement in education where issues have been raised to me throughout the year. I have an active interest in politics, cooking and sport outside of my work and committee role in 2023.

What experience do you bring to the position?

A highlight of the 2023 year was the attendance at the ALSA conference, and I have enjoyed working with the members of the USQLS team. I offer an out of the box and solution based thinking that can identify issues and offer opinions and solutions to matters raised. It would be an honour to once again work with USQLS in 2024.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

Having read some law review submissions from others in 2023 and seen the biannual build up in 2023, I would be happy to engage to try to continue the methodology for the publication in 2024, and to encourage contributions towards the publications in 2024. I would actively engage with the committee, attend meetings, and assist editorial team members and contributors in compiling the reviews next year. I would seek advance timing, directions and feedback from executive members with relevant experience and continue to contribute to USQLS in 2024.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

Active USQ Law Society Member and Education and Careers VP 2023.

Ian Remfrey

Give a brief description about yourself.

My name is Ian, and I am an absolute nerd. I got into law as I saw it as the ultimate puzzle of how our world functions. I enjoy reading and understanding how the processes of our world function, how mountains move nations, and how nations move mountains. This nerdism has allowed me to learn from seasoned professionals, across fascinating industries. On the weekends I enjoy playing the videogames and having a good laugh with family and friends.

What experience do you bring to the position?

Beyond my experience volunteering with the USQLS, I competed in various USQLS Competitions, gaining insights into the competition landscape. Further, from working in a litigation law firm in Brisbane City, I absorbed so much experience and information on the litigation landscape, which I would like to pass onto my fellow law students.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

Through the USQLS Law Review I would like to connect students to the larger landscape of the legal profession. Through research and collaboration, students will be able to connect with professionals who work in the areas of law which they would like to pursue. If you don't know what area you want to go into yet, there is no better way than getting out there and asking some important questions.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

My prior experience with the USQLS includes being a first-year student representative, which I was able to liaise between first year students, USQ, and the USQLS to enhance the student experience for first year law students. Secondly, in 2021 I was Editor-In-Chief of the USQLS Law Review, which with the amazing editor team and VP Law Review, we worked with the submissions from students, academics, and other legal professionals to produce the Winter-2021 and Summer-2021 editions.

VP Stakeholder

Kaylene Waters

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am a hardworking student and professional that strives to do the best that I can in everything I do. I have been studying the LLB program for almost four years and am nearing the end of my degree. I have built strong, positive and reciprocal relationships with other students through study groups or course guided tutorials and lectures. I have achieved above average grades and always strive to learn as much as I can to be the best possible graduate lawyer. I am a collaborative person that enjoys and seeks engagement with others. I have a strong desire to help others which has been reflected in my career choices as a performance coach and workplace trainer. I believe in equality and opportunity for all. I work full time for the Suncorp Group as an Enablement Advisor supporting the motor claims function in the change management and communication function. I work with many different stakeholders across the business including leaders, managers and heads of departments to deliver an efficient and effective business strategy aligned with organisational goals and objectives. It is a fast-paced environment highly subjective to change at short notice allowing me to demonstrate reliability, adaptability and an ability to work under pressure when facing short timeframes. I am also a single parent raising two teenage kids and run a small side gig business doing writing and proofreading work as well as voice over artistry. I also am the current VP Stakeholder and PASS leader for first year courses. I believe my skills and experience would be an asset to the Law Society in 2024 and look forward to hearing from you further.

What experience do you bring to the position?

Creative design, stakeholder management skills, high attention to detail, excellent organisational and time management skills.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

To support the ongoing function of the USQLS to ensure the effective operation of the Law Society's social media and online image. To contribute and support other committee members and officers where possible and as required to facilitate the smooth running of the law society.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

First Year Representative External Officer 2021, VP Stakeholder 2023

VP Administration

Vanessa Ward

Give a brief description about yourself.

I am in my 3rd trimester of law after being a pharmacist for over 10 years. I have decided to change careers as I have seen first-hand the problems with the family law system and wish to try and make changes.

What experience do you bring to the position?

I have been in charge of day to day running's of a pharmacy for the best part of 5 years. This includes keeping meticulous records and filing paperwork with the Department of Health.

What do you hope to achieve in the position?

Honestly, I am not sure. I would like to be involved within the university and help my fellow law students. I think that this may be a way to accomplish that.

What previous experience do you have with the USQLS?

None. I am a current member and know both the current VP - external and the current VP - administration.