

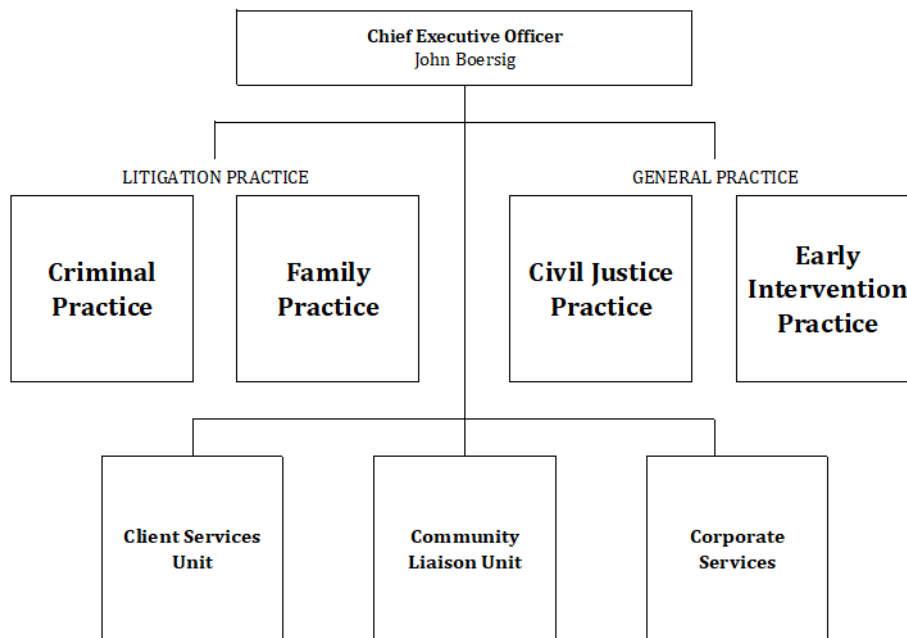
<b>Position Title</b>	<b>Lawyer</b>
<b>Classification</b>	Legal 2
<b>Responsible to</b>	Experienced Lawyer or Senior Lawyer
<b>Number of direct reports</b>	Nil
<b>Number of indirect reports</b>	Nil

**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 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**

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

Lawyers regularly participate in Family Law Dispute Resolution, the Helpline, the Domestic Violence Unit and the Youth Law Centre, can be expected to conduct outreach service in community centres or venues, and attend Correctional Centres such as the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Lawyers are supervised by experienced/senior lawyers, with regular training and career development opportunities. Lawyers may also mentor graduate lawyers and student placements.

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

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

Under supervisory direction, the Legal 2 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 or brief counsel to appear, as appropriate, for clients in applications and hearings before courts and tribunals
- Assist in the provision of community legal education
- Assist with law student placements
- Assist 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. Current restricted Practising Certificate in the ACT
2. Registration on High Court of Australia Roll
3. Good knowledge of ACT and Commonwealth law and procedure including ability to research and interpret a variety of legislation
4. Highly developed written and oral communication skills and the ability to conduct cases with limited supervision. Advocacy skills or ability to quickly gain experience in advocacy
5. Initiative, sound judgement and the capacity to respond to requests for assistance in urgent matters while working in a team environment
6. Ability to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people experiencing physical or mental illness, and people from disadvantaged or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

**Desirable:**

1. Three years post admission experience would be highly regarded