

Introduction to Criminal Law

Overview

This comprehensive, self-paced introductory course will develop your fundamental knowledge required to succeed in criminal law practice. The course is designed for junior legal staff and practitioners looking to understand and supplement their knowledge in this area of practice. It will provide you with the framework and considerations you need to confidently conduct your criminal law matters.

Featuring a range of leading experts in Criminal Law, you will gain practical, useful insight with the course providing end-to-end training that will equip you to:

- Better assist your clients and best practice for obtaining instructions when dealing with vulnerable parties, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and youth justice clients
- Understand key steps in the criminal justice process, including ethical dilemmas that may arise in acting for a defendant
- Properly prepare for summary matters, including practical advice on what material is required and what steps should or must be taken
- Address the committal process, including guidance on how to advocate for your clients through the higher courts and common pre-trial issues
- Assess when a matter may be suitable for appeal, and how to navigate the appeal process
- Consider common ethical concerns for criminal law practitioners and how to properly tackle the issues

6.5 CPD Points

Course Outline

Welcome to the course

Presenter: **Giorgia Papi-Morini**, Senior Professional Development Solicitor, Queensland Law Society

Criminal Law Basics

This introductory session equips you with all the fundamental knowledge required to succeed in criminal law practice. It will cover:

- What is criminal law?
- What are the sources of criminal law?
- What is the relevant legislation to criminal law practice?
- What are the differences between criminal and civil offences?
- What are the types of criminal offences?
- How do you determine which court has jurisdiction over your client's matter?

You will also address key procedural issues for criminal lawyers such as key terminology and roles in criminal law practice.

Presenter: **Emily O'Hagan**, Partner, Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence Committee

Client Care

This practical session covers all aspects of client care in the criminal law space including:

- preparing for the first client meeting
- key considerations in obtaining instructions from your client including First Nations clients, youth clients, when you might need an interpreter, etc.
- tips for successful interviewing and rapport building with your client
- useful insights for attending prison to conference with your client

Presenter: **Kristy Bell**, Partner, Howden Saggars Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee

Lower Courts

This session addresses what is involved in the summary disposition of a matter through a summary plea or trial including:

- steps involved
- how to prepare
- material required
- what to expect on the day

Activity: Sentence hearing case study including oral submissions to the Court.

Presenter: **Tom Gardiner**, Principal, Fisher Dore Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Higher Courts

Focusing on the higher courts, this practical session addresses both the committal process and what happens after a matter is committed to the District and Supreme Court. You will cover:

- what happens at a committal hearing
- presentation of indictment and arraignment of defendant/s
- mentions
- listed for trial, sentence or a contested sentence
- pre-trial issues and briefing Counsel
- pre-recordings

Presenter: **Dominic Brunello**, Senior Associate, Robertson O’Gorman; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Appeals

Counsel take you through important considerations when making an appeal on behalf of your client. This session covers:

- time limit considerations
- how to properly make an application for an appeal
- appeals under section 222 of the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Qld)
- appeals to the Court of Appeal

Presenter: **Ben Power KC**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Court etiquette – tips from the Bench

Magistrate Strofield provides insights and tips on what the Bench wants and expects from criminal law solicitors.

Presenter: **Magistrate Colin Strofield**, Magistrates Court of Queensland

Ethics for Criminal Lawyers

This session has been designed to identify common ethical dilemmas for criminal law solicitors and provide some guidance in how to tackle them.

Presenter: **Stafford Shepherd**, Principal Ethics and Practice Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre; Legal Practitioner Director, QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, Queensland Law Society
