

CLA Public Law Committee Terms of Reference

Mission Statement

“The Public Law Committee’s mission is to represent members on policy and practice issues arising in relation to public law matters, including constitutional law, administrative law, the rule of law, the principles of representative and responsible government, the role of Attorneys General, the separation of powers and government accountability. The Committee will facilitate this through exchanging views and knowledge, developing policy positions, undertaking special projects, and advising the President and Council on public law matters.”

The Committee’s priorities include, in relation to such matters:

- Developing and commenting on law reform and legal policy proposals (including preparing submissions, and liaising with governments and other stakeholders in this process);
- Educating the legal profession about changes to the law, and providing guidance on practice and other issues; and
- Exchanging information about issues arising in legal practice (such as recent case law or legislation across the Commonwealth) that may indicate a legal policy issue or concern.

Other guiding principles/aims

The PLC’s work will:

- Have regard for the CLA’s Diversity & Inclusion policy.
- Champion CLA for membership growth by enhancing the CLA’s value offering.

Activities

<i>Exchange views and knowledge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, training, and conference papers to generate discussions on matters of public law. • Partnering with external networks (including the Commonwealth Secretariat) to foster connections and share information. • Make speaker recommendations to the CLC Papers Committee. • Newsletter and journal articles.
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<i>Developing policy positions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop public law policy for endorsement by the CLA Council.
<i>Undertaking special projects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet to be decided.

Membership

- Initial membership from Council, ExCo and YCLA.
- Then look to co-opt other members based on expressions of interest and the need for partnerships and specialist expertise.
- Members are required to be in good standing with CLA unless they represent a partner organisation (ie. NGO and Commonwealth accredited organisation partners, non-lawyers).

Possible Partnerships

- Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Other Commonwealth bodies (Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association).
- Legal professional bodies.
- Universities.

Administration

- A group secretary to be appointed who will be responsible for reporting and minute taking procedures and be point person to liaise with the Secretariat for diary planning, record keeping and circulation of documents.
- Meetings will be held every 2 months
- Reporting lines
 - To ExCo – brief verbal report with any substantial agenda time requested and documents for circulation to be with the Secretariat the week before the ExCo meeting.
 - To Council – a brief written summary of activity and any relevant reports for circulation to be with the Secretariat 2 weeks before the meeting. Requests for substantial agenda time also need 2 weeks’ notice.
 - General Meeting – a written report of activity for the CLA membership. To be received no later than one month before the CLC.
- For webinars and in-person events: the Committee members will need to identify their target audience, speakers, and a point person to work with the Secretariat who will assist with scheduling (with regard to the activities of other CLA Hubs and Committees) hosting on Zoom and marketing. Please allow at least four weeks from submission of all data (dates, times, speakers bios etc) to the event to give time for successful marketing strategies.

May 2023