

## Role description

### Counsel

#### Counsel

<b>Status</b>	Part time — 0.6 (see “Additional information”)
<b>Location</b>	Brisbane
<b>Contact</b>	Carl Heaton (07) 3238 3280

#### Salary details

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<b>Classification</b>	SO2.1
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#### Your opportunity

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The counsel role offers an outstanding opportunity for a talented legal professional to take on a position that is recognised and respected for its legal expertise and experience.

As counsel, you will be a senior member of a collegiate team of enthusiastic legal professionals. You will represent legally-aided clients in the High Court of Australia, Court of Appeal, the Mental Health Court and before all superior and inferior courts, with a focus on superior court trials, appeals to the Court of Appeal, Mental Health Court hearings and dangerous prisoner applications. You will be dealing with matters that are challenging, complex and sometimes high-profile. You will also be responsible for guiding, mentoring and training in-house and external lawyers to help them reach their potential.

#### Your responsibilities

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- Advise on and argue appeals against conviction and sentence in the Court of Appeal and appeals to the High Court of Australia.
- Appear as counsel:
  - in complex, sensitive or difficult trials and sentences in the Supreme and District Court
  - in all matters before the Mental Health Court
  - for respondents to applications by the Attorney-General under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*
  - in complex committal hearings in the magistrates court
  - in approved family law and civil litigation in various jurisdictions.
- Mentor, assist and guide Legal Aid Queensland lawyers and preferred suppliers in case preparation, including compliance with case management standards and decision making processes.

- Travel and appear on Supreme and District Court circuits throughout Queensland, including in regional and remote communities. Also help with administrative and listing arrangements in these locations.
- Provide opinions to the Public Defender and specialist legal advice to staff, clients and preferred suppliers about matters related to criminal law, evidence, procedure, advocacy and ethics.
- Deliver presentations, papers and specialist training to internal and external professionals as part of continuing legal education.
- Provide advice to the Public Defender and the Criminal Law Services director about policy, procedural and law reform initiatives, including drafting formal submissions about significant matters at a state and national level.
- Provide advice to grants officers about merit assessments for grants of aid. This includes determining the case's prospect of success and recommending a client receive a grant for legal representation.
- Liaise with the courts and other stakeholders about matters relevant to the administration of justice.
- Assist the Public Defender and the Deputy Public Defenders to effectively manage Counsel.
- Comply with all professional and corporate responsibilities.

## Your qualifications

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You must be admitted or eligible for immediate admission as a legal practitioner in Queensland, be eligible for a current practising certificate as a barrister and entry in the High Court Registrar of Practitioners.

## Your core capabilities

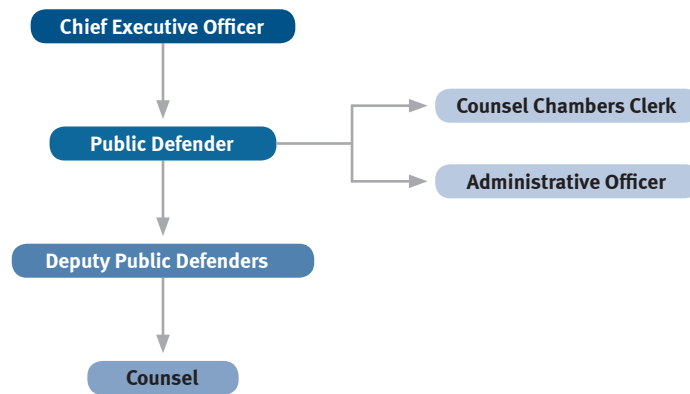
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Merit and performance will be assessed on these core capabilities:

- You have superior ability to critically review case materials and provide sound advice on, draft skilfully, and argue competently, grounds of appeal in the criminal jurisdiction.
- You can represent, to a superior level, people granted legal aid, including on trial and at sentence in the Supreme and District Courts, before the Mental Health Court, in applications under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, and in approved civil litigation.
- You have a firmly established professional reputation as a competent advocate with specialist knowledge of the criminal law, evidence, procedure, and ethics, and high level written and verbal communication skills.
- You are aware of major issues affecting the criminal justice system and legally-aided clients and can prepare high-quality advice and written submissions relating to policy, procedural and law reform initiatives.
- You contribute to professional development, including providing clear guidance, constructive feedback and mentoring. You are also committed to self-development and maintain up-to-date knowledge of the law and recent developments in the area.

## Your reporting relationships

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## Additional information

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- Appointees to positions are on three months probation.
- Counsel will need to carry out circuit work throughout Queensland and must be prepared to travel.
- A driver licence is highly desirable.
- The position is part time.
- Legal Aid Queensland uses the internet and other technology in daily business and staff are expected to use these to produce their own documents (including typing and data entry).
- Additional information, including our organisation structure and Applicant Information Kit, is available from [www.legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au)