
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Summer Clerk 2024

Christine Conn

I am a proud Wiradjuri woman from central New South Wales. My family is originally from Coonamble, but I finished high school in 2020 at Deniliquin, a small town on the New South Wales and Victorian border. I moved from Deniliquin to Brisbane to study at the beginning of 2021.

My family's background is farming, and I am the first in my family to go to university. I am now entering my fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Business (Accounting) at QUT.

Christine Conn

Gilshenan & Luton
Summer Clerk 2024



Why did you apply for the clerkship?

I have had no previous experience in a criminal law firm and had heard great things about the summer clerkship. Having previously worked in commercial law settings, I was interested to see what working in a criminal law firm would be like.

What did you do during your clerkship?

During my four weeks with G&L, I had the opportunity to attend court numerous times and work on various research tasks. I attended a District Court sentence, a Magistrates Court trial and a QCAT hearing. I had the opportunity to sit in on client conferences and take notes or write statements.

G&L also hosted a series of legal workshops on topics such as advocacy, ethics, and legal research. These sessions helped me develop skills that I used daily throughout my clerkship and that I am sure I will continue to use in the future.

What was your most memorable day?

The whole clerkship was memorable, but the highlight was attending the summary trial in the Magistrates Court. It was really valuable to be able to observe the proceedings, and also to be part of the conversations between the lawyers, counsel, and client.

This experience helped me understand how court works, and how important it is for a legal team to work together and think quickly.

What will you take away from the clerkship?

I am leaving the clerkship feeling excited and more prepared for a career in law. I have developed many skills throughout my four weeks at G&L, through both the workshops and

practical experiences. I am excited to implement these skills, such as legal research and writing, in my studies and future career.

More than anything, I am leaving with an understanding of how a criminal law firm works. I have come to realise in these four weeks that criminal law is a very collegiate profession, and a career in criminal law can simultaneously be challenging and rewarding.