

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Law Reform Committee member

Responsible to

- Law Reform Committee convenor

Functional relationships

- Law Reform Committee convenor
- Other Law Reform Committee members
- Law Reform and Advocacy Manager
- General Manager External Relations

Prime purposes of position

- To serve as a member of the Law Reform Committee.
- To prepare submissions, based on comments provided by NZLS specialist committees and other contributors (such as NZLS Sections), on:
 - Bills;
 - Law Commission papers;
 - government department law reform proposals; and
 - reforms affecting the rule of law or administration of justice, on a case-by-case basis;
- as assigned by the Law Reform Committee convenor.

Tasks

- Prepare high quality Law Society submissions, whether alone or as part of a team, following the NZLS Law Reform Guidelines.
- Work with specialist committee convenors as required.
- Encourage and build relationships with specialist committees.
- Encourage and incorporate comments from interested members of the profession.
- As required, make oral submissions to select committees.
- As required, act as a spokesperson for the Law Society on specific law reform issues.
- Attend the annual meeting of the Law Reform Committee where possible.

Expected outcomes

- NZLS law reform submissions are of a very high standard (as per the NZLS Law Reform Guidelines), and support the Law Society's reputation for producing impartial and considered submissions.
- NZLS law reform submissions support the Law Society's obligation "to assist and promote, for the purpose of upholding the rule of law and facilitating the administration of justice in New Zealand, the reform of the law" (s65(e), Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006).
- Submissions are drafted and delivered on time.

Skills & expertise

- Strong interest in law reform, and willingness to contribute regularly to the work of the Law Reform Committee.
- Good understanding of the NZLS law reform mandate (which includes, on occasions, a dual focus on representation of the profession's interests as well as the public interest).
- Clear communicator and capable presenter.
- Able to be objective and discuss issues constructively.
- Able to work to support the Law Reform Committee workload, often to tight deadlines.
- Comfortable with electronic communication (email, internet and teleconferencing).

Notes

- This is a voluntary position.
- Appointments to this position are made biennially, by the Board or its delegate/s.
- The committee operates almost entirely by email and teleconference.