



2027 Executive Candidate Statements

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Director of Sponsorship (x2)
Luke Dimopoulos	Alice Dunne Amy Schulz	Alice Hillyer Katia Mercuri (1)	Roop Rehill (1)	Emily Meade Grace Bernard Patrick Bolton (1) Rhea Naaz (2)
Activities Director	Commercial Careers Director	Communications Director	Competitions Director	Education Director
Cassandra Block	Rhea Naaz (1)	Aarnavi Malhotra (2) Vicky Lu	Rhea Nguyen	Amahli Taylor
Engagement Director	Industry Careers Director	Marketing Director	Social Justice & Equity Director	
Roop Rehill (2)	Georgia Langley Katia Mercuri (2)	Aarnavi Malhotra (1) Buwanaji Dharmasena Patrick Bolton (2) Leima Naizi	Colette D'Costa Rosie Hallihan Stefan Orfanos Zarah Islam	

Note: (1) and (2) denotes a candidate's first and second preference.
No numbering means the candidate has only nominated themselves for one position.

Each application had a maximum allowance of 250 words. Any text submitted beyond the word limit has been omitted.

All candidate statements are listed under each role in alphabetical order by first name.

All candidate photos are located in the [appendix](#).

President

Luke Dimopoulos

As I enter into my fourth year as a Bachelor of Laws student, I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for President of the Deakin Law Students' Society in 2027. I have been fortunate enough to serve on the DLSS for three years, beginning as a First-Year Representative, progressing to Sponsorship Officer, and currently as Co-Director of Sponsorship.

I have had the privilege of watching this Society grow and succeed, and am incredibly proud to have contributed to its continued success. In my current role, I have strengthened the DLSS' reputation through expanding the Society's' reach to over 52 sponsors, the most in the society's history. As President, I intend to work closely with students, faculty and the committee to understand what further opportunities we can provide our students, for their success in the profession.

Over my tenure on the DLSS, I have gained a thorough understanding on what it means to lead, and the dedication and commitment required to represent Deakin Law students. I pride myself on bringing enthusiasm and devotion to every role and I am committed to ensuring every student feels welcomed, supported and valued by the DLSS.

If elected as President, my vision is to ensure students have opportunities, and support in abundance. I am also committed to providing an inclusive and respectful community for all. Whether it be personally, academically or professionally, every student deserves the chance to excel. It would be an absolute privilege to lead, guide and support students as President in 2027.

Vice President

Alice Dunne

I am excited to nominate for the position of Vice-President of the Deakin Law Students' Society (DLSS) for 2027. I recognise that the role of Vice-President carries significant responsibility, requiring accountability and a genuine commitment to supporting both the DLSS and wider student body.

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the DLSS as a Competitions Officer and, more recently, as the Director of Competitions. These roles have allowed me to develop my leadership, organisation, and communication skills, while gaining a deeper understanding of the DLSS' role in supporting students.

As Competitions Director, I have coordinated initiatives that challenge students academically, develop their advocacy skills, and encourage engagement with the wider law school community. Through this role, I have learnt the importance of effective teamwork, adaptability, and ensuring that students feel supported.

Leading the largest portfolio of officers on the DLSS has also taught me the importance of patience, trust, and effective delegation. I understand the need to balance differing needs and opinions, while recognising when to step up and address issues.

If elected, I would ensure that committee members have clear and accessible avenues to raise concerns and I would approach such concerns impartially, respectfully, and confidentially, with the aim of facilitating constructive resolutions. Further, I would prioritise fostering strong internal relationships, encouraging collaboration between portfolios, and ensuring the DLSS remains an inclusive and welcoming community.

I would be honoured to continue serving the DLSS and contribute to its ongoing success as Vice-President.

Amy Schulz

Hi everyone, my name is Amy Schulz, and I am excited to be applying for the position of Vice President of the Deakin Law Students' Society (DLSS) for 2027.

Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of serving on the DLSS, first as an Activities Officer in 2025 and this year as Director of the Activities portfolio. These experiences have been central to developing my leadership and interpersonal skills, which I believe are integral to the Vice President role.

As Activities Director, I have been responsible for liaising with a range of stakeholders, suppliers and students, while successfully coordinating some of the DLSS's largest events throughout the year. Through this role, I have developed strong time-management and problem-solving skills, as well as the ability to manage competing priorities and remain composed under pressure. While I have thoroughly enjoyed the student-facing nature of the Activities portfolio, I am eager to take a more internal focus and apply these skills to the role of Vice President. If elected, I would endeavour to facilitate effective collaboration between portfolios and ensure the wider committee feels supported in achieving their goals.

The DLSS has been fundamental in shaping my university experience, allowing me to connect with like-minded individuals and foster lasting friendships. I hope to contribute to creating the same sense of community for others by being an approachable and supportive member of the executive team. I will prioritise clear communication, collaboration and strong internal relationships to ensure that all committee members

Secretary

Alice Hillyer

Hi, my name is Alice Hillyer and I would love to be the Secretary of the DLSS for 2027! Having spent the past two years as both an Education Officer and Director of Education, I have developed a strong understanding of how the DLSS operates and would love the opportunity to continue contributing to the Society as a member of the Executive.

I believe my experience and skill set are particularly well suited to the administrative responsibilities of the Secretary. Alongside university, I work as a paralegal, where organisation, attention to detail, time management and clear communication are essential parts of my day-to-day role. I am accustomed to managing documents, maintaining accurate records, coordinating competing responsibilities and ensuring important administrative tasks are completed accurately and on time.

My two years with the DLSS of being the Education Director and an Education Officer have also given me an understanding of the importance of effective communication between the Executive, Directors and Officers. I would bring this experience to the Secretary role to help ensure meetings, records, correspondence and other administrative responsibilities are managed efficiently, while keeping the wider Committee informed and organised.

If elected, I would aim to be a reliable, approachable and highly organised Secretary who supports the President, Executive and wider Committee. I would love the opportunity to use both my professional administrative experience and knowledge of the DLSS to help the Society run smoothly throughout 2027.

Katia Mercuri (1)

My name is Katia Mercuri and I am applying for the role of Secretary for 2027.

I am running for Secretary because I want to contribute to the continued success of a Society that has provided me with significant opportunities for personal and professional development. Having experienced the value of a well functioning committee, I want to contribute to the administration and effective management that supports its work. I would continue to build on the strengths of the committee by ensuring communication remains effective and members are supported in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Over the past year as a Competitions Officer, I have facilitated numerous competitions and workshops alongside the Society's largest portfolio of officers. This has demanded strong organisation, preparation and time management. It has strengthened my ability to respond to the needs of the portfolio and reinforced the importance of clear processes, collaboration and accountability.

Beyond the Society, my professional experience within a legal environment has involved triaging competing priorities, adhering to deadlines and anticipating the needs of my team. It has developed my ability to communicate professionally with external stakeholders, while exercising discretion and maintaining confidentiality.

If elected, I would bring a proactive, collaborative and dependable approach to the role. I am committed to ensuring that our Society's governance and constitutional obligations are upheld, while being an approachable point of contact for committee members. Above all, I will ensure that the Society remains organised and well supported, while continuing to uphold its reputation and build on its success.

Treasurer

Roop Rehill (1)

My name is Roop Rehill, and I am applying for the role of Treasurer of the Deakin Law Students' Society ('DLSS') in 2027.

Serving as the sole Finance Officer this year has strengthened my interest in the Society's financial operations and the role Finance plays in supporting every portfolio. I have worked closely with the Treasurer this year, and I would love the opportunity to build on what I have learnt, take on greater responsibility and support the DLSS in bringing its initiatives to life.

As both a Finance and Engagement Officer, I have gained two perspectives of the Society. Within Finance, I have assisted with event and portfolio budgets, processed payments, used complex accounting and payment software and maintained relationships with our accountants and suppliers. Through Engagement, I have also experienced the other side of these processes, giving me an understanding of how important financial guidance and communication are across the wider committee.

Beyond the DLSS, my Law and Commerce double degree has provided me with a strong foundation through completing all core accounting and finance units. My experience as a Legal Administrative Assistant has strengthened my organisational and communication skills and attention to detail, all of which would transfer directly to the role of Treasurer.

Progressing from Finance Officer to Treasurer feels like a natural next step. I would be honoured to continue contributing to a Society that has become such a meaningful part of my university experience and to serve as your Treasurer in 2027.

Director of Sponsorship

Emily Meade

Hi everyone, my name is Emily Meade, and I am proud to put myself forward as a candidate for Director of Sponsorship on the DLSS for 2027.

Entering my fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws and Commerce, my time at Deakin has been shaped by the DLSS, and I'm eager to give back to a society that has given me so many opportunities.

This year, I worked in two portfolios simultaneously: I began as Video Marketing Officer and in May stepped into the role of Sponsorship Officer. This gave me a rare vantage point across both the relationship-building side of sponsorship and the content side that brings those partnerships to life for students. Working directly with law firms and organisations, I helped with the coordination of sponsored events and ensuring deliverables were met with reliability, while my marketing background let me translate those partnerships into content that resonated with the cohort and gave sponsors genuine visibility.

My vision for 2027 is to build on this year's successes in the Sponsorship portfolio by strengthening existing sponsor relationships, while pursuing new partnerships that reflect our cohort's diverse interests. I'll draw on my marketing experience to communicate these initiatives effectively, maximising both student engagement and sponsor satisfaction, so sponsors feel like genuine parts of our community.

I'm invested in this portfolio for its ability to work alongside every other portfolio to enhance the student experience, and it would be an honour to lead it with the integrity and creativity it deserves.

Grace Bernard

Hi everyone!

My name is Grace Bernard and I am beyond excited to be applying for the role of Director of Sponsorship for 2027. As I enter my fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Criminology and conclude my second year on the DLSS, I am eager to continue contributing to the magnetic culture of the DLSS in 2027.

My role as Sponsorship Officer has provided me with a wealth of knowledge regarding the successful maintenance of the portfolio. I have been a crucial part of facilitating strong and lasting relationships between the DLSS and key legal representatives across Australia, relying on strong interpersonal skills to foster these connections and maintain the exceptional reputation of the DLSS. Further, I have gained valuable insight and experience into the operations behind delivering pivotal opportunities for all Deakin Law Students, through active involvement in the internal administration of the portfolio.

My understanding of student culture, including the events and opportunities coveted by the student body, stems from my previous role as a Competitions Officer. Through this role, I was able to listen to feedback and gain a deep appreciation for ensuring our DLSS events reflect the legal avenues that are most valued by Deakin Law students.

I am determined to mirror the successes achieved within the Sponsorship portfolio this year by building on our partnerships with external organisations. In doing so, I aim to push the boundaries of success for the DLSS and increase opportunity for the student body!

Patrick Bolton (1)

Having served as Director of Marketing throughout 2026, I have occupied one of the few roles that works directly with every portfolio across the DLSS, while also engaging with our entire student body. This has given me a strong understanding of how each portfolio operates, the initiatives we deliver and, importantly, how they collectively contribute to the DLSS brand.

As Marketing Director, understanding and protecting that brand has been core to my role. Whether coordinating the promotion of portfolio initiatives, communicating with members or managing external suppliers, I have been responsible for ensuring that the DLSS is represented consistently and professionally.

I believe this experience translates strongly to Sponsorship, where the way we communicate and present ourselves directly shapes the relationships we build with external organisations. Representing the DLSS to external organisations requires more than strong communication; it requires an understanding of what the Society offers, what makes our initiatives valuable and how relationships with sponsors can ultimately benefit our members.

As Sponsorship Director, I would bring an established understanding of the DLSS, its brand, portfolios and membership to strengthen existing relationships and pursue new opportunities.

Rhea Naaz (2)

My name is Rhea Naaz, and I am applying for Director of Sponsorship after spending this year as a Commercial Careers Officer and seeing firsthand how closely the DLSS works with firms and other external organisations.

Being part of Commercial Careers has given me a much better understanding of how much work happens behind the scenes before an event ever reaches students. Through helping organise initiatives such as the In-House Counsel Panel, I have communicated and coordinated different people and made sure details were followed up properly. It has also shown me how important professionalism is when representing the DLSS. The way we communicate, stay organised and follow through on commitments all contribute to the reputation of the Society and the relationships it has built with firms.

That is what draws me to Sponsorship. I enjoy working with people, building professional relationships and being someone others can rely on. I also understand that sponsorship is not simply about approaching new organisations. It is just as important to maintain existing relationships, understand what has been agreed to and make sure sponsors feel valued throughout the year.

If elected, I would bring a professional but approachable attitude to the portfolio. I am organised, comfortable communicating with different people and willing to put in the work that happens behind the scenes. After a year on committee, I understand the standard expected when representing the DLSS, and I am confident that I have the communication skills, reliability and judgement needed to take on the

Director of Activities

Cassandra Block

I am so excited to announce that I am applying for Director of Activities for 2027.

The social aspect is arguably the best thing about University, second maybe to the degree. Social events allow us to meet future colleagues, make friends, de-stress and improve students' wellbeing and motivation throughout the year. In my role as Activities Officer this past year, I have had the pleasure of seeing the impact the Activities portfolio has had on the law student cohort. I have met and spoken with a vast array of students and developed strong friendships of my own.

I contributed to the success of a highly anticipated first year camp, which accrued an extensive waitlist, as well as a bar hop, end of year party and a 30-minute sell-out Law Ball.

I understand the importance of strong organisation when communicating with marketing and finance portfolios and delivering timelines well in advance. I have strong organisation and time management skills, developing clear timelines and breaking projects into achievable deadlines, while ensuring delegation and planning are completed well before the event.

My managerial experience has allowed me to understand how to leverage individual team members' strengths to appropriately delegate tasks. I believe creativity and innovation prosper from collaboration and would encourage the team's ideas to improve events.

My passion for bringing people together and creating a fun and welcoming environment is stronger than ever. I am a regular face at DLSS events and will continue to show my support and participation next year.

Director of Commercial Careers

Rhea Naaz (1)

My name is Rhea Naaz, and I am excited to apply for Director of Commercial Careers after spending this year as a Commercial Careers Officer. Through this role, I have seen how valuable these opportunities can be for students, while also recognising how intimidating careers events can sometimes feel from a student's perspective.

One thing I understand personally is how difficult it can be to attend a careers event by yourself. Walking into a room full of professionals and other students, particularly when you do not know anyone, can be enough to stop someone from attending altogether.

As Director, I would like to make our events feel more approachable without taking away from their professional value. This could include designated meeting points for students attending alone, small-group networking formats, clearer pre-event information about what to expect, and officers actively welcoming and introducing students when they arrive. I would also like to create more smaller-scale opportunities where students can speak with professionals in a setting that feels less daunting than a traditional networking event.

Having helped organise initiatives for commercial careers this year, I understand the planning, communication and organisation required behind the scenes. I also know that a successful event is not just one that looks impressive or attracts strong speakers. It is one where students actually feel comfortable participating and networking.

I would bring that perspective to the portfolio in 2027 and make Commercial Careers something students feel confident engaging with, even if they are walking through the door

Director of Communications

Aarnavi Malhotra (2)

I am eager to contribute to the law student community and help ensure students feel informed, connected and supported throughout their university experience.

I believe effective communication is essential to a successful student society. The Director of Communication plays an important role in ensuring that information is delivered clearly, consistently and effectively, while also creating a strong connection between the DLSS and its members. If elected, I would aim to make DLSS communication accessible, timely and engaging, ensuring students are aware of events, opportunities, important updates and initiatives.

Through my three years of tutoring experience, I have developed strong communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to explain information clearly, adapt my communication to different audiences and actively listen to others. These skills would allow me to effectively communicate with students, committee members and external stakeholders while ensuring that student perspectives are heard.

As a first-year student, I understand how overwhelming university can initially feel, particularly when students are unfamiliar with the opportunities and resources available to them. I would aim to make communication approachable and ensure that students feel comfortable engaging with the DLSS and asking questions.

I am organised, approachable and enthusiastic, and I would take pride in being a reliable point of communication for the DLSS. I hope to bring professionalism, initiative and a student-focused approach to the role and contribute to creating a more informed and connected Deakin law community.

Vicky Lu

Hi I'm Vicky and I'm studying Law/Arts majoring in Media and Communications. Being a Communications officer for the DLSS this year has been an extremely rewarding experience. The role has provided me plenty of opportunities to develop my skills and I loved being part of the Communications portfolio, making new friends along the way. I thoroughly enjoyed working on the two Et Cetera publications and the Skills Guide, not only because of my passion for design but also because I believe these are incredibly valuable initiatives for the law cohort. Working with other portfolios and contributors has also been an insightful experience. Whether it was creating firm spotlights, monthly newsletters or damaged incurred scripts, each experience has taught me something new and encouraged me to reflect on producing helpful and engaging content that connects with law students.

I would love the opportunity to further develop my leadership skills through the Director role and contribute to the Communications portfolio in a way that is genuinely in the best interests of law students. Alongside my officers, I hope to continue encouraging law students to engage with DLSS through our initiatives and content, strengthening the connection between the Society and wider law cohort.

Thank you!

Director of Competitions

Rhea Nguyen

Hello, my name is Rhea Nguyen, and I am so keen to apply for the Director of Competition role for 2027.

During my time as a Competition Officer in 2026, I was the lead organiser for the Junior Moot Competition and assisted in the organisation of all our competitions throughout the year. I was also part of the Activities Portfolio in 2025, which gave me experience in running large-scale social events. I have gained extensive experience in communication, organisation, and time management which would be incredibly helpful for the role of a director.

I am very passionate about helping students gain practical exposure to legal advocacy and I aim to further promote the DLSS's competitions to a wider range of law students. To me, the Director of Competition role is the first point of contact for all things competitions, which means, always keeping an eye out for any students queries or feedback and adapt them for improvements. If appointed, one of my main objectives would be to update our Competition guide to be more comprehensive and accessible, especially for students looking to compete for the first time.

I commit to continue to deliver valuable and exciting competitions to more Deakin law students as I believe these experiences would give them valuable advocacy skills and follow them into their future careers. Both my organisation skills and passion for strengthening Deakin students' experiences make me a strong candidate for the Director of Competition role.

Director of Education

Amahli Taylor

After being an education officer for the past year, I have grown to love the Deakin Law Students Society and all its initiatives. Therefore, if I am offered the opportunity to step into the role of education director next year I hope to continue the existing initiatives, along with hopefully introducing new initiatives. This includes, but is not limited to, the Exam Revision Sessions, First Year Crash Course, and the Wellbeing in the Law Panel. I would aim to produce high-quality events, that are centred around students to ensure they are supported in their education and wellbeing. Specifically, I hope to assist students to develop both their academic and professional skills, along with creating awareness and attempting to promote skills to combat the stressful situations law students face.

I believe that I am well suited to this role as I am organised, which is a skill I have further developed in the past two years, living out of home, working, studying and regularly visiting home in regional Victoria. I am hard working, and have well developed communication skills, as a result of my job in a milk factory and previous retail experience. I also have strong delegation, public speaking, leadership, empathy and social awareness skills. In my view, all of the previously mentioned skills would be extremely valuable to the position of the education director.

Director of Engagement

Roop Rehill (2)

My name is Roop Rehill, and I am applying for the role of Director of Engagement for the Deakin Law Students' Society ('DLSS') in 2027.

Serving as an Engagement Officer this year has shown me how important the portfolio is in connecting students with the DLSS and ensuring they feel welcomed, informed and encouraged to participate. I would love the opportunity to build on this experience, take on greater responsibility and lead the portfolio next year.

Throughout my time in Engagement, I have assisted with promoting events to students, representing the DLSS at O-Week and supporting the organisation of panels and networking events. I helped coordinate the Alumni Networking Evening, which strengthened my ability to communicate with alumni, students and committee members, manage event logistics and contribute throughout the planning process. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of what happens behind the scenes to create events that students genuinely want to attend.

My experience as both an Engagement and Finance Officer has allowed me to work across portfolios and understand the importance of communication, organisation and collaboration within the wider committee. As Director, I would aim to create a cohesive team where officers feel confident contributing ideas, speaking with students and fulfilling their responsibilities.

Having worked within Engagement this year, I understand its responsibilities and potential. I would be honoured to lead the portfolio and continue making DLSS events accessible, welcoming and valuable for all Deakin Law students.

Director of Industry Careers

Georgia Langley

Hello everyone, my name is Georgia Langley and I am excited to put forward my nomination for Director of Industry Careers for 2027.

From serving as an Industry Careers Officer on the Deakin Law Students Society ('DLSS') in 2026, I had the opportunity to be involved in executing amazing events and initiatives run by the Industry Careers portfolio. Specifically, I had the pleasure of directly being involved with hosting the People's Choice Panel and Personal Injury Law Panel, as well as a number of 'Before the Court' podcast episodes, together with having a hand in bringing together our flagship networking event, 'An Evening with the Industry Professionals'. From this experience I have also benefited from working under a passionate Director which has shown me the importance of leading the Industry Careers team with genuine enthusiasm, commitment and interest of alternative practice areas and pathways.

From my experience in 2026 as an Industry Careers Officer I have personally grown insofar as my knowledge of the range of opportunities available to law students outside of the commercial law space, this has ultimately strengthened my drive to continue the work of the Industry Careers portfolio. Following the success of the portfolio in 2026, my goals as Director for 2027 are to further expand on this success, particularly in relation to building student involvement within our portfolio through further tailoring our initiatives to meet the interests and needs of Deakin Law students, and ensure they have the best opportunity to engage with and explore

Katia Mercuri (2)

My name is Katia Mercuri and I am applying for the role of Director of Industry Careers for 2027.

I am running for Director of Industry Careers as I am passionate about fostering opportunities for students to explore the diverse career pathways within the legal profession. I have seen the value of engaging initiatives that connect students with practitioners and provide insights into careers beyond the traditional commercial pathway. I am committed to contributing to the success of the Portfolio while responding to the needs of the 2027 student cohort.

Over the past year as a Competitions Officer, I have facilitated competitions and workshops alongside the Society's largest portfolio of officers. This has demanded strong organisation, preparation and collaboration, while ensuring events were delivered effectively and officers remained supported. It has strengthened my ability to coordinate initiatives and respond to changing priorities.

Beyond the Society, my professional experience within a legal environment has developed my ability to manage competing priorities, meet deadlines and communicate professionally with external stakeholders. These skills would be valuable in fostering relationships with practitioners and firms, coordinating speakers and sponsors and representing the Society at external events.

If elected, I would build on the Portfolio's success by increasing student engagement and showcasing diverse career pathways. I would foster a supportive team through clear communication and delegation, while encouraging officers to take ownership of initiatives. I am excited about the prospect of leading a team that delivers meaningful initiatives and strengthens the Portfolio's contribution to the Society.

Director of Marketing

Aarnavi Malhotra (1)

I'm delighted to nominate myself for the position of Director of Marketing at DLSS. As a first year law student, I want to contribute to creating a more connected, engaging and inclusive experience for law students.

I believe effective marketing is about more than just promoting events. It is about building a strong community, communicating opportunities clearly and making the students feel more engaged. If elected, I would aim to strengthen the DLSS's online presence through creative, consistent and student-focused content across social media. I would promote upcoming events while also incorporating interactive content, student highlights, committee introductions, opportunities and behind the scenes content to make DLSS more relatable and engaging.

My three years of tutoring experience has developed my communication, organisation and interpersonal skills, particularly my ability to understand different audiences and communicate information clearly. I would bring these skills to DLSS and work collaboratively with other directors to ensure marketing effectively represents each portfolio and initiative.

I am enthusiastic, organised and creative. I am willing to take initiatives and listen to student feedback. I would be committed to bringing fresh ideas, professionalism and energy to the role, making a meaningful contribution to the DLSS community

Buwanaji Dharmasena

I am interested in joining the Deakin Law student society as Director of Marketing, because I would love to combine and exercise my passions of marketing and law. As a law student i would also appreciate and enjoy being surrounded by discussions about legal issues, advocacy and justice, and I think this role would allow me to engage with these areas while also using my creativity and marketing skills that I have developed through bouquet business, @bbouquets__, which I run and advertise through posts and stories.

Being a current first year student and a member of DLSS i have seen the current marketing strategies and posts that are used to advertise and spread awareness of the many panels, competitions and networking event and opportunities that DLSS inspires.

If i was given the opportunity to provide marketing to DLSS I would love to create these promotions to engage more student involvement a well suggest new ideas such as reels to achieve further engagement. I would be grateful for this opportunity as it would allow me to develop my creativity and also just emoji being surrounded by my passions.

Leima Naizi

I come from strong a background in leadership and community engagement. I have organised, lead, directed, and volunteered for many curricular activities and initiates. My past experience in many industry fields has required me to have ample skills in video making, editing, posting, and conducting. I have the confidence and knowledge to lead a group of people with proactivity and passion. With my exposure to public speaking and desire for social media, I believe I would be the perfect candidate to create fresh, entertaining, welcoming, and regularly scheduled content that is both professional and relatable for students. I know my way around social media and people, and I believe I can not only provide high quality content, but be a representative for new law students and the interests they carry behind them, other than studying the law. My aim is to make new content that is fun but still keeps up with the legal industry and university culture, while maintaining the current visuals and aesthetics the DLSS pages currently establish, including flyers and event posters. Additionally, my networking and communication experience would allow the DLSS to branch out on social media with various universities, public figures, prominent individuals in the legal industry, and more! Managing social media accounts comes with great responsibility, one I am familiar with as my time as a marketing manager, social media enthusiast, personal use, and more. I believe I would make a great impact on the DLSS as Director of Marketing!

Patrick Bolton (2)

Having served as Director of Marketing throughout 2026, I have developed a strong understanding of both the demands of the role and the importance Marketing plays within the DLSS. As one of the few portfolios that works directly with every other portfolio and engages with our entire student body, Marketing has given me a unique understanding of the Society, its members and the brand that connects everything we do.

Throughout 2026, I have been responsible for maintaining and developing that brand across our social media, events, merchandise and wider promotional material. From coordinating the marketing of initiatives across every portfolio to leading our largest merchandise launch to date, I have had the opportunity to build on the DLSS brand while learning what works, what can be improved and where there is room to innovate.

If re-elected, I would bring not only this experience but a clear understanding of where I want to take Marketing next. I would focus on continuing to refine our brand, producing more engaging and creative content and finding new ways to connect students with the Society and its opportunities. I would also use the lessons from 2026 to further improve the organisation, delegation and processes within the Marketing Portfolio.

I am incredibly proud of what Marketing has achieved this year and would love the opportunity to build on that work and make 2027 even stronger.

Director of Social Justice & Equity

Colette D'Costa

I am excited to be applying for the role of Director of Social Justice & Equity. Having served as a Social Justice & Equity Officer this year, I have gained firsthand insight into the portfolio, its purpose and the impact it can have within the DLSS. My experience has allowed me to contribute to initiatives focused on important contemporary issues and has given me the knowledge and confidence to transition effectively from Officer to Director.

This year, I have developed practical experience in event planning, stakeholder engagement and professional communication, including through my involvement in initiatives such as the Women in Law panel. Alongside my role within the DLSS, my studies in Law and Sociology have strengthened my interest in the relationship between law, inequality and social change. I have also experienced firsthand the importance of equity, inclusion and meaningful support within educational and professional environments, which has reinforced my commitment to areas such as gender equality, disability and accessibility, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and uplifting underrepresented voices within the legal profession.

If elected, I would build on the portfolio's strong foundations by delivering engaging and relevant initiatives that reflect the broad range of social justice issues affecting students, the legal profession and the wider community. I would also seek to strengthen collaboration with other DLSS portfolios, and community organisations to broaden the reach and impact of SJE initiatives.

I am committed to ensuring that Social Justice & Equity remains a visible, purposeful and inclusive portfolio within the DLSS, and I would be proud to

Rosie Hallihan

As a 2026 Social Justice and Equity Officer, I have seen firsthand how the portfolio gives Deakin law students an avenue to engage critically with the social impact of the law. As Director, I would hope to build on this year's incredible work and deepen the portfolio's reach across Society and the Deakin law community.

As law students and future legal practitioners, I believe our understanding of the law should extend beyond the purely academic and also engage with the social justice implications of policy and legal structures. Throughout 2027, I plan to curate events and publications that foster discussion and awareness of the ways in which the law intersects with contemporary social issues in Australia.

Alongside my experience as an Officer, which has informed my practical understanding of the portfolio's structure, I have previous CLC volunteering experience and currently work as a paralegal at a women-led family law firm. This professional experience has specifically informed my passion for Indigenous law reform, family violence awareness and identifying bias in criminal prosecution.

Environmental justice is also an increasingly pertinent issue in the current climate context, and one I would welcome bringing into the portfolio's focus next year.

Beyond portfolio direction, I understand that the most rewarding and important part of this role is supporting a team of equally passionate officers. Delegating clearly from the outset, checking in consistently, and creating space for them to pursue the social issues they are personally passionate about will be my priority, as I believe this

Stefan Orfanos

First came a graduation speech that made LGBTQIA+ students feel unwelcome. Then 95 per cent of graduates walked out and footage went viral. By the following day, as President of ACUNSA, ACU's national equivalent of DUSA, I was leading a protest covered by every major news outlet in Australia.

I know how to turn advocacy into action. Across eight ACU student executive roles, including five presidencies, I have led teams, represented students and founded ACU's Psychology Society.

As an Electorate Officer at the Parliament of Australia, I coordinated community advocacy and supported constituents navigating disability, migration, housing and complex government systems. Advocacy and media training, plus experience emceeing large sporting events, prepared me to host panels and engage audiences.

If elected, I will build on the current Director's excellent work by strengthening connections with community legal centres and showcasing the many traditional and alternative pathways available to law graduates interested in social justice or from diverse backgrounds. I will deliver initiatives on First Nations justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, women in law, disability inclusion and access to justice.

My approach will be collaborative: I will listen to Officers and DLSS members, respond to student demand, encourage respectful dialogue and turn ideas into impact.

More voices. More initiatives. More impact. Vote Stefan.

Zarah Islam

I recognise that studying law is not just about the law. It's recognising how it affects different people and how it is imperative to use our voices to advocate. Hi, I'm Zarah and although I am a first year law/commerce law student I have a wide field of experiences. I led all events and fundraisers (IDAHOBIT & MND) as College Captain. This ultimately helped me to partake in meaningful advocacy which I know requires more than raising awareness but rather listening, collaborating and turning ideas into action. On top of this I have been volunteering for Wyndham City Councils Youth task force which is where we advocate for young people's needs in the suburb. Alongside these, I was apart of debating, global ambassador, model UN, music leader and a Global Ambassador.

Although I am a first year, I have been advocating for young people- my people for years and I want to bring the skills I have learnt at my university.

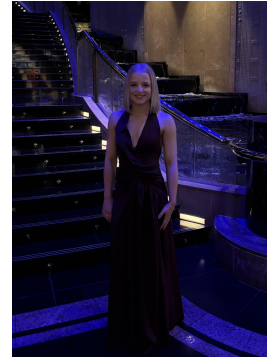
I already have some ideas and would love to discuss further in relation to my upbringing as an advocate and the intentions I plan if elected.

Appendix: Candidate Photos

Aarnavi Malhotra



Amahli Taylor



Alice Dunne



Amy Schulz



Alice Hillyer



Buwanaji Dharmasena





Cassandra Block



Georgia Langley



Colette D'Costa



Grace Bernard



Emily Meade



Katia Mercuri





Luke Dimopoulos



Rhea Naaz



Leima Naizi



Rhea Nguyen



Patrick Bolton



Roop Rehill



Rosie Hallihan



Vicky Lu



Stefan Orfanos



Zarah Islam

