

Duty Statement

Agency	Legal Aid NT	Work unit	Criminal Law Practice
Job title	Trial Advocate	Designation	Senior Professional 1 (SP1)
Job type	Full time	Duration	6 month, 12 month or 2 year contract considered
Salary	\$132,408 - \$147,919 plus Superannuation (salary packaging options available)	Location	Darwin
Position number	010366	Closing	4pm Thursday, 18 June 2026
Contact Officer	Human Resources on 08 8999 3000 or recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		
About the agency	www.legalaid.nt.gov.au		
Apply online	Please submit applications to recruitment@legalaid.nt.gov.au		

Information for applicants

To be considered for this position, applicants must attach a resume, a statement addressing the selection criteria (maximum 2 pages), and copies of your tertiary qualifications.

Inclusion and diversity

Legal Aid NT values diversity. We encourage people from all diversity groups to apply for vacancies and accommodate people with disability by making reasonable workplace adjustments.

About Legal Aid NT

Legal Aid NT is an independent statutory authority established under the *Legal Aid Act 1990* (NT). Our purpose is to ensure that people in the Northern Territory understand their legal rights and disadvantaged people have access to quality legal services, and to uphold a fair Northern Territory and national justice system.

Primary objective

Under the supervision of the Managing Solicitor of the Darwin Criminal Law Practice, the Trial Advocate will provide high quality legal advice and representation for legal aid clients charged with criminal offences in a broad range of criminal law areas, including but not limited to pleas and trials in the NT Supreme Court.

Key duties and responsibilities

1. Provide high quality legal advice and representation for legal aid clients charged with criminal offences in a broad range of criminal law areas, including but not limited to pleas and trials in the NT Supreme Court.
2. Provide expert legal advice and opinions (oral and written) on criminal law, procedure, evidence and sentencing.
3. Develop and maintain relationships with private legal practitioners, the NT DPP, the Commonwealth DPP, the Supreme and Local Courts in the Northern Territory, and other relevant networks to ensure Legal Aid NT remains responsive and proactive in meeting legal needs in the Darwin region.
4. Ensure compliance with the *Legal Profession Act (NT)*, the *Legal Aid Act 1990 (NT)*, the Legal Aid NT Guidelines, the National Partnership Agreement and funding arrangements for the provision of legal services.
5. Mentoring of junior lawyers, providing guidance and advice on legal issues
6. Promptly report to the Managing Solicitor of the Darwin Criminal Law Practice any incidents or conduct involving staff in the Practice which appear to give rise to any disciplinary action, complaint, grievance, or workers compensation claim or may necessitate notifying Legal Aid NT's Professional Indemnity or Public Liability Insurer.
7. Contribute to policy and law reform proposals relating to criminal law in the Northern Territory as relevant.
8. Contribute to the efficient administration of Legal Aid NT.

Selection criteria

Essential

1. Admission or eligibility for admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia.
2. Significant experience and ability in advocacy including, but not limited to, NT Supreme Court trials or equivalent and Appellate matters with a thorough knowledge and understanding of the laws of evidence, criminal law and criminal procedure.
3. Demonstrated skills in providing high level advice (oral and written) on legal issues within limited constraints, including an ability to perform duties without direct supervision and under a high degree of pressure.
4. Demonstrated commitment to the ongoing development and mentoring of junior lawyers, providing guidance on legal issues, and identifying appropriate development opportunities as they arise.
5. High level interpersonal and communication and negotiation skills and demonstrated ability to liaise and communicate effectively with staff, external stakeholders and clients with complex needs and from diverse backgrounds.
6. Commitment to legal aid values and an understanding of Northern Territory justice issues and the legal assistance sector.

Desirable

1. A minimum of 5 years post-admission experience in criminal law, including the conduct of contested matters.

Further Information

- The successful applicant will be required to obtain and hold a Working with Children Clearance notice and undergo a criminal history check. A criminal history will not exclude an applicant from this position unless it is a relevant criminal history.

- The successful application must hold a current NT 'C' class driver's licence or the ability to obtain as per the requirements of the NT Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) Road Users' Handbook.