

Dean's Address

JOHN PAGE - UC DEAN OF LAW 2023

Kia ora koutou

On behalf of the Faculty of Law, I extend to you a very warm welcome, whether you are starting your studies in Law or Criminal Justice for the first time in 2023, or returning for another important year of University life.



The Faculty of Law at the University of Canterbury has a long and proud tradition in providing the highest standards of legal education in Aotearoa. This year, that tradition will be acknowledged as the Faculty joins with the University in celebrating 150 years of higher education in this place, a momentous achievement! Yet while mindful of our past and the importance of continuity, the Faculty of Law is likewise a faculty committed to a vision of law and justice that is dynamic and progressive, and a conceptualisation of laws that are pluralist and bijural. There is literally nothing more important to our society than the (constantly evolving) idea of the rule of law, and as students of law or criminal justice, you are integral to its future advocacy and administration.

The Faculty of Law is unique in this country as a multi-disciplinary faculty that offers degree programmes in both law and criminal justice. This uniqueness sets us apart, as a place of learning, critical thinking, and faculty of law and justice. But there are also other key differentiators that make your decision to study at UC Law such a great choice. We have wonderful academic staff – who are not only the leading scholars and educators in their field, or authors of New Zealand's most authoritative textbooks – but are committed to your academic success. The next few years present a rare opportunity for you to engage with your lecturers and tutors, and I encourage you to maximise this journey of intellectual discovery and new knowledge with them.

You are also very fortunate that you are studying at an institution with such a rich student life, enlivened by our active and diverse law and criminal justice clubs and societies. Not only do these student societies offer you invaluable help with your academic studies, they also provide a wonderful opportunity to create lasting friendships and forge lifelong memories of university life. Whether it's mooting competitions, social functions, Law Ball(s) or the annual Law Revue, I hope this coming year will be one of great fun. I extend my congratulations and thanks to all of our student leaders in this space, who enable this great tradition to continue and flourish.

Finally I extend my congratulations to the editors of *Obiter* on their first edition for 2023, and to thank them for giving me my first opportunity to provide an address as Dean for their publication. *Obiter* encompasses the values mentioned above, and more. LAWSOC is also celebrating a momentous year in 2023, its centennial year! You have certainly chosen a significant year to study law or criminal justice at UC, and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Ngā mihi,

Prof John Page