

23/05/24



Aspiring barrister awarded Academy of Law's First Nations Scholarship

Throughout his high school years, Kyle Fox never liked the idea that there was just one answer or one solution to a problem. Instead, he was always keen to look for other interpretations and possibilities and he thrived on making an argument.

This led him to the idea of law and advocacy and his ambition to become a barrister.

Kyle is a proud Wiradjuri man in his final year of a Bachelor of Laws/Criminology and Criminal Justice at [UNSW](#) in Sydney and he's the [Academy of Law's](#) 2024 recipient of the First Nations Scholarship.

Made possible by the generosity of donors to the Academy's Public Fund, the \$5000 award is designed to help an Indigenous student through the arduous final year of a Law degree. It offers both funding and the assistance of an AAL Fellow as a mentor for that period.

Kyle is living on Dharawal country and has extended family members living on Wiradjuri country in Dubbo and Cowra in the central west of New South Wales:

'Growing up, I saw first-hand how members of my community were impacted by a legal system which seemed to me to be skewed against them on many levels'.

He says, throughout his degree, he has noticed a lack of Indigenous content in the law curriculum. He is part of a [UNSW project](#) designed to rectify this by developing content and teaching materials to embed Indigenous voices and perspectives across legal subjects. Kyle has also worked as a Research Assistant contributing to other projects, including the Bugmy Bar Book Project and a multi-jurisdictional Criminal law textbook, and is appointed as a First Nations tutor at UNSW.

It was during his cadetship at the Public Defenders Chambers that Kyle came to further appreciate the power of advocacy and the ability to address legal issues in court with clarity and precision:

'The experience helped me understand how pursuing a career at the Bar would enable me to protect my people and speak for them in circumstances where they face profound legal challenges and disadvantage.'

The AAL judging panel for the scholarship, now in its 4th year, was Justice Tony Besanko, Federal Court of Australia (Chair); Justice Louise Taylor, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory; and the Hon Kevin Bell AM KC, former judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, former Commissioner, Yoorrook Justice Commission, Victoria.

Panel chair, Justice Tony Besanko, says Kyle's dedication to his studies and his impressive commitment to extra-curricular legal work made him an excellent candidate for this year's award:

'The applications received by the Panel were of a high standard. Kyle's application was outstanding and we had no hesitation in recommending him for the First Nations Scholarship. We wish Kyle and the other applicants all the best in their further studies and careers.'

Kyle says he's extremely grateful to the AAL for the scholarship which will not only help fund his final year studies but also give him a financial basis from which to work towards his ambitions for the Bar and the work of a barrister.

He aims to begin within the Criminal Law space and then move onto Constitutional Law and Native title Law as well - always with the goal of how to best help his people and ensure the law works for them and not against them.

Ends

Media inquiries: Kerrie Douglass, ph. 0410109446

[Australian Academy of Law](#) President: Alan Robertson SC, ph. 0404850364