


Family Law

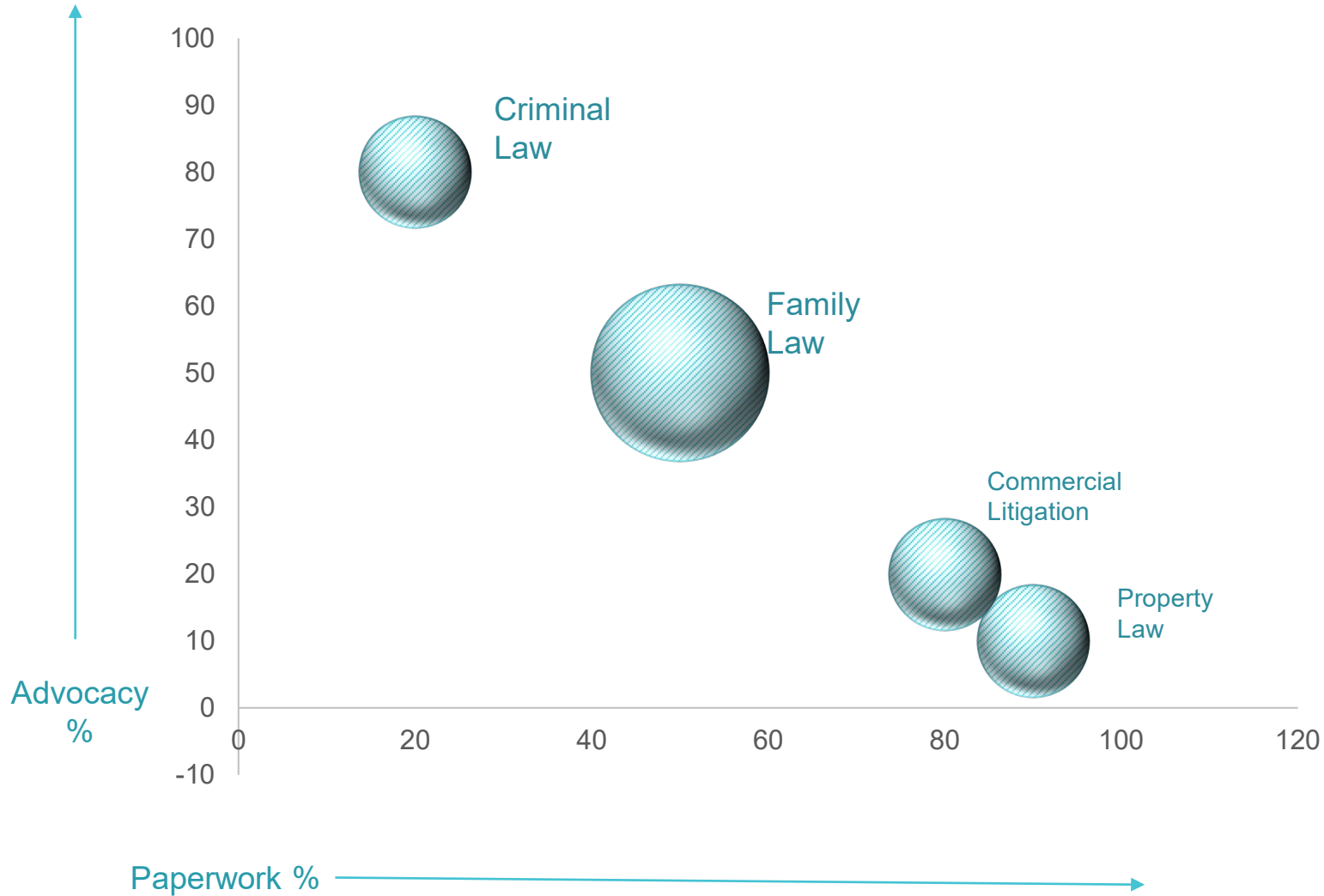
In focus

The image is a composite of traditional Aboriginal art styles. The top section shows a green mountain range with several orange, circular, dotted patterns. A blue bird is perched on the mountains. To the right, a blue sea is depicted with intricate, swirling patterns and small fish. The bottom section features a green landscape with kangaroos, a blue sea with dolphins, and various circular and floral patterns. A central white text box contains the following text:

Legal Aid Queensland acknowledges and respects the First Nations Custodians of the land where our offices stand, and where we work to help disadvantaged Queenslanders uphold their legal rights in our justice system. We pay respect to their Elders, lore, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of ceremony, teaching, research and learning, and we acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples play in our community and improving our legal system.

- **Why I love Family Law**
- **Enough Family Law to get you interested**
- **What your career pathway should look like**
- **Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ)**

Advocacy/Paperwork continuum



Basics of Family Law

(enough to ace the interview)

- Previous law:
 - Presumption of ESPR (once court proceedings on foot)
 - If presumption applied Court must consider Equal time
 - No requirement for parents to consult if no court Order

Basics of Family Law

(enough to ace the interview)

- New Law
 - Before Court proceedings parties are encouraged to consult about major long-term decisions
 - No presumption of ESPR
 - No requirement to consider Equal time

Basics of Family Law

(enough to ace the interview)

- The Best Interest of the Child remains the overarching purpose.
- Amendments aimed at making the public understand what that is- case law was headed in this direction anyway.
- Relocation cases are the space to watch.

Your career in Family Law

If you don't get the Legal Aid position

Preferred Supplier

- High Autonomy
- High stress
- High exposure
- 1-2 yrs PAE



Private Firm

- Less autonomy
- More complexity
- \$\$\$
- 3-5 yrs PAE
- In the city if you can



Go Regional

- Your Dream Job
- In an obscure location
- 5-7 yrs PAE



Your Dream Job

- What you want. Where you want it

Why LAQ?

- **Legal Practice:**
 - Family Law, Criminal Law and Civil Justice Services
- **Client Services:**
 - First Advice Contact Team, Contact Centre and Grants Division
- **Family Law :**
 - Domestic and Family Violence – Violence Prevention and Women’s Advocacy Teams, file work, duty lawyer or DVDL, policy and training, Counselling Notes Protect, Independent Children’s Lawyers
- **Child Protection:**
 - Case work, Separate Representation, Direct Representation, Outreach Service, Early Legal Service, CPDL

Why LAQ?

- Family Law – Case work, dispute resolution, mediation and arbitration, FLDL, FASS services, Independent Child Lawyer, Meriba Omasker (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Adoption), Hague matters.
- Child and Family Services Team – social workers, psychologists, mental health practitioners and people trained in screening and safety planning for DFV, Family Law, Child Protection and civil services.
- Main office at Herschel Street Brisbane, 13 regional offices including : Southport, Woodridge, Inala, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Mt Isa, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.
- Cover the state of Queensland providing legal and support services. Circuit to far west and to within approximately 6 kilometres from the PNG border.

Why LAQ?

- Many different pathways into LAQ.
- Lawyer – approved law degree, an approved practical legal training course which awards a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice and are a fit and proper person eligible for admission with the Queensland Law Society. PO2 entry level up to PO6 and SO and SES levels.
- Graduate Lawyer program- every 2 years with interviews mid to late 2025 to commence 2026 for 2 years.
- Emerging lawyer program – for lawyers particularly those who identify as First Nations, to undertake a different area of law practice.

Why LAQ?

- Some benefits:~
 - Competitive remuneration, corporate health insurance rates, novated leasing and salary packaging.
 - 36.25 hour full time work week, flexible work practices, time in lieu, flex leave, purchased leave and more.
 - Regional office staff, north and west of Mackay, an additional 5 days annual leave, relocation support assistance, mentoring.
 - Significant staff service, 26 years, others more than 40. Secondment and other opportunities.



Questions?