



Planning and Environment Moot Court, 2018 Expressions of Interest

VPELA invites Expressions of Interest from its members and non-members to participate in VPELA's third Planning and Environment Moot Court event to be held in **October / November 2018**.

The purpose of the event is to provide members with experience in the preparation and delivery of a case before planning tribunals such as VCAT or Planning Panels Victoria. All disciplines are encouraged to nominate.

The 2018 Moot Court will include a classroom-format lecture series over three sessions, to be taken by Adrian Finanzio SC with input and presentations from senior figures in the industry in relation to the preparation and giving of expert evidence. These lectures will be typically be held on a weeknight from 5pm – 7pm in a CBD location. It is envisaged that the three sessions will be scheduled over a consolidated timeframe of 4 – 5 weeks at most.

Following the conclusion of the lectures, participants will elect whether or not they wish to participate in the Moot Court event. Based on the nominations to participate and areas of expertise, one or more Moot Court cases will be prepared and held in November.

Each side participating in the Moot Court will have two members: an advocate (who might be a lawyer or a planner) and an expert witness (planning, traffic, acoustic, urban design and potentially more depending on interest). Experts will be required to prepare a short statement of expert evidence and advocates will be required to prepare an outline of submissions. Evidence and submissions will be exchanged prior to the hearing. At the hearing, the oral argument and evidence will be called in front of the Tribunal. Each presentation will be limited in time.

It is proposed that the Moot/s will be presided over by sitting Tribunal members and/or senior planning practitioners. At the conclusion of the Moot/s, constructive feedback on performances will be provided by senior practitioners and the Tribunal.

Key dates will be established well in advance.

VPELA regards the moot court as a valuable training and professional development opportunity. The cost to participate is \$275 for members and \$350 for non-members.

(Tickets to attend the Moot Court as a spectator will be made available separately later in the year.)

The EOI should include the following details:

- Your name;
- Employer details and company position (where relevant);
- Professional Qualification or Area of expertise (eg. planning / urban design / traffic engineering / planning law etc);
- Whether or not you have prior experience as an advocate or expert witness at VCAT or Planning Panels Victoria (and, if so, on how many occasions or for how many years, noting that this program is designed for those who have no or limited experience); and
- In not more than 200 words, why you would like to participate.

As interest in this type of training program is expected to be popular, and as places are limited, those interested in participating are asked to submit an EOI in writing by **5pm on Friday 20 April, 2018**, to the VPELA Office: jane@vpela.org.au.

Candidates will be selected by the VPELA Board and will be notified in May.

If you have any questions, please contact Tamara Brezzi on 8686 6226, Carlo Morello on 9822 2888, or Lisa Stubbs on 9347 6100.