

BALL, Matthew James

BJus (Distinction) QUT, BJus (Honours) QUT

Thesis Title:

A 'Deleterious' Effect? Australian Legal Education and the Production of the Legal Identity

Supervisors:

Associate Professor Belinda Carpenter (Principal)
Dr Clare O'Farrell (Associate)
Dr Nickolas James (Associate)

Citation:

This thesis examines the various ways that undergraduate law students learn to be lawyers, and the types of lawyers they choose to become. By examining not only the content of the curriculum, but also student associations and professional training opportunities at three Queensland Universities, this thesis offers an alternative explanation as to how law students develop professional identities.

In doing so, this thesis uses a new approach to understanding legal education, which challenges current legal education research. This new approach argues that students become professionals so that they can achieve social justice most effectively. They do not become professionals just because they want a high-paying job or because they are politically conservative.