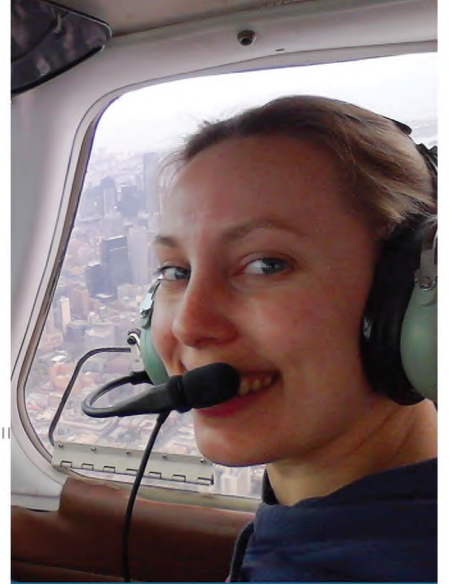


YourCareer



Bronwyn Fraser's career in competition law is off to a flying start thanks to the skills she is gaining as a pilot and a Melbourne Law Masters student.

Ready for take-off

When not in the air, the Melbourne Law Masters has provided Bronwyn Fraser with an illuminating range of opportunities and experiences.

How did you start flying?

My first flying experience took place after I was given a voucher for a trial lesson early in 2011. After my first time in the air I knew I was hooked. I completed my first solo flight in April 2012 and have since been slowly building up my solo hours to pass the General Flying Progress Test in the near future. This will allow me to take friends and family up as passengers in the Yarra Valley, where I am learning to fly. After that, there is navigation training to get a private pilot licence, which would allow me to fly anywhere in Australia.

What do you enjoy about it?

I love the challenge of learning to fly. It is a steep learning curve and requires a lot of patience, especially given that it is very weather dependent. But it is incredibly satisfying and rewarding when you bring all your skills together to master a new technique and you know that you are in charge of the aircraft.

How has flying assisted your professional life?

Flying has helped me develop many skills that translate into other areas of life: responsibility, making decisions under pressure, discipline and thoroughness. It has been an important way for me to recognise the value that interests outside

of the law can have on your career. Just because something is not work-related does not mean that it can't benefit you in your career.

There are so many non-technical skills that other areas can teach you that will broaden your perspectives and help you to work smarter. Getting out of your comfort zone and challenging yourself is also great for building confidence and stretching your mind in new ways. I have also seen some amazing things that not many people experience – there is nothing quite like flying around the Melbourne CBD or right past a hot air balloon.

What has been your career pathway?

I started as a graduate lawyer in the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in 2011 and currently work as an analyst in the Fuel, Transport & Prices Oversight branch (FTPO). The FTPO branch deals with competition, regulatory and efficiency issues across a wide range of industries, including in relation to the ACCC's regulatory functions under Part IIIA of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth).

How has the Melbourne Law Masters (MLM) provided you with a competitive edge early in your career?

Melbourne Law School attracts high calibre international lecturers and guests who provide invaluable "real life" perspectives

on the subject matter. The lecturers are some of the most well-respected experts in the field who are able to offer in-depth and diverse points of view. Having both former ACCC Chairman Professor Allan Fels and the head of the Swiss Competition Commission coming to speak during one subject reflects the level of opportunity provided by the MLM program.

I have formed ongoing contacts with students from a range of backgrounds, including private practice, other government departments and international competition agencies. This has been invaluable both in terms of the exposure to a wide range of experiences and opinions and for learning about the broad range of career options available for competition lawyers.

How do you balance a career in the law, studying and taking to the air?

It can be very busy and requires a lot of balancing, but being challenged by many goals forces me to be organised and keeps me interested and focused on what I want to achieve. Being busy helps to prioritise what is important and helps me be more resourceful in order to achieve those goals. ●

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