

## Show Cause

'Show cause events' involve serious offences and/ or conduct that may affect whether you are fit and proper to practise law. They can happen to you in Western Australia or in any other Australian jurisdiction.

If you hold a current practising certificate, or a foreign lawyer registration certificate, you must advise the Legal Practice Board (**Board**) of any show cause events that have occurred to you.

If you are applying for a new practising certificate or registration certificate, you also must advise the Board of any show cause events that have happened to you at any time before you applied.

There are two kinds of show cause events; automatic and designated.

### Automatic Show Cause Events

These include:

- becoming a bankrupt; or
- being charged with or convicted of a criminal offence (whether under Australian or foreign law); or
- being charged with or convicted of a tax offence.

If you hold a current certificate, you must notify the Board within seven days of one of these events occurring.

*Please note: It does not matter if you were practising law at the time the offence occurred or not. It does not matter if the law prohibits any other persons from disclosing your identity. It is still a show cause event.*

### Designated Show Cause Events

These include:

- practising outside your practising certificate conditions;
- engaging in legal practice when not eligible; and
- not holding professional indemnity insurance cover when required.

If the Board sends you a notice about any of these, the Board may ask you to explain it should not vary, suspend or cancel your practising certificate. You will have 28 days to provide the Board your response.



## QUICK FACTS

The Uniform Law Scheme creates a common legal services market across NSW, Victoria and Western Australia.

The Application Act is unique to Western Australia.

The Uniform Law Scheme is accompanied by Uniform Rules and Regulations

The Legal Services Council can release guidelines and directions to ensure uniformity across jurisdictions.

The Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation can release guidelines and direction concerning complaint handling and professional discipline functions.

The Council and the Commissioner cannot intervene in individual cases in Western Australia.

## What to do in a Show Cause Event

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Please notify the Board using the Notice of show cause event form. If you are a solicitor, please send the completed form to the Board directly.

Within 28 days, you must also tell the Board in writing why you believe you are still a fit and proper person to hold a practising certificate, despite the show cause event.

The Board will consider whether you are a fit and proper person. The Board's Fit and Proper Person Policy provides guidance on issues it may consider when deciding whether you are a fit and proper person to hold a practising certificate.

If you fail to tell the Board of a show cause event, the Board may refuse to grant or renew your application for a practising certificate or registration certificate, or it may vary, suspend or cancel your existing certificate.