

Chief Academic Officer

Key Highlights:

- **WFH Days and CBD parking.**
- **Lead legal education and innovation.**
- **Rich professional development.**

The College of Law New Zealand (the College) provides premier practical legal training solutions across all levels of the legal profession and the wider professional services industry in New Zealand. By utilising both onsite and online learning solutions, the College prepares law graduates for admission to practice and assists legal practitioners and other professionals in achieving their career goals through continuing professional development.

As a member of the College of Law Group, with offices in New Zealand, Australia and internationally, we are the leaders in the provision of legal education and training for professional practice in Australasia. The College also operates FrontTier, a training and development business providing professional development programmes across various areas, including AI literacy, leadership, early career skills, and wellbeing.

The Opportunity

We are seeking a **Chief Academic Officer (CAO)** to join the senior executive management team in Auckland CBD. Reporting directly to the NZ CEO, this high-impact role balances strategic vision with pragmatic operational execution.

As CAO, you will lead the academic direction of the College, oversee high-value professional training initiatives, and drive our CPD and legal education offerings. You will be at the forefront of modernising legal education, integrating Generative AI across all programmes, and preparing the strategy for the upcoming 2027 to 2028 Council of Legal Education regulatory review.

What We Offer

Exceptional Flexibility: A genuinely modern work environment offering working from home days (Thursdays mandatory in-office).

Auckland CBD Onsite Perk: Reserved **free car parking** provided in central Auckland.

Continuous Professional Development: Exceptional investment in your ongoing learning and skill development.

Diverse, High-Impact Work: A varied scope spanning innovation, team leadership, regulatory strategy, and sector engagement.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Academic Leadership: Direct the long-term vision, learning design, and market alignment of practical legal training and CPD programmes to meet evolving law firm demands.

CPD & Training Strategy: Oversee the development, expansion, and quality assurance of ongoing professional development and major educational initiatives.

AI & Course Innovation: Lead the strategic adoption and operational integration of Generative AI across curricula, student workflows, and internal team processes.

Regulatory Governance: Serve as the authoritative internal SME and liaison for key regulators, including NZCLE, NZQA, and TEC.

People Leadership: Lead, mentor, and empower a seasoned NZ academic team and instructor roster, building a high-trust, collaborative environment.

Cross-Border Collaboration: Partner with Australian shared-service teams (Content, IT, Finance) to execute local training initiatives smoothly.

About You

We are seeking an accomplished legal practitioner or academic leader who brings gravitas, regulatory acumen, and a passion for professional training.

- **Qualifications & Practice:** Qualified lawyer with a minimum of **4 years of legal practice experience**.
- **Educational & Training Exposure:** Strong background in legal education, lecturing, guest lecturing, or senior in-house/firm roles with a heavy emphasis on formal training and professional development.
- **Regulatory Expertise:** Deep understanding of New Zealand tertiary and legal education frameworks (NZCLE, NZQA, TEC) and the ability to translate regulations into practical operational workflows.
- **Facilitative Leadership:** Strong people skills with a pragmatic, solutions-focused mindset and the ability to build consensus across diverse teams.
- **Gravitas & Influence:** Proven credibility to inspire a highly experienced academic team and influence key sector stakeholders.

Please get in touch to hear more - Lisa Gray lgray@tylerwren.co.nz or 09 973 5470