A culture like no other: The Pragma Difference.
Welcome to Pragma Lawyers.

Pragma was founded in 2014 to offer a more pragmatic approach to law that better aligns with our clients’ interests.

In our view, too many lawyers are going through the motions rather than identifying their client’s goals and making a beeline for that outcome as quickly as possible.

During our first five years, we have established ourselves as one of the dispute resolution firms of choice in Western Australia by:

• Helping hundreds of clients resolve disputes on favourable terms so they can focus their time and energy on what’s important to them;

• Winning 67% of cases reported in the Supreme and District Courts;

• Growing our staff to 27 team members with 12 lawyers in spacious offices on the corner of Hamersley Road and Rokeby Roads; and

• Contributing to the community with pro bono support for a variety of organisations including Law Access, The Piddington Society and the Subiaco Justice Centre.

I am confident the next five years will be as equally as rewarding as the first five. We are excited to see what the future holds.

If you have any queries about Pragma, please feel free to contact me on +61 (0) 401 919 456 or email aaron@pragma.law. You could also contact our HR Manager, Sandra Ursino OAM, on (08) 6188 3340 or sandra@pragma.law

Best wishes,

Aaron McDonald

Founder
The Seven Pragma Values.

We believe that a firm’s values form the foundation of its success. That’s why at the end of 2018, under the guidance of John Poulsen (former Big Law Firm Managing Partner), we went through an extensive self-analysis process to define Pragma’s values. During this rewarding and insightful process, we developed the following Seven Pragma Values.

1. Values session with John Poulsen.

We are:

**ETHICAL**
we always adhere to ethical best practice and the paramount duty of administering justice

**LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY**
we provide pro bono support to people within our community (with each lawyer committing a minimum of 35 hours per year)

**SAVVY, PRAGMATIC AND SOLUTIONS FOCUSED**
we provide advice that aims to achieve the best outcome for our clients in the most efficient way
we think “outside the square”
we celebrate the “wins”

**OPEN AND TRANSPARENT**
with our clients within our workplace

**TEAM PLAYERS AND FORWARD THINKING**
we work as a team
we engage with new technologies
we are always improving our knowledge of the law

**SUPPORTIVE AND MINDFUL OF EACH OTHER**
we communicate in a polite and positive way
we support each other to achieve our goals
we take the time to fulfill our individual needs
we foster a caring and friendly atmosphere within our team

**PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HEALTHY**
we ensure activities and processes are in place to stay mentally and physically healthy
Celebrating Pragma’s 5th Birthday.

As they say, time flies when you’re having fun, and making a difference to your clients.

On the 29th of January 2019, Pragma celebrated its 5th birthday with a delicious morning tea where Aaron was presented with a set of stylish Pragma-branded cufflinks.

The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Federal Member for Curtin, dropped by to share her story about being a lawyer and how that led to a career in politics spanning over 20 years.

1. Pragma’s 5th birthday celebrations.
2. Hon Julie Bishop MP – special guest at Pragma’s 5th birthday celebrations.
3. Pragma’s old and new logo.
Pragma in the Media.

As one of Western Australia’s leading dispute resolution firms, Pragma regularly features in the local and national media with Aaron sharing his opinion and experience on a range of topics.

You may have seen Aaron’s article in The West Australia newspaper where he wrote about “How to claim against a dodgy financial adviser.”

Over the years, Aaron has appeared in numerous informative interviews for various newspapers, radio stations and the UWA Alumni podcast.

To check out recent articles and interviews, visit the Media page on the Pragma website.

1. Business advice from Aaron.
2. Demi speaking at the Curtin Law mini careers fair.
3. Some of the numerous articles Pragma has participated in.
Free House Anyone?

By Pragma 19 January 2019 No Comments

When a property developer claimed squatters rights in the Supreme Court this week and won, many people were shocked at the archaic law dating back to 1633. Pragma Legal Director, Aaron McDonald, speaks with Luke Grant from 2GB about the ancient doctrine, and what is involved in claiming rights through adverse possession.

Wake Up Australia with Michael McGowan
Free house anyone?

Business Advice from Aaron McDonald and Catriona MacLeod

By Pragma 4 February 2019 No Comments

Aaron McDonald (Pragma) and Catriona MacLeod (Cullen MacLeod) spoke to Business News about the WA commercial and civil legal market, including the rise of technology and increase in clients challenging power.

How much punch do legal professionals pack on social media?

By Pragma 5 January 2019 No Comments

There's a lot of recent claims of kids around Perth using social media and adults in the world are taking matters into their own hands.

Can you punish other peoples kids?

By Pragma 9 January 2019 No Comments

Aaron McDonald from Pragma Legal took Michael Denovan and Cameron Smith to task for letting off the hook.

Class action to protect live sheep trade

By Pragma 29 January 2019 No Comments

The Australian and Cattle Association are gearing up for a class action against the Federal Government if they fail to act on regulations which will have the effect of ending the live sheep trade industry.

WA Country Hour
Introducing the Pragma Team.

At Pragma, we have a growing team of professional staff members who are focused on delivering results through our pragmatic approach. We’re always looking for positive, motivated people to join our team. If this sounds like you, contact our HR Manager, Sandra Ursino OAM, on (08) 6188 3340 or sandra@pragma.law

**Professional Staff**

1. Aaron McDonald – Director
2. Michael Lewis – Consultant
3. Luke Davies – Senior Associate
4. Sophia Kailis – Consultant
5. Richard Edwards – Senior Associate
6. Eu-Min Teng – Senior Associate
7. Elizabeth Keen – Lawyer
8. Alistair Sullivan – Lawyer
9. Michael Stulic – Lawyer
10. Nick Malone – Lawyer
11. Jason O’Meara – Lawyer
12. Jordie Fienberg – Graduate
Support Staff

1. Sandra Ursino – HR Manager
2. Alex Salmon – Archiver
3. Olivia Shorrock – PA to Aaron McDonald
4. Katherine Swann – Paralegal
5. Monique Vincent – Paralegal
6. Olivia Tate – Paralegal
7. Elise Read – Paralegal
8. Lauren Italiano – Paralegal
9. Kelsey Houwen – Paralegal
10. Lucy Burns – Paralegal
11. Gaby Inga – Paralegal
12. Tom Crellin – Paralegal

We take great pride in the achievements of our staff. That’s why it’s always a special time at Pragma when a staff member is admitted to the Supreme Court.

As a Pragma tradition, everyone from our firm attends the ceremony at the Supreme Court to support and congratulate the newly admitted lawyer.

After the formalities are over, Aaron hosts a lunch for the lawyer and their family members to celebrate the special occasion.

The Piddington Society’s Annual Bali Conference during the June 2018 WA Day long weekend provided plenty of learning and social opportunities for Pragma team members.

Notable speakers at the conference included the current Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Peter Quinlan, the Hon John Quigley MLA and former Supreme Court Justice, the Hon John Chaney.

During the long weekend, the Pragma team recapped the key points of the conference at numerous late-night venues, such as La Favela, Motel Mexicola and the Rooftop at Double Six.

It was an informative and fun weekend for everyone, including Sandra Ursino who safeguarded the sunlounge by the Pragma pool in between treatments at local, reputable spa salons.
The Pragma Social Scene

Melbourne Cup
To celebrate the Melbourne Cup, we enjoyed a delicious three-course lunch at the Subiaco Hotel, followed by an after party at The Camfield in Burswood.

Easter Treat
During Easter, we were surprised to receive a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

Staff Xmas Party
For the Pragma Staff Xmas Party, we spent a beautiful day relaxing onboard a luxury yacht as the skipper, Slugger, took us to and from Rottnest Island.

Aladdin the Musical
We attended Aladdin the musical to recognise everyone’s hard work on a project that (somehow) picked up the nickname, Aladdin.
1. RUOK morning tea.
2. Melbourne Cup lunch.
3. Our 2018 staff Christmas party en route to Rottnest Island.
4. Getting some R & R in with a Friday Boat Trip to Elizabeth Quay for Mental Health Week.
Pragma Client Events

New Pragma Office
On 4 May 2017, the Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Stewart Martin QC AC officially opened the new Pragma office at Level 1, 254 Rokeby Road, Subiaco.

Client Christmas Party
On 6 December 2018, the Pragma Client Christmas Party was held at the Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club.

Business After Hours Sundowner
On 15 February 2018, we hosted the Business After Hours Sundowner for the Western Suburb Business Association with over 100 guests enjoying a delicious grazing table from Graze by Sherin Pourzand.

Piddington Masterclass
On 18 May 2018, we hosted the Piddington Insolvency Masterclass with the Hon Justice Vaughan, barrister James Healy and Pragma’s own Aaron McDonald providing an update of key changes in the insolvency sphere. Money raised from the event was donated to the Piddington Justice Project.
1. Piddington Masterclass at Pragma.
2. The Hon. John Chaney SC, the Hon. Chief Justice of Western Australia Peter Quinlan and Nick Malone.
3. WSBA Sundowner.
4. 2018 Client Christmas party
5. Aaron’s speech at the 2018 Client Christmas party.
6. Laura McDonald, Yasmin Hennessy and friends.
8. Hon Wayne Martin AC QC and Aaron McDonald at the Pragma opening.
Every month, we hold a "Lunch and Learn" workshop at the Pragma office where guest speakers share their knowledge on a variety of topics, from law-related issues to personal development.

Recent guest speakers have included Daniel White, Nick van Hattem, Cam Sinclair, John Poulsen, Robbie Figg, Danny Green and the Hon Julie Bishop MP.

**Recent topics and guest speakers**

1. Cam Sinclair (Ammo Marketing)
2. Ethics (Nick van Hattem)
3. Values Workshop (John Poulsen)
4. Happiness Co (Robbie Figg, Julian Pace and Cassie Silver)
5. The Hon Julie Bishop MP.
6. Danny Green (Boxing Legend)
8. Employment Law (Daniel White – Mills Oakley)
Health and Wellbeing

12 Week Challenge
Twelve of our staff members have commenced a 12 Week Challenge under the guidance of Luke Daniher, strength and conditioning coach from Daniher Personal Training.

After having a body-composition assessment, each participant is required to attend a weekly early-morning group training session at Floreat Park and record their daily steps, sleep hours, alcohol consumption and sugar-free days.

The person who improves the most over the 12 Week Challenge will win an additional day of annual leave or the choice of a voucher up to $250.

City to Surf
In August 2018, eight of our staff (and two friends, Steve Di Candillo and Luke Daniher) ran the 12km Chevron City to Surf and finished in under 1 hour and 20 minutes – go team! Our top three finishers were Steve in 57 minutes and 41 seconds, Aaron in 1 hour and 46 seconds and Luke in 1 hour and 47 seconds.

Six of our staff completed the 4km walk, finishing in under 33 minutes. The team felt like celebrities as they were cheered on by spectators, who called out for our very own Michael Lewis throughout the route.

Go the Pragma Blues
Our talented Pragma Blues team has been very unlucky not to win a premiership. After finishing in second place twice, the Blues are looking forward to getting back together soon for a successful tilt at the premiership flag.

1. Participants in the 12 Week Challenge.
2. A March Session from the 12 Week Challenge.
3. A tennis session with Nick and Demi.
4. The mighty Pragma Blues
5. Pragma’s City to Surf team.
Corporate Social Responsibility.

All of our staff members complete a minimum of 35 hours of pro bono work each year to help support people within our community.

For the past two years during Law Week, we have held a Quiz Night that has raised $11,600 for the Street Law Centre WA and $13,435 for the Subiaco Justice Centre.

In October 2018, we joined forces with Pitcher Partners to volunteer at the Neuroblastoma Australia Soiree on Swan and host various activities throughout the evening. At times it was organised chaos, but it was worth the effort with the total raised reaching $45,963!
Celebrating the Wins.

In the Pragma office, we love to celebrate the wins both professionally and personally. We love to celebrate our team’s achievements from special or not-so-special birthdays to engagements or any reason for a cake.

Last year, Nick Malone and Saanti Rodda announced their engagement, and this year, Alistair Sullivan and Millie Taylor announced their engagement.

The Pragma drinks cart often gets a run on Fridays, hosted by our very own Warden Malone.

Mr Pragma’s surprise birthday was a great excuse for Espresso Martini Friday.
Volunteering in the Community.

In addition to our Corporate Social Responsibility, many of our staff members volunteer their time within the community in a variety of ways.

**Subiaco Justice Centre**

In 2017, Aaron McDonald assisted in forming the Subiaco Justice Centre (SJC) which provides legal advice and representation to disadvantaged people while seeking to improve access to justice in new and innovative ways.

Aaron sits on the Centre’s Board as Chair and Demi Swain is the Secretary of the Board. In her role, Demi organises board meetings, assists with the operational side of the organisation and plans and runs fundraising events. “I enjoy this role as it’s my way to give back to the community, assist a fantastic service and build my networking and organisational skills.”

**The Piddington Society**

Aaron is also a committee member of The Piddington Society, a not-for-profit association of WA based lawyers that hosts a variety of events each year and its own PLT course. Aaron has led several presentations to members of the legal profession with The Piddington Society.

Nick Malone has been the convenor of The Piddington Society since July 2017. “Being part of Piddington allows me to meet plenty of new people, who are all trying to make the legal industry more collegiate as well as hear from some of the very best legal minds from across the country and overseas.”
The Law Society Council

The Law Society Council is a not-for-profit association dedicated to enhancing the legal profession through law reform, access to justice and the rule of law. Demi Swain is a current Junior Council Member for 2019, which enables her to help shape the future of the legal profession.

The Business Station

Elizabeth Keen joined the Board of Business Station in December 2018. Business Station is a not-for-profit organisation that assists small businesses across Australia and aims to facilitate, encourage and promote economic development. As a board member, Elizabeth assists in decision making that supports the establishment, growth and success of all businesses in Australia.

Camp Quality

Sandra Ursino and Monique Vincent both volunteer for Camp Quality, a non-for-profit foundation that supports and strengthens the well-being of children living with cancer.

Sandra joined the Strategic Revenue Committee for Camp Quality WA in November 2016. In early 2017, she became a trained Camp Companion and attended the Camp Quality Mini Camp at the Perth Zoo dressed as a Lion.

Monique feels that volunteering for Camp Quality has made her a better person. “I love volunteering there, I have learnt so much about resilience. I also love jumping around on the bouncy castles with Sandra.”