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Liberty Brief

Issue 11
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Newsletter*



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to all our new students and welcome back to returning students. I very much hope that you had a good summer and are excited about the new semester.

As you will now know, your School has had a good summer. The results of the National Student Survey were very positive. We were, again, second in the Russell Group. Last year, we were one percent behind Cambridge. This year we were one percent behind Nottingham. Overall, we were eighth out of more than 100 universities. To achieve this as we now have done for two years speaks volumes for all that goes on in the School. A good result in the NSS is very much a team effort. My colleagues, academic and administrative, do a brilliant job but you, our students, are critical. It is you who create the community in which this level of performance and satisfaction exists. LawSoc and CrimSoc are essential but all the other activities you engage in help create an environment of possibility, aspiration and enthusiasm. As I walked into the Law School the other day and saw so many of you there, I felt an energy that is infectious. It is lovely to see you all back and the building full. Do continue to use the building. It is so much more alive when you are in it.



As well as the NSS result, the latest Times / Sunday Times Good University Guide has been published. The University is, for the first time in the top 10 which is excellent. We are again in the top 10, this time 8th. League tables are not everything and we should not fixate on precise positions. There is by way of example only 0.4% difference between us and UCL which is fifth. However, they do say something about relative performance and the general health of the School. In all we do there are not many genuinely better law schools at the moment and we can afford to be very proud of what we have achieved. You should feel proud too.

All that said, there is no room for complacency. We need to press on and continue to improve. As Nick Taylor (Director of Student Education), Sarah Brown (Director of PGT programmes), and I have said, we are listening. It is your School. We want to know how we can improve things. Let us know what is good and what we could do better. Talk to us. We cannot improve things without you.

So, we go again. Let's make this a great year. To all of you I say, engage in all that you do. Make your seminars the best they can be. To the second years in particular I say, the 'Sophomore Slump' does not need to happen here. All of you should make use of academic support hours and your personal tutors. Engage in the wider opportunities that the School, LawSoc, CrimSoc and the University more generally offer. Continue to make this one of the best law schools in the world to be associated with. Most of all, enjoy yourselves and have a great year.

“

It is your School. We want to know how we can improve things. Let us know what is good and what we could do better. Talk to us. We cannot improve things without you.

”



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

Centre for Criminal Justice Studies Celebrates 30 years



This year, the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies has been celebrating its 30th anniversary. After being established in 1987 to pursue research into criminal justice systems and criminological issues. It has since grown to become one of the leading centres of its kind with an established international profile for theoretically rich and empirically-grounded research which has influenced major policy debates, shaped legal reform and improved criminal justice practices.

To mark the Centre's 30th Anniversary, the School welcomed back alumnus Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, QC, who delivered the Centre's annual public lecture and unveiled an exhibition located in the School to mark the Centre's anniversary. The evening was a fantastic success and the achievements of the Centre were celebrated by many, including students, staff, alumni, Centre members (past and present), the Centre's Advisory Board and other members of the University and local community.



Throughout the last 30 years, in addition to the numerous pieces of ground breaking research produced, the Centre has also earned a reputation for delivering the highest quality undergraduate and postgraduate education. The Centre has developed a well-regarded BA (Hons) Criminal Justice and Criminology programme as well as postgraduate programmes concerned with criminal justice, criminal law and security issues.

This year, the School was ranked 3rd in the UK for criminological education in The Guardian University Guide 2017.



Prominent alumni support 'Women Breaking Barriers'

A group of female law students at the School of Law are leading the way when it comes to tackling gender equality issues in the legal profession and wider industries. Ahead of the new academic year, we caught up with 3rd year LLB Law student and Women Breaking Barriers (WBB) committee member Sabrina Mahmood, to look back over the group's developments within the last two years.



In 2015, a group of students sought the support of Deputy Head of School, Professor Joan Loughrey, to form a working group to engage with discussions on gender equality in the legal profession. Keen to provide opportunities for female students to gain confidence, skills and insight – Women Breaking Barriers was formed. Two years on and WBB have organised a string of successful engagement events and have an expanding following that reaches beyond the confines of the School and University.

Phillippa Kaufman QC delivered the WBB inaugural lecture and spoke passionately about the role of women in law as reflecting on her own experience. Phillippa is a Barrister and took silk in 2011 – her expertise spans the public and private law arenas. She has been involved with litigation against the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office arising from abuse by British forces following the war in Iraq.

WBB have subsequently held two seminar and networking events, both with a full panel of inspirational women, speakers have included: Alison Levitt QC, Partner at Mishcon De Reya and former Principle Legal Advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions; Brie Stevens-Hoare QC, property Barrister and Deputy Adjudicator to HM Land Registry; Anj Handa, Co-Director of People Help People, and founder of Inspiring Women Changemakers; Griselda Togobo, Entrepreneur, Engineer, Chartered Accountant, and now Managing Director of the UK's largest business support network for women in business, Forward Ladies; and Georgina Tripp, School of Law alumna (2000) and Partner at law firm Gunner Cooke. In 2017 the School was also fortunate enough to be visited by another law alumna – Louise Mor (1998) – now Partner at Watson Farley & Williams; Yasmina Khan, Director of domestic abuse charity Staying Put; Alison Padfield, city Barrister, and; Claire Young, entrepreneur and finalist in BBC1's 'The Apprentice'.

Most recently, the School was pleased to welcome back former student Alison Saunders CB, the current Director of Public Prosecutions with the Crown Prosecution Service, to talk about her experience at Leeds, her early career, her involvement in high profile work such as the Stephen Lawrence case and the changes she had made in relation to the way women are treated in sexual assault cases. The WBB team commented how inspiring it had been to see a former Leeds Law student making such positive contributions to the public sector and impacting real change in people's lives.



An Honourable Occasion

Following the success of our first alumni reception in London, held at the House of Lords in June 2016, we were pleased to return to the City for our second annual celebration on 12 May 2017.



The Honourable Society of The Inner Temple played host to the distinguished gathering and, as well as current School of Law staff, guests included alumni who graduated as far back as 1967 and as recent as 2016.

The reception took place in the historic Parliament Chamber but guests were also treated to a private viewing of the stunning Inner Temple Hall.

We were pleased to welcome Freshfields Partner Neil Golding (LLB Law 1989) as a guest speaker who has kindly supported the School and University for a number of years, and has recently set up a placement scheme at Freshfields for first year undergraduate students that takes place in September each year.



Get involved with Pro Bono at Leeds



The School of Law fosters a strong commitment to supporting you with your pro bono endeavours. From providing support to local A-level Law students, through to giving free legal advice in the city and its surrounding areas, we believe that it is important to provide you with opportunities to contribute positively to the local community.

Recently, our pro bono offer has been refined to reflect changing local and national needs, and to ensure the School develops long-lasting partnerships with organisations across the city and beyond. All of our projects are designed to support people who would otherwise find it difficult to access services or to understand their rights; to help increase students political and social awareness, and; to provide students with the opportunity to see ‘the law in action’.

Pop-Up Clinics

The clinics bring students and pro bono practitioners together to provide legal advice in the areas of family, employment, and housing law, and to small and medium sized enterprises (SME). The majority of the pop-up clinics take place in Chapeltown, a socially deprived suburb in the north east of Leeds. The clinics are organised in partnership with local community organisations to ensure that they meet the needs of the local population. For example, the SME clinic provides advice to clients who have poor business knowledge, poor legal awareness, and low confidence. Such factors prevent them from being able to access legal services without support – it is this support which the clinics aim to provide.



Welfare Rights Project

In October 2016, student volunteers began providing one-to-one support to Personal Independent Payment (PIP) applicants. The students complete the PIP form with clients, working in shifts to ensure that each client whose appointment has been booked with the School’s team receives appropriate support.

As of May 2017 it was projected that they will have helped those clients secure more than £170,000 of annual benefits. The project gained national recognition earlier in the year when named ‘Best New Student Pro Bono Activity’ at

the LawWorks and Attorney General’s Student Pro Bono Awards 2017. The Awards, supported by Attorney General, Jeremy Wright, QC, MP, recognise the outstanding pro bono work carried out by students and law schools across the UK.

Just over a week later, the project received the University of Leeds, Leeds for Life Citizenship (Community) Award, which recognises projects that have made a positive difference to a community locally, nationally or internationally.



Cerebra

In the 2016/17 academic year, 31 student volunteers conducted research on behalf of Cerebra, a unique national charity concerned with improving the lives of children with neurological conditions. The project is a collaboration between the School of Law (led by Professor Luke Clements and Miss Sorcha McCormack), Cerebra, and the Access Committee for Leeds (ACL).

The research concerns challenges experienced by disabled children and their families in accessing their entitlements. The collaborative project has published ground-breaking research. The research project was designed as an exploratory study to assess what the key practical barriers were to families obtaining necessary adaptations and what economic and well-being impacts the provision / non-provision of suitable adaptations had. The adaptations (which on average each amounted to £60,000) were primarily designed to provide additional ‘safe space’ (including safe garden space) for the young person.

Look out for opportunities to get involved this Semester!

Introducing...

Dr Colin Mackie
Lecturer in Business Law

My role involves: teaching and carrying out research in the area of business law. This actually comprises quite a broad range of areas but I work predominantly in the fields of company law and environmental law, with a particular focus on corporate environmental liability and issues associated with it.



I am also involved in supervising postgraduate research in these areas which I thoroughly enjoy. Beyond this, I am currently a member of a project team led by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency looking at the issue of financial provision for environmental liabilities. This really is a perfect opportunity to put my research into practice, helping environmental regulators across the European Union make decisions which ensure that companies have the funds to meet their environmental liabilities as and when they arise.

Before working in the School of Law, I was a lecturer in law at the University of Aberdeen (2013–2017).

I wanted to work at Leeds because when the University was named ‘University of the Year 2017’ by The Times and The Sunday Times’ Good University Guide, it was clear that something special was happening in Leeds, and I really wanted to be part of it. And within the Law School, the importance that is placed on the student experience and the community that exists between staff and students has the hallmarks of a School that has the highest of aspirations. Also, within the Centre for Business Law and Practice, some of the leading experts in my field are at Leeds, so it is great to work with them and learn from them. More broadly, some of the research that my colleagues in the Law School are producing is really exceptional.

The part of my role I’m most looking forward to is getting to know the students and helping them on the journey to gaining the degree that they desire. I really enjoy seeing students flourish during their time at university, whether this be at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

My favourite thing about Leeds is that there is always so much going on. You are certainly never stuck for things to see and do, whether that is sports, music, bars or restaurants.

When I’m not working you’ll find me kicking a football or rugby ball about with my five year old son. The weekends now seem to comprise of standing on the touch lines of one sports pitch or another but I love seeing the sheer enjoyment and enthusiasm on his little face.

Henrietta Zeffert

Lecturer in Law and Social Justice

My role involves...

I’m a lecturer in the Centre for Law and Social Justice. I teach Employment Law, Law and Society and Foundations of Law in the undergraduate programme. I am delighted to join the Centre for Law and Social Justice and the School of Law. The Centre is unique for its mandate: I leaped at the opportunity to work in a community of scholars and students committed to achieving social justice through critical research and debate. My own research explores the concept of ‘home’ in international law. So far, my case studies have taken me to Cambodia, Palestine and the UK, raising themes of being, belonging, exile, return, homeland and nostalgia.

Before working at the School of Law...

Before coming to Leeds I was a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence, and a PhD student at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Prior to this I read the BCL at St Hugh’s College, Oxford, and worked as an associate (clerk) to the Honourable Justice Susan Crennan, former justice of the High Court of Australia. I am also a qualified Barrister and Solicitor and practised at Ashurst. I have worked in the pro bono and community law sector in Australia and the UK in various capacities since 2004, most recently as an advice lawyer with Liberty. I am involved with Right Now, an online, print and radio journal that brings together human rights and art, which I founded in 2005 (www.rightnow.org.au), and Assemble Papers, a publication which focuses on small footprint living across art, design, architecture, urbanism, the environment and finance (www.assemblepapers.com.au).

When I’m not working you’ll find me...

I am a big fan of volunteering, having worked for many years with the homeless in Melbourne, and the power of young people pursuing their ideas to propel positive change. I look forward to getting to know the students in the School and also a sense of life in the north of England – which is very different from where I grew up ‘down under’ but shares a great natural beauty, diverse people and stories, and an infectious civic pride.

Chris Dietz

Lecturer in Law and Social Justice

My role involves...

Researching the regulation of gendered embodiment; and teaching Employment Law, Gender and the Law, Health Care Law, and Law and Society.

Before working at the School of Law...

Completing my PhD – and before that my MA and LLB – at the School of Law here in Leeds. I also held visiting positions at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), and Linköping University (Sweden).

I wanted to work at the School of Law because...

As a graduate of the School, I was well-aware of what a supportive environment it can be. Things have changed a lot since I arrived in 2008 – including our move to The Liberty Building, and development of the Centre for Law & Social Justice – only improving the School as a place to research and teach.

My favourite thing about the city of Leeds is...

Its proximity to green spaces – and walks ending at conveniently-placed pubs. Leeds’s nightlife is also quite impressive for its size – with so many good places to eat, drink, dance, and be entertained.



Henrietta Zeffert



Chris Dietz



Fracking: what is a legitimate decision?

Shale gas exploration and fracking has proved to be a contentious issue in England. Public concern has been on the rise and there have been a number of high profile protests against the industry.

Dr Joanne Hawkins, Lecturer in Business Law, has recently completed her thesis that focused on issues of regulatory legitimacy in the context of shale gas exploration and the extraction technique of fracking.

“Significant attention has been given to the pros and cons of shale gas exploration and fracking, but little if any attention has been given to how decisions over applications are made and how such decisions are perceived by members of the public. The way in which a decision is made, and its perceived legitimacy, is fundamental in determining whether a decision will be respected regardless of whether it is aligned to someone’s own personal opinion. Where decisions lack legitimacy opposition and protest often follow.

To be considered legitimate the research found that in the context of fracking the key factor that shaped public perceptions of legitimacy was the dominance of expert led decision making. However, ‘expert’ had a very clear and specific definition which diverges from the traditional conceptualisation. Expert status was awarded to those who not only possess the relevant scientific skills but are also committed to, the publicly desired, pre-determined goal of environmental protection.

The public feel that assigning decision making responsibility to such experts is the best means to achieve this goal. Due to the polarized nature of the current fracking debate public participation in decision making is not seen as the best means of achieving these goals. As such the positive decision to allocate responsibility to experts does not deprive the public of power in the decision-making process. To the contrary, it empowers them to achieve their desired goal without necessitating undesired participation in the decision itself. The demand for expert led decision making needs to be recognized. However, this must only be done with a corresponding recognition of who the public define as an expert and why. Without acknowledging this definition, the increased use of science/scientists alone will do little if anything to alter public perceptions of decision making legitimacy.”



Dr Joanne Hawkins



€112,000 grant for a new paradigm on robotics

Professor Rita de la Feria has secured a grant for a project that aims to develop a new paradigm on robotics. The University of Leeds has been awarded €112,000, where the School of Law will work collaboratively with the Interdisciplinary Ethics Applied Centre.

Inclusive Robotics for a better Society (INBOTS) focuses on the creation of a new paradigm for Interactive Robots, defined as any robot interacting with, and in close proximity to, humans. The aim of the project is to create a responsible research and innovation paradigm that will potentiate EU leadership on robotics, by developing a working platform between four pillars, which cover the various stakeholders in Interactive Robotics, namely: the technical expertise pillar, the business expertise pillar, the ethical, legal and socioeconomic expertise pillar, as well as the end-users, policy makers and general public pillar.

The role of the School of Law will be to develop possible legal frameworks for adapting personal income tax to an age of interactive robots, and the possible imposition of income taxes on robots. It will also assess the potential impact of interactive robots in the current trend towards consumption taxes, at the detriment of income taxes, and the impact of these dynamics on tax sovereignty.



Brexit and agriculture

Professor Michael Cardwell has been engaged in a number of activities relating to the legal implications of Brexit for UK agriculture. Perhaps surprisingly, approximately 40% of the EU budget is spent on agriculture thus the regulatory task ahead is vast.

Agriculture is a sector regulated by the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which has already generated much debate as to whether powers returning from the EU post-Brexit will be exercised by those administrations or by the UK Government and Parliament.

Professor Cardwell has been invited to submit Written Evidence to the House of Lords EU energy and Environment Sub-Committee Brexit: Agriculture Inquiry and to give Oral Evidence before the All Party Parliament Group on Agroecology; and he has also delivered presentations to NGOs in London at the Universities of Cambridge and York.

Groundbreaking articles

Graham Farrell, Professor of International and Comparative Criminology, received the Richard J. Terrill 'Paper of the Year' Award 2016, from the journal – International Criminal Justice Review. The prize was awarded for his article 'Attempted crime and the crime drop' which contributes to crime drop research on the security hypothesis.

Professor Farrell's article 'Five Tests for a Theory of the Crime Drop' (published in Crime Science) has also received critical acclaim and has been selected as one of Springer Nature's 'groundbreaking articles' as part of their 'Change the World' initiative, identifying articles that they believe "could have the greatest impact on society's most pressing problems".



News in Brief

①

Professor Michael Thomson has contributed to the Working Party report 'Cosmetic procedures: ethical issues'. The report makes a series of recommendations to improve safety for those using both surgical and non-surgical invasive cosmetic procedures.

②

Dr Subhajit Basu was invited to present to The Northern Ireland Assembly findings and recommendations from a recent co-authored report entitled 'Review of Legislation and Policy Guidance relating to Adult Social Care in Northern Ireland' as part of the 'Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series'.

③

Professor Anna Lawson's article which discusses the pressing concerns relating to social care provisions brought about by Brexit, has been published by the Independent. Professor Lawson warned that it was crucial for the UK to keep up to date with developments in EU law regarding protection for disabled people.

④

Professor Pinar Akman and Professor Peter Whelan presented their research, amongst competition officials from across the globe, at the Annual Conference on the International Competition Network (ICN) in Portugal. Dr Whelan participated in a panel discussion on the topic of competition law enforcement and Professor Akman's panel discussed hot topics in unilateral conduct.

⑤

Dr Anna Barker's article highlighting the need to save our parks was featured in the Metro. Dr Barker has been involved in a recent research project with Professor Adam Crawford and Dr David Churchill, examining 'The future prospects of urban parks.'

⑥

Professor Pinar Akman was invited to speak at a conference organised by the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London. The conference concerned the Google Search case of the European Commission where Professor Akman spoke on 'fairness' as a potential motivation of competition law enforcement and argued that 'fairness' should not be adopted as a stand-alone goal of competition law or policy.

⑦

Dr Maria Grazia Porcedda presented at the conference 'Brexit and Internal Security' on 30 June 2017. Her presentation was based on research she is pursuing in the context of the EPSRC-funded CRITiCaL project 'Combatting Criminals in the Cloud'.

⑧

Graham Dutfield, Professor of International Governance, spoke at a conference at the University of Geneva entitled 'The Global Debate on Intellectual Property, Trade and Development: Past, Present and Future'. Professor Dutfield spoke on the challenges for developing countries in implementing intellectual property rules to further their development objectives.

⑨

Adam Crawford, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute, has been offered a Distinguished Visiting Fellow position at the Faculty of Law of University of New South Wales in Sydney.

⑩

Dr Conor O'Reilly has recently been interviewed by the New Scientist and quoted in a subsequent article on 'Can Smart Tech Really Solve Brexit's UK-Ireland Border Problem'. The concerns have been brought about through Brexit and how custom checks along the 500-kilometer border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland can be carried out.

⑪

Clive Walker has won an award which recognises his care and support as a PhD supervisor. Professor Walker received the University Partnership award for outstanding guidance and support for PGR students. The award is a thoroughly well-deserved recognition of all that he has done for his PhD students over the years.

⑫

Dr Henry Yeomans gave an invited presentation at the Home Office, where he presented the findings from his recent research project on the historical development of alcohol pricing interventions.



Student News

Shape your own experience

Recent first class LLB Law graduate Caitlin Healey, reflects on her three year journey at Leeds. Caitlin was an active member of the School's community, and tells us about her experience and why she would urge others to volunteer and get involved in the opportunities available.

"I am originally from Hampshire, so starting at Leeds was a really daunting experience as it felt very far from home. What made settling in much easier was the number of available opportunities to get involved at the School, as through them I met people I am still very good friends with today."



Year 1

In my first year I took part in Street Law. This was a great way to initiate my involvement in volunteering activities at the University and was a brilliant opportunity to work closely with other students in my year.

Volunteering is something I really enjoy and am passionate about, so I ran for the LawSoc committee at the end of my first year and was subsequently elected as Pro Bono Secretary. This was a challenging but rewarding role and it gave me the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff and students, and be part of a really sociable committee. My most memorable experience was organising the Silent Auction as part of National Pro Bono week where we raised over £1000 for a local refugee charity.

Year 2

Having signed up to the career mentoring scheme, my mentor was a solicitor at Irwin Mitchell, a firm I was really interested in. Through being proactive and keeping in contact with my mentor we developed a strong rapport and she subsequently offered me some work experience in their London office – the experience was invaluable to me, and assisted me to secure my vacation scheme at Irwin Mitchell.

During my second year, I was also successful in becoming a volunteer at the School of Law's Legal Advice Clinics, which was especially rewarding as it enabled me to support the wider Leeds community. It was also great to experience how solicitors operate in an environment very different to the offices of a law firm.

Year 3

I was a representative on the Student Staff Forum and the Course Rep for Media Freedom, playing an active role in making improvements to the School of Law. Finally, I was a Peer Mentor for International Students which was a great opportunity to meet with students that make the School's community so diverse.

Overall I could not fault my time at Leeds and the number of opportunities available, both social and academic, is what makes the School of Law so unique. I feel proud of what I have achieved and am thankful to the School for enabling me to shape my university experience.

Student News

What halls were you in?

James Baillie Park.

What is your favourite place to eat in Leeds?

Oranaise Café – Hyde Park.

What are your most memorable events at Leeds?

Attending talks organised by Women Breaking Barriers, delivered by inspirational women such as the Director of Public Prosecutions Alison Saunders and former Director of Liberty Shami Chakrabarti CBE.

What was your favourite event in the LawSoc calendar?

Law Ball, it gets better every year.

What was your favourite module?

Evidence law, which is a final year module, as I've always loved criminal law so I enjoyed learning more about that area and it was always so relevant and current.

What piece of advice would you give to new first year students?

I would say get involved with as much as possible and seize every opportunity to develop your interests, it may seem daunting but they are the things that really make your university experience.



“

I would say get involved with as much as possible and seize every opportunity to develop your interests, it may seem daunting but they are the things that really make your university experience.

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Student News



LawSoc welcomes you

First and foremost, a warm welcome to all the Freshers and a welcome back to those returning to Leeds!

As always, LawSoc is ready and waiting to ensure you get that all important work-life balance. Our committee has worked tirelessly over the Summer to put together a busy schedule comprised of first-class career opportunities and a bigger and better variety of social events!

We have a fantastic first semester lined up with exclusive opportunities for our members beginning with Buddies Night, the first LawSoc social of the year, a chance to catch up with the LawSoc family and of course welcome our Freshers!

Tickets for our Careers Dinner go on sale in November. The chance to dine and network with some of the world's best law firms sells out every year, Message Andrew Patel, our Careers Secretary, if you have any questions.

And, of course, we'll be rounding off the first semester with Law's Got Talent. As if our multi-talented members didn't provide enough entertainment, this year for the first time, the competition has a special guest performance! Abdulaziz Adekola, our Equality and Diversity Secretary, wants to know if you have any hidden talents!

I wish you all a successful and enjoyable first semester and look forward to seeing you on campus.

Georgia Ma

LawSoc President



CrimSoc

The Criminal Justice Society or CrimSoc is a society that encourages relations between all students on the BA Criminal Justice and Criminology course, achieved through both social and academic events. Along with meeting students, CrimSoc holds events with lecturers, where you can learn a few things such as Dr Richard Peake really likes bowling and Dr Henry Yeomans is good at football.

We have arranged a talk on Probation that will take place in October, and will be advertised through the CrimSoc Twitter, Instagram and Facebook page (see details below). The CrimSoc Committee held a stall at the Leeds Criminal Justice Careers and Volunteering Fair that took place on 4 October.

CrimSoc has an 11-a-side and a 5-a-side football team, along with a 7-a-side netball team, who partake in university leagues and have weekly games. The sports teams host their own socials, including an end of season awards event. This year CrimSoc is working with NoCurfew Events, and all members will receive a white card, allowing them to receive half price entry on nights out, along with a series of other perks. CrimSoc committee members receive a black card, which allows free entry, and on certain nights – queue jumps. We will be recruiting four Freshers to join the committee this October.

Thomas Green

CrimSoc President

Student News

Volunteering at the Personal Support Unit

Mackenzie Gilmour, 2nd year LLB Law student (Graduate Programme), has gained valuable experience throughout this year whilst volunteering for the Personal Support Unit at Leeds County Court.



Mackenzie Gilmour
2nd Year LLB Law

“Following my first year exams, I received an email regarding volunteering opportunities for law students in Leeds. One of those opportunities was to volunteer for a charity, based in the Leeds County Court, called the Personal Support Unit (PSU).

Once I was taken on as a volunteer at the PSU, they paired me with an experienced volunteer to shadow for a few days until I felt comfortable enough to see clients on my own. Clearly, I was eager to finish my training and begin this opportunity. What I did not expect, at this point, was my decision to remain at the PSU full time for the remainder of the summer.

Two factors influenced this decision. First, of course, was the legal experience I was gaining. As a volunteer, I worked one-on-one with clients providing support in their experience as a litigant-in-person. My role included small things like emotional and practical support, but also more substantial things like attending court with the client, and helping them fill out important legal

forms. The experience I gained this summer was invaluable to my future as a legal professional. I intend on continuing this work into the new academic year due to the great support from my fellow volunteers and managers, and also from the School of Law.

The second reason, and most important to me, is the life experience I continue to gain from this position. Legal proceedings can be challenging and daunting to anyone involved, especially when you are experiencing them alone. The clients are often overwhelmed with appreciation for our services, and I am moved and motivated every day walking out of the court knowing that I helped someone in their time of need. The PSU is a tremendous opportunity for all students, which I recommend you to consider alongside your studies.”

Studying, Skiing and Socialising – an account of study abroad

Samuel Hill, returning final year LLB Law with French Law student, spoke to us about his year studying abroad in France.

Where did you spend your year abroad?

Having done a ski season before I started university I couldn't pass up the opportunity to get as close to the Alps as possible, so I chose to study in Lyon. I wanted to go to a city that was large enough to explore for a year, and it certainly was. I studied at the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3.

What did you study?

I studied the medieval historical origins of early French law in addition to the more recent constitutional history of French Law. This, alongside the study of modern aspects of French law, showed me how French history has shaped some of the key principles of French law and how they affect French society today.

What skills do you feel you have developed through living in France?

Living in France has made me much more adaptable. Things in France simply don't work the same way they do in England; you cannot just sign up for a phone contract and bank account instantly. This took me a while to get used to but over the course of the year it made me much more flexible.

What was the highlight of your trip?

The best part about studying in a different country was the more laid back French culture. On any sunny afternoon the whole city would gather in cafes and bars around the river. Whereas we would normally scoff a sandwich down at our desk the French sit outside and take their time over lunch, and I'm going to miss this restaurant culture a lot next time I'm eating a Tesco meal deal in the Laidlaw.

Another highlight of my year was probably having my Leeds housemates come out to visit in my final few weeks in Lyon and introducing them to all my Lyon friends. It was great showing them everything I'd learnt about the city.



What would you say to a student considering a study abroad year?

Going on a year abroad gave me the opportunity to meet some of the most interesting people I've ever met, from all over the world. A year abroad offers you a different perspective on not only university life but on life itself and total immersion in a different culture aids your personal development significantly.

Studying in a different country took a lot of time to get used to. The lectures were much longer and there were certainly no PowerPoints to read from! The language barrier was also very tricky when lecturers spoke so quickly and used specific French law terms, but gradually it became easier to understand them.

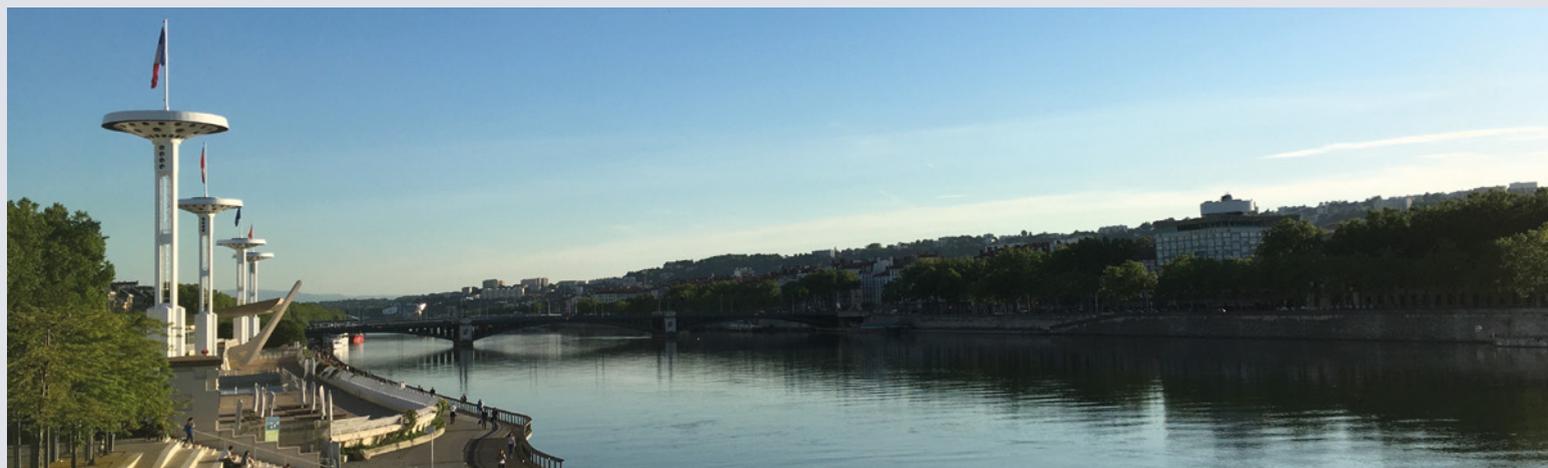
What have you missed most about Leeds?

I can't say I've missed the weather. Although I have missed the feeling of familiarity that you have when walking through Hyde Park and seeing faces you know everywhere.

“

The best part about studying in a different country was the more laid back French culture.

”



Want to keep up with School news across the year?

You can also view our student newsletter at www.law.leeds.ac.uk/about/liberty-brief

Mentoring: views from both sides

Katie Prior, final year LLB Law student, talks about how participating in the School's Career Mentoring Scheme enabled her to secure a week's work experience with a specialist intellectual property firm, Marks & Clerk LLP.

"My mentor was an alumnus of the School of Law which meant we shared a common background. I ensured, from the outset, I developed a strong rapport with him and ensured my communication with him was professional and consistent. Subsequently, my mentor provided me with tremendous support such as advice on choosing university modules to vacation scheme applications and interview preparation.

During my week, I was in the trademarks department where I completed various tasks including conducting trademark searches, responding to clients and foreign attorneys and drafting appeal submissions. I was also able to attend meetings and seminars with the team throughout the week. For me the highlight of my week was having the opportunity to work on an appeal submission for an ongoing trademark case. After suggesting some ideas to the team on a potential new angle for the appeal, I was asked to write up a draft submission. My submission was well received and was utilised in the appeal. Not only was the opportunity to work on this in itself memorable, but seeing that my work was helpful to the case gave me a strong sense of accomplishment.

I would urge second year students to get involved in the mentoring scheme. While there are many great resources in the law school, getting first hand advice from someone in a field you are interested in, is invaluable. I was able to walk away from the scheme with a greater understanding of intellectual property law as well as a glimpse into what life would be like as a trademark trainee.



The mentoring scheme has led to an amazing work opportunity which I would not have had the chance to participate in otherwise. I was able to gain first-hand experience in trademark law, in addition to building new relationships in the field.

Prior to my placement week, I was unsure of the particular area of law I was interested in. The experience helped to confirm my interests in intellectual property law as well as to help me understand what a firm, such as Marks & Clerk, is looking for in prospective trainees."

Jack Kenny, Trainee Trade Mark Attorney at Marks & Clerk said:

"Following a really worthwhile academic year of mentoring Katie, it was a pleasure to welcome her for a week of work experience at Marks & Clerk. After graduating from Leeds in 2014, I stumbled into a job as a paralegal at an intellectual property law firm, and now work as a part-qualified Trade Mark Attorney at the same firm. I wanted to get involved in the mentoring scheme because I had no idea about this alternative path into IP law when I was a student, so I feel obliged now to spread the word to students who might be interested. In addition to the work experience placement, throughout the scheme Katie and I discussed training contract applications and tips to stand out at interviews, and I hope Katie found it beneficial to gain some insight from a former Leeds student who has been through it all before!"

“

The mentoring scheme has led to an amazing work opportunity which I would not have had the chance to participate in otherwise.

”



Join the mentoring scheme

The mentoring scheme is a fantastic opportunity and a great way to enhance your employability whilst at University. It facilitates the development of genuine connections between students and industry professionals who volunteer to provide career related guidance on a one-to-one basis.

Our mentors work in graduate positions across a wide variety of organisations such as law firms, barristers chambers, the civil service, the police and prison services, banks or charities. They will help you gain an insight into working life and develop skills related to a particular career.

You will have the opportunity to: gain practical advice, encouragement and support; develop communication, study and personal skills, and; gain valuable insight into the next stage of your career.

The scheme is open to all second undergraduate students and runs from late October to early May each year. If you would like to become involved and have not yet received information on how to apply, contact Marika Hildebrandova for more information: M.Hildebrandova@leeds.ac.uk.

Could you be the next Student Editor?

We are currently looking for a new Student Editor to co-ordinate the Student News section of the Liberty Brief. If you are a creative individual with strong written English, a flair for media, and a passion for our community – we want to hear from you!

Contact the Liberty Brief team for more information: lawmso@leeds.ac.uk

Upcoming Events



Want to keep up with School news across the year?

You can also view our student newsletter at www.law.leeds.ac.uk/about/liberty-brief

Inaugural Lecture: Professor Iyiola Solanke

5 October 2017, 17.30–19.00, Moot Court, Liberty Building, Lecture

After a recent appointment to Professorship, Iyiola Solanke will deliver her inaugural lecture and discuss her current research.

Career Mentoring Scheme Launch

25 October 2017, 17.30–19.30, Liberty Building Atrium, Launch Event

Second year students participating in career mentoring are invited to meet this year's mentors at an event marking the launch of this year's scheme.

Leeds Law Fair

26 October 2017, 12.00–15.00, The Edge Sports Hall, Fair

The annual Leeds Law Fair attracts hundreds of graduate recruitment representatives from many national and international law firms and associated businesses.

A Workshop on Professionalism and Vulnerability

27–28 October 2017, 9.00–17.00, Room TBC, Workshop

This workshop will use the lens of individual and institutional vulnerability to examine historic, comparative, and contemporaneous depictions of professionalism.

Temple Women's Forum North (TWFN) Event

2 November 2017, 17.30–20.00, Western Lecture Theatre, Panel Event

The Temple Women's Forum North will once again gather at the School of Law this autumn bringing together senior officials, academic scholars and students alike.

Pro Bono Showcase and Silent Auction

7 November 2017, 17.00–20.00, Room TBC, Showcase

During National Pro Bono Week the School will be showcasing the work done to support the local community and the annual Silent Auction will return to raise money for this year's charity.

Tracking People

9 November 2017, 9.00–16.30, Woburn House London, Conference

The conference will disseminate the principle findings drawing out core themes from preceding events. It will review current understanding of the use of tracking devices highlighting social, legal, ethical and technical challenges posed by their deployment across domains.

Judicial Diversity Initiative Event

15 November 2017, 13.00–19.00, Room TBC, Lecture
More details to follow

Law Alumni Reunion: 1967, 1987, 1997, 2007

18 November 2017, 17.00–21.00, Liberty Building, Alumni School of Law alumni who graduated in the aforementioned years are invited back to campus for a reunion reception and three course dinner.

Events Summary

For more information about our upcoming events, and to register, please visit www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events

Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of Liberty Brief or provide any feedback, please get in touch.

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Cover: Keir Starmer
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School of Law

— *Personal Journeys.*
Shared Excellence