
03

Inaugural Liberty Lecture
Professor Seyla
Benhabib discusses the
“Right to have Rights”

12

Honorary QC
for Leeds Professor
Professor Surya
Subedi, OBE, receives
prestigious honor

22

Law's Got
Talent 2016
Contest returns for
third consecutive year

24

Upcoming Events
CCJS Annual Lecture to
be delivered by Sir Keir
Starmer, KCB

Liberty Brief

Issue 10
May 2017

School of Law
Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

As I read through the draft of this edition of Liberty Brief I was as ever struck by the excellence, energy and achievements of my colleagues and students in the School.

The highlight for me of the last few months was of course Law's Got Talent. Now in its third year, the event has gone from strength to strength and is a wonderful showcase for all that is good in the School. Melissa Leung is particularly to be congratulated for all the work that she did to ensure that the event was a success but I want also to thank all those who performed and attended. It was for me an incredibly happy evening that speaks volumes about what we are as a community. I am delighted that it has become an annual fixture and am already in training for next year's event!

Last semester was incredibly busy academically. We have welcomed to the School several of the leading thinkers in the world including Professors Seyla Benhabib and Sally Engle Merry. Both gave stunning and thought provoking lectures. That we can attract such global stars to the School says a great deal about our perceived status internationally and the quality of the people we have here. My colleagues continue to excel in the work that they do and several of their key achievements are highlighted in this edition. I want particularly to congratulate Professor Subedi on his appointment as an Honorary QC for the work that he has done over a sustained period to develop international law and to advance human rights.

"We attract excellent people here for the good reason that they want to work with and talk to some of the leading thinkers in the world."

This is a very significant honour, rarely awarded, and I am delighted for him and for the distinction that it brings to the School. That we now have two honorary QCs in the School (Professor Clive Walker is the other one) is something of which we can be very proud. Other achievements of note by my colleagues include the award of the Radzinowicz Prize, for the best article published in 2016 in the British Journal of Criminology (BJC), one of the leading international journals of criminology. The Radzinowicz Prize is awarded annually for the BJC article(s) that, in the opinion of the Editors, most contributes to knowledge of criminal justice issues and the development of criminology. Also of note was the publication of an important new book on 'Discrimination as Stigma' by Professor Iyiola Solanke and the nomination of Professor Pinar Akman for an international anti-trust award. In short, my colleagues, your teachers, continue to excel in what they do. We attract excellent people here for the good reason that they want to work with and talk to some of the leading thinkers in the world. This is one of the most vibrant intellectual communities in the UK and we need to continue to support and celebrate the work done and achievements of those who work here.

You will also see that there have been several alumni events and also visits by alumni to the School. As well as successful events in Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Singapore, we have held events in Leeds and will shortly hold a major event in London. One of the highlights of last semester was the talk by the current DPP, Alison Saunders. She spoke warmly of her time here and emphasised the importance of Leeds to her and in her development as a lawyer. Keeping in touch with our alumni is something that we are now much better at. I have spoken before about their importance to us as ambassadors, mentors and as a role models. For those who graduate this year, we look forward to keeping in touch with you because we hope that you will want to play these roles.

Finally, I want to wish you best of luck with your final assessments. Work hard but know that we are here to support you.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

Professor Seyla Benhabib delivers inaugural Liberty Lecture



On 23 February, Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, delivered the inaugural Liberty Lecture entitled “The ‘Right to have Rights’: The Continuing Resonance of Hannah Arendt’s Phrase and Refugees and Migrants in Legal and Political Thought.” The lecture was the first of the School’s ‘Liberty Lectures’, organised to engage with pressing issues of global importance.

“We are living through a fateful time. In a short period, hardly spanning more than five years, we have experienced the battle over the Ukraine; the intensification and tragic end of the civil war in Syria; the Greek fiscal crisis; Brexit; and the election of Donald Trump. Italy’s pro-European technocratic party has lost to a left populist upsurge and France and Germany are awaiting the elections of Spring 2017. Their results may well mean the end of the European Union. What would Hannah Arendt have said?”

Professor Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, delivered the School’s inaugural Liberty Lecture on 23 February. She discussed how German-born

Jewish American political theorist Hannah Arendt, would have been astonished that the ‘refugee crisis’ would have led to such an unravelling of the international legal order established after WWII within the European context in particular.

In her lecture Professor Benhabib asked “why has the movement of peoples across national borders become such a highly volatile and symbolic issue?” and discussed this question by taking aim at the tension between universal human rights and sovereignty at the heart of the nation-state system.



“
*why has the
movement of peoples
across national
borders become such
a highly volatile and
symbolic issue?*
”

“The “right to have rights” has multiple meanings: a. the right to place, which since Hobbes has been acknowledged as fundamental to human freedom; b. the right to belonging - either in the sense of ethnic and cultural identity or national citizenship; c. being recognised as having legal personhood in international law; and exercising political agency by ‘claiming rights,’ whether or not they are recognised by authorities.”

This lecture dealt with the conceptual as well institutional difficulties embodied in each claim and threw light on the political challenges of the present moment.

This event was the first of the School’s ‘Liberty Lectures’. From global warming, public health crises and international inequality, to financial security and sustainable development, the School of Law wishes to engage in the most pressing issues of our time and contribute to what will be complex and difficult conversations and solutions. In launching this annual series of lectures and events the School welcomes scholars, policy makers and activists who are setting the agenda in how our world debates global challenges.

School hosts conference on Secured Transactions Reform

On 6 January 2017, the Centre for Business Law and Practice hosted a conference on Secured Transactions Law Reform, organised by Professor Duncan Sheehan and part-funded through the Society of Legal Scholars Small Projects and Events Fund.

The conference was opened by Professor Gerard McCormack, the Director of the Centre for Business Law and Practice at the School of Law. His introduction was followed by the first session which examined the re-characterisation or registration of the retention of title clauses and other title financing devices. Duncan Sheehan asked what would happen to priority and Nemo Dat rules if we did register or re-characterise them, and Richard Calnan put the opposing City of London Law Society view of how priorities ought to be reformed while not re-characterising or registering such devices at all.

The second session examined specific difficult asset classes and the means of taking security over them, priority rules and how the rules might be reformed moving forward. Andrea Tosato from the University of Nottingham spoke about intellectual property, Ed Murray from Allen & Overy talked about financial collateral – which, being governed by a European Directive, may (or not) be easier to reform post-Brexit, and David Quest QC from 3 Verulam Buildings spoke on the difficulties around taking security over more esoteric electronic assets such as crypto-currencies and bitcoin in particular.

“

The conference was held in conjunction with the Secured Transactions Law Reform Project (<https://securedtransactionslawreformproject.org/>), and Professor Louise Gullifer, Executive Director of the Project provided an overview of the Project and its current position at the end of the day's proceedings. The conference attracted a range of speakers and attendees from the Law Commission, BEIS, academia and practice from the UK, Germany and the Republic of Ireland.

”

After lunch, the third session examined different international instruments, comparing the Draft Common Frame of Reference, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions, dealt with by Ole Boeger, a judge of the German Court of Appeal in Bremen, and the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment discussed by Anton Didenko of the University of Oxford.

The final session looked at consumers and the impact and likelihood of reform over bills of sale, and possible impacts of expanding a Personal Property Security Act to consumers. Tamara Goriely and Daria Popescu of the Law Commission spoke on the Commission's proposals for reform of bills of sale, and Sarah Brown spoke more generally on the effect of reform on consumers, in terms of third party effects and consumer protection against irresponsible lending or oppressive conduct by lenders. Francis Evans, a senior policy analyst at BEIS, then gave the current UK Government position on wider reform of secured transactions.

Frank Dawtry Annual Lecture marks start of 30th anniversary year for CCJS

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the School of Law.

The Centre was established in 1987 to pursue research into criminal justice systems and criminological issues and has since grown to become one of the leading criminological centres of its kind with an established international profile.

On 30 January, the annual Frank Dawtry Memorial Lecture marked the first in a series of inspiring events organised to commemorate the Centre's anniversary.

The lecture was delivered by Dame Vera Baird DBE QC (pictured below), Police and Crime



Commissioner for Northumbria and former Member of Parliament and Minister in the Labour government. Dame Baird was appointed as the UK Governments Solicitor General for England and Wales from 2007 to 2010 and was particularly involved in criminal justice policy and legislation, especially on gender and equality policies.

Dame Vera Baird's lecture reported on an innovative project in which volunteer panellists watched 30 rape trials at Newcastle Crown Court. Having received training on basic trial procedure from the Crown Prosecution Service, the panellists, in pairs, watched the trials in full and completed questionnaires, recording information on what they had observed. While many of the trials were described as being very well run, problematically, the research found that sexual history evidence was sometimes admitted at the last moment without an application being submitted ahead of trial as required under legislation, and on two occasions without any application at all. There were also instances where trial judges neglected to give directions challenging common misconceptions about rape and 'typical' victim behaviour in line with guidance introduced in 2010. As part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, the panel will shortly publish their observations with a view to promoting best practice in the prosecution of rape and sexual assault.



Alumni celebrate the Leeds connection



Singaporean and Malaysian alumni were invited to celebrate the Leeds connection at two dinner events held in January this year. Each dinner was hosted by Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis and welcomed a number of former students from the School of Law.



Singapore was the first destination. On 9 January, Professor Mullis met with almost thirty former students on the roof top terrace of the Naumi Hotel, overlooking the famed Singapore skyline. Guests represented more than 25 years of law at Leeds and enjoyed hearing about how well the School is doing today.

Two days later on 11 January, Professor Mullis was joined by over forty law graduates at a quaint boutique restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Forgetting the cold British January weather, Professor Mullis and the party once again dined al fresco and enjoyed reminiscing about their times in Leeds.

A number of the alumni who attended the dinners in Singapore and Malaysia, also support the School as career mentors for our second year law students, and enjoy doing so. This is the first year in which the School has engaged international mentors, but with many more expressions of interest received, these numbers will likely grow in future years.

Toronto will be the next international destination for our alumni events when Norma Martin Clement visits Canada in March. This will be followed by a brunch event in Hong Kong when Professor Mullis returns

to Asia on University business, also in March. There are a number of UK alumni events planned in the School's calendar later this semester, starting with a forty year reunion dinner for the class of 1977 in April and a larger scale alumni reception at The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in London in May.



Dr. Stylianou Co-Authors Major Report on Online Terms of Service and Human Rights



The Centre for Technology and Society, at FGV Law School, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has recently published the results of a two-year project in a report titled Terms of Service and Human Rights. Dr. Konstantinos Stylianou served as one of the two co-directors of the first phase of the project and helped author the final report.

The project was developed between September 2014 and March 2016, and analysed the terms of service of 50 popular online platforms (including services by Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook and others), by assessing their compatibility with freedom of expression, privacy, and due process. The research originated from a partnership with the Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility (DCPR) of the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The project involved the analysis of the terms of service of 50 online

platforms by three independent teams of analysts, whose interim results were checked and weighted against each other, and whose final results were analysed against various authoritative international legal texts issued among others by the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and others.

The results of the project were discussed in several national and international events such as the conference for the International Human Rights Day held by the Council of Europe in Brussels in December 2014, the World Forum for Democracy, promoted by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament in Strasbourg, in November 2015, and the international conference "Human Rights in the Digital Environment: Perspectives on Terms of Service" held at FGV Rio de Janeiro Law School in December 2014.

New edition of Directors' Duties published

Professor Andrew Keay has just had the third edition of his book, Directors' Duties published by LexisNexis.

The book provides an analysis of the general duties of directors contained in the Companies Act 2006 as well as an examination of derivative actions, ratification of breaches of duty and remedies that are available for breach of duty. The new edition seeks to address case law and other developments as well as including some discussion of recent academic scholarship. The book also includes a consideration of several important Commonwealth cases, such as the Australian Federal Court's decision in ASIC v Mariner and the New Zealand Court of Appeal's judgment in Morgenstern v Jeffreys.



Professor Surya Subedi Appointed an Honorary Queen's Counsel

Professor and Barrister, Surya P. Subedi, O.B.E., Professor of International Law, has been appointed an Honorary Queen's Counsel (QC) for his contribution to international law and human rights

A press release issued by the Government on 12 January 2017 states that Professor Subedi had made "an exceptional contribution over a sustained period at the international level to develop international law and to advance human rights." Professor Subedi is one of five distinguished legal academics and law practitioners that have been appointed as honorary QCs. The honours were bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen upon the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, after an assessment of all nominations by a high-level committee consisting of senior representatives from various organisations in the field of law and justice. The award of Honorary Queen's Counsel is made to qualified lawyers and legal academics who have made a major contribution to the law of England & Wales outside practice in the courts.

Commenting on his appointment as an Honorary QC, Professor Subedi said: "I feel extremely honoured to have been appointed an Honorary Queen's

Counsel in recognition of my work in international law and human rights. As an institution with a global outlook, the University of Leeds has provided a congenial and stimulating environment that is conducive to making a contribution to a wider national and international community. It would not have been possible for me to develop international law and advance human rights without the assistance of my colleagues in the School of Law and I am grateful to them."

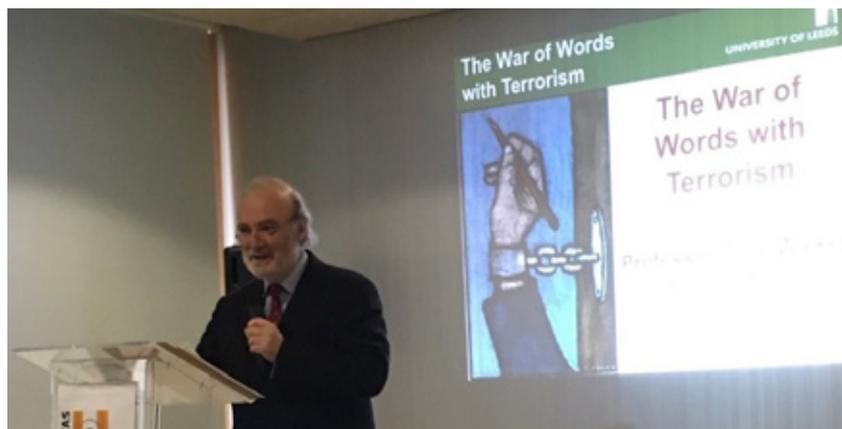
"As an institution with a global outlook, the University of Leeds has provided a congenial and stimulating environment that is conducive to making a contribution to a wider national and international community."



The following is the full citation published by the British Government in a press release on 12 January 2017 announcing the appointment of Professor Subedi as an Honorary QC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-chancellor-welcomes-historic-promotion-of-talent-for-new-silks>

The War of Words with Terrorism



“The war of words with terrorism” was the title of a keynote speech given by Professor Emeritus Clive Walker at a conference in Spain on 1-2 December 2016. He was invited to the ‘International Congress on Crime and Cyberspace’, the subject of which was “Challenges for the 21st Century: Radicalism and hate on the Internet: from understanding towards prevention”.

The event was funded by the Ministry of Education, Research, Culture and Sport and was held over two days at the Universitas Miguel Hernández (UMH) in Elche. A large audience of professionals and students was in attendance. Professor Walker argued that terrorism speech presents multiple dangers for liberal democracies: some relate to the mechanics of how to carry out attacks; some relate to the fostering of motivations to become involved in terrorism through incitements; some arise from the censoring process which can threaten cherished values or drain the state resources. He then explored responses in terms of action against messengers through the imposition of criminal laws. However, the limited number of prosecutions suggests inefficiency, save perhaps for symbolic denunciation. Prosecutions encounter principled (human rights) objections and practical problems of evidence-gathering and

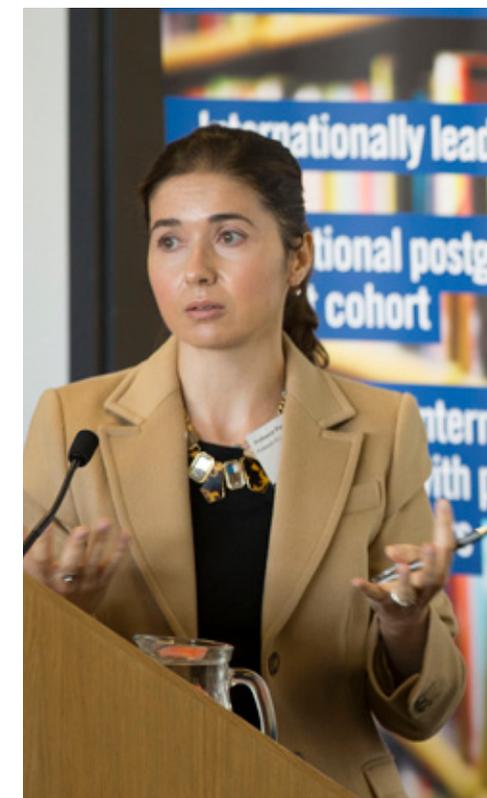
transnationality. So, the second, more prevalent and sustainable, approach involves administrative controls, as reflected in police internet referral units and by private sector denunciation mechanisms. These interventions work surprisingly well with a high volume of traffic. But like all corporatist arrangements, we must question whose interests are being served and the fairness of the process. In an ideal speech situation, the fostering of convincing messages against terrorism would be a preferable approach. Paradoxically, fuller debate about values may arise through the advent of a third approach which involves countering violent extremism (CVE) programmes. These programmes are viewed simplistically by some as repressive. However, CVE programmes could become a platform for the public debate of issues around violent extremism rather than its censure.

Professor Pinar Akman and Dr Peter Whelan publish articles in the Antitrust Law Journal

Professor Akman and Dr. Whelan have both had articles published in Volume 81 of the Antitrust Law Journal.

Professor Akman’s article is entitled “The Reform of the Application of Article 102 TFEU: Mission Accomplished?”. It examines the European Commission’s recent reform of its application of Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (the prohibition of abuse of dominance). Using the Commission’s own reform documents and in particular the Guidance on enforcement priorities as the benchmark, the article investigates the post-reform decisions to establish the potential impact of the reform. Thus, the article analyses whether the application of Article 102 has indeed been reformed as a matter of fact (which in this context refers to the Commission’s decisional practice under Article 102) in line with the Commission’s aspirations and rhetoric.

Dr. Whelan’s article is entitled “Beyond the Theoretical: Articulating Enforcement Strategies for Successful European Antitrust Criminalization”. There is considerable debate at present, particularly in the Member States of the European Union, concerning the appropriateness of imposing custodial sentences upon individuals who have engaged in cartel activity (i.e. price fixing between competitors). In fact, cartel criminalisation has occurred within some of the Member States of the EU and, at present, some Member States are giving it serious thought. Dr. Whelan’s article contributes to the debate on European cartel criminalization by analysing the enforcement strategies that need to be in place to ensure that the criminalisation of cartel activity within the EU achieves its objectives in practice.



Dr Henry Yeomans presents research findings at major event on taxation

Dr Henry Yeomans presented findings from his research on alcohol taxation to an audience including government ministers, civil servants, leading academics and representatives from a range of charities or campaign groups. The paper was titled “Alcohol Taxation, Minimum Unit Pricing and the Regulation of Drinking: A Historical Perspective on Alcohol Pricing Interventions” and was given at the conference “Taxation and other economic incentives as health-promoting tools: a focus on tobacco, alcohol and

The Mid-Atlantic People of Colour Conference (MAPOC)

From 26-28 January the 22nd MAPOC took place at George Washington University in Washington DC, USA.

The theme of the conference – Legal and Political Change in the time of Obama – could not have been more appropriate. Held just six days after the inauguration of President Donald Trump and during the controversial Executive Order that temporarily banned visitors to the USA from seven predominantly Muslim countries and permanently banned all Syrian refugees, the conference was awash with the discussion of controversial legal and political changes in the present and recent past. Professor Solanke was invited to participate in a panel discussion focusing on the similarities and differences in the economic and cultural anxiety that has been attributed to the decisions in the UK to leave the EU and to make Trump the 45th US President.



Left to right: Professor Blake Morant, Dean, George Washington Law School; Professor Kwame Akuffo, University of West London Law School; Professor Kim Ford-Mazrui of Virginia University Law School; Professor Iyiola Solanke, University of Leeds School of Law.

News in Brief

①

Professor Iyiola Solanke launched her new book ‘Discrimination As Stigma – A Theory of Anti-Discrimination Law’ at Hart’s premises in Bloomsbury on 1 Feb 2017.

②

Dr. Subhajit Basu was invited to attend the Second Annual General Assembly within the framework of the European Project MAPPING - “Managing Alternatives for Privacy, Property, and Internet Governance” which was held in Prague on 31 October – 2 November 2016.

③

Dr. Henry Yeomans had an article co-written with Dr. Thomas Thurnell-Read (Loughborough University) published by The Conversation. The piece is titled: “‘Dry’ and ‘try’ January campaigns show moderate drinking is not just about units of alcohol”.

④

Professor Surya P. Subedi’s book “International Investment Law: Reconciling Policy and Principle” was recently launched at a ceremony held in Beijing during a lecture tour of China. This followed the translation of the book from English to Chinese.

⑤

Professor Iyiola Solanke was a Visiting Professor at Science Po, Grenoble From 14-19 January where she taught a course on “Migration, Immigration and Asylum in EU Law” to a group of 25 masters students.

⑥

Professor Pinar Akman’s research, co-authored with Professor Daniel Sokol from the University of Florida, has been nominated for the 2017 Antitrust Writing Awards. Their article, entitled “Online RPM and MFN under Antitrust Law and Economics”, examines a highly topical concern for competition laws around the world: the competition law assessment of online resale price maintenance and most-favoured-nation clauses.

⑦

Professor Gerrard McCormack, Professor Andrew Keay and Associate Professor Sarah Brown have had their book “European Insolvency Law, Reform and Harmonization” published by Elgar. Critically analysing the substantive law of insolvency in the EU countries as a whole, this book carries out horizontal cross-cutting analysis of the data gathered from a study of national insolvency laws.

⑧

Professor Rita de la Feria delivered her inaugural lecture on “VAT Anti-fraud Policy, Third Party Liability, and the Rule of Law” on 7 February, after joining the School in 2016. In her lecture, Professor de la Feria discussed VAT fraud, proposing a new typology of fraud, and a new approach to determining its costs.

⑨

Professor Dr Elies van Sliedregt gave her inaugural lecture on 1 December 2016, entitled “Joint Criminal Confusion - the rise and fall of the joint enterprise theory in English and international criminal law”. The lecture discussed the effect of the Jogee-ruling on debates on joint enterprise in international criminal law.

⑩

Dr. David Churchill has been awarded the Radzinowicz Prize, for the best article published in the The British Journal of Criminology (BJC) in 2016. Officially: “The Radzinowicz Prize is awarded annually for the BJC article(s) that, in the opinion of the Editors, most contributes to knowledge of criminal justice issues and the development of criminology.”



The Radzinowicz Prize is awarded annually for the BJC article(s) that, in the opinion of the Editors, most contributes to knowledge of criminal justice issues and the development of criminology.



LawSoc review



It has been an exciting start to the year for Leeds LawSoc and we have been busy socialising, networking and pursuing new opportunities for our members.

This semester we are placing a greater emphasis on developing student and staff relationships, so keep a look out for new events such as the ‘The Big Debate’ and ‘University Challenge’ which will build upon this crucial partnership.

On Friday 3 March, the Annual Law Ball took place at Leeds Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended this amazingly well organised and exceptional evening. This is always one of the highlights of our year so special congratulations go to Georgia Ma, our Society’s Affairs Secretary, for her hard work and dedication in arranging the dinner.

As well as this, we have had two fantastic socials, the First Year Social and an Equality and Diversity Bowling Social, both of which were a massive success. The success of our socials has also been

acknowledged externally as LawSoc has been shortlisted, by Law Careers, for Best Social Event.

The LawSoc elections took place in early March and the support shown towards all candidates was warmly received. I am pleased to announce that Georgia Ma was successful in her bid for President and will lead the Society forward, with a fantastic new committee, next academic year.

The success of LawSoc will and shall always rely on the feedback of our members and I can assure you that as a society, and with the help of the Law School, we are always trying to improve and be the best society we can be. Thank you again for all of your involvement this year, and I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Summer.

Nadirur Choudhury
LawSoc President

Rajah & Tann – Cambridge Moot

Sylvester Tan and Lim Xin Yuan recently competed in the Rajah & Tann-Cambridge Moot Competition 2017 at Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge.

After competing against opponents from Bristol and Leicester in the first round they were selected as one of the top eight university teams to proceed to the next stage. Performing well in the quarter final round, beating teams from Bristol, Durham, Nottingham and UCL, they qualified for the semi-finals along with Birmingham, Cambridge and LSE.

At this stage the team went up against LSE, and though the moot was originally planned to last one hour (fifteen minutes per person), it eventually lasted two hours due to a large amount of judicial intervention questions.

The judging panel consisted of Paul Tan, a commercial litigator and equity partner at Rajah & Tan Singapore, the Master of the Moots from Cambridge University, the Master of the Moots from King’s College London, the President of the Magdalene College Law Society, Cambridge, and an Associate Professor from National University of Singapore.

On commenting on the outcome of the competition Sylvester said: “We emerged as Semi-finalists and realised we had much to learn. Xin Yuan and I will continue representing the University of Leeds in external moots, upcoming moots include the National Speed Moot Competition and the LSE Featherstone Moot Competition.”

Law Postgraduate Society in London

The Law Postgraduate Society recently ventured to London for our first trip of the academic year on a visit to the Supreme Court and Royal Courts of Justice. First of all let me pass on a huge thanks to everyone who attended. Eighty of us endured the grueling five hour coach trip and arrived at St. Paul’s at lunchtime.



Our first stop was the Royal Courts of Justice in which we were able to sit in on a number of cases being heard. This was really beneficial to our international students who attended to see the English court system in action in all of its pomp and ceremony. The case myself and a few others attended concerned data protection and the hiring of private detective agencies, not everybody’s cup of tea but it was interesting nevertheless. We then proceeded down to Trafalgar Square and up to Whitehall past Downing Street to Parliament Square and the Supreme Court for more of

the same. Whilst the weather was dismal, everyone enjoyed themselves – it was a first time in London for a number of people – and not only did we have a great time but also one that was able to further our understanding of the English legal system. We also managed to fit in a few hours of free time for everyone to head off and explore central London.

Once again many thanks to those who attended. After only eighteen students attended the trip last year the numbers were a real improvement and a testament to the involvement

of postgraduate students in our social/events calendar.

The PGT Head of School Supper, hosted by Professor Alastair Mullis, was a great success, as too was the very first Postgraduate Ball held on 17 March. The Ball took place at The Queen’s

Hotel in Leeds city centre and will hopefully will become an annual event.

Luke Robinson
Law Postgraduate Society President

Success at the Stay in Leeds Law Fair

The Stay at Leeds Fair is an annual highlight of the employability events calendar, it took place on Wednesday 22 February at the School of Law. It is a specific fair, organised within the Law School, for students interested in pursuing their career in Leeds.

As the second largest legal and financial market in the UK – it offers great career related opportunities. The fair is particularly unique in that many of the firms that attend provide summer work experience placements exclusively to those Leeds Law students who attend the fair. Melissa Poulter, a final year LLB Law student (pictured right), talks personally about her experience at the 2016 fair which ultimately led to her securing a training contract at Leeds law firm, 3volution.

Why did you go to the Stay in Leeds Law Fair?

I've known for a while that I want to stay in Leeds following graduation, so when I heard about the Stay in Leeds Law Fair, offering the chance to speak to law firms on the lookout for Leeds graduates, it sounded like a great opportunity.

What did you get from the fair?

I chatted with a few different firms, finding out the different ways some of the trainees had secured post-graduation employment, and following these conversations I signed up for the law firms e-mail registers, so I would be notified if work experience opportunities became available.

I was contacted over Easter (and after many stressful hours spent getting my CV and cover letter to a standard I was happy with) I managed to secure a week's work experience with 3volution, a law firm based in Leeds City Centre.

What did your work experience involve?

My week at 3volution was organised so that each day I was assigned to one of their main departments, being given the opportunity to complete tasks such as drafting instruction letters, compiling research pieces, helping associates prepare for conference calls and then sitting in on the relevant conference calls.

I was also given the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with some of the partners, discussing my career aspirations and receiving feedback on the tasks I'd completed.

Why should others attend the Stay in Leeds Law Fair?

Not only did my work experience with 3volution leave me feeling more confident than ever that a career in commercial law is the right path for me, but following an interview with the named partners it also led to me securing a training contract at 3volution – none of which would have happened if I hadn't gone to the Stay in Leeds Law Fair.



“I was also given the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with some of the partners, discussing my career aspirations and receiving feedback on the tasks I'd completed”



Melissa Poulter
3rd Year LLB Law



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](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/about/liberty-brief)

Advocacy of the Year

The Advocacy of the Year competition was held at the BPP Law School in Leeds city centre on 26-27 November 2016.

The event was organised by James Welsh, Director of Programmes of BPTC at BPP, London. The competition consisted of two civil mock trials and two criminal mock trials that were judged by teachers of the BPTC. There were over eighty participants, five venues, and over twenty actors (ex-criminals). The competitors were provided with their briefs in the week commencing the competition, they had to subsequently prepare for alternating roles of holding a conference with the client, an examination-in-chief, a cross-examination, and a closing speech/legal submission. After each trial, the judge congratulated Leeds on their impressive attempt at the mock trial, and provided feedback of their advocacy techniques.

Liam Kelly, Jazmine Lee, Hannah Veloso, and Matthew Tobin competed on behalf of the University of Leeds who, after a tricky start (having an hour to prepare a different trial that had been previously directed), were ranked third out of all the teams that participated across the country (including Kings College London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Bristol.)

Jazmine Lee, final year law student, achieved second place in the competition, and was awarded a £4,500 discount off of her BPTC fees. Jazmine said: "I hesitated to compete in this competition as I feared I wouldn't achieve anything. How wrong I was. My team mates and I supported and encouraged each other to do Leeds proud, and we feel we did just that. Financial reasons meant that I had to delay enrolling on the BPTC, until now. I have been awarded a huge sum of money to help me with my funding, so I can concentrate on achieving my dream of becoming a successful criminal barrister."



"I hesitated to compete in this competition as I feared I wouldn't achieve anything. How wrong I was. My team mates and I supported and encouraged each other to do Leeds proud, and we feel we did just that."

Second year student secures training contract in Magic Circle

Andrew Patel, second year LLB Law student, was recently awarded a training contract with Magic Circle law firm Allen & Overy after a successful application. Andrew joined the University from Canada in 2015 and is looking forward to joining the firm after graduation next year.



Andrew Patel
2nd Year LLB Law

"As a Canadian undergraduate student, I came to Leeds unsure of what career to pursue and where to pursue it. I decided, from the outset, to keep my options open. In my first year I became involved in as many different aspects of student life as possible. From participation in the Law Society Negotiation Competition to volunteering as a student ambassador at the School's open days, I sought out any new opportunity to integrate within the School. Interested in one of my professor's area of expertise in particular, I was given the opportunity to attend a master's level class on intellectual property and became more familiar with some of the specific research projects undertaken in the School. As the year progressed, I started to develop an interest in international commercial law.

Subsequently, I applied for first year programs and open days at numerous commercial law firms. I relished the opportunity to gain insight into the structure of commercial law firms and valued each occasion to familiarise myself with the intricacies of the business and legal worlds. I entered my second year having participated in four open days and a first-year summer vacation scheme and had secured two Campus Executive positions – both at global, commercial firms.

As I started second year, busy with my Campus Executive roles and as a participant in the negotiation competition again, I prioritized my applications, having concluded that I desired to pursue commercial law. My academic profile and strong involvement with the University, since first year, resulted in me securing a training contract offer from Magic Circle firm, Allen & Overy, without completing any formal vacation schemes. My application experience has confirmed that law firm's value students that have a strong academic profile, are involved with their faculty, and have a variety of interests.

The School of Law at Leeds provides a stimulating environment for its students and I am thankful for each of the opportunities I was involved in. I utilized the support offered by the School and am sincerely thankful to Dr. Wragg, Director of Employability, for his time, dedication, and encouragement towards my endeavors. I would urge all students to get involved in as much as possible – not only has it enabled me to secure a training contract with a Magic Circle Firm but the opportunities have shaped my experience at Leeds."

Student News

Law's Got Talent 2016

On Wednesday 7 December the third annual Law's Got Talent competition was held in Leeds University Union, showcasing the extraordinary talents of our students and staff. The event raised £514.71 for this year's charity of choice – Yorkshire Cancer Research.

“

Professor Mullis commented: “All the acts deserved praise but I want to offer particular thanks to Melissa Leung who did a fantastic job organising the event, Adam Morris, a recent graduate of the School, who made the event the technical success it was, and Nadirur Choudry, President of LawSoc, who did a wonderful job hosting for the second year in a row.”

”



Student News

This year's show attracted more acts than ever before, including a break-dancer, three spoken word performers, and six singers and musicians. The standard of talent was incredibly high, and competition for the three prizes on offer was fierce. The award for Best Poet went to Nyasha Sithole (pictured below), a third year undergraduate. Nyasha has taken part in each Law's Got Talent contest during his time at Leeds and recently shared his thoughts about being involved: “Law's Got Talent has been an amazing opportunity to take the things I have learnt and apply them in a creative manner. For me, as a poet/law student, it is where the academic meets the creative.”

Best Musician went to second year student Celine Teh, who performed “Zombie” by the Cranberries. Describing her award, she said: “I have been singing and playing guitar for a few years now and it is always great fun to perform on stage. Winning Best Musician for Law's Got Talent was an unexpected bonus”.

The final award of the night went to Best Act, which was presented to Paidamwoyo Gambe (pictured right), a second year student, who commented: “Entering the competition was a challenge to get involved in a way that was personal instead of career related. Winning the prize was dreamlike, if it wasn't for the overwhelming feeling of excitement I wouldn't believe it actually happened.”



The evening was brought to a close by returning student boyband, and 2015 favorites, “No Direction”, followed by a staff dance act that took to the stage to Justin Timberlake's “Can't Stop the Feeling”. The staff act, featuring amongst others Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis, was repeated after the judges and audience called for an encore.

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

CCJS Annual Lecture: Sir Keir Starmer

28 April 2017, 17:30-19:00

Lecture, Moot Court Room, The Liberty Building
Leeds alum Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, QC, will deliver the annual lecture for the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies marking their 30 year anniversary.

Access to Justice Workshop – Reframing a Research Agenda

2 May 2017, 11:00-18:00

Workshop, Room G.32, The Liberty Building
This workshop is co-organised by the Centre for Law and Social Justice, and CIRLE (Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education), School of Law, University of Leeds.

Challenges for the Future of Public Parks and their Regulation

10 May 2017, 12:00-13:00

Seminar, Room G.33, The Liberty Building
This seminar will be delivered by Dr Anna Barker who is a Lecturer in Criminal Justice at the School of Law, University of Leeds, where she is a staff member of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies.

School of Law Alumni Reception – The Inner Temple

12 May 2017, 18:30-21:30

Alumni Reception, The Inner Temple, London
All graduates from the School of Law are invited to an alumni reception at The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple for a fine dining reception with wine and canapes. Tickets required.

Tracking people: technological and methodological challenges

15 June 2017, 9.30-16.30

Seminar, Room G.32, The Liberty Building
This seminar will explore: the current state of tracking devices and future design solutions; identify knowledge gaps in relation to the design and use of the technologies and examine the potential for technologies to be improved by considering the challenges across domains.

A Conference on Regulation and Criminology:

Looking Back, Thinking Forward

3 July 2017, 9:30-19:00

Conference, Moot Court Room, The Liberty Building
This conference, one of a series of events to mark the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies 30th anniversary, brings members of the Centre together with other national and international scholars with a shared interest in the regulation of individuals, organisations, and industries.

This seminar will explore the legal and ethical issues arising from actual and potential uses of tracking devices across a range of contexts.

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, please get in touch.

Editor: Luke Fairbotham
School Support Officer, Communications and Alumni

Student Editor: Grace Faint
3rd Year LLB Law

Email: law@leeds.ac.uk

Tel: 0113 343 5007

 www.law.leeds.ac.uk

 LawUniLeeds

 @Law_Leeds

Cover: Harry Chikasamba
Law's Got Talent – Page 22

School of Law

— *Personal Journeys.*
Shared Excellence