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Liberty Brief

Issue 9
December 2016

*School of Law
Newsletter*



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Whatever your views on the results of the EU referendum and the US presidential election, too many debates and commentary around these campaigns have been characterised by casual abuse and degrading rhetoric.

There has been a deliberate denigration of ‘experts’, a rejection of openness and the value of truth and a readiness to treat ‘the other’ as undeserving of human dignity. Rather than engaging with the substance of the debate, personal attacks have become commonplace. That a national newspaper felt justified in calling judges, who decided that the British government does not have power under the royal prerogative to trigger Article 50 of the European Union’s Lisbon Treaty, ‘Enemies of the People’ without in any way engaging with the reasons they gave for the decision does a terrible disservice to democracy and the rule of law. Now more than ever, we have to hold true to the values we believe in.

Ours is a community characterised by openness, informed and rational debate, deep engagement with the issues and a commitment to truth and integrity. We are a community of experts and we want you to become the experts of the future. The importance of treating all people with the dignity that their humanity deserves must, and does, characterise us. We must, and do, reject any demonising of the ‘other’. We must always hold fast to these values but it is particularly important that we do so at this time. In that regard I am particularly proud of a number of events that we have held, honours and promotions that have been achieved and research grants won, that speak centrally to these values. This issue of Liberty brief describes many of these but I do want to highlight three in particular.

First, you will all have seen the wonderful banner and exhibition in the atrium of the School, marking the passing of the Race Relations Act 1965 and later equalities legislation. The banner was won for the School by Iyiola Solanke, who has recently been deservedly promoted to a professorship. The exhibition explains her contribution to discrimination scholarship as well as the contribution made by other colleagues in our Centre for Law and Social Justice to equality and justice more generally. Our School has a powerful tradition in discrimination and equalities scholarship and the work of my academic colleagues has never been more important. Second, we recently celebrated the arrival of a new professor to the School, Oliver Lewis. Oliver is the Executive Director of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, an NGO that conducts strategic litigation around the world on behalf of people with mental impairments. All new professors give an inaugural lecture and Oliver’s was a powerful reminder of the power that law has to remedy injustices particularly for people who are frequently marginalised by society. Oliver’s work has had and will continue to have a significant impact on improving the lived experience of people with mental impairments and I know that through his scholarship, his public engagement and his teaching he will have a profound impact on this School and wider society.

Finally, Professor Gerry McCormack has, with others in the School, recently won a highly prestigious research grant from the Economic and Social Research Council. What is particularly important about this grant is that it has been won in collaboration with colleagues from Wuhan University in China. Collaboration with other leading universities around the world is essential if we are to engage with the great issues of the day. We cannot afford to be insular in our scholarship. It is particularly pleasing that this is the second such grant won by colleagues in the School. Conor O’Reilly has also won a collaborative grant to work on kidnapping in South America.

It is easy to succumb to despondency when we see values that we hold precious being attacked and denigrated. I do not however feel despondent. When I look at all my colleagues do that is changing the way we think about the world, when I look at the international impact of their work and I think about their commitment to what they do, I feel proud to work here. They are making a difference and are upholding the values we believe in. But it is not just my colleagues that live the School’s values. When I talk to you, our students, and hear about what you are doing for our community and wider society, when I listen to you talk with passion about law and criminology, and when I reflect upon the diversity and inclusiveness of our community, I feel proud to be the Head of School. It is a challenging time but we must rise to the challenges that face us and hold fast to the values we believe in. As people who have the privilege to be part of one of the leading law schools in the world, we owe this to ourselves and to the world.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

School of Law unveils Race Relations Act 1965 banner and opens exhibition on equality law

Friday 14 October 2016, saw the long awaited unveiling of the Race Relations Act 1965 (RRA 1965) banner, created by the artist Alinah Azadeh for the 2015 Anniversaries Exhibition at the Houses of Parliament and won for the School by Professor Iyiola Solanke.

“

It was a special evening. We were privileged to be joined by Alinah Azadeh to speak about the creation of her Banner, which hung in Westminster Hall throughout 2015. She said: “I loved the image of all of the Acts on scrolls in the Parliamentary Archives. Connecting these with rolls of fabric, conflating the written and the woven, is the key concept. I wanted to embed an element of diversity in the image by covering the scrolls in fabrics produced across the world, including the UK”.

”



The unveiling of the banner was also the opening of an exhibition in the School curated by Antony Butcher on the evolution of anti-discrimination law in Britain over the last 50 years since the RRA 1965. The Banner sits at the heart of the exhibition, which can be viewed in the Liberty Building.

Serendipity also brought both Rt Hon Baroness Usha Prashar and Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP onto the University campus on the same weekend, the former to give an Alumni Lecture and the latter to attend a conference on the Responsibility to Protect. Given her role as one of the first Conciliation Officers in the Race Relations Board, and his role as MP for Leeds Central the presence of the two was especially fitting. Baroness Prashar, alumnus of the University and a cross-bench peer in the House of Lords – where she is busy chairing an EU Law Sub-Committee – shared reflections upon her work as a Conciliation Officer in the 1970s, and of ‘bussing’ in Britain.

She spoke of her pride in seeing that the spirit of social justice remains strong in Leeds, and that the Banner has found such an appropriate permanent home. Hilary Benn MP reflected upon the parliamentary aspects of the Race Relations Act and spoke strongly for the Parliamentary role in preventing discrimination on any grounds.

He reminded the audience of the window signs saying ‘No Irish, No Dogs, No Blacks’ and highlighted the role of civil society in prompting parliamentary action. He also commented on the worrying increase in hate crimes following the Brexit referendum, and the negative repercussions of anti-immigrant rhetoric.



*Both banner and exhibition will be on display for the foreseeable future and can be visited from Monday–Friday between the hours of 9–5pm. A braille transcription is available. Professor Solanke’s new book, *Discrimination as Stigma*, will be published by Hart in 2017.*

International Conference on Competition Law

On 9 September 2016, the School of Law's Centre for Business Law and Practice brought together leading scholars, policy makers and practitioners at an international conference on the area of Competition Law and Regulation in Digital ZMarkets, sponsored by Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Eversheds LLP, and Google.

The conference was organised by the competition law and regulation team at the Centre comprising of Professor Pinar Akman (pictured below), Dr Peter Whelan, and Dr Konstantinos Stylianou. Around seventy delegates from around the world attended the conference held at the School of Law.

The event provided stimulating insights into the most significant challenges for competition and regulation in this area. It did so by identifying and analysing new patterns and norms in relation to: market definition and market power; the interface of regulation and competition; vertical restraints; and goods and data in online markets.



The conference had the honour of welcoming the keynote speaker Dr Andrea Coscelli (pictured above), the Acting Chief Executive of the Competition and Markets Authority, who emphasised the importance of a regulatory balance between intervention and innovation, and the current and future enforcement priorities of the CMA in this area. Throughout each of the panels there were several overarching themes. Examples of these included: whether digital markets deserve distinct regulatory and antitrust treatment; whether in the online world market power, market definition and business practices have a different meaning; and how important the role of data and computer processing is in competition analysis. Many panellists agreed that a more nuanced regulatory attitude is desirable. As emphasised by the keynote, enforcement practices must not inhibit innovation.

As this area of the law develops, it is essential that events like this bring together scholars and practitioners to shape thinking and enforcement. The School of Law, through its competition and regulation team, is keen to remain involved.



You can access the conference website containing the programme, the slides from presentations and some photos from the event via the event page on the School's website: <http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/>



Grad recruiters praise your commitment and enthusiasm



Connecting you with your ideal employer is one of our key goals. We will realise this through lots of different opportunities, including networking events, mock interviews, commercial awareness competitions and workshops, fairs and mentoring.

We have had two such employability events at the School this semester. First was the commercial law networking event held at the offices of leading law firm, Squire Patton Boggs (SPB). This provided a fantastic opportunity for those interested in commercial law to speak candidly with leading practitioners about their professional life and ways into the profession. It was also an opportunity to gain contacts in the field, who will be able to provide further advice on applying for vacation placements and training contracts. The event was attended by over sixty students who benefited from an intimate

and convivial evening with lawyers from SPB, Irwin Mitchell, Gordons, Walker Morris, Addleshaw Goddard and Bond Dickinson. Representatives from the firms praised the quality of questions asked by attendees and their enthusiasm. The second event was the mentoring launch night where around half of this year's mentors (there are one hundred in total) attended and spoke to their mentees and other students about professional life. This was also a fantastic opportunity to make contacts and to develop an understanding of life in practice.

Meet niche law firms in Leeds

We have a number of employability events lined up for next semester, including a non-commercial law networking evening. We will also stage another Stay in Leeds law fair (22 February – make a note!).

This will be a great opportunity to meet leading niche law firms in Leeds who specialise in a range of areas, including corporate, medical negligence, family, crime, complex private client and litigation. These firms will be offering work experience placements (last year there was 25 on offer) but only to those who attend the fair!



Get in touch with Paul (p.m.wragg@leeds.ac.uk) or Marika (m.hildebrandova@leeds.ac.uk) for more details.

Dr. Paul Wragg
Director of Employability

Experts assemble at workshop on 'Inclusive Education'

The Workshop "Inclusive Education: a Rights-based Approach to Policy Making" took place on 14 September 2016. It aimed to share perspectives on inclusive education and to enhance collaboration on the topic across the White Rose Universities (Leeds, Sheffield and York).

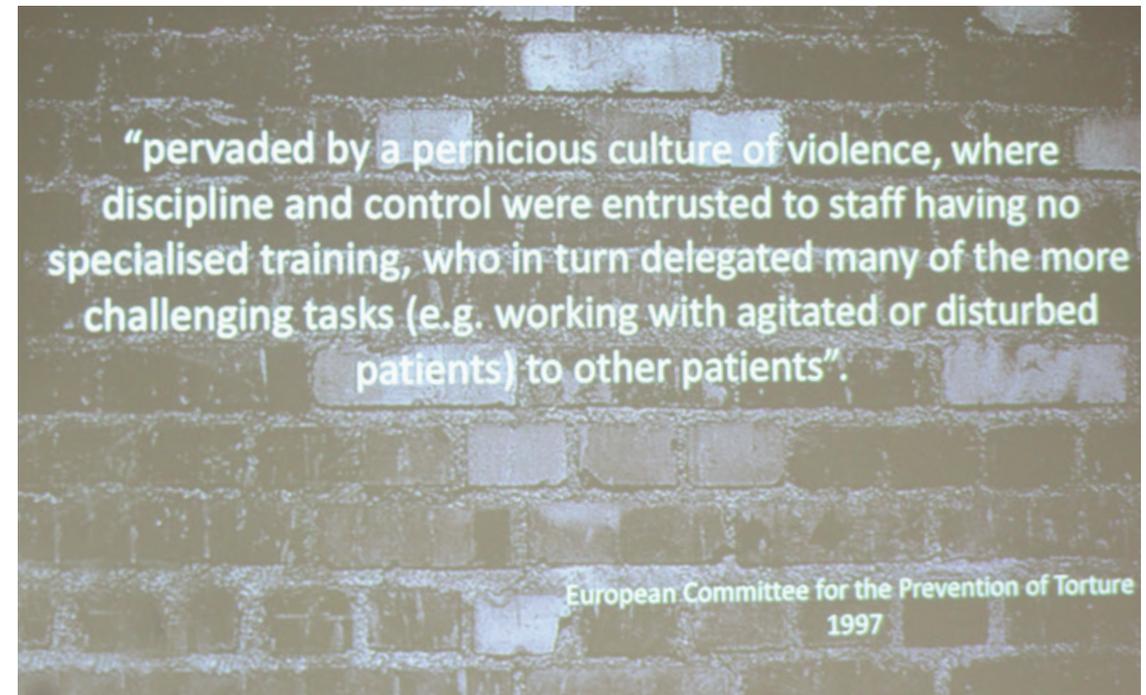
The workshop explored ways forward in terms of researching inclusive education and promoting an inclusive agenda in partnership with disabled people. The discussions focused on the problems, challenges, methods and research needs with regard to the right to inclusive education. Particular attention was also given to General Comment No. 4 on the Right to Inclusive Education, recently adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its potential use for future collaborative research on inclusive education.

The first part of the workshop was chaired by Paula Clarke, Associate Professor in Childhood and Inclusive Education at the University of Leeds, after which, a roundtable discussion on Inclusive Education took place. Dan Goodley, Professor of Disability Studies and Education at the University of Sheffield spoke on "Inclusive education as a radical intervention in society informed by the politics of disability". Oliver Lewis, Executive Director of MDAC and Professor of Law and Social Justice at the University of Leeds followed with his presentation on "Obligations regarding the right to inclusive education in light of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)". Charlotte O'Brien, Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of York, then discussed "Activating disability rights for asserting equality and preventing discrimination in the context of education."

Richard Rieser from World of Inclusion provided a response to the discussions before Dr Gauthier de Beco (pictured), Lecturer in Disability Law at the University of Leeds chaired the second part of the workshop on the "Way Forward". Tara Flood, Director of ALLFIE, and then Shaun Webster and Claire Drake from CHANGE, discussed "Partnership with Disabled People". The final discussion of the day on "Collaboration and Funding Opportunities" came from Tamara Hervey, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law at the University of Sheffield and then Angharad Beckett, Associate Professor of Political Sociology from the University of Leeds. Conclusions were offered by Dr Gauthier de Beco.



The workshop built on longstanding collaborations developed by the University's Centre for Disability Studies, and was generously hosted by the Centre for Law & Social Justice.



Professor Oliver Lewis delivers inaugural lecture

Professor Oliver Lewis gave his inaugural lecture on 3 November 2016. Entitled "Disabling Legal Barriers", the lecture drew on his experience of litigation and advocacy in central and eastern Europe over the last fifteen years.



Drawing on the themes of anguish, activism and argument, Oliver called on law students to become social justice activists, whatever area of law they go into.

Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis commented "Oliver's lecture powerfully demonstrated the important role that lawyers can play in improving the lived experience of people with mental disabilities. His call to action to lawyers, present and future, must be heeded. We look forward to building with him, through the education of our students, the development of our Centre for Law and Social Justice and the Disability Law Hub, and our public engagement, a powerful group of people committed to creating a more just and fair society."



You can download the text of the speech and watch Professor Oliver Lewis' inaugural lecture online www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/

Introducing...

Sorcha McCormack
Research Assistant



My role involves...

Overseeing the “Disability Law Research Project”. This research programme is a collaboration between the School of Law and the charity ‘Cerebra’ that supports children with neurological disorders and their families.

This project is split into two areas where students will be researching, interviewing families and gathering data from Local Authority websites. The topics are:

1. Assessing the cost effectiveness of adaptations to homes to make them safe for disabled young people (using ‘Disabled Facilities Grants’).
2. Assessing whether local authority websites are giving out correct information about the rights of disabled children to have school transport assistance.

The other part of my role involves supporting grant applications in the areas of health, social care, and disability. This includes co-ordinating different aspects of the bid, liaising between applicants inside and outside of the School of Law and supporting the production of technical aspects of grant applications.

Before working in the School of Law...

I was working as a Special Education Needs Legal Officer in a Local Authority dealing particularly with SEN Tribunal Appeals. Before that, I studied at the National University of Ireland Galway where I gained my BA, LLB & LLM. Afterwards, I qualified as a barrister at the Honorable Society of Kings Inns. I then moved to Durham where I am still studying (part time) for my PhD which concerns the treatment of incapacitated rape victims in law and society.

I wanted to work at Leeds because...

They have the biggest group of disability law academics in the world. I am honoured to be surrounded by so many influential academics and to have the opportunity to engage with and learn from them. Research impact has always been a concern of mine, I’ve never really seen the point of researching something that can’t make a difference. Considering Leeds rankings, I have obviously made a great decision!

The best part of my job is...

The potential for changing people’s lives! Our research findings, and how we disseminate them, may actually make a difference to the face of the law, its implementation and how disabled people and their families live their lives.

The part of my role I am most looking forward to is...

Engaging with the community and working with students from different fields. We have used this research project as an opportunity to create an interdisciplinary team. We have recruited students from the School of Law to conduct research, and Media studies to help generate media attention to our projects. I am also looking forward to working with the community as this plays a prominent role in the dissemination of our research. We will be working with local families of disabled children, meeting with MPs, members of Local Authorities, and the NHS to name a few.

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

Watching or playing sports, eating out and going on weekend breaks!



Yanna Papadodimitraki
Research Assistant

My role involves...

Working as a social science researcher in two interdisciplinary projects (incorporating disciplines such as Criminal Law, Criminology, Computer Science, Networks and Distributed Systems) that explore cybercrime. The projects are funded by EPSRC and are a collaboration of several HE institutions (e.g. Cardiff University, Newcastle University, University of Leeds, etc.)

Before working in the School of Law...

A member of staff at the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (University of Strathclyde), experiencing the criminal justice system both as a practitioner and as a researcher. My previous research experience is on individual and collaborative projects on offender rehabilitation and youth justice.

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

Watching movies, dancing, practicing martial arts and rubbing Pixie’s (adopted cat) soft belly!



Suren Gomtsyan
Lecturer in Business Law

My role involves...

My role is a combination of the two main academic activities: research and teaching. I am teaching modules related to corporate law and advising students during the dissertation writing process. Like in teaching, on the research side my primary focus is on corporate law matters and alternative modes of governance, such as privately created legal orders.

Before working in the School of Law...

I was a PhD researcher and lecturer at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Part of my doctoral studies I spent at Fordham University School of Law in New York.

I wanted to work in Leeds because...

What really attracts me at the School of Law is the small family-like community where students and staff seem to support and care about each other. Another important factor is the focus on a few clusters around which the School tries to build its reputation of excellence. Obviously, business law is one of these clusters.

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

Cycling and travelling. Leeds and its surroundings have an amazing aerial view from a plane, so I am looking forward to the next cycling season in spring (I hope to get used to the left-hand traffic rules by that time).

How China can learn from the UK experience



The ESRC and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) have awarded a research team at the School of Law £320,000 for a project titled “Boosting growth through strengthening investor and creditor protection in China: How China can learn from the UK experience”. It is one of nine collaborative research projects that seek to develop and deepen understanding of the Chinese financial system and its crucial role in supporting the future development and continued growth of the Chinese economy.

The research team at Leeds, that includes Professors Gerry McCormack (Principle Investigator), Roger Halson, Andrew Keay, and Joan Loughrey, Associate Professors Sarah Brown and Jingchen Zhao, and Zinian Zhang, will work in collaboration with colleagues from Wuhan University, China, who have been awarded a further £200k for their participation in the project.

Dr Paul Wragg celebrates historic moment

Dr Paul Wragg, Associate Professor of Law, has been working closely with the IMPRESS organisation, an independent body, formed in the aftermath of the Leveson Inquiry into press culture and ethics.

In October, its application for recognition as a press regulator was approved by the Press Recognition Panel. This historic moment means that IMPRESS is the UK’s first truly independent press regulator. Newspapers who sign up for membership with IMPRESS will benefit from an inexpensive arbitration scheme that allows them and those affected by their work to settle disputes quickly and cost effectively without recourse to expensive legal proceedings.

Members of IMPRESS will be judged against a code of conduct that Dr Wragg and other members of the code committee have devised. Dr Wragg, who specialises in privacy law, press freedom and press regulation, commented “this is a pivotal moment in the history of press freedom and press regulation. Here is an opportunity to better protect newspapers from costly legal actions and to better protect real people from the real harm that newspapers sometimes do”.



Professor Subedi on lecture tour of China

Professor Surya P. Subedi, has been invited to deliver a series of international law lectures at three Chinese universities – Beijing Normal University School of Law, Tsinghua University School of Law, and International Law Institute of China Foreign Affairs University.

UK IVR Conference on ‘Law and Social Sustainability’



On 29–30 October, Dr. Jen Hendry and Dr. Ilias Trispiotis co-organised the 2016 Annual Conference of the UK International Association of Legal and Social Philosophy (UK IVR). This conference, on the theme of ‘Law and Social Sustainability’, was hosted in the School of Law and was generously supported by both the School and the Centre for Law and Social Justice.

The aim of the conference was to explore the connections between law and broader, social, interpretations of sustainability. To that end, it included more than 40 different paper presentations and welcomed more than 60 delegates, who explored and challenged the relationship between law and social sustainability from different theoretical angles including, among others, legal theory, political philosophy, socio-legal theory, legal history, legal psychology, and culture. Of particular note were the contributions of the Conference’s three keynote speakers: Dr. Virginia Mantouvalou (UCL Laws) discussed the danger of generating and perpetuating structural vulnerability in current legal provisions protecting against modern slavery; Professor

Neil Walker (Edinburgh) explored the evolution of the experimental openness of the European Union and how the EU’s legal and procedural experimentation could prove challenging for its future; and Professor Leslie Green (Oxford) analysed parliamentary, popular and state conceptions of sovereignty as well as their interaction and normative priority in cases when they might come into conflict.

Like justice and truth, sustainability is an objective whose value few would openly dispute and, although conceptually ambiguous, its forward-looking, non-static flair continues to inspire and permeate seminal works on environmental policy and development.



“
Some speakers were specifically interested in the connections between legal procedures, including judicial review, authority, judicial diversity and access to justice with social sustainability.
”

But are there additional links between sustainability and law? How does and how should law affect social sustainability? Could we use law decisively to redress labour precarity and disadvantage, and how? How can refugee law, gender equality studies, disability theory and antidiscrimination ensure fair and sustainable communities? How do different analytical traditions, such as human rights, legal and political philosophy, and law and economics, interpret fairness and social cohesion? How should such perspectives (in)form law and policy?

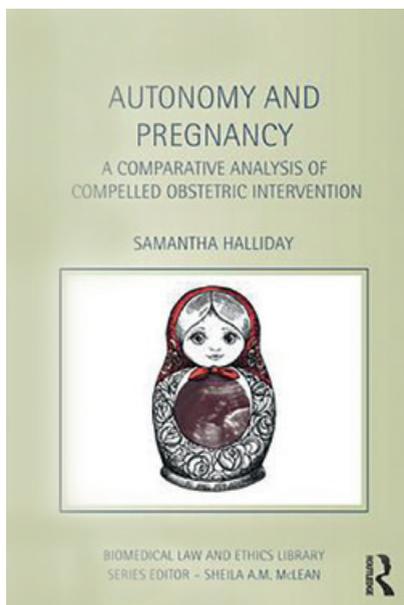
Some speakers were specifically interested in the connections between legal procedures, including judicial review, authority, judicial diversity and access to justice with social sustainability.

Others focused on the role of values and social goals, including equality, legality and social inclusion, in the consolidation and protraction of fair and sustainable communities. These discussions are ongoing, and there are plans afoot to publish these proceedings next year.

Sam Halliday awarded prize for best doctoral thesis

The Juristische Studiengesellschaft Gießen e.V. awarded Samantha Halliday the prize for the best doctoral thesis of the Faculty of Law of the Justus-Liebig Universität Gießen, the prize was presented on 28 October 2016 in Gießen.

Sam's doctoral thesis "Constructing the Foetus as a Patient: A Comparative Analysis of Compelled Obstetric Intervention" was graded summa cum laude (outstanding) by each of the examiners, as was the Disputation (the public defence of the thesis). Her thesis considered the different models of pregnancy and varying conceptions of protection afforded to the foetus and the pregnant woman in cases where obstetric intervention (primarily a blood transfusion, or a caesarean) is indicated to save the foetus.



News in Brief

①

Associate Prof. Lydia Bleasdale-Hill has raised £2,750 for Parkinson's UK this year. She ran the Liverpool Half Marathon in May, the Berlin Marathon in September and a ten mile course in York in October. (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LKBH>).

②

Dr. Jen Hendry has been promoted to an Associate Professorship. This recognises the leadership she has shown in education and module development, the high quality of her research and her collegiality and preparedness to take on important roles in the School.

③

Dr. Carly Lightowlers and Dr. Jose Pina-Sánchez co-wrote a paper with Julian Roberts (University of Oxford), published by the Sage Criminology and Criminal Justice Journal. The paper is titled "Exploring the punitive surge: Crown Court sentencing practices before and after the 2011 English riots." (<https://goo.gl/VbNooP>).

④

Prof. Pinar Akman participated in a live radio interview, broadcast from New York on 21 October. She was interviewed for her reaction to the recent Advocate General Opinion issued on the Intel appeal at the Court of Justice of the European Union (Case C-413/14 P).

⑤

Prof. Gerrard McCormack delivered a Continuing Professional Development seminar on 6 September, at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and spoke to the International Association of Insolvency Regulators in a conference organized by the Ministry of Law in Singapore on 7 September.

⑥

Prof. Anna Lawson was invited to give a presentation at a European Parliament hearing on the proposal for a European Accessibility Act on 26 September. The presentations were followed by a series of comments and interventions from MEPs and also by the director of the European Disability Forum.

⑦

Associate Prof. Lydia Bleasdale-Hill and Mrs Sarah Humphreys organised a seminar on "Student Resilience and the Educational Context" on 17 November, that considered how the backdrop to an undergraduate student's life might support or undermine their ability to cope in situations of adversity, specifically in contexts over which the University has some control or influence.

⑧

Prof. Anna Lawson participated in the Social Forum of the UN Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 3 October. The topic of this year's Forum was the human rights of disabled people and marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

⑨

Prof. Andrew Francis was invited to speak at the European Conference on QAA on the 13 October 2016. The one day conference was co-organised by the Education and Law Review and the Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona and brought together European experts on Quality Assurance and Staff Accreditation.

⑩

Dr. Peter Whelan presented a paper at the 10th Annual Competition Law, Economics and Policy Conference on 6 October, which was co-organised by the Competition Commission of South Africa and the Competition Tribunal of South Africa.

⑪

Dr. César Ramírez-Montes presented a research study on the EU ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty at a workshop on the rights of persons with disabilities, for the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions on 9 November.



Student News

LawSoc President address

Hello everyone, I'm Nadi and I am the proud President of the University of Leeds Law Society.

This semester has been an incredibly busy and successful one for LawSoc, and one that our members have thoroughly enjoyed. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have become new members this year, and also to those who have continued to support us year in, year out. This year we have welcomed many new members from international backgrounds, and as a society we are keen to promote how open, inclusive and welcoming we are.

At the start of the semester, we had our First Year Social, which proved to be incredibly popular, the Academic Showcase Competition Presentation, the Annual Book Sale, the first Equality and Diversity Social, first Sports Social, and of course Annual Buddies Night, where we elected our first year reps. Congratulations to Jonah Moore and Charlotte Beardwell on your successful appointments.

We also had our first international buffet night this semester, which was kindly sponsored by Blacks Solicitors. The event really did grasp the values of inclusivity and equality that we as a society have been tirelessly trying to promote. The academic competitions have also been incredibly popular with a record number of signups for each of the debating, negotiating and mooting competitions, and we have held a number of successful workshops including 'Career routes to becoming a Barrister'.



The career presentations have also remained a central part of our LawSoc calendar and it has been extremely pleasing that all career events and presentations have been well attended by all years.

On the social side of things, we have had another busy and packed semester! We had Buddies Night, a Halloween Social and will be having our annual Christmas social later in December. November also saw LawSoc members fly to Budapest for a three day holiday. We are all looking forward to our Law's Got Talent event in December, which is looking to be another highlight with eleven student acts and an unforgettable staff act!

I would like to thank the Law School and the staff for the great cooperation we've had this year and look forward to building upon our relationship further this year. A special thank you goes to Gaby Hogson, our General Secretary and to my wonderful committee, who have worked extremely hard this semester, I couldn't be prouder of all their hard work and support. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas vacation and look forward to seeing you next semester.

Nadirur Choudhury
LawSoc President

Student News

Mooting Success

On Saturday 12 November, Joe Shortman and Charlie Towl travelled to London to compete against Queen Mary's University in the first round of the Landmark Chambers Property moot.

Landmark Chambers holds an annual Property Law Mooting Competition, which provides students who are particularly interested in property law with an opportunity to develop their understanding of the subject and to gain some insight into the realities of practice through meeting members of the Chambers' property law team. The competition comprises of a number of 'knock out' rounds followed by a Grand Final that is judged in London by senior members of Landmark's Property Team and/or the judiciary. The two individual competitors who obtain the highest scores in the Final will each be awarded £500 and the opportunity to undertake a mini-pupillage in the Chambers. After attending a number of workshops and mooting sessions it was success for Joe and Charlie, as they made it through the first round. A fantastic achievement and best of luck for the next stage!



The Postgraduate Law Society

The Postgraduate Law Society has had a very busy first semester, and has plans to make this academic year the most engaging to date.

With a taught postgraduate community of over 160 students, and a diverse proportion of international students from across the globe, we are committed to ensuring that opportunities for postgraduate students to become involved in School activities are readily available and have the full backing of the School to ensure this takes place.

After our initial 'Bring and Share' event held at the end of October, that showcased the culinary skills of the international students, our Bonfire Night Social proved to be extremely popular as we headed to the Woodhouse Moor bonfire after a reception in the Atrium. We have a free trip to the Supreme Court in London coming up on 12 December and a Christmas Social still to plan (watch this space!).

One of our main goals is to dispel the view that undertaking a postgraduate degree is a lonely undertaking. Our purpose is to enhance the experience of postgraduates at Leeds and we have many events planned to ensure that all of us remember our time here fondly and make lasting connections.

Luke Robinson
Law Postgraduate Society Secretary

‘Pro bono is for life, not just for law school’

National Pro Bono Week 2016

Celebrating pro bono in Leeds

Student volunteers from the School of Law’s Legal Advice Clinic were honoured to participate in the LawWorks’ celebratory event as part of National Pro Bono week. Representatives from the University of Law and BPP University were also in attendance, as well as members of the Leeds Law Society. The evening acknowledged the fantastic work being done by clinics across Leeds and the vital role they play in ensuring that legal advice is open to everyone in the local community. The importance of pro bono has been particularly elevated in recent years due to the substantial cuts made to legal aid in 2013. Pro bono activities, such as the clinics, is essential in order to provide access to legal advice for those who no longer qualify for legal aid. The event also provided a great opportunity to promote clinic work and encourage more lawyers to get involved, allowing us to continue to expand the clinics, and reach out to even more people.

Charlotte Mitchell
3rd Year LLB Law

Howard League Bake Sale

In October students across a number of programmes organised a bake sale to raise awareness for the current campaigns of the Howard League for Penal Reform. The bake sale was a great success and raised over £170. The bake sale was one of a many activities planned by students with the view to setting up a division of the League in Leeds. The Howard League is a national charity that works towards less crime, safer communities, and fewer people in prison.

Silent Auction

On Monday 7 November 2016, LawSoc held a Silent Auction to mark the start of National Pro Bono Week. Prizes for the auction were donated by various generous organisations so that all funds raised could go to the chosen charity HALT (Help, Advice and Law Team). The night went extremely well with people bidding generous amounts on the fantastic prizes, raising over £800 in total. A special thank you goes to Addleshaw Goddard for sponsoring the event and to Nik Peasgood from Halt who joined us for the auction (pictured below with Courtney Leader).

Courtney Leader
2nd Year LLB Law



Our contribution to the local community

Students and staff have always been forthcoming with support when pro bono opportunities are concerned, and the diverse range of voluntary work the School of Law is involved in is worth celebrating.

This academic year has seen an even greater commitment by students at Leeds to get involved in wider community projects. Student volunteers are helping out at the Personal Support Unit at Leeds Combined Court, where they provide practical and emotional support and information to personal litigants. Alongside the Legal Advice Clinics, around sixteen Law and Criminal Justice students are now involved in a Welfare Rights Clinic in partnership with Leeds City Council. Students provide support to people who are applying for personal independent payments which help disabled people with the cost of living.

StreetLeeds is another enterprise through which students are involved in pro bono work. School of Law volunteers are also working collaboratively with students from the University of Law, BPP and Leeds Beckett on the StreetLeeds project. Teams of volunteers, one from each institute, research and prepare presentations on various aspects of the law to deliver to local charities or community organisations.

In some cases, these presentations are used to develop the knowledge and skills of the staff at these organisations or the presentations are delivered to users of the community service.

Professor Luke Clements is leading a project between the School of Law and national charity, Cerebra. Cerebra is committed to improve the lives of children with neurological conditions. Professor Clements’ research will follow two stems, it will assess the cost effectiveness of adapting homes to make them safe for disabled children, and it will assess whether local authority websites are giving the correct information about the rights of disabled children in relation to assistance with school transport. This research project is being supported by around 40 students from the School of Law, across all years (pictured above).

Grace Faint
3rd Year LLB Law



Full circle at the Leeds Law Fair

This year's Law Fair was a little bit different for Josh Battat and Bren McCarthy. Having both secured training contracts on the completion of their degrees, Josh and Bren attended the fair not as students, but as representatives of their future firms.



Josh Battat
3rd Year LLB Law

A well-deserved appointment

Special congratulations go to Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal, who has been appointed the 2016–2017 PGT School Representative for Law. This year's recruitment has been especially competitive and successful candidates demonstrated their excellence throughout the assessment process.

Josh, a final Year LLB student and future trainee at Norton Rose Fulbright commented on his experience: "Each year the University of Leeds law fair provides students with the perfect opportunity to network with the country's very best law firms – from the global elite to the regional powerhouses – and determine which firms appeal to them. This year's law fair, however, was entirely different to the ones I have previously experienced. Having received a training contract from Norton Rose Fulbright last summer, I was tasked with representing the firm and providing advice to students, as opposed to seeking it. This was an exciting, yet strange, transition and one that required me to share my recent experiences with other students. Being a future trainee and a student at the same time also meant other students were able to approach me with more ease and confidence. It was extremely rewarding to help other students and I look forward to attending more law fairs in the future."

Bren McCarthy, former President of LawSoc, and future trainee at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, said: "Representing Freshfields at the Law Fair, as a future trainee, was a proud moment. Many different people have helped me in getting where I am today and I am so grateful for their support. I am now in the position to assist other people in fulfilling their ambition to become a lawyer, and representing the firm at the fair was the perfect opportunity for me to do this."

Over the course of the day it became very obvious which students had done their research and had a genuine interest in the firm. Meeting a member of a firm is the perfect opportunity for students to make a good impression, and if you do, you can get remembered for it."



Annual LawSoc Careers Dinner

The Leeds LawSoc Careers Dinner, organised by Eleni Rawson, was held on 3 November 2016. It was the biggest Careers Dinner in LawSoc history, with twenty commercial firms and three barristers in attendance. The Careers Dinner was a unique opportunity to network and ask in depth questions; perfect for the pending application deadlines.

Eleni Rawson tells us about her experience on the night: "The Careers Dinner was a great night and I'm glad so many people found it useful and fun. It was great to see that all of the organisation was worth it! I'd like to thank Georgia Ma for securing sponsorships over summer and Matthew Tobin for contacting the barristers. Utilising the excellent connections that LawSoc has made with top law firms over the years was vital. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and made the night a huge success."

But what did you think?

"The Careers Dinner was such a useful experience. I now have the chance to go for two mini pupillages at chambers' in Leeds. This was such an invaluable experience for me, it will have long lasting results on my career."

Liv Jubb – 2nd Year LLB Law

"I sat with magic circle firm Slaughter and May at the Careers Dinner. The networking I did has given me some very useful contacts in the commercial law field – the speed networking session after dinner was particularly useful as I gained honest insights into the firms."

Megan Bounds – 2nd Year LLB Law



Student Engagement Ambassadors

Introducing your School of Law Student Engagement Ambassadors... Amanda Umobi, Caterina Tavagnutti and Grace Faint (pictured).

This year's ambassadors are keen to support the development of events that improve employability and enhance vital skills that are transferrable to any career. They will keep you up to date with what is going on in and around the School and encourage you to attend events that might be useful.

Caterina shared her view on why getting involved in School activities is so important:

"Getting involved as a Criminal Justice student means getting first-hand experience of what you learn in class on a daily basis. It's a chance to test yourself and ask 'what impact do I want to have on society' during and after university?"

Grace said:

"University provides the perfect platform to network and get involved in all the events and opportunities it offers. I would urge other students to attend a few events each semester, it helps you to rule in-or-out potential career options and meet people who can advise you accordingly. Life at Leeds goes very quickly, so be prepared for life afterwards."

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

Law's Got Talent

7 December 2016, 18:15

Social Event, Stylus, LUU

The third annual Law's Got Talent competition will showcase some of the finest staff and student acts from the School of Law.

Developing a More Effective Chinese Company Law – From Hard Law to Soft Law in Corporate Governance

12 December 2016, 17:00

Lecture, 1.11, The Liberty Building

Delivered by Professor Roman Tomasic

Tracking people: scoping the landscape and debates across domains

14 December 2016

Workshop, venue TBC

Secured Transactions Law Reform:

Priority Rules and the Impact on Consumers

6 January 2017

Conference, Moot Court Room, The Liberty Building

Advance decision-making: the European dimension (Seminar 6)

17 January 2017

Workshop, room TBC, The Liberty building

Centre for Criminal Justice Studies

Frank Dawtry lecture: Vera Baird

30 January 2017

Lecture, LG.06, The Liberty Building

2017 marks the 30th anniversary of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies. Across the year the Centre will be putting on a series of events to celebrate the anniversary.

VAT Anti-fraud Policy, Third Party Liability, and the Rule of Law Professor Rita de la Feria inaugural lecture

7 February 2017, 17:30

Lecture, Moot Court Room, The Liberty Building

Public lecture with Dr Julia Powles

13 February 2017, 17:00

Lecture, LG.06, The Liberty Building

Women Breaking Barriers annual lecture

2 March 2017

Lecture, room TBC, The Liberty Building

Rail Franchises, Competition and Public Service

CBLP Annual Lecture: Professor Tony Prosser

6 March 2017, 17:00

Lecture, Moot Court Room, The Liberty Building

The Seductions of Quantification: The Politics of Measuring Human Rights and Gender Violence Law and Social Justice Annual Lecture: Professor Sally Merry

w/c 13 March 2017

Lecture, venue TBC

The General Theory of Second Best Professor Richard Markovits

21 March 2017, 15:00

Lecture, G.33, The Liberty Building

Selling and sub-priming the subject through stealth: Drawing digital divisions through tracking and trading

26 April 2017, 14:00

Lecture, G.33, The Liberty Building

Delivered by Professor Beverley Skeggs

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.

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School of Law

— *Personal Journeys.*
Shared Excellence