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Liberty Brief

Issue 8
October 2016

*School of Law
Newsletter*



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

*To all our new students,
welcome to the School.
To all returning students
welcome back.*

As you know, it has been a good few months for the University and the School. The University is the Good University Guide's University of the Year, having been runner up for the last two years. Particularly pleasing was the comment of the awarding panel that Leeds is able to 'strike a balance between being a leading research institution and having demanding, able undergraduates who expect equally dynamic teaching.' There have been equally strong performances by our School. We were second in the Russell Group for the National Student Survey with our highest ever overall satisfaction level of 96%, and are now ranked 7th in the UK in the Good University Guide, only fractionally behind UCL and Nottingham. My strong sense is that this reflects quite accurately where we are, relative to others. Our research is strong, our education as good as pretty much any other law school in the UK, you, our students, are among the very best of your generation, and most importantly ours is a strong community. But, and I know you have heard me say this before, there must be no complacency. We are doing well but must continue to work hard, to support each other and be the best ambassadors we can be for our School. Most importantly, we need you to continue to challenge us: to let us know how we can make our law school better. It is our law school and we have the power and the responsibility to shape it in our vision.

“We were second in the Russell Group for the National Student Survey with our highest ever overall satisfaction level of 96%”

One of the real highlights for me of last year was LawSoc winning Society of the Year at the National Societies Awards 2016. LawSoc has always been a brilliant society. The events that are organised, social and professional, the competitions and sporting opportunities are second to none in this University. LawSoc plays an absolutely critical role in the health and success of our community. Last year's society was particularly strong and on behalf of the School I want to congratulate all who were involved in running it.

As I know you are aware, the quality of the School's staff both academic and administrative is extremely high. My colleagues achieve remarkable things and it is somewhat invidious to highlight individuals' successes. I do however want to mention two particularly impressive achievements. First, Professor Anna Lawson received the Bob Hepple Equality Award. The award, established in the name of Nelson Mandela's lawyer, is given to a person who has made a significant and lasting impact in the field of human rights and social justice and Anna was deservedly praised for the work she has done, both as an academic and activist, to improve the lived experience of disabled people (<http://www.equalrightstrust.org/news/winner-bob-hepple-equality-award-calls-vigilance-light-brexit>). Second, Professor Adam Crawford has been made an honorary lifetime member of the British Society of Criminology in recognition of his service to the discipline (<http://www.britisoccrim.org/whos-who/honorary-members/#Adam%20Crawford>). This is a tremendous, and entirely deserved, honour. It represents appropriate recognition of all that Adam has done to define and develop criminology at a national (and international) level. He joins a very distinguished group of holders of this award. To both Anna and Adam, I offer our warmest congratulations.

There are many other developments that are highlighted in this new look Liberty Brief and I hope that you find reading about them of interest. Do let us know what you think and if there are other matters that you would want to see covered. One final matter to tell you about. I am pleased to be able to tell you that I have been reappointed to be Head of our School for another five years. It has been a tremendous honour and pleasure to undertake the role over the last three years. Together we have, I think, achieved a lot. I am looking forward to the next five years and want to thank you all for the support that you have shown me.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education Launched

We are now one of the leading law schools in the country for research and education in the legal professions and wider legal services market.

The School enjoys strong relationships with the profession in Leeds – the largest legal and financial sector in the country outside London. This relationship between university legal education and the legal profession is critically important for both sectors. A strong and clear link between the academic discipline of law and practice enables our students to develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attributes to forge successful careers within the profession, thereby also benefitting the profession. Moreover, it enables innovation in legal services to be informed by cutting edge research, and for research in universities to deliver an impact in the most disciplinarily relevant environment.

Through the Centre, we aim to establish the School of Law as an international leader of innovation and research in legal education and criminal justice education. The Centre will seek to develop and disseminate evidence based teaching innovation and produce high quality and impactful research.

The Centre will be the School's 'think tank' – the driver and enabler of best practice and innovation in all aspects of learning, teaching and co-curricular initiatives in criminology, criminal justice and law.

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The establishment of the Centre is a statement of the School's commitment to investing in the highest quality of student education across criminology, criminal justice and law. With the research expertise now within the School, and our excellent and innovative education specialists, we are now able to ensure that our research in legal and criminal justice education and the professions informs our educational practices and vice versa.

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It will identify and address the key questions in university education in law and criminal justice, and the wider legal services and criminal justice sectors through cutting edge research. It will explore the role that educational innovation can play in supporting the development of confident, critical, creative thinkers with an acute understanding of their role and responsibilities within a global community.

Professor Andrew Francis and Associate Professor Nick Taylor are Co-Directors of the Centre and said, “The establishment of the Centre is a statement of the School's commitment to investing in the highest quality of student education across criminology, criminal justice and law. With the research expertise now within the School, and our excellent and innovative education specialists, we are now able to ensure that our research in legal and criminal justice education and the professions informs our educational practices and vice versa. Students are going to benefit enormously.”



It's a Knockout!

Staff and students join forces to take on the classic BBC gameshow.

On 10 July, a team of five students and five staff, captained by LLB student Callum Lee, joined together to take part in a DLA Piper inspired charity event – a remake of that classic gameshow 'It's a Knockout'.

Taking place in Roundhay Park, the team (known as Liberty X) took part in 12 different challenges, including the traditional penguin sumo wrestling, giant racing, and budgie jumping. Alongside this there was a liberal splashing of soapy water and wet sponges.

There were more than 30 teams taking part, with the School ranking an impressive 6th – including a straight run of five victories in a row. But for the Head of School's inability to pair socks from a giant washing machine, or Professor Cram's inability to roll a giant doughnut it could have been more. The DLA Piper event raised more than £16,000 on the day for Maggie's, who are fundraising to bring a cancer support unit to St James' Hospital in Leeds.

Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education

Top 10 UK Law School 2017

The School of Law has recently been ranked 7th in the UK by The Times/Sunday Times University League Table 2017, securing a firm position in the top ten of UK Law Schools.



The Times league table is the UK's most authoritative university ranking, and measures student satisfaction with teaching quality and the wider university experience, research quality, entry qualifications, graduate job prospects, degree outcomes achieved, student-staff ratios, services and facilities spend and completion rates.

The league table ranking came in only weeks after the School received equally impressive results in the National Student Survey (NSS). The School scored 96% for overall course satisfaction, coming in at second place in the Russell Group after Cambridge.

The survey, aimed mainly at final year students, gathers opinions from students about their experiences of their courses, asking them to provide honest feedback on what it has been like to study on their course, at their institution.

Head of School, Professor Alastair Mullis said: “This result demonstrates clearly that the very best law schools can provide an exceptional student experience while at the same time producing world class research.”

One year on for StreetLeeds



It has almost been a year since the launch of the StreetLeeds public education project, providing collaborative opportunities for law students and legal professionals in Leeds.

In its pilot year, the StreetLeeds team wanted to deliver a project that would allow law students and legal professionals to work together to deliver a series of workshops to members of the local community. Students were recruited from the four law schools in Leeds – the University of Leeds, BPP University, the University of Law and Leeds Beckett University. In October 2015, 40 student volunteers were recruited and trained to participate in the project. At a law firm event in the same month, more than 20 law firm mentors signed up to support the project.

At the official launch event at the Leeds Civic Hall in February 2016, mentors, students and service providers were given the opportunity to find out more about StreetLeeds, including a presentation from the StreetLeeds team.

Since the launch, StreetLeeds have continued to develop new relationships with service providers in the city, which will enable an increase in the number of workshops that are delivered in 2016/17.

To date, the teams have delivered workshops on a variety of legal topics, including immigration law, landlord and tenant law, domestic violence, employment law, how to set up a business, police stop and search powers, and employment law.

In April, the StreetLeeds team attended the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards at the House of Commons. Recognising the importance of student pro bono work, StreetLeeds was shortlisted for 'Best New Activity'. Although the project did not come away with the final award, making the shortlist was a fantastic recognition of the project's collaborative work.

Develop your writing skills

This year we are working with the Royal Literary Fund to provide opportunities for students and staff to develop their writing skills. The Royal Literary Fund is a UK charity which has been supporting authors since 1790. In addition to providing grants and pensions to writers in financial difficulty, it also places writers in universities to help students develop their writing.

Neil Hanson, a Royal Literary Fund Fellow, will be based in the School for two days a week throughout this academic year.

"I'm a full-time professional author of 60 published books. Under my own name I write narrative non-fiction, including books on the Spanish Armada, the Great Fire of London, the First World War and "The Custom of the Sea" – Regina v Dudley & Stephens. I'm also a ghost writer – a writer of other people's books for them, usually but not exclusively autobiographies.

I've also been a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund since 2009 and a Consultant Fellow since 2014, meaning that I have considerable experience in helping undergraduates, postgraduates and academic and non-academic staff to improve their written work. I'm in room 1.21 of the Liberty Building, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and available for confidential one-on-one consultations on any aspect of academic writing, including planning, structure, style and the most vital and often neglected skill: editing."



You can book an appointment at www.timetrade.com/book/PPP4N



White Rose Doctoral Training Centre

We are delighted to announce that the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has re-accredited the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (WRDTC). Being part of the WRDTC means that each year we are able to offer fully-funded ESRC studentships in socio-legal studies or criminology. It also means that our postgraduate researchers are able to benefit from a wide range of training and development opportunities hosted by the WRDTC.

New study abroad programmes announced

The School has strong links with a number of international institutions and welcomes students to Leeds from more than forty countries. Europe, South East Asia, Africa, the Gulf, the Indian sub-continent and North America are all represented in our student body. The LLB Law with French Law has been well established at the School for many years and with an ever increasing interest in internationalisation it was decided that the time had come to expand the availability of study abroad programmes.



The School has received many ESRC funded studentships in recent years, and while it is not yet clear how many PhD studentships may be available, it is fantastic news that we are in a position in which we are able to access these.

Particular thanks and congratulations go to Professor Adam Crawford, who led the application. Thanks to Adam's involvement, the School has also been identified as the lead unit of assessment for the 'Security, conflict and justice' pathway. This is a prestigious and influential position (in a cross-institutional initiative) that the School of Law will benefit considerably from.

With this in mind, from September 2017, students will have two additional programmes to choose from at the School. The LLB will be available with German Law or with Hispanic Law. Students will complete the course over four years with an integrated year studying abroad. The programmes will offer the opportunity to combine the qualifying law degree with developing language skills and learning about a different legal system. It is expected that many applicants will be keen to study in Germany or Spain, but the chance to travel further afield will also be available. In the case of the LLB with Hispanic Law, there will also be the opportunity to study in a number of Latin American universities.

School to benefit from Pathways to Law expansion

The School of Law has been awarded further funding to support the development and expansion of the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law programme.

Thousands of aspiring lawyers from non-privileged homes across the country will benefit from a £1m expansion of the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law programme, a pioneering initiative designed to widen access to the legal profession. For the first time, the programme, which is funded by the Legal Education Foundation, nine leading law firms and the partner universities, will provide support for GCSE students in years 10 and 11, as well as throughout sixth form.

Pathways to Law, targeted at academically able pupils from non-privileged homes, will be delivered by 12 partner universities across the country, including the

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As a School, we have a powerful commitment to widening participation in higher education and our long partnership with the Sutton Trust is a critical part of that.

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University of Leeds and four new universities who have joined the programme this year: University of Roehampton, Queen Mary University of London, University of Leicester, and University of Liverpool.

Professor Alastair Mullis, Head of the School of Law, said: “We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded further funding from the Sutton Trust and the Legal Education Foundation for our hugely successful Pathways programme. As a School, we have a powerful commitment to widening participation in higher education and our long partnership with the Sutton Trust is a critical part of that.”

Record number of work experience placements in 2015–16

Students attended over 60 work placements during the 2015/16 academic year, making it the most successful year of recent times.

The first ‘Stay in Leeds’ Law Fair, held in February 2016, was a great success and generated more than 20 successful placements in local and regional firms such as Emsleys, Needle-Partners, and 3volution, to name a few.

Some students also received work placement scholarships and were awarded prizes by organisations that included Squire Patton Boggs, Capsticks, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and M&S. A number of marshalling roles were secured and five students were awarded the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board prize.



If you are interested in applying for a work placement this year follow the School of Law ‘Get Involved’ Facebook page at: /leedslawschool.getinvolved, or contact Marika Hildebrandova m.hildebrandova@leeds.ac.uk for more information.



Law Alumni at the House of Lords

Almost 100 alumni and their guests joined us for a fantastic reception hosted by The Lord Low of Dalston CBE, on 24 June 2016. Held in the Peers’ Dining Room of the House of Lords, this event brought together alumni spanning eight decades of the School’s history.

On arrival, guests were given a private tour of the Houses of Parliament, having the opportunity to visit both chambers and hear interesting stories from the ‘Mother of all Parliaments’. A wine reception then took place in the prestigious Peer’s Dining Room and a welcoming speech was delivered by Lord Low. He spoke about his time as an academic in Leeds and the efforts that the School is now taking to engage with and support its alumni community.

Professor Alastair Mullis, Head of School, then gave an overview of the current work of the School, speaking about the School today and the importance of our alumni community. Alumni, guests and staff enjoyed a selection of the finest canapés and reminisced long into the evening over our catalogue of finalist photographs that are on display outside the Moot Court Room.

Introducing...

Dr. Imogen Jones
Associate Professor



Like most academics, my work is split between teaching, administration and research. I teach and research in the area of criminal law. I am very lucky to be able to integrate insights from my research topic into my teaching of a core module. I hope that my enthusiasm rubs off on the students! I am committed to innovation in teaching and learning, and work hard to promote depth in the way that students approach their studies. My most recent research project has involved interviewing a number of forensic pathologists about their perceptions of deceased bodies as objects of crime. I hope to extend this project by examining the views of a range of criminal justice officials as a deceased person takes their 'final journey' through the criminal process.

Before working in the School of Law, I was a lecturer at the University of Birmingham. I wanted to work at Leeds for two reasons. First, the attitude of Leeds towards its students and legal education is inspiring. To be able to be part of an institution which is working so positively with its students is an honour.

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I wanted to work at Leeds for two reasons. First, the attitude of Leeds towards its students and legal education is inspiring. To be able to be part of an institution which is working so positively with its students is an honour. Secondly, Leeds is a leading centre for the study of criminal justice. I am excited about being located within a community of leading scholars and am looking forward to possible future collaborations.

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To give an example, there was a student representative on my interview panel, demonstrating the real dedication that Leeds has to the active involvement of its students in the life and development of the School. Secondly, Leeds is a leading centre for the study of criminal justice. I am excited about being located within a community of leading scholars and am looking forward to possible future collaborations.

I do not think that there is one 'best part' of my job. I like to think that students and academics are all part of a big community, with shared goals and responsibilities. It is equally rewarding to inspire a student to conduct further research into a topic as it is to help a struggling student to overcome their difficulties. Seeing students graduate and meeting their parents is incredibly rewarding. Just as I hope to stimulate students curiosity, I am naturally inquisitive with a strong sense that justice really matters. I feel very privileged to be able to carry out original research into fascinating legal problems.

When I'm not working you'll find me playing with my eight month old son or riding across the hills with my Fell pony, Mack. Hopefully I'll be able to tempt the baby to join me when he's old enough.



Dr. Nathan Booth
Post-Doctoral Research Officer

My role involves...

Researching expectations about urban public parks as places of social mixing in the past, present and future, and examining how these relate to people's everyday experiences of parks and their regulation.

Before working in the School of Law...

I was based in Sociology and Criminology at the University of Bradford; before that I completed my PhD in History at the University of Manchester, so I'm collecting both academic disciplines and northern cities.

The best part of my job is...

Interviewing people in the park (especially when the sun is shining) and getting stuck into historical documents at the archives.

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

Seeking out surviving Victorian pubs and obsessing over maps.



Joshua Warburton
Research Assistant

My role involves...

Researching a number of topics for Professors Alastair Mullis, Joan Loughrey and Michael Thomson. Basically, if information is needed, I go and find it. The research requirements are quite diverse, and I find myself constantly engaging in new and exciting projects.

Before working in the School of Law...

I was studying for a PhD in law at the University of Manchester. I do not have my doctorate just yet, but I expect to obtain it in the near future. I also taught EU Law at the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University; I will continue to teach a few seminar groups here too.

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

Doing something nerdy. I'm a keen double bass player, having played it for about eighteen years. I've played gigs throughout the country and beyond, and I still play the occasional gig when I can. I also have an extensive board game collection, so don't be too surprised if I ask if you fancy playing a game!



Anna Lawson receives Bob Hepple Equality Award 2016

The Equal Rights Trust and the Industrial Law Society awarded Professor Anna Lawson the Bob Hepple Equality Award 2016 on Thursday 30 June, 2016. The Award, established in the name of the late Professor Sir Bob Hepple QC champion of equality and non-discrimination, continues his legacy to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals to equality.

Professor Lawson was celebrated for her work promoting equal rights for persons with disabilities. She has achieved excellence in both activism and academia, most notably as Director of the Centre for Disability Studies based at the University of Leeds and as Co-ordinator of the newly established Disability Law Hub. Anna has worked closely with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and she is actively involved in the work of human rights and disabled people's organisations including the UK's Disability Rights Commission, Equality and Human Rights Commission and China Vision.

She has worked closely with the European Commission, particularly in her capacity as a board member of the Academic Network of Experts on Disability, and she has also worked with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

She is currently a member of the statutory Disability Committee of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and holds advisory positions with Justice, China Vision and Business Disability International. Anna is currently a member of a number of national and international disability organisations and has previously been the chair of CHANGE, and a trustee of the Royal National Institute of Blind People, the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre and various local organisations.

“The Award, established in the name of the late Professor Sir Bob Hepple QC champion of equality and non-discrimination, continues his legacy to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals to equality.”



Recognition of service for Adam Crawford

Professor Adam Crawford has been made an honorary lifetime member of the British Society of Criminology in recognition of his service to the discipline.

The British Society of Criminology (BSC) has a number of Honorary Members who through their careers have demonstrated exceptional distinction and service in the field of criminology. The BSC grants the status of Honorary Membership in specific circumstances largely intended to reward persons who have an overarching role in defining and developing criminology at a national (and often international) level.

The status of Honorary Member confers lifetime membership of the Society. The current list of Honorary Members includes those people who have made contributions to the BSC in particular and/or to the discipline in general.

“The BSC grant the status of Honorary Membership in specific circumstances largely intended to reward persons who have an overarching role in defining and developing criminology at a national level.”



David Churchill wins British Society of Criminology prize

On 6 July, Dr. David Churchill was awarded the British Society of Criminology Policing Network Early Career Prize 2016.

It was awarded for his article ‘I am just the man for Upsetting you Bloody Bobbies’: popular animosity towards the police in late nineteenth-century Leeds’.

The prize aims to acknowledge and encourage excellence in policing research and scholarship by early career members of the BSC and BSC Policing Network. In particular, the panel were looking for a valuable contribution to the field of policing studies through the publication of a sole-authored journal article.

David said “I am delighted and honoured to receive this award. It is especially pleasing that, in making this award, the Policing Network have recognised the contribution which historical research makes to policing studies. I am very grateful to the Network for awarding me this prize and to the journal Policing and Society for sponsoring it.”

The School of Law is no stranger to this prize, which was also awarded to Anna Barker in 2014 for work she did whilst studying for her PhD in Leeds. Anna has just returned to the School of Law as a lecturer in criminal justice.

New approach to business failure and insolvency



In July 2016, the European Commission (EC) published a report titled ‘Study on a new approach to business failure and insolvency’, which was prepared by academics from the Centre of Business Law and Practice.

“The report provides a horizontal cross-cutting analysis of the data, identifying areas where disparities in national law create problems that have impacts outside of national boundaries.”



In July 2016, the European Commission (EC) published a report titled ‘Study on a new approach to business failure and insolvency’, which was prepared by academics from the Centre of Business Law and Practice. Professor Gerard McCormack, Professor Andrew Keay, Dr. Sarah Brown and Mrs Judith Dahlgreen produced the report following a concentrated period of research and evaluation. The research for the report was undertaken after the Leeds team won a public tender issued by the EC in 2015.

The report documents a comparative study on substantive insolvency law throughout the European Union. It also includes an analysis of the EC Recommendation on a new approach to business failure and insolvency and its implementation in Member States.

The report’s findings and analysis were based on data provided in relation to various insolvency law matters by national reporters from all EU Member States and two comparator countries, the United States and Norway. The report provides a horizontal cross-cutting analysis of the data, identifying areas where disparities in national law create problems that have impacts outside of national boundaries.

The report is being studied by a group of insolvency law experts that has been brought together by the EC. This group is to consider the current proposals being made for significant changes to insolvency law and practice in the EU.

Major award for research on ‘Mexican kidnapping’

Dr. Conor O’Reilly, Associate Professor in Transnational Crime and Security, and his team, have been successful in their application for an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) grant from the Newton Fund. The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies.

The total grant is approximately £800K and the project is titled ‘Mobile Solutions to the Mexican Kidnapping Epidemic – Beyond Elite Counter-Measures, Towards Citizen-Led Innovation.’ The project will chart the shifting topography of the Mexican kidnapping epidemic and examine various ‘mobile solutions’ that have emerged to counter it. The work is potentially of huge impact and seeks to answer the crucial question ‘how do you counter kidnapping when you cannot access private solutions or rely on the state?’ Many congratulations to Conor and the team on this highly prestigious award.

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The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies.

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News in Brief

①

Prof. Graham Dutfield was invited by the Thai Central Intellectual Property and Trade Court to speak to judges on recent trends in international intellectual property and the lessons for Thailand, on 14 July.

②

Dr. David Churchill was invited to give a presentation at the Home Office on 26 July, as part of the ‘Learning from Experience’ programme, organised in conjunction with the organisation History and Policy.

③

Prof. Adam Crawford gave a presentation on the merits and lessons of co-production in police-university relations to an international symposium on ‘Evidence Based Policing’ in Kongsvinger, Norway on 24–26 May.

④

Dr. Gauthier de Beco was invited to deliver a presentation on ‘The Situation of Inclusive Education in Europe’ at the opening plenary of the conference ‘Europe in Action 2016’.

⑤

Prof. Iyiola Solanke presented on a panel of expert speakers at an open forum that discussed ‘Brexit: What next for the economy, business, jobs, and mobility?’ on 27 July. Iyiola was appointed as a Professor of EU Law and Social Justice in September.

⑥

Dr. Konstantinos Stylianou recently provided teaching for the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

⑦

Prof. Elies van Sliedregt presented a paper on ‘The Prospects of Corporate Criminal Liability’ at an international workshop organised by the University of Pretoria, South Africa, on Friday 12 August.

⑧

Dr. Jen Hendry co-authored an article published by the Yale Law & Policy Review titled ‘Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, and the Pursuit of Justice’ with Professor Melissa Tatum from the University of Arizona.

⑨

Sarah Humphreys will undertake the role of Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the School of Law in addition to her core role as the Legal Advice Clinics Co-ordinator.

⑩

Ann Blair has recently retired after 22 years of service at the School of Law. It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to Ann and we wish her and her family all the very best for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

⑪

Dr. Sam Halliday’s new monograph entitled ‘Autonomy and Pregnancy: A Comparative Analysis of Compelled Obstetric Intervention’ was published on 13 May, by Routledge.

⑫

Prof. Surya P. Subedi, OBE, has had a new and substantially revised edition of his internationally acclaimed book, ‘International Investment Law: Reconciling Policy and Principle’ published by Hart Publishing, Oxford.

⑬

Dr. Peter Whelan delivered a keynote address at the conference ‘Boosting the Enforcement of EU Competition Law at Domestic Level’, on 3 June which was held at the Faculty of Law, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

⑭

Prof. Oliver Lewis gave a talk at the Mental Wealth Festival in London on 15 September. Oliver’s talk addressed how people with mental health issues can use international human rights law in conversations with service providers.



Oliver’s talk addressed how people with mental health issues can use international human rights law in conversations with service providers.



Study abroad: a new perspective

Liberty Brief spoke to returning study abroad student Lauren Hall about her 'adventures in Oz'.

Lauren, where did you choose to study in your year abroad?

I studied at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia.

Brisbane is a modern city, with the campus located in its heart. QUT is far smaller than the University of Leeds but still has that campus feel. The city has a river running through it and the sunsets are especially beautiful. The campus was easy to get around and it had a real community vibe.

I never realised how much there was to see in Australia, and the variety of sites within the country. It was fabulous! From desert terrain to the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Ocean Road, there was always something different to explore.

What motivated you to study abroad?

I wanted to experience something new and gain breadth to my degree. I was enthusiastic to meet people from different cultures, explore new places and study modules not offered at Leeds. Living in an international house of 25, there were seven nationalities so it was a great learning experience and we had lots of fun.

Since the student visa in Australia permitted 20 hours work per week I was able to work and save to book trips.

This allowed me to explore New Zealand, Bali, Thailand and four out of six states in Australia.

How would you describe your overall experience?

Pardon the cliché but it was the best year of my life. I met friends that turned into my family and I travelled to places I would have never have been able to experience. You build the strongest support networks in the absence of your family and meet friends that you would never have crossed paths with.

I studied in a different jurisdiction – Australia – but was also given the chance to study indigenous law, Chinese law and many other modules. These were all very interesting and widened my perspective on the study of law. I have enhanced and acquired new academic skills that I will be taking into my final year.

What would be your advice to anyone considering studying abroad?

DO IT. Wherever in the world you fancy going, the range of skills, experience and fun you are going to have will never compare. This experience is never going to be easy, but you will look back and the hard work will always be worth it (and you will not want to come home!)



“This experience is never going to be easy, but you will look back and the hard work will always be worth it (and you will not want to come home!)”



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)

Student News

The CrimSoc agenda

The new semester started with a bang for CrimSoc members at our annual 'Cops and Robbers' Otley run during freshers week. With a great turn out from first, second and third years, the social was one of our most successful to date.

We are planning to organise a selection of talks throughout the semester, including a session on Restorative Justice, given the expertise in this area at the School. We will notify all Criminal Justice, and Law students about the events in due course.

Our 'Give it a go' event, run in conjunction with Leeds University Union, will take place on 8 November at Jump Arena Leeds. Prices are around £10 per person and more details will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

We have also been in talks with both Leeds Beckett Prison Network Society, to organise a joint bowling social in November, and with York Crimsoc to organise joint social events both this semester and next.

The committee is also currently liaising with potential sponsors and hoping to confirm the outcome before the end of October. Our goal is to use the sponsorship to organise better social events and give our members great deals when out and about in Leeds.

The netball team competed in their first tournament of the new academic year on 4 October, and the football team had their first official 11-a-side match against the 'Incredible Hunks' on 8 October. Sports results will be posted on the Crimsoc Facebook page throughout the year.

Luke Hutchinson
CrimSoc President

Graduate Destination: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Two of our 2016 graduates, Jenny Sparrow and Bren McCarthy, have secured training contracts with Magic Circle law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Congratulations and best of luck to you both.



Down under for public law workshop

PhD student, Byron Karemba presented at the annual Gilbert + Tobin Centre for Public Law Postgraduate Workshop, at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia, on 14 July 2016. The annual workshop brings together early career researchers working in different fields of Constitutional and Administrative Law.

Byron's paper was based on an element of his doctoral thesis which attempts to place the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom within the existing taxonomy of apex courts. Among other things, the paper sought to argue that the UK Court is arguably not a conventional common law apex court, but rather, the constitutional developments of the last twenty years may have given the Court functions which commonly associated with the Civilian or 'Kelsenian' model of a constitutional court.

Byron is currently working under the supervision of Professor Ian Cram (Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law), his thesis investigates the constitutional role of the UK Court by comparing it to the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Courts of New Zealand and Canada.

Student News

Society of the Year for LawSoc

On Saturday 4 June, Leeds LawSoc was named 'Society of the Year' at the very first NUS Connect National Societies Awards (NSA). The event was held at UWE Bristol and brought together student societies from across the UK to celebrate their successes and achievements.



The awards were the first national event to credit societies for their contribution to students' career prospects and experience during their time at university.

Nick Taylor said: "LawSoc plays an integral part in the overall experience of the vast majority of law students at the University of Leeds. As Director of Student Education, with responsibility for the overall experience, I am hugely grateful for the role they play. LawSoc committee members are some of the School's best

ambassadors. It is fantastic to see them being recognised on the national stage, especially as they are the first winners of this prestigious award. They were pitched against tough competition and so for them to be awarded 'Society of the Year' is real reflection on the outstanding students we have in the School."

Richard Brooks, NUS Vice President (Union Development), judged the awards. He said: "I'm proud of the activities taking place in societies within students' unions,

and so impressed with the dedication of the volunteers who put so much energy and enthusiasm into their societies. We know societies change lives, keep students in education and make society a better place and I'm so proud to be celebrating that."

The School of Law would like to congratulate the Society, its talented committee and everyone else involved in making this year a truly successful one.

Summer placement with Milners

Connor Mennell, 3rd year LLB Law student, spent two weeks on placement with Milners Solicitors this summer. Read on to find out what he got up to.



Connor Mennell
3rd Year LLB Law

“At the Stay in Leeds Law Fair, ran by the School of Law, I met Mat Haynes, a partner at Milners Solicitors. After the event, I applied and had a successful interview for a work placement at the firm.

Whilst at the firm, my two weeks were divided between departments so that I would spend one or two days in each, depending on the size of the department. This included time in property, commercial litigation, private client, personal injury, and employment. Typically my time in each department would start with more simple tasks, drafting letters to clients, making phone calls to chase documents, but then I would move to more complex and important tasks, such as creating a new lease for a client.

From my placement I gained an understanding of how an area of law can be very different in practice, compared to the classroom. The feedback I received gave me great confidence in my ability to become a successful solicitor and it showed me the skills I will need and the areas where I can improve.

The most interesting part of the placement was definitely working independently, drafting new leases, and also drafting a dismissal appeal letter. These tasks made me feel like I was doing meaningful work with real responsibility. It was also really interesting meeting the solicitors and partners at the firm and hearing some of their experiences.

This placement has definitely contributed to my long term goals. It has made me more determined to earn a training contract because I enjoyed the placement so much. Also, it is strong evidence to support my skills in the applications I make. Since completing my placement I have mentioned the experience in applications to law firms and I have been offered a number of interviews. It has also helped give me more confidence in myself and an understanding of what I am capable of.”



Legal Advice Clinics help develop skills

My involvement so far has really supported my career development, particularly the note taking aspect as it was great practice for my work experience placements where I have had to conduct similar tasks.

“I have been involved in an employment legal advice clinic in Chapeltown and really enjoyed the experience. Firstly, it was great being able to visit a different area in Leeds and see the type of services and activities that go on outside the campus. My responsibility was to greet the clients and take notes during their meeting with a barrister, along with another student. Having to digest and write down a lot of information quickly meant we learnt a huge amount in a short space of time. Having never experienced employment law before, it was really valuable to get an insight into this area.

It was also great to speak to the barrister who was giving advice and learn about his career path. He also gave us more context after the session, meaning we were able to better understand the circumstances of the case. My involvement so far has really supported my career development, particularly the note taking aspect as it was great practice for my work experience placements, where I have had to conduct similar tasks.”



Caitlin Healey
3rd Year LLB
Law student



PGT Matriculation Ceremony

The matriculation ceremony for taught postgraduate students took place again this year during induction week with a great turnout. Our guest speaker was Mr James Peel, an associate at the law firm Squire Patton Boggs in Leeds and a former Masters student of the School of Law. After a welcome speech from the Head of School, Professor Alastair Mullis, James shared some anecdotes and experiences of his time here as a student.

The reception was held in the Law School atrium, and gave everyone a chance to meet other students, and the staff that will be teaching them. The sun was shining, which allowed the group photograph to be taken outside, but the party inside was just as sunny!

A very warm welcome to our class of 2016.

Dr. Sarah Brown
Taught Postgraduate Tutor

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

With ‘Great British Bake-Off’ fever heating up the baking tent, staff and students alike were invited to dust off their aprons and prepare a selection of sweet treats for the World’s Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on 30 September. Third year Law student, Grace Faint and second year, Ben Men organised The Liberty Building coffee morning and raised over £300 for the charity.

Grace and Ben would like to thank everyone who either baked or brought in cakes, and to all those who generously donated.

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

UK IVR 2016 Conference

29 – 30 October 2016

Conference, The Liberty Building, venue TBC

The University of Leeds School of Law is hosting the annual Conference of the UK Branch of the International Association of Legal and Social Philosophy (IVR), at which leading scholars in the country working in the field of legal theory/philosophy will present their work.

Disabling Legal Barriers

3 November 2016, 17:00 – 18:30

Lecture, Moot Court, The Liberty Building

The inaugural lecture of Professor Oliver Lewis.

Disability Social Rights

15 November 2016, 17:00 – 18:30

Seminar, Moot Court, The Liberty Building

In this public lecture Michael Stein will discuss the struggles by persons with disabilities for social and economic justice within a rights framework.

Joint Criminal Confusion

1 December 2016, 17:00 – 18:30

Lecture, Moot Court, The Liberty Building

The inaugural lecture of Professor Dr Elies van Sliedregt.

Law's Got Talent

7 December 2016, 19:00

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.

Tracking people: scoping the landscape and debates across domains

14 December 2016

Seminar, venue TBC

This seminar on 14 December will examine the current landscape and debates in the use of tracking devices across a range of domains.

Events Summary

For more information about our upcoming events 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

Email: l.fairbotham@leeds.ac.uk

Tel: 0113 343 7209

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