



# Liberty Brief

School of Law Newsletter

Issue 2  
February 2015



## Contents

School News	2
Staff News	5
Student News	8
Contributions	12

## School launches Career Mentoring Scheme

**In December the School of Law launched its first Career Mentoring Scheme. Alumni and a variety of law and criminal justice professionals joined staff and students at a launch event held in the Liberty Building. The evening provided an opportunity for students to meet their mentors for the first time, and develop their professional networking skills.**

Head of School Alastair Mullis also used the occasion to thank the mentors for volunteering their time to support current undergraduates:

“I am particularly pleased that so many of our own alumni have come forward to offer their valuable time to help our current students. I believe passionately in the idea that our School of Law is a community that consists of staff, students and our alumni.”

He added: “It is really important that the School of Law continues to grow as a legal community and a place where the academic study of law and criminology meets the practice of law and law enforcement in all its range and diversity. The new mentoring scheme will play an important part in this.”

The scheme, organised by Director of Career Mentoring, Judith Dahlgreen, sees second year undergraduates paired with their own professional mentor. The group of more than fifty mentors include solicitors, partners, police officers, prison staff, civil service and charity workers. Mentors have been recruited from across the UK and include more than twenty alumni from the School.

Mentors will help students gain an insight into working life and develop employability skills relevant to a particular career. They will also help the student to consider their own career-focused goals and encourage them to make applications for work experience and jobs.

**Laura Elson, Giving Time Coordinator at Voluntary Action Leeds, has volunteered for the scheme this year and been paired up with second year BA Criminal Justice and Criminology student Emma McNamara:**

Laura said: “I work for a charity Voluntary Action Leeds, managing a small team working with prisoners and people with convictions to help them find volunteering opportunities. When a colleague at HMP Leeds told me about this scheme, I was immediately keen to get involved. I graduated from Leeds University in 2005 and it took me several years to find my feet and the career path I love. Looking back now I wish I had access to a mentor for support and guidance at that time, and that was a big motivation for me to get involved.”

“Emma is considering charity work as one of her career options, which makes us a perfect match. As Emma studies Criminal Justice, and I have spent a large chunk of my career working in prisons we have lots to talk about and share a passion for rehabilitation and prison reform.”

“When Emma and I met each other, we couldn’t believe how well matched we were, and both left the session feeling inspired, reinvigorated and a little over excited I think. I was so impressed with Emma’s attitude, experience and outlook

on life. We also talked a great deal about women and leadership and I’m recommending training and reading for her to boost her confidence in her talents and encourage her to aim high right from the beginning of her career”

Emma has been equally excited: “I decided to take part because I thought it was an excellent scheme and an ingenious idea from the Law school. I also thought it was a great opportunity to build and develop additional skills. Being a mature student, I have had to develop many skills already, but was lacking in skills such as career advice, accessing LinkedIn, and networking, this is an important skill for gaining employment. My personal tutor Henry Yeomans advised me about the scheme.

I’ve met my mentor – we are a great match, I was really happy and enthusiastic after meeting Laura. I’m hoping the scheme will help me to build additional confidence within the employment sector, developed skills in networking, experience working with prisoners and ex-offenders, as that is something I am passionate about. I am also a learning champion volunteer at the LLC, this involves helping people from all backgrounds access education through widening participation. I’m hoping to build on these skills to help offenders and ex-offenders access education and HE.”

Further details about the application process for the 2015/16 scheme will be circulated later in the year. For more information about the scheme, please contact Judith on

**J.M.Dahlgreen@leeds.ac.uk**



## Head of School Alastair Mullis

Every five or six years, the quality of research produced by universities is assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

To take two examples, Professor Clive Walker's work was recognised as having had exceptional influence in embedding constitutionalism in counter-terrorism law. Professor Anna Lawson's work was equally influential in shaping and strengthening European policy on disability equality. Our research matters to real people. It has been a force for good and that is particularly gratifying.

Our result is a powerful confirmation not only of the quality of our research and its impact but most importantly of the excellence and dedication of my colleagues. I am immensely proud of my colleagues and I am sure that you will join me in offering them all warm congratulations on this tremendous outcome.

So we have done very well in research and that is a source of very real pride. Now we go again. Teaching, infused by world leading research, is central to what we are about. As you know, we have made consistent improvements in teaching over a number of years and last year were ranked 6th out of 23 in the Russell Group in the National Student Survey. But we know that there is more that we need to do and we now want to take a decisive step forward to ensure that we are recognised as highly nationally and internationally in teaching as we are for our research.

Watch this space...

Alastair

The system of assessment is called the Research Excellence Framework ([www.ref.ac.uk/about/](http://www.ref.ac.uk/about/)). Under this system, research outputs (books and academic articles), the impact of research on wider society and the research environment of each department are assessed and given a rating from 1 to 4 star. A four star rating means that the output was regarded as 'world class' quality and a 3 star rating means that the output was rated as 'internationally excellent'. The results of the exercise inform the selective allocation of government research funding to university departments and they represent the most reliable way of comparing the quality of research produced by different university departments. The results also feature in the compilation of university league tables. Although research is not the only measure (teaching matters too), the REF results will play a very significant part in the rankings.

At the end of 2013, the School submitted its return to be assessed and just after the end of last semester, we heard the results. The results were excellent. Our overall result placed us 8th in the UK, one ahead of Oxford! We also did better than all but two schools of study in the University. Excellent bragging rights if any of your friends in other schools claim that their school is better than yours. 88 per cent of our research was classified as either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' and on this measure we were 5th equal in the UK. For the first time, the 'impact' of the School's research on some of the global challenges facing society was measured and 80 per cent of our impact case study submission was rated as 'world class' placing us 4th equal in the UK. In short, the results confirmed us as one of the leading schools of law and criminology in the UK, and consequently the world.

This was a remarkable achievement and a well deserved recognition of the immensely hard work done by my colleagues, and your teachers, over the last six years. The contribution that they have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of scholarship in their areas of expertise is immense. Perhaps most importantly the contribution that they make helping to effect positive change in wider society was recognised as of world class quality. Indeed only three other law schools produced work that was felt to have greater impact. For those that are interested in this, I would encourage you to read the impact case studies we submitted (<http://results.ref.ac.uk/Submissions/Impact/2410>).



## Finalists: *tell us what it is like to be a student in the School of Law*

From Thursday 5th February final year students have had the opportunity to complete the National Student Survey and let us know what it is like to be a law or criminal justice student at the University of Leeds. Across England other final year students have had the same opportunity, answering the same questions allowing university staff, employers and prospective students to make comparisons between similar courses at different institutions.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, please take the time to complete the survey which can be accessed via the portal. The feedback you provide is very helpful to us. It informs the student education plan which academic staff and the student-staff forum develop each year focusing on the six key areas of the survey: teaching, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources and personal development. A copy of this year's action plan can be found on the VLE under Law (organisation).

The school isn't provided with the results until August. By then you will have moved on to pastures new so we won't get the opportunity to discuss your feedback with you or address any of your concerns. We will also have done much of our planning for the new academic year. For these reasons, if you have ideas you would like to discuss for improving the student experience in the School of Law do share them with us. We'd love to hear them.

**Emma Wincup. Director of Student Education**

On 21 January the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and the Security and Justice Research Group jointly sponsored a seminar on 'Radicalisation and Political Violence'.

To mark the beginning of his two-year Marie Curie Fellowship in the School of Law, Dr Andreas Armbrorst provided a brief presentation entitled '*Studying ideology and strategies of the jihadi movement*'. Dr Lars Berger, Associate Professor in International Security in the School of Politics and International Relations then discussed the subject further before inviting comments from the floor. The event was hosted by Professor Adam Crawford.



On 26 January, the Centre for Business Law and Practice hosted a seminar on '*Defendant-Sided Unjust Factors*' with speaker Professor Duncan Sheehan, Professor of Commercial Law at the University of East Anglia. The seminar examined the rationale behind the defendant-sided unjust factors, meaning duress and undue influence.

### *Dates for your diary*

#### **17 February 5pm G33**

CBLP Seminar – A Critical Comparison of the English and Australian Insolvency Regimes: where we are and where are we headed?

#### **23 February 5pm LG.06**

CCJS Frank Dawtry Memorial Lecture – In the eye of the storm: police decision making and the management of rape allegations (Professor Betsy Stanko OBE, Head, Evidence and Insight, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in London) – registration required

#### **25 February 3.30pm Moot Court Room**

L&SJ Seminar – The International Criminal Court in Africa – registration required

#### **25 February 5.45pm Western Lecture Theatre**

Liberty Lecture – On Liberty  
Shami Chakrabarti (Director of Liberty)  
– registration required

#### **2 March 5pm G33**

CBLP Seminar – Author, author: Google, orphan works, and competition

#### **16 March 5pm G33**

CCJS Seminar - Torture, Terrorism and Criminal Justice

#### **27 April 5pm LG.06**

CCJS Annual Lecture – Death in America: Life in Europe: Two approaches to ultimate penalties – registration required

For more information, or to register for any of these events, please visit

[www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/)



### Annual Liberty Lecture: Shami Chakrabarti *“On Liberty”*

**25 February. 5.45 – 7.00pm**  
**(Doors open 5.15) Western Lecture Theatre**

The School is pleased to invite Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, as guest speaker for the 2015 annual Liberty Lecture.

Shami Chakrabarti, will explore why our fundamental rights and freedoms are indispensable, and the unprecedented pressures those rights are under today. Drawing on her own work in high-profile campaigns, from privacy laws to anti-terror legislation, Chakrabarti shows the threats to our democratic institutions and why our rights are paramount in upholding democracy.

The event is free to attend, however registration is required as places are limited.

For more information, visit  
<http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/2015/liberty-lecture-shami-chakrabarti-on-liberty>

# Building international links

Last month, Head of School Alastair Mullis spent several days visiting South East Asia, delivering promotional and academic talks to collaborative university partners. In Malaysia, Professor Mullis visited partner institutions, HELP University, INTI International University and Taylor's University and delivered a number of presentations to potential students.



In Thailand, Professor Mullis signed a new partnership agreement with Thammasat, one of the top two law schools in the country. He delivered several lectures there including to an audience of LLM students on the Thaprajan campus (see image above). Professor Mullis also visited Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University and was invited to the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand. (see image below)



Professor Emeritus Clive Walker visited Vietnam and Malaysia in December 2014. At the Hanoi Law University (with which the School has signed an entry agreement), he delivered a seminar paper to staff and students on 'International cooperation on counter-terrorism: 'total war on terror' or 'total counter-terrorism''. A large number of staff and students attended.

He was also invited to give a paper to the National Steering Committee for Judicial Reform, Hanoi. This committee is the Advisory Board for the President and the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the area of Judicial Reform. The paper was entitled 'Procedures and forms of court trial in the UK system and the tensions

between case law, legislation and policy, including the problem of miscarriages of justice'. (see image below)



In Malaysia, Professor Emeritus Walker visited the UiTM School of Law in Shah Alam to conduct 'An intellectual discourse with postgraduate research students'. The intellectual discourse was designed to share some experience/ideas on the PhD Journey, preparation and managing of research and supervisor, and the preparation of defence of research proposal/viva. (see image below)



## [THE PARTNERSHIP Awards]

### Can Law scoop a Partnership Award?

This year's Partnership awards will celebrate the fantastic achievements, representation and teaching of both staff and students here at Leeds. To see the categories available and to nominate a member of staff or a fellow student, visit <http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/celebrate/partnership/>

Let's see if we can get a win for a member of our School...

### Getting off to a flying start

On 9 January 2015 the University held its fourth Student Education Conference, which focused on the unique Leeds learning experience and transition to University.

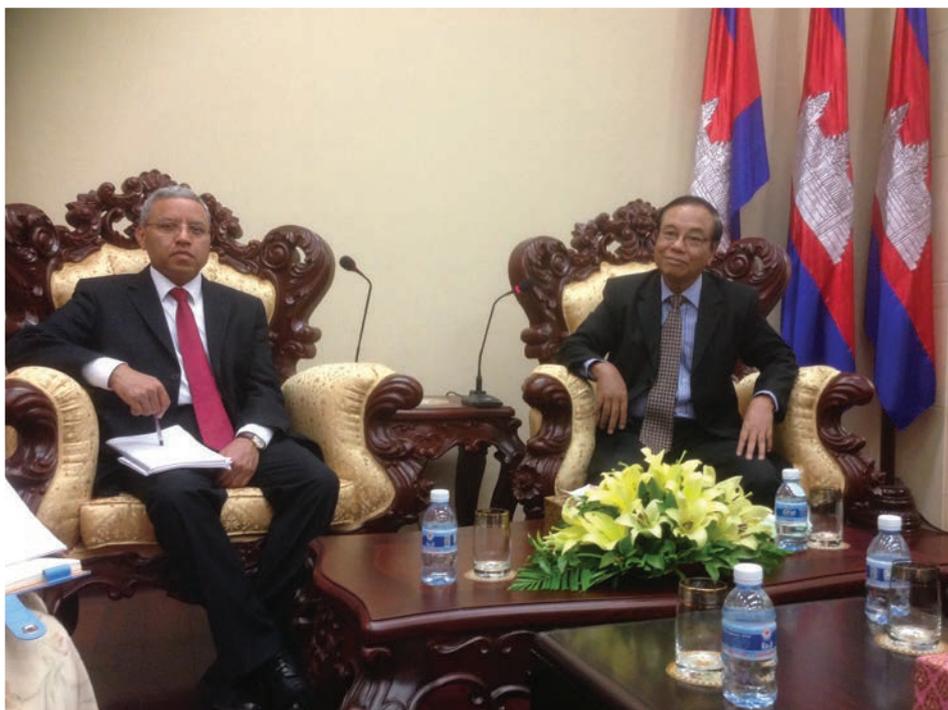
I gave a paper on the difficult transition to University from School and College, particularly for those students who come from non-traditional (non A-level) backgrounds. The aim was to highlight the academic skills training module that the Criminal Justice & Criminology Programme provides at the start of the first semester and outline its purpose and the way it instils both skills and confidence. Also, how it is used to identify students who may be struggling with some skills that may be new to them (such as critical thinking or Harvard referencing) and offer extra tuition.

It explained how the skills module began with time management and moved through a range of basic academic skills, such as essay writing, using evidence and improving exam techniques, to ensure students learned new skills or maybe refreshed others! All the skills are taught in conjunction with 'flying start' and 'skills@library' to ensure there is absolute clarity and no mixed messages when seeking advice.

I was accompanied by Emma McNamara, a second year student who joined the BA programme via a Leeds Access route (and continues to be a learning champion). Emma spoke lucidly about her route of entry to the degree programme and how the skills module had helped her develop confidence.

The talk was well received and there were a lot of questions at the end, with delegates believing that this was a positive start to student life and some vowing to introduce similar in their department – it is good to showcase things we do well in the School!

**Dr Richard Peake**  
BA Programme Leader



Prof Subedi with the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Bin Chinn, who is the leader of the government's team for negotiations on political reform

## Final mission: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

Professor Surya Subedi of the School of Law is the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Kingdom of Cambodia. He is one of only 12 such UN special rapporteurs in the world appointed for some of the most challenging countries in terms of the protection of human rights. He is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to follow and report on the human rights situation in Cambodia. His task is to assess the human rights situation, report publicly about it, and work with the Government, civil society and others to foster international cooperation in this field.

He has undertaken regular human rights fact-finding visits to the country and produced four substantive and substantial reports focussing on judicial, parliamentary, electoral and land reform in the country. He was appointed to this in March 2009 and is about to complete his six years of mandate. He conducted his final mission to the country in the last week in January 2015. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Cambodia derives from the Paris Peace Accords (article 17 of the Agreement on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict and article 3 of the Agreement concerning the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia).

Many of the recommendations of Professor Subedi, especially those relating to judicial, electoral and land reform, have been implemented by the government and some others are in the process of being

implemented. The parliament of Cambodia has enacted three laws designed to enhance the independence and capacity of the judiciary and amended the Constitution of the country to make the National Election Commission a constitutional, independent, and autonomous body, in line with the recommendations made by Professor Subedi.

For more on Professor Subedi's farwell to his role in Cambodia, read: [www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/optimistic-subedi-bids-adieu-cambodia](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/optimistic-subedi-bids-adieu-cambodia)



Prof Subedi with the Leader of the Opposition in Cambodia, H.E. Mr Sam Rainsy, taken in Parliament



## Silver Service

School Education Service Manager Rachael Taylor celebrated 25 years of service to the University in December and was invited to a special reception with the Vice Chancellor.

Rachael started work in the School of Law in 1989 and was based in the General Office in Lyddon Terrace with two other secretaries. Rachael said: "We had one word processor and three typewriters and spent the majority of our time typing up handouts for classes, articles and books for the academics as none of them had computers at that time."

She added: "We also did a lot of catering for meetings as well - one of the questions I was asked at my interview was could I cook! And of course we spent a lot of time dealing with students at the office - no email or internet!"

Rachael met husband (and now Associate Professor) Nick in 1994 when he returned to the Law School to teach after completing his degree in the School the previous year. They were married in 1995.

Following maternity leave in 1996/7, Rachael has held various titles including Core Services Coordinator, Exams Officer and Learning & Teaching Support Coordinator. She has at some point or other done most support roles in the School - finance, HR, timetabling, attendance monitoring, servicing committees, Head of School secretary. Following a restructure of the school in January 2013, Rachael took up her current School Education Service Manager role.

Congratulations Rachael!

# New Staff News

## Steven Hutchinson

Lecturer in Criminal Justice

### My role involves:

The bulk of my teaching is at the postgraduate level where I coordinate and teach the 'Criminal Justice Processes' module, the 'Contemporary Criminological Theory' module, and the qualitative seminars for the 'Researching Crime & Justice' module. I also coordinate and teach the 2nd Year 'Victims, Crime & Justice' Module, and deliver the 'Organised Crime' and 'Terrorism' lectures for the 1st Year module 'Understanding Crime'.

I am actively involved with the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies as well as the Law & Social Justice Group, the Security & Justice Research Group, and several other research networks and organisations. I currently also sit on the Editorial Board of Criminology & Criminal Justice.

### Before working in the School of Law, I was:

A Lecturer at the University of Ontario in Canada where I taught across the Criminology and Legal Studies programmes, and spent much of my time doing contract and consultancy work with various government and private sector agencies.

### I wanted to work at Leeds because:

of the research intensiveness of the University, and the wide array of opportunities for expanding and diversifying my research portfolio. I have always wanted to work in England, and this presented an opportunity I could not pass up.

### The best part of my job is/the part of my role I'm most looking forward to is:

While I spend most of my time on research and consultancy, the part of my role I cherish most is teaching and supervision. There is almost nothing which surpasses the feeling of helping students progress and reach their full potential. I have always taken teaching very seriously, I put tremendous effort in developing lectures and seminars which will provide real benefit to my students.

### My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is:

Shopping in the city-centre where I live is certainly hard to beat, but the geographic location of Leeds is second to none for exploring the north of England and beyond.

When I'm not working you'll find me: At the cinema, sparring at my local club, or in a city centre café.



## Kate Spicer

School Support Officer  
– Communications  
and Alumni

### My role so far involves:

Communicating with students, staff, alumni and external audiences. I'm responsible for writing and editing Liberty Brief and I work in partnership with the Faculty Marketing team on publicising news and events on our webpages, Facebook page and Twitter. I also organise events within the School, including the upcoming Liberty Lecture with Shami Chakrabarti. I am working to improve communications with our alumni community and increase alumni volunteering opportunities within the School such as the Career Mentoring Scheme.

### Before working in the School of Law, I was:

Alumni Relations Assistant in the University's Alumni and Development Office. I dealt with all alumni queries, organised events, and was responsible for managing the overseas alumni groups and the two Leeds University Old School Associations in the UK. Before that, I worked in the Alumni Office at the University of Sheffield.

### The best part of my job is:

The variety! My days can involve so many different tasks - I can be writing articles for the school newsletter, planning social media content or organising events. I'm finding it interesting learning how academic departments are run compared to my experience in central services. My team in the Management Support Office have made me really welcome.

### My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is:

I only moved to Leeds in 2014 so I'm still enjoying discovering all of the interesting shops, restaurants and bars in the city. I also love how close it is to the Yorkshire Dales, an area I really love.

### When I'm not working you'll find me:

Visiting friends and family, walking in the Yorkshire countryside and exploring Leeds.

If you have any story ideas for the next Liberty Brief newsletter, please get in touch:

[k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk)



## Gauthier de Beco

Lecturer in  
Disability Law

### My role so far involves:

teaching in several areas, including human rights and jurisprudence, as well as undertaking research with the different centres and groups.

### Before working in the School of Law, I was:

A postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Leuven.

### I wanted to work at Leeds because:

Of the working environment and the nice people as well as the great interest in disability.

### The part of my role I'm most looking forward to is:

To develop the School of Law's profile in the field disability.

### My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is:

The mixing of the old and the new.

When I'm not working you'll find me with my family and/or listening to classical music.

# Staff News

Dr David Churchill has had an article accepted in the *History Workshop Journal*, a leading history journal in the UK and worldwide. The article is entitled: 'Spectacles of Security: Lock-Picking Competitions and the Emergence of the British Security Industry in the Mid-Nineteenth Century', and is due for publication in issue 80, autumn 2015.

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Congratulations to Dr Amrita Mukherjee who has been reappointed to the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society for a further three years.

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Lydia Bleasdale-Hill has had an article accepted for the *Criminal Law Review* – "Our home is our haven and refuge – a place where we have every right to feel safe": Justifying the use of up to 'grossly disproportionate force' in a place of residence

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In January, Dr Peter Whelan visited NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, where he presented a guest lecture on his recent monograph on the criminalisation of cartel activity. This lecture was attended by staff and postgraduate students and was followed by a lively debate. For more information visit [www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/)

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Professor Clive Walker has been busy recently with Parliamentary work. His submissions have been made to two committees. One is to the Draft Protection of Charities Bill Joint Committee, where he considered the performance of the law and Charity Commission in dealing with the financing of terrorism [www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/draft-protection-of-charities-bill/publications1/?type=Written#pnlPublicationFilter](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/draft-protection-of-charities-bill/publications1/?type=Written#pnlPublicationFilter)

The other is the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which has recently published its report on 'Legislative Scrutiny: Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill' which concerns foreign terrorist fighters amongst other matter. Professor Walker's submissions are mentioned at several points in the published report: [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201415/jtselect/jtrights/86/86.pdf](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201415/jtselect/jtrights/86/86.pdf)

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Dr. Raphael Heffron's new book 'Energy Law: An Introduction' has been published by Springer this month. The aim of the *Energy Law: An Introduction* is to introduce new readers to the developing area of energy law. The hope is that it provides an introduction to the legal challenges faced in the energy sector and the potential contribution of energy law to delivering a better world for future generations.

Congratulations to Dr Subhajt Basu for securing an international visiting fellowship funded by the Government of China to visit NanJing University for the summer of 2015 (June-July) to work on "Intellectual Property Management in Developing Countries", specifically digital counterfeiting. It is expected that Dr Basu will co-author an article with Prof Dong based on the topic. He will also attend a conference on 'IP and Developing Countries' which will be attended by IP law experts from Asia and the Presiding Judge Voit from Germany Federal Patent Court.

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Dr Jen Hendry and her co-author Professor Melissa Tatum presented their work on the topic '*Beyond a Rights-Based Approach: Spatializing Indigenous Justice*' to the faculty of the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in January.

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Professor Ian Cram, Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law, presented a paper at the House of Commons for the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee in December.

The conference, held by the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee and chaired by Graham Allen MP, was entitled '*A new Magna Carta? A constitution for the 21st Century*', and aimed to examine the prospects for constitutional codification in the next Parliament.

Professor Cram's paper was entitled, '*Can agreement be reached on a Bill of Rights for the constitution?*'

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Dr Amrita Mukherjee presented at the International Bar Association Annual Conference on International Criminal Law: International legal challenges for 2015. At the event in the Hague, Dr Mukherjee addressed the subject of *Respecting state sovereignty and the ICC – unwilling or unable? – an examination of current cases in which the ICC is confronting states to investigate alleged crimes; give access for investigations; deliver-up suspects; hand over evidence; accord priority to the ICC over constitutional rights. Libya, Kenya, UK et al*

Staff News

## A day in the life of probation

After being awarded the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board School of Law Contribution Award, I spent a week with Leeds National Probation Service. Probation Officers are the statutory personnel who deal with offenders upon release from prison during their community sentence. The NPS, who now only deal with the very high risk offenders, has recently undergone significant changes in the criminal justice system and are now distinguished from Community Rehabilitation Centres which deal with the low and medium risk offenders.

I was lucky enough to observe two MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement) meetings. These meetings are conducted prior to the release of high risk offenders to determine the conditions of their licence which they are to comply with and discuss practical arrangements and can continue throughout an offender's licence if they are considered a danger to the public. As the acronym suggests, this meeting branches across agencies such as charities, social services, police and housing authorities.

The second day of my placement brought my attention to the Victim Liaison Unit who deal solely with the victims of the offenders the Offender Managers deal with. This service provides victims with the progression of the offender through the process after they have been sentenced. They also have a restorative justice development manager whose job it is to increase opportunities of restorative justice. All members of the VLU are trained in mediation and can deliver conferences if the victim expresses interest.

I then spent a day at Leeds Magistrates Court and Leeds Crown Court with probation officers. These probation officers have to conduct pre-sentence interviews to determine the appropriate sentence which can be written up in a report on the day or they can be referred to an offender manager who interviews them at a later stage prior to being sentenced. The judge then receives this report on the day of sentencing and may heed the advice of probation, add requirements or give another sentence.

Finally, I spent the day with the offender management teams where I was able to observe an OASys interview with an offender which collects information on the offenders current status, such as housing, addictions, what happened in the offence and to determine small tasks that could be completed before the next meeting, such as applying for jobs or beginning to address addictions.

If anyone is interested in going into probation or has any questions about it at all, e-mail me at [lw12ms@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lw12ms@leeds.ac.uk).

Megan Sharp

## Postgraduate welcome back

The School's Postgraduate students held their first social event of 2015 in late January. A 'welcome back' teatime event gave the students a great opportunity to catch up with staff and other students after the Christmas break. For more information about Postgraduate social activity, please contact Sarah Brown on [S.E.Brown@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.E.Brown@leeds.ac.uk)



## Congratulations to our new alumni

On the 16 December, we celebrated the achievements of our graduating students, with a busy reception in the Liberty Building. Congratulations go to all those students who graduated in December but we also want to now welcome them to the School of Law alumni community!



## Negotiation

The 2014/15 negotiating competition is hotting up as it reaches its regional stage.

Two teams represented the University – Lizzy Leather and Gus De Haan, and Nadine Wilson and Rikhav Shah - at the regionals on Saturday 7th February at the University of Law in Leeds.

The team progressing the furthest will join Michael Welsh and Olivia Dowden in the final of the internal competition. Date TBC.

For more info on negotiating:

<http://www.leedslawsoc.net/negotiating.html>





## Howard League Society

The Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest penal reform charity in the UK.

They work for less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison. They work with parliament and the media, with criminal justice professionals, students and members of the public, influencing debate and forcing

through meaningful change to create safer communities. They campaign on a wide range of issues including short term prison sentences, real work in prison, children in prison and community sentences.

The Howard League are currently working on a 'Books for Prisoners' campaign with English PEN, the worldwide writers' association who campaign to defend writers and readers in the UK and around the world. In November 2013, the Ministry of Justice introduced a blanket ban on loved ones sending in books and other essentials, such as underwear, to prisoners. The Howard League see this as wrong as people are sent to prison as a punishment, not for a punishment. Books and essentials such as underwear should not be seen as perks or privileges. Reading books goes hand in hand with education, with rehabilitation, with humanity. We should do everything we can to

encourage reading and not restrict a prisoner's access to books. The Howard League are asking that the Ministry of Justice reverse the blanket ban and return to the policy as it operated prior to November 2013, when it was at the discretion of the prison governor as to how many or what type of parcels prisoners could receive. This is just one example of the prevailing work that the Howard League carry out in a bid to improve different aspects of the criminal justice system.

Our Society has lots of exciting events coming up which we would love you to get involved with. We have arranged for Frankie Owens to come in and do a talk. Frankie, a former prisoner, wrote 'The Little Book of Prison: A Beginners Guide' which is a prison survival guide of do's and don'ts. He started writing the book from day two of entering prison as a first-time offender. It is a book about prison not people, and will help new inmates, their friends and families get to know what to expect from the system. It will be very useful to understand, from a first-hand perspective, how the system actually works and the issues that exist.

A date is yet to be confirmed for this event but join our social media pages to keep up to date with information about this, and other events we have coming up;

Facebook: [UOL Howard League Society](#)

Twitter: [@HowardLeague UOL](#)

Email: [leedshowardleague@hotmail.com](mailto:leedshowardleague@hotmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

## Happy New Year from the CrimSoc committee!

We have tonnes of great stuff lined up for our members in this final semester.

We will have the opportunity of bringing in a psychologist and psychiatrist who work on a secure offender unit which will bring a very unique chance to ask questions from a psychological point of view. We will also have Victim Support coming in to give information on what they do and how we can get involved which would be ideal for anyone wanting to go into a criminal justice profession as you will need experience with victims or offenders to get a place! Kelly Henderson will also be joining us to give some information about her work with domestic violence through the Gentoo Housing Association on the 4th March. Finally, we also have PREVENT coming in again to deliver their anti-terrorism workshop which is amazing, on the 25th February!

Our sports secretaries are working hard to organise our football and netball fixtures for another semester of sporty frolics and plan to have a social just for netball and football teams on the 25th February. Hopefully we will be

hosting a bowling social at some point with our wonderful lecturers! Our fabulous treasurer is also on track for organising a trip to Alton Towers on the 14th March, which will be the most fun you have ever had! We shall be running our very own competition to win tickets to Alton Towers this semester too. All you have to do is turn up to the talks mentioned above, write your name on the register and we will pop your name into our draw to win a ticket- it's that simple!

One final thing to consider: we will be electing our new committee over the Easter holidays, so please start thinking about if you would like to take over our society! Any queries about the roles we offer and what the roles require can be answered by any of us on the current committee, so get those questions rolling in... we won't bite! If you aren't already, join our CrimSoc facebook page by searching **Leeds CrimSoc** and follow us on Twitter **@LeedsCrimSoc**

**Megan Sharp**  
CrimSoc President

## Welcome Back LawSoc

I hope that everyone is well rested following the Winter break and got through exams and essays relatively unscathed.

LawSoc has a number of exciting events and activities that are running throughout the semester. Our second semester events are well known to be the most illustrious and anticipated with the Law Ball and Easter Social on the not so far horizon. To keep up to date with that and much more keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter groups!

Our Academic Academy will be continuing this semester with the conclusion of many fiercely competed competitions towards the end of March onwards. The success of the careers dinner has really reiterated the importance of networking in a formal setting and we are looking into providing something very similar for the Bar Career.

Providing you all with a bit of light relief is our Social and Equality & Diversity Secretaries who have planned a number of socials throughout the semester, with the first one, the February Social, kicking off the semester.

The Law Ball is fast approaching and our Society Affairs Secretary is hard at work in order to provide you with one of the most memorable and enjoyed nights in the LawSoc calendar. Be sure to keep tabs on updates regarding the Ball, as tickets will be in hot demand!

The second semester is also an exciting time because we have our LawSoc Committee Elections fast approaching. There is already talk about who is going to become the next Social or Careers Secretary and who is going to take over the reigns from our fantastic executive (if I do say so myself!). Details and information about our election process will be given to potential candidates and I look forward to the campaigning season.

We are also in the midst of planning sports tournaments, so all those who are part of one our teams will be in competition with those in other Universities.

For any questions feel free to email me at [Saahil.sheth@leedslawsoc.net](mailto:Saahil.sheth@leedslawsoc.net)

See you soon.

**Saahil Sheth**  
President 2014-Present

# Tackling local crime

The Knowledge Rep Campaign is a group of volunteers, led by PC Matt Guy, to provide crime prevention advice and information to help empower students to tackle crime in their local area.

This is a unique term-time volunteering opportunity for 4-6 hours a week for students from the law school which involves speaking to the local community about safety and crime prevention, with the help of PCSOs. We meet on Monday, every week in the Union foyer at 4pm, from there we are briefed on the specific advice or information we will be trying to engage students with and go out to complete a variety of student engagement tasks. Each week we do something different, from knocking on doors and directly speaking with residents to delivering leaflets or carrying out crime safety questionnaires to identify local crime-related issues.

We also actively use social media to promote the work Knowledge and the Police do. Having volunteer students talk to other students in an informal manner, allows us to break down barriers around crime prevention and really engage with people of our own age.

As well as a great volunteering opportunity, participation as a Knowledge Representative allows you to create new networks within the community and reduce the crime rate in your local area. For anyone interested in getting involved please contact PC Matt Guy at [M.Guy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:M.Guy@leeds.ac.uk)

Lucy Reid

## Congratulations to...



Daryl Bryan Chee, a final year LLB student from Singapore, who has secured a training contract with Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, one of the largest full service firms in South East Asia, with more than 500 lawyers in 9 Asian countries.

As the member firm for Singapore in the Lex Mundi network of independent law firms, Rajah & Tann also has the ability to provide legal services in over 100 countries globally.

## Westlaw support



The support I provide is anything to do with Westlaw, so researching cases and articles for essays and dissertations and how to fully use the legal database and its features.

Westlaw is a lot more than cases and journals, there is an insight section which breaks down topics, as well as news updates and an international law section.

My normal drop in sessions are 11-1 every Tuesday in the Law school common room and I'll be hosting various workshops this semester. I'll also be doing accreditation sessions, where students can get certified in Westlaw, which is really great for your CV and applications.

Like my facebook page: [www.facebook.com/LegalResearchAtUniversityOfLeeds](https://www.facebook.com/LegalResearchAtUniversityOfLeeds) or you can also email me any questions to [lw12amj@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lw12amj@leeds.ac.uk)

Amina Jamil  
Westlaw Rep

## Representing you

As you probably know, I'm Zaki and I'm the Undergraduate law school representative this year. It's my job to make sure all YOUR views are heard within the law school and at Union level too.

One of the biggest tasks I've had this year is gauging responses to this year's lecture capture and looking at how it has revolutionised teaching here at the University of Leeds. I also want to ensure that there is plenty of student engagement within the union and university as a whole and strengthen our reputation as one of the best schools in this university.

If you have any queries or suggestions or if there is anything at all you want to raise with me regarding your student experience at the law school please don't hesitate to get in contact with me. My email is [lw12zkag@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lw12zkag@leeds.ac.uk).



I will also be running drop in sessions between 1:00 and 2:00 downstairs in the Liberty Building common room on Wednesday the 18th of February, Wednesday the 4th of March and Wednesday the 18th of March. It would be great to see you all. Good luck with everything and don't feel shy if you need to contact me!

Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal



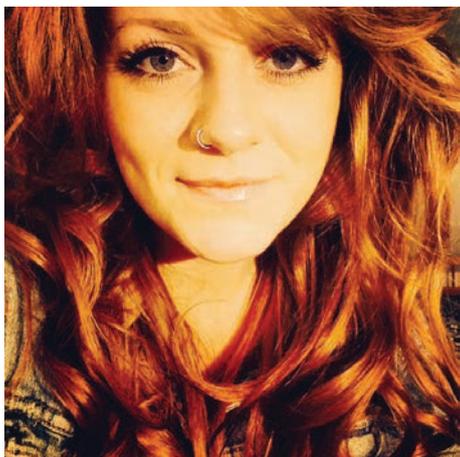
## First Year Debating

After a fantastic First Year Debating competition which had over 40 competitors, the pairs were finally whittled down to the last two and the final took place on Tuesday 2nd December in the Moot Court of the Law School. The motion being discussed was, 'this house believes Britain should leave the EU', with Arjun Patel and Jack Wray proposing the motion and Nadirur Choudhury and Livia Giordano

opposing the motion. Both sides presented fantastically researched debates and the arguments were very close. However a decision from the judges had to be made and it was the proposition who took home the title.

Overall, the standard in this year's competition was very high, we had some fantastic debates and it just goes to show the high calibre of students we have in the Law School at Leeds. A big thank you goes out to all of those who took part and a thank you must also go out to the guest judges in the final, Lydia Skeels and Sophie Rothwell.

Harvey Pare Debating Secretary, LawSoc



## New Horizons

Second year law student Holly Heathfield will be jetting off for South America this summer as she takes up a place on the University's Horizon Study Abroad year project.

Holly will head off to the Universidad de Buenos Aires for a month's intensive Spanish course in July 2015 before beginning a year's full time study of Spanish and academic courses in August 2015. Holly will be living in the city of Buenos Aires and some of her academic courses will include the history and culture of Argentina.

Holly said: "I chose to study there because I had lived and worked in Spain for 18 months before coming to University and although I chose Law as my degree, the Horizon study abroad project based in a Spanish speaking country is an amazing opportunity to incorporate Spanish into my University experience whilst also travelling somewhere I have never been before. I am extremely excited!"

She added: "I get an incredible amount of support from the University that I wouldn't otherwise get if I were planning a trip like this alone and it's one of the huge reasons I picked Leeds in the first place! I love to travel!"

Holly will return to Leeds in September 2016 to complete her final year.

The academic content of a Horizon study abroad year is focused on language learning and intercultural understanding. Students are not limited to taking modules within their degree subject. To find out more, contact the Study Abroad Office on [studyabroad@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@leeds.ac.uk)

## Justice Project news

The Justice Project members have worked really hard in ensuring the transition from Innocence to Justice has been seamless, making it unique to the University, whilst still maintaining justice for our clients!

As ever we are continuing to work on alleged miscarriages of justice, helping our clients with prospective applications to the CCRC. You may remember, from the last newsletter that one of our members highlighted the importance of the CCRC and the continued and robust links we have with this organisation at the heart of Miscarriages of Justice in the UK.

We continue to network with and interact with the legal community, including solicitors across the country, prison services and police. Students on the project have commented:

*'It is an insightful experience, bringing the criminal justice system to life.'*

Megan Sharp

*'It has given me real life experience and made me want to go in to practice even more.'*

Jodie Buck

*'An insight into the reality of the British Justice System, working with offenders and managing a large volume of cases'*

Pearlene Han



The University of Leeds  
Justice Project

*'Working on high profile cases covered in the national news in the last two years'*

Holly Parker, Manager

**If you are interested in applying to be part of the Justice Project next year please note there will be a Q&A session from 4 – 5 on 25th February in 2.46 The Liberty Building.** Come along and meet the gang, find out about the Project and the application process. Nibbles and drinks will be available. It should be a fun and informative evening.

Justice Project 2015/16 applications will open on 26th February 2015 – details will be available on the VLE. Please note, last year there were 80 applications for 18 places! Attending the informal event on the 25th should give you a head start.

We would love to see you there...

**Herabans Kaur**

Director of the Justice Project

**Holly Parker, Nicola Stewart, Ellie Williams**

Student Managers, The Justice Project

## More facilities for you

You may have noticed last semester the appearance of some new facilities in the School:

**Power Up** – additional power points were added around the Liberty Building to enable students to plug in their laptops, tablets and mobile phones. It is good to see these are being used regularly by students waiting for their classes to start; to see academic staff or to make best use of their time between classes.

**Locker Zones** – in response to student suggestions two 'Locker Zones' have been created. The Yellow Locker Zone is at the bottom of the Belle Vue Road Staircase, and the Red Locker Zone at the bottom of the Moorland Road Staircase (at the end of the atrium). The lockers are available on a first come first served daily basis, all you need is your own padlock. How it works: place your belongings in an empty locker; secure it with your padlock; attend your classes; collect your belongings and padlock, leaving the locker free for a fellow student.

**Hydration Stations** –

whilst these are not new to the Liberty Building they have been more clearly marked to encourage both staff and students to drink more water and stay hydrated. The well-being benefits of water intake are well known and include improved concentration when learning. We don't provide disposable cups, as one of our green initiatives, and instead encourage the use of refillable bottles that can be used to keep you hydrated on the move.



**Do you have news to share?**  
Please let us know!

Contact Kate Spicer on [k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk) and you could feature in the next School newsletter.

## Mooting: Leeds v Edinburgh

Students Bryan Chen and Min Chin took on a team from Edinburgh University in the second round of the OUP/BPP external mooting competition (negligence and psychiatric damage), held in the School on 3rd February. After a close contest, Edinburgh won by 1 point. But, well fought Leeds!

If you have an idea for a story, want to write an article or comment on this issue, please get in touch:

Editor: **Kate Spicer**

School Support Officer, Communications and Alumni

Email: [k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.spicer@leeds.ac.uk)

Tel: **0113 343 7209**

Web: [www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/)

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 **@Law\_Leeds**

Thank you to all contributors for this issue.

*Information correct as of February 2015.*

