

LEEDS LAW

School of Law
Alumni Magazine
— Issue Three 2017

A NEW DIRECTION

*Radical Changes to
Qualification Routes*

A LIFE OF CRIME

*Centre for Criminal Justice
Studies Celebrates 30 Years*

RESEARCH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

*Mobile Solutions to the Mexican
Kidnapping Epidemic*

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STAYING CONNECTED

*— Alumni offer invaluable support
to School's employability efforts*



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



**School of Law
Alumni Magazine**

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**MANY THANKS TO ALL STAFF,
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Welcome

The last year has been a challenging one for the United Kingdom. Whatever your views on the results of the EU referendum and the recent election, great uncertainty exists about our future.

On top of this, we have experienced terrible attacks in London and Manchester and the appalling tragedy of the Grenfell Tower. It is at times like this that a community like ours – a community characterised by openness, informed and rational debate, deep engagement with the issues and a commitment to truth – must hold fast to our values, the values that have shaped this School throughout its history.

Notwithstanding the difficult external landscape, it has been an exceptional year for the School. League tables are not everything, but the last year has seen us achieve top 10 positions in The Guardian and the Good University Guide for both law and criminology. It will be a challenge to retain our current position – by some way our best since league tables began – but I believe where we currently are reflects our national and international reputation as one of the best places in the UK to study law or criminology.

My colleagues continue to excel in all that they do. Our highest ever result in the National Student Survey reflects their commitment to the education of our students and is a powerful rejection of the claim that a law school cannot be excellent at both teaching and research. Several colleagues have received prestigious awards and prizes for their academic work and for the impact of their work. Yet it is of course the case that a law school community does not just consist of its academic and support staff. Our students play a hugely important part in making the School the strong and enduring community that it is. At the core of the community lies the Law Student Society and the Criminology Society. Both have had exceptional years, organising brilliant events that have drawn the School and its members together.

I want also to take this opportunity to thank you our alumni for all that you have done to support the School and to re-engage with us. Thanks to you, our mentoring scheme has gone from strength to strength and we are now in the position that any second year student who wants a mentor is able to

access one. This has been hugely important in supporting students towards the careers that they want. We have also had several very successful alumni events in this country and abroad. I have thoroughly enjoyed all the events that I have attended and have been particularly impressed and humbled by the warmth and pride that you express about your School. Next year, we will again be holding a number of events and I hope very much to meet you at one of these. These events represent an excellent opportunity to meet up with friends, to meet other alumni and to learn more about the School.

When I look at all my colleagues do that is changing the way we think about the world, when I talk to our students, and hear about what they are doing for our community and wider society, I feel proud to be the Head of School. It is a challenging time but we must continue to rise to the challenges that face us and hold fast to the values we believe in. As people who have the privilege to be part of one of the leading law schools in the world, we owe this to ourselves and to the world.



Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

A New Direction



Many readers will be familiar with the notion of a 'qualifying law degree' – the idea that a number of subjects studied through the LLB provided exemption from studying them again at a later stage of training.

For many of our alumni that would have been the old Part 2 exams (until 1979), the Solicitors' Final Examination (1979–93) or the Legal Practice Course (LPC) since 1993, followed by a two year training contract. The Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA) has recently announced fundamental changes to qualification that, from around 2020, will see the demise of the qualifying law degree. Whilst there has been substantial criticism of the reforms, not least from Leeds, the changes are to happen. So what does it mean?

While the SRA has stated that it is not concerned with or responsible for the impact of its proposals on the content of law degrees, and that this is a matter for universities and the market, it clearly intends the reforms to effect changes to the degree. Unless universities respond to these proposals by altering their degrees to 'teach to the test', the cost savings that the SRA anticipates are unlikely to materialise. Indeed, the SRA has stated that it expects the reforms to lead to universities integrating preparation for SQE 1 into their law degrees. Those that do not will risk being uncompetitive as their graduates will need to pay for extra courses to prepare for the SQE. In sum, it is clear that the SRA expects – indeed its goal of cutting costs is dependent on – universities 'falling into line' and teaching to the SQE.

However, it is unlikely that this will happen, particularly at research intensive universities such as Leeds. Teaching to the SQE assessment entails combining the subject matter of the traditional law degree – Administrative Law; English Legal System; Contract; Torts; Property; Criminal Law; Equity and Trusts; Company Law; and Commercial Law, with subjects that are part of the LPC – Dispute Resolution; Wills and Probate; Principles of Professional Conduct; Criminal Litigation; and Conveyancing. The SRA is also being highly prescriptive on the precise content of the SQE 1 subjects. This raises significant issues for areas of practice concerned with social justice and other areas not represented in the Stage 1 assessment.

Such a crowded curriculum will significantly curtail the ability of University Law degrees to offer the breadth of legal knowledge and understanding that is currently delivered by a range of providers. It will stifle innovation in the curriculum and limit the ability of students to cover language or business modules alongside their law degrees.

Preparation for multiple choice assessments and other computer based assessments (as proposed in the new SQE) is also likely to diminish law graduates' capacity to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that are valued by the recruiting profession. It is likely that the very top Law Schools will therefore continue to focus on delivering a more traditional academic programme. Their graduates will remain the most sought after by elite employers, not least because of these academic skills.

A further risk to diversity arises from the fact that an 'SQE degree' would be narrowly focussed on a profession that will not wish to employ all those graduating with such a degree, yet which does not equip them well for other vocations. This has financial consequences for the students.

The proposal that all SQE exams must be taken in the same assessment window is also problematic. It is difficult to envisage a degree that both develops and deepens the intellectual challenge over three years whilst simultaneously preparing students to sit a raft of computer based assessments upon graduation. The development of a range of SQE preparation courses is obvious, potentially negating the sought after cost savings.

The changes are undoubtedly radical and though we fundamentally disagree that they will bring about the intended benefits, the demise of a prescriptive QLD provides an exciting opportunity to develop the LLB to reflect international expertise in the School: preparing students with the intellectual and practical skills for a wide range of positions in the modern global economy. We will keep you informed as to how this takes shape.



Professor Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education



**KEEP UPDATED ABOUT THE NEW
CHANGES AND FIND OUT WHAT IT
MEANS FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.**

Head to www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news

①

National Recognition – 7th in the UK for Law

The School celebrated success this year after achieving impressive results across a number of national league tables. In September 2016, the National Student Survey (NSS) results were released and staff and students were overjoyed to see the School rise to second place (after Cambridge) in the Russell Group with an impressive 96% for overall course satisfaction. Our commitment to student education and the overall student experience remains at the centre of what we do here in Leeds and it was most reassuring to see this reflected in scores given by students.

Shortly after the release of the NSS results, the School found more reason to celebrate when 'The Times and The Sunday Times University Guide' ranked the School 7th in the UK for Law (and 8th by The Guardian), increasing our national ranking by several places from the previous year. 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, and degree outcomes.

More good news followed when our BA programme in Criminal Justice and Criminology was ranked 3rd in the UK for Criminology by The Guardian in May 2017, a fitting achievement in the year our Centre for Criminal Justice Studies celebrates its 30th anniversary.



②

School Unveils Race Relations Act 1965 Banner and Opens Exhibition on Equality Law

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

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

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

Serendipity also brought both Rt Hon Baroness Usha Prashar and Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP onto the University campus on the same weekend, the former to give an Alumni Lecture and the latter to attend a conference on the Responsibility to Protect. Given her role as one of the first Conciliation Officers in the Race Relations Board, and his role as MP for Leeds Central, the presence of the

two was especially fitting. Baroness Prashar, alumnus of the University and a cross-bench peer in the House of Lords, shared reflections upon her work as a Conciliation Officer in the 1970s, and of 'busing' in Britain. She spoke of her pride in seeing that the spirit of social justice remains strong in Leeds, and that the Banner has found such an appropriate permanent home. Hilary Benn MP reflected upon the parliamentary aspects of the Race Relations Act and spoke strongly for the Parliamentary role in preventing discrimination on any grounds. He reminded the audience of the window signs saying 'No Irish, No Dogs, No Blacks' and highlighted the role of civil society in prompting parliamentary action. He also commented on the worrying increase in hate crimes following the Brexit referendum, and the negative repercussions of anti-immigrant rhetoric.

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

③

Launch of Liberty Lectures – Professor Seyla Benhabib

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



"We are living through a fateful time. In a short period, hardly spanning more than five years, we have experienced the battle over the Ukraine; the intensification and tragic end of the civil war in Syria; the Greek fiscal crisis; Brexit; and the election of Donald Trump."

Professor Benhabib discussed how German-born Jewish American political theorist Hannah Arendt, would have been astonished that the 'refugee crisis' led to such an unravelling of the international legal order established after WWII, within the European context in particular. She asked: "why has the movement of peoples across national borders become such a highly volatile and symbolic issue?" and took aim at the tension between universal human rights and sovereignty at the heart of the nation-state system.

This event was the first of the School's 'Liberty Lectures'. From global warming, public health crises and international inequality, to financial security and sustainable development, the School of Law wishes to engage in the most pressing issues of our time and contribute to what will be complex and difficult conversations and solutions.



④

International Conference on Competition Law

On 9 September 2016, the Centre for Business Law and Practice at the School of Law brought together leading scholars, policy makers and practitioners at an international conference on 'Competition Law and Regulation in Digital Markets', sponsored by Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Eversheds LLP, and Google. The conference was organised by Professor Pinar Akman, Dr Peter Whelan, and Dr Konstantinos Stylianou and welcomed seventy delegates from around the world.

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

The conference had the honour of welcoming keynote speaker Dr Andrea Coscelli (pictured), the Acting Chief Executive of the Competition and Markets Authority, who emphasised the importance of a regulatory balance between intervention and innovation, and the current and future enforcement priorities of the CMA in this area. Throughout each of the panels there were several overarching themes.

Examples of these included: whether digital markets deserve distinct regulatory and antitrust treatment; whether in the online world market power, market definition and business practices have a different meaning; and how important the role of data and computer processing is in competition analysis. Many panellists agreed that a more nuanced regulatory attitude is desirable. As emphasised by the keynote, enforcement practices must not inhibit innovation.

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

5

UK IVR Conference on 'Law and Social Sustainability'

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



The aim of the conference was to explore the connections between law and broader, social, interpretations of sustainability. To that end, it included more than 40 different paper presentations and welcomed more than 60 delegates, who explored and challenged the relationship between law and social sustainability from different theoretical angles including, among others, legal theory, political philosophy, socio-legal theory, legal history, legal psychology, and culture. Of particular note were the contributions of the conference's three keynote speakers: Dr Virginia Mantouvalou (UCL Laws) discussed the danger of generating and perpetuating structural vulnerability in current legal provisions protecting against modern slavery; Professor Neil Walker (Edinburgh) explored the evolution of the experimental openness of the European Union and how the EU's legal and procedural experimentation could prove challenging for its future; and Professor Leslie Green (Oxford) analysed parliamentary, popular and state conceptions of sovereignty as well as their interaction and normative priority in cases when they might come into conflict.

This theme of 'Law and Social Sustainability' was selected because of the conceptual potential of sustainability. Like justice and truth, sustainability is an objective whose value few would openly dispute and,

although conceptually ambiguous, its forward-looking, non-static flair continues to inspire and permeate seminal works on environmental policy and development. But are there additional links between sustainability and law? How does and how should law affect social sustainability? Could we use law decisively to redress labour precarity and disadvantage, and how? How can refugee law, gender equality studies, disability theory and antidiscrimination ensure fair and sustainable communities? How do different analytical traditions, such as human rights, legal and political philosophy, and law and economics, interpret fairness and social cohesion? How should such perspectives (in)form law and policy?

Some speakers were specifically interested in the connections between legal procedures, including judicial review, authority, judicial diversity and access to justice with social sustainability. Others focused on the role of values and social goals, including equality, legality and social inclusion, in the consolidation and protraction of fair and sustainable communities. These discussions are ongoing, and there are plans afoot to publish these proceedings next year.



6

'Stay in Leeds' Law Fair

For many years Leeds has been regarded as the second largest centre for legal and financial services outside London. With approximately 15,000 people employed at over 200 firms, Leeds remains an important centre for the UK legal profession and, as such, a viable career destination for students after graduation.

In 2016, recognising the Leeds appeal, we launched the 'Stay in Leeds' Law Fair to help undergraduate students forge relationships with local firms and to increase work experience opportunities by encouraging firms to offer exclusive placements to Leeds Law students. One year on (and two fairs later), the 'Stay in Leeds' Law Fair is already a firm favourite in the student employability calendar, offering the lion's share of local workplace opportunities. The fair is supported by regional firms that include Emsleys, Needle-Partners, 3volution, Squire Patton Boggs, and Capsticks, and some firms have also awarded work placement scholarships to support the students whilst on placement.

In addition to the opportunities provided at the 'Stay in Leeds' fair the School also works with other organisations to broaden the offer of available opportunities. We work with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer who kindly support a number of placements in September each year for students entering their second year of study, and M&S have also provided opportunities on more than one occasion. A number of students also take on marshalling roles each year and five students were awarded the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board prize in 2016.

7

Major Award for Research into Investor and Creditor Protection in China

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) have awarded a research team at the School of Law £320,000 for a project titled "Boosting growth through strengthening investor and creditor protection in China: How China can learn from the UK experience".

It is one of nine collaborative research projects that seek to develop and deepen understanding of the Chinese financial system and its crucial role in supporting the future development and continued growth of the Chinese economy.

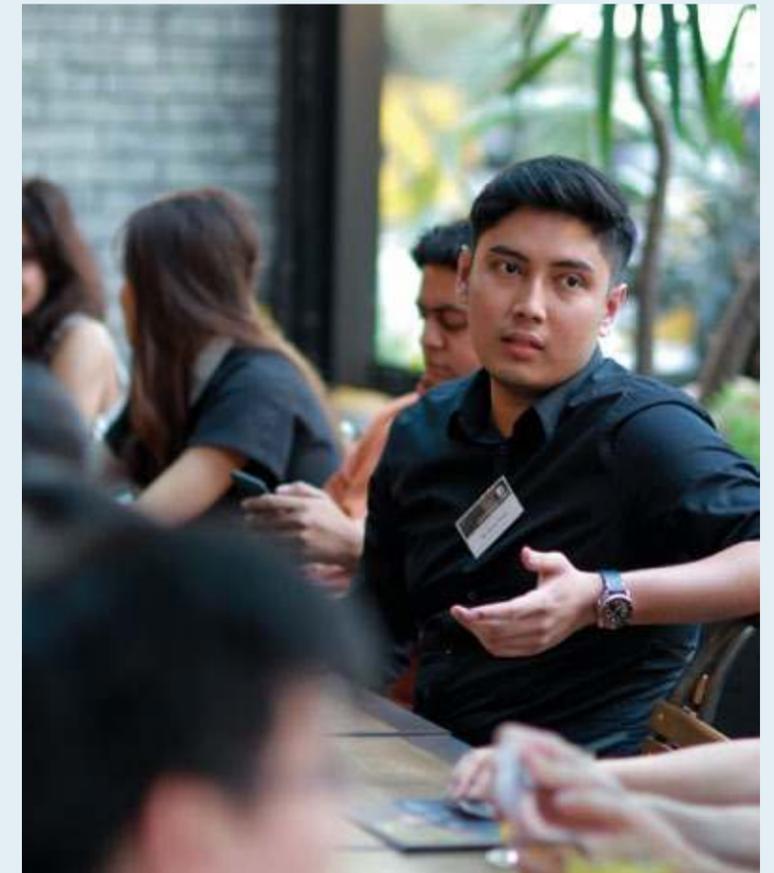
The research team at Leeds that includes Professors Gerry McCormack (Principal Investigator), Roger Halson, Andrew Keay, and Joan Loughrey, Associate Professors Sarah Brown and Jingchen Zhao, and Zinian Zhang, will work in collaboration with colleagues from Wuhan University, China, who have been awarded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



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH SCHOOL NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

Head to www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news

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



8

International Strand of Mentor Programme Launched

Since 2014, the School of Law has been working with alumni and employers to run a career mentoring scheme that supports law and criminal justice students in their second year of study.

We match professionals at work with students to develop their employer awareness, soft skills and career knowledge. This year we piloted an international strand of the scheme and called on School of Law alumni from around the world to participate. We now have mentors in Malaysia, Singapore, India and Nigeria, as well as in the UK, and are looking for more.

The scheme runs from October to May each academic year and has supported over 250 students since 2014. If you are a professional in graduate type employment with at least two years' work experience and would like to offer constructive guidance and support to one of our current students please register your interest by contacting us via email: law@leeds.ac.uk.

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A Life of Crime

*Centre for Criminal Justice
Studies Celebrates 30 Years*

This year, the School of Law's Centre for Criminal Justice Studies is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The Centre was established in 1987 to pursue research into criminal justice systems and criminological issues. It has since grown to become one of the leading centres of its kind with an established international profile for theoretically rich and empirically-grounded research with societal impact.

From the outset, the Centre has set scholarly agendas, producing ground-breaking research with national and international relevance. It has made major contributions to the fields of counter-terrorism, criminal law, cybercrime and security, human rights and miscarriages of justice, offender management and resettlement, policing, urban security, restorative justice, urban security, victim studies, and youth justice. As the Centre has expanded so too have its research strengths, to encompass crime prevention, historical criminology, international and comparative criminal law and criminal justice, quantitative criminology, and transnational policing and security.



The Centre's research strengths are reflected in its strong record of external grant capture, including prestigious awards from UK funding councils (AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC, HEFCE), international funders (Newton Fund, European Union, the European Commission); government departments (Home Office, Ministry of Justice); statutory agencies (Police, Probation Services, local government); and third sector organisations and Trusts (Nuffield Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Leverhulme Trust).

For example, the N8 Policing Research Partnership, directed by Professor Adam Crawford, which investigates 'Innovation and the Application of Knowledge for More Effective Policing', was awarded a £3 million Catalyst Grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, matched by over £4.2 million from policing partners and N8 universities, for a five-year programme of research co-production and knowledge exchange (2015–20). The project brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines across the N8 institutions, with 11 police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners, as well as other external partner organisations to generate new insights, exploit existing datasets and strengthen the evidence base upon which

policing policy, practice and learning are developed. It is an initiative that is harnessing research skills, capabilities and resources across the North of England and positions the CCJS as a leading centre for policing research.

Alongside major funding awards, the Centre boasts a successful record of knowledge exchange, research co-production and engagement with non-academic research users. In these and other activities, the Centre has benefitted from the support of its Advisory Board, drawn from key senior positions within criminal justice agencies, including the police, judiciary, youth justice, Crown Prosecution Service, probation and prison services and the courts, as well as community safety organisations. Research by Centre members has influenced major policy debates, shaped legal reform and improved criminal justice practices.



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Research by Centre members has influenced major policy debates, shaped legal reform and improved criminal justice practices.
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Throughout the last 30 years, the Centre has also earned a reputation for delivering the highest quality undergraduate and postgraduate education: BA (Hons) Criminal Justice and Criminology and postgraduate programmes concerned with criminal justice, criminal law and security issues. This year, the School was ranked 3rd in the UK for criminological education in The Guardian University Guide 2017.

An exciting series of events have been planned throughout 2017 to mark the Centre's 30th anniversary.

On 30 January, Dame Vera Baird DBE QC, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and former Solicitor-General and Member of Parliament in the Labour government, delivered the annual Frank Dawtry Memorial Lecture 'Court Watching, Will We See Justice?'. The lecture reported on an innovative project in which volunteer panellists watched and reported on 30 rape trials at Newcastle Crown Court, having received training on basic trial procedure from the Crown Prosecution Service. The panel recently published their observations to promote best practice in the prosecution of rape and sexual assault as part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.

On 28 April, Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, QC, delivered the Centre's annual public lecture and unveiled an exhibition located in the School to mark the Centre's 30th anniversary. Sir Keir completed his LLB Law degree at the University of Leeds in 1985 and was last at the School in 2011 when he officially opened The Liberty Building – the current home to the School of Law. He was elected as Labour MP for Holborn & St Pancras in 2015 and in 2016 was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet, taking up the role as Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. Prior to becoming an MP, Sir Keir was a human rights lawyer, co-founding Doughty Street Chambers in 1990 and conducting cases in the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights. From 2002–2007, he worked as a human rights advisor to the Policing Board in Northern Ireland, monitoring compliance of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) with the Human Rights Act. In 2008, Sir Keir was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Head of the Crown Prosecution Service for England and Wales, a role he held until 2013. The evening was a fantastic success and the achievements of the Centre were celebrated by many, including: students, staff, Centre members – past and present, alumni, the Centre's Advisory Board and other members of the University and local community.



Dame Vera Baird
DBE QC



Sir Keir Starmer
KCB, QC

On 3 July, 'A Conference on Regulation and Criminology: Looking Back, Thinking Forward' took place at the School of Law. The conference brought members of the Centre together with other national and international scholars with a shared interest in the regulation of individuals, organisations, and industries. Professors John and Valerie Braithwaite, whose work has illuminated, shaped, and challenged our understanding of the processes of, and responses to, regulation delivered the opening and closing plenary lectures at the conference. John and Valerie founded RegNet, the School of Regulation and Global Governance, at the Australian National University.

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The evening was a fantastic success and the achievements of the Centre were celebrated by many.
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VISIT THE SCHOOL OF LAW WEBSITE TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE CCJS AND THE SCHOOL OF LAW.

Head to www.law.leeds.ac.uk

Celebrating 30 years of excellence (1987–2017)

1987 Centre established

1990

Centre hosts Miscarriages of Justice Conference, April

Criminal Justice Act

White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*

1991

Criminal Justice Act

The Woolf Report published

'Birmingham Six' freed after 16 years

1993

Centre launches MA Criminal Justice Studies

Royal Commission on Criminal Justice

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables convicted of the murder of James Bulger

Murder of Stephen Lawrence

1994

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act

1995

Centre hosts Annual Socio-Legal Studies Association Conference 'Value and Commitment in Diversity', April

1997

Centre hosts Renewal of Criminal Justice? New Labour's Policies in Perspective Conference, September

White Paper, *No more Excuses*

1998

Centre hosts Integrating a Victim Perspective within Criminal Justice Conference, York, July

White Paper, *Modernising Justice*

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act

1999

Centre Hosts 14th BILETA Conference Cyberspace 1999: Crime Criminal Justice and the Internet, York, March



2000

Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act

2001

Centre joins the Groupe Européen de Recherches sur les Normativités (GERN)

Centre Launches BA Criminology and Criminal Justice

International Criminal Court Act

White Paper, *Policing a New Century: A Blueprint for Reform*

September 11 attacks



Image credit: Osmany Torres Mart'n gettyimages.co.uk

2002

Centre launches LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

White Paper, *Justice for All*

2005

Centre hosts British Society of Criminology Annual Conference 'Re-Awakening the Criminological Imagination', July

Prevention of Terrorism Act

Serious and Organised Crime Act

VISIT OUR EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The Liberty Building, University of Leeds



2006

Centre hosts Rethinking Community Policing in an Age

Centre joins the EU funded Co-ordination Action programme 'CRIMPREV: Assessing Deviance, Crime and Prevention in Europe' of Diversity workshop Leeds, February

Police and Justice Act

2007

Centre launches the International & Comparative Criminal Justice network of the Worldwide Universities Network and Fellowship programme

Serious Crime Act

2008

Centre hosts 21st Anniversary Conference: Crime and Disorder Act: 10 years on, May

Centre hosts International and Comparative Criminal Justice and Urban Governance, WUN International Colloquium, June

Counter-terrorism Act

2009

Centre hosts Legitimacy and Compliance in Criminal Justice: An International Colloquium, June

Policing and Crime Act

2010

A team of Members of the Centre take on editorship of the journal *Criminology and Criminal Justice* for the British Society of Criminology

Crime and Security Act

2011

Centre launches the cross-disciplinary Security and Justice Research Group

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIM) Act

England riots following the police shooting of Mark Duggan

Image credit: Akabei gettyimages.co.uk

2012

Centre hosts Private Sector Involvement in Criminal Justice Conference, June

First Police and Crime Commissioner elections held

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (amendment) Act

2013

Justice and Security Act

Centre hosts New Regulatory Approaches to Crime and Behavioural Control Conference, July

Centre launches the N8 Policing Research Partnership

Centre launches MA Security and Justice

Centre hosts Democratic Governance of Policing: The Role and Implications of Elected Police and Crime Commissioners Conference, January

2014

Offender Rehabilitation Act

Law Commission holds symposium on Unfitness to Plead at the School of Law

Centre hosts Laws of Security: Re-Conceptualising Security at the Intersections of Law, Criminology & International Relations Conference, June



2015

Centre hosts Restorative Practices and Justice: Leeds – Towards a Restorative City Conference, November

2016

Centre hosts Markets in Policing: Experiences from Europe and Beyond Conference, July

2017 Centre marks 30th anniversary

Staying Connected

We have made great strides in employability over the past few years, and we owe so much of our success to the continued support of our alumni. You have dedicated your time, your enthusiasm and your knowledge to helping the next generation of students succeed. Your support is paying dividends.

As you may know, all universities survey their graduates six months after graduation. Students in further education or in graduate positions are treated as positive graduate prospects and this figure is benchmarked against our competitors. In the past three years, the results in law have increased substantially. In the academic year 2011/12, 77.9% fell into the positive graduate prospects category. In 2014/15 (our most recent figures), it was 86.6%. This is an incredible achievement.

For us, employability is not some mechanical or cynical process concerned only to get our students into graduate jobs. It is, instead, a holistic process concerned to ensure that our students are informed about the range of career options available to them; that they have the opportunity to meet and connect with professionals in that field; and that they feel sufficiently empowered to realise their goals. We want our graduates to be confident, dynamic and marketable.

Our employability goals are realised through a range of opportunities. These begin from the moment that our students matriculate. Knowledge about career options, and the importance of developing skills, is disseminated through the curriculum at levels one, two and three. We organise career talks for Criminal Justice students throughout the year and an annual Criminal Justice Careers and Volunteering Fair in October. First year Law students enjoy lectures in their Foundations of

Law module, which aim to introduce them to practitioners (usually alumni) from traditional legal careers as solicitors or barristers. In this way, students can begin to appreciate the demands of practice. The presence of our alumni in these early lectures is vital to helping students gain confidence in their abilities to realise their goals. It has a profound effect. Second and third years enjoy a range of lectures that speak to the skills involved in professional life (of all sorts), particularly the key skills of networking, commercial awareness (or business acumen) and the need to be professional. We find lectures incredibly useful – but, increasingly, we use them less to make sure our employability approach is not too static. After all, we want our students to improve their skills, outlook and confidence through doing.

We build up our students’ networking skills through our mentoring programme. Currently, we have just over one hundred mentors from a range of professions, including law and criminal justice, and from across the country and internationally. Many of these mentors are alumni who want to give back to the School and to our current students. Although we do not require such, many mentors will provide guidance on the recruitment process for work experience placements and jobs. They often arrange for students to gain work experience at their firm/chambers/organisation. As you can imagine, this is incredibly valuable to the students, who are always enormously grateful for the ‘extra mile’ that mentors go.

Our commitment to increase the number of exclusive opportunities for our students, particularly work experience placements, marks us out from our competitors. Our alumni are vitally important in helping us to create these.



Dr Paul Wragg
Associate Professor of Law
Faculty and School Director
of Employability



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH OUR EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME PLEASE CONTACT:

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In the last year, we have obtained 65 of these opportunities, which is an unprecedented amount. These opportunities were located across the Yorkshire region as well in the City of London. Nearly half of these came from the ‘Stay in Leeds’ Law Fair. Representatives from nine local firms attended the afternoon event and spoke to our students about professional life in Leeds. A healthy number of these work experience opportunities resulted in training contracts and paralegal offers being made. Criminal justice agencies in Leeds were also able to offer work experience as prizes to students who did very well in their modules and contributed to the School’s community.

In the City, we work closely with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. For several years now, one of our alumni, Neil Golding, a partner at the firm, has generously donated his time and considerable expertise to hosting six of our best first year students each September to introduce them to life at a Magic Circle firm, and to prepare them for applying for a vacation placement. This has been a profitable arrangement for our students. Each year we have had one or two students who have obtained a vacation placement followed by a training contract offer. We are delighted that our relationship with the firm is strengthened through this arrangement and look forward to an increasing number of Leeds alumni at Freshfields in the future!

We are also committed to helping our students develop their employability skills, especially those relating to communication, commercial awareness and professionalism. Our alumni play an important role in this as well. We have an interviewing scheme whereby students are given mock interviews at the offices of leading practices in Leeds, including Squire Patton Boggs, Irwin Mitchell, Addleshaw Goddard, Shulmans and Blacks. We run workshops to help students develop their commercial awareness. For the past two years, we have run an innovation and enterprise competition with Addleshaw Goddard and BPP. Through this, students work in teams and present proposals for products or services that speak to the theme of innovation and enterprise in a particular context.

As the School’s Director of Employability, it has been my pleasure to work with our amazing alumni. Having been at the School now for almost eight years, it is a real delight for me to watch bright, keen students become incredibly successful professionals. To see them come back to the School and inspire the next generation is very special.



Community Links

— For many years, the School has fostered a strong commitment to supporting students with their pro bono endeavours. From supporting local A-level Law students, through to giving free legal advice in the city and its surrounding areas, we have always believed that it is important to provide opportunities for our students to contribute positively to the local community.

Recently, our pro bono offer has been refined to reflect changing local and national needs, and to ensure the School can develop long-lasting partnerships with organisations around the city and beyond. All of our projects are designed to support people who would otherwise find it difficult to access services or to understand their rights; to increase students' political and social awareness; to provide students with the opportunity to see 'the law in action'; and to ensure our students can use the skills and resources specific to them as School of Law students.

The School's strategic plan reflects a commitment to growing existing projects to reach more people in need of legal support. To that end, the School has invested heavily in this area: the pro bono activities are now co-ordinated by five members of staff, including a full-time Clinical Legal Education Co-ordinator.

Pop Up Clinics

Since April 2016, a dedicated team of 18 student volunteers have supported local pro bono lawyers across clinics in the Leeds area. The clinics are run by Lydia Bleasdale, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Leeds, and Sarah Humphreys, the Clinical Legal Education Co-ordinator.

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



Welfare Rights Project

In October 2016, student volunteers began providing one-to-one support to Personal Independent Payment (PIP) applicants. PIP is a benefit which helps with the costs of long-term health conditions/disabilities for people aged 16-64, and is gradually replacing Disability Living Allowance. The students complete the PIP form with clients, working in shifts to ensure that each client whose appointment has been booked with the School's team receives appropriate support. Volunteers receive a full day of training in welfare rights law and PIP documentation, as well as ongoing support and supervision from the Clinics Co-ordinator and Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit.

Between 31 October 2016 and 10 March 2017, the students assisted a total of 90 clients. As of May 2017 it is projected they will have helped those clients secure almost £170,000 of annual benefits. Such benefits can be used to assist clients with the day-to-day costs of living with a disability, for example additional transport costs, or assistance with cooking and shopping.

The project recently gained national recognition when named 'Best New Student Pro Bono Activity' at the LawWorks and Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards 2017. The Awards, supported by Attorney General, Jeremy Wright, QC, MP, recognise the outstanding pro bono work carried out by students and law schools across the UK. Representatives of the School and Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit attended the Awards ceremony at the House of Commons on 26 April where the project was described as having achieved a great deal from a 'standing start'.

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

Director of Clinics at the School of Law, Lydia Bleasdale, said: "The students have had a very positive impact upon their local community through this project, helping clients to secure funds to which they are entitled. They have worked extremely hard to uphold high standards of client care, and to get the right outcomes for their clients, and as a School we are extremely proud of them."



Cerebra Research Project

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

The research concerns challenges experienced by disabled children and their families in accessing their legal entitlements, and was split into two strands in its first year of operation at Leeds.

The first strand examined the accuracy and accessibility of home to school transport policies on Local Authority websites. Students were taught the law regarding disabled children's transport rights, and were trained in assessing Local Authority policies. Students gathered and analysed quantitative and qualitative data relating to home to school transport policies across 71 Local Authority websites, representing almost half of the education authorities in England. Students found that in a substantial proportion of local authority school transport policies, the information regarding transport rights of a child with special educational needs (SEN), disability or mobility issues, was either lacking, inaccurate or restrictive. These findings were presented to a Parliamentary Select Committee chaired by Caroline Ansell, MP on 7 March 2017.

The second research strand was concerned with Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Disabled children and their families are entitled to DFGs to pay for home adaptations to be made, in order to improve accessibility, and their independent enjoyment of their surroundings. Volunteers assessed the cost effectiveness of DFGs and the impact adaptations had on the disabled child and their family. Students interviewed families; collated the results; and inputted results into the final report. It was found that the DFG awards potentially saved Local Authorities a substantial amount of money by avoiding/delaying the need for residential care settings for disabled children. Moreover, most families indicated other non-cost related benefits of these adaptations, including the quality of life of the child, siblings and parent carers.

For more information on the Charity Cerebra visit their website at: w3.cerebra.org.uk



1

Dr David Churchill wins British Society of Criminology prize

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

It was awarded for Dr Churchill's 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 the 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.

Dr David Churchill 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. She has just returned to the School of Law as a lecturer in criminal justice.

Dr David Churchill was also recently awarded the Radzinowicz Prize, for the best article published in the British Journal of Criminology (BJC) in 2016. "The Radzinowicz Prize is awarded annually for the BJC article that, in the opinion of the Editors, most contributes to knowledge of criminal justice issues and the development of criminology."



2

Recognition of service for Professor Adam Crawford

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

The BSC has a number of Honorary Members who throughout their careers have demonstrated exceptional distinction and service in the field of criminology. 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 (and often international) level.

Adam Crawford, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the School of Law, obtained a PhD from the University of Leeds in 1998. He has held a number of visiting positions at universities around the world and is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the Groupe Européen de Recherches sur les Normativités (GERN) and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Services.

In Leeds, Professor Crawford has acted (on more than one occasion) as the Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and has supervised a number of successful PhD candidates in the areas of policing, community safety, crime prevention, youth justice, restorative justice, and criminology more generally.

He is the current Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute which works to support and enhance the Social Sciences at the University of Leeds, and the Director of the N8 Policing Research Partnership which is a platform for collaborations between universities, Police and Crime Commissioners, police forces and partners across the north of England.

From 2010-15, he was the Editor in Chief of the journal Criminology and Criminal Justice and is an Editorial Board member of the British Journal of Criminology. He is also a member of the International Advisory Boards for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, and journals Criminology and Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice.

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 or to the discipline in general.

3

Professor Surya Subedi Appointed an Honorary Queen's Counsel

Professor and Barrister, Surya P. Subedi, O.B.E., has been appointed as a Queen's Counsel honoris causa (Honorary QC) for his contribution to international law and human rights.

A press release issued by the Government on 12 January 2017 stated that Professor Subedi had made "an exceptional contribution over a sustained period at an international level to develop international law and to advance human rights." Professor Subedi is one of five distinguished legal academics and law practitioners that have been appointed as Honorary QCs this year. The honours were bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen upon the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. The award of Honorary QC is made to qualified lawyers and legal academics who have made a major contribution to the law of England & Wales outside practice in the courts.

Commenting on his appointment, Professor Subedi said: "I feel extremely honoured to have been appointed as an Honorary Queen's Counsel in recognition of my work in international law and human rights. As an institution with a global outlook, the University of Leeds has provided a congenial and stimulating environment that is conducive to making a contribution to a wider national and international community. It would not have been possible for me to develop international law and advance human rights without the assistance of my colleagues in the School of Law and I am grateful to them."



4

Suren Gomtsian awarded Brenno Galli Prize

Suren Gomtsian presented a paper at the annual conference of the Italian Society of Law and Economics, held at the University of Turin, on 17 December 2016.

The paper, which uses FIFA as a case study to show how private orderings may succeed in governing the behaviour of the involved actors by keeping them away from regular state courts, received Swiss National Bank's 2016 'Brenno Galli' award.

The prize aims to encourage outstanding young scholars to develop their research in the field of law and economics and is awarded annually to the most promising young scholar's paper presented at the conference. The award committee recognised the paper's contribution to the debate on private vs. public orderings and noted its interest to a wide audience.

The paper is titled 'Between the Green Pitch and the Red Tape: The Private Legal Order of FIFA'.



5

Professor Pinar Akman's research has been nominated for the 2017 Antitrust Writing Awards

Professor Pinar Akman's research (co-authored with Professor Daniel Sokol from the University of Florida) was nominated for an Antitrust Writing Award 2017.

Their article, entitled 'Online RPM and MFN under Antitrust Law and Economics', examines a highly topical concern for competition laws around the world: the competition law assessment of online resale price maintenance and most-favoured-nation clauses. It will be published in 2017 by the Review of Industrial Organization, a leading US-based economics journal.

The Antitrust Writing Awards are run annually by the New York-based Institute of Competition Law and the Competition Law Centre at George Washington University's Law School. The goal of these awards is to promote antitrust scholarship and competition advocacy by recognising and awarding the best articles published in the antitrust law and law & economics fields in the last 12 months.



WANT TO KEEP UP
WITH STAFF NEWS
ACROSS THE YEAR?

Head to www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news

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

6

Social Forum of the UN Human Rights Council

In October 2016, Anna Lawson participated in the Social Forum of the UN Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.



The topic of the Forum was ‘the human rights of disabled people’, in light of the fact that 2015 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Social Forum was attended by key figures from the UN community, including the chair and other members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; the president of the Human Rights Council; and members of other UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies including the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. It also brought together representatives of governments and civil society (particularly disabled people’s organisations) from all over the world. A key aim was to provide a space for dialogue and exchange of experience and ideas – to reflect on the first ten years of the CRPD and how to make the next ten as effective as possible.

In the second of three panel sessions for the day (‘Persons with Disabilities and Human Diversity: Embracing Diversity and Awareness Raising’), Anna presented a paper on the role of research in achieving progress toward the full realisation of human rights for disabled people. She identified three

particular roles for research (to provide evidence for relevant policy formulation, to provide evidence about relevant policy implementation, and to increase universally designed goods, services and products) – all of which are explicitly recognised in CRPD obligations. She also drew attention to a number of important lessons learned from disability studies research to bear in mind for the next ten years. She then acted as moderator for the third and final panel session of the day (‘Accessibility and Non-Discrimination: Leaving No-one Behind’).

7

Dr Stylianou co-authors major report on online Terms of Service and Human Rights

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



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

The project involved the analysis of the terms of service of 50 online platforms by three independent teams of analysts, whose interim results were checked and weighted against each other, and whose final results were analysed against various authoritative international legal texts issued among others

by the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and others.

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

8

Dr Emma Wincup makes the case for social security at the House of Lords

Dr Emma Wincup co-organised a roundtable event at the House of Lords on 13 December 2016, on the theme ‘Making the case for social security in an era of welfare state myths and stigma’.

The event was organised to launch a special issue of the Journal of Poverty and Social Justice. The issue, which came out in October 2016 (volume 24, no. 3), was co-edited by Dr Wincup (University of Leeds), Dr Ruth Patrick (University of Liverpool) and Professor John Hudson (University of York) and was on the theme ‘Exploring ‘welfare’ attitudes and experiences.’

The event was hosted by Baroness Lister of Burtersett and was funded by the Social Policy Association. Child Poverty Action Group was also present as an organiser of the event. A wide range of participants were in attendance including MP, and Chair of the School of Law’s advisory board, Lord Colin Low.



9

The Mid-Atlantic People of Colour Conference (MAPOC)

Professor Iyiola Solanke was invited to participate in the 22nd Mid-Atlantic People of Colour Conference (MAPOC) that took place at George Washington University, USA, in January 2017.

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



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

10

Professor Anthea Hucklesby conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

On 31 March 2017 the Academy of Social Sciences announced that it had conferred the award of Fellow on 47 leading social scientists. The new Fellows are drawn from academics, practitioners and policymakers across the social sciences.

Professor Anthea Hucklesby, Pro-Dean for Research and Innovation at the University of Leeds, was among those nominated by the Society and described as “one of the UK’s leading empirical criminal justice researchers, with pioneering work on electronic monitoring of offenders.”

Professor Hucklesby joined the School of Law in 2003 having worked as a Lecturer at the Universities of Leicester and Hull. Her research interests lie broadly in the area of criminal justice and how it deals with suspects, defendants and offenders. She has a particular interest in the use of electronic monitoring and is currently leading a partnership of five European Universities in a study of electronic monitoring in Europe funded by the European Commission DG Justice.

Professor Hucklesby has been awarded in excess of £1.3 million in research grants and has carried out research for the Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Youth Justice Board,

HM Prison Service, Probation Boards, West Yorkshire Police, G4S and a range of voluntary organisations.

Announcing the conferment, Professor Roger Goodman FAcSS, Chair of the Academy said: “The outstanding contributions of each new Fellow are a testament to the breadth of the social sciences, both in their ability to inform policy for public benefit, as well as in addressing some of our most pressing societal issues. The range of expertise of our more than 1,100 eminent Fellows speaks to the Academy’s growing reach as the representative voice of the social science community as a whole.”

Those named as Fellows of the Academy this year were recognised after an extensive peer review process for the excellence and impact of their work through the use of social science for public benefit.

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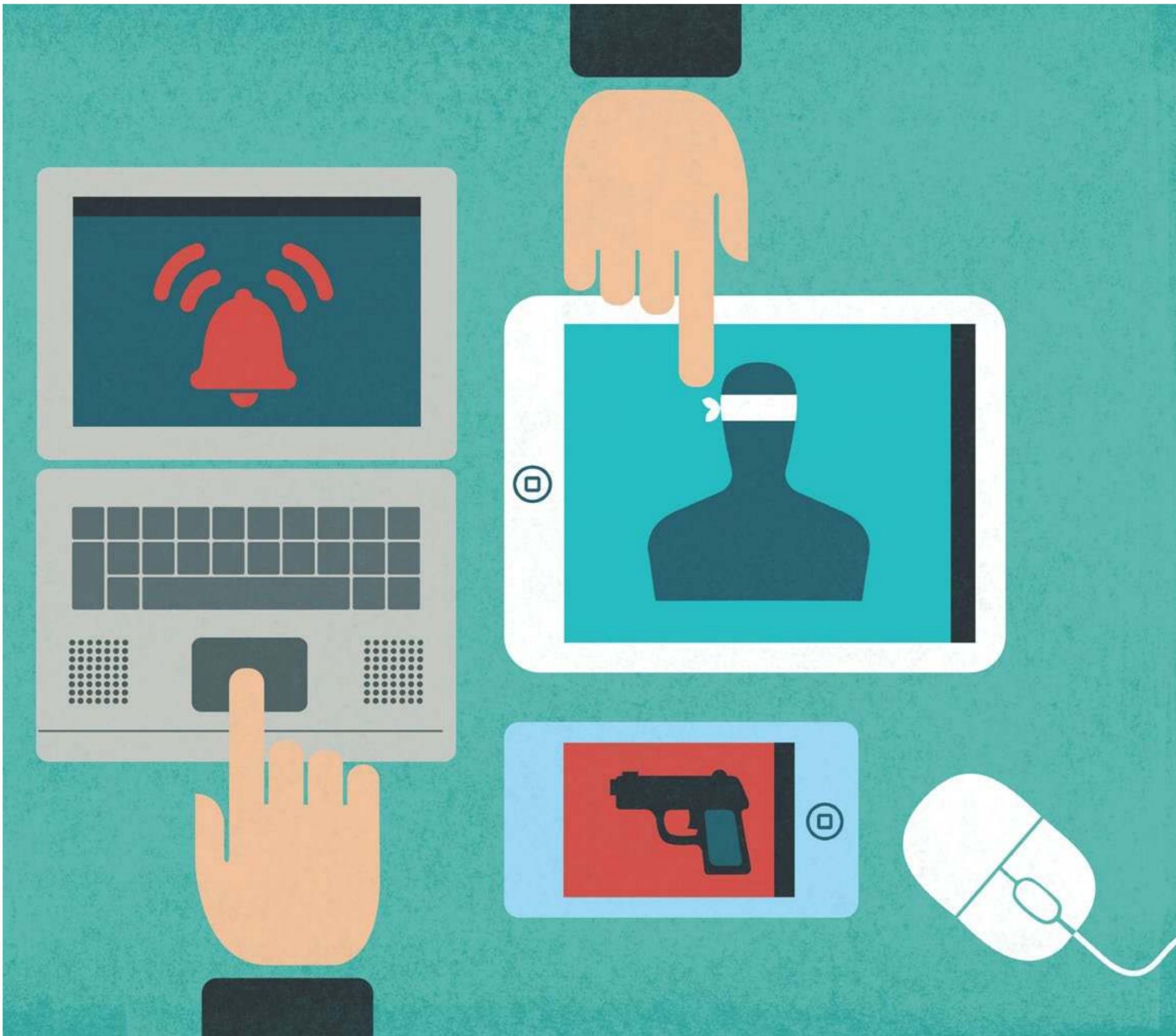
Research in the Face of Adversity

In July 2016, an international research team led by Dr Conor O'Reilly was awarded £405,000 by the Newton Fund (RCUK-CONACyT) to examine the Mexican kidnapping epidemic and various 'mobile solutions' that have emerged to counter it.

This 32-month project involves a unique collaboration between the University of Leeds and Durham University in the UK, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Unidad Xochimilco) in Mexico City, as well as a range of non-academic collaborators and activists from across Mexico and further afield. It will include fieldwork missions and research activities in Mexico, metropolitan hubs on the United States-Mexico border, and also in Colombia. Project ambitions extend beyond mere examination of this illicit phenomenon and extend towards delivering societal impact and more sustainable security solutions in the face of the kidnapping threat.



Dr Conor O'Reilly
Associate Professor in Transnational
Crime and Security



In a context where police complicity, high levels of impunity and failure to uphold the rule of law have eroded public confidence in the state; in a context where the insecurity born of kidnapping pervades Mexican society and it is no longer just the rich who are exposed; in a context where kidnap risks manifest extra-territorial reach and seep across the US-Mexico border: this research collaboration of academics, activist-citizens, NGOs and human rights defenders will develop a portfolio of counter-kidnapping resources.



As well as facilitating knowledge-sharing about how to tackle kidnapping, this project will also employ participatory action research to co-produce the following tools: a counter-kidnapping handbook; a support-network that links families of kidnap victims with civic activists; and, a mobile-phone ‘app’ developed as both a secret alerting system and a secure reporting mechanism. Through these activities, this project will provide answers to the challenging question: how do you counter kidnapping when you cannot access private solutions or rely on the state?

Project activities in Mexico began in March 2017 with a workshop organised by Dr Ernesto Schwartz-Marin (Durham University) during which project plans were piloted with activists from across diverse regions of Mexico affected by kidnapping. A period of intense ethnographic research has now been initiated by Mexican researchers and will be followed by a series of participatory action research workshops in late 2017 and 2018 to co-produce counter-kidnapping resources.



In addition to research activities within Mexico, this project also examines the transborder effects of kidnapping. Whilst kidnap risks and ransom requests are flowing north along with migrant communities, US-based private security firms are facilitating commercial reach south, offering cross-border escort security to protect against this threat and negotiating the release of kidnap victims. Engaging with these transborder dynamics Dr Conor O’Reilly and Dr Sonja Marzi (Research Fellow for the project) will conduct fieldwork in a number Metropolitan hubs in the US-Mexico border area, most notably San Diego/Tijuana and El Paso/Juarez. They will conduct fieldwork with migrant communities who have experienced and fled the threat of kidnapping in Mexico, private security firms who offer cross-border services and U.S. law enforcement tasked with addressing the transborder reach of kidnapping from Mexico. This fieldwork to explore transborder mobilities catalysed by kidnapping began in April 2017 when Dr O’Reilly conducted a research trip to El Paso, Texas. As well as connecting with academics, activists and border security actors, he attended a smuggling symposium and workshop at the University of Texas at El Paso. This drew attention to the industrial-scale of kidnapping migrants travelling from Central America to enter the United States, their precarious mobility and exposure to kidnapping representing another important facet of this project.

Other project activities will include fieldwork in Colombia and the investigation of possible transnational ‘solutions’ that might flow from there to Mexico. With increasing security policy transfers between these two contexts, this project will examine whether there are lessons for Mexico in Colombia’s much-vaunted recent success in reducing kidnappings. Engaging with activists and NGOs concerned with kidnapping in Colombia this research will explore the innovative strategies that were developed in this different Latin American context.

“
How do you counter kidnapping when you cannot access private solutions or rely on the state?
”



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Ransomware: The Crime Gift that Keeps on Taking

I was in the doctor's surgery on Friday 12 May when the Wannacry 'cyber-attack' hit. I was trying to renew a prescription and because the computers were down it took a little more time than usual. Though I have to say the staff seemed very 'matter of fact' about it and fairly unflustered. I particularly was impressed by the fact that they seemed to be able to work around the technology problem, with paper, pens and mobile phones, and still remain very cordial towards me. I guess that this is why large organisations have business continuity plans.



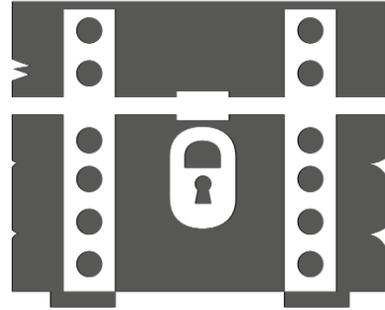
Professor David S. Wall
Professor of Criminology



In contrast, the wider media response to the ‘Cyber-attack’, which mainly affected the UK and Russia and China (Thomson, 2017) was the usual confection of fears of a cyber-Armageddon, combined with hysteria and punditry, interspersed with (perhaps rightful) concerns about national security. Even the old phrase ‘electronic pearl harbor’ reared its ugly head after 20 years at one point and for a while, it was clearly the work of North Korean agents, or were they Chinese, or Russian? (Lee, 2017; Leyden, 2017a), and yet little thought seemed to be given about the victims whose treatments had been disrupted.

Then the truth began to unfold, which was rather reminiscent of the TalkTalk attack back in 2015 (Wall, 2015). While the 12 May ‘attack’ had a degree of sophistication to it, it also had some remarkably amateurish, if not clumsy, aspects to it (Greenberg, 2017a). Not least the payment system. Why, for example, were payments to be made into only three Bitcoin accounts, which the world could watch to see what was being put into them and also see when they were cleared out – which they have not been so far and probably will not. This was in contrast to previous ransomware attacks which created individual bitcoin wallets for each victim to pay the ransom into. Characteristics which show the hall marks of ‘advanced script kiddies’ who are motivated by the intellectual challenge of the crime, rather than sophisticated organised crime groups motivated by the prospect of massive financial gain. All indications are that the ‘attackers’ wanted to see if they could carry it off, because they could, rather than make large amounts of money from it. Plus, they may have got lucky in the way that the attack travelled across the network... or, was it a dry run for the ‘big one’? The questions still abound as the attack becomes part of cyber-security folklore.

Of course ransomware is not new, it is a crime of extortion that has been around for the past quarter of a century. Initially it was scareware – scaring people to pay up. Then it became fake antivirus software – also scaring people to pay up. Then it became ransomware – scaring people to pay up but more money and in a slightly more compelling way by encrypting their data and requiring a ransom to release it.



All indications are that the ‘attackers’ wanted to see if they could carry it off, because they could, rather than make large amounts of money from it.



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Deployment

What was new about this recent WanaCry ransomware ‘attack’, as opposed to previous ransomware attacks, was its unprecedented size and scale and also its different method of deployment. Plus the added drama from the fact that it utilised once secret software routines developed by the US NSA and recently released into the wild via Wikileaks by ‘Shadow Broker’ in late March. Dramatically named Eternalblue and Doublepulsar, these routines were initially developed to execute the controversial US surveillance mission (Leyden, 2017b). The combination of these NSA routines with other exploited routines, particularly the MS17-010 exploit (patched by Microsoft back in March to close the SNBv1 backdoor – port 445), meant that this WanaCrypt0r attack was deployed quite differently to most previous ransomware as the virus, or worm, ran across vulnerable operating systems infecting all unsecured PC computers attached to them (though not always – Leyden, 2017c). Other Ransomware circulating at present, such as Locky or Cryptolocker, is deployed by socially engineering victims to either open email infected attachments or to click onto bad links in the text of the email.

WannaCry (WanaCrypt0r) is a worm that contains and runs ransomware. It spreads using the EternalBlue SMB vulnerability (MS17-010) and ‘loops through every open RDP session on a system and runs the ransomware’ (Clark, 2017). It therefore preys on the fact that some organisational IT operating systems are outdated with many that are still pre-windows 7, and that many users with windows 7 and post W7 operating systems have not updated their individual computers since the March patch against MS17-010.



Kill switch

Fairly early on in the attack on Friday 12 May a kill switch was identified by blogger Marcus Hutchins, aka MalwareTech at Kryptos Logic (Malwaretech, 2017). Hutchins registered an unregistered URL (a safety device for the perpetrators) that the Wannacry worm was trying to connect with. This meant that when the WinMain component actually connected to the URL it killed the software – which means that it doesn’t deploy on new systems – or those which have been patched. Prior to Hutchins’ registering the URL, if there was no connection then it installed the service which installed the ransomware and started the encryption process – registration prevented connection. How long the kill switch will last is a question yet to be answered, but it seems to have held in the weeks and months following. Some reports suggest that a new wave of WanaCrypt0r is on its way (BBC, 2017a’ Greenberg, 2017b), but the world is still waiting at the time of writing.

Payment to recover files

Upon infection victims are asked to make a payment of £230 or \$300 in Bitcoins into one of three accounts (Bitcoin Wallets). Many, in fact most, victims (99.8%) have not paid this ransom and we know this because the wallet’s transactions are visible on the Bitcoin Blockchain. By the following week only about \$100,000 had flowed into these wallets, representing about 0.2% of victims. Whilst this is a tidy sum of money to you or I, it falls short of the potential yield for this ‘attack’ (£46.2m or \$60m), which is my estimate based upon the estimated 200,000 compromised machines (BBC, 2017a; Collins, 2017). Let us hope that most victims continue not to pay up, because making the crime ineffective will reduce the criminal’s motivation. Unless, it encourages hackers to ‘up the ante’ and recode it in order make it even more insidious and infect newer systems.

Conclusion

The upshot of this Wannacry attack is that, on the one hand, we see a much more sophisticated ransomware attack than we have seen previously that has hit on a large, global scale. But, let’s not jump to conclusions about the motivations behind the attack as the perpetrators may, like the TalkTalk hack, be small in number and have ‘just got lucky’.

Yet on the other hand, whilst the fullness of blame rests with the hackers, it is a fact that many organisations made it easier for the hackers to infect systems with ransomware by not investing in more up-to-date operating systems and/or not updating them, and also the individual users not updating the operating systems at their end. There is also an argument that WanaCrypt0r utilises flaws in old Microsoft operating systems, so MS should bear some responsibility in that they should not abandon out of date systems – in fact they have recently provided a patch for older systems (Thomson, 2017).

Whilst there are going to be fingers pointed in many directions, this event, which may only be a testing, also shows that many of those affected are up and running a day or so afterwards and that business continuity plans have by and large been effective. But, let it be a major wakeup call and the message is to regularly back up your data, make sure your computer and systems are updated... and keep a paper and pencil handy.

For a number of reasons ranging from the incompetence of the attackers, to the risk awareness of the victims, the losses so far from Wannacry have not been devastating. This, however, along with other ransomware attacks do indicate their massive potential threat and it is this threat that I, and researcher Dr Alena Connolly at Leeds, are investigating alongside colleagues from Kent, Durham, City and DeMontfort Universities and others outside the UK [see the EMPHASIS project – EconoMical, PscyHologicAl and Societal Impact of ransomware – EP/P011772/1]. The project started on 1 July after a period of preparatory work undertaken by researchers at Leeds.

1

PhD student participates in working group at the World Organisation for Animal Health

School of Law PhD student, Diane Ryland, has attended and participated in three significant contributory working group meetings held at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Paris, in May 2015, December 2015 and September 2016.

The drafting of an ISO Technical Specification on animal welfare management related to the food supply chain was the subject of negotiation in the working group, prior to its adoption by ISO Technical Committee 34 Food Products comprised of 78 Member Countries world-wide.

The purpose of this management tool is to provide requirements and guidance so as to ensure the welfare of animals raised for food or feed production. A primary objective is to facilitate the implementation of the animal welfare principles as described in the introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC). Its provisions apply to those aspects for which a species-specific animal welfare chapter has been adopted in the OIE TAHC, currently beef cattle, broiler chicken, and dairy cattle, production systems, together with the chapters on slaughter and transportation of animals. The scope will be revised and extended commensurate with the adoption/ amendment of OIE TAHC animal welfare provision. It is also anticipated that its use will provide guidance for the implementation of public and/or private standards that meet at least the OIE TAHC, facilitative, thus, of the integration of animal welfare principles in business to business relations.

It is a landmark document, which presents very many opportunities, one of which is to act as a bridge between the public and private sphere in the setting and monitoring of animal welfare standards. Working towards the implementation of the animal welfare standards of the OIE, which are embedded in science, will serve to establish a minimum floor of animal welfare protection, and be a determinant of market access for agri-produce. It is to be hoped that, while meeting at least the animal welfare standards of the OIE TAHC, the scope then to elevate standards of animal welfare by private animal welfare standards and certification bodies will be practised in a global market for added value agricultural produce, raising the threshold of animal welfare protection. Animal welfare governance has evolved into a hybrid concept and it will be a very interesting exercise to see how this Technical Specification will be used.

2

Advocacy of the Year Competition

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

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



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

Jazmine Lee, final year LLB Law student, achieved overall second place in the competition, and was awarded a £4,500 prize towards the cost of her BPTC fees. Jazmine said: “I first hesitated to compete in the competition as I feared I wouldn’t achieve anything. But my team mates and I supported and encouraged each other to do Leeds proud, and we feel we did just that. Financial reasons meant that I had to delay enrolling onto the BPTC until now. I am so pleased to have been awarded a large sum of money to help with my funding so I can concentrate on achieving my goal of becoming a successful criminal barrister.”



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH STUDENT NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

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

3

Winners of Business Innovation Competition Announced

On 23 March, six students from the School of Law competed in three teams in the final of the Addleshaw Goddard BPP Business Innovation Competition 2017.

The students were tested on their ability to present a business case for developing an idea that helps use innovative technological ideas for selling legal services. It was the second year in which the competition took place.

Several teams submitted proposals that were then reviewed by a panel of associates and trainees at Addleshaw Goddard LLP. Three teams were then selected to present developed versions of their ideas in a live final at the firm’s office in Leeds. Andrew Dixon and Natalie Gray were named the winners, and the runner up teams were made up by Si Winn Cheah and Sabitha Jagadheesan, and Amelia Tew and Teresa Douglas.

Andrew Vernon, Associate for Addleshaw Goddard said: “It was a pleasure to be involved and the students were a great credit to the University. I really enjoyed the final, three completely different but equally well thought out and impeccably delivered presentations. Hopefully the 2018 competition will be equally as successful.”



4

Mooting Success

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

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

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

The judging panel consisted of Paul Tan, a Commercial Litigator and Equity Partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore, the Master of the Moots from Cambridge University, the Master of the Moots from King’s College London, the President of the Magdalene College Law Society Cambridge, and an

Associate Professor from the National University of Singapore. The team emerged from the competition as semi-finalists and after taking stock, set their sights on their next challenge.

Both Sylvester and Lim Xin then took part individually in the National Speed Mooting Competition 2016/17 hosted this year by Liverpool Hope University in February. Both made it through a number of the elimination rounds and Lim Xin reached the quarter final.

The team are already starting to plan their mooting activities for the next academic year and hope to compete at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition – the world’s largest moot court competition, with participants from over 550 law schools in more than 87 countries.

5

Law Postgraduate Society

With a postgraduate community of over 160 students from more than 40 countries worldwide, the Law Postgraduate Society is committed to ensuring that opportunities for these students to integrate within the School and to embrace their time in Leeds are readily available.

Taught postgraduate students are first invited to get to know one another at a matriculation ceremony held in the first week of term. At the 2016 ceremony James Peel, Associate Solicitor at law firm Squire Patton Boggs and former masters student at the School of Law, attended as guest speaker and discussed his time at Leeds and his subsequent career in the profession.

The society organised a number of lively engagement events throughout the year starting with the 'Bring and Share' global café in October, a Bonfire Night social event (with slightly less exotic but equally tasty pie 'n' peas) in November, and a trip to the Supreme Court and Royal Courts of Justice for 80 students before the Christmas vacation arrived in December. Both UK and international students were eager to see the English court system in action, live and up close.

The Society pulled out all of the stops in the second semester when, following on from the success of a Head of School Supper event at which all postgraduate students were invited to dine and socialise with their peers, staff and of course the Head of School, the team organised the very first Law Postgraduate Ball. The Ball took place on Friday 17 March at The Queens Hotel in Leeds city centre and welcomed over 100 guests including staff and students.

The new committee will be formed at the start of the next academic term in September 2017 and we are sure they will be keen to carry on the good work of this year's Society.



6

Law's Got Talent 2016

In December 2016, the third annual Law's Got Talent competition was held at Leeds University Union, showcasing the extraordinary talents of our students and staff. The event raised £514.71 for this year's charity of choice – Yorkshire Cancer Research.

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

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

The final award of the night went to Best

Act, which was presented to Paidamwoyo Gambe, a second year student, who commented: "Entering the competition was a challenge to get involved in a way that was personal instead of career related. Winning the prize was dreamlike, if it wasn't for the overwhelming feeling of excitement I wouldn't believe it actually happened."

The evening was brought to a close by returning student boyband, and 2015 favourites, "No Direction", followed by a staff dance act that took to the stage to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling". The staff act, featuring amongst others Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis, was repeated after the judges and audience called for an encore. Professor Mullis commented: "All the acts deserved praise but I want to offer particular thanks to Melissa Leung who did a fantastic job organising the event, Adam Morris, a recent graduate of the School, who made the event the technical success it was, and Nadirur Choudry, President of LawSoc, who did a wonderful job hosting for the second year in a row."

7

Negotiating

There is a rich tradition of competitive mooting, debating and negotiating at the University of Leeds and this year has been no exception.

A total of 124 students, competing in pairs, entered the annual negotiating competition starting in October 2016. There were five rounds in total and in each round teams were presented with a different scenario and asked to negotiate the most favourable deal for their fictitious clients. Negotiators had to remain professional throughout, as if they were acting for real clients, and points were awarded for negotiation style as well as for the final settlement. Teams who were willing to give and take, and make counter offers fared better than teams who were not willing to negotiate.

Final year LLB Law students Josh Battat and Arjun Patel were named the winners but praise was also given to the runner ups Andrew Dixon and Natalie Gray who performed well throughout the rounds. LawSoc Negotiating Secretary Alice Halprin was thrilled by both the level of participation and the standard of negotiating, especially in the final rounds. The competition was sponsored by Baker McKenzie who kindly came to judge the final and treated the finalists to dinner after the event.

Two teams were also entered into the regional university negotiating competition this year. Jonah Cohen and Jake Worrard, and Andrew Dixon and Natalie Gray went to the University of Law in February to represent the University of Leeds. Both teams performed well and Andrew and Natalie won the overall regional heat taking them to the nationals in London.



8

Social League Team of the Year

The School of Law netball team was recently named 'Social League Team of the Year' at the Leeds University Union Sports Colours Awards 2017. The team beat every other faculty-specific sports team in the University and were praised for their 'excellent contribution to Leeds sport'



It has been a fantastic year for Law netball and the success achieved has gone far beyond the team's expectations. The team won their division by a goal difference of over 150 in semester one and encouraged great morale and team spirit. In semester two they beat Leeds Beckett Law Society, the University of York Law Society and participated in the Baker & McKenzie Law Sports tournament in Manchester, beating the University of Manchester, the University of Sheffield and the University of Warwick.

With weekly league matches, friendlies and professional training, the team showed commitment and passion for the sport and a close-knit community has evolved. The team actively sought sponsors and now have their own team kit, host their own independent netball awards dinners, organise team social events and have a good reputation throughout the University and its sporting network.

It was by virtue of these activities and accomplishments that the team was recognised by the LUU Sports Colours

Awards and shortlisted for the 'Social League Team of the Year' award. The winning team had to receive more nominations than any other society sports teams in the University, with each nomination evidencing a strong captain, consistently appropriate team conduct, good performance in the league and additional evidence of going 'above and beyond' for Leeds Sport.

The team was thrilled to take home the title and Captain Kate Imeson said: "This is a huge achievement for the team. All members deserve credit and should be very proud. The combination of the squad's reliability, commitment, motivation and team morale helped us attain this award. Law Netball has made my undergraduate degree very enjoyable and the opportunity to lead this team with Millie Sharkey (Vice Captain) has been an overwhelming experience. I am so grateful to have captained the team and met some amazing people during the process."

Through the Glass Ceiling

Gender inequality in the legal profession has been an issue of concern for aspiring female lawyers, and female professionals more generally, for decades.



More than 50% of university students admitted to law programmes nationally are women, the same can be said for the number of new female entrants to the legal profession – this has been the case since the early 90s. In 2014 however, the Law Society's annual statistics report showed that although women make up approximately 57% of all trainee solicitors and associates, only 24% are partners. The most senior positions at law firms, barristers' chambers and in the judiciary are still overwhelmingly dominated by men.

In 2015, a group of female law students at the School of Law (Emma Robins, Beth Haylett, Nancy Kelehar and Samantha Wakaimba) sought the support of Deputy Head of School, Professor Joan Loughrey, to form a working group to engage with discussions on gender equality in the legal profession. Keen to provide opportunities for female students to gain confidence, skills and insight, they set about engaging fellow students and staff to join their cause. The result was Women Breaking Barriers (WBB).

Two years on and WBB, having recently appointed a committee of eight to manage their ambitious growth plans, have a string of successful engagement events under their belts and an expanding following that reaches beyond the confines of the School and the University. The group have organised a series of lectures, panel events and networking sessions with leading professionals in the legal and business sectors to inspire and motivate their female peers.

To name a few of the highlights...

Phillippa Kaufman QC delivered the WBB inaugural lecture in November 2015. Phillippa took silk in 2011 and her expertise spans the public and private law arenas. She was awarded 'Human Rights and Public Law Silk of the Year' at the 2014 Chambers Bar Awards and has been involved with litigation against the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office arising from abuse by British forces following the war in Iraq.



In Conversation with Alison Saunders DPP

In March 2016 WBB held a seminar and networking event with a panel of inspirational women who provided valuable insight into what they do, their career paths, and the barriers they had faced. Speakers included: Alison Levitt QC, Partner at Mishcon De Reya and former Principle Legal Advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions; Brie Stevens-Hoare QC, property barrister and Deputy Adjudicator to HM Land Registry; Anj Handa, Co-Director of People Help People, and founder of Inspiring Women Changemakers; Griselda Togobo, Entrepreneur, Engineer, Chartered Accountant, and now Managing Director of the UK's largest business support network for women in business, Forward Ladies; and Georgia Tripp, Partner at law firm Gunner Cooke and School of Law alumna graduating in 2000.

In February 2017, WBB welcomed another impressive panel of speakers to speak about their experiences and how their careers had developed. We heard from Louise Mor, Partner at White & Case and School of Law alumna from 1998; Yasmina Khan, Director of domestic abuse charity Staying Put; Claire Young, entrepreneur and finalist in BBC1's 'The Apprentice'; and city barrister, Alison Padfield. All four women had different perspectives on how their careers had developed, and provided useful insights into the world of work for our aspiring young professionals.

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

“

About to enter its third year of operation, WBB is keen to expand its professional network and connect with more women in the legal, criminal justice and business fields who are driven in their careers, passionate about empowering other women, and eager to support the next generation of aspiring young professionals.

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SUPPORT WOMEN BREAKING BARRIERS

If you would like to support WBB by making connections, providing general guidance or speaking with students please get in touch:

law@leeds.ac.uk



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Alumni in the Spotlight

It is with great pleasure that we find ourselves interacting with more and more members of our alumni community each year, both internationally and in the UK.

As highlighted earlier in this magazine, you have supported your School in so many ways. You have mentored our students, judged moot and debating competitions, spoken at career events and in lectures, and provided placement opportunities. You have also supported the growth and development of your alumni community by organising reunions, attending other alumni events and contributing to discussions of great importance to the legal and criminal justice sectors.

In the following pages you will find the outputs of some of these interactions, including interviews with School of Law alumni, pictures from recent events, and information about class reunions and how to go about organising one.



GET INVOLVED

If you have news to share or would like to become involved with the School in any way, please contact us via email:

law@leeds.ac.uk



Louise Mor
Partner – White & Case LLP

LLB Law 1988

Why did you choose to study law?

I felt that it would be interesting and intellectually challenging, and I had grandiose ideas about changing the world! As a kid, my journalist father would tell me stories about libel cases, and trials he had covered in the local courts, and it seemed like a career with a lot of variety. I also felt it was a rigorous subject which could be useful in numerous careers, if I changed my mind about being a lawyer.

Did you enjoy your time at the University? Any fond memories?

I very much enjoyed my time at Leeds. I lived all the way out in Boddington Hall and so have fond memories of the Otley Run – the halls have gone now but I expect the Otley Run continues! The girls I lived with at Leeds are still my best friends now and we have great memories of the Leeds clubs, learning to Salsa at SalsaSoc while arguing about which of us had to do the man's part, living on jacket potatoes in the Student Union and seeing some fantastic bands.

Tell us about your career path since leaving the University.

I joined Clifford Chance as a trainee and qualified into the Asset Finance Department. I then moved to White & Case a few years later and became a partner in 2011, spending three years in the Paris office before coming back to London, where I specialise in rail and aviation finance and leasing.

What does your current role involve?

I act for lenders, operators, lessors and export credit agencies primarily, negotiating and documenting deals which finance the acquisition of high-value moveable assets like rolling stock and aircraft, as well as advising on sales of leasing companies. They are complex cross-border transactions, involving parties in numerous jurisdictions and often multiple sources of financing. I also advise clients on an ongoing basis once the deal is completed, should any issues arise.

As a partner, my role is both a legal one, running transactions, drafting documents and supervising our deal team, but also a business development one.

Tell us about any career highlights to date.

As a mid-level lawyer, I got asked to go on client secondment for 3 months because they “needed some help with their financing arrangements”. This was a confidential way of saying they were being sold and needed to restructure their corporate and finance arrangements prior to sale. I ended up being seconded to the client for 10 months, during which time I ran the restructuring process from a legal perspective for the client. This was a fantastic opportunity, as it allowed me to take on a lot more responsibility, to really get to know the client, and to see the legal issues we advise on periodically from a day-to-day operational perspective. I learnt so much during this period, and built relationships with the client team which have persisted through personnel changes and moves to other companies. The transaction was extremely time intensive and pressured, and for 6 of those months I worked most weekends and many, many late nights. There was a huge amount of satisfaction when the deal completed on time.



Tell us about your recent involvement with the School, i.e. competition judging or Women Breaking Barriers. What brought you back?

I have been back a couple of times now. The first time was to judge the Law Society debating competition, which White & Case sponsored. The quality of debate was outstanding! Afterwards I got to have dinner with the finalists, and it was great to have the chance to speak with the students about their future plans as well as their studies. Then later I spoke as part of the Women Breaking Barriers programme – a fantastic initiative which I wish we had had when I was an undergrad. I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute in a small way to making students understand what City law is like, and to show them that it is an achievable goal.

“
I learnt so much during this period, and built relationships with the client team which have persisted through personnel changes and moves to other companies.
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Krishna Ramachandra
Managing Director – Duane Morris & Selvam LLP, Singapore

LLB Law 1996

What made you choose law, and why Leeds?

There was a single focus on law from my teens so that was an easy choice for me in terms of what University degree. As for why Leeds – well quite frankly at that point I had to balance the strength of degree along with the overall cost of the programme. I had taken a loan to pursue my overseas education so I had to watch the budget closely. As a foreign student, the fees were quite high and the certainly the cost of living between the South and North of England was fairly significant. In the end, Leeds University presented itself as a fair compromise. Looking back, if I didn't have those constraints I think I would have still stuck with the North of England – I learnt a lot about the English culture and made many friends. I eventually made my way to the South when I started working in the City – so I think I have been lucky to experience the full breath of England.

How did you find the transition to University life in the UK?

It was fairly easy as I came in as a mature student – having served two and a half years in the Singapore Army as part of the mandatory national service requirement. I was really chomping at the bit to start my university education and so I made it work and did not fuss about the little challenges that may have arisen along the way.

Do you have any lasting memories from your time at the University?

I would say some of the most fun times I had during my higher education days were at University. Independence takes on a new meaning and it is up to you to make the best of it. If you can balance the academics with

the social life it really is an amazing journey as you learn so much from the diverse background of students. I formed several lasting friendships and one of my closest friends until today was a then flatmate of mine. His name is Shaukat Ali and he too studied law. He is currently a director in a leading firm in Leeds.

Who influenced you the most during your time studying in Leeds?

Without a doubt, it would be Shaukat. He was also a mature student and we shared a strong bond as our life philosophies were similar. He taught me many things about local life in England and I got to understand the little cultural nuances. Indeed, my decision to stay on and pursue a career as a lawyer in the City was largely due to his positive influence and support.

Tell us about the path you took to becoming Managing Director at Duane Morris & Selvam.

After completing a postgraduate law degree at Cambridge University and the LPC, I started my legal career in London with Freshfields in 1998. After several years I returned to Singapore and continued my career as a corporate finance lawyer with Clifford Chance in Singapore. After about 3 years with Clifford Chance I joined a boutique corporate law firm, Selvam. As one of the lead partners in charge of the growth and expansion of Selvam, I structured the joint venture with US international law firm Duane Morris. I became Managing Partner of the joint venture firm Duane Morris & Selvam, and have continued to oversee their expansion into Asia. I served as its Chairman for two year-long cycles until 2016.

What does your current role involve?

My current role requires me to manage my day-to-day law practice – I am head of the Corporate Finance and Investment Funds practice groups – and the operations of our office in Myanmar, which I had set up 5 years ago.

If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be?

Start as quickly as possible to start enjoying the practice of law or indeed, any vocation you pursue. These days it is fashionable to hop around after several years – that's fine

so long as you enjoy what you do. I only started experiencing the joys of my legal practice about 10 years ago – but I must say that I feel totally blessed to do what I love. I had never I imagined that I would have been able to inject love to an existing vocation. For me the transformation occurred when I completely made my career an extension of my personality. I am entrepreneurial and enjoy mentoring. So I designed my career around that so my self-expression comes out in everything I do. So my advice would be to be bold to express all facets of your personality in everything you do, especially your career.



What do you like to do when you are not working?

I volunteer my time as Chairman of a professional football club and also as a board member of a couple of charities – one involves social innovation and the other involves kids at risk. I enjoy being with young people and to the extent possible, guiding and mentoring them. I also enjoy collecting and restoring classic sports cars.



SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

Take a look at other alumni profiles and see if there is someone you know:

www.law.leeds.ac.uk/people/profiles

In Conversation with Sheikh Bilal Khan

— We recently met with Shariah lawyer and Leeds Law alum, Sheikh Bilal Khan (2004), to discuss his time at Leeds, his notoriety in global Islamic finance, and his work with the Prince of Wales.



Co Chairman – Dome Advisory
Leading figure in the global Islamic finance industry

LLB Law 2004

Twitter:
@strictlybilal

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/in/bilalkhan786

Bilal, tell us about your background before joining the University of Leeds.

I come from a small family, comprising of three siblings – I am the eldest. My father was in the textile industry, to which he committed the best part of four decades. When my father first came to this country he did not have £5 in his pocket so he had to start from absolute scratch. My parents had very little formal education but my father wanted me to be educated and he created an educationally-conducive environment. He wanted me to be an Islamic scholar which is the equivalent of being a priest or a rabbi. At the age of 11 I memorised by heart the entire holy book of Islam, the Holy Quran which is in Arabic. Today this is still considered to be very young and amazingly, three decades later I can still remember the entirety of it. It was the best experience I have ever had.

I pursued that line of Islamic religious education and went abroad to continue with it which meant I missed some of my schooling here, especially secondary school. Islamic scholarly education does not take place in normal colleges or universities. There are certain authorities in the world – age old traditions – and you have to go to them; some of them are in villages and in mountain areas. They have a transmission of authority that dates back 14 centuries to the Prophet Muhammad. You sit with them and learn directly from them, and it is done on the floor without any chairs and tables. It is a very different culture, especially for someone who is British born, who grew up with fish and chips and footie. It was an eye opener for me and it made me a better person as I came to appreciate everything that I had, and not to take for granted things like clean running water.

I spent eight years, a good part of my teens studying in those rural parts. Thankfully I reached a very high level in terms of the attainment of religious education and training so I became recognised as an Islamic scholar. I came back to the UK when I was about 19 or 20 years old and embarked on my GCSE's and then A Levels. Having enjoyed studying Islamic law, it was a natural fit to do English law.

What memories do you have from your time studying law at the University?

It was amazing as I had a great time. I used to get on the bus in Bradford where I was living and come to Leeds every day. I really enjoyed all of the subjects, such as contract law, law of tort, public law and property law, and all of the tutors were very good. I remember my first encounter with Professor David Ormerod. I came in late one day, straight off the 88 bus and my glasses were all fogged up. I had lost all sense of time and walked in half way through the seminar. I think it was a Monday and Professor Ormerod was asking questions and no one wanted to answer, everyone had their heads down. I heard a question so started answering as I was trying to find a seat, referencing quotes and page numbers – I had a photographic memory. He was really impressed and forgot to even ask why I was late. At the end he asked me to wait around and we ended up having a long chat about my life experiences.

I had great memories of my time and I also remember Professor Anna Lawson who was an amazing tutor. I was impressed with her style of teaching and her personality, as she would give special time and attention to each student. There were so many great characters and good personalities. I have fond memories of my time at Leeds and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

What did you do after leaving the University?

I had quite an attachment to the University so it was hard to leave. I went on to further study and did an MA in Islamic Banking and Finance, the Corporate LPC and the MBA. I was really into my studies. I also taught Y1 and Y2 students on the LL.B at Leeds Metropolitan University for two years. Being in touch with students and teaching was really enjoyable – until today I have kept that interest alive. I have always held some kind of visiting lectureship at universities in London. I currently support a postgraduate LL.M and an LPC. It is really rewarding.

How did you come to work for Linklaters?

As I was progressing through my early career, Islamic finance was becoming an increasingly popular area of practice globally. On the one hand I was a Shariah scholar, an Islamic lawyer and on the other hand I was becoming an English lawyer. I did not realise that globally I was one of only a few who had dual expertise in this \$3 trillion industry which made me much sought after. A religious scholar is someone who has to sign off on particular financial transactions and corporate deals, potentially worth billions, according to Islamic law.

So I had this background in Islamic finance and I started picking up popularity with interviews in mainstream English and pan-Arab media. I was also being invited for public speaking engagements at international conferences (which became in excess of 50 conferences per year). Linklaters was keen to develop expertise in this area so I was asked to work for them.

Whilst I was a trainee in the firm I was keen to stand out. I was doing the daily work that was given to me as a trainee but was also doing certain things that would be expected of partners, like bringing in clients and their business. I was also appointed as a special advisor to the Lord Mayor of the City of London at that time. On one occasion I recall organising a networking reception and I invited the ambassadors of 56 countries.

What achievements are you most proud of?

One of the stand-out moments for me was when I was awarded the Freedom of the City of London and named an honorary Freeman. To be made a Freeman, when the list of previous recipients includes Nelson Mandela and Winston Churchill, was a huge honour.



Recently I have been recognised in a list of the leading 100 Islamic scholars in the Islamic finance world – it's called Shariah100 and it has been officially launched this year and I have been ranked 7th in a list of amazing scholars from across the globe. So that means a lot to me.

I was also chosen as a positive role model for race religion and faith as one of the top 8 in the UK from a list of 25,000 people which was shown on national television.

How did you become involved in the documentary 'Secrets of Success'?

As well as being Senior Advisor to various All Party Parliamentary Groups and on the Advisory Board of the Middle East Association (created by the UK Foreign Office), I had been the advisor of the former Lord Mayor of the City of London, Dame Fiona Woolf. She was the second ever female Lord Mayor and was also the President of the Law Society. Working with her in her year of Mayoralty gave me a lot of exposure, as we travelled a lot and met royal dignitaries and influential figures around the world. That type of exposure, along with the public speaking and the media work I had been involved in must have helped.

I was contacted by the show and asked to be one of the 20 featured personalities in order to share my story (<https://youtu.be/LhLyFMXRmns>). It was a great experience and in fact it is now showing on all British Airways flights so look out for it (tinyurl.com/htqc7gg).

Tell us about your work with the Prince's Trust.

I was involved with the Prince's Trust through a scheme called Mosaic which offers accredited mentoring programmes in schools; creating opportunities for 9 to 30-year-olds who are growing up in the country's most deprived communities. I was the Vice Chairman of their International Leadership Programme (ILP) and oversaw the committee that included the likes of the Emirates Airline Foundation Chairman and the CEO of Shell Qatar. The ILP brought together young leaders from all over the world that came together every two years for a summit. The Prince of Wales also attended as it was under his patronage and he would deliver inspirational speeches.

I got to travel with him and we went to Jordan, Qatar and other such places where we met members of the royal families and other dignitaries.



Do you have any plans for the future?

I have a small family with my lovely wife Rabia and my gorgeous baby daughter Aishah who are my universe. My plans will of course revolve around them. I always say to people that our goals should not just be economic goals but we should aim to keep improving as a people and help our wider communities, whether that is by supporting the youth or helping the less privileged or disadvantaged. I currently serve as a judge on both the Government's Sirius Programme which chooses young entrepreneurs from around the globe, and for the Asian Apprenticeship Awards. I want to continue to do all of this as well as continuing the work I do in the area of business consultancy. I am the founding partner and co-chairman of a global consultancy firm – Dome Advisory which is a unique Islamic finance advisory firm that offers a full range of services including legal documentation, structuring advice and expertise in dispute resolution for all types of Islamic finance global matters. We work with a lot of governments, central banks, regulators, private sector companies and other key industry players. You can read more on the website www.domeadvisory.com. In a nutshell, I like to be focussed on business and also the charitable and social side of things including valuable family time.

Alumni Events

— Over 200 Leeds Law alums have come together at various events in the UK and around the world this year. Here are a few of the best bits.

Singapore 9 January 2017



Our UK alums might think twice about attending an event on an open air rooftop terrace in January but this didn't faze our Singaporean graduates who joined Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis at the Naomi Hotel on 9 January 2017.

What better way to reconnect with fellow Leeds graduates than with a first rate view of the Singapore skyline? Answers on a postcard – we might join you there!



Malaysia 11 January 2017

It is always a pleasure to visit our alumni in Malaysia and this year was no exception. Professor Mullis visited Kuala Lumpur in January and was overwhelmed to see so many familiar faces after his trip the year before.

The party dined alfresco at the Acme Bar & Grill in the popular residential suburb of Bangsar on the outskirts of KL. Professor Mullis was pleased to share news from the School of Law and meet with alumni who are currently offering mentor support to our second year undergraduate students.



Canada 6 March 2017



Professor Norma Martin Clement hosted an alumni dinner at the Delta Hotel in Toronto during her trip to Canada in March this year.

We are very proud to be developing relationships with universities in Canada and look forward to reconnecting with more of our Canadian alumni in the future.

BECOME A LAW AMBASSADOR

Are you well connected with other Law alumni in your area or from your year group? Would you like to reconnect with your peers, support the planning of reunions and collect news for use in future publications?

If so we would like to hear from you. Express your interest by contacting us today:

law@leeds.ac.uk

Hong Kong 26 March 2017

Hong Kong is a regular stop-off for University trips across Asia, and the School looks forward to every opportunity to get together with the local Leeds alumni.

This year, Professor Mullis checked in to Hong Kong, on his way to China from the US, especially to host a relaxed Sunday morning brunch at Pirata in the Central district of Hong Kong.



Alumni Reunions

— We have been pleased to welcome back two groups of alumni celebrating notable anniversary's within the last year – the graduates from 1969 and 1977.

Reunions for those who graduated in 1987, 1997 and 2007 will take place in Autumn 2017.



HOST YOUR OWN REUNION

If it feels like your class reunion is long overdue, why not organise one?

We can help you contact your former class mates and provide you with some useful hints and tips when getting started.

If you would like to organise a reunion, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

law@leeds.ac.uk

Class of 1969 3 December 2016



To celebrate 50 years from joining the law department at the University of Leeds, the graduate class of 1969 met on 3 December at the School of Law for a drinks reception and three course dinner.

This was not the first time the class had reunited however, thanks to the sterling efforts of Jackie Clark who has kept in touch with most of her peers across the decades, the 1969 graduates had previously met to celebrate 20 years in 1989, and 40 years in 2009.

We look forward to the next one!

Class of 1977 1 April 2017



The graduate class of 1977 celebrated a milestone of 40 years on 1 April 2017. The reunion, organised by Judge Sally Cahill (nee Blomfield) and Keith Parker, started in The Liberty Building at the School of Law before moving on to dinner at University House, a fine dining suite in the heart of the University of Leeds campus.

We hear that champagne flowed long into the evening but as they say, if you are going to do it – do it right!

Obituary

Peter Seago OBE

It is with great sadness that the School learnt of the passing of Peter Seago on 18 May 2017.



Peter was a very popular and dedicated member of the School for 29 years between 1974 and 2003. He is remembered very fondly by very many of our alumni, as well as academic colleagues and members of the legal profession.

Peter read Law at the University of Nottingham in the mid 60s and was proud to have worked with Professor JC Smith who cultivated his interest in criminal law. He took a lectureship at Leicester but when a job became available at Leeds Professor Brian Hogan, aware of his potential, was keen to bring Peter in, which he did in 1974. Peter's cases and materials book on Family Law quickly became a leading work in the field and his approach to teaching was innovative and he was always engaging and interesting. Professor Hogan noted at the time, "He does everything with such enthusiasm that his students can't fail to be affected by it... he is so very helpful, and so very good". I am sure that there are very many graduates and colleagues who recognise such an apt description.

In 1977 Peter became a visiting scholar for a year at the University of Louisville, beginning work on a second book, this time on Criminal Law. Taking his family, Cilla, Robert and Jenny with him for the year, Peter made a real impression on his hosts, helping to cement a relationship between the two law schools which continues today. Peter also brought back to Leeds the case method of studying – a method many alumni will recall with a smile (and perhaps a shiver).

On returning to Leeds Peter also became involved in a training programme for Leeds area magistrates. A relationship that lasted very many years. There will be few magistrates in the North East area that will not have come across Peter's illuminating and engaging tuition through the 80s and 90s. Such was his contribution, Peter was awarded an OBE in the 1998 Honour's List for his contribution to the administration of justice.

An aspect of that contribution was his role as a Justice of the Peace: his recommendation for that role noting that "he is an absolutely first class chap". Short perhaps, but most certainly accurate. The point was made and Peter became a JP in 1982.

In 1987 Peter was one of the pivotal figures in establishing the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at Leeds. The Centre has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and continues to produce research that has global impact. A fitting reflection of his foresight and tenacity.

When I became an undergraduate in 1989 Peter taught me both Criminal Law and Evidence – two subjects I enjoyed hugely. Students of my era will remember his criminal law textbook that had a photograph of him on the cover, seemingly being arrested and marched away by a policeman – a Hitchcock style fleeting appearance! In 1990, Peter became the Head of School. His ability to manage with superb efficiency and good humour made him a natural for this role. Everyone who was here then remembers that period very fondly indeed. The University recognised his considerable contribution to the university by making him a Life Fellow in 2003.

I began my career at Leeds in 1993 and was very lucky to work with Peter for a decade. He was always good humoured and his advice was invaluable. I was fortunate to visit Louisville on the scheme Peter had cemented, and have visited Malaysia and Singapore many times to visit institutions with whom we have relations originated by Peter. Wherever I visit, people ask after Peter, and I know why: he was an excellent and engaging teacher, a superb administrator and a distinguished scholar. More than that, he was a lovely man and a good friend.

Professor Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education

An Honourable Occasion

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



The Inner Temple 12 May 2017



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

The reception took place in the historic Parliament Chamber but guests were also welcome to visit the stunning Inner Temple Hall in all of its glory.

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

A particular highlight for guests at events such as this is our 'Wall of Fame' that showcases finalist class photographs that date back to 1949. You will find a number of these displayed overleaf.



Finalists' Photographs

— Here is a selection of our finalists' photographs from the last 50 years.

1967



1977



1987



1997



2007



LIKE A COPY?

We have almost every class photograph dating back to the early 1960s on display in the School – if you would like a digital copy of the photograph from your year of graduation please e-mail:

law@leeds.ac.uk



2017

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