

UoL Law

The University of Leeds School of Law Magazine 2015 Issue One



**PROFESSOR
ANNA LAWSON**
LEEDS ALUMNA
& CHAMPION FOR
DISABILITY RIGHTS

**EXPERIENCES
OF ZA'ATARI**
RESEARCHING A SYRIAN
REFUGEE CAMP

**PHOTOS, MEMORIES,
SUCCESSSES**
CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI,
STAFF, STUDENTS & FRIENDS



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Alastair Mullis

MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT TEAM:

Antony Butcher,
Amanda Hemingway,
Mandy Lockett,
Lynda Toovey

COPYWRITING AND
PRODUCTION EDITOR:

Lewis King

PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGES:

Anthony Glossop,
Lewis King,
Sarah Mason Photography

PRINTING &
DISTRIBUTION:

Print and Copy Bureau

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Nick Taylor
Lydia Bleasdale-Hill
Kevin De Sabbata
Ruth Binns
Clive Walker
Linda Asquith
Roger Halson
Joan Loughrey
Paul Kelly
Steve Durham
Lee McAteer
Anna Lawson
Ufty the Dog
Melanie Maddison
George Riach
Zeynab Al-Masoud
Charlotte Newman
Christian Bertram
Kevin de Sabbata
Richard Peake
Herabans Kaur

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School of Law
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PLEASE SEND CHANGE
OF ADDRESS NOTICES TO:

**The Alumni and
Development Team**
Room 11.45, EC Stoner
Building
University of Leeds
Leeds, UK
LS2 9JT

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CONTENTS



NEWS IN BRIEF 4-9

MOOTING MEMORIES 10

REMEMBERING...BRIAN HOGAN 12

FROM THE ARCHIVES 13

CLASS NOTES 14

STAFF V STUDENT CRICKET 15

InCONVERSATION...WITH ANNA LAWSON 16

*We talk to Anna (LLB, '88) who last year
became the first blind female professor in the UK*



**RESEARCH – EXPERIENCES OF ZA'ATARI,
SYRIAN REFUGEE CAMP**20

*George Riach (LLM International Law, '14)
shares an insight into his current research*



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT24

InCONVERSATION...WITH KEVIN DE SABBATA....28

*We talk to PhD Candidate and opera singer
Kevin about research and moving from Italy to Leeds*



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS29

CLASS PHOTOS30

*Generations of finalists from classes of
'65, '75, '85 & '95*



Keep in touch

Email: alumni@leeds.ac.uk

law@leeds.ac.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/lawunileeds

Twitter: [@law_leeds](https://twitter.com/law_leeds)



Welcome

FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL ALASTAIR MULLIS

I want to welcome you to the first issue of UoL Law, an annual magazine that is intended to showcase what your School and our people – staff, student and alumni – are doing.

When I became Head of the School two years ago, I was very conscious of the honour that was being bestowed and the responsibility that I was undertaking. The School has always been recognised as one of the leading law schools in the UK and many from our community have achieved great success both in Leeds and beyond. Where, perhaps, we have been less successful is in telling the world, and reminding ourselves, how good we are. Modesty about one's achievements is of course an admirable virtue but hiding one's light under a bushel is not. I want to change that and to ensure that the achievements of the School, my colleagues and you, our alumni, are properly recognised. This magazine is part of that process.

There is, as you will read, much to be proud of. The last year has been a very successful one. The research done by my colleagues has been recognised as among the very best in the UK (and consequently the world). Our teaching has once again been very highly rated by our students and one of my colleagues, Nick Taylor, was deservedly shortlisted for the national Law Teacher of the Year award. Our students as always have excelled academically and have achieved many other successes. Finally, as you will read, you, our alumni, continue to excel in what you do and in so doing bring much credit to yourselves and your School.

This is all very good and is what you would expect from a great law school. There is however something else going on here that we need to cherish, celebrate and nurture. The School of Law is an extraordinary community of immensely talented people. Like all communities however work is required from all members to ensure that our community thrives. For me, the School of Law belongs to all of us, whether we be a member of the student body, an alumnus/a or a member of academic or support staff. As far as I am concerned, everyone has, and must feel that they have, a stake in our community. We have achieved much over the last year in drawing our community closer. There have been many successful academic and social events within the School, we have launched a new alumni mentoring scheme and several alumni have reconnected with the School and our current students. There is however much more that we can, and must do. I invite you to contact us and to find out ways you can be involved in what is happening in the School. We need more mentors and more people who will share what you have learned with our students. In short the continued success of your School requires your involvement.

I have now been Head of the School of Law for two years. In that time, I have become more and more aware of just how good we are and can be. The most exciting thing about working here is that there is so much potential that has not been fully exploited. I look forward very much to leading your School over the next few years and to working with you, my colleagues and our students to try fully to achieve our potential.

Professor Alastair Mullis

Head of School, School of Law July 2015.

NEWS *In*BRIEF



Looking good Liberty

Liberty Building ranked 5th most impressive Law School Building

The Liberty Building, home of the School of Law since 2011, was listed as the 5th most impressive Law School building in the world. We were pretty pleased with this honour as there are a lot of awe-inspiring buildings on the top 50 list compiled by Best Choice Schools.

Their summary of Liberty Building at the University of Leeds describes it as “a modern architectural masterpiece composed of spun concrete pillars and glass. The building’s highly sustainable design was created by architectural firm Broadway Malyan, and is naturally ventilated and filled with light.”

The “50 Most Impressive Law School Buildings in the World” is available to view on www.bestchoiceschools.com



Making an impact with research

School of Law ranked 8th for quality and impact

Back in December 2014 The School of Law was ranked 8th in the UK for the quality and impact of its research by the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014).

The School’s results show that 98 per cent of its research was of at least international quality, with 88 per cent classified as either ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ confirming the School’s position as one of the leading centres in the world for research in criminology and law.

SCHOOL OF LAW
EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Top 5 for impact

80% of our research case studies rated as world class

Top 5 for percentage of research classified as 4* or 3*

47% rated 3* (internationally excellent)
41% rated 4* (world leading)

TOP 5 FOR IMPACT
TOTAL: 107 OF 117

TOP 5 FOR PERCENTAGE OF RESEARCH CLASSIFIED AS 4* OR 3*
TOTAL: 107 OF 117

TOP 10 FOR RESEARCH QUALITY
TOTAL: 107 OF 117

Top 10 for research quality

8th in the UK for the quality of research submitted

- 1 King's College London
- 2 LSE
- 3 Durham
- 4 Ulster
- 5 UCL
- 7 Cambridge

8 Leeds

- 9 Bristol
- 10 Oxford
- 10 Warwick
- 10 Sheffield





Partners in Criminology

The School of Law is a key contributor to the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP): a collaboration which for the next five years will bring together researchers and practitioners to share knowledge and address new challenges in modern policing. They will be generating research and knowledge exchange work of national relevance and international significance.

The School's Professor Adam Crawford is Project Director for the N8 PRP who said: "We now have an opportunity to make a real difference to public safety through cutting-edge research and knowledge exchange that will deliver collaborative advantages."

The N8 is made up of scholars from the Universities of Leeds, Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York.

There are many Policing partners contributing to the initiative including: Cumbria Constabulary, Durham Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police, Humberside Police and the West Yorkshire Police, and most recently the Cheshire Constabulary.

The partnership has been awarded millions of pounds of funding including a £3 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

You can find out more about the Partnership and its projects online at: www.n8prp.org.uk



European Commission contracts study

Professor Gerard McCormack, Professor Andrew Keay, Dr Sarah Brown and Judith Dahlgreen have been contracted by the European Commission to carry out a study on substantive insolvency law.

The study will examine Insolvency law in the different EU Member States with a view to building up the knowledge base of the Commission and informing possible future Commission initiatives in the field of insolvency law, both corporate and personal. This is in line with the Commission's strategy of promoting jobs and economic growth as part of the Europe 2020 Agenda.

The project consists of collecting reports on the very different insolvency laws that apply in all 28 EU member states as well as two comparator states, Norway and the USA. The team will analyse and compare laws and procedures concerning corporate (including SMEs) and personal insolvency (as well as the regulation, powers and procedures of insolvency practitioners) across the EU, Norway and the USA.

The objective is to facilitate a situation where economic and social systems are adaptable, resilient and fair; where economic activity is sustainable and where human values are respected.



School Alumnus elected to Parliament

He has worked as a Human Rights Lawyer and head of the Crown Prosecution Service but now School of Law alumnus Sir Keir Starmer KCB, QC (LLB,1985) has a new responsibility as Member of Parliament.

In one of the most unpredictable and contentious general elections in decades Sir Keri was elected as a Labour MP for Holbeck and St Pancras, where he has resided for the last 15 years.

Sir Keir has supported the school in many ways including opening the Liberty building in 2011 and advising the school on its future on the advisory board.

Did you know?

Starmer is the author and editor of several books about criminal law and human rights and has collaborated with fellow Leeds alumnus Professor Emeritus Clive Walker.

NEWS *In*BRIEF



Promoting world class teaching

*A new research
centre for the
School of Law*

Following the School of Law's recent excellent results in the national research excellence framework (REF) we are reaffirming and making explicit our commitment to world class teaching and scholarship too. Over the summer, alongside the existing three successful research centres (the Centres for Business Law and Practice, Criminal Justice Studies, and Law and Social Justice) the School will open a centre dedicated to promoting world class teaching, scholarship and research in legal and criminological education.

It will concentrate upon the development of innovative and effective teaching practices which will be shared not only across the School and within the University but to national and international audiences too. It will seek to support the School's position at the cutting edge of research, but also develop the delivery of that research through teaching. Research based teaching practices build on the clear strengths that are already apparent within the School and the development of the new Centre will also make explicit that the student experience remains at the heart of what studying at Leeds is all about. Watch this space for further developments relating to the Centre.

Congratulations...

Congratulations to alumna and former School of Law staff member (Dr) Linda Asquith who has been awarded her PhD! She'll be moving from Nottingham back up to Leeds for a senior lecturer post in Criminology at Leeds Beckett. In other news she's also running the Leeds 10K on 10 July with another School of Law staff member that many will remember – Ben Fitzpatrick. Good Luck guys!



Get Involved – School of Law Oral History

With a history that stretches almost 120 years it would be quite an understatement to say that the school has had a few changes in that time! It's a magnificent and varied history with many characters which now will be documented through an Oral History Project.

Thanks to the generous support of Mr Keith Lee, an alumnus of the School of Law, a Scholarship will fund a current undergraduate student to conduct this project. In particular they will investigate how learning and teaching has evolved over time which means interviewing staff & students from all generations of the School of Law.

So would you be interested in sharing your memories for this project? Please get in touch with David Churchill:
D.Churchill@leeds.ac.uk

Get Involved – Career Mentoring Scheme

The School has just finished its first year of the Career Mentoring Scheme. Over 50 Alumni and Professionals in various areas have been offering guidance and support to Second Year Undergraduate students.

We thank all alumni who have been involved so far – we really appreciate the time and effort that has been put into this new scheme and it has been really beneficial. Mentoring has boosted many students commercial awareness, career knowledge, and for some given them a much needed confidence boost.

This is a really great opportunity and we would love more alumni to get involved. It can be a rewarding experience gaining the satisfaction of seeing someone develop as well as helping you reflect on your own work and practice.

How does it work?

We match you with a student that will have some link or interest in your area. From this the kind of advice and help you give them is quite fluid – some mentors have helped students redraft their CVs, others have discussed the industry, it isn't strict.

The way your contact is flexible too – face-to face, by e-mail, phone, Skype whatever suits you.

We advise a least one face-to-face meeting and commit at least an hour a month for at least a year, we'll also invite you and the start of the academic year to a special event where you can meet your mentee.

Interested? Get in touch with Judith Dahlgreen
J.M.Dahlgreen@leeds.ac.uk

NEWS InBRIEF

International Links

The School of Law at the University of Leeds has been building some exciting relationships and opportunities with Schools across the globe. Here's a brief look at them:



Singapore

In March Professor Joan Loughrey reunited with two alumni (graduated in 2011) in Singapore who have both working hard in great positions at Law firms, here with Sarah Lim with Loo & Partners and Nicholas Chang with Lee & Lee. All the best and good luck!



Vietnam and Malaysia

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

He was also invited to give a paper to the National Steering Committee for Judicial Reform, Hanoi. This committee is the Advisory Board for the President and the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the area of Judicial Reform.

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



China

The School of Law has a long established link with the East China School of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, one of the top law schools in China (ranked five by the Chinese ministry of Education Law School Rankings). Each year we welcome over 20 students from Shanghai to study their LLM in Business Law, and many Leeds students get a rare experience of education in Shanghai through a summer school.

This relationship has developed over four years and will soon be moving into an internationally spread joint research institute into civil and commercial law. The new institute will be launched with a joint conference in early 2016.

Also there have been discussions with the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (Ranked 7th) about our Centre for Criminal Justice Studies collaborating with its counterpart in Zhongnan.

Professor Roger Halson and Head of School Professor Alastair Mullis have visited Wuhan University (Ranked 4) for discussions possibility establishing a joint teaching scheme, and have visited the Northwest University of Politics and Law in Xi'an to develop the most recently established collaboration there. More recently Professor Halson visited the South West University of Politics and Law in Chongqing and delivered a lecture which was well received.



Thailand

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



Lord Currie delivers keynote address at **Competition Law Conference**

In May the School of Law hosted a conference dedicated to the analysis of the most difficult contemporary challenges in competition law. The keynote speech was delivered by Lord David Currie, Chairman of the Competition and Markets Authority. Lord Currie's speech was followed by presentations from leading academics and practitioners from Europe and the United States.

The conference examined some of the cutting-edge, most difficult topics of competition law and its enforcement. These are issues that competition law and economics, as they stand, struggle to resolve. The contemporary challenges were grouped around four themes: the enforcement of competition law; issues particularly relevant to the practice of competition law and economics; substantive issues in competition law; and the interplay between competition law and regulation.

The conference was organised by Dr Pinar Akman and Dr Peter Whelan Law and contributions from fellow School of Law academics Professor Joan Loughrey, professor Gerard McCormack, Dr Raphael Heffron and welcomed many other visiting academics and practitioners.



Shami Chakrabarti delivers 2015 Annual **Liberty Lecture**

In February Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, the UK's leading civil liberties NGO, delivered the School's 2015 Annual Liberty Lecture to an audience of students, staff, alumni and invited guests in the Western Lecture Theatre.

In her lecture entitled "On Liberty", Shami gave an overview of Liberty's work from its conception as the National Council of Civil Liberties, through to its work today in lobbying, building community coalitions and providing specialist advice and information. Shami discussed our fundamental rights and freedoms as defined in the European Convention on Human Rights and discussed a crisis in trust of institutions in the UK, from the Iraq War and phone hacking to parliamentary expenses and the banking crisis.

She dismissed the idea of privacy as an absolute, as our desires to be more sociable mean giving up some privacy. She explored the idea of 'nothing to hide, nothing to fear' and explained how advances in technological advancements have increased the 'capacity to snoop', as the laws and ethics supporting our privacy struggle to keep up.



Mooting MEMORIES



SCENE FROM A MOOT, HELD IN THE J.W. MCCONNELL MOOT COURT ROOM, CIRCA 1974-77



LAW SOCIETY MOOT HELD IN LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION COMMITTEE ROOM CIRCA 1966-69




LEAD APPELLANT ALICE KUZMENKO MAKES HER CASE

Has this sparked any mooring memories you'd like to share?

Then get in touch at alumni@leeds.ac.uk

 @law_leeds

 facebook.com/LawUniLeeds

 School of Law, UoL

Many years, many moots. Here's a brief glance over mooring past and present.

May marked the final for the Junior Mooting Competition which was judged by School of Law alumnus and Freshfields Partner Neil Golding, who kindly came up from London for the day.

The four finalists handled a complex case which explored ideas of consent debating around exorcisms and religious rituals. Even Neil commented on the difficulty of the case and admitted, tongue-in-cheek, that he didn't remember his mooring cases to be that difficult.

We spoke to lead appellant and aspiring barrister Alice Kuzmenko who won the case.

How do you feel about the win?

"I feel amazing about the win. I'm very proud of my achievements and it has given me a lot of confidence about doing external competitions next year too!"

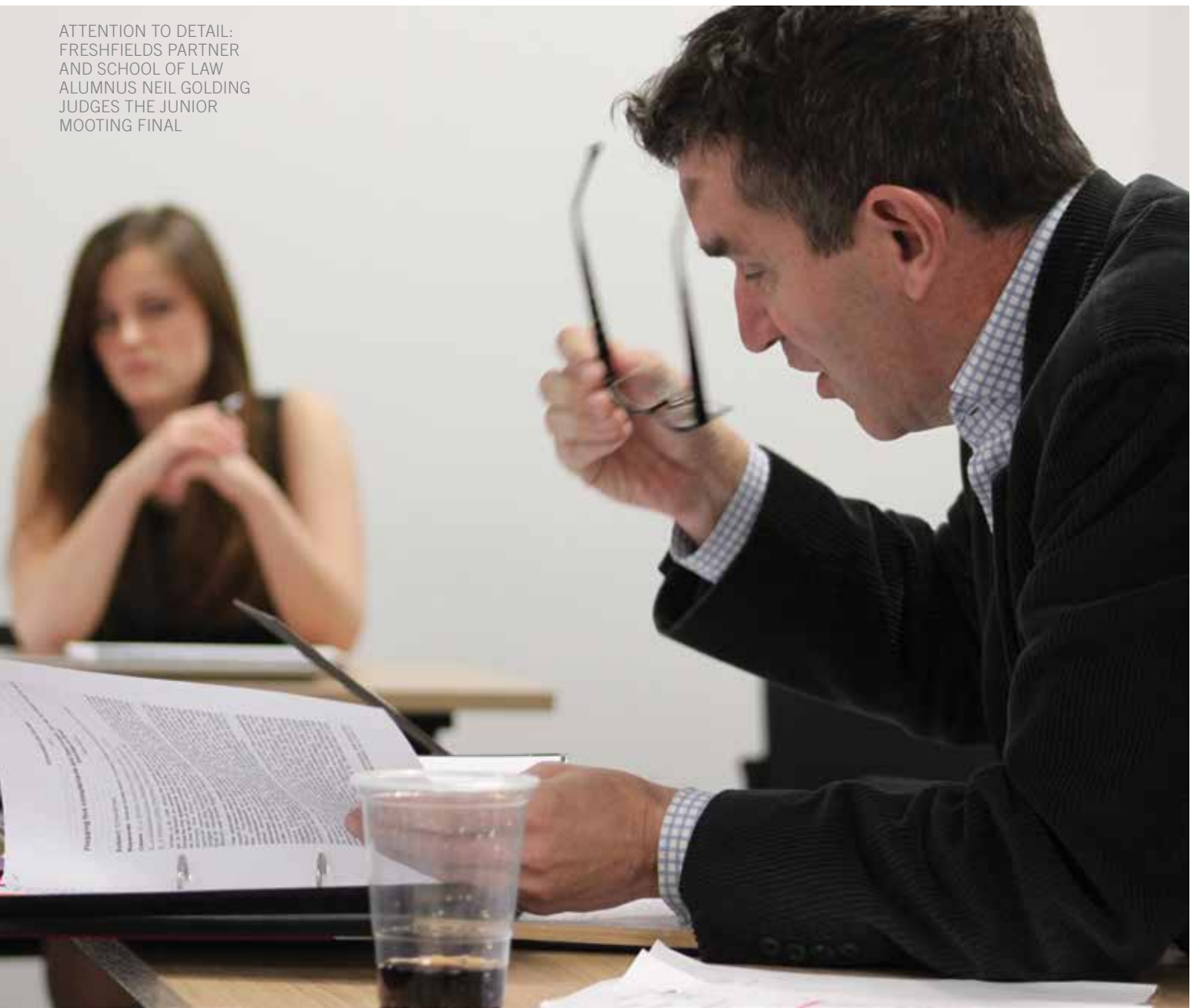
How do you feel the moot itself went?

"Well I didn't actually think it went well! It seemed like the Judge (Neil Golding) asked me at least a dozen questions and having never had so many judicial interventions during a moot before I thought it could only be bad news, and that I had awful flaws in my argument! My learned friends were all marvellous, they did a good job refuting my argument too."

What has been your favourite mooring moment?

"I think my favourite mooring moment was in the second round, although it's only a favourite in retrospect, at the time it was daunting! I was the lead appellant, the lead respondent was my best friend Charlie Towl and we were arguing a contract law case about mahogany cupboards. My client wanted a very large sum of money to compensate him for the fact that the builders installed the wrong shade of mahogany! The reason it was my favourite was because I am very proud of the fact that I found a key fact which allowed me to argue that the builder had attempted to con my client. Therefore the suggestions that the sum being asked for in compensation was outrageous could not be applied! My argument was very well taken by the Judge!"

ATTENTION TO DETAIL:
FRESHFIELDS PARTNER
AND SCHOOL OF LAW
ALUMNUS NEIL GOLDING
JUDGES THE JUNIOR
MOOTING FINAL



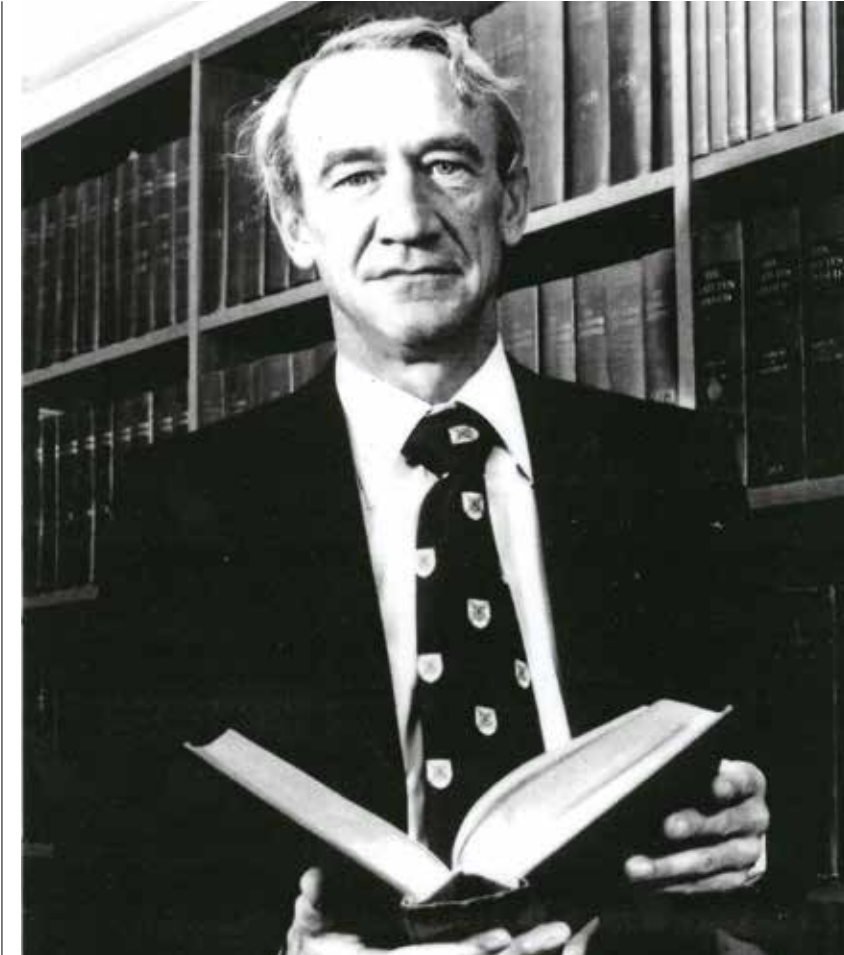
TIME'S UP: LAWSOC MOOTING
SECRETARY JESS BOURKE KEEPS
THE MOOTERS IN CHECK



A SUPREME PERFORMANCE: THIS
YEAR'S SENIOR MOOTERS AT THE
UK SUPREME COURT WITH LORD
HUGHES AND SCHOOL OF LAW
LECTURER NEIL STANLEY
L-R: JESS BOURKE, CHEVAN
ILANGARATNE, ANGUS YEUNG, LORD
HUGHES, BRYAN CHEN, MIN CHIN,
NEIL STANLEY AND MICHELLE YEOH

REMEMBERING... BRIAN HOGAN

Brian Hogan was Professor of Common Law at the University of Leeds from 1967-94. He sadly died of pneumonia on 9 February in 1996.



He was a well-respected, much loved lecturer. In a career at Leeds which overlaps four decades he was Head of School three times and Pro-Vice Chancellor for some years.

Many alumni have named him their favourite lecturer (a list of names and quotes available on Leeds alumni online):

"A good orator, he made criminal law exciting," said Ian Berry (LLB 1977). Anthony Paphiti (LLB 1973) explained that it was "his intellect, wit, patience and general enthusiasm for his subject," that made him his favourite. Jane Langfield (LLB 1975) last year commented on Facebook that Hogan was her favourite because he was "Extremely witty". An anonymous quote about Hogan describes him as "A fantastic Criminal Law author and lecturer and warm human being. Sorely missed by anyone he taught."

The School's Associate Professor Nick Taylor (LLB 1992) fondly remembers being taught by Professor Hogan. "The best lecturers I ever had used nothing except their voice," says Nick. "They just talked and you could listen to them for hours. Brian Hogan was legendary, He was that good! You listened to every word he said because it was genius."

Despite his name and reputation he always had time for his students. In some instances his easy going nature are well recalled:

"It was said that in the old upstairs law library Hogan caught a couple of students 'in flagrante'," says Nick. "The students were hugely embarrassed, possibly expecting their removal from the University – but were in fact just asked to keep the noise down."

In 1996 The Times published an article on Brian Hogan with a succinct tribute. Here is a small portion:

The Times, Monday 26 February 1996

"Brian Hogan was born the son a police officer in the North East. He claimed that at school had shown ability only in geometry but had managed to acquire his School Certificate in Latin which in those days provided the passport to university entry. Graduating with first-class honours in law from Manchester in 1956 (after completing his National Service) he took up a post as a temporary assistant lecturer at the University of Nottingham.

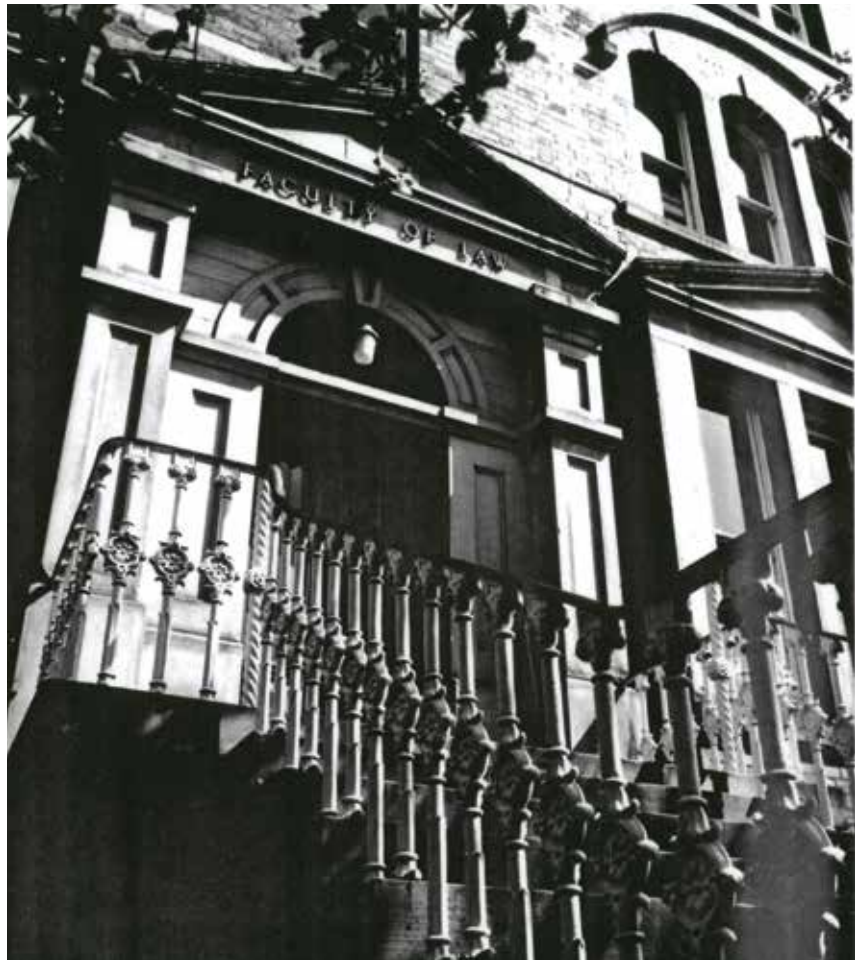
"At that time it was possible to study for the Bar in one's own time and Hogan entered Gray's Inn and was called in 1959. While still a lecturer at Nottingham he was appointed to the Chair of Common Law at Leeds in 1967. There he remained until he retired in 1994. He was head of the department of law three times and from 1974 to 1976 was chairman of the Board of Arts, Economic and Social Studies and Law. As the (sole) Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1981 to 1983, his tenure coincided with the death of Lord Boyle and the first serious tide of financial cuts.

"But Hogan's range was much wider than criminal law. Although he was uncompromising in what he demanded (he belonged to a generation which did not see this as problematical in a university), he was an excellent teacher able to represent ideas in a manner that could be grasped by the weaker pupils while at the same time offering something that would stretch the top 20 per cent of the class. Towards the end of his career he participated, albeit with some reluctance, in the national assessment of teaching quality, a process which he found to be seriously flawed in both design and execution.

"Although Hogan liked to cultivate an image somewhere to the right of Genghis Khan, he was in fact a liberal (with a small "l") and would take great pains to further causes in which he believed. However, though he became heavily involved in administrative matters at Leeds, he was never likely to be attracted to administration as a career. He was too forthright to be all things to all men and his boredom threshold was too low for the grinding tedium of much of the paper generated by the academic system in recent years."

Who were your favourite lecturers? We would love to know: [@alumni@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@leeds.ac.uk) [@law_leeds](https://www.leeds.ac.uk/law)

THE ENTRANCE AT
LYDDON TERRACE. PUT
YOUR HAND UP IF YOU
REMEMBER WALKING
THROUGH HERE.



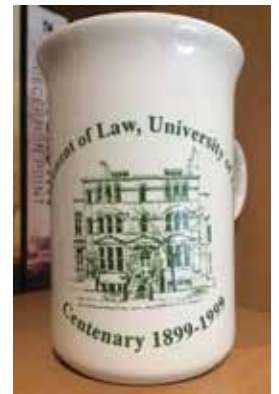
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Some picks of pics from the archives. Enjoy!



... AND SINCE 2011 ALL
STUDENTS NOW WALK
THROUGH HERE.

ANYONE GUESS THE
YEAR? ANSWERS ON A
POSTCARD PLEASE! ...



THANKS TO PAUL KELLY
(LLB, 2000) FOR SHARING
THIS ON TWITTER.

Get in touch

alumni@leeds.ac.uk



@law_leeds



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School of Law, UoL

Class NOTES

LYDIA BLEASDALE-HILL
(LLB, 2003)
LECTURER AT
SCHOOL OF LAW

Make or break time

"I remember first year there was a lot of confusion about what was happening. There was once some flooding and one of our tutors couldn't get in! We were operating in a time when there was email but it wasn't the dominant communication form. Every day you had to go to the law building and to the notice board to check if there were any changes to your time table.

"One of the seminal moments of year two was waiting for the results for the human rights module. I thought 'If I can't get a 2.1 in this when I've really enjoyed it and understood it all then I may as well leave. I knew for a graduate job I needed a 2.1 and I just thought I wasn't going to manage it.

"I have this vivid memory of going to Ben Fitzpatrick's office. It was teeming with rain and I was soaked dripping in his office with this umbrella and I was shaking because I was so nervous.

This was kind of the make or break of my degree. If remember correctly, 72 is what I got and I burst into tears which I don't think is what he was expecting! It would've sounded so dramatic to him but there was some reasoning behind it."



NICK TAYLOR (LLB, 1992)
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The Paper Chase

"Every body's biggest fear was wondering whether they were going to be picked out in a case class. It's like in the film *The Paper Chase*. I can't tell you how similar it was. It was horrific: You had to stand up in a full lecture theatre, recite a case and answer a series of questions about it. You always knew when the lecturer was getting close to your name in the alphabet, so you'd spend many a long evening in the library attempting to second guess which case you'd get.

"If you were done recently you were pretty confident you could have a few days off, but sometimes the lecturer would jump around the alphabet to catch you out – just to add the extra element of jeopardy!"

STEVE DURHAM
(LLB, 1991)

Memories of Lyddon Terrace

"The cloakroom where every day started and the Final results were displayed. Where tears and joy were shared in equal measure!

"The common room with olde fashioned bar, football table and beaten up armchairs and sofas.

"Books upon books upon books, together with the old study booths. Book sales of last year's books and purchasing this year's reading list after haggling over price.

"The immensely expensive Lexis system to research law online, which pre dated general internet access – 50p a minute dial up and could locate any case reported with two or three keywords. I only saw it twice in three years.

"I remember Profs Brian Hogan, Clive Walker, Weaver, Horton Rodgers and Mr Passey, Miss Lawson, Mr Davies Miss Lenehan and Professor Bell in my third year

"Weird to think I can sum up my memories of the old law department back then in but a few lines when it changed my life in so many ways. I loved my time in Leeds and hold many fond memories of the city and the University. I am still in regular contact with around 30 alumni through Facebook and even attended a 50th birthday weekend at the Pennine Hut with about 25 Leeds Alumni in February of this year!

"Yes great memories and a lifelong investment in me and my education. Thank you Leeds and Lyddon Terrace!"



Staff v Students CRICKET MATCH

It's a heated competition that's been running for nine years. Started by enthusiasts Ian Cram and Lee McAteer (LLB 2007) the Staff v Students Cricket Match has had many highlights through its history including one year when legend Geoffrey Boycott dropped by to umpire..

In this year's match it was the students who once again took the trophy by only two runs difference. Nick Taylor gives the lowdown:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. At 37-7 it looked nailed on that the staff would end a losing streak that began before their opponents had chosen their GCSEs. It wasn't to be. Some late desperate hitting from the students tail, and a rather pedestrian response saw the staff fall just two runs short of the modest victory target of 83.

"The day began, in bright sunshine, with the sound of cartwheeling stumps. Taylor took a couple of early scalps to accompany a 'hit wicket' forced by Cram's particular brand of chin music. In the words of Brian Johnson, the batsman couldn't quite get his leg over (Oh Aggers, do stop it). The accurate medium pace of Broady saw more student batsmen back in the hutch. Halson wrapped up the innings with the final wicket to record the somewhat bizarre figures of 0.1-0-6-1 – a record that should stand some time.

"Suitably 'refreshed' the staff began the chase that required virtually a run a ball. There were many lusty swings of the bat, some of which even made contact with the ball, but despite having batting quality in reserve, the overs simply ran out. A fine effort in a truly British style: heroic failure. There's always next year."



Winners of the Cram/McAteer Trophy

2007	Students
2008	Staff
2009	Students
2010	Students
2011	Students
2012	Draw
2013	Students
2014	Students
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School of Law, UoL

In CONVERSATION

*Professor Anna Lawson, University of Leeds
LLB Graduate 1988*

Over a coffee we chatted with Anna Lawson about disability equality, her career and why her exams were like being in Room 101. Also joining us of course was her lovable guide dog Ufty.

“The penalty for really loving your research is there’s never enough time to pursue it. Even when it’s a holiday you’re still thinking about it!” says Anna Lawson. It’s a thought that many can relate to. Anna is an influential researcher in the field of human rights and disability equality.

Notably last year Anna became the first blind female Law Professor in the UK. Because of this to mark International Women’s Day the University honoured Anna with one of thirteen “Woman of Achievement” awards.

Even though she is incredibly hard working awards have always been a surprise for Anna. When graduating from her LLB she was awarded with the overall Hughes Prize. “The lecturers were talking to me and my parents and being really nice about me,” says Anna. “And I remember my dad saying ‘Anna, are you sure they’ve got the right person?’”

So why Law?

Maybe it was the irony of her family name Lawson that led Anna to study the subject? She changed to law after doing a year of psychology and sociology. Anna explains:

“I think a lot of the reasons why I wanted to do psychology and sociology I found relevant to law. There’s so much about how individuals and society works, which I find fascinating. I really enjoyed learning about people’s stories, and with law you get both – a collection of stories where you look at how problems are solved, and the principles and rules of how society works.”

Choosing Leeds

Anna applied to Leeds because of the Leeds University and RNIB Transcription Centre, a facility established by two blind lecturers – former Law lecturer Lord Colin Low, and late philosopher Martin Milligan.



Even when it’s a holiday you’re still thinking about your research!

“I believe it was the only university at that time to have a transcription centre,” said Anna. “Obviously that made life so much easier to access material. It was a complete god send!”

“Volunteers would come in and read a chunk of books for a few hours at a time. I’m sure that a lot of Leeds alumni would have been involved.”

“I didn’t use brail because I only started losing my sight when I was 7,” explains Anna. “I do know brail but I’m painfully slow. I have about the pace of a three year old. But I try and read novels in brail now and again as a treat.”

Anna received a lot of support from many students and staff, including one figure many alumni may remember – former Head of School Brian Hogan.

“He arranged for me to have extra lending rights and waived my photocopying costs.

“I was also given a little room in the building to be able to study – Room 101,” laughs Anna. Queue a couple of tongue in cheek references to 1984. *Were there any rats in there?* We ask “No but it felt like it!” she jokes.

“Room 101 was also where I did most of my exams as well, so it was very appropriate! I had my exam papers read out to me, and then someone would write down what I dictated.”

Challenges

“I was still losing my sight at this point,” says Anna. “Despite all the support it was a difficult time. There were issues like getting around campus, or organising readers. Sometimes tapes would break at the last minute.”

“Whenever things were difficult for me I used to think about my friends. A lot of them were overseas students and I thought how much harder it must be for them, particularly understanding complex material in another language. Whenever a tape broke I thought ‘at least I don’t have to work in a whole other language.’”



Post-Graduation

Anna then went on to a masters at Oxford “which was great but didn’t have the same support as Leeds. A lot of individuals bent over backwards there, but they didn’t have the same built in institutions as Leeds did. So it was a bit harder.”

“After that I wasn’t sure what to do, whether to go into practice or academia.

“I applied to a solicitors firm in Cardiff and after the interview they said ‘we’re not giving you the job because we think you want to be an academic.’”

With that decision almost made for her Anna had several academic interviews lined up and eventually returned again to Leeds, this time as a lecturer in Land Law.

“It was fun. There were a lot of new people, lots of new ideas. I enjoyed land law – particularly the equality aspects and the feminist side of it.”

“By the end of the 1990’s I felt like I had enough of teaching it. It’s a horrible feeling that. I thought rather than feeling like I’ve got stuck I’d apply for a different job. Fortunately for Leeds this was about changing her research focus rather than the job itself!”

Research and Disability Rights

Anna applied for a role at the Disability Rights Commission (now the Equality and Human rights Commission). Though she didn't get the intended job she was asked to do research on disability issues.

"It was so refreshing, and energising, and helped me re-orientate my research and I just loved it."

One of her first pieces focused on issues around land lords giving consent to housing alterations to enhance accessibility for disabled tenants.

"There was a problem because the law didn't place an obligation on landlords to agree to alterations even if it would have been reasonable for them to do so. So people had to move out, with many ending up in institutions. I wrote a couple more specific reports on that issue and they were used in a campaign to amend disability discrimination legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. It took a long time but it finally got through."

The fact that this was a part of a campaign was important to Anna. "I wasn't an isolated person anymore doing work because I felt like it. It was work being done because it was relevant to a problem real people were experiencing and organisations wanted to change."

Another highlight of this time for her was arranging a conference at Leeds in 2003 – 'Disability rights in Europe: From Theory to Practice'. There were figures from over 26 countries in academia, policy making and campaigning.

Anna organised this with Caroline Gooding, a notable disability rights lawyer and campaigner who passed away last year "I first met her when she rejected me for the Disability Rights Commission job I had applied for, but gave me a different one instead. She started me on the road of disability research and became a really close colleague and friend. We often had discussion about how law could help to make people's lives better and to reduce isolation and disadvantage. She was a huge inspiration for me and others."

"When I was a student at Leeds there were some really helpful people here, who guided, read and made sure I was ok."





ANNA BEING PRESENTED WITH THE HEPWORTH & CHADWICK COMMERCIAL LAW PRIZE IN 1987

Current Work

Anna's current work is now focused on scoping Disability Law as a specific academic subject, linking together underpinning ideas across other areas to encourage others to really think of disability implications. "Trying to mainstream it a little," as Anna puts it. As director of the University's world-leading interdisciplinary Centre for Disability Studies, she also works closely on issues of disability and social disadvantage with colleagues from other schools across the University as well as internationally.

Anna is also involved in other organisations – including being chair of CHANGE, a disabled people's organisation that focuses on the human rights of people with learning difficulties; a trustee of China Vision, which works with disabled people in China to enhance disability equality and inclusion; a member of the statutory Disability Committee of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and a Council member of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest as well as the Royal National Institute of Blind and Partially Sighted People.

From reminiscing about her undergraduate days Anna remembers and is grateful to the many friends and people at Leeds "there were some really helpful people here, who guided, read and made sure I was ok."

"I also have some friends in my year whose children have applied to Leeds. I really hope they come. I feel very maternal about them even though they're not my children!"

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School of Law, UoL

Inspiring Research – International Law

EXPERIENCES OF ZA'ATARI – SYRIAN REFUGEE CAMP

Strengthening the Rule of Law

GEORGE RIACH
(LLM INTERNATIONAL LAW 2014)

“I was sceptical about the influence of international law and its translation into everyday practise,” says George Riach. He along with fellow researcher Zoe James went into the field to investigate the Syrian refugee camp in Za’atari and how the ‘The Rule of Law’ is structured through more informal ways.

This interest was inspired from studying a module on ‘Global Governance through Law’, and George now aspires to follow a career with a law and humanitarian focus. We asked him to share with us a brief insight.

What’s the context to your research?

“Za’atari refugee camp is a vast city raised from the desert on the Jordanian/Syrian border, formally opened in 2012. There is a thriving network of shops, schools and mosques as communities reform along familiar social ties.

“It’s an interesting case study for a student of international law. From the combination of refugees, Jordanian governance and humanitarian agencies the camp is a melting pot of customary norms and legal understandings. This space epitomised legal fragmentation and issues of legitimacy and power.

“As the experiences of refugee camps the world over demonstrate, communities require an effective rule of law. Refugees form communities, and members of those communities continue to marry, divorce and have disputes, just as any other society would. A strong rule of law is associated as a tool to maintain human rights standards. The absence of such structures to uphold legal standards is therefore concerning.

“There were reports of community leaders and vigilante groups which had emerged to counter the ‘lawlessness’ of Za’atari. Case studies were indicative of some form of informal governance network in place. Given the importance of a rule of law for prevention of human rights violations it seemed strange to me that no information about structural legal mechanisms was available. I knew that I wanted to investigate frictional and conflicting customary norms further.”

What were you looking into?

“I was looking into the prevalence of ‘informal’ community based systems and quasi-legal’ actors. That is, these emerge organically, from within the community and share some characteristics of formal legal systems; i.e. provide legal counsel, uphold legal norms through formal proceedings.

“I wanted to identify what legal values were being upheld, the circumstances these informal systems had emerged and the formal legal services were accessible to refugees in the camp and detail the barriers to these systems and whether these could be overcome.

A particular area of focus was to overcome some of the patriarchal norms prevalent in the camp, and to recognise the importance of matriarchal figures in upholding the rule of law for particularly vulnerable individuals.”-



What difficulties did you face?

“Identifying an innovative dissertation was the easy part! Organising the trip took seven months – negotiating the regulatory requirements and engaging with stakeholders working in Jordan, keeping up to date with research publications, official reports and news articles was essential in order to overcome our physical distance from the camp. We had a lot of health and safety and ethical checks which required months of work.

“Access to the camp was a major hurdle. We need to receive approval from the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and from the Ministry of Interior for Jordan. We needed to argue our case and demonstrate the tangible benefit to the camp authorities. The camp is a politically sensitive area and the government was keen to avoid being embarrassed in any way. Similarly the welfare of displaced persons who have experienced huge trauma was paramount. A high number of journalists in the early months of the camps opening led to a voyeuristic situation which was highly unethical and damaging to relations between refugees and outsiders.

“Funding the trip was an added strain. I put together a detailed budget for the trip which meant sourcing about £2000. I applied to a number of charitable grants and the rest came from ourselves. I took on work as a manual labourer and cleaner which funded the majority of the cost. Juggling work whilst keeping up to date with weekly seminars and private study isn’t as easy as it sounds! But then it does make it that much more rewarding.”

Could you give us a brief idea into what you discovered?

“There is a tendency to think that international law stands above all other values in a hierarchy of standards. However, what quickly became clear is that those values are rarely translated or interpreted into people’s everyday lives for whom they are designed to support. International law and human rights standards are influenced by a Western paradigm which comes across as dogmatic and hegemonic to many people. For example, religion informs people’s everyday lives in Za’atari, and to be told simply ‘that your way of doing things is wrong’ is disrespectful and made people defensive. Imams in particular explained how they felt they had been side-lined and marginalised from their social positions.

“The important finding in my fieldwork is that if you incorporate different stakeholders in a participatory approach which recognises their legitimacy and authority you can open dialogue and find mutual applications of the law. The outcome of which could promote a more durable system which can reincorporate human rights standards. For example, if you consider the importance of group consultation in Syrian communities, and by family representatives, it is easy to identify shared characteristics with legal consultation, mediation and arbitration. Stepping out of your office and into the homes of community leaders also overcomes and perceptual barrier which exists in many people’s minds. Finding a platform where different people, from different backgrounds, can work with one another offers a first step in educating, providing training and sharing information. I’m talking about a participatory approach which reincorporates human rights gently and over time challenges derogatory norms, such as underage marriage and women’s rights.”

How did you personally find the whole experience?

“It was an amazing experience. I was absorbed into a vibrant and elegant culture despite massive strains caused by violence and displacement. Syrian families accepted us into their home and fed and watered us after long days in the sun. Their hospitality was amazing. We formed lasting personal friendships with my translators in particular and other agency staff. Furthermore I have opened up new opportunities with leading humanitarian agencies and legal advocacy groups.”

What do you hope will come from this research you have made?

“I have co-authored a policy report which outlines my findings and recommendations to a multi-agency working group in charge of the governance and maintenance in Za’atari refugee camp. My hope is that ongoing work will see some of these recommendations implemented and a stronger, more effective and durable rule of law promoted in the camp.”

Are there any thoughts, reflections that you’d like to share from this experience?

“This fieldwork was an amazing opportunity to learn about the real life working of an academic subject or topic. It helped me to become critical of my own pre-conceived judgments and taught me the importance of other people’s values and the lived realities of my subject area.”

Got a piece of research you would like to share with fellow Leeds Alumni? Get in touch at either lawmso@leeds.ac.uk and alumni@leeds.ac.uk



On 28 May **Professor Emeritus Clive Walker** was quoted in the International Business Times responding to parliament's announcement of a new anti-extremism bill. Clive commented:

“The danger with this type of legislation is [it simply closes] down legitimate channels and this will not close down communication; it will simply send it to darker places rather than dealing with it.”

He has recently edited *Contingencies, Resilience and Legal Constitutionalism* a new publication which seeks to analyse and criticise the legal developments in contingencies and resilience on a comparative basis.

The book arises from an ESRC funded seminar series, and an earlier version was published in the *International Journal of Human Rights*.



Professor Surya P. Subedi has stepped down as UN special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia after six years in the role. To reflect on this experience Subedi held a Public Lecture at the School entitled *“Life as a UN special Rapporteur”* where he examined the role, the approach that he took to implement his mandate in Cambodia, and the impact of his work in the country.

He was appointed to this position in March 2009 becoming the longest serving UN Special Rapporteur for the country. Surya has recently been recently appointed a member of a Task Force on Investment Policy by the World Economic Forum in Davos.

A full text of the Public Lecture is available online: www.law.leeds.ac.uk/



Last Year **Professor Ian Cram** was invited to give evidence before the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee of the House of Commons. The discussion was on 12 June where he was questioned by the committee in relation to revising the Cabinet Manual.

Also in December 2014 Ian presented a paper at Conference held by the Committee. His paper was entitled ‘Can agreement be reached on a Bill of Rights for the constitution?’ and was cited by the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee in its report *Revisiting the Cabinet Manual (HC 233; 2014-15)*

Staff UPDATES



Last Year Associate **Professor Nick Taylor** was invited to speak on Radio 4's *Law in Action* programme. Nick appeared on the show's ‘Jurors in the Dock’ episode (broadcast March 2014) in a discussion considering jurors who have been penalised for researching defendants

on the internet. Nick was asked whether he supported reforms to make jury research a crime in its own right, he commented “I think it makes sense to have a criminal offence as it's much clearer for jurors to understand but whether it will have the deterrent effect I'm not convinced. I think jury's need to be filled with the knowledge of the responsibility that they're undertaking rather than carrying out such a task under a threat of a criminal punishment.”

At time of writing the episode is still available to listen online at the *Law in Action* website.

In 2015 he was a finalist in the Oxford University Press *Law Tutor of the Year Award* and was nominated for the ‘*Law Lecturer of the Year*’ by *LawCareers.net*



In February **Dr Paul Wragg** Associate Professor of Law appeared on *ITV Calendar News* to discuss a case of internet trolling. After a young cancer sufferer in Leeds was the target of abuse through a Twitter feed entitled ‘Cancer is funny’, Dr Paul Wragg assessed whether there is a case

for prosecution on the grounds of harassment.

Dr Wragg also appeared on *BBC Radio Leeds* on Sunday 25 January discussing free speech issues surrounding islamophobic Facebook messages.



At the start of the year **Dr Amrita Mukherjee** was re-appointed as a member of the Human Rights Committee for The Law Society, the independent professional body that represents and supports solicitors.

In May she was invited to join fellow experts on a panel debate, also with The Law Society. The event was titled 'Human rights and the Theatre of War' and discussed multiple questions and topics on human rights law and war.

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lee McAteer

Director – AmeriCamp

LLB Graduate 2007

“One of my fondest memories was going up to meet Professor Cram for my degree result. I was delirious when I found out I had secured a 2.1. One of the happiest days of my life!”



Since graduating Lee has followed a vibrant career path – he worked as an editor for a motoring magazine, then jumped into a training contract before leaping out and around the world as an international entrepreneur with fellow alumnus Nick Steiert.

What do you miss most about the University of Leeds?

I miss the people, the place, and the sense of knowing a very exciting future lays ahead of you.

I had a wonderful relationship with the many staff at the School and I'm always thrilled every time I visit to see such memorable faces.

Being Vice President and then President of Leeds University Law Society gave me my first real commercial lessons. I look back with such fondness on the events that we managed to create. I would love to re-live those moments, even for just a day.

Setting up the annual students v staff cricket match with Professor Ian Cram is something I am very proud of. Each year the teams now play for the Cram/McAteer trophy and I will never hear the end of Professor Roger Halson completing a diving catch to get me out in the very first one in 2007.

Why did you want to study Law?

I always knew from my Dad, Craig McAteer, that law would give a fantastic grounding for any career that I wished to progress in. I was incredibly fortunate to be accepted into Leeds. In my business life I have used my law background on many occasions when dealing with contracts, negotiations and it has helped me tremendously.

Tell us about your career path since finishing at the School of Law?

I cannot believe it has been nearly 8 years since I graduated! Like many others I wanted to be a lawyer and although I managed to secure myself a training contract I ended up as a production editor for Max Power magazine at the ripe old age of 21! It was certainly very different to a career as a lawyer.

Unfortunately the magazine ended up folding and it was down to the fact they weren't willing to get out of their old business model and move with the times. It's actually one of my biggest regrets that I was unable to lead the regeneration of the magazine for the social/digital generation.

With that said my background from doing a law degree had given me the skills to judge different circumstances and to communicate with people effectively no matter their background or circumstance. It's what people don't necessarily realise from studying is the skillsets you gain as well as the physical grades that you obtain.

After leaving the magazine I decided that law was the path for me, or at least I thought it was! Before starting an LPC I had come up with some crazy business ideas with my partner in crime, Nick Steiert, who was Leeds Law Society social secretary when I was president.

These ideas would end up becoming what is now known as Invasion and AmeriCamp, two of our international events brands. We now have around 20,000 people go through our brands each year and it is growing all the time. It made me realise that anything is possible if you give everything you have and are not afraid of hitting the first hurdle.

It was from our experiences at the law school and Leeds Law Society that made us create the brands. If it wasn't for being at Leeds School of Law there would be no Invasion nor AmeriCamp.

Give us a brief insight into your role?

I have a very strange role as I have to wear a number of different hats depending on what brand I am working with. It is fair to say that I live out of a suitcase



the vast majority of the time. It also means that I only get about four hours sleep a night as I have to work on a number of different time zones.

I am not better than anybody, but I defy anyone to find someone who works as hard as I do for I hate to delegate and want everything to be as good as it possibly can be. I try and put myself in the shoes of every customer and ensure that they are treated as to exactly how I would want to be treated.



I am very fortunate to have some amazing work colleagues who help make my dreams become a reality. The fact that our offices in Manchester have a ping pong table, fussball table and a basketball net it's fair to say my role isn't one of a typical company director!

I am always creating new ideas and brands, never sitting on my laurels as we constantly try to evolve. I have a few business ideas that we are launching this year, one of which I am incredibly excited about, watch this space!

What are you most looking forward to in your future career?

The future of the brands is unbelievably exciting. I have no idea where it is all going, but considering it all started in January 2010 and didn't really get going until 2012 shows that what we have is rather special. I have unfinished business in the media and I hope to one day rekindle what I truly believe are opportunities out there.

As long as I have my health, family and can afford petrol for my stupid car habit then anything else is a bonus as far as I am concerned. I am always trying to push myself further, keep proving people wrong and will always hold out for an ambition to host Top Gear! There is a wonderful life to be had out there, but you have to work hard to earn it.

Want to share your memories of Leeds with fellow School of Law alumni? Please do! Get in touch either alumni@leeds.ac.uk or lawmso@leeds.ac.uk

We feature them on our website and publications.



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Zeynab Al-Masoud

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & COMPLIANCE, NATIONAL BANK OF ABU DHABI
LLB GRADUATE 2010

“One of the main reasons why I studied Law was the strong belief that as a woman having a law degree would empower me and give me the confidence I needed to succeed,” says Zeynab. She had the opportunity to come to the University of Leeds from Abu Dhabi after being awarded scholarship from the United Arab Emirates. She now works for the National Bank of Abu Dhabi in London.

How did you find studying at the School?

It may sound cliché but it was literally the best time of my life. I have everlasting friendships and memories. I still tell people about my time as an active university union member – we did fundraising campaigns, protests, amended the union manifesto, proposed motions, lobbied, and travelled with some of the societies. I don't think I was ever that socially active after university, it was probably the 'peak' of my activism.

What do you miss most about the University of Leeds?

I was president of the United Nations Associations in my final year. I really miss working in a team pro bono like that. I remember when the Haiti earthquake happened, we started fundraising immediately.

I also recall when we prepared the delegates for different Model United Nations conferences (simulation of the actual UN, people got assigned countries and committees, whereby they had to research their country stances and attend/debate accordingly) across the country and abroad. At one point preparing for the London International Model UN conference, we ran two workshops a week to work on their submissions, country stances and debate skills. We had a good team, 7 people at the time, with 500+ members. It was definitely one of the more rewarding experiences in my life to date.

Tell us about your career path since finishing at the School of Law?

After finishing my LLB, I got a job straight away as a paralegal at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi. In 2013 I was seconded to their London branch for 2 years at their Knightsbridge offices, where I simultaneously did my LPC and my LLM at the University of Law.

Give us a brief insight into your role?

Financial Crime is my favourite area of my Job Description, everything from on-boarding due diligence on prospective customers to on-going monitoring, liaising and reporting to regulators (FCA & PRA). Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Financing of terrorism and International Sanctions are collectively

the biggest theme in banking at the moment. The FCA has taken unprecedented extraordinary measures on banks – causing a ripple effect of global remediation and tightening of controls, making my job suddenly one of the most sought out in financial services.

What have been the highlights so far?

Working in London was amazing. Our bank was at the cusp of a massive expansion, which meant recruitment and new business. I got to meet so many interesting people at the forefront of the banking industry. Talent in London is rife and it's the best part of living and working there, you feel constantly challenged by the people you meet.

Why did you want to study Law?

My love for debate, politics and the English language all contributed to the decision, but the main thing was the strong belief that as a woman, having a law degree would empower me and give me the confidence I needed to succeed in my environment.

Traditionally where I come from, the woman was meant to stay at home and take care of the children. Luckily in our times a household can barely run on one income, and women are more often at work and contributing to the bread winning.

However it was still considered a big move in my family that a girl left home and studied abroad, so I feel like I needed that kind of character shaping degree that would equip me with the life skills to break that mould once and for all.

What do you like doing when you're not working?

Travelling! I think we took for granted as students the spare time we had. I only get 20 days a year for annual leave to travel, so I try to squeeze in as many destinations as possible.

What are you most looking forward to in your future career?

Becoming an entrepreneur one day. My aim is to start my own law firm specializing in corporate law.



Charlotte Newman

TRAINEE SOLICITOR, STOWE FAMILY LAW LLP
LLB GRADUATE 2013

“I am an ambassador for the Teenage Cancer Trust having battled the disease during my final year at university,” says Charlotte. Being diagnosed forced her to put her studies on hold while going through chemotherapy. Four years later she is now six months into her training contract at Stowe Family Law.

What do you miss most about the University of Leeds?

I absolutely loved Leeds University and found the School of Law to be second to none. The facilities are great, the teaching is engaging and the staff are always on hand to give support and advice. I honestly have never heard a bad thing said about Leeds University, but what can I say is I am a Leeds girl and know how great the city and people are too!

I miss the student union (obviously). On a more serious note I also miss academia! I love to learn and the teaching at the university was really enjoyable. I often got involved in some quite heated debates after class!

Tell us about your career path since finishing at the School of Law?

After completing my degree I decided to undertake work experience before starting my LPC. Wanting to specialise in Family Law, I arrived at Stowe CV in hand! I started my work experience placement and after a few weeks was offered a paralegal position. A few weeks after that I was fortunate enough to have been offered training contract at the firm. Needless to say, I was over the moon and soon after enrolled on the LPC.

My job as a trainee encompasses a variety of roles. I spend much of my day assisting solicitors on their cases, attending meetings and helping with case management. I engage in client and solicitor correspondence, prepare documents for Court, complete financial disclosure and much more. Now six months in I have started to take on my own cases which is very exciting.

What have been your highlights so far?

One of the highlights for me has to be attending a final hearing during the early stages of my work experience. I was so excited to witness the barristers doing what they do best! Final hearings are quite rare in family law as the majority of cases that litigate settle at the Financial Dispute Resolution Hearing. I walked away feeling as though I had gained an invaluable insight into the Court process at such an early stage of my career.

Why did you want to study Law?

I have been interested in the Law for as long as I can remember. I knew from a young age that I would pursue a career in the legal profession. The Law is so interesting, with all its intricacies and abundance of cases and precedents! Of course, I believe in justice and the English legal system but I suppose one of the main reasons I wanted to study Law was because it gave me a platform to truly help people.

What do you like doing when you're not working?

I am an ambassador for the Teenage Cancer Trust having battled the disease during my final year at University. I enjoy spending my time planning events to raise money for the trust and attending fundraisers to spread awareness of teenage cancers and the charity. However, I also love to eat out (a lot), spend time with my boyfriend, friends and family, and indulge in spa treatments ever so often!

What are you most looking forward to in your future career?

I am looking forward to feeling completely confident in what I do and ultimately becoming a successful lawyer. In the future, I would love to be recognised as a 'good lawyer' and to be someone's recommendation! For now, I am simply looking forward to bettering my knowledge and gaining more experience in the variety of cases that we handle here at Stowe's.



Get in touch

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In CONVERSATION

Kevin De Sabbata, School of Law PhD Candidate

We talk to Kevin, a PhD candidate who came to Leeds from Italy. We discuss cultural differences, his research into law and dementia and being a part-time Pavarotti. Opera aficionados will be disappointed to discover that he sings Operas not just in his native language!

Tell us about your PhD research?

It's on medical and disability law focusing on care decisions of people with dementia. It's quite a hot topic as the number of people with dementia is increasing. My work analyses the problem in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and disability theory. It tries to see how the principles of the Convention are implemented in a European context, taking England, Italy and Germany as examples.

What do you enjoy about this research?

I get the opportunity to deal with different disciplines like law, philosophy, which has always been one of my passions, sociology, psychology and medicine. It really broadens your horizons. It's also very enriching from a human point of view. You read and hear stories of people that live in some way tragic but also extraordinary lives. During my Masters, in Italy, I used to work with associations for the care of people with dementia. On that occasion I had the opportunity of directly seeing the conflicts and moral challenges that these people and those around them faced every day.

Dementia is a very long journey and very complicated practically, both for the person and their family. It's also very challenging existentially as you see your loved ones disappear as they lose the majority of memories.

How does Italy and England differ in Law Study?

I've noticed that your way of reasoning is different. In Italy the law seems to be more dogmatic and more focused on interpretation of the written law.

Here, in England, the landscape is little bit more nuanced, the rules tend to be established more in relation to the specific case and the legal studies are more open to new methodologies.

What brought you to Leeds?

I'm interested in law in Italy, Germany and England. I went to Germany for a year in undergraduate degree so the natural development was to see the third country on the list!

The academic environment here is more international and you have more possibilities of interacting with people on the same topic as you. I'm also working under the framework of disability, and Leeds is basically one of the places where disability studies was established.

What was it like moving to Leeds?

It wasn't love at first sight with the city. When I came here I was more used to the image of England of small picturesque villages and green fields. This probably had an influence on my decision of living in Horsforth, which is closer to that vision of Britain that I first had. Anyway, I have to say that once you get to know it better, Leeds reveals to you some very nice corners. In addition the people are fantastic. It's very easy to

become a part of the community. The city is really vibrant and the university is full of societies. When I got here I immediately joined the Opera Society.

Yes, tell us about opera?

(laughs) I've been singing since I was 10. I love to sing and perform. Opera Society has been great for meeting new people and making friends. If you do intellectually demanding work it gives you the chance to relax and forget.

It's also very good for my English diction because the Society performs Italian operas with English translations, so I have to learn the text of an opera I already know in another language! It's very good for improving my language skills.

Have there been any language challenges?

It's a little easier for me to understand academic discourse because there are a lot of words from Latin. What is challenging is understanding the Yorkshire accent! I'm lodging with a family who are all true Yorkshire people and comprehending is not always easy. Hearing people say 'love' all the time was strange too!

So what do you think about doing a Yorkshire Opera?

Yorkshire opera... I'd have to practice. Maybe I could do it in a few years!

What would you like to do in the future?

I would like to continue to do research and to teach. Teaching is good to test your ideas and get feedback. I think that it is one of the ways you change the lives of others and allow others to change yours.

Moreover it fits with my 'acting' personality too. I think acting skills are important in the field of law. When I worked in legal practice my boss was very much in favour of emphasising this dramatic side even in the written discourse. Also in writing you must be persuasive, you have to give the reader the feeling, the emphasis. The phrase my boss used was "this paper has to shout", you must hear the voice of the author shouting at you, convincing and acting. It's kind of like writing a play.

Student News

There have been a lot of wonderful achievements from current students which we want to share with you.



NICOLA EMMA & DAVID

Adult Learner Awards

Three students who came to the School of Law through widening participation schemes have been awarded special commendations by the University of Leeds.



LLB student Nicola Stewart and BA Criminal Justice and Criminology students Emma McNamara and David Allott were presented with awards for their outstanding academic achievements.

Herabans Kaur, Educational and Community Development

Officer, who nominated Nicola said:

“Nicola is the first in her family go to University after successfully completing the Access to Leeds scheme. This past year she has managed The University of Leeds Justice Project (formerly The University of Leeds Innocence Project). The Project provides “access to justice” for clients convicted of criminal offences who claim that they are factually innocent, and have exhausted the limited legal aid available. Nicola has also actively volunteered with Police, Charities and in schools in Africa.

“She has shown a passion and a commitment to equality, justice and fairness throughout her time at University. Nicola is truly remarkable and will be

missed by all she has tried to help, advise and support. She has great passion and determination and manages to approach everything with a smile.”

Richard Peake BA Criminal Justice and Criminology Programme Leader who nominated Emma and David said:

“The awards recognise the difficult journeys that some students have into Higher Education. As someone who did not go to University until aged 39 – I can assure you that Widening Participation can and does change lives for the better!

“I was pleased to nominate Emma McNamara for the Adult Learner award as she has overcome many difficulties and much adversity, including close family bereavements, to come into Higher Education as a mature student. What is more remarkable about her story is the huge amount of time she now puts into initiatives to help others in similar situations, staff at the St Anne’s project describe Emma as ‘inspirational’. Her volunteering portfolio is pretty extensive and includes being a Learning Champion for the Lifelong Learning Centre. Emma also accompanied me to the Student Education Conference in January, supporting my talk on student transitions and the audience were fascinated by her story and her honesty.



“I was equally as pleased to nominate David Allott, who is in his first year on the BA Criminal Justice and Criminology programme. David served in the British Army and then trained and worked as a nurse. He has overcome mental health issues and several close family bereavements to enter higher education via the BA Social Science Foundation Programme, where I had the pleasure to teach and get to know David.

“To overcome such adversity is remarkable, but like Emma, David also contributes much to the School and the wider University and helps others as a valued Learning Champion. He also volunteers for Mind Matters, an organisation that promotes mental wellbeing and tries to reduce the stigma towards people with mental health problems.

“Emma and David should feel very proud of their awards – the School of Law is certainly very proud of their achievements so far.”

PORTRAIT IMAGES
COURTESY OF SARAH
MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

FINALIST PHOTOS

Generations of the School of Law



1965



1975



1985

1995





2015



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS