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Liberty Brief

Issue 13

October 2018

*School of Law
Newsletter*





Professor Alastair Mullis with colleagues recognised in Leeds University Union Partnership Awards

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

As you will read in this edition of Liberty Brief, much has happened in the last several months.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that in the National Student Survey we were the top school in the Russell Group by some margin in both Law and Criminology. As ever, this is a team effort and my warmest thanks and congratulations are owed to all my colleagues, academic and administrative, and also to last year's graduating class. Particular thanks are owed to Nick Taylor, who as Director of Student Education is tireless in his pursuit of improvement and to Henry Yeomans, who has been an inspirational Programme Manager for the BA Criminal Justice and Criminology. Now of course we have to go again. There is, as always, much to think about as a result of the annual programme surveys and I want you to know that my colleagues and I are listening to what you have to say about your School and how we can make it better. I feel no sense of complacency and recognise that there are ways we can improve. I want us to do so but need your help as always. Please do talk to me, Nick or Henry if you have thoughts as to how we can get better and I promise we will listen.

“Welcome to all our new students and welcome back to our returning students. I very much hope that you all had a good summer and are looking forward to the semester ahead.”

This year’s first year is, in A level result terms, our strongest ever. We had more applications than we have ever had (nearly 5000) and we have had to reject many people who did not quite achieve the AAAs that we required of them. That is not something that gives me any pleasure but it powerfully illustrates the point that you are in a law school that is among the most difficult in the UK to get into. As always, there will be challenges for all of you over the year ahead but I don’t want you to forget that if you are good enough to get here then you are good enough to thrive here. If you need support at any time over the next year, please seek out my colleagues (or me) and ask for help. We are here for you and want the best for you.

There is much in this edition to be proud of in terms of achievement by my colleagues and you, our students. Do take the time to read these stories and you will get a sense of the power of the School, those who work here and those who study here. It is invidious to single out anyone in particular but I did want to mention the £2m research grant won by Professor Anna Lawson and the election of Abdul Adekola to President of LawSoc. Both are mould-breakers in different ways.

Anna was the first blind woman law professor in the UK and is a world leading disability scholar. Abdul is the first black LawSoc president and the first postgraduate elected to the role. In their different ways they reflect all that is good about this School and our community.

I do hope that you all have a wonderful and successful year. Remember, it is your School. Get involved and let’s make this year even better than last.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

School launches Women Breaking Barriers Network

“

The School of Law has launched the Women Breaking Barriers Network (WBBN), a cross institutional network designed to connect women students who will be tomorrow's leaders and to inspire them with successful women role models. The network has been set up in collaboration with the Leeds Women Breaking Barriers Committee and with the support of entrepreneur Claire Young.

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Over 85 people from 11 universities across the North of England attended the launch; including women students and staff from the University of Leeds, University of Manchester, University of Liverpool, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), University of Hull, University of Lancaster, University of Newcastle, Durham University, Northumbria University, University of York and University of Bradford.

Professor Joan Loughrey, our Deputy Head of School, said, “We are incredibly proud to have launched the Women Breaking Barriers Network at Leeds, bringing together women students from across the region's universities. Women are very powerful when they act together and we hope the day and the network will inspire and support students in pursuing their goals.”

The day commenced with opening remarks from entrepreneur and WBBN champion Claire Young, followed by the keynote address from Dame Anne Owers, National Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board, who emphasised that while there have been many gains for women in the workplace over the years, there is still much to be done to maintain and advance these gains.

The day was a huge success with those attending observing that it was a very positive and unique experience. Nancy Kelehar, a founder of the Leeds Women Breaking Barriers Committee (LWBB), echoed the views of other student attendees saying “The network launch and the brilliant speakers inspired me to aim high in my career goals, but reassured me that it's okay not to have my whole path mapped out right now.”



School News



Jordan Denney, current LWBB President, said, “The network launch was so interesting and thought-provoking. I left with a real can-do attitude, and the belief in myself that I could conquer anything with such strong women around me.”

Grace Faint, who helped organise the launch on behalf of the School, commented, “I feel incredibly proud of the work we have done to launch the Women Breaking Barriers Network. The launch was a remarkable day full of laughter, optimism and excitement about the future. It was clear that attendees left motivated and eager to empower and support each other.”

As Claire Young said on the day: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

The network is now being developed nationally.





Honorary degree awarded to Dame Anne Owers

Former Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Dame Anne Owers has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University.

Anne is a great supporter of the School serving on our advisory boards and participating in a number of events hosted by the School, so we were delighted to present her with the well-deserved honour.

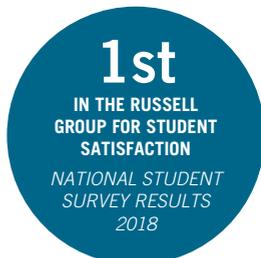
Speaking at the presentation address of Anne's degree, Deputy Head of School, Professor Joan Loughrey said:

"Anne's public service has taken various forms over the past four decades, but there is a common theme: a belief that we should take responsibility for ourselves and for each other, combined with a conviction that lives can be made better – and vulnerable groups helped – through the implementation of enlightened practice and policy. Her career stands as inspiration and example to us all."

Her distinguished career includes working as General Secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, a member of the Race and Community Relations Committee of the Church of England, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Refugee Legal Centre. As the Director of the human rights and law reform group, Justice, she campaigned to improve conditions in young offender institutions and prisons, and helped to secure the setting up of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), which investigates possible miscarriages of justice.

Law ranked 1st in Russell Group for student satisfaction

We are delighted to announce that the School has been ranked first in the Russell Group for student satisfaction, according to the National Student Survey (NSS) 2018.



The School achieved 93% in the nationwide survey, the highest score among the Russell Group institutions.

The independent annual survey is one of the key indicators of how students rate their time at university, and was completed by over 300,000 final-year students in the UK in 2018.

Head of School, Professor Alastair Mullis, said:

"We are delighted that the School's performance in the 2018 National Student Survey reflects how we put the student experience at the heart of what we do. We are proud of our students and grateful to our colleagues who together make the School the extraordinary place it is."

The excellent teaching and student experience at Leeds is consistently recognised, through the NSS, the Teaching Excellence Framework, and success in key rankings including top 10 for Law and top 5 for Criminology in the UK (The Guardian University Guide, 2019).

CIRLE's inaugural symposium draws international speakers and audience

In May this year, the Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education (CIRLE), within the School of Law at the University of Leeds held its inaugural symposium.

CIRLE aims to advance understandings of education and the professions in law and criminal justice, through evidence-based teaching innovation and high quality and impactful research. The School draws on research strengths in the legal professions and cross-School expertise in education and pedagogic scholarship and innovation.

This symposium addressed key contemporary questions in legal education, criminal justice education and the professional sectors of both fields. The over-arching theme of the Symposium was 'Educating for Uncertainty', with the sub-themes of Personal Uncertainty, Global/Political Uncertainty and Professional/Workplace Uncertainties.

CIRLE Directors, Professor Andrew Francis and Dr Chloe Wallace, opened the symposium and welcomed an international audience and speakers to explore these issues and to build collaborative

research links around the world. We were delighted that the symposium's keynote was delivered by Professor Margaret Thornton (Australia National University) who spent two months in the School as a Liberty Fellow. Margaret drew on her extensive research, including work with law firms which have redesigned their practice around technology, to reflect critically on the challenges that these developments represent for law schools and their students in Australia and the UK. This stimulated a lively discussion, with criminal justice colleagues reflecting on the parallel developments in this discipline and its professional sectors.

The day exemplified CIRLE's international ambitions and a commitment to research led development of the highest quality student education, informed by a close understanding of its relationship with the relevant professional sectors.



School of Law and Centre for Disability Studies announce launch of new East Asia disability rights project

The School and the Centre for Disability Studies have launched a ground-breaking new project, the U-LEAD Rights Forum.

The project aims to contribute to independent monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Conducted bilingually in Chinese and English the project will ensure full access for disability rights advocates in the Chinese-speaking world. We hope that this will inspire a flow of information between disabled people and universities in East Asia and the rest of the world.

Even though China was active in the development of the UN CRPD, the Chinese-speaking world is often absent from global discussions about disability rights. In particular, disabled people from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong are rarely present in the global rights discourse, and participatory or emancipatory research is almost entirely absent in Chinese universities.

U-LEAD will fund and foster participatory research - which is central to the work of the Centre for Disability Studies. This approach, which lies at the heart of a rights-based, social model of disability, derives from the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us” and also underpins the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Yet much disability-related research around the world continues to ignore the voices of disabled people, being either medicalised or rooted in traditional, patriarchal values.

New research partnership for CBLP

Our Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP) has joined a prestigious international research partnership platform.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Research Partnership Platform on Competition and Consumer Protection is an initiative aimed at fostering joint research between research institutions, universities, competition authorities, business and civil society. The aim is to contribute to the development of best practices in the formulation and effective enforcement of competition and consumer protection laws and policies so as to promote development, with a particular emphasis on developing countries.

Currently, the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform hosts over sixty-five institutions all interested in competition and consumer protection research. The partnership will allow CBLP members to forge links with not only other UN bodies but also with other international institutions to ensure our research stays at the cutting edge of global issues in business law.



Introducing...

Rachael O'Connor

*Lecturer in Corporate
and Commercial Law*

The part of my role I'm most looking forward to is getting to know my students and playing a part in their university journey



My role involves...

(i) teaching – I will be teaching on a range of business based undergraduate and postgraduate modules including Tax Law and Policy and Employment Law as well as having personal tutees and supervising dissertations; and (ii) scholarship – my scholarship/research time will focus on legal education, the student experience within the School and the legal profession as part of the Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education. I will also be involved with employability initiatives and community engagement projects within the School.

Before working in the School of Law...

I was a Corporate Tax Lawyer at Pinsent Masons, based in Leeds. I greatly enjoyed my time in practice – it really taught me a lot! I hope I will be able to bring some of my practical experiences into my teaching in a useful way to enhance students' understanding of law in practice.

I wanted to work at Leeds because...

I studied here myself (LLB Accounting and Law) and it is simply the best! Fantastic colleagues, bright and exciting students and a wonderful campus, as well as an internationally renowned reputation for outstanding teaching and research – what more could you want?!

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

getting to know my students and playing a part in their university journey. I know how important some

of my tutors were to my university experience (and now some of them are my colleagues!) I am excited by the prospect of making that difference for my students through teaching and my wider involvement in the School, as well as my scholarship projects.

My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is...

all of the gorgeous outside space that is only a short journey away from the city centre such as Roundhay Park, Otley Chevin Forest and Kirkstall Abbey. There is so much to explore, you can never get bored here! I'm also food-obsessed so the diversity and quality of the food you can get here suits me very well. Hailing from Hull, I can only be comfortable living in a place where I know I can get some decent fish and chips!

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

out and about in the parks of Leeds and nearby beaches with my Lhasa Apso puppy Rudy. He is nearly six months old and I absolutely love him to bits! I love music and fashion (particularly from the 1960s) so you will often find me at vintage fairs or in charity shops searching through other people's unwanted clothes and furniture to find that vintage gem! I am part of a musical theatre group so I can also often be found singing, dancing and being generally dramatic – I will try not to sing in my lectures/seminars but I can't make any promises ...

Dr Steven Cairns

*Lecturer in
Banking Law*



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My role involves...

teaching and researching in the fields of banking law and corporate governance.

Before working in the School...

I was Senior Lecturer in Banking Law at Liverpool John Moores University.

I wanted to work at Leeds because...

I wanted to be a part of the Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP). CBLP is one of the best research centres in the world, it contains world class academics conducting innovative and exciting research.

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

teaching and researching alongside some fantastic academics and developing and delivering a new LLM module in Financial Crime (think bribery, fraud, money laundering - all of the interesting bits of finance).

My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is...

as a massive rugby and cricket fan it has to be the opportunity to see some exciting sport. From the Rhinos to the Vikings I am looking forward to catching a game or two, although I will be cheering on my home teams of Sale, St Helens and Lancashire when they are in town!

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

watching sport and walking my dog.

Dr Suzanne Young

*Lecturer in Criminal
Justice*



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My role involves...

delivering teaching on the BA (Hons) Criminal Justice and Criminology and MSc Criminal Justice and Criminology programmes. I will be involved in the research activities in the Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education (CIRLE) and the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies (CCJS).

Before working in the School...

I was Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Leeds Beckett University for four years delivering undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Criminology. Prior to this I worked at The University of Glasgow, Edinburgh Napier University and the University of Stirling.

I wanted to work at Leeds because...

of the University's commitment to excellence in research and teaching. I enjoy working in research led, vibrant environments where students and staff work together to create a real sense of community.

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

meeting the students and facilitating their learning journeys. I am also looking forward to joining CIRLE to contribute to pedagogical innovations in criminology and criminal justice.

My favourite thing about Leeds (the city) is...

the diversity of people, cultures and styles, I have always found Leeds to be a friendly, lively city. The proximity to the countryside is great and life in Yorkshire often reminds me of my home town in Scotland.

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

trying to keep up with my five year old daughter. As a family we spend a lot of time outdoors, trips to animal parks and seeking adrenaline rushes in the theme parks.

Lydia Bleasdale named Law Teacher of the Year

Director of Community Engagement, Lydia Bleasdale, has been named as the Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year. The prestigious award recognises the vital role teachers play in educating the next generation of lawyers as well as rewarding outstanding achievement in teaching.

Lydia, who has been an academic in the School since 2005, was commended for her approach to teaching which inspires students to embrace challenge and develop as people. She attributed her win to the extraordinary community we have built here in the School of Law:

“Innovation in education is very important, but I truly believe that what defines our students’ memories of their time at university is their relationships with friends and with staff. I was privileged to have my former personal tutor, now colleague, Professor Nick Taylor with me at the award ceremony. I did not have an easy introduction to studying law, and without his tremendous support I would not have completed my degree. If you had told me at the start of my second year that I would one day win a national law teaching award, I would never have believed you: it is in large part because of him that I was in a position to, so I wanted to win it for him.”

As our Director of Community Engagement, not only has Lydia been an inspirational and engaging teacher, she has encouraged and supported students through pro-bono and community engagement activities. These activities have won several awards over the years, including the LawWorks Best New Student Pro Bono Project, and the Leeds for Life Citizenship (Community) Award (both for the Welfare Rights Project); and the Higher Education Academy



Outstanding Student Project Award (for an in-house Clinic). These awards recognise the collaborative relationship between Lydia, the students and external supervisors to assist the local community.

“

Innovation in education is very important, but I truly believe that what defines our students memories of their time at university is their relationships with friends and with staff

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School staff recognised in Leeds University Union Partnership Awards

The annual LUU Partnership Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements, commitment and impact of students, staff, and postgraduate researchers here at Leeds.

Professor Nick Taylor won the Inspirational Teacher Award. The award recognises his passion and dedication for his subject, through which he inspires students to be ambitious and enthusiastic. Nick who was described as one of the “bright lights” of the School, received numerous nominations highlighting his inspiring teaching, feedback, guidance, and support, both academic and pastoral. Nick was particularly praised for his “work to foster a spirit of inclusiveness amongst our students and his focus on making great memories throughout their time at the University of Leeds”.

Sarah Humphreys won the prize for Equality and Inclusion. Sarah’s work to champion and promote equality in the School, which has been embedded into everything we do, was highly praised at the awards. Events such as Law’s Got Talent and Equality Cinema alongside work done to embed equality and diversity in all aspects of the School’s work, were particularly praised by the judges.

Congratulations also go to Marika Hildebrandová who was runner-up in the mentor category for her work mentoring and nurturing students in the School.

“

Nick works to foster a spirit of inclusiveness amongst our students and his focus is on making great memories throughout their time at Leeds

”



Professor Pinar Akman recognised in the University's Women of Achievement 2018

The School of Law's Professor Pinar Akman has been named as one of the University's Women of Achievement.

The award recognises the significant contribution and impact that women – both staff and students – have made across the University and beyond. Launched in 2012 the awards are now a key part of the University's commitment to further promote gender equality and support the career development of talented women in all areas of the organisation.

Pinar was given the award for her contribution to both the School and University as a whole. She has recently been awarded a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize which recognises "the achievement of outstanding researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising". She is a regular speaker at national and international conferences on all aspects of competition law as well as a commentator for the media including Bloomberg, BBC, Guardian, CNBC, Parr, GCR and others.

Pinar joins a distinguished group of women from the School who have received the award. In 2016 Criminal Justice and Criminology student, Emma McNamara, received an award for her impressive volunteering work and in 2015 Professor Anna Lawson was recognised for being the first blind woman to be appointed to a Chair in Law in the UK as well as her distinguished contribution to disability law and practice in the UK and globally.



'Tipping the balance' against domestic abuse

Stuart Lister, from the School's Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, has led a research project exploring the impacts of police use of body-worn video cameras at incidents of domestic abuse.

The study, which involved more than 50 detailed interviews with frontline officers from the West Yorkshire and Cumbria forces, revealed that the cameras were delivering evidence that officers believed had more impact in court.

Stuart said, "Officers told us that the videos had the potential to provide a more powerful picture about the impact of domestic abuse on victims. Footage would show if people had been injured, were distressed or if the home had been damaged. The study found there was a consensus among police officers and Crown Prosecution Service lawyers that the cameras captured valuable supporting evidence – and it was seen as having the greatest impact when it supplemented witness statements and forensic evidence. Many officers said that they were seeing cases, that may not have progressed previously, now going to court because of body-worn video."

The study also highlighted problems with the use of body-worn cameras. Officers told the researchers that wearing a camera would sometimes deter victims and other witnesses like neighbours from talking to them because of fears that they would be identified, or that sometimes the cameras didn't work as intended.

A summary of the research findings is available from the N8 Policing Research Partnership, a collaboration between academics and the police with the aim of producing more effective policing.

€2.5m research grant for Professor Anna Lawson

Professor Anna Lawson has been awarded a five-year (advanced) research grant by the European Research Council for €2.5m.

The focus of this project will be inclusive public space and, in particular, streets. It will explore the experiences of disabled and older people in using streets in five countries (China, Kenya, the Netherlands, the UK and the US), the ways in which law regulates inclusion in these contexts and the strategies used by marginalised groups to draw the attention of policy makers to the need for change. The project will start in early 2019 and employ three postdoctoral researchers.



News in Brief

①

Dr Subhajit Basu has been appointed as the new Managing Editor of the International Review of Law, Computers and Technology.

②

On 27 June 2018, *Professor Peter Whelan* gave evidence on the Commerce (Criminalisation of Cartels) Amendment Bill to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee of the New Zealand Parliament.

③

Dr Konstantinos Stylianou has participated in the Computer & Communication Industry Association's (CCIA) Press Conference on the Google Android Decision.

④

Professor Emeritus Clive Walker has submitted evidence used in the House of Commons/ House of Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights: 'Legislative Scrutiny: Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill'.

⑤

Professor Surya P Subedi QC, OBE, has been honoured by the Embassy of Nepal in London in recognition of his work as Queen's Counsel last year.

⑥

Research Fellow, Dr Roberto Musotto, has delivered a paper at a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) event on Linking Organised Crime and Cybercrime, in South Korea.

⑦

The Centre for Law and Social Justice and the Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative (Emory University) have hosted an international conference to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the founding of the Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative by *Professor Martha Albertson Fineman*.

News in Brief

⑧

Professor Rita de la Feria, Professor of Tax Law, has spoken to the Financial Times about Britain's 'Silent Border problem', the article focused on the implications for the UK's so-called VAT border post-Brexit.

⑨

Lydia Bleasdale and School colleagues have been collecting food for two local foodbanks, the Trussell Trust foodbank and St Vincent's. Over £100 worth of food was collected.

⑩

Dr Anna Barker and Dr Jose Pina-Sánchez have been granted funding from NESTA for 'The Leeds Parks Fund: Developing a model for charitable giving to parks'. Led by Leeds City Council, the £175k project runs from August 2018 to July 2020 and includes Leeds Community Foundation, local businesses, volunteer groups and the public.



⑪

Dr Henrietta Zeffert has been appointed to the Access to Justice Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales in June 2018. This is a three year appointment to a national committee and comes from a competitive application process. The Law Society Committees, which comprise practitioners, policymakers and academics, play a pivotal role in advising the Law Society on policy issues and responding to and consulting with government on legislative and policy proposals. Henrietta is also a current member of the Employment Law Committee.

⑫

In a podcast for IMPRESS, the press regulator, *Dr Paul Wragg*, an expert in press freedom, discusses the recent high-profile privacy action brought by Sir Cliff Richard v BBC.

⑬

Professor Graham Farrell was invited to present on and develop the Danish government research agenda relating to burglary and security.

“Fabulous cities, beautiful beaches and more national parks than you could ever imagine” – spending a year abroad

Ben Men, returning LLB Law (International) student, told us about his year abroad in Australia

Ben, where did you choose to study during your year abroad?

I took my year abroad on the east coast of Australia in Brisbane. I studied at Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

Australia is an amazing country! There are fabulous cities, beautiful beaches and more national parks than you could ever imagine. I travelled around lots of Australia and have never experienced a country so exciting.

Brisbane itself was great. There is so much to do, from spending your days down at the man-made lagoon to eating your way around Eat Street Food Market. If you're looking to spend your year abroad in sunshine, then Brisbane is the place for you.

QUT was a great university, set in beautiful botanic gardens. The campus is much like Leeds, but is not as lively. Students in Australia tend to live at home and work whilst they study, so the atmosphere is not as exciting as it is in Leeds. But, it's still a great place to study and catch up with friends.

What motivated you to study abroad?

I have always wanted to study abroad. One of the main reasons I chose to study law at Leeds was because of the number of amazing places you could potentially spend your year abroad. I wanted to study abroad to develop myself, become more confident and meet new people. Not only this but studying abroad would give me an international mind set which is crucial for me as I want to work at an international commercial law firm in the future.

How would you describe your experience?

In one word: unforgettable! I have had the most amazing year and have made the most amazing friends. Because of my background, I would never have been given a similar opportunity and I am so grateful that I was able to travel to some of the most amazing countries in the world. It is genuinely the best thing I have ever done and I would strongly recommend the experience to anyone.

And how did you find the course?

My course in Australia was quite different to how it is in Leeds. You are given a lot more guidance in Australia and there is more emphasis on coursework and teamwork than exams. I personally prefer my degree in Leeds as it is more challenging, but an easier study load on your year abroad is not something to complain about. As I said before, there is less emphasis on the university life in Australia, and there aren't as many opportunities to get involved in student life in Australia as there are in Leeds. However, there are still great opportunities to be had more generally – amazing places to visit, trips and events for international students for example.

What was the most fun/interesting part?

The most fun part for me was travelling to lots of different places and different countries in the holidays. I travelled to most places in Australia, and also to countries in Asia such as Vietnam and Cambodia. Australia is so well located that it is easy to access all of these amazing places.

Student News



What have you gained from your experience?

I know it's a cliché, but I really have been given the opportunity to 'find myself' whilst on my year abroad. You are thrown in at the deep end and it really allows you to become a more confident, well-rounded person. Honestly, if you can move all the way to the other side of the world on your own, you can do anything!

Not only this, but I have gained life-long friends and amazing memories which I will never forget.

What would be your advice to anyone considering studying abroad?

It is important to really do your research before choosing your location – there are so many amazing places to choose from and you should really consider them all before applying. Make sure you're clued up on the costs of living in that country (Australia was very expensive to live in) and what kinds of things you can do there.

My main piece of advice would be: DO IT! It is honestly the most amazing experience you could ever imagine and a great way to see the world, study in a new place and meet the most amazing people.



Want to keep up with School news across the year?

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

Blaise Nsenguwera wins prestigious Stephen Lawrence scholarship

For the second time in as many years, a student from the School has won a prestigious Freshfields Stephen Lawrence scholarship. Blaise Nsenguwera was one of a small group of students to be offered the scholarship, which is run in memory of Stephen Lawrence.

Launched in 2013 by the global law firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP ('Freshfields'), the scheme was designed to address the under-representation of black men from less privileged backgrounds in large commercial law firms. In addition to offering scholars a pathway to a career in commercial law, the scheme also offers them the opportunity to experience other City careers too. Stephen Lawrence scholars are given the chance to work closely with Freshfields lawyers and with other professionals from Goldman Sachs and the Bank of England. They are also guaranteed an interview for a Freshfields training contract.

Blaise, who was "speechless and overwhelmed" when he found out said:

"In my family, I am the first to undertake a law degree so it is difficult to get guidance and mentoring at home. However with this scholarship I will be able to gain mentoring and guidance from one of the biggest firms in the country which means a lot to me. I have not had an easy journey and the fact that I have got this scholarship just shows me how far I have come. I did not know what to expect when I started my law degree, but achievements such as this just show that with resilience and self-belief, I can achieve anything. This scholarship means a lot to me and to my family for many reasons, but mainly because it gives me the belief

that I can indeed make it in the legal profession. I am very proud of myself, and being able to make my parents, friends and the School proud has made this achievement even better. I am very excited to start the scholarship as I'm sure it will offer skills and guidance that will help me in my career."

Last year, a fellow School of Law student, Emmanuel Bandoh was also successful in his application for the scholarship.



Pro-bono researchers find that councils are not helping people access Disabled Facilities Grants

New research by students in the School, under the supervision of Professor Luke Clements, has found that about half of local authorities in England do not make application forms freely available for home adaptation grants – known as Disabled Facilities Grants.



Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are grants paid towards the cost of building works which are necessary in order to meet the needs of a disabled occupant. Local housing authorities are responsible for the administration and payment of the grant. The relevant legislation requires that grants be processed within six months of the application and paid no later than 12 months from the date of the application.

The Research, which was funded by the disabled children's charity Cerebra, was the first of its kind

that assessed whether local councils had freely available DFG application forms.

If a form is not available, local authorities can deny individuals their right to apply for a grant and also stop the 'clock ticking' for the purposes of the statutory timescales, frustrating the will of Parliament. The research suggests that almost 50% of local authorities do not make copies of their application forms freely available.

Last year a similar research project, concerning adaptations to family homes to accommodate the needs of young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, suggested that adaptations of this kind were highly cost effective (that an investment in adaptations amounting to £300,000 had avoided social services expenditure of about £1.5 million - ie a five-fold return on the investment). This research has now been quoted in a House of Commons briefing paper on DFGs.

Student News

Students help secure vital benefits for some of Leeds' most vulnerable people

Students in the School have helped people living with long-term health conditions or disabilities get access to vital benefits payments.

The Welfare Rights Project, which has been run by the School in conjunction with Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit since 2016, provides one-to-one support from undergraduate volunteers to applicants for Personal Independent Payments (PIP). PIP is a benefit which helps with the costs of long-term health conditions or disabilities for people aged 16-64.

PIP applicants are not entitled to any legal aid to complete the complicated forms meaning clients either have to complete the form independently, or seek assistance from organisations such as charities. Many are unable to fill in the form independently due to language barriers, illiteracy, or learning difficulties. Support with completing the form is therefore of great importance to many clients, and the student volunteers have been able to help a large number of clients in one of the most economically deprived areas of Leeds.

Between October 2017 and March 2018 our students have seen over 100 applicants, of these 84 have had a decision about their claim and 51 of those have been successful in their claim. This equates to a weekly benefit gain of £4,593.15 or £238,843.80 annually.

Student volunteers help prisoners get insight into how they can see their children on release

The School has launched a new community engagement project, in collaboration with St Giles Trust.

Students researched and delivered a presentation to prisoners in two local prisons, HMP New Hall and HMP Wealstun, covering contact with their children post-release. A volunteering solicitor, Claudia Gilham of Mills & Reeve, provided additional advice to prisoners.

The project was a resounding success in providing the clients with much-needed guidance, and in giving students an opportunity to test their legal knowledge in a real-world setting. Verity, a second year BA Criminology and Criminal Justice student, commented: "I feel really lucky to get to experience a world that most people will probably never see, it really helped me to apply everything I learn in the School of Law to real life people and situations. It brought my degree to life."

The School's Director of Community Engagement, Lydia Bleasdale, thanked Claudia Gilham, and Chelcey Huxley of St. Giles Trust, for all of the support and guidance they provided to everyone involved with the project: "Without Claudia and Chelcey, this project would simply not have been possible. We are extremely grateful for everything they did to make sure it worked so well, and are delighted the clients found the information they were given so helpful."



Securing a mini-pupillage

Tyler Clayton, 3rd year LLB and Leeds LawSoc Mooting Secretary has recently carried out a mini-pupillage at 2 Bedford Row. He told Liberty Brief about his experience:



“I wanted to do a mini-pupillage with 2 Bedford Row because they specialise, inter alia, in criminal law. As I want to become a criminal barrister, having the chance to shadow and work alongside criminal barristers seemed like the perfect opportunity. In addition to this, in order to obtain a full pupillage in chambers, mini-pupillages are essential; undertaking three or four mini-pupillages puts you in an ideal position when applying for a full pupillage and also gives you a great idea of what life as a criminal barrister is like.

The experience of the mini-pupillage at 2 Bedford Row was fantastic and very beneficial although it also came with a very large reality check. The step from reading cases at university to actually witnessing defendants breaking down in the back of the court is really something. Sitting in the courtroom and watching the jury ‘umm’ and ‘ahh’, with the judge keeping a close eye on all proceedings, while those in the public gallery struggle to contain their emotions really brings the reality of the situation into play.

The best thing about the experience was having the opportunity to be able to interact with barristers and judges in both a professional and non-professional environment. For example, in the robing room that barristers use, you catch glimpses of pre-trial negotiations and agreements being struck between barristers. On the case I was observing, the judge invited counsel for the defendant and prosecutor into the judge’s chambers for scones and a cup of tea after the trial was over. I was honoured when the judge extended this invitation to me. It was strange – in an entirely positive way – to see two opposing barristers who had just taken part in a battle of wits, as well as the judge who was ensuring they had both appropriately toed the line, having a chat over tea.

The valuable experience of shadowing a barrister cannot, in my opinion, be understated. You learn such a wide array of things that it’s hard to do justice to them all briefly. From the intricacies of watching how a barrister addresses the judge and jury, to the legal

arguments being developed in front of the jury, there was so much to take away from the mini-pupillage. I think the thing that I learnt the most was that, while the fast nature of the courtroom may lead you to think otherwise, you always have more time than you think to answer any judicial interventions and to collect your thoughts. Courts are much more relaxed than I originally expected, and barristers are usually not out to get one up on their learned friends, but instead help each other when they can.

My advice to anyone else looking to undertake a mini-pupillage is that it is an excellent opportunity to gauge whether certain areas of law, or whether certain chambers, are for you. Use them to find your feet and to dip your toes into things that you are otherwise unsure about. For example, my mini-pupillage at 2 Bedford Row cemented my desire to practise criminal law.

I would also advise anyone to do some research into the chambers you are interested in before you apply. Most chambers ask you to submit a curriculum vitae and a covering letter. Make sure they are specific to the chambers that you are applying to. For all of the mini-pupillages that I applied to, I made sure that the covering letter showed the depth of knowledge I had about that chambers and my desire to develop this even further. This usually included referencing specific cases that barristers from that chambers had worked on, and justifying why I feel I would be the perfect fit for that chambers.

Finally, be patient. It is not unusual in mini-pupillages for you to get allocated to a barrister the night before you are meant to be shadowing them, and this can then change at the last minute. This is an entirely accurate representation of what it is like to be a barrister (especially in the Magistrates’ Courts and Crown Courts), so it is something that you are expected to adapt to and showing this ability during your mini-pupillage goes a long way.”

A message from the LawSoc President



My time at the University of Leeds, as a student within the School and as a member of LawSoc, has been one of the greatest experiences I have had to date. Despite growing up down the road, the option of going to university, particularly one as reputable as the University of Leeds, felt a million miles away while I was in high school. For various reasons, predominantly the environment I was in and the people I chose to spend time with at the time, going to university and getting a degree was not a big deal. Fast forward a few years and I have never felt more at home in Leeds than I have done for the last three years. I have been pushed beyond my comfort zone and have done a lot that I am proud of. I owe a lot to the School and its staff. I'm pleased to say that having recently graduated, I will

be a part of the School once more in a different capacity, both as a Master's student and the president of LawSoc.

LawSoc at the University of Leeds is a big deal. A contender for the largest student led Law Society in Europe each year and a previous winner of the NUS Society of the Year Award. A lot of expectation and anticipation comes at the start of every year. My plans for LawSoc are simple, get the most out of everyone, myself included. Keep our members at the heart of everything we do. Do things differently, attempt to make events bigger and better and lastly, put LawSoc in the running to compete for another Society of the Year Award.

So far, we've had a great summer, sponsorship is going well, our Media and Publicity Secretary is

being kept busy with constant demands, details for our society excursions are being discussed, and plans for our annual careers dinner and Law's Got Talent have begun. With the help of our Pro Bono secretary, LawSoc's very own Pro Bono scheme, 'President's Outreach Programme' has started to take shape and we currently have one charity confirmed and look to establish a positive working relationship with them over the course of the year. All in all, I look forward to working with the other 14 secretaries we have now and the two first year secretaries that will join us early in semester one. With the help and support of the School, I truly believe LawSoc can achieve some remarkable feats this year.

Abdulaziz Adekola
LawSoc President

Student News

Lectureship positions for our PhDs

While studying towards their doctorates a number of our PhD students work as Module Assistants. Many of our PhD students will go on to become academics at Leeds or elsewhere and this is an important part of their development here. This year has seen many of them coming to the end of their studies with us and moving onto lectureships at other universities including Dublin, Lincoln, Exeter and London.

A further three, Ilaria Zavoli, Rosie Taylor-Harding and Sean Butcher, join colleagues here in Leeds as lecturers. It is good to see the efforts of our outstanding teaching and robust research supervision alongside the hard work and dedication of our students come to fruition to produce tomorrow's academic leaders.



EU internships for Leeds students

Two Leeds Postgraduate students have won a highly sought after year's placement at the EU Intellectual Property Office.

The University of Leeds is one of only four UK universities that is a Member of the EU Intellectual Property Office Pan-European Seal Programme. The scheme allows us to nominate high-performing students to spend a one year professional placement at the EUIPO office in Alicante, or alternatively the European Patent Office in Munich. This year two of our students have been offered places, Emily James will be interning at EUIPO, and Aikaterini Katsourakis will be going to the EPO.

Could you be our next Student Editor?

We are currently looking for new Student Editors to co-ordinate the Student News section of the Liberty Brief. If you are a creative individual with strong written English, a flair for media, and a passion for our community – we want to hear from you!

Contact the Liberty Brief team for more information at lawmso@leeds.ac.uk.

Upcoming Events



Want to keep up with School news across the year?

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

Luke McNamara and Julia Quilter - 'Intoxication' in Australian Criminal Law

30 October | 17:00 - 18:30 | Lecture | Liberty Building
Professor Luke McNamara (UNSW) and Dr Julia Quilter (Woolongong University) will deliver a lecture on 'Intoxication' in Australian Criminal Law: From Public Order Policing to Sexual Assault Trials.

Brexit as Trade Governance - Fiona Smith Inaugural Lecture

31 October 2018 | 17:00 - 18:30
Lecture | Moot Court, Liberty Building
Professor Fiona Smith will deliver her Inaugural Lecture on Brexit as Trade Governance.

Stephane Rousseau - Business Law and Practice Seminar

7 November 2018 | 17:00 - 18:30
Seminar | Liberty Building
Professor Stéphane Rousseau will deliver a seminar which will appeal to anyone with an interest in business law and practice.

Personhood as a Foundation of the Western Legal Order - Gerard Quinn Inaugural Lecture

14 November 2018 | 17:00 - 19:00
Lecture | Moot Court, Liberty Building
Professor Gerard Quinn will deliver his Inaugural Lecture on Personhood as a Foundation of the Western Legal Order, and its Uncertain Future in the age of Robots and Enhanced Humans.

Qari Asim - The Independent Review into the Application of Sharia Law in England and Wales

20 November 2018 | 17:00 - 19:00
Lecture | Moot Court, Liberty Building
Qari Asim, one of the UK's most prominent Imams, will speak about the recent UK government report recommending a central religious authority which will interpret Islam in line with British values.

Events Summary

For more information about our upcoming events, and to register, please visit www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events

Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of Liberty Brief or provide any feedback, please get in touch.

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Cover: Professor Anna Lawson
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School of Law

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