

LEEDS LAW

School of Law
Alumni Magazine
— Issue Four 2018

L

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

LYDIA BLEASDALE
Law Teacher of the Year 2018

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

*Giving our students
international opportunities*

CLOSING THE GAP:
CHAMPIONING
DISABILITY RIGHTS

*Working to radically
improve the lives of disabled
people across the world*

LEVELLING THE
PLAYING FIELD

Scholarships at Leeds



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



**School of Law
Alumni Magazine**

EDITOR
Samantha Cullen
School Support Officer
(Alumni and Communications)



KEEP IN TOUCH
Phone: 0113 343 5007
Email: law@leeds.ac.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/lawunileeds

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Alastair Mullis

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Digitronix
digitronix.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES
Digitronix
Mark Bickerdike
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Fotopia
Andy Lord
Skywall Photography

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CONTRIBUTING ALUMNI
Janet Cooper
Warren Wellington

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School of Law
The Liberty Building
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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, LS2 9JT
United Kingdom

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Welcome

It has been another good year for the School across the full range of activities.

There have been several very significant achievements in research. It is always invidious to pick out individuals but two achievements were particularly impressive. Professor Pinar Akman, the Director of our Centre for Business Law and Practice was awarded a Leverhulme Prize of £100,000 for her work in competition law. The award recognises the achievement of an outstanding researcher whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising. Professor Anna Lawson was recently awarded a European Research Council Advanced Grant of €2.5m to support work she is doing on inclusive spaces. These two awards are only made to those at the very top of their fields and represent immense achievements of which the School is very proud.

We continue to thrive in student education terms. We were first in the Russell Group in the National Student Survey, an annual survey completed by all graduating students. What was especially wonderful however was the award to two of my colleagues, both of whom are Leeds graduates, of prizes for teaching excellence. Lydia Bleasdale won the national OUP award for Law Teacher of the Year. This prize awarded annually is open to every law teacher in the UK. Professor Nick Taylor, a finalist in Law Teacher of the Year in 2015, won the Leeds University Union Inspirational Teacher of the Year. If we need evidence of the generations of excellence produced and nurtured by the School, I can think of few better examples.

This year I will have completed five years as Head of School. It has been a challenging but very happy time for me. Every day I remind myself of how fortunate I am to work with the colleagues and students we have here. They are exceptionally talented but most importantly they are warm, passionate and committed people who care about our School. As I get to know more of you, our alumni, I start to understand more about why we have been successful for so long. There can however be no room for complacency. We have all worked exceptionally hard to get the School into the top 10 nationally. We aspire however to be in the top 30 in the world. That will take time and energy and your support. I believe we can do it and look forward to continuing to work with our community over the coming years.



Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School



A world of opportunities

We live in an increasingly globalised world where employees are expected to be global citizens. In a competitive job market graduates with an educational or vocational international experience are likely to have edge over those that do not.

“

This was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget.

”

Research from Universities UK International shows that graduates who went abroad as part of their studies were more likely to either be in graduate employment or further study. Those in work were more likely to have a higher starting salary, and overall they had a lower unemployment rate than those students who did not study abroad. This was especially true of those from disadvantaged backgrounds who, according to the research, have the most to gain from having an international experience and yet have far more barriers to taking part.

We are working hard to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to study or volunteer abroad, so that they can engage with different social, geographic, political and cultural perspectives, and develop a valuable understanding and appreciation of the implications of global diversity.

A number of our degree programmes have a year abroad built into them. On these programmes students spend their third year at one of our partner institutions where they will gain a better understanding of another legal jurisdiction before returning here to Leeds for their final undergraduate year. However, any undergraduate student studying at our School can decide to spend their third year abroad. Our students go to universities not just in Europe but across the world including Australia and the USA.

For many of our students their study abroad year is a truly life changing experience. Ailie Rennie has just returned from a year in Australia:

“I have definitely become a much more confident and self-assured person through this adventure. I have learnt the benefit and value that studying and travelling in another country can offer and I now know



that I want to do a Master’s degree, hopefully in another country, continuing this experience.”

Spending a year abroad is a fantastic experience for many of our students but there is also the chance to spend a shorter period of time away, through International Summer Schools. To help our students coming from less advantaged backgrounds get the same opportunities as their classmates, we have a number of scholarships for students wishing to take part in a summer school. The various scholarships mean that a lot of students, who would not otherwise be able to, can get the benefit of an international experience as well as boosting their employability. While this is an important addition to our student’s CVs it also gives them an opportunity to be immersed in a new culture, all within a month.

Melissa Leung, attended a summer school in Hong Kong in 2017, she told us about her experience:

“The Summer School programme was by far the most challenging and exciting experience I have had to date. The experiences available on the programme have equipped me with valuable life lessons, even giving me wanderlust.

“In Hong Kong, I saw things through a new lens. From the hustle and bustle of the night

markets, to the peace and quiet of the hidden nature trails and beaches, it never failed to amaze me. The friends I have made from Miami through to Taiwan share these memories with me and they are a little piece of the adventure that can never be forgotten.”

This year, 18 students from the School received scholarships to attend summer schools across the globe. While there, they will be taking part in a number of classes and activities as Miao Ng who attended summer school last year explains:

“The summer school I attended was one of the highlights of my undergraduate experience! Not only did I get to meet people from all around the world, and make friends 7000 miles away, I also gained an insight into different law jurisdictions and learnt to blend into a different culture. This was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget and I would strongly encourage anyone to do it”



Aarti Chadda attended the Taylors University summer school in Malaysia in 2017 we spoke to her about her experience.

What inspired you to attend a summer school abroad?

I always regretted not taking a year to study abroad. I wanted to experience studying law in a different constitution to compare the differences and similarities with the UK. I also wanted to try something that put me out of my comfort zone.

How would you describe your summer school experience?

It was one of the best experiences of my life. I met some amazing people and made unforgettable memories. If anything, two weeks was not long enough.

What skills do you feel you developed as a result of doing the summer school?

I drastically enhanced my interpersonal and communication skills. Not only were we required to interact with other students at the University, but also academics, lecturers and professionals when participating in field trips. My presentation and teamwork skills were also developed as we had to do a group presentation on a specific topic as part of the assessment at the end of the summer school.

How did you prepare for the experience?

I was given the opportunity before I left to meet all the other students participating in summer schools. This was particularly helpful because I was introduced to another student who was attending Taylors with me. We exchanged numbers and met up separately – this made me feel more relaxed. Also, some of the other students involved were actually from Malaysia, therefore they gave us tips about the country and recommended things we should do.

How important was a scholarship to help you attend a summer school abroad?

I received a £1000 travel scholarship. This was very helpful as it covered my fees for the summer school, so all I had to pay for were flights and spending money. Had I not received this award, it is likely I would not have been able to attend.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP A STUDENT ATTEND A SUMMER SCHOOL PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk



①

Lord Colin Low awarded honorary degree

Lord Colin Low of Dalston has been awarded the degree of Doctors of Laws, honoris causa by the University of Leeds.

Colin will be well known to many of you having worked here as a successful and much respected lecturer for sixteen years before moving to the Greater London Council as director of the Disability Resource Team.



Colin was awarded the degree in recognition of his hard work and dedication championing the rights of disabled people. As President of the Royal National Institute for Blind and Partially-Sighted People, as President of the European Blind Union, and as a member of the House of Lords, he has been a powerful advocate for the rights of all disabled people, not just the most successful, to be included in society, to be free of discrimination, and to shape their own destiny. While at the Low Commission, which also takes his name, he has campaigned for all those whose access to legal advice has been diminished by

cuts to legal aid and other austerity measures. In 2014 he was awarded the Liberty Human Rights Act Award for leading the campaign to extend Human Rights Act protections to those in social care.

Colin can be justifiably proud of all he has achieved and continues to achieve, but his work and the work of others, including the hard work of disability law researchers in our school, continues in order to ensure a fairer society for all.



2

Re-thinking notions of legal personhood

One of the world’s leading scholars in critical legal theory is working on an exciting new research hub here in our School.

The work of Martha Albertson Fineman has long been instrumental in redefining the notions of family, dependence, equality and autonomy, and is now reshaping our understanding of legal personhood. Her famous vulnerability theory states that every human being, regardless of associated group characteristics (eg race, gender etc), is universally vulnerable to change and the unequal distribution of social goods. Because Fineman’s theory argues that vulnerability is inherent to the human condition, it follows that governments must have a responsibility to ensure that everyone has equitable access to resources across the life-course. Therefore, the theory can be used as a means to understand societal inequalities and as a tool to review and challenge the operation of our most critical social institutions.

Our School, in collaboration with Emory University, has now launched the Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative (VHC) at Leeds. The hub is

co-ordinated by Fineman and Dr Stu Marvel, who have both taken up appointments in our school. The VHC will be researching key issues around Vulnerability and the organization of social institutions.

The Centre for Law and Social Justice and the VHC at Leeds recently hosted an international conference to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the founding of vulnerability theory. The conference drew in important vulnerability scholars from the United States as well as partners at the Centre for Law and Vulnerabilities at Lund, Sweden, and at the University of Technology Sydney — two institutions that have been a developing strategic relationship with Leeds. It also highlighted the contributions of PhD and LLM students to emerging scholarship on vulnerability theory. That the conference was held at Leeds is a testament to the importance of the VHC at Leeds and its role as a research hub within the Centre for Law and Social Justice.

3

Championing diversity in the judiciary

In recent years the number of female law graduates has outnumbered male. Yet, despite this, it is predicted that it will take over 55 years before there is gender parity in the judiciary.

It is this imbalance that the Judicial Diversity Initiative (JDI) was set up to address. Based in our School it aims to promote the equal participation of women and men from diverse backgrounds in the judiciary in England and Wales by 2020.

Since the JDI’s launch we have seen significant progress towards diversification with the appointments of Lady Hale as President of the Supreme Court, Lady Justice Black and Lady Justice Arden to the Supreme Court, and Mrs Justice Asplin, Mrs Justice Davies, Mrs Justice Rose, Mrs Justice Simler and Mr Justice Singh to the Court of Appeal.

However, as Dame Laura Cox, a former judge of the Queen’s Bench Division of the High Court and an executive member of the JDI pointed out – these appointments are welcome but we cannot be complacent as evidence shows there are persistent structural barriers to diversity.

The JDI executive committee includes Professors Hilary Sommerlad, Professor Iyiola Solanke, and postgraduate researcher Byron Karemba.



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

4

A partnership in China

In November 2017, Professor Alastair Mullis and Professor Roger Halson met with a delegation of the senior officers of Grandall Law Firm led by Chief Executive Partner Mr Hongbing Lv who was accompanied by Managing Partners Mr Charles Guan and Mr Henry Huang as well as Ms Sun Yan.



Grandall Law Firm, previously known as 'Grandall Legal Group', was founded in June 1998 and is one of the largest trans-regional partnership law firms in China. It has offices across China and in Hong Kong, Paris, Madrid, Silicon Valley and Stockholm.

The meeting took place in Grandall's impressive Shanghai Offices with the aim of exploring future collaboration and areas of mutual interest. Several exciting opportunities were identified including internships at the firm for our students and visits to the School by members of the firm for specialist courses. A memorandum of co-operation between Grandall and us has now been signed.

5

New International courses get their first students

Our first intake of students have started on four new internationally focused programmes. Our new LLB Law with Hispanic Law, LLB Law with German Law, LLB Law with European Legal Studies and LLB Law with International Legal Studies allow our students to learn about the law, both in the sense of 'thinking like a lawyer' and seeing law as a social institution within two different legal systems.



Samuel Hill during his year abroad in France

The new programmes, modelled on our popular LLB Law with French Law programme, include a year abroad in locations across the globe. Students studying law with either German or Hispanic law will spend their year abroad studying in either German or Spanish while those who opt to study Law with either European or International Legal Studies, will be taught in English, allowing them to further advance their knowledge of European and International legal systems.

Studying at an international institution gives students the opportunity to explore the world, develop their linguistic abilities

and broaden their cultural horizons, in addition to building confidence and making new friends. Living in another country and dealing with the challenges that brings will also enable them to demonstrate their independence and adaptability to future employers, particularly those recruiting law graduates with an international outlook.



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6

Parklife: Saving Britain's parks

Our researchers have written a major report into the future of parks in Leeds.

The report, based on a survey of over 6,400 people conducted by Dr Anna Barker (lead author on the report), Dr David Churchill and Professor Adam Crawford, recommends that Leeds City Council aim to get each park in the city up to Green Flag or equivalent standard, the national benchmark for high-quality recreational open spaces.

The city's seven major parks, such as Roundhay Park and Temple Newsam, already hold Green Flag status and 42 of the 63 smaller community parks reach an equivalent level known as the Leeds Quality Parks standard.

The report estimates that there are approximately 45 million visits by adults to Leeds parks each year, and the major parks which already reach the Green Flag standard provide a better visitor experience.

Anna said: "Leeds, like many councils, has had to find funding for its parks out of a heavily-squeezed budget. Our survey indicates that those public parks which meet quality standards are linked to enriched visitor experiences: people are more satisfied, feel safer and are more likely to say that spending time in parks is very important to their quality of life than people who usually visit a park that was below the standard. We recommend targeting any available funds at community parks that do not yet reach quality standards. Often what is needed is not eye-catching spending projects: it might be that paths have to be levelled and flower beds tidied up, but the public benefits from these basic improvements can be substantial."



Closing the gap: *Championing disability rights*

Over a billion people, or about 15% of the world's population, are living with some form of disability and yet every day disabled people around the world face various forms of discrimination and exclusion. Even something as seemingly simple as going down the street or socialising with friends can be unnecessarily difficult experiences. Academics in our School are working to radically improve the lives of disabled people across the globe.*



* Source: World Health Organisation

Founded in 2016, the Disability Law Hub is the largest group of disability law academics in the world. Its areas of specialism include mental health and capacity law, disability equality law, care law, international disability rights law, disabled victims of crime, inclusive education, and the relationship between disability and areas of law such as contracts and torts. Working within the Hub are a group of talented academics and PhD students who are all contributing a huge amount to the field.



Professor Anna Lawson
Co-ordinator of
Disability Law Hub

The Hub continues to go from strength to strength. Just this year, the team has been joined by Professor Gerard Quinn (formerly Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland (Galway) and Mr Stephen Hallett OBE (chair of China Vision) both of whom have extraordinary leadership profiles in the field and make contributions which will help ensure that the Hub continues to achieve a significant global impact.

Impact on a global scale

Professor Anna Lawson (Law 1988), who heads up the Hub and is an alumna of our School, has just been awarded a five-year advanced research grant by the European Research Council for 2.5 million. 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. This project will start in late 2018 and employ three postgraduate researchers.

The School and the Centre for Disability Studies (a University-wide network of staff and students working to challenge exclusionary social and legal structures) have just launched the University of Leeds East Asia Disability Rights Forum (U-LEAD) Rights Forum. The project will carry out research which will deepen understanding of the daily realities of disabled people in East Asia and therefore, contribute to the independent monitoring of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The research will be conducted bilingually in Chinese and English, providing full access for disability rights advocates in the Chinese-speaking world. The hope is that this will inspire a flow of information between disabled people and universities in East Asia and the rest of the world. China played a very prominent and positive role in drafting the CRPD and there is now a growing number of university-based disability studies and disability law centres and related networks in China. The

U-LEAD team, led by Anna, has appointed Mr Stephen Hallett, a longstanding advisor to and collaborator with the Hub, as project manager. Stephen, himself disabled, is an expert on disability rights in China, he speaks, reads and writes Chinese fluently and has run disability related projects in the People's Republic of China for the past 20 years. In recent years the School and the Centre for Disability Studies have worked with students and scholars from East Asia who are also prominent advocates for disability equality in the region.

On a European level, Gerard and Professor Luke Clements have provided leadership in research which supports initiatives to redirect the focus of EU Structural Funds, away from spending on building new institutions for disabled people and toward spending which supports community living. This includes producing reports for the Equal Rights Review, for the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and the Open Society Foundation; holding a conference to maximise publicity about the issue; and setting up a Structural Funds Watch research programme to track and report on how monies are actually being spent. Ahead of a review of the regulations later in 2018, Gerard has brought together leading academics from across Europe (University of Leeds, Maastricht University, Lund University and Trinity College Dublin), and the United States (New York University and Harvard Law School) to produce a detailed legal memorandum. This memorandum was the subject of a closed door seminar for senior European Commission officials from several Directorates in Brussels in late March 2018. The group will reassemble when the European Commission publishes its new draft regulations later in the year to make a detailed commentary. Alongside this work on the Structural Funds, Anna has co-ordinated research on accessibility for the EU's Academic Network of European Disability Experts which has supported the European Commission's exciting proposal for a European Accessibility Act.

Closing the gap between the rhetoric of human rights and the lived experiences of disabled people

It is not just in research that the Hub is carrying out pioneering work on the global stage. Members of the Disability Law Hub bring a wealth of experience in litigation in the international arena. Professor Oliver Lewis, a Doughty Street barrister, was formerly the director of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) – now called Validity, which has brought many ground-breaking disability-related cases to the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights. Luke is a solicitor who has also brought a number of extremely important disability-related cases to the European Court of Human Rights. One of these (MDAC v Belgium 2018) was based on a collaboration with disabled people's organisations in Belgium facilitated by Hub member Dr Gauthier de Beco. To build on this experience, the Disability Law Hub has taken steps to develop an International Disability Law Clinic. This will use regional and international mechanisms (including the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to bring strategic cases on disability rights and give students the opportunity to contribute in a hands-on manner.



Educating the next generation of disability lawyers

Providing our students with opportunities to connect with the concerns of disabled people's organisations, and to engage in using and refining relevant law and policy, is a key ambition of the Hub.

Undergraduates can now choose a third year module on Disability Law which includes conference-style discussions with invited speakers at the end of each of the topics covered. Questions about disability law (in particular mental capacity law) also play a major part in the compulsory second-year Law and Society module. Postgraduate students on the LLM programmes in Law and Social Justice and International and European Human Rights Law have opportunities to choose modules which combine a thorough grounding in regional and global human rights principles, or theories of social justice, with specific focus on the rights of disabled people, advocacy and practical implementation measures and strategies for change.

Through our participation in the Disability Rights Fellowship Programme – a prestigious University alliance bringing together the world's leading universities in the field of disability and human rights – the School and University (in partnership with the Open Society Foundation) funds students from across the world (particularly African countries) to take these LLM courses each year. Disability Rights Fellows have made a significant contribution to our School and, for the students themselves, the scholarships provide opportunities to study, to network and to develop advocacy and practical skills. One former Disability Rights Fellow, Mr Justice Srem-Sai, is now studying at Leeds for a PhD on disability rights in Ghana. He is part of a high profile disability law organisation in Ghana which has already provided influential advice to the Ghanaian government.



Giving back to the community

Students also have a range of opportunities to work on disability-based pro bono projects. Cerebra, a unique charity set up to help improve the lives of children with neurological conditions, has endowed a research Chair in Law at our School to support disabled children and their families experiencing difficulties in accessing their statutory entitlements to care and support services. The Cerebra Project and the research programme, titled the Legal Entitlements and Problem-Solving (LEaP) Project, is led by Luke Clements.

Through the Cerebra Project, we receive requests from disabled people and their families for advice and support and those cases which meet the LEaP eligibility criteria are referred to the Project Team for consideration. They listen to disabled people and their families and help them get the knowledge they need to access health, social care and other support services. They identify the common legal problems that prevent them from getting access to services and they develop innovative ways of solving those problems. A key approach to tackling a commonly occurring problem is to commission research which benefits from our excellent student pro bono researchers. We aim to reach as many disabled people and their families as we can by sharing our solutions as widely as possible. As well as helping individual disabled people and their families, the Project generates vital information for the wider programme. The research is aimed at improving our understanding of the difficulties faced by disabled people and their families in accessing support services and learning how these problems can be resolved effectively. The team uses the research data to study practical problem solving techniques and identify which approaches work best with a view to refining the way we provide advice and disseminate good practice findings for the wider public benefit.

Another hugely successful scheme, the School's Welfare Right's project, has won two prestigious awards, one for Best New Student Pro Bono Project and a Leeds for Life Citizenship (Community) Award, for their work helping Personal Independence Payment (PIP) clients. Students saw their first clients in October 2016, following training by Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit. In May 2017, it was projected that they had helped those clients to secure nearly £170,000 worth of benefits. PIP applicants are not entitled to legal assistance with the completion of the form, but many require support with doing so. The form is extremely long and can be complicated to complete independently, particularly for those clients living with particular conditions, or for whom English is not their first language. Assistance with completing the form is therefore, of great importance to many clients.

In memory of Caroline Gooding

We are delighted that, in recognition of the important work going on in the Disability Law Hub, the University has been chosen as the home of the Caroline Gooding Memorial Fund, set up in memory of a pioneering UK disability lawyer. This Fund will be used to support short student placements with organisations working on disability law, to give prizes to outstanding students in the field, to host an annual lecture, and to build connections between academia, the legal profession and disabled people's organisations and others with a commitment to closing the disability rights gap. Alumni have already begun to play important roles in this innovative venture.

“

They listen to disabled people and their families and help them get the knowledge they need to access health, social care and other support services. They identify the common legal problems that prevent them from getting access to services and we develop innovative ways of solving those problems.

”



**TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT**

Professor Anna Lawson
a.m.m.lawson@leeds.ac.uk

Inspiring future generations



Student education is at the heart of what we do. We constantly strive to provide the best possible education and experience for our students. That is only possible thanks to the exceptional colleagues we have here in our School, colleagues who work tirelessly to help our students succeed and reach their full potential. It is always wonderful when their efforts are rewarded. We are happy to announce that two of our colleagues, both alumni of our School, have just received awards for their inspirational teaching.

Lydia Bleasdale (Law 2003) has been named as the Law Teacher of the Year 2018. This prestigious award, which is sponsored by Oxford University Press, 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 said she was “completely overwhelmed”

to have won the award which she says was in part due to the extraordinary community we have here in our School:

“I wanted to win it as a way of saying thank you to the students and staff who were interviewed by the judging panel on the day that they visited campus, particularly to Professor Alastair Mullis.

“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.”

Nick said of her teaching: “Lydia cares. I don’t know if that is her ‘secret’ but she cares and that shines through in her teaching. She is a fabulous beacon of what our School is about. I have known Lydia for 20 years. She has developed from a reluctant law student into the best of law teachers. It is a phenomenal and deserved achievement.”

Lydia has also been working on research, with our colleague Sarah Humphreys, to help enhance student resilience and wellbeing, highlighting the importance of supporting students not just academically but also helping them to develop well-being strategies and championing self-care. In April 2017 Lydia’s paper “Contextualising Resilience Amongst Law Students’ was awarded the Stan Marsh Best Paper prize at the Association of Law Teachers Conference



Fostering inclusiveness

Lydia credits much of her success to the support she received from her former personal tutor, Nick Taylor, and now Nick has been recognised as being one of the “bright lights” of our School. He has been awarded a prestigious Leeds

University Union (LUU) Partnership award for inspirational teaching. The annual LUU Partnership awards recognise and celebrate the achievements, commitments and impact of students, staff, and postgraduate researchers here at Leeds. He was particularly praised for his “work to foster a spirit of inclusiveness amongst the students and his focus on making great memories throughout students’ time at the University of Leeds”.

And it is his own undergraduate days that influenced Nick to become the teacher he is today: “I think everyone needs inspiration and mine came from two sources: Professor Brian Hogan and Peter Seago. The former was a legend. Everyone knew of him before arriving at Leeds and he didn’t disappoint. He was a great story teller who weaved complex law into engaging scenarios – a fabulous way to teach. Peter was quieter but was so in command of his material that you knew he was someone you had to hear. I don’t know how far I succeed but I’ve had some of the best examples. I should give mention to Howard Davies too –his passion was just electrifying, and passion for the subject is a real key quality. If I replicate any of this, let alone pass it on, I’d be very happy”.



Nick wasn’t the only colleague from our School to win a Partnership award - Sarah Humphreys received the prize for Equality and Inclusion. Sarah’s work to champion and promote equality in the School was highly praised at the awards. Marika Hildebrandová our Schools’ Education Service Officer (Student Support) was runner-up in the mentor category for all her exceptional work mentoring and nurturing students in our School. This year’s awards have certainly

emphasised that student education is at the forefront of what we are about.

Tomorrow’s Academic Leaders

As a School we are justifiably proud of the excellent research carried out by our postgraduate researchers as they complete their PhDs. Whilst working towards the completion of their theses, some of them also work as Module Assistants delivering teaching alongside our experienced academic colleagues. This is seen as a crucial aspect of their development and provides them with valuable experience. This year has seen many of them translating their training into practice and moving onto lectureships at universities including Dublin, Lincoln, Exeter, Cardiff and London. A further three, Ilaria Zavoli, Rosie Taylor-Harding and Sean Butcher, join colleagues here in Leeds as lecturers, while Dr Chris Dietz took up a teaching position in our School last year. They are joined by one of our alumni, Rachael O’Connor (Law 2013), who has been working for a leading law firm in Leeds. In addition one of our past LLB students, Elizabeth O’Loughlin, who was a Module Assistant with us whilst she studied for her PhD at Manchester, has secured a lectureship in London.

These new academics are now working to inspire the next generation of law and criminal justice graduates to fulfil their potential and maybe go on to inspire other learners in the future.

It is this focus on student education that we hope will mean the continued success of our school as we continue to invest in our future alumni and the colleagues that teach them.

1

Philip Leverhulme prize win



Director of the world leading Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP), Professor Pinar Ackman, has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme prize for outstanding researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition.

Pinar is an expert in competition law and will use the £100,000 prize money to research some of the most controversial and topical areas of competition law and online technology markets.

Pinar is regularly called upon to speak at international events and often provides evidence to governments both here and abroad. She recently spoke at the House of Lords and HM Treasury discussing the challenges raised by Brexit to competition Law. On an international stage Pinar has spoken at a number of high profile events including one organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) on the implications of e-commerce for competition policy.

For a number of years Pinar has been involved in training EU judges on various aspects of competition law. She has recently been called upon to train 30 judges from EU member states on online pricing restraints and competition law. The training took part in Budapest, Hungary in June 2018 and was part of a training event on 'Antitrust Enforcement in Digital Markets'.

Pinar is part of a larger team of competition lawyers who continue to produce impactful and world-leading research. The CBLP is an internationally recognised business law research centre. Thanks to the breadth and diversity of the research expertise of its members, the Centre is working to address matters of contemporary concern in business law and regulation. It strives for high quality research outputs that have a broader societal impact.

This year the centre hosted a global conference with the International Centre for Law and Economics (ICLE), based in Portland Oregon, on the topic of "Competition Law in a Global Context: Analysing the Trans-Atlantic Divide". The conference explored the controversial divide between US and EU competition law regimes and how it works on a global stage. It saw leading academics, practitioners and regulators all come together, here in Leeds, and discuss the issues surrounding competition law and showcase best practice.

They will be hosting another international conference with ICLE in the USA in November 2018.

2

Marking 50 years of the Race Relations Acts



The School of Law is taking part in an exciting project to commemorate the passing of the Race Relations Acts.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Race Relations Act, Parliament has commissioned artist Scarlett Crawford to lead a UK-wide project capturing the voices of the people it most affected. Here in Leeds Professor Iyiola Solanke, will be working with Scarlett on the project – First Waves: Exploring the impact of race relations legislation in the UK.

During the Winter semester 2018, workshops will be held in the School to get an understanding of the lived experience of people from BAME participants during the 1960s and 70s. These will then be used to create a unique artwork which will be displayed in the University before being shown in Parliament itself, during 2019.

Scarlett said: "I'm really excited to have been chosen to creatively explore the impact of race relations legislation across the country. Working in collaboration with local communities, I hope to discover the unheard stories of those who were affected by the changes, to honour the contributions of those who led the way, and to inspire future generations of people from all backgrounds to engage with art and politics."

3

Professor Iyiola Solanke was appointed a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence from January to July 2018 while there she worked on judicial diversity in Europe.

4

Professors Joan Loughrey and *Andrew Keay's* paper 'The Concept of Business Judgment' was recently shortlisted for the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) Best Paper Prize 2017.

5

Professor Anna Lawson was made an honorary bencher of Middle Temple in November 2017.

6

Building Self-care and resilience at University



Ensuring the well-being of our students is fundamental to what we do here in the School of Law and as such we constantly strive to ensure that they have the best possible experience at Leeds.

When managing the challenges of university life, students need to ensure they take time for self-care activities and the University should support them in developing well-being strategies. That is just one of the recommendations from a year-long study into undergraduate resilience by School colleagues Lydia Bleasdale and Sarah Humphreys.

The Undergraduate Resilience Project, supported by the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence, sought to understand more about existing levels of student resilience and how resilience might be supported within Higher Education. As part of the study, 35 members of staff and 55 second year undergraduates were interviewed across six disciplines, including Law. The final report, published in January 2018, made several recommendations, many of which have been acted on by the University.

The authors emphasise that student resilience is not a characteristic dependent solely upon the individual's ability to cope with the stresses of University but, crucially, is also about their surrounding circumstances. Lydia explains "these include external factors such as their relationships with others; the community in which they work, study and live; and the formal support mechanisms which can help them to better navigate the challenges they might experience during their time at university."

In their report, Lydia and Sarah recommend that, among other things, universities should develop self-care resources for both students and their parents / carers, stating this is of particular importance when welcoming new

students to Leeds who can find the transition to Higher Education challenging. They suggest students are given information on the "softer side" of university, emphasising the experience is not just about academic study and explaining it is normal to feel anxious and unsettled. Reference should also be made to the importance of structured activities away from their programme of study (to develop new, protective 'identities') and the importance of exercise, diet and sleep in maintaining wellbeing.

The School of Law recognises the importance of promoting self-care to its students. As well as being allocated a personal tutor, all students can access dedicated Student Support Officers in the School and are signposted to wider University support where appropriate. Students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities such as volunteering in the local community to broaden their experiences and interests and they are reminded of the importance of self-care regularly, for example through the celebration of Student Mental Health Day.

The final report is published at <http://teachingexcellence.leeds.ac.uk/>



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH STAFF NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

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





Levelling the playing field

Try to imagine a world where background is no barrier to success, where a bright student interested in pursuing a career in law could achieve their full potential whatever their family circumstances, where a young person from a deprived area would have an equal chance of entering a good University as their counterpart from a more privileged home or a private school.

It's not hard to imagine is it?

However, young people can face major obstacles to achieving these dreams. Even the brightest may struggle to achieve the top A-level grades if their school is in a deprived area or has little track record of university entry. Others face the challenge of balancing their school work with caring responsibilities for sick or elderly relatives.



Warren Wellington

“

Someone gave me a scholarship from their own personal funds – and an old and well-respected institution like Leeds has told me that I’m worthy of it. This gives you such motivation.

”

And even for those who do achieve the grades needed to enter a leading law school, like Leeds, the financial commitment of university can remain very daunting, particularly if they know that they will receive little family support or face long hours of paid work to support themselves, shifting time and focus away from their degrees. And the prospect of a sizeable debt when they graduate can deter even the brightest young people from entering university, especially if they come from a family where few others have taken that same step.

But these are the very people who stand to gain the most from higher education – and with the support of our donors, we are determined to help as many as possible to succeed. And in doing so we will help to enhance the diversity of the legal profession.

For a young person from a disadvantaged background, a scholarship can be critical to their decision to take up their place here. This support eases their considerable financial pressures and allows these young people to not only concentrate on their studies but to immerse themselves in all aspects of campus life and social activity that is opened up by enrolling at Leeds.

For Warren Wellington, a scholarship provided both the financial assistance and the much-needed confidence which comes from knowing that someone is backing them to succeed: “I come from Catford in South East London,” says Warren.

“I attended a state school in an area where, statistically, most students aimed to pass their GCSEs rather than achieve the As or Bs that I was looking for to progress on to A-level study.”

Thankfully, Warren moved to a better school for sixth form and was accepted onto the Access to Leeds programme which provides additional support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds during their A-level studies. “Access to Leeds really prepares you for University entry as you have to complete a number of assignments and write the kind of essays expected of an undergraduate.

“I was always interested in bettering my circumstances and fascinated by the law as a discipline. I visited Leeds and absolutely loved the fact that it’s a campus university and it has the prestige of being a Russell Group University. I’d also heard that it is such a fun city to study in!”

But it was the incentive of a securing a scholarship which was crucial in persuading Warren to set his sights on Leeds: “People were encouraging me to try for Oxford or Cambridge, but I wanted to make Leeds my firm choice in order to ensure I received a scholarship.”

Students who complete the Access to Leeds programme receive a reduced admission offer – in Warren’s case ABB rather than straight A’s – but he believes the generosity of his donor underpinned his success to the extent that it actually improved his exam performance. “I actually got two A-stars and an A – more than enough to get in, even without Access to Leeds. I don’t think even my teachers believed I could do it.

“That I exceeded the grades I had been predicted was definitely due in part to the fact that I knew I was going to receive a scholarship at Leeds.”

Warren’s scholarship was funded by Irvine Laidlaw (Economics 1963) whose gifts to the University have funded a host of scholarships as well as the library which now bears his name. “The confidence that this gives you is amazing,” says Warren. “Someone has given me a scholarship from their own personal funds – and an old, well-respected institution like Leeds has told me that I deserve it. This gives you such motivation.”

The scholarship allowed Warren to throw himself into his studies, and to enjoy all the opportunities which are opened up by enrolling at Leeds. “The funds were beyond helpful. Having this support meant that I wasn’t skimping and saving all the time and I could get involved with societies and go to School events.

“I’ve got cousins now who are having to work practically full time alongside their studies. I did take a part-time job at Leeds



TO READ MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS WHICH SCHOLARSHIPS BRING TO STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Visit www.campaign.leeds.ac.uk

but having the scholarship meant I could be much more flexible. Really, studying should be a full-time job in itself.”

Managing these funds also provided Warren with an important life lesson: “It prepares you to become more financially literate,” he recalls. “I was saving and budgeting – and the scholarship is a great introduction to that kind of thing.”

Warren attended a number of special events for donors during his time here. “It was great to meet the donors and to see that there are lots of people out there who care about others from my kind of background. Your own parents might not necessarily know much about university but these people are not only willing to give you advice but also put their money where their mouth is.”

“

It allows you to enjoy your university experience in a different city and – after you graduate – can give you access to the kind of rich life opportunities that comes with having a degree.

”

Warren graduated with a 2:1 in the summer of 2015: “Annoyingly, I was just a few grade points short of getting a First,” he says. After graduation he took up a training contract in Corporate Law at Herbert Smith Freehills and has recently qualified as a solicitor.

And he has remained closely connected to the University ever since. “I’m still very involved and I’m keen to give back in whatever way I can. I regularly return to campus, to mentor current students and provide informal career advice – and we

have invited Leeds Law students to come to the firm for practice interviews.”

Warren has also joined our Advisory Board, bringing to the board the critical perspective of a recent graduate.

Many graduates, who since leaving Leeds have gone on to be successful in law and in other professions, may have studied at a time when they didn’t have to worry about tuition fees and received Government grants – rather than today’s loan system – to help cover their living costs. Warren is a powerful advocate for the support which alumni and other donors can give to ease the financial burden on today’s students, support that allows them to fully immerse themselves in the Leeds campus experience.

“A scholarship genuinely helps to level the playing field for people from my kind of background,” he says. “It allows you to enjoy your university experience in a different city and – after you graduate – can give you access to the kind of rich life opportunities that comes with having a degree.”



Pathways to Law

Every year up to 35 A-level students join this innovative programme at Leeds which is run in partnership with the Sutton Trust. Pathways to Law targets students from under-represented backgrounds who are interested in pursuing a career in law. For these students, we provide support throughout years 12 and 13 through a varied programme of lectures, seminars and skills development sessions, and the means to interact with university students and professionals through blogs and mentoring.

Access to Leeds

At the moment we have 194 students who, like Warren, joined us through our Access to Leeds programme.

The Access to Leeds scheme allows us to attract the best possible students, regardless of their background. The idea behind it is to allow students to transition to university life, through help and support from our team. They will complete a special module which consists of two parts – study skills and subject skills and once completed will receive a slightly reduced admissions offer as well as special consideration for scholarships. This means that students from all walks of life can have the option to study here at Leeds.



**TO DISCUSS HOW YOU MIGHT
GIVE PRACTICAL OR FINANCIAL
SUPPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY**

Please contact Luke Fairbotham on
0113 3431554

or email l.fairbotham@leeds.ac.uk

①

Magali Eben becomes an American Bar Association Antitrust International Scholar-in-Residence

PhD student, Magali, has won a prestigious Scholarship to carry out research in the US.



The American Bar Association's Section of Antitrust Law International Scholar-in-Residence Programme provides funding of \$10,000 each for two scholars to visit the United States to pursue competition policy-related research as well as interacting with members of the U.S. antitrust community.

Speaking about her time in the US Magali said:

“Being a scholar in residence at the American Bar Association, Antitrust Division, has honestly been one of the most thrilling experiences in my academic career so far. Not only did I get to talk to government officials and experts about the way the law was applied in practice, but I had the opportunity to test my theories by talking to individuals at the companies most affected by the issues I am researching. My time in Washington DC has brought my research to life in my mind, as the gap with practice was bridged.

“I also met some wonderful people, ate delicious food, and experienced a whole range of new cultural experiences. (It also taught me that I am not cut out to be a professional dancer.) I am very grateful to the ABA, especially Professor Gavil, and to everyone who helped me get there.”

②

PhD scholar secures an international role

Amrisha Pandey, one of our PhD scholars, has been appointed to the International Water Resources Association's Task Force on Water Quality. She is writing her thesis on the right to water and water governance in international law with special reference to India.

She has also won a prestigious scholarship to attend the summer course of The Hague Academy on International Law.

③

Social League Team of the Year

The School of Law netball team was recently named 'Social League Team of the Year' at the Leeds University Union Sports Colours Awards 2018. This is the second year the team has won the prestigious award-beating every other faculty-specific sports team in the University.

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

The team's captain Danielle Swinnerton said that the team was “extremely happy” to take home the prestigious award for a second year in a row.



④

Helping to close the Gender Pay Gap

Student volunteers have been busy researching and delivering interactive presentations on the current and pressing topic of the gender pay gap, developing the understanding of school, college, and university students about the relevant law and the wider social impact the pay gap has. The students have been supported throughout by our staff and by Euan Lawrence, a volunteering solicitor from Blacks Solicitors in Leeds.

So far, presentations have taken place at the School, as part of a wide range of events held to celebrate International Women's Day, at a meeting of the Allerton High School Student Law Society and to students at Leeds Sixth Form.

The experience has been fantastic in helping students to develop their research and public speaking skills, and in helping the wider community to learn more about such a topical and political issue. Lydia Bleasdale, our Director of Community Engagement, noted the importance of this project to both the community and to the students: “We were delighted to receive such a positive response to this topic from the local community, and to be able to send our students to speak to so many young people about it. Listening to the presentations, all of which were very different but equally insightful, was a real pleasure. We are extremely grateful to Euan Lawrence of Black's Solicitors for the invaluable guidance and feedback he provided the students during the drafting of their presentations.”

First year student Klaudia Chmiel commented: “I wanted to help educate others about the law, but at the same time to educate myself. As this was done through interactive workshops, I had the opportunity to learn about the ongoing issue of the gender pay gap while developing my public speaking skills. It truly makes a big difference in your work when you know it has an impact on others and when it has an impact on you. I was able to network with staff and other professionals who came to assess the presentations, and gain experience that I can confidently use for my future endeavours.”

5

Celebrating our postgraduates



We have a community of more than 350 postgraduate students from more than 40 countries here in our school. They contribute a great deal to the vibrancy and international nature of the School and significantly enrich our community while they are here. Working with the Director of Postgraduate Studies and the Postgraduate research director, the Postgraduate Law Society organises many events to ensure that our students enjoy their time at Leeds and make some fantastic memories. The culmination this year was the popular Postgraduate Ball which is now in its second year. Organised by the students, the Vegas themed evening saw students and staff getting together for a fun-filled night of food, dancing and games. The event gave the students a chance to wind down before the assessment period, socialise with their friends and celebrate everything they contribute to the School.

6

Students helping parents see their children

This year we have 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 giving students an opportunity to test their legal knowledge out 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.”

Our 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: “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.”



7

Home to School Transport Policy contributes to Secretary of State’s plans to review statutory guidance



As a result of findings from one of our research projects on school transport funded by the charity Cerebra, and a school transport inquiry from the charity Contact, the Secretary of State for Education has announced plans to review school transport statutory guidance to make sure all local authorities are providing school transport for eligible children with special educational needs.

The findings of the project, led by Professor Luke Clements and undertaken by pro bono student researchers at the School of Law, include:

- Almost 40% of Local Authorities’ websites failed to clearly explain the legal rights of children with special educational needs or disabilities to school transport.
- Almost half of the sites were considered difficult to understand and/or to navigate
- Four out of ten sites failed to provide information as to how an application could be made for supported school transport.

The Department for Education has confirmed that the research was an important element in the Secretary of State’s decision to review the statutory home to school transport guidance. Appropriate school transport assistance is a vital support service for many families with disabled children and the research was undertaken after the Cerebra Legal Entitlements and Problem-Solving (LEaP) Project experienced a dramatic increase in enquiries from families who had encountered difficulties in getting appropriate support.



8

Law's Got Talent 2017

On Monday 4 December we were pleased to host our annual "Law's Got Talent" competition to raise money for our chosen charity, Parkinson's UK. Running for its fourth year, the event raised an amazing £1,145.

The night was opened by a short video from Parkinson's UK called "Put yourself in my shoes". The video showed some of the daily struggles people with Parkinson's have difficulty completing and asked, "How would you feel if simple things like making a cup of tea or putting on your shoes became a challenge?"

Beginning the evening, our hosts were announced, members of LawSoc – Abdul Adekola and Sam Wiggins. The duo, who also helped organise the event, welcomed the staff judges: Dr Chloe Wallace, Dr Colin Mackie, Jimmy Younis and Professor Nick Taylor.

After Nick provided a joke stacked yet warming introduction to the cause, the evening was kicked off with a performance from last year's winner Pai Gambe. The acts that followed brought a mix of students and staff to the stage, some of whom had never performed in public before. The talent was extraordinary; from singers, musicians and spoken word poets, to a very orange Dr Paul Wragg impersonating Donald Trump and a stand-up comedy act.

Before half-time, there was a special performance by Abdul Adekola and Georgia Ma from LawSoc in support of Inclusivity, Equality and Diversity, performing "Same Love" by Macklemore with drummer Ben Davies and Guitarist Jacob Heaton-Jones. During half-time there was another performer, James Johnston from Student Support, who played a mix of original and well known songs including Oasis' *Wonderwall*.

Throughout the night, hosts Abdul and Sam encouraged the hashtag #Lawsgottalent which managed to trend at number two in the Leeds area. The host's favourite tweets won a Parkinson's t-shirt and some of the comments included Professor Joan Loughrey's "Definitely one of the best nights of our school year- brilliant" and Dr Mitchell Travis declaring "@Law_Leeds is the most woke law school I've ever been at #LawsGotTalent".

The evening came to a close with the announcement of the winners. In third place was stand-up comedian Jonah Moore, second place was singer Lauren Mackey and guitarist Jacob Heaton-Jones who performed Amy Winehouse's *Valerie* and Michael Jackson's *Man in the Mirror*.

In first place was Beloved Ogundipe who performed a spoken word piece about friendship, against the backing music John Legend, 'All of Me'.

There was a great buzz throughout the evening, everyone was supportive towards each act, and everyone got involved on Twitter and showed their support through donations. Professor Alastair Mullis closed the evening stating he was extremely proud of everyone who made Law's Got Talent happen and looks forward to it being even bigger and better next year.

9

Building a strong community

As a School we are constantly striving to build a strong and supportive community. As part of our efforts to do this we launched the 'Head of School Suppers'. These suppers give students and staff a chance to socialise over a meal.



The idea has been incredibly popular with all involved as they have grasped the opportunity to just have a chat and get to know each other. It is hoped that through events like this the community spirit of our School will continue to flourish as their informal nature means students can speak to staff without having to arrange a formal meeting.

This year concluded with our most ambitious and popular event yet, which saw our finalist students heading off to Headrow House in Leeds. The idea of the supper was to give them the best possible send off before starting their exams. It gave them a chance to relax and spend time with the friends and staff members who had made their time at Leeds so special. For our staff they were able to say goodbye to the students they had watched grow and develop over their time here at Leeds and of course wish them luck in the upcoming exams.

The sense of community shone on the night with all involved enjoying a fun and relaxed evening. After the event Lauren Deegan tweeted: "Can't believe last night was our final Head of School Supper. Thank you @Law_Leeds for such a great evening - you've made our time at Leeds so special!"

While incoming president of Law Soc Abdul Adekola tweeted: "A big thank you to @AlastairMullis, @UoLNickTaylor and the entire @Law_Leeds team for putting on the best Head of School Supper last night. Law at Leeds is actually the best. Fact."

10

Blaise Nsenguwera wins prestigious Stephen Lawrence Scholarship

For the second year running, a student from the School of Law 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 the memory of Stephen Lawrence.

Launched in 2013 by the global law firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP ('Freshfields'), the scheme was designed to address the disproportionate under-representation of black and black mixed-race 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 he had received the scholarship 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". "To have successfully made it through the challenging assessment centre has made

me feel like I can achieve anything. I am very proud of myself, and being able to make my parents, friends and the School of Law 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.



11

Commentating in the Winter Paralympic Games



Final year student Ben Sneesby has put his sporting knowledge to good use by commentating for Channel 4. As well as being a Law student Ben is also a Paralympic alpine skier, representing Great Britain in the Sochi Winter Paralympic Games 2014. It's this sporting knowledge that led to him commentating on the recent Winter Paralympic games in PyeongChang.

We spoke to Ben about his experience:

Tell us how you landed a job commentating on the Winter Paralympic Games?

Having represented Great Britain in the Sochi Winter Paralympic Games 2014, I was recognised as someone with expert knowledge and experience of both the sport and the team. Channel 4 invited me to analyse the days racing and reflect on the possible morale of the team as the Games progressed.

How did you find the experience?

Being part of the Games meant a great deal to me. It was a huge privilege to commentate on my teammates and feel part of the overall event. Meeting and working with some of the best-recognised sporting commentators was a fantastic experience that will not be forgotten. I would welcome the opportunity to be involved in such a production again.

How did your experience of commentating compare to competing?

The difference is huge. The pressure when competing is colossal and, whilst live TV coverage is nerve wracking, the excitement, concentration and tension at the top of a mountain as the clock ticks down to the start of one's race is unparalleled. The pride felt when wearing the ParalympicsGB kit during a race at the highest level is one that is difficult to match.

How do you find combining your studies with sport?

With the limited options for skiing in the UK, combining the sport and studies is challenging. My primary focus while at university has been my academic studies however I have managed to remain part of the British Para Snowsport Team. At the 2018 British Championships in Tignes I regained my title of British Slalom Champion which I was very pleased with. I aim to continue to train and race where time permits during my final year.

How supportive is the School?

The School has always been extremely supportive of my sporting ambitions. Many members of staff take an active interest in my progress and races and have enjoyed sharing my successes.

What next for your sporting career?

I continue to be a member of the British Para Snowsport Team and recently became a member of the GB Development Team for Wheelchair Tennis. Sport will always be a hugely important part of my life for many reasons; I hope to continue competing as well as promoting the many benefits that adaptive sport can play in disabled people's lives.



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH STUDENT NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

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

Going far together



Our School 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 with the support of entrepreneur Claire Young.

Over 85 people from 11 universities across the North of England attended the launch on Saturday 10 February, 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 the 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 Claire, 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. This was followed by an interactive presentation by inclusive leadership expert Charlotte Sweeney OBE. Students then took part in a reflective workshop on resilience, developed through research undertaken by Lydia Bleasdale and Sarah Humphreys from our School. Inspirational and Motivational Success Speaker, Joy Marsden then delivered a lively and well received session, with her key message being that women students should ‘step up and not give up’.



In the afternoon, a panel consisting of Magdalene Bayim-Adomako (Investment Director with Impetus and former Banking Partner with White and Case); Simone Roche (founder of Northern Power Women); Jane Ellis (former Head of Legal Projects at the International Bar Association); Professor Anna Lawson (Professor of Law, University of Leeds and the first blind woman professor in the UK); and Janet Cooper OBE (founder of Tapestry Compliance) gave the students an insight into their very different personal and professional experiences.

The day was a success and both students and speakers reported that it was a very positive and unique experience. Nancy Kelehar, a founder and President 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.”

Jordan Denney, future 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.”

Our alumna Grace Faint (Law 2017), who was tireless in organising and supporting the launch on behalf of the School of Law 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’.”

“
If you want to go fast,
go alone. If you want
to go far, go together.
”



**SUPPORT WOMEN
BREAKING BARRIERS**

The network will now be developed nationally. Any alumni who are interested in further information or in supporting the network should contact Professor Joan Loughrey on

j.m.loughrey@leeds.ac.uk





L

In Conversation with Janet Cooper, OBE

We recently spoke with Leeds Law alum, Janet Cooper (Law 1981) about her time in Leeds and her work to champion equality in the workplace.

Can you tell us about your background before joining the University of Leeds?

I have a twin sister, Shirley, and from the age of 12 we lived in Mirfield, West Yorkshire and went to Mirfield High School, the local comprehensive school. We left that school at 16 to go to Huddersfield Technical College to do an OND in Business Studies which included learning shorthand and typing. The plan was that we would start full-time work at 18, hopefully in an office, probably as a secretary. So after finishing the OND, at 18, Shirley and I started at Rowntree Mackintosh in Halifax in the offices working as PAs.



**TO FIND OUT MORE
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law@leeds.ac.uk

Why did you choose to study law?

I had a great law lecturer at Huddersfield Tech, Bernard Atha (Law 1950), now very well-known for the great work he has done for Leeds City Council. I loved his class, he was a great teacher. I liked the fact that law was so relevant to our lives every day. After I had started work at Rowntrees I went back to ask Bernard for his advice about going to university to study law.

My father was a manager in a steelworks in Huddersfield - there were no lawyers in the family! Bernard helped me choose the universities to apply to and to fill in the forms. Leeds was top of the list – even back then the School of Law, University of Leeds had a great reputation and it was also close to my home and my twin sister.

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

I loved my time at University. I lived in the Hyde Park area for the three years. I have great memories of evenings at the Hyde Park Cinema, curries at Kaghan Valley which was across the road from the Original Oak, evenings at the Original Oak, learning to glide and starting to learn to ski (on the dry ski slope on campus in the chapel where the kayaks and canoes were stored), and Monday evenings at Leeds Grand Theatre where I saw my first opera, *Marriage of Figaro*, long coffee breaks with friends in the Student Union building... and of course some studying! Leeds had a very vibrant Students' Union which offered a great range of societies, the ones I was most active in and enjoyed were the gliding society and a business focussed society – AIESEC (a global organisation working to develop leadership by running exchange programs for students to work abroad).

I needed to work during the vacations and Leeds was a very good place to find part-time and vacation work which kept me solvent.

What did you do after leaving the University?

Like many I went to the College of Law, in Chester, to do the solicitors' exams. I had a job offer for a training contract with Hammond Suddards (now Squire Patton Boggs), which I was delighted to accept, to work in their Bradford office. I had a great experience working there and they did ask me to stay. My boyfriend (now my husband) was a partner in a London law firm so I left on qualification to go to London and started as a newly qualified solicitor with City firm Linklaters.

You have become an advocate for equality in the workplace – what led you to champion flexible working?

I championed flexible working at Linklaters in the early 90s, before the internet! I first did this when I had a great lawyer in the team who said she needed to leave because her husband had been relocated. I didn't want to lose her. We came to an arrangement where she would continue to do client work, 21 hours a week, at times to suit her. It was a great success. I then started offering part-time/flexible working to attract talented lawyers into my team when they were not being offered that flexibility elsewhere. It was a great business strategy then and now.

Enabling people to work more flexibly was not only the right thing to do, not everyone wants to work full-time (and in City firms that's 50+ hours a week), it's also the smart thing to do. It is great for business. I championed agile working in my team at Linklaters and built a hugely successful practice whilst I was there with a significant proportion of my team, men and women, working in a flexible way.

When I founded Tapestry, agile working was one of our key principles - the concept that we would offer a different approach to working. Client service is paramount and we would achieve that by attracting the best people through offering agile working and a focus on teamwork. I wanted to show that a new law firm offering agile working is a strong business proposition and could:

- Be market leading: We have won all the major legal awards we are eligible for, including the Queen's Award for Enterprise. In the legal directories, Legal 500 and Chambers, we are in the Top Tier, ranked alongside Linklaters and Clifford Chance and above others like Slaughter and May only six years from our formation in 2011!
- Have global clients: we have the best global clients from around the world, like Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Aviva, Worldpay, Dell, Rolls Royce, TripAdvisor and many other household names. Our client roster will match those of Magic Circle firms.
- Have smart people: We have attracted the very best people, both lawyers and our support team. It's a very compelling proposition; we provide a nice place to work, we work sensible and flexible hours, we have interesting and challenging work, and no one has chosen to leave us in the last five years!

So what led me to championing flexible working? Necessity. I didn't want to lose a terrific lawyer from my team and then saw the great opportunity which that created. Offering it more widely enabled me to create a market-leading team whilst I was at Linklaters. Very quickly in our new firm, Tapestry, we took it to a whole new level.

“

We were appointed by 60 new corporate clients in the last year, companies like Deutsche Bank, Siemens, Fujitsu, Worldpay, Skyscanner, so we have grown to be able to meet their needs.

”

How did you come to set up Tapestry Compliance?

After 20 years as a partner at Linklaters I was ready to do something else. I very much enjoyed my time at Linklaters but I wanted to carry on in the area of law I specialise in but not working such long hours, so that I had the opportunity of doing other things as well.

A very timely catch-up with a good friend and former Linklaters colleague, Bob Grayson, led to us setting up Tapestry. Bob is also from Yorkshire. We wanted to create jobs in the region offering agile working. Our first client was Goldman Sachs, our first office was in Sheffield and we now have an office in Leeds as well.

What sets Tapestry apart from other Law firms? Why do you think it has been so successful?

We are a boutique law firm doing City type work for City type clients. So both our clients and our colleagues have the best of both worlds. Each client is hugely important to us, we are not merely part of a huge corporate law firm having work passed to us from other parts of that firm, this is what we do and all clients with whom we work have specifically chosen us. We are hugely grateful to them for choosing us and we make sure they have the best advice and experience. We are the biggest team of lawyers in the country specialising in employee share ownership and executive remuneration. Our team is bigger than that of any of the City firms, our clients have access to real experts who are the country's leading specialists, our colleagues have the support from a large team of experts to resolve the most complex issues.

As we are also based in Yorkshire where office and property prices are so much lower than in the City and the South East of England, we are so much better value for our clients. They get expertise and it costs them much less – what's not to like?!

So why do I think we have been successful? I think its because we are focussed on the work we do, employee share plans and executive incentives, and on doing it really well. Attracting many global leading companies as clients and looking after them really well, and attracting smart people by offering good work and a very positive working environment.

How do you want Tapestry to further develop?

We will develop to meet our clients' and our team's needs. We were appointed by 60 new corporate clients in the last year, companies like Deutsche Bank, Siemens, Fujitsu, Worldpay and Skyscanner, so we have grown to be able to meet their needs. We recruit ahead of winning new clients so that we are better able to do the work and enjoy doing it when it comes in. When I was working in the City it was much harder to recruit, the team had to be working crazy hours to be able to justify new appointments. That is one of the big differences, we take a long-term view about our team needs so that we stay happy and healthy.

What achievements are you most proud of?

Setting up Tapestry. It's something which my twin sister and I have created together with Bob Grayson. Shirley has great acumen for business, having been a commercial director at IT company Computacenter as well as head of finance for Tetley's in Leeds. We enjoyed working together as teenagers, but hadn't had the opportunity of working together since. In setting up Tapestry we have been able to do something we are both passionate about, which is creating a great working environment for women, as well as men, where they can have a long and successful career.

You received an OBE for services to equality, women's empowerment and employee share ownership. How did it feel to be honoured in that way?
Chuffed to bits.

What advice would you have for anyone newly graduated from the School of Law?

- 1. Do your best.** Whatever you are doing, paid or voluntary work, helping a friend or advising a client. Whatever it is do your best.
- 2. Have a plan.** Mine has only ever been two to three years into the future. Some people have longer term bigger goals, but I have just focussed on what I want to be doing in the next two or three years. I didn't have a plan to qualify as a lawyer, work in a City firm, become a partner or set up a new law firm... but along the way they became goals.
- 3. Ask for what you want.** This can be a particular issue for women but when there is something you want - ask for it.
- 4. Look out for others.** Help and support colleagues and friends.
- 5. Do things you love, with people who appreciate, value and respect you.**

What are your plans for the future?

I think (and hope) more of the same. I enjoy the balance I now have between working, volunteering with charities and non-profits and seeing family and friends. I read Lynda Gratton's book, *The 100 Year Life*, which is very thought-provoking and asks the question – what are your plans for the future? Many of the students graduating this year can expect to live to over 100. We are likely to live another 10 or 20 years longer than our parents, so we may have many years ahead after we have left our main career. I would like to think and hope I can continue being active in business and in charities for a while to come.

What do you like doing when you are not working?

I love spending time with my twin sister, Shirley. We have a fun summer lined up with our husbands, family and friends, going to Henley Royal Regatta, Glyndebourne Opera and other opera festivals, walking and cycling. I am also a trustee of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution RNLI so I hope to be visiting some of the lifeboat stations around the coast and spending time at RNLI's HQ in Poole. I am not sure if that is classed as working or 'not working'. I will certainly be enjoying my time with them.

Taking stock

How has the School of Law changed over recent decades? A recent research project has sought to find out by interviewing staff and alumni. In this article, Dr David Churchill, Lecturer in Criminal Justice in the School, explores what interviews with staff reveal about shifts in education, research and academic life over the last thirty years.



In 2016 Dr David Churchill, accompanied by undergraduate student Amelia Carr (working under the Keith Lee Research and Leadership Scholarship) conducted research on an oral history of the Law School. Some of the findings will be of interest to you, our alumni.

The number of students studying for a PhD within the School itself has grown tremendously too, from about 25 in the early 2000s to over 100 now



Geoff Hoon leads a seminar

Changes in Teaching

There have been considerable changes in teaching in the School over recent decades. Students from the 1980s will recall, typically, two lectures per week in each subject plus small-group tutorials of around six students. The latter were held in staff offices (the living spaces of what would have been once grand houses on Lyddon Terrace). Students were assessed almost entirely through May-June examinations; the dissertation providing one of the few opportunities for students to engage in extended legal writing. The 1990s showed a steady move to larger groups with fewer tutorials and more seminars.

Despite the relative conservatism of teaching in law schools generally, recent times have seen a greater focus on instilling skills and research methods alongside more traditional subjects. Additionally, there is a greater focus on instilling explicit 'employability' skills which must not only be delivered but appropriately assessed too. The lecture remains the principal mode of delivery though such sessions are automatically recorded and made available to students within hours of the class. Research is ongoing as to whether

recorded lectures will provide an additional positive learning tool or whether there might be some negative consequences, for example, in relation to attendance at 'live' classes. The large lecture is certainly a typical feature of university education, but are its days numbered?

The Students

Over time, lecturers have found themselves face-to-face with a changing mix of students. Despite relative continuity - there is still a strong northern contingent - the student body has undoubtedly changed. There has been a steady rise in the number of international students, with a growing contingent of Chinese students undertaking postgraduate degrees in particular in recent times. Perhaps more markedly, the gender profile of law students has transformed, from a two-thirds male cohort in the 1980s to the reverse today. Staff have detected little change in the motivations of law students entering the School, most still aim for employment in the legal profession. Their expectations of entering practice have shifted, though, reflecting an increasingly competitive market in legal employment.



Brian Hogan demonstrates Lexis

The Rise and Rise of Research

A major theme running through the staff interviews was the rising status and significance of research in the School in the last three decades. One seasoned academic recalled that, in the early 1990s, 'research' meant a legal case note, or perhaps a student textbook, worked on in the summer term. It was largely solitary, doctrinal and library-based. The transformation since then is unmistakable, in terms of the richness and variety of research pursued within the School.

The number of students studying for a PhD within the School itself has grown tremendously too, from about 25 in the early 2000s to over 100 now. It is fair to say that the relationship between the pressure to produce research and teach effectively has caused some tension down the years, though the Schools excellent results in both categories, a relatively rare thing, shows that a balance is possible.



David Churchill

Academic Life

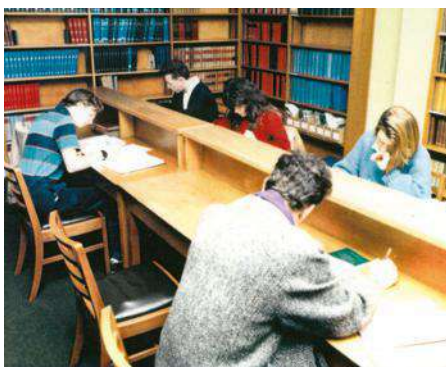
Unsurprisingly, as Universities move to a more centralised model with a major focus on external assessments and league tables, this inevitably plays a major role in driving priorities in teaching and research. In many respects there is a real danger that this could lead to a more competitive and insular school. However, we are actively seeking to challenge such perceptions – placing a huge emphasis on 'community'. The School's new Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education also seeks to give new meaning to 'scholarship', helping to restore the strong link between research and how and what we teach. Equally, academic staff have shed some of their responsibilities over time. One seasoned academic spoke of the professionalisation of administrative colleagues. They noted that their role has developed from typing up hand-written lecture handouts, and the like, to providing professional services, including assuming responsibility for timetabling, student assessment and other processes previously left to academics.

Despite these changes, it was noted that academics employed in the School 25 years ago would still find a place in the School today. Certainly whilst Leeds has always been an enviable place to study law, now it is demonstrably so.

From Lyddon Terrace to The Liberty Building

Another common talking point was the change in the School's physical surroundings, following the move from the buildings on Lyddon Terrace to purpose-built accommodation in the Liberty Building. Some staff fondly remembered the 'rabbit warren' feel of the former buildings, with its eccentric nooks and crannies, intimate corridors and ample offices. Yet all admitted the site's shortcomings, most notably its unsuitability for disabled access. They also recognised the virtues of the new building, in terms of accessibility, but also in other ways. Several stressed its appeal to prospective students on open days. Furthermore, one academic, who had worked in the School for several years by the time of the move, became friendly with several colleagues after the move whom they had barely known beforehand, due to the labyrinthine layout of the old buildings. Overall, despite the fond memories of some, all considered the new building a major step forward for the School.

We do have a small collection of photographs of staff, students and the University from across the years. Perhaps at some alumni event in the future you could pick out some old faces and old places that remind you of what hopefully were great days.



The School's new Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education also seeks to give new meaning to 'scholarship', helping to bolster the strong link between research and how and what we teach.

Alumni Reunion Dinner

School of Law Class of 1967 and 1987



On 18 November 2017 graduates from the classes of 1967 and 1987 returned to campus to celebrate their 50 and 30 year anniversaries since graduating from our school.



Learning about the School today



Catching up

Our guests braved the cold November weather on a tour of campus led by our current students before visiting our new home housed in the impressive Liberty Building. Guests enjoyed a sparkling wine reception before moving on to dinner at University House.



Friends Reunited!



Looking at finalist outside our Moot Court



Finalists' Photographs

1968

— Here is a selection of your
finalist photographs from
the last 50 years.



1978



1988





1998



2008

2018



LIKE A COPY?

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

law@leeds.ac.uk

School of Law

Tel. +44 (0)113 343 5007

www.law.leeds.ac.uk

Contact us via email at:
law@leeds.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

School of Law
The Liberty Building
University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT