

LEEDS LAW

School of Law
Alumni Magazine
— Issue Two 2016

L

SETTING THE GOLD STANDARD

— *LawSoc wins NUS
Society of the Year award*

NEW CENTRE LAUNCHED

*School launches Centre
for Innovation and Research
in Legal Education*

YOUR SCHOOL TODAY

*Find out more about
what the School is like now
after 115 years*

BRIDGING THE GAP

*School's mentoring scheme
helps students succeed*



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



**School of Law
Alumni Magazine**

EDITOR
Luke Fairbotham
School Support Officer
(Alumni and Communications)



Keep in touch
Phone: 0113 343 5007
Email: law@leeds.ac.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/lawunileeds
Twitter: @law_leeds

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Alastair Mullis

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Digitronix

PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES
Alinah Azadeh
Colin Baldwin
Digitronix
Luke Fairbotham
Antony Glossop
Steve Sharp

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION
Print and Copy Bureau
University of Leeds

**MANY THANKS TO ALL STAFF,
STUDENTS, ALUMNI & FRIENDS WHO
HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME TO MAKE
THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE**

CONTRIBUTING ALUMNI

Alex Carver
Neil Golding
Tania Soris
Nick Steiert
Jesu Viveganandam
Jodie Wildridge
Jamie Williams

LEEDS LAW IS PUBLISHED BY:

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

**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

Leeds Law is posted free of charge to alumni and friends of the School of Law, University of Leeds. Opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the University.

FEATURES

02



YOUR SCHOOL TODAY
*What the School is like now
after 115 years*

10



SETTING THE GOLD STANDARD
*LawSoc wins NUS Society of
the Year award*

18



NEW CENTRE LAUNCHED
*The launch of the Centre for Innovation
and Research in Legal Education*

26



BRIDGING THE GAP
*Mentoring scheme helps
students succeed*

30



STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT
*What our Alumni have been up
to since graduating*

REGULARS

Welcome	01
School News	06
Staff News	16
Student News	22
Alumni News	34
Alumni Events	36
Finalists' Photographs	40



**Join us for a while to
reminisce and get the latest
from Leeds Law**

*You may notice that this year's issue of
the School of Law Alumni Magazine
looks a little different, including its name.*

*We hope you will agree that this new
approach reflects our values, our
expertise and our individual personality,
the qualities we hope people
remember us for.*

*At the School of Law, we have a constant
desire to achieve more and this new
visual identity is a crucial part of our
vision for the future as we continue to
build on our strong foundations of
working to enhance our global
reputation, create greater social impact
and advance legal understanding.*

*We are delighted to share it with you
and the rest of our alumni community
across the globe.*

We hope you like it.

School of Law

*— Personal Journeys.
Shared Excellence*



ome

*y first three years of being
lecting on how privileged I am
ted to the position.*

As I look forward to the next few years, I feel great confidence about the future of your School. As I have said, we are in fantastic shape currently and have a strong position on which to build for the future. However, there is no sense of complacency. If we really are to be recognised as one of the leading law schools in the world, there is still much for us to do and we need you to be a part of that. We need you involved as critical friends and as our ambassadors. You are always welcome to visit the School and if anyone wants to talk to me about how you can support the School as we move ahead, I would be delighted to meet you.

So finally, my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported and continue to support your School. We are immensely grateful to you and only hope that we are living up to the high standards that you deservedly expect of your School.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

**School of Law
Alumni Magazine****EDITOR**

Luke Fairbotham
School Support Officer
(Alumni and Communications)

**Keep in touch**

Phone: 0113 343 5007
Email: law@leeds.ac.uk
Facebook: [facebook.com/lawunileeds](https://www.facebook.com/lawunileeds)
Twitter: @law_leeds

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Alastair Mullis

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Digitronix

PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES

Alinah Azadeh
Colin Baldwin
Digitronix
Luke Fairbotham
Antony Glossop
Steve Sharp

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION

Print and Copy Bureau
University of Leeds

**MANY THANKS TO ALL STAFF,
STUDENTS, ALUMNI & FRIENDS WHO
HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME TO MAKE
THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE**

CONTRIBUTING ALUMNI

Alex Carver
Neil Golding
Tania Soris
Nick Steiert
Jesu Viveganandam
Jodie Wildridge
Jamie Williams

LEEDS LAW IS PUBLISHED BY:

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

**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

Leeds Law is posted free of charge to alumni and friends of the School of Law, University of Leeds. Opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the University.

**YOUR SCHOOL**

What the School has achieved after 100 years

**NEW CENTRE**

The launch of the Centre for Law and Research in...

Welcome

As I come to the end of my first three years of being Head of School, I have been reflecting on how privileged I am to have been appointed to the position.

It has been an excellent three years. We have made many outstanding appointments and are deservedly rated among the leading research institutions in the world for Criminology, Business Law and Law and Social Justice. My colleagues have won several distinguished prizes and awards reflecting the immense strength of their work and its impact. It is invidious to single any one of them out but as a School we were particularly proud of the award to Anna Lawson of the Professor Sir Bob Hepple Award for her work in the field of disability law. Nationally, our league table positions have improved significantly and we are now ranked in the top 10 in England and Wales for Law and 5th for Criminology.

We continue to admit outstanding students who perform exceptionally well academically but also, through LawSoc and CrimSoc, make an outstanding contribution to the life of our community. The award to LawSoc of the National Union of Students' Society of the Year prize was a wonderful and thoroughly deserved achievement recognising the outstanding contribution that LawSoc makes to the School and wider community. Most important of all, the Law School is a warm, supportive and ambitious community and it is a fantastic time to be here whether as a member of staff or as a student.

So, your School is in excellent health and one of the reasons for that has been the way in which many of you, our alumni, have reconnected and engaged with the School. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the last three years and have come to recognise the strength of our alumni community.

We have held several very enjoyable events during the year and have plans to hold more over the years ahead. They are very much events for you to reconnect with people from your year and to learn more about your School. We need you to be ambassadors for us – we need to let the world know how successful the School is and you are a very important part of that.

As I look forward to the next few years, I feel great confidence about the future of your School. As I have said, we are in fantastic shape currently and have a strong position on which to build for the future. However, there is no sense of complacency. If we really are to be recognised as one of the leading law schools in the world, there is still much for us to do and we need you to be a part of that. We need you involved as critical friends and as our ambassadors. You are always welcome to visit the School and if anyone wants to talk to me about how you can support the School as we move ahead, I would be delighted to meet you.

So finally, my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported and continue to support your School. We are immensely grateful to you and only hope that we are living up to the high standards that you deservedly expect of your School.



Alastair C. Mullis

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School



L

Your School Today

Much has changed over the last 115 years. Whilst you may have fond memories of tutorials in the quaint Victorian houses of Lyddon Terrace, the School has moved to purpose built accommodation on the Western Campus (The Liberty Building), next to what you may recall as the old Boys' Grammar School.

The excellent facilities allow us to house more students in a more tailor-made environment – nevertheless, the personal experience of studying in the School of Law is something we work hard to retain. We recognise that studying at university is not solely an academic experience but is a much more rounded one. We are very proud of our diverse student body from across the globe. We want them to embrace the opportunities available in the School and become the successful citizens of tomorrow, inspired by you, our alumni.

The School of Law is one of the leading law schools in the UK and has been providing instruction in law since its inception in 1899. Today, we have a community of 70 dedicated academic staff and 30 support and research staff who foster a supportive environment for legal studies across all levels.



Approaches to teaching at the School of Law have remained largely the same throughout the years – large group lectures and small group seminars.

What has changed is a greater emphasis on research led teaching – bespoke modules that are developed and taught by leading experts. In addition, the need for broader experiences has never been so important. That is why the School continues to develop co-curricular opportunities supported and enhanced by the superb student societies.



Each year, students from over 40 countries come together to produce a truly international experience.



Students

Each year, students from over 40 countries come together to produce a truly international experience. In 2015/16 the School saw an intake of over 250 law students and 50 students on the Criminal Justice and Criminology programme. The School currently has 140 taught postgraduate students and 120 PhD candidates.

Teaching

Teaching is delivered through lectures and small group seminars by our academic experts who have a wealth of professional and research experience. In addition, we utilise a range of teaching approaches and digital aids to cater for different learning styles. Most large group classes are recorded and many additional sessions appear as podcasts.

Research Centres

Our research is concentrated within four main centres, as well as a number of research groups and hubs. Our research centres are; Centre for Business Law and Practice; Centre for Criminal Justice Studies; Centre for Law and Social Justice; and Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education. In 2016 the School launched a Disability Law Hub following the appointments of a number of academic leaders in this field. We also have a group of academics working together in the field of law and emerging technologies.

Learning Resources

The specialist law library is now situated in the University's Brotherton Library (behind the Parkinson Building), which has over 50,000 volumes as well as access to a huge range of electronic resources. In addition the new Laidlaw Library provides students with traditional quiet spaces along with group work rooms, mixing the traditions of a reading library with state-of-the art facilities.

Volunteering and Pro Bono

Students have the opportunity to become involved in a great number of volunteering activities whilst studying at the School, including reading with local primary school pupils, charity fundraising and peer mentoring. The School is also involved in a number of pro bono initiatives including Legal Clinics, the Justice Project and the StreetLeeds community project.

LawSoc and CrimSoc

The Law Society at Leeds (LawSoc) is the largest and most active society at Leeds University Union (LUU). They provide social, sporting, academic and career activities to law students, and have a fantastic reputation at the University for their events, many of which are sponsored by national and international law firms. The highlight of the social calendar is the annual black tie Law Ball.

Similarly, the Criminology Society (CrimSoc) offers excellent opportunities for getting involved in student life, including a number of social events throughout the year. They also offer sporting events for all abilities, book sales, guest speakers and visits to criminal justice agencies.

Mooting, Negotiating and Debating

The School has a strong tradition in mooting and has a purpose built facility in the Moot Court Room. Practising barristers and judges are involved in providing master classes to support the development of mooting skills and they also judge the final rounds of the internal competitions. In addition to mooting, students can also take part in negotiating and debating competitions.

Pathways to Law

The School is one of 12 institutions nationally that are funded by the Sutton Trust to provide the Pathways to Law programme. Pathways to Law is an initiative which provides opportunities for students who are interested in a career in law and will be the first member of their family to go to university. The programme targets students from underrepresented backgrounds and provides support throughout years 12 and 13, and into university.

①

National League Table Success

If you caught the first issue of the School of Law Alumni Magazine last summer, you might remember that we shared positive news relating to the School's impact in research. In 2014, the Research Excellence Framework (REF) placed the School at 8th nationally for research quality and in the top 5 for impact.

Since then, more good news has followed. In September 2015 the National Student Survey 2015 placed the School 6th in the Russell Group, with an overall student satisfaction rating of 91%. These two excellent results saw the School rise to 10th in England and Wales in both The Times and The Complete University Guide league tables for Law Schools in 2016. These results are a significant improvement for the School, which climbed eight places in the Complete University Guide.

This is an excellent achievement and staff and students alike deserve many congratulations for their hard work and achievements. The School sits comfortably and confidently as one of the country's top law schools and this is something we can all be very proud of.



②

China-Britain Joint Research Centre on Commercial Law

For many years, the School of Law has fostered effective relationships with a number of Chinese universities, including a collaboration with the East China University of Politics and Law (ECUPL).

In November 2015, both institutions came together in Shanghai to launch the China-Britain Joint Research Centre on Commercial Law (CBRCCL). This is a unique venture, drawing together one of the leading British centres for research in commercial and corporate law (The Centre for Business Law and Practice at the University of Leeds – CBLP) with its equivalent in China. The Centre will promote academic partnership through: the hosting of annual joint academic conferences, the exchange of visiting scholars, the organisation of joint research programmes, joint applications for external funding and grants in both China and the UK, the publication and dissemination of research findings and engagement with practitioners and policy makers in China and the UK.

At the opening ceremony, keynote speeches were given by Professor Roger Halson, who has led the development of the Centre for the University of Leeds, and the Vice Chancellor of ECUPL, Professor Gu Gongyun. Also present at the opening event were; Professor Alastair Mullis, Head of School; Professor Joan Loughrey, Deputy Head of School; and Professor Gerard McCormack, Director of CBLP.

The official launch event was followed by the inaugural conference on Chinese and English Commercial Law, hosted by the School of Law on 14–15 March 2016.

The conference was opened by the Hon Lord Dyson, the Master of the Rolls, who is the second most senior judge in the UK and a former member of the Supreme Court, the UK's highest appellate court, ECUPL Vice President Professor Gongyun Gu and Professor Alastair Mullis the current Head of the School of Law at Leeds. Papers were then presented by academics from Mainland China, Hong Kong and the UK in three streams; Commercial Contract Law, Corporate Law, and Financial Regulation. Keynote addresses were delivered by five speakers from Leeds and the same number from ECUPL. Conference participants included academics from Australia, South Africa and the United States.

Both institutions are committed to holding a joint conference each year and plans are already underway for the 2017 conference which will be held in Shanghai.

③

Inaugural Lectures 2016

Within the last year, the School of Law has seen an exceptional growth in teaching and professorial staff, appointing over twenty new academics across its research Centres and groups, including eight new Chairs. To welcome new colleagues, the School has revived an old tradition and launched a series of inaugural lectures to mark their arrival in Leeds.

Head of the School, Professor Alastair Mullis, said: "We have been immensely fortunate to attract some extraordinary scholars to our community and our series of inaugural lectures offers an excellent opportunity to hear about their work. This is an exciting time to be at Leeds and we hope very much that you will join us in celebrating the arrival of our new colleagues."

Two of the five planned lectures for 2016 have already taken place. Professor Graham Farrell delivered his lecture 'Descending Mount Improbable: The Global Crime Drop and Ethical Security' on 28 April 2016, and Professor Duncan Sheehan gave a talk on 'Private Law Taxonomy and Unjust Enrichment: Of Grids, Trees and Oranges' on 24 May 2016.

The following lectures are planned for the autumn semester and you are more than welcome to attend.

Registration will open online in September 2016 on the School of Law website: www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/

Thursday 6 October, 5pm
Professor Rita de la Feria
VAT Anti-fraud Policy, Third Party Liability, and the Rule of Law

Thursday 3 November, 5pm
Professor Oliver Lewis
Disabling Legal Barriers

Thursday 1 December, 5pm
Professor Elies van Sliedregt
International Outlaws – the Shadow Side of International Criminal Justice



④

Professor Michael Freeman delivers first Hamlyn Lecture of 2015

On 11 November 2015 the Centre for Law and Social Justice and the School of Law were pleased to host the first Hamlyn lecture of the 2015 series, delivered by Professor Michael Freeman.

The Hamlyn lectures are the most prestigious series of public lectures in law in the United Kingdom. The first Hamlyn lecture was delivered in 1947 by Lord Denning since when the most distinguished lawyers, judges, academics and public figures have considered it a great honour to be invited to deliver the lectures.

Professor Freeman, who is Emeritus Professor of English Law at UCL, is one of the most vociferous campaigners for the rights of children having written or edited over 80 books in his long and distinguished career. Fittingly, the theme of his 2015 lectures was: 'A Magna Carta for Children? – Rethinking Children's Rights'. The first lecture in the series was provocatively titled 'Are Children Human?' and was chaired by Mr Justice Holman.

Professor Alastair Mullis introduced the lecture, which uncovered the roots of children's rights and early supporters including Karl Marx were discussed.

The rise of children's rights in recent times and the reasons for their prior marginalisation were discussed. The lecture was followed by a reception and then a meal attended by members of the School of Law and the Centre for Law and Social Justice, including its Directors, Professor Michael Thomson and Dr Julie Wallbank.

The Hamlyn Trust was created in 1948 to 'further knowledge and understanding of the law'. The Trust is administered by representatives of six universities, a national newspaper (The Guardian) and a distinguished retired judge (Sir Steven Sedley). The School of Law has a close association with the Hamlyn Trust.

Professor Roger Halson is a trustee and has represented the School since 2006. The School has also previously hosted lectures by Professor Nicola Lacey in 2007 and the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, himself a Leeds University Alumnus, in 2012.



5

Frank Dawtry Memorial Lecture

The annual Frank Dawtry Memorial Lecture took place on Monday 9 May 2016. Frank Dawtry was born in Sheffield in 1902. He was the general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO), and was awarded an OBE for his contribution to the work of the National Association. This year, the School of Law received Frank Dawtry's OBE as a gift from his family.

For many years, and up to the time of his death, Frank Dawtry was on the executive board of the Howard League for Penal Reform. He was a founding member of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. He was also involved with the National Association for Mental Health and was on the council of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux. In 1963, the University of Leeds conferred on Mr Dawtry the degree of Master of Arts, in recognition of and to honour the significant contribution he made throughout his lifetime to criminal justice and penal reform.

The Frank Dawtry Memorial fund was set up to establish a lasting memorial at the University of Leeds to his achievements. The endowment is for a lecture to be given annually by a prominent speaker to address one of the following topics: "the treatment of offenders; the prevention of crime; and the administration of justice."

This year's lecture was entitled 'Tackling Cyber Crime' and was delivered by Dr Jamie Saunders (director of the National Cyber Crime Unit) on Monday 9 May 2016.

6

Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education

This year, the School has instituted a new Research Centre focused on research in legal education and in education in criminal justice and criminology. Within these broad areas it has a particular strength in research which connects legal education to the legal professions and legal services.

Through the Centre, the School aims to establish a leading reputation for its commitment to excellence in student education, underpinned by world class scholarship and informed by field defining research produced by the Centre's members. The Centre aims to deliver innovation and world class research and practice in legal and criminal justice education, which will have a transformative impact both within the School of Law at Leeds and internationally. For more information see our feature on page 18.

7

Electronic Monitoring in Europe

On 18 February 2016, 100 delegates gathered in Brussels to hear the findings of a European Commission funded project on the use of electronic monitoring (EM) with defendants and offenders. The project is the largest and most comprehensive comparative study of EM to be undertaken. The focus of the project is on exploring how EM may be used more creatively and effectively and its potential to operate as an alternative to custody so reducing prison populations. The project covers five jurisdictions (Belgium, England and Wales, Germany, The Netherlands and Scotland) and is being led by Professor Anthea Hucklesby from the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies with Professors Beyens (Vrije Universiteit, Brussel), Boone (University of Utrecht), Dunkel (University of Greifswald) and McIvor (University of Stirling). Delegates in Brussels also heard from policy-makers from each of the project's jurisdictions on the implications of the comparative and jurisdictional findings for the operation of EM.



8

Banner marking the 1965 Race Relations Act moves from Westminster Hall to the School of Law

On 21 January, Iyiola Solanke spoke on the 1965 Race Relations Act at the final instalment of the 'Parliament in the Making' series at the Houses of Parliament.

The event was hosted by Mr Speaker, The RT Hon John Bercow MP. Co-panellists included Professor David Carpenter (who spoke on Magna Carta), Lord Sumption QC (who spoke on Agincourt), Professor Tim Blanning (who spoke on Waterloo) and Professor Sir David Cannadine (who spoke on Churchill).

Iyiola Solanke and the School of Law were selected to receive the Race Relations Act Banner from the 'Parliament in the Making' Exhibition. The Banner will hang in the atrium of the Liberty Building from October 2016.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn, MP for Leeds Central, said: "I am delighted that the University of Leeds has been selected to receive the 1965 Race Relations Act Banner. The School of Law has a strong and long-standing commitment to promoting race equality and telling the story of Race Equality Legislation. Having been on public display in Parliament's Westminster Hall throughout 2015, it seems fitting that the banner will now hang in the atrium of the Liberty Building, home of the School of Law, giving the University's students and guests an opportunity to see it closer to home."

Created by Alinah Azadeh for the 2015 Parliament in the Making Programme. Commissioned by the House of Commons with the support of The Speaker's Art Fund. © 2015 Alinah Azadeh and the House of Commons

9

Aspiring Lawyers to benefit from £1m expansion of the Pathways to Law programme

Thousands of aspiring lawyers from non-privileged homes across the country will benefit from a £1m expansion of the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law programme, a pioneering initiative designed to widen access to the legal profession. For the first time the programme, which is funded by the Legal Education Foundation, nine leading law firms and the partner universities, will provide support for GCSE students in years 10 and 11, as well as throughout sixth form.

Pathways to Law, targeted at academically able pupils from non-privileged homes, will be delivered by 12 partner universities across the country, including the University of Leeds.

Over 300 students have already been supported through the Pathways programme at the University of Leeds and have gone on to a wide range of universities predominantly to study law and law related disciplines. The University of Leeds has a demonstrable history of delivery in relation to access and outreach provision and is extremely proud of its input and impact. Pathways to Law at Leeds runs alongside other University schemes including 'Reach for Excellence', which has operated since 2007 and now recruits over 200 students a year and 'Access to Leeds', which has been operating since 2003 and now attracts over 1,000 direct applicants from Yorkshire and Humber.



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH SCHOOL NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

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

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



10

Leeds is set to be a Global leader in the field of disability law with the launch of a Disability Law Hub

With more than one billion disabled people worldwide facing possible discrimination and exclusion, the new hub will be dedicated to research on disability law, as well as offering a wide range of teaching expertise at undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels. Specialist areas include mental health and capacity law, disability equality law, care law, international disability rights law, disabled victims of crime, and the relationship between disability and areas of law such as contracts, torts and intellectual property.

Forming one of the largest groups of disability law scholars in the world, the hub will be headed by Professor Anna Lawson and will comprise nine legal academics and several PhD researchers.

At the launch event at the University on 15 April, Professor Anna Lawson, who is herself blind, said: "I studied law at the University of Leeds in the 1980s because it was the only university that offered a transcription service for blind students. Thirty years later, I am proud that my alma mater has taken a leadership role in recognising disability law as an important area of legal research and scholarship and very excited about working with my wonderful colleagues in this area."

Professor Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, said that the new hub builds on a strong track record in disability studies at the University. He said: "For many decades the University's Centre for Disability Studies has challenged socially-created barriers that limit the life chances of disabled people. The new Disability Law Hub houses the country's leading group of legal experts in this cutting-edge field."

Two new Professors of Law and Social Justice have recently joined the School of Law and become members of the hub. Luke Clements is an expert on social care law whose Chair is endowed by the charity Cerebra. He is a practicing solicitor who has taken many of the landmark discrimination cases to the European Court of Human Rights. Oliver Lewis joins the School of Law while retaining his position as Executive Director of an international human rights charity, the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre. He has worked in some 20 countries in Europe and Africa on strategic litigation and advocacy which advances equality, inclusion and justice for people with mental health issues and learning disabilities.

Setting the Gold Standard

On Saturday 4 June 2016, the Student Law Society, warmly referred to as LawSoc, was awarded the hotly contested 'Society of the Year' award at the inaugural Society Awards presented by the National Union of Students.

LawSoc plays an integral part in the overall experience of the vast majority of law students at the University of Leeds. As Director of Student Education, with responsibility for the overall experience, I am hugely grateful for the role they play. LawSoc committee members are some of the School's best ambassadors. It is fantastic to see them being recognised on the national stage, especially as they are the first winners of this prestigious award. They were pitched against tough competition and so for them to be awarded 'Society of the Year' is real reflection on the outstanding students we have in the School.

Their assistance begins during the summer when they contribute to helping plan and deliver an induction experience that is crucial in helping our new students to acclimatise. They organise a huge book-sale in the first week of term in addition to a number of local social events.

LawSoc's commitment to employability is superb. More than this, they provide a wonderful environment within which the less confident students can explore their employment possibilities. Coupled with the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which they arrange and often support with expert assistance, they help to ensure that a law student's CV is not lacking. LawSoc arranges crucial, legally related, opportunities such as mootings, debating, negotiating, networking, formal dinners, trips to courts amongst many others. In a school such as ours, with 30% of students coming from non-traditional university backgrounds, the provision of these opportunities in a non-threatening, confidence building environment is nothing less than essential.

In addition, there are a huge number of social and sporting events which help to draw in a wide range of students, including our international cohort. Events such as 'Law's Got Talent' have been a massive success, not only as an event in itself, but in offering an opportunity for students to showcase their other talents – talents which can build up confidence in what is otherwise a competitive environment. Many of the social events and sporting activities also take place with the involvement of staff. They foster excellent student-staff relations and help to create an atmosphere of equality – removing the teacher-pupil environment and replacing it with a much more collegiate relationship.

It is exceptionally difficult to summarise the integral role LawSoc plays in the day to day life of the School of Law. Their professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm cannot be matched and is a major part of the School's recent success on a national and international stage. Their contribution to the student experience at Leeds is almost immeasurable.



Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education



The LawSoc Ball 2015 which was held at the Queen's hotel. This annual black tie event is a great opportunity for students to celebrate as the academic year starts to draw to a close.



LawSoc members enjoying a well-deserved taste after visiting the Guinness factory on the annual society trip to Dublin.



The award winning LawSoc Committee 2015/16.
From L-R: Imogen Hutton-Potts, Sam Hill, James Langridge, Grant Morris, Bren McCarthy, Jack Wray, Kate Lalor, Bryony Bruzon-Edwards, Emma Robinson, Alice Kuzmenko, Gaby Hodgson, Caitlin Healey, Nadi Choudhury, Leah Edwards.

“

Being awarded the Society of the Year at the NUS National Society Awards is a huge achievement and something of which I am incredibly proud.

”



Bren McCarthy, President of LawSoc for 2015/16, shared his excitement in the recent good news:

“Being awarded the Society of the Year at the NUS National Society Awards is a huge achievement and something of which I am incredibly proud. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as President this year. To have led the society to receive this kind of recognition is a great way to end my time at the University of Leeds.

A big thank you must also go to my peers on the committee and to the committee members of recent years for all the hard work they put in, which has allowed us to get to this position today. We saw the success from previous years as a benchmark and tried to take everything that one step further. The committee this year has worked continuously to achieve this and the result has been seen in our calendar of new and exciting opportunities and events.

I wish the new committee all the best and I look forward to seeing the great things they go on to achieve in the future.”

Law Society Presidents

— For many years, the Student Law Society at the University of Leeds has been churning out skilled and ambitious graduates with the drive and determination to achieve great success in their subsequent careers.

The former Presidents are, of course, no exception. From District Judges, to law firm partners and leaders in business, the people who have occupied this historic post have certainly made their mark, not only on the School of Law but also in their respective fields of work.

But in a changing legal landscape, what are the Presidents of today and recent years, going on to do? We spoke to a handful of Presidents who graduated within the last 10 years to find out.

“

It is a huge position of responsibility, which teaches you a lot of things that cannot be taught in a classroom and can only be learned by doing and throwing yourself into the thick of it.

”

Nick Steiert

LL.B (Hons) Law and Management (2008)

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Finishing University at one of the worst times during the recent recession proved very challenging, with law jobs in short supply I went down an unconventional route and created a company called Invasion upon graduating in July 2008. It was a very steep learning curve in the first few years, for me and my business partner Lee McAteer, who also graduated from the School of Law, but today, across the company, we take away 10,000 passengers on weekend breaks to destinations such as Amsterdam, Budapest, Dublin, Berlin and Prague. We also have a number of other in-house brands such as AmeriCamp, Camp Thailand, Camp.co.uk and a second office in Amsterdam.

How would you describe your experience as President of the Law Society?

The experience of being both Social Secretary and then President of Leeds LawSoc was life-changing and at a risk of sounding cliché, helped make me who I am today. The experience gave me a small insight into the world of business and enterprise, which fueled a passion for event management that I ultimately ended up pursuing when a career in law was not forthcoming.

Did your time as President help in any way to shape your early career?

Absolutely. Being on any Society Committee is like running a business, as you have to ultimately make decisions that have ramifications for different stakeholders on issues such as budgets, marketing, events and you develop an understanding that the level of effort you put in is reciprocated and totally worth it in the end. It is a huge position of responsibility, which teaches you a lot of things that cannot be taught in a classroom and can only be learned by doing and throwing yourself into the thick of it. I can categorically say with certainty that without my experience of being on the committee at Leeds LawSoc, that there would be no Invasion today.



Nick Steiert
LL.B (Hons) Law and Management (2008)



Jake Rylatt
LL.B (Hons) Law (2013)



Bren McCarthy
LL.B (Hons) Law (2016)

Jake Rylatt

LL.B (Hons) Law (2013)

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

After graduating from the University of Leeds, I completed an LL.M at the University of Cambridge, specialising in international law. I have since been working at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (University of Cambridge) as a Research Assistant to the Legal Tools for Peace-Making Project, producing guidance on the options available to United Nations (UN) mediators in conflict zones on issues such as releasing detainees and reintegrating displaced persons. Additionally, I have taught international law to undergraduates at the University of Leeds and postgraduates at the University of Cambridge.

Tell us what you remember about the Law Society.

When I first arrived at the University of Leeds, the Law Society committee and other senior society members were welcoming and a helpful source of guidance on everything from careers to nightlife.

The Law Society was, and remains, unique for the sheer range of opportunities that it provides. Just in my first year with the Law Society I competed in mooting, debating, and negotiating, I played football (albeit very briefly!), I took a trip to Paris, and I attended a number of unforgettable socials at various venues in Leeds.

How would you describe your experience as President of the Law Society?

By the time I became President of the Law Society, I was incredibly lucky to inherit a well-developed framework of procedures, annual events and relationships with sponsors, built by the hard work of those before me. The result was that during my year as President we were able to focus on further developing the Society in response to the needs of students. One example would be the strides made in organising events under the banner of equality and diversity, with the support of the Law School's Equality and Diversity Committee.

Bren McCarthy

LL.B (Hons) Law (2016)

Tell us about the Law Society today.

LawSoc prides itself on providing a well-rounded University experience. We have over 4,000 members, 950 of which are active. Our Committee strives to bring the best of both worlds to our members – career development balanced with a bursting social calendar.

Our second-hand book sale benefits members by providing core text books at reduced costs. This year we processed over 2,000 books. We raised over £8,000 on the day, with all of the money being returned to students.

Our social calendar consists of: club nights, theatre trips, European city breaks, bowling and international buffet nights. For the first time, we hosted a quiz night, in collaboration with HistSoc, and this is something that we wish to develop. We also hosted 'Law's Got Talent' in collaboration with the School of Law and CrimSoc. This celebrated the talents within our community which included singing, dancing and poetry. All proceeds were donated to Stop Hate UK. We also donated over £1,500 to PAFRAS through our pro-bono activities.

“

Being a part of LawSoc has made my last year at university the best by far.

”

Tell us about your focus on career development opportunities.

We have worked with a record number of 30 sponsors this year. This places us in a strong financial position, improving the quality of our events. It also provides our members with increased exposure to global and local law firms. We promoted over 30 presentations and workshops in semester one alone. The pinnacle of our careers calendar was our Careers Dinner which was a great experience for our members. This year we had representatives from 18 different firms, along with a barristers' table, and 165 attendees.

Our Academic Academy, comprising of negotiating, debating and mooting, has engaged with 250 students and has seen us compete in nine external competitions. The internal competitions have been judged, amongst others, by Baker & McKenzie, and the mooting final is being held in the Supreme Court.

How would you describe your experience as President of the Law Society?

It's safe to say it has been a great year, one which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Being a part of LawSoc has made my last year at university the best by far. A big thank you goes to the rest of the committee for all their hard work over the year, especially Leah Edwards and James Langridge. Another big thank you goes to Alastair Mullis and Nick Taylor for all their support, it makes such a difference in what we can achieve. A final thank you goes to all of our members who have been so involved this year and for making LawSoc what it is! I wish the new committee all the best for next year and I am excited to see what you all achieve!



**ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW,
A PAST PRESIDENT OR
COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
LAWSOC OR CRIMSOC?**

Do you have any stories you'd like to share with us? Please get in touch by e-mailing the School
law@leeds.ac.uk

The School of Law Advisory Board

— *The School has a rich and distinguished history, a vibrant academic community, exceptionally talented students and distinguished alumni. It offers one of the most exciting environments in the world to research and study law and criminology.*

At the same time, the School also recognises opportunities and areas in which it can further develop and improve. In early 2015, the School set up an Advisory Board, bringing together current staff, alumni and friends of the School of Law, all experts in their field of practice, to offer strategic advice on a range of activities and plans.

Lord Colin Low of Dalston CBE was asked to chair the Advisory Board, following a long and healthy relationship with the School since the 1960s. Lord Low was a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law from 1968 until 1984 and later held a research post at City University London until 2000. He is Vice-Chairman of the RNIB and has also been President of the European Blind Union since 2003.

Lord Low told us about his time at the University and his experience of chairing the Advisory Board throughout the last year.

“I was lucky to get a job in the Faculty of Law as we called it then back in the 1960s. As a criminologist, I applied for a job in the Sociology Department. The professor of Sociology didn’t think I knew enough Sociology (probably correctly), but luckily for me, Brian Hogan, professor of Law and a leading authority on criminal law, was on the panel and they offered me a job in the Law Department. Such a thing could never happen today. The interview was not at all testing either, so I was really very lucky.

I remember one of the senior lecturers whom I’d better not name who was a bit of a joker, and in consequence very popular with the students. Interviewing to fill a staff vacancy, one of the candidates was a librarian from Birmingham University Library. “How many books do you have in your library?” asked Maurice. “Oh about 5- or 600,000” came the reply. “And how many of those have you read?”

In my time, which ran from the late 60s to the early 80s, we did most of our teaching in small-group tutorials with five or six students at a time. With a student body at least three times the size it was in my day, groups are inevitably somewhat larger now, at 12–15, but this is still a manageable number. Lectures are also now recorded and made available on the web.



Lord Low of Dalston CBE

When I was there, you might have described Leeds as a work-horse amongst British law schools. Now the School is committed to establishing itself as one of the top 10 law schools in the UK and among the top 50 in the world, carrying out world-class teaching and research with a strong international reach. It is well on the way to realising this objective, being placed 9th in England and Wales and 11th in the UK in the Times/Sunday Times league tables of law schools for 2016.

The School is also committed to providing an exceptional experience for students and to active engagement with alumni. These things are easy to say, but in the year I have spent as a member of the School’s new Advisory Board, I have been impressed by the level of dynamism and energy I have detected about the place. I am also naturally delighted by the particular emphasis being given to criminology, criminal and social justice and disability, where the School is playing a field-leading role. It is therefore a matter of great pride to me that I have been asked to chair the new Advisory Board and provide all the support we can to such exciting developments.”

Lord Low of Dalston CBE
Chairman of the Advisory Board

“
Now the School is committed to establishing itself as one of the top 10 law schools in the UK and among the top 50 in the world.
”

Advisory Board Members

Alastair Da Costa
LLB Law, University of Leeds (1987)
Chair of Warren Partners, Chairman of Board of Governors for City and Islington College



Lee McAteer
LLB Law, University of Leeds (2008)
Director of AmeriCamp, AusJob and Invasion Corp



Victoria Goddard
Partner specialising in property, Pinsent Masons



Dame Anne Owers
Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission



Ashley Hurst
LLB Law, University of Leeds (2000)
Partner at Osborne Clarke, Commercial Litigator and Solicitor-advocate with a particular specialism in media and internet disputes



Rachel Sandby-Thomas
Registrar, The University of Warwick



Taryn Lee QC
Joint Head of 37 Park Square Chambers



Sir Keir Starmer
LLB Law, University of Leeds (1985)
Labour Member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras



Colin Low
The Lord Low of Dalston CBE



Hugh Tomlinson QC
Barrister and a founding member of Matrix Chambers



Sunita Mason CBE
District Judge and Government Independent Advisor



Richard Wright QC
LLB Law, University of Leeds (1997)
Joint Head of Chambers, Park Square Barristers



1

Time to Impress

Dr Paul Wragg, Associate Professor of Law, has been appointed to the code committee of the Impress project.

Impress was established in the wake of Lord Justice Leveson's inquiry into the state of British newspaper ethics and culture. Amongst other things, Leveson concluded that the press should be regulated by an organisation demonstrably independent of the press and capable of imposing fines, etc, when the press breach agreed industry standards of behaviour, exemplified in a code of conduct. Impress, backed by influential figures such as Sir Harold Evans and JK Rowling, seeks recognition as a Leveson-compliant regulator. If successful, it plans to compete with the incumbent press regulator, IPSO, (formerly the PCC), to oversee the activities of British newspapers.

In his position on the code committee, Paul has drawn upon his expertise in privacy law and press regulation, as well as his recent contribution to the Australian Law Reform Commission's inquiry into serious breaches of privacy. This has allowed him to advise the Impress board on the drafting of the code. He has also played a key role in drafting an accompanying guidance that will be available to members of the public contemplating a complaint about poor press behaviour. Speaking about his appointment and his work, Paul said 'I am delighted to be involved with the Impress campaign to establish a scheme of independent self-regulation of the press in the UK. The code of conduct by which the press must abide is a vital piece of the process. Impress represents the best chance of realising Leveson's vision of an accountable press'.



2

Top 50 Tax People in the World

Rita de la Feria, new Professor of Tax Law at the School of Law, has recently found out that she is listed in the top 50 most influential tax people in the world.

Now in its fifth year, the International Tax Review's Global Tax 50 provides a rundown of the 'who's who' of the tax world. One way or another, the individuals and organisations named have had an impact or influence on taxation that will be felt beyond the 12 month period covered by the list.

Rita joined the School in January 2016 and was previously a chair in tax law at the University of Durham. In addition to her academic responsibilities she is also involved in a number of other projects that have no doubt supported her placement in the top 50. Rita was also recently appointed as a tax advisor to the Government of East Timor, with responsibility for drafting a new VAT law for the country.

The new VAT is part of a wider fiscal reform process undertaken by the country, which will also include reforms of its tax administration, amendments to existing income tax laws, and a new tax procedural law. Applied by over 150 countries around the world, VAT would represent a new reliable and stable source of revenue for the country.

In early February this year Rita also undertook a series of political meetings in East Timor, presenting the proposed VAT law to Government, Parliament, and other stakeholders in the country. The law is now on course for final approval by Parliament in June, with entry into force of the new VAT planned for 1 January 2018.

3

Excellence and Innovation Fellow

The Institute for Teaching Excellence and Innovation at the University of Leeds have announced the appointment of two Excellence and Innovation Fellows, who will be joining the Institute for the academic year 2016-17.

Lydia Bleasdale-Hill, Associate Professor in Law, will lead a project entitled Realising Resilience: An Evidence Based Approach to Embedding Resilience in the Curriculum. Lydia will be supported in part by her colleague Sarah Humphreys (Co-ordinator for the School of Law's Legal Advice Clinics). The joint fellowship will research the different educational cultures of Schools and Faculties across campus and, using evidence drawn from staff and student interviews, suggest how resilience might be enhanced at curricular and co-curricular levels.

4

International Corporate Governance and Law Forum in China

It has been an exceptionally busy and successful year for Professor Andrew Keay, who has been globe-hopping, disseminating research and presenting papers. Additionally he has been appointed as an editor for LexisNexis.

Together with Professor Gerard McCormack, Andrew presented a paper at the Insolvency Lawyers' Academic Forum. The paper draws on a report written with the Centre for Business Law and Practice for the European Commission on substantive insolvency laws in the EU and the divergence that exists in relation to these laws. Andrew then presented a paper at the International Corporate Governance and Law Forum analysing the way that transnational codes, such as the OECD code of corporate governance principles, addresses the accountability of boards and evaluated their shortcomings in this respect.

Andrew has also recently had published the

latest edition of 'Insolvency Legislation: Annotations and Commentary, 5th edition' by Jordan Publishing, and was recently appointed as one of the editors of the Bankruptcy and Personal Insolvency Reports. As a result, his work was cited in a number of bankruptcy cases by The Supreme Court of Victoria, the Court of Appeal of the Western Australian Supreme Court and the New Zealand High Court.

5

Restorative Policing research secures major new award

A research team made up of Professor Adam Crawford from the University of Leeds and Professor Joanna Shapland from the University of Sheffield, have secured £336,000 of funding from the Police Knowledge Fund to develop greater understanding of restorative justice principles relevant to policing and the research evidence base that informs good practices that are sensitive to the needs of victims.

The 18 month project will assist the police in identifying means for front-line officers to assess which paths to use to facilitate restorative policing and how best to introduce restorative principles to victims of crime.

The project partners include three police force areas in which the research will be conducted – South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside – as well as Remedi, a specialist voluntary sector organisation providing restorative responses. The Police and Crime Commissioners and senior command teams in the force areas are committed to ensuring the greatest impact and value from the research.



6

Ann Blair to Retire

As the summer vacation draws to a close, so too does a chapter in the School's history. One of the School's longest serving and highly regarded members of staff, Ann Blair, has decided to retire before the start of the new academic year.

Following a successful career in the voluntary sector, Ann studied law at the University of Leeds as a mature student and graduated in 1993. She was then appointed as a lecturer at the School in 1994 and senior lecturer in 2007.

In addition to the many years of valued teaching, supervision and research Ann has undertaken on the School's behalf, she has also held a position on the editorial board of Education and the Law. Ann is an active trade unionist and has recently been seconded to trade union duties as President of the University of Leeds UCU.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Ann and we wish her and her family all the very best for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.



WANT TO KEEP UP WITH STAFF NEWS ACROSS THE YEAR?

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

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

L

Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education Launched

The School of Law is now one of the leading law schools in the country for research and education in the legal professions and wider legal services market.

The School is delighted to have recently made a series of strategic senior appointments (Professor Andrew Francis, Professor Hilary Sommerlad) that build on existing expertise (Lydia Bleasdale-Hill, Professor Joan Loughrey, Dr Iyiola Solanke, Professor Michael Thomson, Dr Mitchell Travis, Professor David Wall and Dr Julie Wallbank), alongside exciting early career scholars (Jess Mant), to establish a vibrant cross-centre body of expertise and projects.

The School enjoys strong relationships with the profession in Leeds – the largest legal and financial sector in the country outside London. This relationship between university legal education and the legal profession is critically important for both sectors. A strong and clear link between the academic discipline of law and practice enables our graduates to develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attributes to forge successful careers within the profession, thereby also benefitting the profession. Moreover, it enables innovation in legal services to be informed by cutting edge research, and for research in universities to deliver an impact in the most disciplinarily relevant environment.¹

¹ The School of Law at Leeds was rated Top 5 in the country for its research impact (REF 2014).

The School's research in the professions draws on academic expertise from the Centres for Business Law and Practice, Law and Social Justice and the newly established Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education. The new Centre will not only drive innovation in Student Education across Criminology, Criminal Justice and Law, but will generate high-quality, impactful research in Legal and Criminal Justice Education and the associated professions.

Professor Andrew Francis



Professor Andrew Francis joined the School of Law in January 2016, having previously been Professor and Head of the School of Law at Keele University. In 2010 he was appointed one of the first five Academic Fellows of Inner Temple, and became an Associate Academic Fellow in 2013. He has developed a leading reputation in the regulation and organisation of the legal profession, with projects funded by Inner Temple, the Nuffield Foundation and the UK Centre for Legal Education. His most recent work looking at social mobility and employability was published in the *Journal of Law and Society* in 2015, which argued that key factors such as socio-economic and educational background can shape the likelihood of students benefitting from schemes designed to support their access to the legal profession. He is responsible for major studies on legal executives, part-time law students and (with Professor Sommerlad) access to legal work experience.

Professor Joan Loughrey



Professor Joan Loughrey is one of the leading academic experts on the regulation of the legal profession in England and Wales. She wrote the first and leading work on the ethics and role of the corporate sector of the profession in England and Wales in a monograph published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. She also conducted (with Aulakh in LUBS) the first study on the role of Compliance Officers for Legal Practice that the SRA requires all law firms to appoint. This work has received extensive attention from academics, regulators and practitioners both in the UK and internationally. Like Professor Sommerlad she did not come directly into academia but qualified as a solicitor and practiced as a commercial litigator in Hong Kong and England and Wales. She was an expert advisor on the report on solicitor independence that was recently published by the SRA and has presented her research to them. She has been an invited speaker at the annual Clyde and Co conference for law firm general counsel and compliance teams at the top 50 law firms and at the IBA regulation stream and she is currently working on a response to the SRA's consultation on reform of its handbook.

Professor Hilary Sommerlad



Professor Hilary Sommerlad's early career was as a lecturer at the University of York in political history. She then re-trained in law, and practised as a legal aid solicitor before returning to academia to teach law, and has developed socio-legal research at Leeds Beckett, Leicester and Birmingham Universities. She has been conducting research into the legal profession for over two decades, her work is highly cited and has been commissioned by leading policy stakeholders and regulators. Her work has focused on access to justice, she is a member of the International Legal Aid Group and is currently, with Birmingham Law School, studying the experience of litigants in person. Her other area of research has investigated the factors behind the relative failure of the profession to diversify, particularly in its upper echelons. For example in 2014 only 18.8% of partners in Magic Circle law firms were female, despite the fact that they have been entering the profession in substantial numbers since the 1980s and now comprise over 63% of those on LLB programmes in England and Wales. Similarly, though there have been increases in the numbers of black and minority ethnic people entering the profession they are failing to progress to partnership in the larger firms.

Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education

Through the Centre, the School of Law aims to establish the Law School as an international leader of innovation and research in legal education and criminal justice education. The Centre will seek to develop and disseminate evidence based teaching innovation and produce high quality and impactful research.

The Centre will be the School's 'think tank' – the driver and enabler of best practice and innovation in all aspects of learning, teaching and co-curricular initiatives in criminology, criminal justice and law. It will identify and address the key questions in university education in law and criminal justice, and the wider legal services and criminal justice sectors through cutting edge research. It will explore the role that educational innovation can play in supporting the development of confident, critical, creative thinkers with an acute understanding of their role and responsibilities within a global community.

Professor Andrew Francis and Nick Taylor are Co-Directors of the Centre and said, "The establishment of the Centre is a statement of the School's commitment to investing in the highest quality of student education across criminology, criminal justice and law. With the research expertise now within the School, and our excellent and innovative education specialists, we are now able to ensure that our research in legal and criminal justice education and the professions informs our educational practices and vice versa. Students are going to benefit enormously."



Nick Taylor



Future Plans

We are keen to involve the alumni in our continuing work in this area. We want to involve our alumni in the profession as key stakeholders and participants in our research, and in supporting our students in deepening their understanding of the contemporary legal marketplace. Many of you have already made important contributions in this way and we are keen to expand our range of activities with you.

We intend to hold a series of research showcase events to highlight our work in this area to the profession and ensure that we can continue to build on the constructive and supportive relationship that we enjoy with the legal profession and our alumni, in particular. For example, in November 2016, we are planning a day's workshop on Access to Justice post-LASPO, which will bring practitioners, academics, activists and students together.

We are also looking forward to developing our international research and educational partnerships in this field. Our academics are already working with prestigious academic partners and in the next phase of this work we aim to ensure that students are fully involved in this work.

“

These are pivotal moments for the legal profession and exciting times for the School of Law.

”



TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT:

Professor Andrew Francis
a.m.francis@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Joan Loughrey
j.m.loughrey@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Hilary Sommerlad
h.a.k.sommerlad@leeds.ac.uk

①

MDAC Summer Internship

LLB Law student, Jennifer Fish, was awarded a scholarship in 2015 to undertake a work placement with the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) in Budapest.

The scholarship was made possible by the generosity of Marcus Killick, OBE who is also an alumnus of the School of Law. Jennifer told us about her experience in Budapest... 'I am interested in the area of human rights law because helping vulnerable groups of people is one of the reasons I decided to pursue a career in law. It was during my International Human Rights Law module during my second year that I became particularly interested in disability rights.

I applied for the internship with MDAC because I believe that volunteering for a cause like this is an exceptional way to spend your time, especially when it is for an organisation that strives to improve the lives of people who are segregated from society. Throughout my time in Budapest I carried out work experience in different areas but the placement I held in a local solicitor's office was the experience I enjoyed the most. I also carried out various tasks which aided MDAC in their work which in turn, helped me to develop my academic skills in a wide range of areas. My time in Budapest with MDAC has opened the door to many different opportunities. It has highlighted my interest in the human rights of minority groups marginalised by society. It also helped me process ideas for my dissertation and module choices for this academic year. I am also now considering further study abroad in the area of human rights as well as working for a non-governmental organisation such as MDAC who work hard to achieve developments in this field.

I would like to say thank you to the University of Leeds, to MDAC and to my donor, Marcus Killick for his kindness and generosity.



②

The Squire Patton Boggs Scholarship

The Squire Patton Boggs Scholarship is an annual prize that was first awarded in 2011.

Each year a summer work experience opportunity and prize of £1,500 is awarded to a second-year undergraduate Law student who demonstrates academic merit in their first year examinations, along with evidence of extra-curricular activities and a positive contribution to the wider community.

This year, two students shared the prize and after being shortlisted Anna Ward and Jacynthia Pommels were invited to attend an interview with partners from Squire Patton Boggs at their office in Leeds. Anna told us more about her interview:

"This was great interview experience and my first ever legal interview. It was totally not what I expected, I had to pretend the interviewers were aliens and teach them to swim butterfly and describe a bike through just words in order to test my communication skills.

We also spoke a lot about my extra-curricular activities including the Justice Project, the Together Women Project and my part-time job as a swimming instructor." Jacynthia also told us about her involvement: "I am absolutely honoured to receive this scholarship and it feels great to gain recognition for the activities I do outside of my academic studies. During the interview, I spoke about my involvement in Street Law, Leeds Revelation Rock-Gospel Choir, Rare Recruitment Articles Programme and my part-time job at the Apple Retail Store, Leeds.

I would encourage every law student to take advantage of as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible. The 'soft' skills and qualities that you gain from activities outside your studies are invaluable and will boost your employability for any field of work you choose."

③

It's a Knockout!

Staff and students join forces to take on the classic BBC gameshow

On 10 July a team of five students and five staff, captained by LLB student Callum Lee, joined together to take part in a DLA Piper inspired charity event – a remake of that classic gameshow 'It's a Knockout'. Taking place in Roundhay Park the team (known as Liberty X) took part in 12 different challenges, including the traditional penguin sumo wrestling, giant racing, and budgie jumping. Alongside this there was a liberal splashing of soapy water and wet sponges.

There were more than 30 teams taking part, with the School ranking an impressive 6th – including a straight run of 5 victories in a row. But for the Head of School's inability to pair socks from a giant washing machine, or Professor Cram's inability to roll a giant doughnut it could have been more. The DLA Piper event raised more than £16,000 on the day for Maggies, who are fundraising to bring a cancer support unit to St James' Hospital in Leeds.



**WANT TO KEEP UP
WITH STUDENT NEWS
ACROSS THE YEAR?**

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

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



④

School of Law Announces New Study Abroad Programmes

The School of Law prides itself on its relationships with the global legal community.

The School has strong links with a number of international institutions and welcomes students to Leeds from more than forty countries. Europe, South East Asia, Africa, the Gulf, the Indian sub-continent and North America are all represented in our student body. We also encourage home students to consider combining their study in the UK with studies abroad. The LLB Law with French Law has been well established at the School for many years and with an ever increasing interest in internationalisation it was decided that the time had come to expand the availability of study abroad programmes.

With this in mind, from September 2017, students will have two additional programmes to choose from at the School. The LLB will be available with German Law or with Hispanic Law. Students will complete the course over four years with an integrated year studying abroad. The programmes will offer the opportunity to combine the qualifying law degree with developing language skills and learning about a different legal system. It is expected that many applicants will be keen to study in Germany or Spain, but the chance to travel further afield will also be available. In the case of the LLB with Hispanic Law, there will also be the opportunity to study in a number of Latin American universities.

5

Women of Achievement Awards

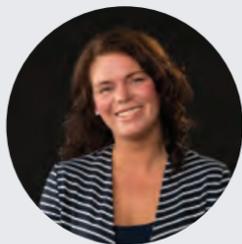
On International Women's Day, 8 March 2016, I was delighted to receive one of 16 Women of Achievement Awards given to women across the University for various academic achievements.

Back in 2014 I won the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) award for 'learning in families and communities' at the Involve Yorkshire and Humber ceremony. I was also fortunate enough to win the 2015 University of Leeds Access Programme Award. To gain another prestigious award in 2016 has made me very proud to be a student at the School of Law.

I have recently taken some time out of university due to personal circumstances, however I will be back in September to finish my degree. Both the School of Law and the University have been highly supportive and I am looking forward to my return. My time at the Law School has been great. I have reached places I didn't think possible a few years ago, and that is with thanks to all of the opportunities available at the University. I still work with youth offenders as part of the 'giving time' project with Volunteering at Leeds. I am also a learning champion for the lifelong learning centre.

I am truly humbled to have received this amazing recognition that demonstrates what mature students can achieve through hard work and dedication.

Emma McNamara
LLB Law Year 2



6

Starting a New Tradition

On 20 April, the very first White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (WRDTC) Socio-Legal PGR Conference was held at the School of Law.

The conference was organised with the specific purpose of providing early stage research students with an opportunity to present their work in a supportive environment. It was organised and chaired by first and second year PhD students from the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield. The conference was hosted with the financial and logistic support of the WRDTC and the School of Law, and attracted students from various universities in Yorkshire.

Four panels were held throughout the day and these were focused on the areas of; marginalised groups; the regulation of society; criminal justice; and conflicts and human rights. The presentations were of a high quality and ranged from discussions about tax to debates about diversity in the legal profession and the right to overthrow a government. All participants were thoroughly engaged, regardless of their own research fields. This provided helpful feedback for the speakers and sparked interesting discussions both during the panels and over coffee.

A roundtable discussion was held about entering the academic profession, which replaced the previously planned keynote speaker, who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances. The expeditious and enthusiastic involvement of the participants to the roundtable, such as Dr Jen Hendry, Dr Mitchell Travis, Dr Mark Brown and Professor David Wall, was illustrative of the engagement of the WRDTC community. The roundtable was not only very interactive, but also provided interesting insights into the different paths into academia.

The panels might have ended at 6pm, but the debates continued on long after that. Participants did not only leave with more experience in presenting their work and knowledge of other research topics, but also with new contacts within the socio-legal community. Hopefully this year's WRDTC Socio-Legal PGR Conference will mark the beginning of a long tradition.

Magali Eben
PhD candidate

7

Legal Innovation Competition

Congratulations to Angharad Roberts, Lydia Poulson and Millie Bailey, who have won the inaugural AG/BPP Legal Innovation Competition.

The competition tested commercial awareness and initiative skills. Candidates were asked to design an innovative product that promoted legal services. The result was closely contested, with all three finalists performing superbly in the finals, held at Addleshaw Goddard LLP's Leeds offices. Alongside sharing the £250 cash prize, Angharad, Lydia and Millie have earned a valuable accolade that they can use in future applications to evidence their (tremendous) commercial awareness and initiative skills.

Karen Sewell, graduate partner at Addleshaw Goddard LLP commented: "I was truly impressed by the finalists, three excellent innovative ideas all of which have huge potential for practical application within the legal profession. The quality of the three presentations was also extremely impressive, all three teams demonstrated their ability to engage with the audience and to think on their feet in response to some challenging questions from the judging panel."



8

Woman Breaking Barriers

Women Breaking Barriers (WBB) is a new student led initiative that has been established to promote confidence and ambition amongst female students within the School of Law.

The group, supported by academic staff from within the School, plans to deliver a series of networking and social events aimed at increasing confidence and ambition amongst their female peers.

Their first event, an inaugural public lecture, took place in the Moot Court Room at the Liberty Building in semester one. The group told us more about their first event:

"We were lucky enough to have Phillippa Kaufmann QC Silk as our first speaker for the Women Breaking Barriers Group. Phillippa took silk in 2011 and her expertise spans both the public and private law arenas. She was awarded 'Human Rights and Public Law Silk of the Year' at the 2014 Chambers Bar Awards and has been involved with litigation against the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office."

9

Law's Got Talent 2015

In December 2015, students, staff and friends welcomed the return of the School's highly acclaimed Law's Got Talent competition.



Throughout the evening, singers, musicians and spoken word poets were invited to the stage by former Equality and Diversity Secretary and upcoming President of the student Law Society (LawSoc), Nadi Choudhury, who thrilled the audience with a series of dance exhibitions and crowd play.

Sharona Eivan took home first prize for 'best all round entertainer' following her fantastic acoustic set with the accompaniment of her guitar, Nash Sithole won the prize for 'most inspirational performance' following his impassioned poetic reading and LawSoc's very own boyband 'No Direction' were also recognised for their... let's say enthusiasm!

Everyone who attended agreed it was a fantastic night, all of which couldn't have taken place without the hard work of Nadi Choudhury, the LawSoc and CrimSoc committees, the Law's Got Talent judges; Nick Taylor, Richard Peake, Bren McCarthy and Charlotte Hutchison and of course, the talented acts.

All proceeds from the ticket sales went to charity Stop Hate UK.



Bridging the Gap

In 2014 the School launched a new mentoring initiative to help undergraduate students forge valuable relationships with industry professionals and key organisations in the legal and criminal justice sectors.



The Career Mentoring Scheme was set up to enhance the student experience in the area of employability and professional development and is open to all students, during their second year of study.

Students are encouraged to take the lead in driving the mentoring relationships forward and many choose to focus on areas such as interview preparation, CV and application writing and general career insight. Many students also visit the offices of their mentors, meet in the city or on campus and hold discussions over the telephone and by email. Here's a case study of one of our recent mentoring partnerships.



Alex Carver
LLB Law 1992

Alex Carver joined the scheme as a mentor in 2015 and was matched with LLB Law student Joshua Battat. Alex graduated with an LLB Law from Leeds in 1992 and is now a finance partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer where he heads the energy and infrastructure team in their London office.

Do you think the scheme is a good idea?

The scheme is a great idea, there is a world of difference between university and work. There is no reason why students would necessarily know what law firms are like before entering them, yet firms expect applicants to have at least some idea.

How do you think the scheme benefits the student?

If you want to become a practising lawyer, it must make sense to know as many people who already are, as possible. It gives the students the opportunities to ask the questions they might otherwise be afraid to ask a stranger.

Can you give us an idea of the type of support you were able to offer?

Josh and I spent some time discussing preparation for interviews and tests, including example questions and general tips etc. There are often no right or wrong answers, as such, when it comes to interview questions. It's more about showing that you can think about matters critically and going beyond the obvious.

What are your perceptions of the scheme?

I was impressed by how personable the students were. Often success in interviews is about how well you show your personality. I really did enjoy talking to them, although I was conscious that 19, 20, is still very young. The older I get, the less well I remember what it is like to be that age.



Joshua Battat
LLB Law student (Year 2)

Joshua Battat has just completed his second year of study on the LLB Law programme and is looking forward to his third and final year, after a busy summer on vacation scheme that is. Joshua is keen to pursue a career as a city lawyer after he graduates.

How did this scheme help you?

Alex helped me with interview advice and application advice from which I received an interview at Freshfields. He also helped me with commercial awareness and gave me insight into the areas I am interested in specialising in.

Where do you think your mentor was able to offer the most support?

Application advice. Alex really helped me with my style of writing and stressed the importance of the need to "stand out" and write something interviewers will find different and interesting. Alex's interview advice was also fantastic.

What would you consider to be the most valuable aspect of your experience in the scheme?

Building a strong rapport with a leading figure in the legal profession. This, I hope, will be of great help in the future and forthcoming months. I hope my relationship with Alex continues for years to come.

Anything else you would like us to know?

The mentoring programme was so useful for me and I don't think I would have secured my vacation schemes this summer at London law firms without it. The scheme gave me confidence ahead of my interviews, as did the help that Alex gave me. Thank you!

“
The mentoring programme was so useful for me and I don't think I would have secured my vacation schemes this summer at London law firms without it.
”

Stop Press!

We're delighted to announce that Josh has just secured a training contract with Norton Rose Fulbright. Congratulations!



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

Our career mentoring scheme is about to enter its third year and is currently thriving, with over 100 mentors from 70 different organisations. Members of our alumni community account for 40% of our total mentor population and we would love to see this figure increase.

Are you a professional in graduate type employment with at least two years work experience?

Would you be willing to offer constructive guidance and support to a current second year student?

Do you want to see others develop and succeed?

Express your interest and find out more by contacting us at law@leeds.ac.uk



L

Alumni in the Spotlight

“

The School of Law is fantastically lucky to have such a wide range of outstanding alumni, and I'm delighted that we are building a closer relationship with graduates of the School.

”

Professor Alastair Mullis
Head of School

Over the past year we have had some wonderful alumni events, with receptions taking place all across the globe. It is wonderful to see old class mates reuniting and getting reacquainted with each other, as well as having an opportunity to hear about current developments in the School.

We also have some fantastic old photographs from years gone by to share with you, as well as profiles of some of our alumni, showcasing the range of activities Leeds graduates are involved in.

L

Step into the Spotlight



We love to hear about what our alumni go on to achieve. So, if you would like to share your experiences with us, get in touch. You may even feature in our next alumni publication.

Email law@leeds.ac.uk to take part.

L



Jamie Williams
Police Constable,
Cambridgeshire Police

*BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
2014*

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am a 25 year old police constable, posted to the Cambridge City District of the Cambridgeshire Police. I have been involved in policing for a total of five years, including two and a half years spent working in the Leeds City Centre Neighbourhood Team for West Yorkshire Police whilst studying at the University

Why did you come to Leeds?

I have always been interested in Criminal Justice and Crime from a very young age. Growing up I had a very strong sense of right and wrong and thus that motivated me to study and now work in the law sector. I was drawn to the School of Law and the BA degree as it combined several disciplines such as Law, Social Policy and Politics into one coherent program of study. This multi-disciplined approach kept things interesting and fresh throughout the three year program and allowed everyone to choose different modules across campus, exposing you to different teaching styles and learning from students of other disciplines.

What were the highlights of your time here?

Going to Leeds was one of the best decisions I ever made. The benefit of Leeds is that not only do you get excellent teaching, you are also exposed to so much culture in one of the biggest cities in the North of England.

The benefit of the degree program is that you are trusted to direct your own learning between lectures and seminars, allowing you to develop as a person and seek out your own opportunities in the voluntary sector, getting hands-on experience in Criminal Justice.

What did you think of the city?

Leeds as a city is an extremely eclectic place with a huge student population. The city has a buzz about it and there are always activities to get involved in. The local people are extremely friendly and welcoming.

What have you been up to since graduating?

Since graduating from Leeds, I remained in the city for several months afterwards whilst continuing to work for West Yorkshire Police.

I almost immediately moved down to Cambridgeshire, the county where I grew up, to begin paid employment as a constable with that force. I have been working on a safer neighbourhood team (officers who answer 999 calls) since December 2014 and continue to do so. I was recently honoured with a commendation from the Divisional Commander of Cambridge City for outstanding work in safeguarding a vulnerable elderly member of the community.

Where do you work now?

I plan to continue working on a safer neighbourhood team for the immediate future. This is a frontline role that is extremely challenging, involving being first on the scene of assaults, robberies, domestic violence, child abuse, rapes, burglaries and various other types of criminality.

“

I was drawn to the School of Law and the BA degree as it combined several disciplines such as Law, Social Policy and Politics into one coherent program of study.

”



SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

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

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



Neil Golding
Partner in international law
firm Freshfields

*BA History 1987; LLB Law 1989
(two degrees, the law degree being the
two year course)*

Why did you choose to study law?

Completely random choice involving a very high level of ignorance about everything to do with the law. Changed my mind about wanting to be a history teacher in the final year of my history degree; my two best mates were staying on in Leeds; so another two years at university to do a law degree seemed like a good idea, even though I had never met a lawyer or knew what they did. The idea of being a law lecturer vaguely appealed at the time.

What do you miss most about the University of Leeds?

The holidays! And having most of Wednesday off to travel round the country playing sports at different universities. I seem to recollect that beating Loughborough away was particularly enjoyable.

Tell us about your career path since graduating.

Rather boring in one sense, since only been at one firm for the last 26 years. After graduating I did a year of law school, and have been at Freshfields ever since. Trainee lawyer 1990–92; associate from 92–2000; partner from 2000 to date. That said, my job has evolved over time so I obviously don't do the same thing now that I did when I was a trainee. I ended up here in the first place following a summer placement: despite my misgivings about working for a big firm in London, I loved it, and have never wanted to work anywhere else.

Give us a brief insight into your role.

Freshfields is a very large City law firm, so we tend to do big cases, usually with a significant international element. I specialise in restructuring and insolvency, so tend to get involved when clients are in some sort of financial distress, or where creditors are at risk of not getting their money back. The teams working on these cases vary in size from a few people up to several dozen on a really large matter. I am very lucky to be able to work with the top QCs in the area, and many of the clients I have known for a long time and have become good friends. I also enjoy the travelling: I have been to 60 or 70 countries on various cases over the last 20 years and it is always fun figuring out how the legal system somewhere outside England works.

Some of the pro bono work we do is also very worthwhile: getting a good result for a client who had been in a difficult situation and who would not otherwise have been able to get good legal advice is very satisfying.

Finally, I like being involved in the interview process by which we select the students who are seeking training contracts: I never cease to be amazed at the standard of the candidates who apply.

What have been the highlights so far?

I have been very lucky with the way things have panned out, so it is difficult to pick highlights. Biggest was being made a partner: fairly competitive process involving 10 years of quite hard work. Aside from that if I had to pick three things, the first would be travelling by Concorde to New York for a meeting in 1995. I had never flown long haul before, still less on Concorde, and never been to the US. It was all tremendously exciting: from the free champagne on the plane to arriving in NY and seeing the skyline I had seen so many times in movies. Next would be working on some really interesting and high profile cases when the financial crisis started: Northern Rock, Icelandic banks and Lehman Brothers. Last would be working on a big restructuring in the Caribbean a few years ago which involved presenting our proposals to various different governments.

Have you been back to the School and what brought you back? (Thoughts on changes/ students?)

I go back very regularly (once or twice a year), and enjoy all the trips which are great fun, though it is very disconcerting (as a 1987 graduate) to find that today's students were all born in the 90s. I judge the mooted competitions and give a talk to the students about career opportunities. Three changes really strike me; one is size – the University just seems (in fact is) so much bigger now; two is the nice new law building, which seems to work very well; and three is how switched on and sophisticated today's students seem to be compared to my generation. I think I'd be unemployable if I were looking for a job now.

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

More of the same really: doing very interesting work with teams of talented lawyers for clients who are for the most part extremely nice is a good way to earn a living. And in 2020 I get a sabbatical: four months off to travel round the world will be very nice; as will planning where to go. We get them every 10 years, so my first one was in 2010 – easily the best holiday I have ever had.

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

Mostly daddy stuff like driving my daughters (12 and 10) to sports tournaments and a variety of social events. Cycling and golf when I get the time.



Tania Stephanie Soris

*Bachelor of Laws
2011*

Tell us a little about yourself

I completed my Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Leeds, Master of Laws at Duke University and was the youngest candidate to have been accepted into and complete an Executive level MBA program at Temple University Japan. I have recently passed the New York State Bar examination.

Why did you choose to study Law?

I was motivated to study a Bachelor of Laws degree because I viewed the field of law to be vital to every sphere of life. The law transcends every level of society, organisation and persons. Having a deep understanding of the law and making an impact motivated me to delve deeper into the legal profession. Having been offered a scholarship to attend the University affirmed my desire to study at Leeds.

What were your most memorable moments?

The experience accumulated during my time spent at Leeds helped build a strong foundation upon which to build my career. The most memorable experience would be attributed to the relationships that were created and developed over the years during and following the completion of my degree. I found being actively involved at the Law School to be very enjoyable. I was voted as the International Student Representative and I was a member of several committees at the Law School.

How would you describe the facilities at the University?

I was in my third year when the School shifted to the new law building. I was extremely happy to have had the opportunity to witness all the new facilities awarded to the students.

How did you find the city?

Leeds offers the perfect balance conducive to both academia as well as a thriving student life.

What have you done since graduating?

Following my graduation from the University of Leeds, I carried out a legal fellowship at an anti child sex trafficking organisation in India, interned at two international law firms in Dubai and worked in-house at a corporation in Tokyo. I have also been selected to be the UAE National Representative for the International Bar Association.

Throughout this whole process, I have kept in touch with the law school staff at Leeds and they have constantly helped with any support that I have requested of them. I am truly appreciative and grateful for all the tremendous assistance I received from the staff post graduation.

What are you doing at the moment?

I am currently conducting a legal placement at a nationally renowned law firm in New York City. My plan is to secure a junior attorney position at the dispute resolution department of a US or UK based law firm.



“
Leeds offers the perfect balance conducive to both academia as well as a thriving student life.
”



1

Fulbright Scholarship awarded for U.S. study

Jesudevan Viveganandam, a Singaporean LLB student who graduated from the School of Law in 2003, has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship that will enable him to pursue his Masters in Law at NYU in the coming academic year.

Tell us about the Fulbright Scholarship

This flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, and is administered by the Department of State and the Institute of International Education (IIE).

On what grounds do the selection panel assess applicants?

I understand there are a number of areas considered; in addition to outstanding academic records the selection panel looks for potential leadership capabilities, demonstrable involvement in community outreach and the motivation and commitment to graduate study.

Did your time at Leeds prepare you for your next steps?

Definitely. At Leeds University, I benefited from its unique pedagogy of approaching the law from both a traditional and practical angle. It prepared me for real lawyering and to think creatively. I graduated feeling motivated to investigate the policy behind the law, and think out of the box to address new challenges in an increasingly complex and global landscape.



2

Lord Denning Scholarship for LLM graduate

Jodie Wildridge has been awarded a Lord Denning Scholarship to cover the cost of her Bar Professional Training Course for 2016–17 after completing her LLM in International Banking and Finance Law at the University of Leeds in 2015.

“I have always wanted to pursue a career at the Bar, after graduating I joined the Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn, and applied to study for the Bar Professional Training Course at BPP Leeds.

I completed the considerably lengthy application form for the merit based Hardwicke Entrance Award, and the Lincoln’s Inn Major BPTC Awards, and was quite quickly offered the Entrance Award; which covers Inn admission, call fees and certain qualifying session charges, plus one sitting of the Bar Council Aptitude Test. To my surprise, I was then called for an interview for the Major BPTC Awards; and as I had applied to study at a School outside of London, I was given the option to be interviewed in Manchester.

The interview was fairly short, and was conducted by a panel of two barristers, one judge, and a member of the Lincoln’s Inn Treasury Committee; who, quite thankfully, were much less intimidating than I had expected! Six very long weeks later, I received an email to inform me that I was being awarded a Lord Denning Scholarship of £14,700 to contribute to my BPTC fees.”

3

Law alumni recognised at Global Freedom of Expression Awards

Two PhD graduates from the School of Law were awarded prizes at the 2016 Columbia Global Freedom of Expression awards in New York on 14 March 2016.

Professor Yaman Akdeniz and Associate Professor Kerem Altiparmak, now both working for Turkish universities, were recognised for bringing a successful action to the European Court of Human Rights following the blocking of YouTube access by the Ankara Criminal Court in Turkey. Together with Attorney at Law Serkan Cengiz, the trio challenged the court’s decision on the ground that banning access to entire websites amounts to censorship in contravention of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Cengiz, Akdeniz, and Altiparmak persuaded the ECtHR to recognise that victims of this kind of censorship include individuals, who can legitimately claim that their right to receive and impart information and ideas, have been affected even if they are not directly targeted, establishing broad user rights for further legal challenges. When studying at the University of Leeds both Yaman and Kerem conducted their research under the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies.



SHARE YOUR NEWS

If you have news to share and would like to feature in future issues of Liberty, or on the alumni pages of the School of Law website, get in touch, we would be very happy to hear from you.

law@leeds.ac.uk

4

University of Leeds alumni dominate honorary Queen’s Council appointments

Professor Emeritus Clive Walker, School of Law alumnus and long standing professor at the University of Leeds has recently been appointed as a Queen’s Counsel Honoris Causa (honorary QC) for his contribution to the UK law on terrorism. The appointment is one of eight in total, of which three are University of Leeds alumni; Clive Walker, Robert Blackburn and Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE.

The award of Honorary Queen’s Council is made to lawyers who have made a major contribution to the law of England and Wales, outside practice in the courts. The Ministry of Justice invited nominations for consideration as Honorary QC during the period 19 June 2015 to 18 September 2015. Following an assessment by a small selection panel, the Lord Chancellor passed on his recommendations to Her Majesty the Queen in December 2015.

Professor Clive Walker completed his LLB Law degree at the University of Leeds in 1975 and is still in situ at the School of Law today, as an Emeritus Professor. He has been recognised for making a major contribution to the UK law on terrorism over many years and has been regarded as an international expert in this field since the 1980s. He has been recommended for his work as an adviser to the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation and for his contribution to the UK law on terrorism. He has written several authoritative books and articles on counter terrorism legislation and has researched this area extensively. He advised Lord Carlile QC when he was Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation and also assists the current holder of this role, David Anderson QC. Professor Walker’s work was important in the introduction of TPIMs (Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures). He has also regularly assisted professionals involved in counter terrorism work.

Robert Blackburn, solicitor and Professor of Constitutional Law at King’s College London also received the prestigious honour. Professor Blackburn was awarded three degrees by the University of Leeds; BA History (1974), PhD Law (1986) and LLD Constitutional Law (2005). He has been recommended for his constitutional law work and in particular for his report on how a written constitution might work. He is the author of several key academic works and numerous articles, having written extensively on areas of constitutional law, including authoritative works on Parliament, the Monarchy, the electoral system, Crown proceedings and constitutional reform. His works include contributing four titles to Halsbury’s Laws of England. He has on numerous occasions been called to provide written and oral evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees and public inquiries on matters related to electoral and constitutional reform.

Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE, was also appointed the title of Honorary QC. Anne-Marie is not a School of Law alumna, but instead graduated from the University of Leeds with a degree International History and Politics in 1980. Anne-Marie is a solicitor who specialises in international children’s cases. She was nominated particularly because of her efforts in encouraging countries to sign up to the Hague Convention. She was awarded the inaugural UNICEF Child Rights Lawyer award in 1999 and an OBE for her services to international child abduction and adoption in the 2002 Queen’s New Year’s Honours List. In 2004 she was selected as



Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year for her work with the victims of forced marriage and in 2010, she received the International Bar Association’s Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award. She has also been active bringing to the attention of many other governments around the world other important issues related to the field of child law.

The Lord Chancellor presided over the appointment ceremony at Westminster Hall on 22 February 2016, where the rank was formally bestowed upon the successful applicants.

The Lord Chancellor said: “I congratulate the eight new Honorary Queen’s Counsel. Their appointments recognise the major contribution each has made to the law of England and Wales outside of practice in the courts, in some cases in careers spanning many years.”

The School of Law congratulates Clive, Robert and Anne-Marie and wishes them all the best in their future endeavours.

Alumni Events

— Over the past year we have held alumni events all over the world. Here are some of the highlights.

Malaysia 12 January 2016



Over 40 Malaysian alumni from the School of Law met with Head of School, Professor Alastair Mullis, in Kuala Lumpur, on 12 January 2016.

Guests, spanning decades of life at the University of Leeds, met for drinks and canapes in the relaxed environment of La Bodega in Bangsar, during Professor Mullis' trip across South East Asia.



Singapore 13 January 2016

Our Singaporean alumni also came together to celebrate their time as students of the School of Law on 13 January 2016. A dinner was held at The Klapsons Boutique Hotel in Singapore and again was hosted by Professor Alastair Mullis.

Solicitors, partners, judges and academics were acquainted and reunited over a festive feast at this stylish Singapore hotel.



Hong Kong 9 March 2016



Professor Joan Loughrey, Deputy Head of School, met with a group of former students, now based in Hong Kong, for dinner at a lovely Greek and Middle Eastern restaurant on 9 March 2016. Professor Loughrey, who once lived in Hong Kong herself, thoroughly enjoyed meeting our local alumni.



HOST YOUR OWN REUNION

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

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

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

Email: law@leeds.ac.uk
Telephone: 0113 343 5007

Leeds 6 May 2016

Over 30 law alumni who graduated from the University of Leeds between 1950 and 1974, joined Professor Alastair Mullis and a number of colleagues from the School of Law, for a dinner on 6 May 2016.

Guests were welcomed with a sparkling wine reception and invited to take a tour of The Liberty Building, the new home of the School of Law, before dining at University House, a fine dining suite in the heart of the University of Leeds campus.



London Calling

Almost 100 alumni and their guests joined us for a fantastic reception hosted by the Lord Low of Dalston CBE, on 24 June 2016. Held in the Peers' Dining Room of the House of Lords, this event brought together alumni spanning eight decades of the School's history.



House of Lords 24 June 2016



On arrival, our guests were given a private tour of the Houses of Parliament, having the opportunity to visit both chambers and hear interesting stories from the 'Mother of all Parliaments'.

A wine reception then took place in the prestigious Peer's Dining Room and a welcoming speech was delivered by Lord Low. He also spoke about his time as an academic in Leeds and the efforts that the School is now taking to engage with and support its alumni community.



Professor Alastair Mullis, Head of School, then gave an overview of the current work of the School, speaking about the School today and the importance of our alumni community

Alumni, guests and staff from the School of Law enjoyed a selection of the finest canapés and reminisced long into the evening over our catalogue of finalist's photographs.

Finalists' Photographs

— Here is a selection of our finalists' photographs from the last 70 years.

1949



1976



1986



1996



2006



LIKE A COPY?

We've got a good selection of these going back to the 1960s – if you'd like a high resolution scan of your year please e-mail law@leeds.ac.uk

2016

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