

LEEDS LAW

School of Law
Alumni Magazine
— Issue Five 2019

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THE SCHOOL OF LAW
IS MORE THAN JUST
BRICKS AND MORTAR

*Just some of the people
who have had a positive
impact on the School*

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Committed to trying to change
the world for the better*

MAPPING OUR CHANGING
STUDENT COHORT

Growing and developing

120 YEARS OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

History of the School from 1889 – today



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



**School of Law
Alumni Magazine**

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**MANY THANKS TO ALL STAFF,
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Welcome

From a small college in Leeds teaching articled clerks to pass the solicitors' finals to a truly global school of law and criminology, the last 120 years have seen extraordinary changes.

In 1899, just 22 students entered what was to become the School of Law. All were studying part-time. All were male and almost all were from Yorkshire. They were taught by just three people. What a difference 120 years has made. We now have more than 1500 students, the majority of whom are women, from 50 or so countries. They are taught by a full time faculty of 80 academics, many of whom are world leaders in their fields, in a purpose built law school building that rivals the best in the world. The School is now one of the most popular choices for undergraduate and postgraduate study of law and criminology in the UK. Outside London, no university has a larger Masters programme than we do and we now get more than 5000 applications every year to study for an undergraduate degree. In short, the School is thriving in both research and education. It is a great time to be here.

You, our graduates, have achieved remarkable things over the last 120 years. In the legal profession, alumni of the School have become judges in this country and abroad, heads of prosecution services, partners in a huge range of different law firms, successful advocates and in-house lawyers. You have also led in many other areas of human activity. We have not, as yet, had a prime minister or president so far as we are aware, but graduates have become government ministers in the UK and abroad, distinguished politicians, civil servants, business people, journalists, academics and much more. The contribution of Leeds law and criminology graduates has been significant. You have played your part in trying to make the world a better place and we are proud of you.

Perhaps most importantly, we have produced generation after generation of thoroughly decent people who care about the law school community. I travel extensively in my role as Head of School. One of the things that strikes me every time I meet a group of alumni, whether that be in the UK or abroad, is that you enjoyed your time at Leeds and learned a great deal from being here and being part of our community. It is humbling to listen to you talk about how much those in the School meant to you and how much you learned from them and each other. The stories I hear about the School and our people and their impact on you as individuals reinforces for me the power and importance of education. We are a very different School today than we were 120 years ago but remaining true to the legacy of those who came before us is ever present in my mind. Yes, we are a powerful research institution. Yes, we regularly rank among the very top schools of law for student education. But most importantly, we are a powerful community of staff, students and alumni. That must remain at the core of what we are about and that is why, for me, remaining in touch with our alumni is so important. You are our best ambassadors, you support us in many ways, whether financially or through your time. For this I am very grateful.

So on this our 120th anniversary, I offer a couple of thoughts. We have achieved great things individually and as a community but we need to press on. We cannot afford any sense of complacency. How we do things even better than we are doing now is a question I constantly ask myself. What I do know is that we need your help and support

as we move ahead. Do please give thought to supporting your School financially if you can or with your time. The support many of you have given us has been hugely important in enabling us to push the School and our students to new heights and we will continue to need that as we move forward. Finally, the critical element in what we have achieved so far and what we will need to thrive in the future, is our people. Our predecessors built something of real value that we have tried to build on. If we are going to continue to succeed we need to provide an environment in which people feel valued for what they do and supported in their aspirations. I am incredibly fortunate in my colleagues, our students and our alumni. If there is anything that guides me it is the adage 'do right by the people around you because you are nothing without them'. So long as we continue to provide the right environment, I am confident that we can continue to do well and that the next 120 years will be even more successful than the last.



Alastair Mullis
Head of School



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A brief history of our School

Originally founded in 1899 and located in the Baines Wing, September 2019 will see us take our 120th intake of students. Over that time the School has changed very significantly from one focussed entirely on professional education to the global research and education community it is today.

Origins of our School

After an initial, unsuccessful, attempt to introduce the teaching of law at the Yorkshire College, which was the predecessor of the University of Leeds, the Yorkshire Board of Legal Studies (which represented local Law Societies) offered the College in 1898 an annual grant of £450 to establish a law department in order to prepare candidates for university degrees and professional examinations.

When the University of Leeds was founded in 1904, the School became part of the new University.

Our first Chair of Law, Walter Philips, was appointed in 1899 to head up the School. Philips had previously been Professor of Roman Law at the University of Adelaide. Three lecturers were appointed soon after Professor Philips but only one of them, G Glover Alexander, was reappointed for the second session. Until just after the First World War, teaching in the School was carried out by just one professor and one lecturer.

Teaching started in 1899 when the first cohort of 22 students was admitted. The majority of these were part-time, non-degree, students who were studying for one year in preparation for the Law Society's Intermediate Examination while working as articled clerks. There were only a handful of degree students studying for their LLB, which gave exemption from the Intermediate Examination, but most of these, like their fellow one-year students, were also working as articled clerks.

1919 1951

A new era

In 1919 Professor Philips resigned to take up a post at Khedival College in Cairo and John Hughes was appointed in his place. The bulk of the teaching was still instructing part-time students studying for their professional exams. However, Professor Hughes worked to set up an Honours LLB with a heavier syllabus than the ordinary LLB.

He also started the work necessary to build up the Law Library to a standard that would support advanced research.

In 1936 our School moved from the Baines Wing to new premises in the newly built Brotherton Library where it remained until moving to Lyddon Terrace in the late 1950s.



The Brotherton Library

1951 1975

Expansion and growth

When Hughes retired in 1951 he was replaced by Philip James who oversaw a period of rapid expansion in the School. Not only did the number of staff increase but it was Professor James who oversaw our move to larger accommodation in Lyddon Terrace.

It was also in this era that the teaching emphasis changed with the School focusing on LLB and postgraduate degrees rather than the year-long qualifications that had been the mainstay of education before then.

Perhaps though the biggest change in this period was the move to Lyddon Terrace, a location that will be familiar to many of our graduates. Professor James was adamant that the School needed its own accommodation in order to continue to grow. Discussions began in the mid-1950s and a move from the Brotherton to 20 Lyddon Terrace took place in 1957. After this the University gradually acquired more properties in the area with the first major expansion into 22-26 Lyddon Terrace taking place in 1972.



Class of 1957



Lyddon Terrace home of the school from 1957 – 2011

1975 2000

Heading towards a new century

The period from 1975 to 2000 saw a steady expansion of the School. Under the leadership of the legendary Brian Hogan, who was Head of School three times during this period, and Peter Seago, the School increased the size of the professoriate from two in 1975 to seven by the end of the century.

The period also saw a rise in the importance of research in the School as it responded to the introduction in 1986 of the first government mandated Research Assessment Exercises. The first of the School's research centres, the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, was founded in 1987 and has since then established itself as one of the pre-eminent centres in the world for research into criminology and criminal justice.

During this time there was also another major expansion of the Law Library when a new wing was built to the rear of 20 Lyddon Terrace. The new wing was finished in 1981 and saw the size of the Library greatly increase.



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk

“

Professor James was adamant that the School needed its own accommodation in order to continue to grow.

”

2000 present

The Liberty Years

The new century has seen the School continue to develop. There have been significant changes in the make-up of our student population. While international students made up only a very small population of the student body in the 20th century, today nearly 35% of our students are international. The undergraduate school now consists of nearly 1000 law students with a further 150 students taking the BA in criminal justice and criminology. At postgraduate level, there are 300 postgraduate taught students from more than 40 countries studying subjects ranging from commercial law, to international law and human rights, law and social justice and criminology and criminal justice. We also have nearly 100 PhD students currently studying in the School. Altogether we have just short of 1600 students.

The number of academics working in the School has also grown significantly, particularly in the last 6 years. We now have around 80 academic staff, of which 28 are full professors. The School and students are supported by nearly 30 experienced and dedicated administrative and professional colleagues.



Our custom built home the Liberty Building

One of the most significant moments in recent years was our move to the Liberty Building. It had become clear that we were outgrowing our premises in Lyddon Terrace, even after major refurbishment and building work, and we would need custom built premises if we were going to be able to compete with the best universities in the UK and internationally. In 2011, we moved from the much loved, though somewhat tired Victorian terraced houses of Lyddon Terrace, to the Liberty Building which was built next door to the University's Business School on the old Leeds Grammar School site. The new building has not only allowed us to grow but has many other benefits especially when it comes to accessibility for students and staff.

More than just bricks and mortar

For 120 years it has been a community shaped in different ways by the many students and staff who have passed through its doors. It is impossible to discuss all those who have had such an impact but having worked here for 25 years there are various names that crop up with consistency when I speak to graduates.

If I don't mention someone who has had a positive impact on you please feel free to let me know and a future edition of this magazine may discuss them. For now I hope I manage to mention at least one or two names that you might recall from your time at Leeds. I will begin by first breaching my own criteria. No-one will remember the first name, **Professor W R Phillips**, but in this 120th celebratory year it would be wrong not to start here.

Professor Phillips was the first Dean of the Law Faculty, then under the Yorkshire College in Leeds. Though direct memories are of course long lost, his obituary published in the University magazine, the Gryphon, stated that "Professor Phillips brought a penetrating intellect ... a sturdy sense of humour hostile to all pedantry, and a catholic interest in humanistic sciences ... These great gifts he lavished upon his pupils: no demand on his time and energy was ever refused."

It is interesting to note such a strong commitment to students. One's perception of a professor in the 1890s might have been of an austere personality with a more hierarchical outlook. The first graduate under Professor Phillips Deanship was **James Sykes** who was awarded an LLB in 1902. His degree was in fact awarded by Victoria University so it will perhaps be remiss not to mention **Hubert Scott** and **John McConnell** who were the first two graduates to be awarded an LLB by the University of Leeds.

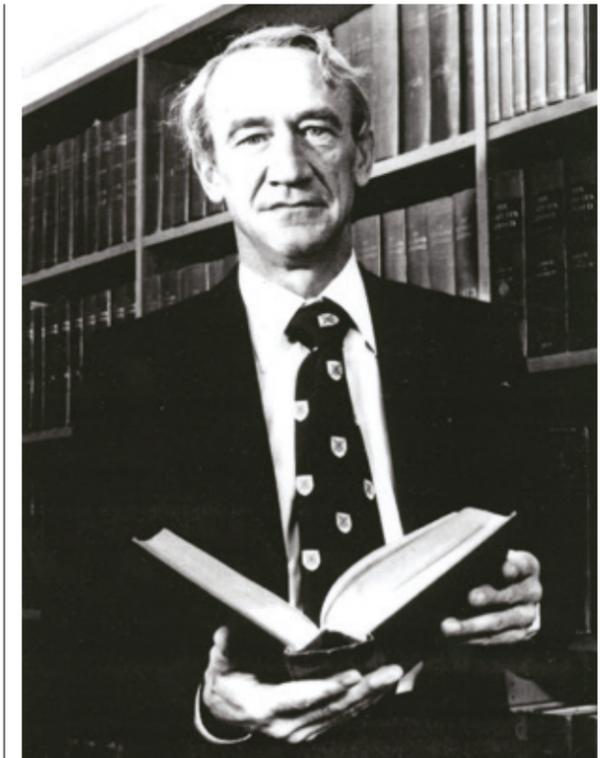
Moving on to those individuals who are affectionately remembered by many of our students, a particular figure of note would be **Professor Phillip James**. As Head of School in the 50s and 60s Professor James is very fondly thought of. Almost without exception he is the first name mentioned by graduates of that era. It was Professor James who moved the School to its iconic home at Lyddon Terrace and oversaw a great expansion in both student and staff numbers. After Leeds Professor James set up the Law Department at University College Buckingham (renamed the University of Buckingham in 1983). He is still remembered in the School today through a bequest which supports the 'Professor James Lecture' series.



Nick Taylor
Director of Student Education

“
Professor Phillips brought a penetrating intellect ... a sturdy sense of humour hostile to all pedantry, and a catholic interest in humanistic sciences ... These great gifts he lavished upon his pupils: no demand on his time and energy was ever refused.

”



Professor Brian Hogan



Professor Phillip James

When speaking to current alumni there are a number of others who are regularly referenced with great affection from their time at Leeds. Possibly the doyen of law professors at Leeds and someone who appears synonymous with the School is **Professor Brian Hogan**. Almost without exception, alumni and staff throughout the late 60s, 70s, 80s and into the 90s mention Brian with absolute respect and warmth. He was Professor of Common Law at Leeds from 1967 to 1996, acting as Head of School on three occasions as well as serving as the University's Pro-Vice Chancellor in the 1980s. Without doubt one of the leading scholars of his generation, Brian nonetheless gave every lecture and every student his full attention. Always lively and engaging, Brian's lectures were not to be missed. Letitia de Graft Johnson (Law 1992) remembers that "his classes were electrifying, full of wit and drama. I remember being so enthralled I failed to take any worthwhile notes during my first two classes ... his delivery just swept me up". I would absolutely concur.

I can also myself remember being told by this esteemed professor that if any students were ever to find themselves in a difficult position whilst at Leeds, academically or personally, then they could call upon him. It made you feel special. Andrew Caulfield (Law 1988) remembers Brian wearing his Walkman and headset long before the development of mobile phones or iPods. However he did so whilst invigilating exams and as he passed each student he left them guessing what the tinny noise emanating from his headset was. I recall he once told me that as he passed through the Law Library (then in Lyddon Terrace) one evening, he caught two students in-flagrante. Without breaking stride he simply asked them to keep the noise to a minimum. The major textbook for criminal law today, now written by Professor David Ormerod (who taught criminal law at Leeds before undertaking a role at the Law Commission), is still officially titled "Smith & Hogan's Criminal Law".

“
Brian Hogan’s classes were electrifying, full of wit and drama. I remember being so enthralled I failed to take any worthwhile notes during my first two classes ... his delivery just swept me up.
 ”



Professor Rogers, Professor Guo and Peter Seago in July 1989

Close to Brian were **Peter Seago** and, to give him the name students will remember, **W V H Rogers**. Peter taught family law, criminal law and evidence and was very much a gentleman and a gentle man. He was the Head of School who offered me a job in 1993 and without doubt changed the course of my life. Many students will remember using his criminal law textbook on the cover of which Peter would appear Hitchcock like. On one edition being interviewed by police, on another being marched away from the Law School after being arrested (both fictitious of course). In the School records there is a note from Brian Hogan in the late 70s which says of Peter “he does everything with such enthusiasm that his students can’t fail to be affected by it ... he is so very helpful and so very good”. Professor Rogers was someone who had a different aura around him when lecturing. His classes were tough and much was demanded of you. You got the feeling that you just wanted to hang onto the tails of his gown (which incidentally he did wear in class), and hope the material went in by osmosis. I suspect it’s apocryphal but it was always rumoured that he re-enacted a famous scene from “The Paper Chase” (the section where a student is asked to phone home and inform his parents that he won’t make a lawyer). Fictitious or otherwise it added to the aura. I remember as a young

lecturer, preparing to deliver some of his seminars, and a group of more junior staff used to get together to discuss what the answers might be such were the complexity of the questions – once a student always a student (Leeds for Life perhaps?)

Around the same period many students also recall their interactions with one **M L S Passey**. His dedication to international students in particular became the stuff of legend. Somewhat eccentric, Michael’s office was by the late 80s completely full of editions of The Times newspaper. So much so in fact that Michael himself had to move to a different office to conduct his tutorials. There were many occasions when he stayed overnight in the School on a camp bed. For many, many years from the 70s through to the 90s Michael insisted on informing students in the handbook that the University did not have a swimming pool. Many hundreds of alumni from that period will no doubt be pleased to know that the University does now have a swimming pool. Even in the era of email Michael insisted that all of his messages be handwritten, photocopied and placed in pigeonholes. Reading these notes was a joy, be it a reference to look out for “slack jawed youths” or a request for an exact number of staples to be delivered. I also recall his detailed written note on



Howard Davies

a whiteboard about which pens were appropriate to use on the board. Such was the length of the note any pen would have been pointless for there was no room left.

Another key figure from the 80s would be **Howard Davies**. Howard taught torts and his main passion, jurisprudence. His Welsh accent gave his lectures a lyrical touch. Watching him fist pumping and booming out his analysis of cases was a joy to behold. I seem to remember that in torts classes every scenario involved some peril to a Ming vase. Similar to Brian, Howard was someone whom you often forgot to take notes from because you simply wanted to listen and enjoy the theatre.

Any student who came to Leeds through the 70s or 80s would surely also recall **Tina Wigley**. Tina managed the student office. To many students Tina would have been the face of the school given that she would regularly shout out “Hiya” through the hatch in her best Yorkshire accent. I was one of those students who felt somewhat out of place initially as I came from a working class background. I’m sure many others did but it was a feature that few wanted to broadcast. Tina however cared not a jot about background or status. She treated everybody the same,

in the same down to earth manner. She definitely helped me to settle at Leeds.

The 1980s saw a number of staff beginning their careers at Leeds who remain at Leeds to this day. In the late 80s I was taught by the likes of Professors Clive Walker, Norma Martin Clement, Ian Cram, Anna Lawson and Michael Cardwell, all of whom are still colleagues. **Clive Walker** has for many years produced world leading research in terrorism. He has supervised countless PhDs and his recent University award for his PhD supervision reflects the fact that his passion for his subject remains undimmed and is clearly passed onto all of his students. He is particularly fondly remembered by international students probably because he was at the centre of establishing some of our most important and enduring international links. Clive was my dissertation tutor in 1991-2. His skilful supervision enabled me to produce a piece of work that was subsequently published. This was the key factor in pursuing a career choice, academia, I hadn’t to that point considered (quick memo to current students – the dissertation really is important). His influence on my career is without doubt pivotal as he will have been for so many others.



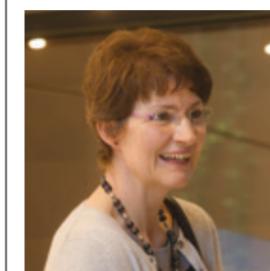
Prof W V Horton Rogers presenting the Convey-Quest Trophy for Advocacy to Anthony Richmond 1983-86



Ian Cram, Tina Wigley, Chloe Wallace, Roger Halson, Norma Martin Clement, Richard Peake and Nick Taylor on a staff away day 2010



Clive Walker speaking at a Centre for Criminal Justice Studies lecture in 2017



Norma Martin Clement at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies



Colin Low at an alumni event at the House of Lords in 2016

Norma Martin Clement has been in the School for over 35 years. For the vast majority of that time students will have encountered Norma in family law classes. She has played a huge role in the recruitment of international students and students from Canada to the Far East will recall Norma's support and soft but unmistakable Belfast twang. Many will recall, when visiting Norma's office, being enthusiastically greeted by Phoebe, Norma's Bedlington Terrier. Unfortunately bringing dogs to work is a thing of the past. Clearly this principle does not apply to Anna Lawson's faithful guide dogs. Anna taught me land law in the late 80s, following her award winning undergraduate days at Leeds. In her very understated way Anna remains a fantastic role model not just academically but personally. Anna is now a global leader in the development of disability rights, an area in which Leeds has considerable strength. The Chair of our current Advisory Board is Lord Low of Dalston – you might remember him better as lecturer **Colin Low** who taught at Leeds between 1968–1984. Lord Low of Dalston CBE, Colin, is former Chair and now Vice-President of the RNIB and in 2014 was awarded the Liberty Human Rights Campaigner of the Year Award. He continues to be an excellent

advocate for the School. Though many students will recall the School's leadership in, and commitment to, social justice, on a more personal level the question many graduates have is about the welfare of Anna's dogs. Many have very fond memories of Hamlet (a golden Labrador), Yana (a German shepherd) and more recently Ufty (a German shepherd with a somewhat independent streak). Ufty was a beloved member of the School but has sadly recently passed away.

Teaching property law for many of the past 30 years alongside Anna, has been **Michael Cardwell**. With the greatest affection he has been known through the years as Tardy Cardy. I have never come across a student who has had anything other than the kindest of words for Michael. He is, in the best sense, old school, always giving students time. Students down the years have greatly valued Michael's affable approach – Michael still prefers personal interaction rather than the more convenient but less personable email. He was certainly one of the first lecturers with whom I can remember having everyday conversations. Why Tardy Cardy? It would be rare for Michael to arrive early for an appointment but equally you will never be short changed in terms of the support he gives you.

“
Anna is now a global leader in the development of disability rights an area in which Leeds has considerable strength.
 ”



Anna Lawson with guide dog Yana in 2009



Michael Cardwell

Ian Cram has also now been in the School for more than 30 years. Again, though he has a stellar academic career and will have taught many, many students constitutional law many will recall his sporting prowess. A regular 5-a-side player, runner and cricketer, Ian was instrumental in setting up the staff-student cricket match with then LawSoc President Lee McAteer in 2007. It must have been his skill and charm that ensured for the first three years the umpire was one G Boycott OBE. The cricket match, playing for the Cram-McAteer trophy, is now a firm annual fixture in the School calendar. Ian also knows his way around a golf course because although he does not score particularly low, his handicap is the oldest set of golf clubs the Beamish museum could lend him. If you have never seen wooden golf clubs, Ian is your man.

I became a member of staff in the School of Law in 1993 after graduating in 1992. Though it only feels like yesterday it was two more years before I was given a computer to work with. One of the first things I taught was English legal system – something I have taught every student who has been through the Law School since. Dealing with students is the part of my job that I value the most. It has been not only intellectually challenging and stimulating but I have made literally thousands of friends all over the world. In more recent times I have been involved in a number of alumni activities and it has been wonderful to see just how successful students have been personally and professionally in many different fields. In 1995 I managed to secure a highly valued University car park pass following my marriage to **Rachael Haist**, a member of the office staff

(and car park pass holder). Rachael has been in the School for over 30 years now and will have dealt with virtually every student who has been through the school since 1989. Administrative colleagues such as Rachael and Tina are very much the people who ensure the smooth operation of the School. The value of the non-academic interaction between staff and students cannot be overestimated. Such relations are absolutely key in developing and maintaining the School's community atmosphere. For the record we still have a joint car park pass.

Joining the School in 2003, **Roger Halson** has since that point educated many students about the intricacies of contract law, and the complexities of riding a motorbike. Since he arrived Roger has been an excellent colleague and a good friend of mine. However, I have to say that a particularly favourite recollection of mine is driving with my family in a packed car through the south of France and passing Roger, hands on hips, stood by his malfunctioning Porsche on the hard shoulder. I would like to have stopped and helped ... but I didn't. I'm sure he too cherishes the memory dearly.



Geoffrey Boycott OBE and Ian Cram at the Staff Vs Student cricket match 2008



Roger Halson



Ian Cram and Lee McAteer with the Cram McAteer trophy



Chloe Wallace



Alastair Mullis

For many years **Chloe Wallace**, as tutor for admissions, was the face of open days in the School. Her knowledge, personable and straightforward approach has clearly been highly valued by prospective students and their parents. Applications to Leeds have increased enormously as a result. Chloe has particular expertise in our international exchange programmes and works closely with students who decide to study abroad for a year – if you want to know about all things French Chloe is the person to go to.

In 2015 I was the runner up in the Law Teacher of the Year competition. In 2018 the award was won by one of my personal tutees from 2000, **Lydia Bleasdale**. Lydia graduated in 2003 and came back as a lecturer in 2005. Since then she has influenced countless students through her dedication to student education and her enormous contribution to developing and growing the School's community engagement activities. The 2018 award was a thoroughly justified reflection of her contribution, especially given the involvement of students in the nomination and recommendation process. Almost certainly Lydia has tutored and will tutor future School staff who will continue to influence students in the most positive of ways.

The past 25 years have gone by incredibly quickly. I think that must be an indication that I have and do enjoy my work. Working in the School of Law brings me into contact with wonderful people. At the start of every academic year I make a point of telling new students that the degree will pass by quickly. Every year on graduation day they confirm my “warning”. Though it passes by swiftly, university days do seem to have a lasting impact. If you have memories of your time at Leeds please do share them – it makes our community stronger and richer.

The current Head of School, **Alastair Mullis** has ensured students are at the front and centre of what the School is about. What was said of Professor Phillips applies equally now, if not more so. He recognises the importance and value alumni can bring to the school. This more outward facing approach has helped to place the School in the strongest position that it ever has been. Please ride that wave and be an active member of our increasingly strong community.



Lydia Bleasdale at the Law Teacher of the year competition 2018



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

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LawSoc and CrimSoc presidents

— *LawSoc and CrimSoc are a vital part of our School community. Every year they plan a number of activities and opportunities for our students. Their contribution to our School is immeasurable.*

Below is a list of presidents from 2006/07 but we would love to add to this list. If you were or know a past committee member for LawSoc or CrimSoc please do get in touch.



Quinton McAndrews LawSoc president for 2019/20 with Abdulaziz Adekola LawSoc president 2018/19



Charlee Lewis-Rodgers current CrimSoc president

LawSoc

2006/07
Lee McAteer

2007/08
Nicholas Steiert

2008/09
Andrew Bonsall

2009/10
Emma Charnock

2010/11
Jessica Smith

2011/12
Emma L Bates

2012/13
Jake Rylatt

2013/14
Daniel Fielding

2014/15
Saahil Sheth

2015/16
Brendan McCarthy

2016/17
Nadirur Choudhury

2017/18
Georgia Ma

2018/19
Abdulaziz Adekola

CrimSoc

2006/07
Katharine Nicholls

2007/08
Sian Griffiths

2009/10
Marika Nargi

2010/11
Stuart Parks

2011/12
Richard Shepherd

2012/13
Benjamin Coleborn

2013/14
Jamie Williams

2014/15
Megan Sharp

2015/16
Charlotte Hutchison

2016/17
Luke Hutchinson

2017/18
Thomas Green

2018/19
Charlee Lewis-Rodgers



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

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Mapping our changing student cohort

Since the first session of the School in October 1899, education of our students – first in law and more recently in law and criminology – has been at the heart of what we are about.



The 1949–50 class photo

The student body has however changed significantly over the last 120 years. The starting cohort was just 22 students, almost all of whom were local, male and part-time. Today the place looks very different. There is a wider range of courses on offer, the cohort mix has changed dramatically and almost all our students are now full-time. Below we look back from 1899 to the present day to get a picture of the changing nature of our student cohort.



A growing school

Perhaps the most striking change over the period is the increase in number of students studying in the School. It is trite to say that ‘mighty oaks from small acorns grow’ but that accurately describes the growth from the 22 who enrolled in October 1899 to the more than 1550 students we now have in the School. Our students now study on a variety of courses including the LLB, the BA in Criminal Justice and Criminology, our taught postgraduate programmes in law and criminology and our PhD programme. At undergraduate level, just over 300 begin the LLB degree each year and 50 commence the BA in Criminal Justice and Criminology. At postgraduate level some 300 take LLM and MSc programmes each year and about 30 start a PhD.

This all contrasts sharply with the early days of the School. Growth was steady from our earliest days but even by 1982 there were only 300 students registered. The expansion of higher education in the 1990s and 2000s saw the School growing quickly and by 2007 we had just over 700 students. Since then the School has more than doubled in size to its current 1550. Modest growth is planned over the next few years and we have probably now reached what is an optimum size for a law school in the current world.



The undergraduate finalists of 2018

Educating women

One of the most significant changes to the student body has been in the number of women studying in the School. Although the Yorkshire College, which would later become the University of Leeds, was open to women, very few studied here. Initially, the study of law was almost universally undertaken by men who were articled to local solicitors and this pattern continued into the 1960s. For example, of the 98 students studying in the School in 1951, only 10 were women.

Alumnus David Griffiths (Law 1971) who studied in the School in the late 1960s witnessed first-hand the changing gender balance in the then faculty: “When I took up my place [in 1968] I was one of about 100 first year students of whom 20 were women but within three years the gender balance in the first year started to become more equal.”

While the gender balance may have seemed more equal, it was still only around a quarter of students who were female. However in the 1970s, the percentage of women in the School rose sharply such that by the end of that decade women made up 42% of the School population. By 1996, parity had been reached and since that time the balance has shifted in favour of women. At undergraduate level, nearly 75% of students admitted last year were women. At postgraduate level, the balance is more even but women still outnumber men. This is a pattern seen in most Russell Group law schools and reflects the outperformance by women at A-level.

“
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 ”



The finalists of 1961



The finalists in 1996

“
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 ”



Our Postgraduate students at their recent prom

The decline in part-time study and the rise in postgraduate study

Until 1963, the majority of students in the School were part-time and articled to local solicitors. Under the Solicitors Act 1922, anyone wanting to be a solicitor was required to attend a ‘statutory year’ course in a school approved by the Law Society before they could take their final examination. This meant that students divided their time between University and the offices where they were articled. Students could also study for an LLB which would exempt them from the Law Society’s Intermediate Exam but like their statutory year peers LLB students would still be working in firms at the same time as studying.

During the 1960s the teaching emphasis completely changed. The statutory year course was abolished in 1962 and after this the LLB course became a full-time degree. Today, a handful of our students do take the postgraduate programmes on a part-time basis, and they bring a great deal to the School, but all our undergraduates are full-time, as are the majority of our postgraduates.

A further significant change in the make-up of the student body has been the growth in the number of students taking postgraduate courses. In the early years of the School, few students undertook postgraduate study. In the 20 years from 1919 to 1939 there were only 12 postgraduate degrees awarded in total, and even by the 1980s Masters study was a rarity. As alumnus David Griffiths explains, the School’s students were predominantly undergraduates looking for a career in law:

“There were very few postgraduate students while I was an undergraduate. I was aware that the Faculty offered one or two taught Master’s degree courses which required one year’s study. While there may have been students working for higher degrees by research they were not notably conspicuous.”

From the 1990s this all began to change. By 1999 there were 93 postgraduate students in total studying for a masters or doctoral degree qualification and that number has only increased. Today we have more than 400 postgraduate students in the School of which about 80 are studying for a PhD with the remainder taking one of our master’s programmes.



We began welcoming international students in the 1990s

Going global

Back in 1899, students in the School were all from the UK and most were local. Today the position is very different. At both undergraduate and postgraduate level there is a great demand internationally for the education offered by UK law schools. Our School is now a truly international community with students from more than 40 countries. Over a third of our student body comes from outside of the European Union, something of a change from the 1980s when only around six international students studied in the School each year out of a student population of just over 300.

The increase in our international student intake began in the 1990s with the recognition that the great law schools are global law schools. The School began to build closer links with law schools across the globe especially in Malaysia. In the late 1980s we made an agreement with the Institute Technology MARA and INTI College (with whom we still work today) in Malaysia to admit their students with the relevant qualifications straight into the second year of our LLB. In 1989 the first students from MARA joined us here in Leeds with the first INTI students arriving in 1991.

Today we have expanded on this early work to put in place agreements with leading institutions across the world. This is especially true in China where we have a close working relationship with a number of top universities including East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) and Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SWUPL). We also have a large cohort of Canadian students with the majority of them studying on our two year LLB programme.

As well as welcoming students to Leeds from all over the world, about 20 percent of our students undertake a year abroad as part of their degree. A significant proportion of these study at European universities but many go much further afield to universities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

AROUND
20%
OF STUDENTS
UNDERTAKE A
YEAR ABROAD



Our Stay in Leeds Fair



CrimSoc: the School's criminology student's society

A Northern Law School

While the School has globalised over the years, one thing that has remained steady is the strong Northern contingent of students studying in the School. Our School is proud of its roots in Leeds and works hard to maintain that connection.

The School's first ever LLB graduate was a Northerner – James Sykes (Law 1902) from Huddersfield and to this day a significant proportion of the School is Northern. More than 20 per cent of our students come from the Yorkshire and Humber region with a further 25 per cent from the North West and around six per cent from the North East.

We also work hard to support the strong Law community in Leeds itself with a number of our graduates staying in the city. So much so we hold a yearly Stay in Leeds Fair showcasing the volume of opportunities on offer here in the City.

Welcoming our criminologists

The School's beginnings were of course in legal education but with the arrival in the 1990s of academics interested in criminology, the decision was taken to launch a BA degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The BA started in 2001 with around 30 students in the first cohort. The following year an LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice was launched led by colleagues from our Centre for Criminal Justice Studies.

Today we have around 170 students studying on the BA programme and our graduates go into a variety of fields including working in the police, the prison service and working as social workers. The course's reputation for teaching excellence has seen it perform exceptionally well in the league tables with the School currently ranked in the top 5 in the UK for criminology, an accolade well deserved thanks to the richness of the teaching available.

TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT
law@leeds.ac.uk



Tutorial class 1987

Contact hours

Today's students need to be available for classes on every day of the week. As a School we try to create individual timetables for students that work for them but this is not always easy.

Pressure on teaching space and the number of students in the School and University means that the teaching estate needs to be utilised as efficiently as possible. It is not uncommon therefore for students to have teaching on four or even five days a week. It's a full time course and while we do try to cater for childcare, work, sport and other commitments, students frequently find themselves being taught at both ends of the day.

Before 1963, a significant proportion of the School was part time. Students preparing for exams while also doing their articles, were only allowed to be out of the office on two days per week and accordingly all teaching for both the part-time and full-time students took place on two days a week. For those not articulated to law firms, this provided much time for less academic matters, as alumnus Colin Orbaum (Law 1957) told us:

“My social life was extensive as I only had lectures on two mornings per week to enable wannabe solicitors to fulfil their obligations regarding “Articles” while studying for their LLB. I had no such pressures apart from sitting at the necessary number of dinners at Gray’s Inn each year – hardly an imposition! – as I intended to join chambers after qualifying as a barrister.”

Leon Collins (Law 1952) fondly remembers the opportunity restricted teaching times gave him to study in other departments:

“Being at the University and having only three lectures a week in the first year enabled me to attend lectures in other departments. The English School was particularly strong at that time, having Kenneth Muir, Wilson Knight and someone who went on to head English at the Open University - all wonderful teachers of the kind that the Law School clearly has now.”

By the early 1960s this all changed as the Law Society changed the rules for qualifying solicitors and the LLB degree became a full-time course and still is today.

A changing student experience?

To what extent has the student experience changed over the last 120 years? How different is the learning environment today from what it was in 1899? In the following paragraphs we look at some elements of the student experience in order to assess these questions.



A seminar in Lyddon Terrace

Teaching methods

In large part, methods of teaching have remained similar over the last 120 years, a mix of small group tutorials and lectures for the whole year group.

Teaching styles may have changed and there is much more technology involved today but students in the early part of the twentieth century would not find the experience today that different from what they had. All students will recognise the race back across the campus to get from a lecture to tutorial whether in Lyddon terrace or the Liberty Building:

“Lectures were at one end of the campus, for the 100 or so of us on the course, and then we would hurry across the campus to Lyddon Terrace for the law library and our tutorials – there were only six or seven of us in a tutorial. We wrote our lecture notes by hand, and we researched our subjects using our text books and reading the cases and articles in the law library. There were always other law students around,” Juliette Bradbury (nee Shlosberg) (Law 1971).

While today's students would recognise the description of the race back across campus, they would not recognise every element of

“
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”

Juliette's description of the life of a law student. First, the Liberty Building does not, unlike Lyddon Terrace, have a library. There are work spaces and tutorials held in the School but for the library the students go to 'Eddie' Boyle or the new Laidlaw Library. Another noticeable difference is the size of tutorial groups. Today, most groups have between 12 and 15 students, still reasonably small by law school standards but rather larger than would have been experienced in the past. Few students today hand write anything. As a lecturer, one is faced with a wall of laptops in lectures and tutorials and it is rare to see a student clutching a pen or pencil to write notes. Students do still spend time reading cases and articles in the University Library. Only rarely, however, will they consult a physical set of law reports. Pretty much everything is now available online.

As a School we are now working to integrate collaborative and interactive sessions into our teaching but the law lecture that is so familiar to many of our alumni is still very much part of our student experience. One thing that has changed though is that our students no longer have to take a compulsory module in Roman law as those studying in the 1950s did.

From Lyddon to Liberty



The Law Library in 1985-86



Lyddon Terrace

Originally the School was housed in the Baines Wing of the University before moving to the Brotherton Library in 1936.

However, by the 1950s it was clear that the department had outgrown this home and needed its own premises. Therefore, the School moved to 20 Lyddon Terrace – a location that is so familiar to many of you. The School eventually expanded beyond number 20 to take over several other buildings on the terrace which alumnus Christopher Plumley (Law 1995) fondly remembers as “a charming set of rabbit warren buildings which were easy to get lost in. Nowhere near as practical and modern as the new School but I loved its homely feel.”

At the heart of Lyddon Terrace was its common room and law library where so much student time was spent especially in the run up to exams as John Ball (Law 1970) recalls:

“The library - tended to get busier around May! The Trappist monastery quiet would be tentatively broken near closing time, with interesting conversations starting up there and ending in the Union bar, The Packhorse or the Eldon. The students’ common room across the road was good for a break and a coffee although one tended to delay the return to study longer than advisable.”

By the early 2000s it was clear we were growing out of the accommodation in Lyddon Terrace, homely as it was, and

plans were developed to build a new purpose built law school. In 2011, the wonderful Liberty Building became our new home. The building still has student common rooms and a Moot Court but the law library has now moved back into the Edward Boyle Library. The Liberty Building provides our students with a modern and vibrant space to learn as well as fostering a strong community spirit thanks to the openness of its design.

Alumnus Richie Billing (Law 2012) remembers the move to the new building fondly:

“I still have vivid memories of those quaint terrace houses in which we were taught - the chill drafts and musty smells in those converted classrooms that kept me awake during those dreary contract law seminars. I was however lucky enough in my second year to experience the brand new law school. I couldn’t have felt more proud walking through those doors knowing that this was the place I was to finish my studies. It was in there I have my fondest memories. Spending the summer working with Professor Subedi on his report for the United Nations; investing hours in the Innocence Project in the hope of finding a piece of missed evidence that may change the course of a case; enjoying the laments of Professor David Campbell over his beloved Middlesbrough FC. Even in its early days, the new law school had a special feeling about it, and I’m delighted to see that it has thrived, improved and continues to inspire generation after generation of lawyers.”

“
Lyddon terrace was a charming set of rabbit warren buildings which were easy to get lost in. Nowhere near as practical and modern as the new School but I loved its homely feel.

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TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk

An International experience

Today our School is truly global with more than a third of our students coming from outside the UK.

While in the early days of the School, a student from the South of England was an exotic creature, today we are a veritable United Nations with students from more than 40 countries. For a UK based student, learning and spending time with students from so many different countries and backgrounds exposes them to different ways of thinking about the world, law and society. Their experience at Leeds is enhanced by this diversity and offers extraordinary learning and social opportunities.

Not only is the experience of students in the School an international one, but increasing numbers of students decide to spend a year abroad as part of their degree. Since the late 1980s when we launched our first course with a compulsory year abroad built into it, students have been able to spend time studying across the world. We set up our first student exchange programme with Le Mans University in the 1980s and have developed several new programmes and partnerships since then. Today around 20 per cent of our students will spend a year studying in another country as part of their degree. They travel as far as Australia, Canada, Japan, the USA and across Europe. Many study in English but we also have students who study in Spanish, French and German. To encourage more students to travel abroad we have provided scholarships for summer schools and students who don’t want to spend a full year abroad can get some experience during a shorter more focussed programme. Virtually every student who has spent time abroad as part of their studies gets a significant amount out of it – they have been truly changed as a result of their experience, gaining in confidence as well as developing their knowledge of other cultures and legal systems.

Social Life



The student common room today

Few students pass through Leeds without some good memories from their time here.

For some it is their academic studies. For others, it is the friends that they make and the activities they have get involved in as part of the School or University community. In many ways a student from the 1950s wouldn’t find the social life of students today that different. The Student Union is incredibly important for many and the student Law Society still plays a key role in the life of the School. Every year there are many activities, social, academic and professional organised by the Society which is consistently rated the best Society in the University. In fact it is so good that in 2016, the Society won Best Student Society at the National Union of Students Societies Event.

Many alums talk with warmth and affection about the student common room in Lyddon Terrace and the infamous table football game. The table did not make the move to the Liberty Building but the new building has plenty of space both social and study for the students. There is a variety of board games available in the common room and two new exercise bikes for both staff and students. It has to be said that students



Lyddon terrace common room, with the football table

are rarely spotted on the bikes but several members of the School’s staff cycle away oblivious to the students around them.

The School also organises many events intended to draw us together as a community. Every year group is invited to join the staff at least twice each year for a Head of School Supper. The annual Law’s Got Talent showcases the immense talent of our students (and lack of talent of some of the staff). Scarcely a week goes by without some sort of event. The community is as strong as it ever was and it is an immensely happy place in which to work, study and socialise.



Law’s Got Talent 2017



The Centre for Criminal Justice Studies celebrating their 30 year anniversary in 2017

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Changing the world through our research

As a School, we are proud of our track record in student education. The educational experience remains at the core of all we do and we work hard to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to thrive.

However, we also aspire to produce research that is discipline leading and which has significant social and economic impact. While in the early days of the School's history, research very much played second fiddle, that is no longer the case. From the latter part of the twentieth century, academics in the School have made a significant contribution to scholarship in law and criminal justice. Today, we are one of the leading law schools for research in the UK and our research explores issues across many aspects of law and criminal justice, informing policy and practice on a national and international level.

Research in the School is organised around our four research centres: the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies; the Centre for Business Law and Practice; the Centre for Law and Social Justice; and the Centre for Research and Innovation in Legal Education. All are now well-established thriving centres producing work that is shaping how we think about law and criminal justice. Our research centres have proved highly successful in raising the profile of research in our School and in attracting leading scholars to the School. In the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014), our School was ranked 8th overall in the UK for the quality of our research with 88% of our research being rated as either world-leading or internationally excellent.



Far Left: Director of the CBLP Pinar Akman at her inaugural lecture in 2017

Left: Mitchell Travis, Jen Hendry, Michael Thomson, Amanda Keeling and Anna Lawson from the Centre for Law and Social Justice

Centre for Criminal Justice studies

The Centre for Criminal Justice Studies (CCJS) was established in 1987 to carry out research into criminal justice systems and criminological issues. The brainchild of Emeritus Professor Clive Walker, Professor Brian Hogan and Peter Seago OBE, the Centre was one of the first of its kind in the UK.

It was the Centre's inaugural director – Clive Walker – who in the early 1990s first brought funded research into the School. Since then the Centre has attracted millions of pounds of research money enabling ground-breaking empirical research to be done. Clive was also one of the first to embrace socio-legal research in what was then a distinctly black-letter law school.

Over the last 30 years, the Centre has gone from strength to strength and has become a vibrant and internationally regarded centre that has been instrumental in propelling the growing reputation of the School of Law to the high regard with which it is held.

Centre for Business Law and Practice

Established in 1996, the Centre for Business Law and Practice (CBLP) is an internationally recognised centre for research into commercial and corporate law. The Centre initially established a reputation for ground-breaking research in corporate law but in more recent years, as it has expanded, other areas of commercial law have been brought within its expertise. Today, the School maintains its reputation for corporate and insolvency law research but also has significant expertise in competition law, tax, intellectual property, international economic law and world trade, contract and commercial regulation.

The Centre's ground-breaking research is regularly cited by the courts and referenced by policymakers. Thanks to strong international links, centre members have worked with and provided expertise to, law firms, national law reform bodies and government departments in various countries - including the USA, New Zealand and across Europe; and international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Transparency International, European Commission, European and Economic Social Committee, International Competition Network and many more.

Centre for Law and Social Justice

Our Centre for Law and Social Justice (LSJ) was founded in 2014 to explore the role that law has in addressing inequalities and achieving a more just society. The Centre aims to generate research which addresses the global challenge of inequalities, exploring the themes of accessing and enacting justice, law and social sustainability, and (legal) embodiment.

A core element of the Centre's work is in disability law. The Disability Law Hub, which is the largest group of disability law academics in the world, undertakes work on how law and policy can effect positive change in the lived experience of disabled people around the world.

However, the scope of the Centre's work extends beyond disability law. Those working within law and social justice have established international reputations across a range of areas including health, access to justice, discrimination, family relations, transgender rights, legal theory, reproductive rights, and human rights. Members of the Centre, working with Professor Martha Fineman, one of the world's leading scholars in critical legal theory, have recently launched the Vulnerability and Human Condition (VHC) initiative with Emory University in America. The VHC is researching key issues around the organisation of social institutions and vulnerability theory.



Chloe Wallace presents at the CIRLE inaugural symposium

Centre for Research and Innovation in Legal Education

The newest of our research centres is the Centre for Research and Innovation in Legal Education (CIRLE). Founded in 2016, CIRLE, the first such research centre in a Russell Group University, is our School's "think tank" and enabler of best practice in legal, criminological and criminal justice education. Its establishment draws together a wide range of colleagues from across the School and exists to signal to the world how seriously we take legal and criminological education.

The Centre has already undertaken ground-breaking research into undergraduate resilience and how students can be supported when navigating times of change as well as research into Millennial Lawyers. Moving forward, the Centre is seeking to put itself at the heart of important debates around the future of legal education.

The research culture in the School is a strong and positive one. Academic colleagues at Leeds are shaping thinking around a wide range of issues in both law and criminology. The School values and celebrates all types of scholarship from traditional doctrinal work, through to empirical, and more theoretical and philosophical work. Much of the School's work is also inter-disciplinary. To engage with the big questions one needs to do so working in partnership with other disciplines and the School has a fine tradition in that regard. Our research reputation means we can attract some of the very best legal and criminal justice academics to Leeds. Providing an environment in which research can thrive is increasingly challenging but we are fortunate with the colleagues that we have and are well-positioned to continue to make powerful contribution to thinking in relation to important legal and criminological questions.

“

In the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014), our School was ranked 8th overall in the UK for the quality of our research with 88% of our research being rated as either world-leading or internationally excellent.

”



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk



Our Cerebra volunteers

Making a difference

As a school, we are committed to trying to change the world for the better. We are not just a world-class law school, we have a conscience and our students, alumni and colleagues work hard to make a difference to the wider community. Through their efforts, we are having a positive impact not just on the local Leeds community, important though that is, but also nationally and globally. It is always invidious to single out examples of how the School is making a difference however below you will find a few examples of the types of activities the staff, students and our alumni are involved in.



TO FIND OUT MORE
PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk

The impact of our research

Our research has national and global impact. Work by colleagues in the School has influenced policy, improved professional practice, shaped intellectual debates and makes a real difference to the lives of people around the world.



Iyiola Solanke

*This is a School where
engagement with the
outside world is part
of our DNA*

The work of our Disability Law Hub, led by Anna Lawson, has played a significant role in the development of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). There are more than one billion people globally living with a disability whose lived experience is improved by this Convention. The work of colleagues in our Centre for Criminal Justice Studies has helped shape policing practice, terrorism legislation, the treatment of rape victims by the courts, and policy and practice in relation to alternatives to imprisonment. The direction of legal education is being shaped by colleagues in our Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education. Our work influences judicial decision making in this jurisdiction and internationally. Andrew Keay's scholarship has been particularly influential in the development of corporate law internationally and Gatley on Libel and Slander (edited previously by Horton Rogers and now by Alastair Mullis) remains the most important work in the common law world on defamation. The development of European insolvency law, competition law, contract law and tax law has been influenced by the work of colleagues in the Centre for Business Law and Practice and Hilary Sommerlad, Joan Loughrey,

Andrew Francis and Iyiola Solanke have in different ways contributed significantly to improving professional practice. The work of colleagues in our Centre for Law and Social Justice has influenced important debates around gender and the law and health equality. Our academics have been recognised in this country and abroad for the significance of their work. By way of example, Rita De La Feria has been named among the 50 most influential individuals in the tax world, Clive Walker and Surya Subedi have been made Honorary QCs and Anna Lawson and Iyiola Solanke made Academic Benchers.

'High theory' is alive and well in the School but this is a School where engagement with the outside world is part of our DNA. Colleagues in the School have in many ways made a positive difference through their work and will, no doubt, continue to do so for the next 120 years.

Community engagement

The city of Leeds is one of the great cities in the UK and is flourishing. However, while many people are benefitting from the City's success, sadly others are left behind. Contributing to our local community and trying to ensure that no one is left behind is fundamental to the ethos of the School. We therefore strive to give every encouragement and support to our students to use their skills to the benefit of the local community.

We have worked hard to foster a strong commitment to community engagement and every year students offer their time and skills to work with community organisations with whom we have links.

When Lydia Bleasdale took on the role of Director of Community Engagement, in 2015, we had just two community engagement projects. Since then, under Lydia's leadership, we have increased both the number of projects in which we are involved and the opportunities available to our students. We are now running nine projects and have nearly 300 students involved. These projects, some of which are outlined below, cover a range of areas from helping clients to apply for welfare support to research which helps to benefit the lives of disabled children and their families.

Welfare Rights Project

Our award-winning Welfare Rights Project sees student volunteers working with Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit in Harehills to assist applicants to complete Personal Independence Payment (PIP) forms. In 2018, the students supported more than 100 claimants to claim nearly £250,000 in benefits. The project won two awards in its first year of operation; the (national) LawWorks Best New Student Pro Bono Project 2017, and the University's Leeds for Life Citizenship (Community) Award 2017, which recognises projects which have made a positive difference to a community locally, nationally or internationally

Welfare Appeals and Tribunal Clinic

Working in collaboration with Chapeltown Citizens Advice, the project supports clients who are navigating the welfare benefits system and appealing a decision which has been made about their PIP and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) application. Clients seen between October and December last year have seen welfare support outcomes totalling more than £30,000.

Cerebra Pro Bono Research Project

Research in the School conducted by Luke Clements has revealed the difficulties many families with disabled children face in accessing their legal rights. Working with the charity Cerebra, which funds Luke's Chair, students work on projects focussed on supporting these families to access the rights to which they are entitled. Since the Project started in 2016, our students' work has already had real impact. In 2017, for example, a report prepared within the School led the Secretary of State for Education to review statutory guidance relating to school transport, thereby ensuring that local authorities provide school transport for children with special educational needs.

Personal Support Unit (PSU)

Our PSU volunteers provide a vital support to litigants in person in civil and family courts. Working in the court our student volunteers are trained by the charity PSU to provide practical and emotional support to people representing themselves so no one has to face court alone.

Migrant Support Volunteers

Our student volunteers assist clients at the Migrant Support Drop-In service through a range of tasks related to immigration advice and information or broader support needs such as education, housing or welfare.

StreetLaw

The aim of our StreetLaw Project is to promote understanding of legal rights and responsibilities to individuals who may not otherwise have access to legal knowledge or education. Our students involved in the Project have the chance to engage with the local community and perfect their legal research and presentation skills.

Students who get involved in one or more of these projects (and nearly a half of all our undergraduates will at some point in their degree undertake pro bono work) almost universally speak of how valuable they find their experience. They talk of how they grow in confidence as they realise that through what they do they are making a difference. They also talk of the skills that they acquire and what they learn about people and the wider world. We will continue to develop the ways in which we engage with our community in the knowledge that our students benefit enormously from the projects but most importantly because what they do changes the lived experience of many people in Leeds for the better.



Our Community Engagement volunteers

Contributing to our local community and trying to ensure that no one is left behind is fundamental to the ethos of the School.



Winning the LawWorks Best New Student Pro Bono Project 2017



Clive Walker and Kier Starmer celebrating 30 years of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies in 2017

Our alumni

If we are about anything as a School, we are concerned with supporting our students to play their part on graduation in the wider world. 120 years of students have now graduated from the School and we can look back with pride on what you have achieved and contributed over that time.

We have graduates in all areas of legal practice in this jurisdiction and working internationally. In commercial law, we are in the top 10 of all universities in the UK for the percentage of partners in Magic and Silver Circle firms. But it is not just in commercial law or London that our graduates are leading. Graduates of the School work across all subjects, in widely differing types of firms and in all parts of the UK and abroad. In Hong Kong, for example, not only do we have partners in the major commercial law firms but we also have a couple of the leading figures in human rights practice, as well as graduates who work in smaller firms.

It is not just in law firms where our alumni are excelling. We can boast a large number of QCs and judges who are Leeds graduates. We have yet to have a graduate in the UK Supreme Court (though we can number many County Court judges among our graduates, several High Court judges and Sir Christopher Rose as a member of the Court of Appeal) but Bernard Yeung was Chief Justice of Mauritius from 2007-13, having been appointed to the Supreme Court of Mauritius in 1997, and Mary Lim is a member of the Court of Appeal in Malaysia.

Many graduates have gone on to have stellar careers as academics including our own Anna Lawson, Clive Walker and Louise Ellison. Anna is one of the world's leading disability law experts, Clive's work on terrorism has influenced law and policy around the world and Louise's work on the criminal justice system has done a great deal to improve access to justice for vulnerable people.

In the world of politics and public service, our graduates have also made a difference. The Right Honourable Jack Straw held two of the great Offices of State, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary, and was also Lord Chancellor from 2007-10. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi has been co-chair of the Conservative Party and, among many other achievements, was Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Keir Starmer QC, having been Director of Public Prosecutions (a role in which he was succeeded by Alison Saunders, another Law School alumna) currently sits in the Shadow Cabinet.

We do not, of course, just produce successful lawyers. Many of our graduates have gone on to have successful careers in business. Most colourfully, Lee McAteer (Law 2007) and Nicholas Steiert (Law 2008) set up the hugely successful Invasion Camp Group which comprises of a number of individual travel brands that send mainly 18 to 30 year olds on city breaks, tours and camp experiences across Europe, the US, Thailand, Canada, South Africa and more. Outside of this, graduates have become successful journalists, royal correspondents, diplomats, police officers and charity workers.

We cannot of course, in this short space, give a complete picture of all you, our alumni, have done. But as the above illustrates, you have made and continue to make a huge contribution to society. In fact it is to the vibrant and dedicated community you have founded that we can attribute much of our success – you truly are our best ambassadors.



A

Alumni.

We greatly value the expertise, support and generosity of you, our alumni. We try to visit our alumni across the globe to help maintain the Leeds community and we appreciate the contributions you make through mentoring, advice and, where appropriate, financial support for our work. It is important that you are also able to see the huge impact and influence our alumni have worldwide.



Our alumni reception at the House of Lords in 2016

B

Ball.

Traditionally the most successful student event in the year. The Law Ball usually takes place in February and has been held at venues across Yorkshire, including Leeds Town Hall, The Queens Hotel, The Royal Armouries and further afield in Ilkley and Harrogate.



The Law Ball 2019

C

Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The School is home not only to the LLB in Law but also runs the BA in Criminal Justice and Criminology. One of the leading programmes of its kind in the country, it is led by the world-class research Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, which also offers a number of MA programmes.



“
We try to visit our alumni across the globe to help maintain the Leeds community.
”

D

Disability law.

D

The School of Law has the largest cohort of disability law specialists in the country and is a global leader in this arena.

F

Faculty of Social Sciences.

Previously the Faculty of Law, we are now a school which is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences. We are now one of the largest schools in the University, having around 1100 undergraduates and 450 postgraduates.

E

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

E



The School has a truly diverse population. With 40% of the population being international students, and 30% of the undergraduates from non-traditional backgrounds, the School has greater diversity than ever before. Perhaps surprisingly to some, 75% of our undergraduates are female.

G

Gigs.

The Refectory has played host to some of the world's biggest and best bands. A series of framed posters around the walls of the Refectory attest to gigs by artists such as Elton John, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, the Who, the Kinks, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Rod Stewart and the Faces, Status Quo, Deep Purple and the Rolling Stones. In more recent times the Refectory has hosted names such as Ed Sheeran, Dizzee Rascal, Tinie Tempah, Rita Ora and Ellie Goulding.



A gig at the Refectory



Henry Price Flats

Halls of residence.

H

Where many of you spent your first year away from home, the name of your hall of residence will no doubt be etched on your brain. On the outskirts of Leeds, Boddington Hall, which used to house some 800 students is now a housing estate. It was also home to many sports activities. Other memorable residences include Lupton Flats, Charles Morris Hall, Henry Price Flats, Oxley, St Mark's Flats and Devonshire Hall.

I

International.

The School has students from more than 40 countries, including the United States, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Germany, Cyprus, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. The largest individual cohorts being from China, Canada and Malaysia.



Jurisprudence.

J

“I hate Jurisprudence” was the opening line of Leeds lecturer John Riddall’s book on Jurisprudence. It is a subject that has always divided students – but one that is considered to be an essential element of the LLB.

Lyddon Terrace, Liberty Building.

L

For most alumni, the home of the School of Law was a series of terraced houses on Lyddon Terrace. In 2011 the School moved to a bespoke building on the site of the old Leeds Grammar School and is known as the Liberty Building.



Lyddon Terrace the much loved home of the School from 1957–2011

K

Knowledge.

To build your qualifying law degree you will have studied the Foundations of Legal Knowledge: Constitutional Law; Contract Law; Criminal Law; European Union Law; Equity and Trusts; Land Law and Torts. These make up the core of your law degree.



LawSoc Moot held in Leeds University Union committee room

News.

N

We'd love you to keep up with what is happening in the School (and perhaps visit us occasionally). Take a look at www.law.leeds.ac.uk for information on events you may wish to attend or even take part in. Also, keep an eye on events that may be run to celebrate your year. If you have news we'd be very keen to hear from you – you can contact our Alumni Officer at law@leeds.ac.uk.

M

Mooting.

An extra-curricular activity that strikes fear into the hearts of many new law students. Nevertheless, over the years we have had some great performances – including two victories in the global Jessup Moot.



Postgraduate.

P

In very recent years the School has seen tremendous growth in the number of postgraduates. There are approximately 100 research postgraduates (PhD students) and 350 taught postgraduates studying a range of programmes across business law, social justice and criminal justice.

Otley Run.

O

The famous pub crawl undertaken by most students usually begins far up the Otley Road at Woodies leading down into Headingley through pubs such as the Skyrack and The Original Oak, down past the University, taking in The Eldon, The Packhorse and The Dry Dock and then on into town. Still as popular as it ever was, it's often undertaken in fancy dress.

Q

QLD.

The qualifying law degree is soon to be a thing of the past. Each law school will be able to determine the content of its own LLB. Rest assured the Leeds degree will continue to be research driven and robust, intellectually challenging and excellent preparation for life after Leeds.

R

Research.

The University is part of the research intensive Russell Group and the Law School plays a significant part in that. We have four research centres (Centre for Business Law and Practice, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education and Centre for Law and Social Justice) including globally recognised figures and the School is ranked in the top ten nationally for the quality of our research.

Students.

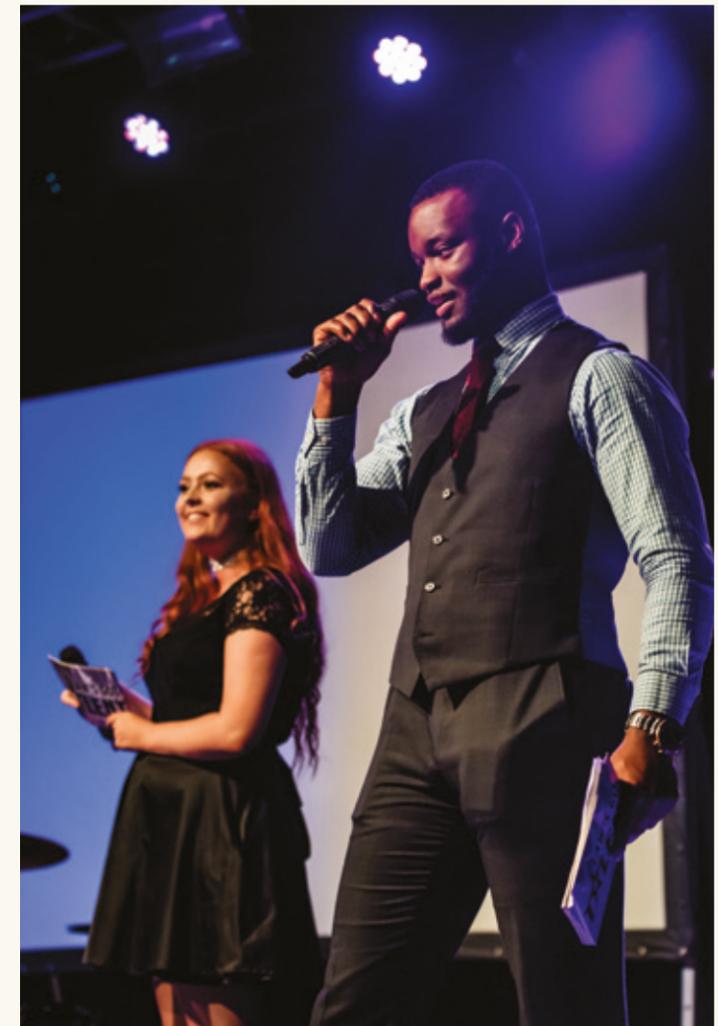
S

Our student population is at the heart of what we are about. From the original 22 students in 1899, there are now approximately 350 undergraduate students in each year. The University is one of the biggest in the country with a population of 37,000.

T

Talent (Law's Got It).

Beginning in 2015 in a small room in the Student Union before an audience of around 40, Law's Got Talent has become exceptionally popular. Taking place in a 300 capacity Union club venue tickets now sell out within hours. It is a wonderful showcase for the diverse range of talents the students surprise us with every year.



Law's Got Talent 2017



The Student Union building

U

Union.

The Student Union is one of the biggest in the country. It has undergone considerable renovation in recent years but at the centre of the building lies the Union bar which has been maintained in its original state. Go in there and within a short time you will feel very at home.

“
The Graduation ceremony akin to some ancient wedding still takes place in the wonderful Great Hall and is beamed live around the globe for relatives and friends to watch.
 ”

Volunteering.

Volunteering is an increasingly important, if not essential, aspect of what students in the School do. Literally hundreds of students in the School are involved in volunteering activities including projects such as Cerebra, Welfare Rights Project and StreetLaw.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY WITH A POPULATION OF
37,000

W

Wednesday afternoon.

These remain sacrosanct as part of the students' week. Wednesday afternoons are still left open for activities such as intermural sports and volunteering activities. The University Union keenly protects this time and rightly so. Whilst we would argue that the work is clearly important, many students' memories will relate to what happened on Wednesday afternoons.

X

eXtra-curricular events.

Given the increase in the number of students it is perhaps more difficult to develop and maintain a sense of community. A wide range of activities, designed to foster a community, take place throughout the year including Head of School suppers, cinema club, charity events and a range of staff-student competitions.



The 2017 LawSoc netball team

Y

Yorkshire.

Traditionally known as the home of warm yet financially-prudent people, in recent years Yorkshire has taken on a more international flavour. You will be aware no doubt of its very high-ranking in the last two Olympic medal tables as well as having the finest countryside outside Lancashire (according to Professor Taylor).

APPROXIMATELY
350
 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN EACH YEAR



Summer Graduation 2018

Z

Graduation.

Ok, so not Z but nevertheless the culmination of the student journey. The Graduation ceremony akin to some ancient wedding still takes place in the wonderful Great Hall and is beamed live around the globe for relatives and friends to watch.



TO FIND OUT MORE
 PLEASE CONTACT

law@leeds.ac.uk

Finalists' Photographs

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



1969

1979



1989



1999



2009

2019



LIKE A COPY?

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

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