

The magazine of
Nottingham Law School

ALL THINGS LAW

Summer 2016



JOINT ENTERPRISE

Behind the Supreme Court's historic decision

IN THIS ISSUE

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NOTTINGHAM
LAW SCHOOL
Nottingham Trent University

Welcome

Welcome to another packed edition of All Things Law

In this issue, Catarina Sjölin Knight, Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Law School, describes in detail her recent experience at the Supreme Court where she was part of the team that successfully challenged the law on joint enterprise.

We also meet our LEX Society committee members and hear all about the excellent work they have undertaken this year, including organising visits to the UK Supreme Court and the famous Old Bailey Criminal Court in London. The highlight of the year was once again the LEX Annual Ball and, as you will see from the photos, it was a fantastic event and fun was had by all.

Early this term, we were delighted to welcome the current Law Society President and NLS alumnus, Jonathan Smithers, who delivered an inspiring address entitled 'Your Future Starts Here'. Jonathan shared his experiences of how to succeed in a legal career and gave us a valuable insight into how the Law Society is working with its members to address the current challenges facing the legal profession.

Our team of dedicated lecturers and administrative staff are committed to ensuring you have all the support you need to enable you to succeed with your studies and beyond. We have many exciting

activities and opportunities available for you nationally and internationally. Some of the exciting projects undertaken by our students were recently showcased at our Celebrating Collaboration and Achievement Event, and you can read all about them in this edition.

I am pleased to report that our Legal Advice Centre continues to grow from strength to strength. Over the past two years, we have recovered over £150,000 for clients and we will shortly be recruiting additional staff to support the Centre as it expands into new areas of activity.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Nottingham Law School has been shortlisted for the Legal Education Provider of the Year Award by the Solicitors Journal. The judges were impressed by our "simply brilliant approach to innovating education" and described us as "a pioneer in the industry" and "extremely worthy of being on the shortlist".

Thank you to all that have contributed to the success of the School and, in particular, to those who have provided articles for this edition of All Things Law.

Professor Janine Griffiths-Baker
Dean, Nottingham Law School

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Want to feature in this magazine? Be a contributor

If you are a current Nottingham Law School student or member of staff and would like to feature in a future edition of All Things Law, contact the editorial board at nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk



Janine Griffiths-Baker, Dean of Nottingham Law School

The latest in Law

Law Society President gives advice to aspiring solicitors

Law Society President and Nottingham Law School alumnus Jonathan Smithers made his way back to NLS recently to speak to students about their legal future.

Jonathan graduated with an LLB 32 years ago and reminisced about his time in NTU's Law society, LEX, and nights in Rock City before an inspiring speech about the value and future of the solicitor profession.

He emphasised that the title of English solicitor is viewed as the number one legal qualification in the world (although the New York Bar might not necessarily agree) and explained how his role in the Law Society has really highlighted the value that other countries place in the English common law system.

Quoting Eisenhower, he went on to speak about the rule of law in everyday life and what happens when this breaks down. He illustrated this with the situation in Syria and he acknowledged lawyers across the globe who put themselves in danger to uphold justice.

"Solicitors are instruments of justice – not just business people. Keep this principle at the forefront of your minds. Solicitors permeate all levels of society. Being a solicitor is a vocation. It becomes who you are and how you live your life," he said.

Now is a period of dynamic change in legal services and Jonathan urged all aspiring solicitors to download The Future of Legal Services from www.lawsociety.org.uk to keep up to date with upcoming developments and opportunities.

Once again the profession will need to adapt to thrive, as it has done many times before. Online dispute resolution is predicted to replace the traditional high street structure, and an understanding of global business, technology or coding could prove a huge advantage to the solicitors of tomorrow.

Jonathan's advice for current students was clear: "Start thinking and acting like a solicitor today." He encouraged LPC students and recent graduates to join the Junior Lawyers Division, attend events and make themselves heard on the issues that will affect their future, highlighting the minimum salary recommendation as a successful past campaign.

Jonathan also encouraged all students to make the most of their time here. He still displays his Nottingham Trent degree certificate proudly in his office and said how pleased he was to be able to give something back to the place that he took so much from.

He ended with some final thoughts for all those about to embark upon their legal career. "Find something you're passionate about, that makes you want to go to work in the morning. And don't be afraid to change.

"You are entering a great profession. Set your aspirations high, build a network and in 32 years' time you might be asked back to lecture in these rooms."

You can read the whole speech here: www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/speeches/your-future-starts-here/



Jo Boylan-Kemp shortlisted for 2016 Law Teacher of the Year Award

We're delighted to announce that Jo Boylan-Kemp, Principal Lecturer at Nottingham Law School, is one of the finalists in the 2016 Law Teacher of the Year Award. This is a great, and well-deserved, achievement.

This award, sponsored by Oxford University Press, is now in its ninth year. Nominations were submitted by students and colleagues to highlight high standards of teaching and to recognise staff who make an exceptional contribution to legal education.

Jo has previously taught across all years of the undergraduate law degree and she currently teaches Criminal Law and Law of Evidence; she has also spent many years as the undergraduate Mistress of the Moot.

Jo is one of six finalists who now enter the second stage of the competition. Each of the finalists will be observed teaching, and interviews are held with students and colleagues as well as the candidates themselves, to establish their full contribution as a law teacher.

The winner will be announced at a one-day conference celebrating excellence in law teaching to be held in Oxford in the summer.

Congratulations to Jo – and good luck!



The latest in Law

Nottingham Law School announces two new Honorary Professors

Nottingham Law School are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Honorary Professors of Law.

Honorary Professor Shaun Smith QC has practised in all aspects of criminal law, both prosecuting and defending and is regarded as one of the country's leading advocates. He has been lead counsel in a number of high profile criminal trials, including the Philpott murders at Nottingham Crown Court.



Honorary Professor Shaun Smith QC

He is a member of the National Advocacy Training Council and a trainer for the Judicial College involved in the on-going training of Crown Court judges and recorders, including those conducting cases of a serious sexual nature.

Shaun has been actively involved in Nottingham

Law School for a number of years, having acted as an external examiner on the BVC and LLM in Advocacy Skills, given guest lectures on the BPTC, judged moots and mock trial competitions, and offered advice.

Honorary Professor Alastair Hodge is an expert in the field of employment law and is heavily involved in the leadership of the Bar and, in particular, advocacy training.

Alastair has extensive experience of employment law and is regularly instructed in the Employment Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. He acts for both employers and employees and has particular experience in unfair dismissal, transfer of undertakings and discrimination cases.

Through his work with the Inner Temple, Alastair has been involved with advocacy training in this jurisdiction and overseas. He is the course director for advocacy training at Inner Temple, with responsibility for the training of advocates in the early years of practice. He is the youngest Bencher of the Inner Temple and plays a pivotal role in the education and training roles

that the Inn provides. He has served on a number of profession-wide committees aimed at improving diversity and training at the Bar.



Honorary Professor Alastair Hodge

Nottingham Law School looks forward to drawing on the expertise and experience of Honorary Professor Smith QC and Honorary Professor Hodge in pursuing its research and teaching mission in a number of fields and, in particular, advocacy. As leaders in their respective fields of law they will ensure that the School is at the forefront of contemporary practice and can deliver innovative and high-quality courses which meet the needs of the legal profession.

its LLM Legal Practice Course to help students who wish to cross qualify.

Ian Fox, Course Leader of Nottingham Law School's Bar Professional Training Course, added: "This course is of value to a range of domestic and international students

who aspire to either a career within the legal services sector or a career where legal knowledge and skills will be valued."

Students who do not wish to study for the full Masters award can still study for the traditional BPTC award.



Nottingham Law School now offering new LLM BPTC

Nottingham Law School has innovated its Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) by offering students a new route that includes a Masters qualification as part of the one-year course.

To gain the LLM, students will complete a dissertation or undertake practical legal work experience, giving them the opportunity to engage with real cases and gain qualifications, practical knowledge and insight essential to employers.

Helen Hudson, Head of Postgraduate Professional Programmes at Nottingham Law School, said: "In a changing legal education environment it's important that we review and innovate our courses to meet the needs of students and employers. We gathered feedback from a number of sources, which indicated that students consider the ability to acquire an LLM alongside their studies for the BPTC very attractive.

"The course provides students with an internationally recognised qualification and gives them an enhanced insight into the law and the legal profession. There are a number of options open to them, such as undertaking pro bono activity through our Legal Advice Centre, working for the Citizens Advice Bureau or carrying out placements within a professional legal setting."

Nottingham Law School is currently the only provider offering a one-year LLM BPTC, which also aligns with

The latest in Law

Winner of the Ian Hutton Memorial Moot 2016

Nottingham Law School recently held the sixth annual Ian Hutton Memorial Moot.

Ian, who sadly died prematurely at the age of 47 in 2010, had worked hard to rise above difficult personal circumstances as a child and teenager, initially as a professional actor. He then decided to change career and joined Nottingham Law School as an LLB student, achieving the most outstanding first class degree that had ever been awarded. He went on to obtain a PhD, and then take the BVC. He became a member of the consultant faculty within the Law School and ultimately won a pupillage and then a tenancy at the prestigious Monckton Chambers in London.

As a student Ian had been a keen mooter, and he always took an interest in the development of young people. The annual undergraduate mooting competition takes place in his memory.

The event itself was held in Nottingham Law School's courtrooms in the Chaucer building, using a contract law problem that required competitors to grapple with the Consumer Rights Act 2015. Rebecca Haynes and Ligia Osepciu from Monckton Chambers judged the moot. Joseph Barry-Shaw from the Mooting Club ably clerked and kept time.

Luke Barton and Rebecca Hepsoe represented the appellant, and Junely Coker and Aysel Yilmaz represented the respondent. The audience, made up of NLS students and friends, watched Junely take the prize for best overall mooter. Luke and Rebecca won on the law and the judges commended all of the mooters for their performance.

We are grateful for the generous support received from event sponsor Monckton Chambers.



Lifetime Achievement Award for John Hodgson

John Hodgson, Reader at Nottingham Law School, was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Law Teachers.

John has worked at NTU since 1987. Along with his role here at the University, John has also been involved for many years with the Association of Law Teachers, serving in a number of roles including Chair and Secretary.

Despite this, it came as a surprise to John when he realised he'd been chosen for the body's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He said: "The award is made at a dinner held every year as part of the association's annual conference. This year I turned up at the dinner and one of my colleagues at the

association announced the winner – and that was the first I knew of it!

"It was a particular honour to receive the award from the association, as it is recognition from those who I've been working with closely over the years."

John has enjoyed a distinguished career at NTU during his nearly 30 years at the University, and is currently a Reader in Legal Education. He works mainly on the distance learning courses offered by NTU, teaching and developing materials.

He also organises and delivers the NLS summer schools, and undertakes considerable research in the area of legal education – currently into the role of external examiners.



Should you really get a lesser sentence for an early guilty plea?

The Sentencing Council recently announced draft proposals to more tightly define the rules concerning the sentence reductions available to defendants who plead guilty early.

But this made me wonder – does it go against the idea of our judicial system being fair if defendants can get up to a third off their sentence for an early guilty plea?

Undoubtedly, the most important consideration must be the victim. A benefit of an early guilty plea is that it can avoid an issue needing to go to trial. The trial process is stressful, and the victim's wait before their day in court can be an anxious one. Being able to relieve a victim of these emotions must surely be of benefit.

In addition, by courts and legal professionals not having to prepare for trials where an early guilty plea has taken place, these resources can instead be focused on dealing with cases where the full force of the criminal justice system is required, hopefully creating a more robust justice system we can all have trust in.

But I can definitely see the downsides too. Most worryingly, the danger that innocent people might enter an early guilty plea in fear that they will receive an even harsher sentence at trial. Only if measures are in place to ensure that this does not happen can we even have this debate – otherwise, this risk outweighs any possible benefit.



I can also see how early guilty plea sentence reductions might reduce the fear of punishment by career criminals. This disturbs me. But, to say that an early plea should not lead to a sentence reduction, is also by implication to say that more victims should be subjected to the gruelling trial process. Yes, a key aim of sentencing is to punish the defendant, but we must ensure that in our efforts to do this, we don't run the risk of punishing the victim too.

On balance, I do think sentence reductions for an early guilty plea are a good thing, but I firmly believe that this alone won't cut it. The provision of mentoring alongside a reduced sentence should be mandatory. By not supporting such individuals, we as a society are doing nothing to address the specific needs that may be leading to their offending in the first place.

Christian Weaver
BPTC student

Cover story

Supreme Court's historic decision

by Catarina Sjölin Knight,
Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Law School.

The judgment in *Jogee* [2016] UKSC 8; *Ruddock* [2016] UKPC 7 is worth celebrating for three reasons:

- (1) it is the first time that the Supreme Court and Privy Council have sat together;
- (2) the judgment is extremely well-written and thus easy to read and, most importantly;
- (3) it shows judicial bravery in putting right a judicially-created error in the criminal law, an error which has caused injustice.

Jogee concerned what is commonly called joint enterprise law, but that term is misleading as it is used to cover all criminal conduct that involves more than one defendant.

Jogee and *Ruddock* concerned secondary liability, that is where D1 actually commits the crime but D2 is involved in a different way, for instance by encouraging D1. Specifically, the form of secondary liability called parasitic accessorial liability (PAL) which involves the situation where D1 and D2 set out to commit crime A, in the course of which D1 commits crime B.

D2 is guilty of crime B if s/he foresaw the possibility that D1 might commit crime B and continued to participate in crime A. Thus nothing beyond D2's commission of crime A is required for D2 to be guilty of crime B, save that D2 contemplated the possibility that D1 might do it, or an offence of that type; D2 can go from being guilty of affray to being guilty of murder simply through foresight that D1 might do something to cause someone's death with the intention to at least cause grievous bodily harm.

D1, however, must actually wield the knife, striking the fatal blow while intending to kill or cause grievous bodily harm. The differences in both conduct and culpability which lead to guilty verdicts for D1 and D2 are stark.

PAL was a common law beast – created by judges – rather than a creature of statute. It derived most clearly from a 1984 Privy Council case (*Chan Wing-Siu*) the principle from which had been adopted by the courts in England and Wales and in other parts of the Commonwealth, most notably Australia. The House of Lords in England considered PAL in 1999 (in *Powell*; *English*) and despite seeing the problems with the principle, decided that it should continue to be used for public policy reasons, specifically to deter people from

entering into group criminal conduct. Far from dying a richly deserved death PAL grew beyond its birthplace in cases where D1 and D2 went out to commit an offence together to be used to deal with all forms of secondary liability.

In *Jogee*, however, the Supreme Court finally tackled the parasite and killed it off.

Accepting the submissions made on behalf of *Jogee* and supported by *Ruddock*, they concluded that the principle was flawed, rejected the public policy arguments for keeping it anyway and restated the principles upon which all secondary liability is based:

- D2 must assist or encourage D1 in the commission of offence X;
- D2 must know any necessary facts which gives D1's conduct or intended conduct its criminal character; and
- with that knowledge, D2 must intend to assist or encourage D1 to commit offence X, with the requisite mental fault element for that offence.

There does not have to be a pre-existing plan between D1 and D2; D2 can be held responsible for offending which is spontaneous, as long as the three principles outlined above are made out. D2 need not desire that D1 commits offence X, indeed D2 may really not want D1 to commit offence X at all, but still intentionally encourage or assist him/her to commit it. For example if D1 and D2 rob a bank together, armed with guns, and D1 shoots and kills a security guard, intending to at least cause him/her grievous bodily harm, D2 can be liable for the murder even if D2 did not want anyone to be hurt, as long as D2 still intended that if anyone got in their way that person would be shot with the intention of doing them at least grievous bodily harm.

The Court accepted that as PAL was a judicially created mistake it was for the courts to correct it and restate the principles clearly. The approach throughout the judgment is to properly analyse and explain the law for the benefit not just of lawyers but of the general public.

In the run up to the hearing in *Jogee* there had been growing academic disquiet about PAL, a disquiet shared by practitioners – lawyers and judges. What was marked about PAL was that the concern had also tipped over

into the public sphere: there was a critical report from the Justice Committee; charities set up to campaign for a change in the law (such as Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association – JENGbA); there were articles in the mainstream media, and even a television drama with PAL at its heart.

I was asked to join the team for the appellant, Ameen *Jogee*, to assist in drafting submissions for the court. Reading the judgment now it seems as though the final result was inevitable, but that was not the case when we began the three days of hearings on the appeal back in October 2015.

Every case since 1984 was against us, but we firmly believed in our arguments that the law was misconceived and unjust. We were led by Felicity Gerry QC (who had represented Ameen *Jogee* from his trial in Leicester Crown Court) and joined by Adam Wagner (an expert in human rights law) and Diarmuid Laffan. Also of invaluable help was Dr Matthew Dyson of Trinity College, Cambridge, who had researched secondary liability and its development in the common law and was able to do much of the legal historical research which became necessary when the Court asked us for a document laying out the foundations of secondary liability; the document submitted was 146 pages long. Significant work was also done by the legal team representing *Ruddock* and the intervening interested parties JENGbA and Just for Kids Law (who, like me, appeared pro bono).

We all provided the court with lengthy written submissions; appellate advocacy has become much more centred on written advocacy than it was 10 years ago. Our submissions spent some time explaining why the law was wrong and how such a wrong turning had been taken.

We then provided the court with our suggestion for how the law should be redrafted. We were hopeful that the Court would accept our arguments and when we received the judgment we were overjoyed to see that they had accepted both that the law was wrong and our suggestion for how it should be corrected.

For more information on Catarina Sjölin Knight and her role at Nottingham Law School, see page 08.



"The Court accepted that as PAL was a judicially created mistake it was for the courts to correct it and restate the principles clearly. The approach throughout the judgment is to properly analyse and explain the law for the benefit not just of lawyers but of the general public.."

Meet our staff

Catarina Sjölin Knight

Role:

Senior Lecturer

Overview:

I teach on the criminal and mooting modules for the law degree and law on the criminology degree. I also research with a focus on criminal law.

How did you find the transition from practice into academia?

I found it pretty straightforward as the written and oral skills I developed as a criminal barrister, researching the law and communicating with judges, juries, clients and witnesses prepared me well for teaching students and academic research. It was a little strange getting back into the rhythm of the academic year, though!

What path did you take to your current position?

After my law degree I took a Masters to take my interests in the academic side of law further. I then went to Bar School followed by pupillage and tenancy at 36 Bedford Row in London. Fortunately my chambers made sure that junior tenants practised in all areas so I could be in the magistrates' court one day, the county court the next and the high court the day after that. It was a great start as it made me learn to work and think quickly. I ended up specialising in serious criminal cases, often involving sexual or violent offending. Building on this I wrote a textbook on sexual offences with a colleague and wrote articles on that area. Then I saw the post at Nottingham Law School and, knowing the focus on both academic and practical law here, I applied and in September 2013 started here.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Watching students improve through the year, gaining knowledge and confidence, particularly on the mooting module where students invariably rise to the challenge of this demanding course. Watching those students graduate is a great privilege.

What has been your career highlight?

I had remained a door tenant at my old chambers and then when one of my colleagues there asked me to assist her on the Supreme Court appeal of Jogege I jumped at the chance to try and change this aspect of joint enterprise law, a part of the criminal law which has been causing injustice for so many years. The Law School accommodated my attendance at the hearing despite the fact that it fell in term time. Receiving the Court's judgment in which they accepted our submissions and changed the law felt pretty good.

What are your research interests?

I am interested in criminal law and criminal trials, particularly in sexual cases. I find fascinating the inherent tensions in the way the state reaches into the most private part of people's lives to police and protect. My current focuses are on assault, consent and (unsurprisingly) joint enterprise.

What is your involvement with mooting?

Since I joined the Law School I have both taught mooting and been in charge of the Law School's extra-curricular undergraduate mooting. With the superb students in the Mooting Club (run by Alice Radford and Billy Shaw) I organise internal competitions and enter students into external competitions.

What skills does mooting give students?

First, and perhaps most important to students right now, is that mooting makes you really understand the law because you have to think through and present an argument and also respond to both your opponent's submissions and the judge's questions. It is a brilliant way to learn the law and I am so pleased that it is a mode of assessment for two core modules. Second, although it obviously prepares students for practice as lawyers, I believe it goes further than that in preparing students for life after university. In every form of working life you need to be confident and in very many jobs you will at some point need to research something and then talk to others

about it, persuading them to your point of view; mooting prepares you to do just that. I believe that the Law School's students are well prepared not just for standing up in court, but also devising and explaining a new way of working to colleagues or writing and presenting a business plan to the bank manager.



Meet our staff

Andrea Nicholson

Role:

Head of Academic Postgraduate and Practitioner Portfolios

Overview:

I have strategic and developmental responsibility for the LLM courses, professional doctorates, and the intellectual property, trade mark attorney, and bespoke practitioner courses. It's a challenging, varied and interesting role that stretches from School strategy and course budget management to staffing and pastoral care. As a research-active member of the senior management team I assist with the research committees in the School and I am a member of the NLS Centre for Conflict Rights and Justice.

What has been your career highlight?

The people I work with at Nottingham Law School and in my research, and the students I have had the privilege to teach over the years are the highlights of my time here. I love doing research and value this immensely, but the people I meet and teach have made my work at Nottingham Trent University very enjoyable.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Being involved in School and portfolio strategy requires creativity and flexibility and I have found the challenges of this, and of being in a position to contribute to the development of the School, very rewarding. I also find the times when I am able to provide tangible support to staff and students rewarding.

Can you tell us a bit about your current research?

My research concerns contemporary forms of slavery. Having previously analysed legal definition and historical and contemporary anti-slavery measures, I am currently working on a large project using an interdisciplinary model that employs textual narrative and analysis and visual culture. For this I am gathering a new collection of contemporary slave narratives which will be included in the AHRC-funded Antislavery Usable Past digital archive. Together with existing narrative, I am analysing these to draw out elements that have been suggested for legal definition, and to trace freedom and 'unfreedom' through themes at the heart of narratives including identity, traumatic memory and recovery. By examining contemporary slave narratives in this way, we move towards a greater understanding of the condition of slavery, the agency of individuals, movements towards liberation, and the effects of current law and policy on survivors.

What interests you specifically about international human rights?

I was always interested in international standard setting rather than the more localised domestic and regional rights. Attempts to reach global consensus and the challenges presented by economies, politics, cultural differences, beliefs, governmental structures and priorities make it a highly complex and fascinating field. Human rights are at their core about people and freedom; I am very interested in how human rights are valued and addressed and the degree to which survivors' voices are part of our human rights framework.

What path did you take to get to your current position?

I started at Nottingham Law School as a lecturer twelve years ago teaching public law and human rights and the law of trusts and equity, and continued to carry out research into child labour. As time progressed I created modules in international human rights on both the undergraduate and postgraduate courses and became course leader for the LLB International Law, later moving to a principal lecturer position as the School quality manager. The quality manager position involved me in School and University strategy, enhanced my project management skills and brought me into a number of collaborative networks; it was an excellent stepping point for me to my current position.

Can you tell us a little more about the Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice?

The Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice was set up to pursue and encourage innovative scholarship in the fields of criminal law, criminal justice, human rights, international humanitarian law, conflict resolution and post-conflict justice (broadly defined). Its membership

is comprised of a number of researchers with a wide range of related interests. We have some fantastic research projects underway, for example the Centre Director Tom Lewis researches religious rights and freedom of expression; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership, the Hate Crime Steering Group and other organisations to improve training on hate crime; Peter McTigue researches the relationship between people living with HIV and disability; Dr Samantha Pegg has been commenting widely on the recent "revenge pornography" offence, and Dr Helen O'Nions researches the right to seek asylum and the specific difficulties faced by the Roma in accessing rights protection.

We are also proud to now be affiliated with 18 other global research centres that have committed to rights and justice as a research priority, which has created the largest rights and justice network in the world.

You can view more information and our members' profiles by visiting: www.ntu.ac.uk/conflictsrightsjustice



Student success

Alice Radford

LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

I am very thankful to say I have had the opportunity to do a lot of mooting at NTU. In my first year I competed in the internal LEX competition. Without participating in this, I don't think I would be where I am today, both in terms of personal confidence and masses of mooting experience.

In my second year I competed in the national United Kingdom Law Student Association mooting competition and progressed through to the second round. We narrowly missed out on the quarter finals, but had a great experience. I also participated in the internal Law School Ian Hutton Memorial Mooting Competition 2015, where my teammate and I won on the law and were commended on our performance.

This year I am currently preparing for the UH/Blackstone's National Advocacy Competition 2016. This involves preparing pre-trial applications, examination-in-chief and cross-examination of witnesses, and opening and closing speeches.

My mooting experience has been complimented by my involvement with the NLS Mooting Club. Last year I was the Deputy President and this year I am the President. In both years we have interviewed and chosen a group of students to take part in the external mooting competitions. We provide the students with a workshop, and support them throughout their competitions by checking their skeleton arguments and practising their moots with them. This year we are also offering first and second-year students practice sessions, to receive feedback on their mooting prior to their assessment which we feel will help them achieve higher marks.

One of my greatest experiences/achievements during my time at NTU has been making it through to the top ten of the Law Undergraduate of the Year Award 2015. Although I didn't win the competition, making it to the top ten of a national competition open to all law students who had applied was unbelievable.

I progressed through three rounds, which included personal details, qualifications and personality and aptitude tests. I also had to answer three questions on commercial awareness such as what are the current issues city law firms are facing, what role do law firms

play in the functioning of the city and what effect has the Legal Services Act 2007 had on city law firms? This required lots of research, and I progressed to the final ten based on these answers.

I was invited to Mayer Brown, an international law firm in London, and did a presentation with questions to a panel of four (made up of assistants, a partner and a trainee) on the increased court fees that had been introduced that month. It was a thrilling and one-of-a-kind experience.

I have also engaged in a variety of legal and non-legal work experience. I have completed work experience in a solicitor's firm and three mini-pupillages. The NTU employability team helped greatly with my CV and the different workshops they have put on throughout the years have been so helpful. I have also worked for the University as a Student Mentor, Student Ambassador and an Inspire Mentor.

I currently hold a conditional offer on the LLM Legal Practice Course, following completion of this, I hope to secure a training contract and become a solicitor.



Student success

Client Interviewing Competition

Natasha Ward

LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

I found out about the Client Interviewing Competition by way of an email from the Path to Professional Practice course leader. This was the first year the Competition has run and I think the interest it gained from students and skillset it offered reflects a great success for NLS.

Following a training session, the Competition consisted of four rounds which were judged by NLS staff. Pairs were given minimal information regarding their client 24 hours before each round, typically only their name and a sentence reflecting their problem.

All of the rounds concerned contract law, but as a dimension of the competition required pairs to give clients some legal advice at the end of the interview, it meant that we would have to research a wide area of law in anticipation of the problem. The first round acted as a practice with another pair and the proceeding rounds were judged.

The competition enabled me to develop various skills; other than the obvious, it allows students to develop their professionalism through first-hand experience. It also encouraged reflection, which meant that you could identify your own strengths and weaknesses and then aim to address them in the proceeding rounds to show improvement.

The fact that the participation was in pairs added a new challenge, as it forces you to share interactions with the client equally, ensuring that one student does not dominate the proceedings more than the other. Admittedly, this was something I struggled with as I like to talk!

Winning the competition was a very unexpected but welcomed opportunity. It has definitely boosted my employability but also given me the confidence and professionalism to know how to act during my own interviews in the future.

I was honoured to have been asked to take part in the recent NLS Celebrating Collaboration and Achievement evening during which I gave two presentations; one about the Client Interviewing Competition and the other about my work placement in America.

I encourage law students to grab every opportunity with both hands. NLS has so much to offer students, and our time here is only short, so it's important to utilise what you can while you can.

"The competition enabled me to develop various skills; other than the obvious, it allows students to develop their professionalism through first-hand experience."



LEX

Nottingham Trent University's successful law society

The society's student committee work tirelessly throughout the year to put on a variety of social and academic events, including an annual networking and dinner event with local barristers and solicitors, mooting competitions, various legal skills workshops, an annual ball, and trips to legal landmarks, such as the Supreme Court in London.

Becoming part of the LEX Law Society can help you to integrate into university life, boost your employability and make the most of your degree.

Meet some of the committee members...

Alishia Dennehy
(Vice President)

LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology

I assist the President and all other committee members with the running of the society, take minutes at meetings and ensure that relevant information is shared throughout the whole committee. I advertise events, arrange meetings and respond to communications through the social media and email accounts. Additionally I liaise with other parties to further enhance the society's events and expand where possible to ensure students enhance their employability and make useful connections within the legal world.



Billy Shaw
(Mooting Assistant Officer)

LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

I am involved in the mooting sector of the LEX Law Society, my responsibility is to assist in the organisation of the mooting competitions. My roles include ascertaining a date for the rounds, creating competition rules, liaising with participants and judging some of the moots. I also assist with the operation of LEX by advertising the society, speaking to students about the society, and more.



Alice Radford
(Bar Officer)

LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

My role involves organising the networking events and trips. In term one, the Legal Practice Officer and I organised the Annual Dining Event; the evening was a great success and both students and professionals had a really good night. It is great as a student to network with the wider legal profession and events like this are very beneficial. This term I ran the annual trip to the Supreme Court and Old Bailey which was also very successful and informative.



Shanice Chol
(Legal Practice Assistant)

LLB (Hons) Law with Business

I work in collaboration with the Legal Practitioner Officer to plan and organise some of our most established events and networking opportunities, which include our Annual Networking Dinner and the Supreme Court and Old Bailey trips. I have also worked in collaboration with the Bar Officer and Bar Assistant.



Jack Roberts
(Assistant Bar Officer)

LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

My role involves assisting the Bar Officer, Alice, in the organisation and running of networking events and organised trips to Inns and Courts. Additionally in my role I have assisted the Mooting Officers in the clerking and judging of the preliminary mooting rounds.



LEX

LEX London Trip

In February, 20 students visited the UK Supreme Court and the famous Old Bailey Criminal Court in London. This trip runs annually and was this year organised by Alice Radford, Bar Officer of the LEX Law Society.

"When we arrived at the Supreme Court, we were mesmerised by its exterior splendour in Parliament Square. We were greeted with papers of a judgement that had been delivered that day, in addition to the case facts and legal issue in a current hearing. We were delighted to hear that a case was being heard and we could go up to Court 3 and watch!



"It was a great experience to watch the submissions being made by counsel and see the judiciary asking questions to help better inform their judgement. In addition to witnessing the grand surroundings of the court from the public gallery, it was a particular highlight for many in our group that they were now able to say they had been in the same room as Lady Hale!

"After the hearing paused for lunch, we went to tour the exhibition. This was particularly fascinating as we were able to learn about the history of the Supreme Court. For example, one of the Supreme Court Justice's robes was on exhibit, of which only 12 have been made. No new robes are made; they are only altered when a new Justice is appointed.

"Much of the information was relevant to our studies, in terms of highly important case law and also regarding the separation of powers. We read how the Supreme Court and Houses of Parliament are on directly opposite sides in Parliament Square because this is intended to represent a physical balance of power, in line with the separation of powers theory.

"We then made our way to the Old Bailey to watch a robbery trial, entering as the prosecution was calling their witnesses. We observed the examination-in-chief and cross-examination of this witness, allowing us to see great advocacy first hand. It also allowed us to see how the law operates very differently in practice.

"We all really enjoyed the trip. Both the Supreme Court and the Old Bailey are places of huge relevance to any law student, and the advocacy we witnessed should come in useful for our mooting assessments!"

Alice Radford, LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

"When we arrived at the Supreme Court, we were mesmerised by its exterior splendour in Parliament Square."

The LEX Law Society have also just celebrated their annual ball...



Student experience

A day at Lincoln's Inn

Rhona Scullion and Alice Atay
Graduate Diploma Law (full-time)

Open since at least 1422, Lincoln's Inn is the largest of the four historic Inns of Court. For those new to the world of law, the Inns of Court were traditionally the educational providers for the Bar. As all aspiring barristers are required to join an Inn before commencing the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), knowledge of their purpose and function, as well as their own unique charms, is incredibly useful for all students considering this pathway into law.

Nowadays the function of the Inns is more supportive and social, although they do maintain educational links with the Bar by providing various talks, activities and events to supplement the continuing growth of all barristers – aspiring and advanced alike. One of the ways in which all of the Inns manage this for those not yet qualified, is by opening their ornate doors to the numerous students curious about a potential career at the Bar. This open day, generally held once per year, is a chance for students of all stages to learn more about what the Inn can offer them. Lincoln's Inn alone has £1.4 million to give away in scholarships and grants to those in need of financial assistance. In addition, it boasts 11 acres of land, which include acclaimed gardens and the library, as well as its own chapel and Great Hall. It also has an impressive roll call of members including 16 former prime ministers and notable members of the judiciary including Lord Hailsham and Lord Denning.

Following the introductory networking and chat, all of the students were then invited to sit in the Great Hall and listen to different members of the Inn deliver talks on subjects such as training for the Bar, the employed Bar, life at the Bar and ten top tips, before a break for tea and biscuits while the dining hall was prepared. With a traditional three course meal and port and coffee after dessert, there was space in between for the Treasurer to offer some words of wisdom. After two immaculately presented courses of food, the Treasurer's speech was then both a word of warning and encouragement. "Have a back-up plan", she urged. "But still, don't be deterred; if you want it, go for it. After all, someone has to make it."

For those with a little more awareness of the Bar and Lincoln's Inn, the open day still provided some useful insights. Most importantly, it provided a taste of what is to come. Dining at the Inn is a prerequisite for some of the qualifying sessions which those studying on the Bar Professional Training Course must complete before being called to the Bar. Sitting in the dining hall, full of like-minded students and members of the Inn, enabled the students to really experience the traditional social aspects of the Inns of Court and the barrister lifestyle.



All of the speeches reinforced what those committed to the Bar already knew – it is hard, it is tough, and even once you have managed to obtain that holy grail of tenancy, life at the Bar is still gruelling and demanding in a variety of ways. However, every single person who spoke was unequivocal in stating that it was the best career they could have chosen.

Perhaps more importantly though, many of the speeches reinforced another common aspect of the road towards becoming a barrister. Of those who eventually settle on this path, a fair number have not come along the most obvious route. Several had previous careers in other areas, such as journalism, or as a solicitor. Several had done more than one degree in different subjects, or had spent time working abroad in numerous capacities. All of them had studied in different places – so it was certainly not an Oxbridge-dominated game – although the universities they did attend were all of a high calibre.

Variety was certainly the name of the game. There was no one-size-fits-all at the Bar and so the underlying theme could have really been the tagline – be yourself. The sheer variety of speakers lent itself to underlining their universal thoughts on why the Bar is such an attractive career choice. From shipping and commercial to media and family law, from in-house to self-employed to barristers' clerks – everyone and every position had something different to offer, providing a unique insight into the great divergence of people and possibilities the Bar supports.

And then perhaps most surprising, or unsurprising depending on your view, was the fact that all of the speakers, the Treasurer and those members of the Inn (barristers and judges alike) interspersed along the dining tables, displayed distinctly human characteristics. Humour was ever present in all of the talks, and in the last one – comprising ten top tips for those intending to become a barrister – there was raucous laughter from the student audience at the many self-deprecating anecdotes. Additionally, almost every lawyer, including a QC I spoke with at the dinner table, informed us without shame that standing up in court still terrified them and that the job of being a barrister is undoubtedly a scary one. They talked of life-work balance and remaining true to yourself, finding time for friends and family but also appreciating the importance of the work you do as an advocate. The final word had to go to family law barrister, Matthew Hellens, who proclaimed: "Be honest, be reliable, be nice, and always locate the nearest Marks & Spencer in case you need to buy an emergency replacement tie or shirt."

Leaving the hall full of excellent food and such stellar advice, students could hardly go wrong.



Events

Clifford Chance Open Day

Billy Shaw
LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

What made you attend?

I am attracted to the idea of working in a commercial law firm alongside world-leading enterprises. I knew that I could gain an insight into that area of the legal profession and the type of work that lawyers do in city law firms by attending the event.

Clifford Chance forms part of the magic circle and is one of the world's leading law firms with offices in a vast array of countries. The firm is an innovator of the legal profession in the UK and has changed the way that firms operate in the legal sector in London. As I was fortunate enough to be offered the opportunity to attend the event, I simply could not turn it down.

What did you do at the event?

I got the opportunity to network with some of the firm's trainees and associates as well as other students from universities across the country who attended the event. Networking with the exceptional Clifford Chance team allowed me to see the firm's friendly and open culture first hand. I also got an insight into the legal profession and how city law firms operate and contribute to our economic and legal landscape.

I also took part in a corporate M&A workshop, where we analysed a bundle of fictitious documents in relation to a business transaction. The workshop gave me an overview of the steps of an acquisition, including the competitive pitch, the due diligence reports and the finalisation procedures.

Finally, we were taken on a tour around the glamorous Canary Wharf offices. The building houses many excellent facilities including a swimming pool, a gym, a salon and dry cleaning services.

Did you enjoy it? Why?

I enjoyed speaking to other students about their career aspirations. The law is a competitive profession and there is competition between students, however, attending events such as this has shown me how collegiate the profession is and how as students, we can help each other by signposting to certain opportunities.

Was it useful? Why?

The event gave me an excellent insight into Clifford Chance and how to create a winning application. The application tips I learned at the event have led to successful applications since.

The event also solidified my career aspirations as I found the M&A workshop very interesting; I particularly enjoyed assessing the risks in the business transaction, which is evidence of the commercial nature of the profession.

Shoosmiths mentoring scheme

Brion Mondoh
LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

As a final year undergraduate law student, my mind is always preoccupied with thoughts of the next big step in terms of career development. My worrisome thoughts have constantly revolved around what it takes to stay ahead of the pack in the ever demanding legal profession aside from academic ability and drive. More so, it's a well-known fact that lawyers read the same books and refer to the same law, and as such the need arises for an additional element.

Being selected to participate in the NLS/Shoosmiths mentoring programme has taught me that mentoring is indeed that additional element. The saying "show me your friends and I'll show you who you are" is therefore quite applicable in the legal field.

Simply put, having or associating with a positive role model or friend who'll show you the ropes is your perfect gateway into achieving that extra edge in your legal career.

The NLS/Shoosmiths launch event proved to be a very exciting and eventful evening to say the very least. Fun bits aside, our mentors expanded on the benefits of mentoring opportunities and urged us to maintain cordial relationships, since the ties developed will ultimately go a long way.

They further emphasised that mentors are always ready to devote their time to teach you about skills and experiences that they hope will instil a similar pursuit of wisdom in the mentee. As a result, the mentee is expected to reciprocate by behaving respectfully, participating actively and asking relevant questions to clarify grey areas.

In a nutshell, mentoring is a win-win situation. Mentees gather new skills and gain wisdom while mentors on the other hand, learn and further develop themselves from the mentee's feedback.

I intend to utilise my time as a mentee to create positive friendships, establish contacts, develop substantial knowledge on my key areas of legal interest and hone my skills while at it.



We care about your future

What is the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey?

The Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey collects information on what recent graduates from NTU and other higher education institutions across the UK are doing six months after qualifying from their course. All graduates are asked to complete the survey, whether they are UK, EU or international students, and the survey includes those on both full-time and part-time courses.

What questions will I be asked?

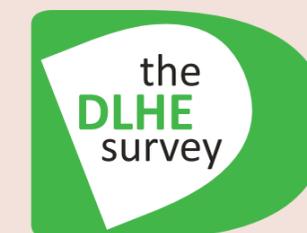
The survey takes place annually and you will be asked a series of questions about what you are doing. We are interested in finding out about the employment that is most important and relevant to your career trajectory, even if this is not your main source of income or principle job role. For example, you may be working full-time as a marketing assistant to gain commercial experience while you are applying for your training contract but actually feel your most important activity is studying for your professional postgraduate qualifications part-time.

Why is it important?

The DLHE survey is important because it allows us to learn more about the experiences of our graduates. The information informs teaching and learning across the University and enables us to tell current students about the employment opportunities available to them.

Find out more at www.ntu.ac.uk/dlhe

Remember, your Law School employability team is happy to help and support you for up to three years after graduation.



Events

Celebrating Collaboration and Achievement Event 2016

The Law School's Celebrating Collaboration and Achievement Event took place in March and welcomed many external guests, students and NLS staff.

The event is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the success of current projects by NLS students and to thank invited guests and staff for providing support.

This event, for professional friends of the Law School, students and staff, showcased and celebrated the success of a number of projects by current Nottingham Law School students which would not have been possible without the support of the individuals, firms and organisations who assist the School in many varied ways.

This occasion represented a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student achievements, and offered an invaluable opportunity for all students to network with a wide variety of practitioners and organisations.

Nottingham Law School was delighted to welcome His Honour Judge Mukherjee who opened the event by delivering the welcome keynote speech.

Invited students then delivered presentations to showcase key School and community or business projects. The evening was brought to a close with a drinks reception.



Alumni

HHJ Avik Mukherjee

Current role: Circuit Judge, Ministry of Justice
Year of graduation: 1989

What was your best memory of your time at NTU?

Professor Card taught Criminal Law. He was a wonderful character, a fantastic teacher and an inspiration.

What was your greatest achievement as a student of Nottingham Law School?

Graduating with honours.

What did you enjoy most about your course?

The work placement was life changing although I didn't realise it at the time. At the time it was a unique degree (LLB with placement over 4 years).

Could you give us a brief description of your job role?

Circuit Judge (full-time) based at Birmingham Crown Court.

What route did you take to get to your current job position?

1990: Called to the Bar and became a barrister.
2009: Appointed as Recorder.
2015: Appointed as a Circuit Judge.

What do you enjoy most about your current position? What has been the highlight of your career so far?

This is the highlight of my career so far. By far. It is a privileged post and one that makes me feel humble. I enjoy the fact that having spent 25 years representing one of the teams, I am now the referee and have to look after everyone in court, not just my client.

How did your course at NTU help your professional career and help you reach where you are now?

I was inspired to pursue criminal law as a career. When I went out on placement at the CPS I decided that I wanted to be a barrister. Had I not had the opportunity to go on placement while I was at NTU, I would not have realised as early as I did that I wanted to go into the Bar.

What advice would you give to law students wishing to go into the legal profession?

Work hard. Stay calm and focused. Don't give up, persevere. If you want something enough and you work hard enough (both academically and in an extra-curricular sense), you can achieve your goal. If I can, anyone can.

What are the most useful/important things you have learned throughout a) your time as a student, and b) your time in the legal profession?

Work placements in 1986 and 1988. I learnt a lot from David Duric (Senior Clerk at 1 High Pavement), Jonathan Teare (Pupil Master) and HHJ Nicholas Hilliard QC (mentor).

The need to prove yourself and earn respect. If you are good enough, you can carve out a successful career for yourself. Having a chip on your shoulder will get you nowhere.

What have been the biggest challenges you have faced as a legal professional?

Overcoming prejudice and bias.

Any advice?

You do not have to have connections to be successful in the legal profession. It is a very different and diverse place than it used to be when I joined the Bar in 1990. You have to work hard, remain focused and push yourself.



Events

The Advocacy Cup 2016

The Advocacy Cup is an inter-varsity trial advocacy competition devised and organised by Rob Manning, a senior lecturer on the LLM Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) at Nottingham Law School. This year the event was supported by 1 High Pavement Chambers and KCH Garden Square Chambers.

In the morning, a team from Cambridge University prosecuted a team from Oxford University in a mock jury trial and in the afternoon, Nottingham University prosecuted Leicester.

The cases were run as authentic trials with HHJ Michael Stokes QC, Recorder of Nottingham trying the Oxford versus Cambridge case, and NTU alumni and newly appointed Crown Court Judge HHJ Avik Mukherjee trying the local derby.

Both trials were heard in front of a jury made up of current Nottingham Law School BPTC students who heard evidence from three live witnesses, all played by criminal barristers from Nottingham, about an incident that took place at a recent ABBA tribute concert.

Both judges commented on the very high standard of advocacy which continues to improve from year to year. The event is a tremendous learning opportunity for all involved.

To read more about this event and the outcome of the trials, visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsnews



Legal Advice Centre

Legal Advice Centre

Get involved

The Legal Advice Centre on the first floor of Chaucer offers a range of pro bono projects for you to get involved in. These projects deliver the skills that will help you to excel in your chosen career as well as providing the chance to give something back to the community.

If you want to get involved visit www.ntu.ac.uk/probono to register, look for details of upcoming talks in the NOW learning room and follow @NLSProBono on Twitter.

Find us on LinkedIn

The Legal Advice Centre now has a LinkedIn page too. Search for Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre to follow us and keep up to date with the latest news and opportunities.



Student experiences

Kazuhisa Deguchi
LLM Human Rights and Justice

"The Legal Advice Centre was a highly influential factor in my decision to take up study at Nottingham Law School. The Centre hosts workshops and seminar events on legal practice, and students have the opportunity to perform pro bono and gain legal experience by working here. I have been trained as an FRU representative, which means I am qualified to give free legal advice under the supervision of a specialist in-house solicitor."

Alice Atay
Graduate Diploma in Law

"I have always believed that knowledge goes hand-in-hand with practical experience, therefore I was very attracted by the prospect of working within the Legal Advice Centre, and the many other pro bono opportunities that Nottingham Law School has to offer. I felt that engaging in legal work opportunities would provide me with well-rounded skills that future employers would see merit in."

Fatima Baig
LLB (Hons) Law with Psychology

"I was selected to work in the Legal Advice Centre and it has been one of the highlights of my degree. I have had the opportunity to advise on areas of law such as family, employment and housing, and throughout this whole process the supervisors have been really supportive. This experience has given me a real insight into the work of a solicitor and affirmed my decision to undertake the LPC after graduation."

Legal Bake raises money for Nottingham Personal Support Unit

The 2016 Great Legal Bake raised over £20,000 to support the Access to Justice Foundation nationally.

The Legal Advice Centre made sure they played their part and staff and students put their baking skills to good use, helping to raise over £200 for the Nottingham Personal Support Unit (PSU).

The PSU provides trained volunteers who give free, independent assistance to people facing proceedings without legal representation in civil and family courts and tribunals.

The Legal Advice Centre has a close connection with the organisation and 17 students are currently taking part in a volunteering scheme, helping clients in various ways such as filling in forms, giving practical advice or simply providing somebody to talk to.

Bake coordinator, Faye Deverell said: "Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us raise so much money for the PSU! It's a fantastic achievement for such a great cause."



Nottingham Legal Walk

The Legal Advice Centre has also been supporting the Nottingham Personal Support Unit and the Midland Legal Support Trust by taking part in the Nottingham Legal Walk.

The annual 10k walk takes in the sights of Nottingham while raising money for local legal advice charities. There is of course a well-deserved drink at the end too.

This year's walkers included President of the Law Society and Nottingham Law School alumnus Jonathan Smithers. The teams were also joined by Honorary Nottingham Law School Professor Shaun Smith QC, who is the Joint Head of 1 High Pavement Chambers.



Study abroad

My year abroad: Studying in the Netherlands

Vidhya Panchal
LLB (Hons) International Law

During my course I had the opportunity to study abroad with Erasmus+ for the duration of my third year. I chose Radboud University in the Netherlands because I wanted to study in an English speaking country, and I'd never visited this part of Europe before.

One of the best decisions I made in my year abroad was becoming a mentor in the second semester. This opened me up to a whole load of new experiences and people. We had meetings before the Orientation Week started which was really nice as we got to know all the other mentors involved, and during the week we took part in activities which included fun events like bowling, going out, international dinners and city tours. This then led to numerous outings and group dinners where a couple of people each week would take it in turn to cook.

My advice to students planning on studying abroad is to definitely get involved with everything the university has to offer. If I hadn't applied to become a mentor I would have found it difficult to make as many friends because a lot of people leave in the first semester.

It's important to research when choosing a university abroad in regards to accommodation, option choices and the university overall – but don't research in too much depth, because the stuff I didn't know made it more exciting when I got here!

The modules that I picked for my year abroad included four Masters modules, which definitely assisted my academic studies. It made me more disciplined in my work and made me realise that if you keep up with the reading, you'll find preparing for the exams so much easier. The additional year also gave me the opportunity to study modules that I wouldn't have had chance to study otherwise, which broadened my knowledge of law.

The best thing about the trip was that I became much more confident. Before the year abroad I was extremely shy and quite socially awkward, but going out there taught me a lot about myself and pushed me outside of my comfort zone.

I have definitely come back with some lifelong friendships. I still keep in contact with a lot of people and have met up with a few of them a couple of times – when I went Interrailing, I knew a student from Erasmus in each country!

After graduation this year I'm going to travel in the summer while I look for a job in the legal sector. I plan to do CILEX at some point, which is an alternative to the Legal Practice Course (LPC), so hopefully after a bit more research I can become a member of that in January. Then after 5-10 years, I plan to move abroad!



Research

Research into the classification of HIV as a disability by the Equality Act 2010

In February Peter McTigue delivered one of the Law School's regular lunchtime research seminars. Peter presented his research findings on how people living with HIV feel about being classed as disabled under UK discrimination legislation.



Using data obtained through in-depth interviews with a number of individuals living with HIV across the UK, Peter's research examined whether the decision to classify HIV as a disability by the Equality Act 2010 is an adequate response to the high levels of stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV.

The seminar was well attended by staff and students of the Law School as well as representatives of voluntary sector organisations working within the field of HIV. The Terence Higgins Trust is the largest voluntary sector provider of HIV services in the UK and Sandra Spence, Centre Manager of their Nottingham office and attendee at the seminar, commented, "It is a fascinating study determining the attitude of people living with HIV to their infection and the effect this has on their decision to disclose. The study is a wonderful opportunity to examine both the legal and social aspects of stigma and to challenge perceptions of disability."

David Burdette announced as Extraordinary Professor

Professor David Burdette, Director of the Centre for Business and Insolvency Law at Nottingham Law School has been appointed as an Extraordinary Professor at the Department of Mercantile Law within the Faculty of Law of the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The appointment was made in recognition of David's expertise in both South African and international corporate insolvency law. The appointment runs for a period of five years, from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2021.

The Centre for Business and Insolvency Law has a strong relationship with the University of the Free State. In 2015, it played host to Dr Lézelle Jacobs, a lecturer at the South African University, who finalised her research while in Nottingham and also participated in the Joint Insolvency Conference organised by the centre in conjunction with the INSOL Europe Academics' Forum and Radboud University, Nijmegen.

Dr Lézelle Jacobs is also involved in a number of projects with the Nottingham team, including joint publications and bids for research funding. With David's appointment at the University of the Free State, the centre looks forward to close collaboration between the two institutions.



Research

Lawyers turn pro as sports governance kicks off

Edward Grayson, the barrister and pioneer of the field of sports law in England, once commented that "the rule of law in sport is as essential for civilisation as the rule of law in society generally." That observation has never seemed more apposite than now: every day it seems we read of a new challenge for sports law on the back pages of newspapers and, perhaps more worryingly, on the front pages.

I was fortunate to begin my academic career and to develop my interest in sports law when the subject was still in its infancy and, as a sports lawyer, I was regarded as something of a curiosity. It was not so very long ago that the description 'sports lawyer' signified a generalist, versed in a range of issues from crime and tort to some contract and commercial law.

The revolution that has occurred over the subsequent two decades has been remarkable. The Bosman judgment triggered a whole new area of study and practice in EU sports law; similarly, the role and significance of sports arbitration, especially that of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), has been transformed.

These are but two of the most notable examples. From the generalist discipline of 20 years ago, we now have sports lawyers with wide-ranging specialisms in corruption, match-fixing, anti-doping, child protection, discrimination, media, employment, and intellectual property, to name but a few. The increasing complexity of the legal issues facing sport means that the days of the generalist sports lawyer are over: this is the era of the specialist.

This colonisation of sport by lawyers is often regarded negatively – particularly by those who govern sport – with a familiar and echoing claim that sport is somehow special or different, that the law should stop at the touchline. Such assertions are founded on the notion that increasing legal engagement risks ruining sport: the law cannot hope to understand or accommodate the essence of sport. Lord Denning once famously noted in the context of sport that "justice is often done better by a good layman than by a bad lawyer."

Such claims can now be seen to be ill-founded. Scandals in the governance and regulation of cycling, football, and athletics demonstrate the failure of the old ways of regulating sport. Lord Denning's laymen have failed. Sport has become big business, nationally and internationally, by means of the vast sums of money involved in professional sport, the disputes and corruption that inevitably arise as a consequence, and the value of sport to individuals and to communities, which requires the protection offered by the law.

These factors and increasing complexity and regulatory failure mean that, more than ever, sport needs lawyers, and specialists at that. More importantly, sport needs the stability and certainty provided by the law. Arguably the rule of men has failed sport, with the consequence that the rule of law must prevail.

Article by Simon Boyes, director of the Centre for Sports Law at Nottingham Law School – published in Solicitors Journal, www.solicitorsjournal.com.



International Advocacy Teaching Conference 2016

Nottingham Law School hosts the second International Advocacy Teaching Conference in June 2016.

The conference aims to bring together those with an interest in teaching and developing advocacy skills in both legal education and practice, including those who teach advocacy (including mootings) at undergraduate, postgraduate and professional levels.

The conference will provide opportunities for trial advocates, members of the judiciary and academics from around the world to meet and share best practice in advocacy teaching. This year's conference addresses how those who train advocates can ensure advocates are equipped to deal with the needs and challenges of a rapidly changing legal and political landscape.

The conference includes a variety of presentations, expert panel debates and workshops. We will share the experience and expertise of advocacy trainers from different jurisdictions in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

The theme of the conference is 'The 21st Century Advocate,' and will address many themes including:

- the advocate's role in defending the rule of law;
- using advocacy teaching to enhance every stage of legal education;
- designing teaching and assessment activities which maintain and enhance standards;
- inculcating ethical values in advocates;
- using technology in advocacy;
- training experienced practitioners;
- supporting and encouraging diversity amongst advocates;
- the future of advocacy training;
- issues of advocacy in comparative jurisdictions; and
- training advocates for pro bono or legal clinic work.

For more information and to book, visit:

www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsevents

For more information and news from our Centres for Research, visit:

Centre for Business and Insolvency Law – www.ntu.ac.uk/businessinsolvencylaw

Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice – www.ntu.ac.uk/conflictrightjustice

Centre for Legal Education – www.ntu.ac.uk/legaleducation

Centre for Advocacy – www.ntu.ac.uk/advocacy

Centre for Sports Law – www.ntu.ac.uk/centresportslaw

Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution – www.ntu.ac.uk/cmdr

Awards

Winner
at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards

The Access to Justice Foundation Award

This award recognises the work of individuals and education bodies in promoting and supporting access to justice and charities which provide pro bono services.



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

Winner
at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards

Best Contribution by a Law School

In recognition of all the activities we undertake and our innovative use of an alternative business structure (ABS).



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

Runner up
at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards

Best New Student Pro Bono Activity

For the inFrinGeMent Project – our campaign to raise awareness of female genital mutilation in Nottingham and beyond and to educate communities, voluntary groups and professionals on how the law can be used for the protection of victims and potential victims.



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

Highly commended
at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards

Best Contribution by an Individual Student

Natasha Ward, LLB (Hons) Law (full-time), was highly commended.



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

Winner

Nottinghamshire Law Society Contribution to the Community Award 2016



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

Shortlisted

Legal Education Provider of the Year in the Solicitors Journal Awards



NTU ONLINE WORKSPACE

...and finally

Get involved

Our employability team organise a whole range of events, some of which are displayed within this issue of All Things Law.

See what opportunities and events you could get involved with by regularly visiting the **NLS Employability NOW Learning room** and **FutureHub**.



Write for our blog

Anyone in the Law School can write for the Nottingham Law School blog and we're always on the hunt for new bloggers. If you want to get involved send a sample post to nlsblog@ntu.ac.uk and check out previous posts at www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsblog



Discounts and scholarships

We have a range of competitive scholarships available for GDL, LLM LPC, LLM BPTC and LLM courses. Current Nottingham Law School students are also eligible for a progression discount if you continue on to any of these courses.

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/scholarships to find out more.

Upcoming events

Grads4Nottm work experience
Monday 13 June 2016 – Friday 24 June 2016
Take part in a two-week paid business challenge open to all law students, gain graduate-level work experience and develop your skills and commercial awareness.

Get 1-1 support
Available all summer
Book an appointment or drop in to see the Employability Team in Newton.

Legal Careers Event
Thursday 16 June 2016
This event is open to all law students who are applying for training contracts during the summer and we have legal recruiters delivering workshops on legal CVs, writing winning training contract applications and how to succeed at assessment centres.

Postgraduate and Professional drop-in event
Wednesday 22 June 2016
This event will provide you with the perfect opportunity to find out more about our GDL, LLM LPC, LLM BPTC and Masters in Law (LLM) courses.

Whither Adversarialism? Realising Victims' Rights in Criminal Trials
Thursday 23 June 2016
An Inaugural Lecture by Professor Jonathan Doak, Nottingham Law School.

International Advocacy Teaching Conference June 2016
Friday 24 June 2016 - Saturday 25 June 2016
The 21st Century Advocate
The conference will bring together advocates, judges and academics from different jurisdictions and across disciplines to discuss and share best practice in the training of advocates.

Professional courses open event
Wednesday 13 July 2016
This event will provide you further information about our GDL, LLM LPC, and LLM BPTC courses.

For more information or to book your place at the above events, visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsevents



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