

ALL THINGS LAW



Business and Enterprise Law Service

Read about this new service which aims to provide small start-up businesses with essential legal services.

Student Success

Find out about the latest student competitions and celebration evenings.

Alumni Fellowship Programme

Read about the School's Alumni Fellows and how they support Law School students.

New Research Centre

Find out about the new Centre for Marine Ecological Resilience and Geological Resources.

Welcome – Summer 2017

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This edition of *All Things Law* has a focus on the Legal Advice Centre's new Business and Enterprise Law Service. This new expansion to the Centre's services will provide our students with commercial opportunities. Small businesses, entrepreneurs and charities in Nottingham will also be able to benefit from affordable, or free, legal advice.

In this edition, you will also find out about our new Centre for Marine Ecological Resilience and Geological Resources (MERGeR). The Centre is led by Professors Elizabeth Kirk and David Ong, experts in international environmental law, and has a particular focus on marine resources and marine ecosystems, including fresh water and terrestrial issues.

I should like to give a special mention to Matthew Homewood who was recently shortlisted for the 2017 Law Teacher of the Year Award and was awarded the 2017 Global Legal Skills Award in recognition of his significant contribution to the promotion and improvement of global legal skills. Matthew has also been honoured with a National Teaching Fellowship and the Vice Chancellor's Teaching Award in recognition of his innovative use of technology in teaching, including developing initiatives that have made a real difference to the student experience.

Congratulations also to Faye Deverell, Senior Supervising Solicitor in the Legal Advice Centre on being named Solicitor of the Year 2017 by the Nottinghamshire Law Society. Through Faye's outstanding work, she provides vital access to justice to the areas most vulnerable clients. This commitment to social justice, coupled with her excellent technical legal skills, makes her a valued role model for our students.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Nottingham Law School was named as a runner up at the *Guardian* University Awards for student experience. This was in recognition of the 'How To' project, which was designed to be intuitive and engaging with the aim of addressing identified gaps in student outcomes.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of *All Things Law*. I hope that you enjoy reading this issue and that it will provide you with an insight into what is happening in and around the School.

Professor Janine Griffiths-Baker
Dean, Nottingham Law School



Advocacy Cup

The Advocacy Cup is an annual intervarsity trial advocacy competition held in Nottingham Law School's purpose-built courts. It is officially supported by No.1 High Pavement Chambers and King Charles House Garden Square Chambers (both based in Nottingham), although barristers from a variety of sets of chambers get involved.

Teams from four universities took part in two separate authentic jury trials, each attempting to lift the Advocacy Cup. In their match, Nottingham University took on Leicester University whilst the University of Cambridge were pitted against Oxford University. The teams were comprised of four advocates each designated a particular role in the trial process; one team prosecutes the case, the other defends. The teams were mentored by senior Nottingham criminal barristers Clive Stockwell (head of No.1 High Pavement Chambers) and Jon Straw (No.1 High Pavement Chambers). The witnesses were played by barristers and pupil barristers two of whom were former Bar Professional Training Course students at Nottingham Trent University: Chris Lowe (Ropewalk Chambers) and Leanne Summers (KCH Garden Square Chambers).

This year's case was a dangerous driving offence. A witness observed the defendant overtaking at high-speed in close proximity to a blind bend. A head on collision was narrowly avoided with an oncoming vehicle, which had to swerve onto the grass verge, and a cyclist was caused to fall from his bicycle. The defendant maintained that his driving was at all times safe and disputed the manner in which he overtook.



In both trials the jury, made up of Nottingham Law School students, acquitted the defendant. The winners of the matches were decided upon by the presiding judge in each case on the basis of which team presented the case in the most competent manner. In the event, Cambridge defeated Oxford and Leicester defeated Nottingham. The winning teams were each presented with the Advocacy Cup by the presiding judges who were:

HHJ Michael Stokes QC, the recently retired Recorder of Nottingham (Oxford v Cambridge); and HHJ Avik Mukherjee of Birmingham Crown Court and alumni of NTU (Nottingham v Leicester).



Nottingham Law School opens up distance learning LLM Legal Practice for US students

A unique new partnership is to give students at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, North Carolina, the chance to complete Nottingham Law School's LLM Legal Practice via distance learning.

The initiative is part of a recently signed agreement between the two institutions, which will see a number of other collaborations developed in the future. Through the LLM Legal Practice (DL), students from Campbell Law School will be able to gain further credits on their postgraduate learning by completing a dissertation enabling them to gain a Masters qualification.

Nottingham Law School Dean, Professor Janine Griffiths-Baker, and Andrea Nicholson, Head of Postgraduate Provision and School Research Coordinator, travelled to Campbell Law School where they met with the School's Dean, Rich Leonard, and colleagues, and agreed to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Bar Council of India accreditation for Nottingham Law School
Nottingham Law School has received accreditation from the Bar Council of India that recognises the high standard of its undergraduate Qualifying Law Degree.

The accreditation means that the LLB course is now accepted as part of the educational route towards practising law in India.

As part of the process, members of the Bar Council of India visited Nottingham Law School to see its facilities and ensure the quality of its courses. They also visited the Legal Advice Centre to learn about the pro bono work done by students.

Helen Hudson, Head of Legal Development at Nottingham Law School, said: "Accreditation from the Bar Council of India demonstrates our quality as a Law School. It means that Indian students can study here, confident in the knowledge that they are beginning their career with a qualification recognised in their home country."

Runner-up at the Guardian University Awards 2017 for Student Experience

Academics at Nottingham Law School wanted to ensure the maximum progression rates of students from first year to second year. The 'How to' project involved the development of an interactive online study space for students using multimedia resources, to aid and develop their learning experience.

The project provided a variety of resources through the University's virtual learning environment. This included material that breaks down key concepts, such as how to answer questions effectively.

In the project's first stages 1,892 students accessed the resources, with the average time spent in the learning room being in excess of two hours and 45 minutes. Data showed that students took personalised journeys through the resources provided – picking and choosing the materials that were most appropriate for their needs.

Progression data for all undergraduate law courses indicates that the project has been a success so far, with more students progressing to second year than in the previous academic year. This includes significant increases in progression where there are identified gaps in progression / attainment.



Client Interviewing Competition

The second Nottingham Law School Client Interviewing Competition concluded with the final at Nottingham Law School's Legal Advice Centre.

The competition was open to all second and third year students on the undergraduate LLB law programmes. This unique experience saw 20 students all working in pairs to interview a client with a fictional legal issue. The competition commenced with a training session where all the students had the opportunity to build on their interview methods and techniques. In the next stage, the students completed a set of interviews, where each person had the chance to play either a client or a judge.

In round two and the semi-final, each pair of students met with a client (played by Law School tutors). The pairs received a small brief about the issue concerning the client and then had to complete

a 20-minute interview. A Law School tutor, acting as a judge then assessed the performances. The top scoring teams progressed to the next round.

In the final, the students met with a client who had a complicated contractual problem and the students then had 30 minutes to provide the client with legal advice in the presence of three judges, lecturer Helen Taylor, solicitor Faye Deverell and Pastoral Advisor Julie Higginbottom. The acting judges were all impressed by the professionalism shown by the finalists. After a challenging day, the winners were announced as Dalitso Tembo and Lee-Roy Makuyana, both in their final year on LLB Law (full-time). The runners up were Marie Christelle Zoro and Athina Agrafioti. Jenny Chapman, Deputy Dean at Nottingham Law School, announced the winners and gave the prizes on the day of the final.

"This competition was very enlightening because it awarded me with practical experience of professional client care and client interviewing skills. I feel very proud that I won the competition; it showed me that I am on the right path to building the skills for my legal career in the future."

Lee-Roy Makuyana
LLB Law (full-time)

"The Client Interviewing Competition was an invaluable experience and I would recommend students to definitely have a go."

Dalitso Tembo
LLB Law (full-time)

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE LAW SERVICE

In May 2017, the multi-award-winning Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre launched its new Business and Enterprise Law Service, which aims to provide small start-up and micro businesses with the essential legal services that many need but do not obtain, for financial and other reasons.

The Legal Advice Centre is a charitable subsidiary of Nottingham Trent University and registered with the Solicitors Regulation Authority. It has an ABS Licence allowing it to charge for a small proportion of the work it does.

The service is intended to support entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and small / medium-sized enterprises in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, including social enterprises and charities. We aim to assist by way of seminars, tailored advice and other legal services on such matters as:

- **Business structures and ownership;**
- **Terms and conditions of business;**
- **Small contractual disputes;**
- **Non-disclosure agreements;**
- **Basic intellectual property issues;**
- **Entry-level commercial property matters;**
- **Basic employment issues for those taking on staff for the first time.**

Mike Jarrett, a supervising solicitor in the Centre, said:

"The new service is a really positive development for small businesses and organisations. I spent 15 years specialising in litigation before returning to university life. I love how this service allows clients to get advice that means they should be able to avoid the sorts of pitfalls that were faced by the clients that I used to advise.

Since joining the Centre last October, the students have done such a wide range of work with me. This includes drafting a set of terms of business for, of all things, a law firm, advising on the duties of trustees of a charity and providing a client with a comparison of the benefits of a business setting up as a limited company or a limited liability partnership. The service is great for increasing the students' areas of legal knowledge. It also requires them to consider professional issues, like who they act for, either the business, or the individual that owns it.

I have been really impressed with how the students have risen to the challenge of the varied work that has been required of them, given they will not usually have covered such topics in their studies. Perhaps it is a

reflection of the state of the legal market and their potential career paths, but there is great enthusiasm amongst the students to work on commercial projects."

Whilst most of its services will be pro bono, Centre students, working under the supervision of qualified lawyers, will work on small commercial cases to provide low-cost services to small business clients who would otherwise not get assistance. The aim is to give students the authentic experience of working for a paying client while addressing a specific area of unmet legal need, making students at Nottingham Trent University more employable and work ready. We also aim to develop a set of reliable resources, which clients and members of the public can use to guide them on common areas of concern which will be available on the Centre's website.



We are always looking at ways that the University, through the Centre, can put something back into the local community. The Centre already helps those in debt and with housing issues. Through the Free Representation Unit, it provides representation in the employment and social security tribunals.

The new service will offer support to a wider range of clients. Nottingham is a thriving city, with lots of small businesses, which we can now help in a variety of ways from breakfast seminars and webinars, on a range of issues, to tailored advice for business clients and charities.

The statistics say that 40% of new businesses fail in their first five years of trading. Our hope is to help many more survive by alerting them to the issues that cause businesses to fail. Whether that's by offering advice on cash flow or helping with incorporating the business, so that if it fails the business owner does not lose their own home.

Kim Pons is studying the Graduate Diploma in Law at Nottingham Law School, having obtained her Masters in International Business Law at the Sorbonne, Paris.

Kim said: "I have long wanted to be a solicitor specialising in commercial law, advising clients on terms of contracts that best protect their business. This service gives me the chance to experience that type of work, in a carefully supervised environment. I have already given webinars advising SMEs throughout Europe on data protection and social media issues, learning how to work as part of a team, the importance of accurate, timely research and time management skills, as I had to combine the webinars with my studies. Working with solicitors has made me operate on a professional basis.

I will also be presenting, with a partner of a national law firm, to local businesses and others on data protection issues they face. My next step is to enrol on the LLM Legal Practice Course while continuing to gain commercial experience through the Centre to further enhance my CV."

The aim is to ensure that the Centre's service complements what is currently offered by local law firms and fills an unmet need in the community. It is hoped that those who experience our service realise the importance of high-quality legal advice, especially at an early stage in their business. We aim to offer a fixed-fee service to clients for charged work.

The Centre is providing a series of breakfast seminars throughout 2017, visit www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsevents to find out more.

Nottingham Law School Prize Giving

The School welcomed prize-winning students, their families and friends, and sponsors of the prizes to an awards ceremony in The Old Chemistry Theatre. The evening ended with a celebratory reception where drinks and canapés were served.

Over 40 prizes were awarded to successful Law School students, the majority for outstanding academic performance. Other prizes were presented for mooting, pro bono work, advocacy, research and work carried out on placement. Skills in certain areas of law such as business and family law were also recognised with awards.

**Celebrating, Collaboration and Achievement**

Nottingham Law School welcomed many external guests, students and School staff to the University for the fifth Annual Celebrating, Collaboration and Achievement evening.



The event is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the success of current projects by Nottingham Law School students and to thank invited guests and staff for their support.

Shaun Smith (QC) from No.1 High Pavement Chambers opened the event with an inspirational introductory speech, raising important issues around access to justice.

The students delivered stimulating presentations, encouraging their fellow students to participate in similar projects in the future and explaining how important these experiences have been for both their professional and personal lives.

Graduate Diploma in Law mooters at the Crown Court

The GDL Mooting Club celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. The Club is run by students and sponsored by Nelsons (www.nelsonslaw.co.uk), whose ongoing support makes the Club's excellent competition possible each year.

The standard of the student's mooting is always high and this year was no exception. The moot was conducted with great skill and the mooters dealt with the questions from the bench with skill and confidence. To mark and celebrate the Club's milestone anniversary, this year, the competition final was held at Nottingham Crown Court, after normal sitting hours. The final was well attended by both students and industry professionals who had the opportunity to mingle while the appellate bench consisting of Visiting Lecturer and retired Judge HHJ John Samuels QC, Simon Key from Nelson's solicitors and barrister and Senior Lecturer Catarina Sjolín Knight retired to consider their decision. All of the judges were extremely impressed with the standard of mooting. After a lot of deliberation, the results were:

Individual Winner: Silas Lee
Individual Runner-up: Robert Poulson
Best Team: Silas Lee and Nick Gill

Catarina Sjolín Knight, the Law School's academic mooting coordinator, commented, "This competition exemplifies why mooting is so important in developing skills in research, analysis and presentation. These students are not even a full academic year into their legal studies but were able, through their hard work and experiences in the earlier rounds, to construct and argue difficult legal points in front of three judges. It is a real pleasure to be able to support students as they develop into lawyers."

Thank you to Nelsons for their continued support and congratulations to all students involved in this year's competition."



Negotiation Competition 2017

Written by Lee-Roy Makuyana, LLB Law (full-time)

Pictured are the finalists, the judges, the Negotiation Officers and LEX President (Ben Garbett).

The Negotiation Competition is organised by the LEX Law Society in collaboration with the local law firm Shoosmiths. Rick Thomas, who is a former Nottingham Law School student, started the competition to give law students an opportunity to negotiate like solicitors and gain work experience.

This academic year the competition has grown, becoming more popular amongst students and staff members. This is due to the excellent efforts of this year's student Negotiation Officers who worked collaboratively with other LEX committee members. The officers made sure they marketed the competition through emails, word of mouth and displaying posters around the Law School. As a result, the competition had an audience for the first time. Shoosmiths were generous enough to open their doors to an audience of 20 students who attended the semi-finals and 50 students who went to the finals. The Negotiation Officers were working alongside Shoosmiths solicitors, Alexander Jablonskas and Rick Thomas, who made sure everything ran smoothly.

The competition began with a workshop delivered by the LEX Negotiation Officers, where all the negotiators were taught negotiation etiquette and the necessary skills required. 16 participants (ranging from years one-three) were selected after submitting statements as to why they should be selected to take part.

The first round commenced with 16 contestants negotiating in pairs. Eight contestants made it to the semi-finals and were then shortlisted to four, at the finals on 29 March. Joy Davies, the Director of the Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution attended the competition. Joy gave an opening and closing speech, inspiring all the students who were there. The judges of the competition were Rick Thomas, Helen Parrot and Michael Brigg. This year's finalists were Kimberly Mtambalika and Stepan Ovakimyan who were competing against Akil Hunte and James Allen, who went on to win the competition. The award for the winning pair is a days' work experience at Shoosmiths.

The competition was a great success this year and we appreciate everyone who helped and participated. We would like to highlight our thanks to Shoosmiths for their continued support to this competition. If you're a student and haven't been in the audience or taken part in the competition this year, then I would definitely recommend that you take part next year, as it is a great opportunity to enhance your CV and develop new skills.



Michael John Fay QC

Nottingham Law School Alumni Fellow

I moved to Nottingham and lived in rented accommodation in Hyson Green for my first year. I purchased a house in New Basford at the beginning of my second year and rented out two rooms to other law students. I sold the house after I graduated, and the profits were sufficient to put down payment on a flat in London for Bar School.

There are many great memories from my time at NTU. However, the best memory was meeting Sofia – who eventually became my wife. I enjoyed being in Nottingham and the social life in and around the law and business schools. In my final year I was the President of the Student Law Society. I enjoyed learning about the law and how it works – I had absolutely no idea when I started. I particularly enjoyed company law and my lecturer, Stuart Oliver, who was helpful, challenging and a little intimidating.

After graduating from Nottingham, I attended Bar School at the Inns of Court School of Law in London. I then undertook pupillage at 11 New Square, Lincoln's Inn and 5 Fountain Court, Birmingham. I was offered a tenancy at 5 Fountain Court and a door tenancy at 11 New Square. In 1996, I left the Bar and relocated to the British Virgin Islands. I was head of litigation at Harneys in the British Virgin Islands, and then spent two years at Misick & Stanbrook in the Turks & Caicos Islands. In 2001, I returned to the British Virgin Islands and set up WSmiths with one other partner. WSmiths comprised two businesses – a law firm and a fiduciary services business. We were in the right place at the right time, and went from two lawyers in 2001 to 16 lawyers and 35 staff in the British Virgin Islands,

Hong Kong and Montevideo by 2007. In 2007, we merged with Ogier – one of the largest law firms in the offshore world.

Ogier sold its fiduciary services business in 2014 and I retired from the law firm. I decided to take a 12-month sabbatical whilst I decided what to do next – it stretched out to 30 months. I spent a lot of time on holiday, sitting as a deputy High Court Judge and graduated with an AMP from Harvard Business School.

I am the senior partner of a new start-up law firm in the British Virgin Islands called Advocates BVI. We only undertake litigation – primarily shareholder disputes, contentious corporate work, insolvency, trust disputes and civil actions to recover the proceeds of fraud. I love being my own boss and the thrill of exciting litigation. Practice in the British Virgin Islands has the advantage of extremely good high profile remunerative work in the office, and a relaxing life style in a great climate out of the office.

I was always told that I was not bright enough to pursue a career in law, so being called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn is definitely a highlight of my career. The first time I sat as a deputy High Court Judge, and more recently the first time I sat as a deputy Court of Appeal Judge, are memorable moments. Winning cases is always enjoyable, but most cases win or lose themselves on the facts and / or the law and the lawyers merely assist in the process. However, every now and again it is very satisfying to be involved in a case where your legal research, your novel point or your presentation make a real difference to the decision.

I have been lucky, and whilst there is no substitute for hard work, a bit of luck is important. The biggest challenge was trying to adapt from operating a law firm of two partners, to running a law firm with many professional and non-professional employees. I was privileged to have a business partner with great business acumen.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court has been welcoming and good to me, and I am very fortunate as a non-Caribbean national to have been able to make my career in it. The dramatic increase of commercial litigation in the British Virgin Islands, and steps by various Chief Justices to modernise the Court system and processes, has resulted in litigation here becoming more similar to the litigation process that I was familiar with in England. However, it remains subtly different. Whilst the Court sits in nine States and Territories, it is still relatively small – I know virtually all the litigation lawyers in the British Virgin Islands and many of those practising in the other States and Territories. There are three full-time judges assigned to the British Virgin Islands, but I tend only to appear before the Commercial Court Judge. The consequence of the jurisdiction being so small is that everybody does tend to know everybody else. Your reputation is very important and everybody, lawyers and judges, knows about it.

Law has been a fun, fulfilling and remunerative career for me. I think that practice at the Bar in England is becoming increasingly difficult unless you are fortunate enough to secure a tenancy in one of the leading commercial sets. I also think that it will become increasingly difficult to forge a practice in areas that have traditionally been publicly funded. However, the training (both legal and otherwise) that you get if you can secure a training contract at one of the big City firms will serve you well whether you decide to stay in a City firm, move to a smaller firm, change to academia or do something outside of law.



Alumni Fellowship Programme

This year, Nottingham Law School launched the Alumni Fellowship Programme; a unique and structured way for our talented alumni and other Law School supporters to donate their time to help develop the skills of our current students.

The aim of the programme is to create opportunities for Alumni Fellows to support our students, assisting them in the development of their personal and professional skills, whilst enhancing their student experience. The programme currently maintains a successful cohort of 51 Alumni Fellows who are offering their skills, experience and knowledge on a voluntary and flexible basis for up to 15 hours per academic year.

The School currently holds a range of Alumni Fellows in a variety of professions including Paralegals, Trainee Solicitors, Barristers, Accountants, Senior Management Directors and Marketing Executives.

The Nottingham Law School Alumni Fellowship Programme boasts Fellows regionally, nationally and internationally in Nottingham, Sheffield, Milton Keynes, Cardiff, London, India, Hong Kong and the British Virgin Islands. This enables us to support students who wish to pursue a variety of legal and non-legal professions and provides them with a valuable insight into working both here in the UK and internationally.

Our Alumni Fellows undertake a range of activities in order to support our students. Activities and events that they have supported include:

- Mentoring
- Offering placement opportunities
- Employability workshops and events e.g. application reviews, mock assessment centres and interviews, skills workshops
- Writing articles and blogs
- Company visits and work shadowing
- Supporting Recruitment Fairs
- Networking events
- Supervising students at our Legal Advice Centre

Each Alumni Fellow has been dedicating their time to different activities depending on their own interests and expertise, allowing them to meaningfully engage with our current students. The programme is proving to be a great success, and since launching in January, our Alumni Fellows have donated over 390 hours of their time to complete these activities. The programme has had a vast impact on the student cohort with over 550 Nottingham Law School students having engaged with an Alumni Fellow. By enabling our Alumni Fellows to support the School in this structured way, we are able to provide more opportunities for our students to develop their employability skills and give them valuable links to their chosen profession.

Alumni choose to take part in the Nottingham Law School Alumni Fellowship Programme for a number of reasons.

"I decided to join the Alumni Fellowship Programme as I was keen to give back and help the University that helped me. The Mentoring Scheme with a Nottingham law firm which I was a part of at Nottingham Law School was an opportunity that opened doors and ultimately led me to obtain a training contract and qualify as a solicitor."

Joe Price, Solicitor, DBS Law (LPC 2014)

"I wanted to join the fellowship programme at NTU so that I could be involved in student's development and share the experiences that I have had so far in my legal career to assist them in their own journeys. I had an amazing experience at NTU and felt like I wanted to give something back."

Lucy Walker, Solicitor, Flint Bishop (LLB Law 2008 and LPC 2010)

With the success of its launch, the Alumni Fellowship Programme is now looking to expand its offering and increase the number of Alumni Fellows. This will enable enhanced support to Nottingham Law School students throughout the academic year 2017-2018. This is an exciting opportunity for the School and would not be possible without our talented alumni and supporters.

Contact the Nottingham Law School Alumni Fellowship Coordinator, Chloe-Eve Stentiford at chloeve.stentiford@ntu.ac.uk to find out more about the Alumni Fellows, or if you would like any further information about the Programme.

Matthew Homewood Interview

We spoke to Matthew Homewood, Principal Lecturer at Nottingham Law School, about his recent award wins and his role within the School.

What is your role in the Law School?

I am a Principal Lecturer and the School's Learning and Teaching Coordinator which entails leading and supporting learning and teaching enhancement across the full range of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional courses. Since August 2016, I have also been Acting Head of Postgraduate Courses with overall responsibility for the LLM Legal Practice Course, the LLM Bar Professional Training Course, the Graduate Diploma in Law, the academic Masters courses and the Professional Doctorate.

What do you currently teach at Nottingham Law School?

I currently teach on undergraduate courses both full-time and distance learning where I specialise in European Union Law.

What are your specialist areas of law / specific interests?

I have specific interests in aspects of free movement within the internal market, particularly free movement of persons and goods. From a wider educational point, I am a passionate advocate of the use of educational technology. Currently, I am particularly interested in the use of social media as a means to create online communities to enable collaboration and peer learning opportunities.

You've been awarded with a National Teaching Fellowship, what does it mean?

The National Teaching Fellowship is the most prestigious individual award for excellence in teaching in higher education. Potential fellows are nominated by their institutions and submissions must show evidence of three criteria: individual excellence, raising the profile of excellence and developing excellence. I was delighted to receive the award in recognition of driving forward the use of technology in the curriculum and developing initiatives that have made a real difference to the student experience. The award opens up a number of opportunities through its national and international currency and I join an illustrious group of cross-disciplinary academics with an interest in teaching and learning.

Can you explain what the DELiTe and TILT projects are?

The DELiTe project was a University-wide project concerning increased interactivity in teaching practice. As an academic who engages with educational technology to provide interactive opportunities in large scale settings, I was closely involved with the project and delighted with the outcomes achieved, especially the very positive feedback and strong engagement.

The Trent Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) is an innovative community dedicated to sharing practice and interdisciplinary exchange. This community of practice in learning and teaching promotes the principles of participative, sustained and shared endeavour.

You were also nominated for Teacher of the Year, what was this for?

Nominations are submitted by students and colleagues to highlight high standards of teaching and to recognise staff who make an exceptional contribution to legal education. The nomination is specifically in recognition of my practice against three criteria: displays an approach to teaching that engages, motivates and inspires students; demonstrates commitment to the development and support of their students as individuals; and uses involvement in research or other academic activities to enhance students' learning. Nominees for the award undergo a rigorous judging process, which involved a visit from the judges to Nottingham Law School to observe my teaching and to conduct thorough interviews with students, colleagues, my line manager and myself.

Can you explain what the Global Legal Skills Award is and tell us about the conference?

The Global Legal Skills Award recognises significant contribution to the promotion and improvement of global legal skills. I received the award at the 12th Global Legal Skills Conference at the Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey in Mexico. I was congratulated on the international impact of my work in using technology to enhance the student academic experience, my extensive experience in teaching, and my role in leading innovative curriculum development. The conference itself is a leading international gathering for global legal skills education and draws academics, lawyers, librarians, judges, court translators and law students from around the world.

What is the 'How To' project?

The 'How To' project involved the development of an innovative and interactive online study support space for students utilising bespoke multimedia resources. The mobile friendly space was designed to be intuitive and engaging with the aim of addressing identified gaps in student outcomes. It is an ongoing project and is being developed all of the time informed by student feedback.

Legal Advice Centre News

Award for Legal Advice Centre solicitor committed to social justice

Faye Deverell has helped to recover more than £800,000 in benefit gain for Nottinghamshire clients through our free legal advice service and has been awarded Solicitor of the Year 2017 by the Nottinghamshire Law Society.

Faye is the senior supervising solicitor at Nottingham Law School's Legal Advice Centre, our 'teaching law firm' that works closely with local firms, advice agencies, voluntary sector organisations and schools to develop pro bono opportunities for Nottingham Law School students.

In 2013, Faye set up the Free Representation Unit (FRU) Social Security Service at the Legal Advice Centre, the only FRU branch outside London. It helps people in Nottingham who are facing both employment and social security tribunals.

Her role sees her supervise students and junior staff through the intricacies of court and tribunal procedure, with feedback from district judges commending the high quality of the representation Faye and her students provide.



Faye has also established links with local organisations, particularly advice agencies, and has developed strong and sustainable referral arrangements with local advice agencies including Nottingham Women's Centre, Broxtowe Citizens Advice, the Personal Support Unit and the Ark in Gedling.

Nomination for Best Contribution by an Individual Student Award

This year, Billy Shaw was invited to the House of Commons to attend the LawWorks Student Pro Bono Awards. Billy has trained as both a Student Adviser and 'FRU' Representative. He was one of only two Nottingham Law School LLB students to undertake tribunal representation in the Social Security Tribunal in summer 2016. He has represented seven clients in the Social Security Tribunal and recovered in excess of £74,000 in benefit entitlement.

Billy has consistently received excellent feedback from his clients and the most direct impact of his work has been in the successful results he has secured for his clients in the Social Security Tribunal. These outcomes have not only resulted in clients receiving substantial financial benefit awards but has also given the most vulnerable in our community hope and confidence to fight against the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to their benefit decisions.

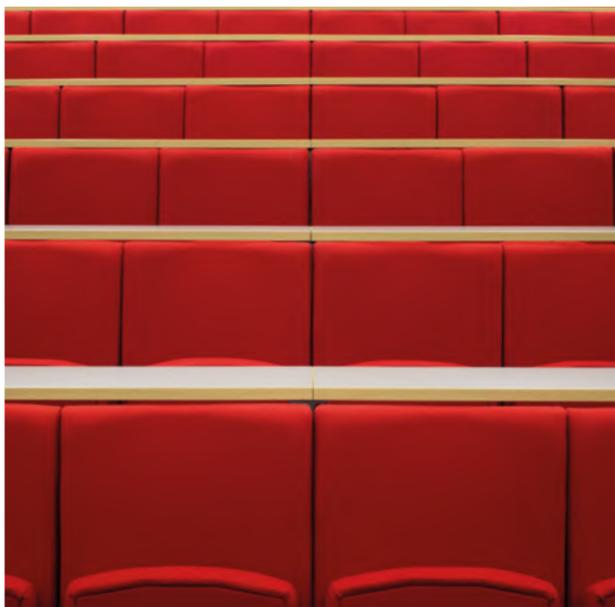


As a Student Adviser, Billy has interviewed and advised a number of clients across a variety of legal areas, including commercial and employment, and he was involved in piloting Skype client interviews. Billy was also involved in the Centre's first Business and Enterprise Law Service casework file, which involved him assisting with the drafting of terms and conditions for a human resource service. Billy has volunteered with the Sheffield Citizens Advice and was the only volunteer to represent their clients in the First-tier Tribunal.

LLM LPC Professional Practice Lecture Series

Nottingham Law School runs a series of lectures delivered by leading practitioners from a range of law firms, chambers and the wider legal profession. These take place in the first and second terms of the academic year, between October and January.

The lectures are primarily for LPC students as they are aimed at those wishing to qualify as solicitors although, where relevant and subject to timetabling constraints, they are opened up to BPTC and GDL students.



The lectures cover subjects that do not form part of the taught curriculum, but aim to give students essential insight into the wider legal profession. The lectures allow students to see how the skills they are developing throughout their time at the Law School will be applied in a commercial context. In the context of these lectures, this includes understanding the basics of how legal organisations finance their work e.g. different funding mechanisms, appreciating the importance of client relationship skills and having an awareness of management competencies.

This academic year, the lectures were delivered by:

- David Williams – Geldards
- Ellis Gardner-Browne – Shoosmiths
- Graham Heathcote – VHS Fletchers
- Fiona Carter – Browne Jacobson
- Austin Moore and Ben Scruton – Austin Moore & Partners LLP
- Dan Rupprecht – Millnet

The lectures cover a series of topics, with recent lectures covering areas including 'A Rough Guide to a Regulatory Practice', 'Life as a Real Estate Solicitor in a leading National Law Firm' and 'The Reality of the Legal Aid Criminal Practice'. Students are exposed to current cases and up-to-date developments in practice.

"I enjoyed attending the lectures because they gave me an insight into aspects of the legal profession that I hadn't covered during my studies, such as how a law firm is run financially and how electronic disclosure works. The lecture series was also a great resource for preparing for interviews and networking."

Alexis Vandyke-Mercer
LLM LPC student at Nottingham Law School

Contact Deborah Kenny at deborah.kenny@ntu.ac.uk for further information about the LLM LPC Professional Practice Lecture Series.



LLM International Financial Law

Nottingham Law School has launched a new postgraduate degree programme focusing on International Financial Law.

This new specialised LLM has been designed to respond to the rapid growth in the development of the law in international finance and to equip students for future careers in the financial sectors. The course not only focuses on financial transactions and banking, but also insurance, which is a huge industry in both the UK and internationally. The course provides a specialisation in the legal requirements and processes surrounding the work of international finance. The course will be led by LLM Programme Leader, Alfonso Valero.

"This course is aimed at those looking for employment in the wider field of financial law, whether as lawyers or experts in the legal aspects. The course is also ideal for those with experience in the financial sector but who wish to enhance their understanding and progression" said Valero.

The course has been designed to include a variety of optional modules to choose from including International Commercial Transactions, Business Organisations and Cross Border Insolvency.

This allows students to tailor their degree to their interests and employment needs. The course will allow students to network with their peers and tutors as well as students from other LLMs who may have chosen to study the same modules. In the summer term, students complete a dissertation supervised by staff, which must contain a strong comparative law element.

Our dedicated careers and recruitment service will encourage you to prepare for your career from day one. This is one of the reasons NTU law graduates are sought after by employers. The course offers a wide range of career possibilities both within the legal sector, financial services and academia. Our Employability team will provide a range of advice to help you make well-informed decisions towards your successful career; you can also access their services up to three years after you graduate.

Nottingham Law School will begin teaching the new LLM International Financial Law as a one-year full-time course in September 2017.

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/llmifl or email nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk for further information about this new LLM course.

Nottingham Law School Mock Assessment Centre

The Nottingham Law School Employability team have recently hosted a highly successful Mock Assessment Centre for students of all years. The event gave students the opportunity to practise their skills in drafting exercises, participate in mock interviews and networking and receive feedback on their performance. The event was supported by a variety of our Nottingham Law School Alumni Fellows who facilitated the activities and commented on how valuable the assessment centre was for students.

Students said that the most useful aspects of the assessment centre were:

- Interacting with a range of legal professionals
- Learning interview techniques
- Receiving great feedback from interviewers
- Good networking opportunities
- Seeing how interviews can differ
- Getting practical advice from alumni and employers
- Learning how to structure interview answers

"This has been the second assessment centre that we have run specifically for law students. It gives students a real insight into what it is like to attend an assessment centre and the kind of exercises / activities that take place. We are fortunate to have a range of employers and alumni who are willing to support these events to make them as realistic as possible.

On this occasion we had students experiencing one-to-one interviews and a drafting exercise – both of which are common within employers' assessment centres. The day also included an evaluation to allow students to reflect on their own performance and what they need to do to improve ahead of the real thing.

Alumni at this year's event included representatives from Browne Jacobson; Shakespeare Martineau; Cartwright King; Knights; Direct Help and Advice and MyHomeMove."

Ed Mosley
Careers Consultant

"I thought the day was excellent – a really good idea for students, well organised and yet another successful initiative for NTU."

Laura Pinkney
Alumni Fellow, LLB Law 2004 and LPC 2007



Kim Wintle Trainee Solicitor at Cartwright King



CartwrightKing
SOLICITORS

The best memory from my time at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) was giving the vote of thanks at my graduation. It was an honour to speak on behalf of all the students in my year and thank the staff at NTU. My greatest achievement at Nottingham Law School was obtaining a First Class degree and achieving the highest overall mark in the year. Throughout my four years at NTU, I was an active member and president of the LEX Law Society and played in the netball team.

During my degree, I did a one-year placement at Cartwright King (CK) in Nottingham. I was given the opportunity to work alongside some incredible lawyers who helped and supported me during my time as an intern. When I finished studying, I was fortunate that an Office Administrator role became available in CK's Reading office. I was then offered a Training Contract in CK's Birmingham office. As I had done my LPC as part of my degree, I was able to start almost straight away. I have now moved to work in the company's Nottingham Office.

I am currently a Trainee Solicitor and have 10 months left before I will be fully qualified. I have undertaken a seat in the Crime department and I am now in the Court of Protection department. Our Court of Protection team advise clients on all aspects of Mental Capacity Law, including in proceedings in the Court of Protection. We represent the interests of clients who lack capacity, their family members and other concerned parties. The team also advises clients and concerned parties about the quality of care that should be provided by the state to people in hospitals, care homes, children's homes and the community.

I enjoy being a trainee as I am exposed to lots of different areas of law. Being on the Nottinghamshire Junior Law Society Committee and sitting on the Nottingham Law Society Council enables me to attend events from legal sports tournaments to three course dinners. I have learnt that working in the legal profession is not just about going to the office 9 am – 5 pm. There are so many activities for legal professionals to get involved in outside of the office.

The legal profession is hard to break into and a 2:1 or a first in your degree is sometimes not enough. Therefore, your CV needs to stand out from the rest. To be noticed, you need to get involved with societies, extracurricular activities or volunteer. There are so many opportunities for you to get involved in at NTU. My advice would be to do as much as you can!

Kim Wintle on Nottinghamshire Junior Lawyers Division

The Nottinghamshire Junior Lawyers Division (NJLD) represents and promotes the interests of junior lawyers in Nottinghamshire at the national Division, on the Nottingham Law Society Committee, and throughout the local business community. They also help to provide young lawyers in the region with support as well as social and networking opportunities.

The committee consists of 16 NJLD members. They meet once a month to discuss changes within the legal sphere and to organise events for members. Events that I have taken part in this year include the Hammond Cup (an advocacy competition) and a cheese and wine tasting evening. The NJLD are also organising a rounders competition between all the local firms in Nottingham, the annual ball and much more.

I have found it useful being a member of the NJLD as I have met many other professionals in the local area thus I have a wider understanding of what is happening in the Nottingham legal sector.

Historically, membership has only been open to professionals working within a law firm. However, from September 2017, students can join and attend events.

The committee made the decision to extend membership to students to provide more networking opportunities, which we hope will lead to more job prospects.

Email our membership secretary, Charlie Scott at charlie.scott@gateleyplc.com to join.
A membership fee of £15 applies.



Nottingham Law School Erasmus Student

Susie Jones
LLB Law (full-time)



During my second year I participated in the Erasmus scheme, and undertook some work experience in the Czech Republic. I worked with leading lawyers in the Law Office, Brno. I have participated in numerous family law matters, such as international child abductions and legal divorces. The experience was incredible, as I got to see the contrast between Czech law and English law. I have recently just applied to the Citizens Advice Witness Service.

My experience in the Czech Republic as an Erasmus student was the most memorable thing I have ever done. I was sceptical about it at the start as the process was so daunting, but the NTU staff helped me at every stage including finding accommodation and setting up a bank account. I wasn't sure whether I was ready to leave for so many months, but being part of such a big international group of people helped me gain new friends and take my mind off missing home. I have learnt new things about myself that have helped me become more independent. Studying in one of the top universities in the Czech Republic has helped enhance my CV, and

since returning home, has given me the upper hand in securing a graduate job. My favourite part of the Erasmus abroad scheme, was the freedom of travel. There were so many countries in the palm of my hand.

I would recommend the Erasmus scheme to everyone, it is the best thing I've done. The friends you gain are friends for life. The experience is one that you might never get again, and it makes you stand out in this ever-competitive society. NTU is great, but there is a whole world out there ready and waiting for you, Erasmus is the first step.

Global Partnership initiative – a visit to Uganda

John Tingle, a Reader in Nottingham Law School, made a recent visit to Uganda as part of the Nottingham Trent University Global Partnership initiative. This initiative encourages the development of sustainable academic partnerships between universities, international organisations and Nottingham Trent University.



While John was in Uganda, he established links with the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere University Uganda and the Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN), a Ugandan NGO. CHAIN is a charity that advocates for health and social empowerment for vulnerable communities, for example, supporting people living with HIV and AIDS, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and their guardians.

CHAIN and the Infectious Disease Research Institute are now working with John and David Barrett (NLS) and Linda Gibson (Social Sciences) on a global patient safety-networking project. During his time in Uganda, John spent time visiting key patient safety partners including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ugandan Ministry Of Health where he attended high-level partnership meetings.

As part of his visit, John spent time with colleagues in CHAIN doing patient safety workshops and training in the Ugandan villages. He spoke about the risk of not taking medicines properly and encouraged patients to ask their doctors for help if they are confused about the exact dose of medicines to take. He also spoke about the importance of obtaining clean water and worked with CHAIN colleagues to show the people in the villages how to purify water using purifying equipment donated by an international charity.

John hopes to return to Uganda in August with Linda Gibson to develop further opportunities for students and to assist again in health education projects in the Ugandan villages.

Research News

Centre for Business and Insolvency Law Insolvency Bulletin

Written by Darren Kealey

I am studying for an LLM in Corporate and Insolvency Law here at NTU. I am also presently co-editor and writer for the Nottingham Law School Insolvency Bulletin. The Bulletin is produced twice yearly and looks at recent insolvency cases passing through the courts.



All case reports are written by current PhD and LLM students at the University and all students on those programmes are free to apply to join the writing team.

Writing for the Bulletin provides students with a great opportunity to broaden and enhance their knowledge of this interesting area of law. It will certainly help to sharpen up your writing skills as well!

The Bulletin is circulated nationally amongst academics, lawyers and barristers and therefore provides students with fantastic exposure to potential employers following graduation.

In addition, being a writer for the Bulletin makes a great addition to your CV and LinkedIn profile.

The Bulletin is always looking for new writers and if you are interested, email co-editor paula.moffatt@ntu.ac.uk with a 200 word statement explaining why you think you should be chosen to join the writing team.

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/businessinsolvencylaw to read the latest Bulletin.

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NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Centre for Advocacy

Challenges ahead in criminal evidence and procedure Nottingham Law School's Centre for Advocacy hosted its annual conference on Friday 23 June. The conference was well attended by both practitioners and academics with an interest in the collection, presentation and assessment of evidence within the Criminal Justice System. The event provided delegates with updates on the latest research being conducted across a number of disciplines including Law, Psychology and Linguistics.

Centre for Conflicts, Rights and Justice

In December, the Centre for Conflicts, Rights and Justice organised an international conference on flashpoint issues in Law and Religion. It attracted over 30 speakers, some of whom came from Canada, the US, Continental Europe, and Asia, as well as a range of UK universities. The papers featured a variety of subject areas within the field (e.g. children's rights and religion, constitutional issues and even legal history).

Centre for Legal Education

Legal Education, Legal Practice and Technology This year, the Centre for Legal Education at Nottingham Law School held its third biennial conference and celebrated its fifth anniversary. The conference built on the success of previous conferences focusing on Values in Legal Education and Legal Education and Access to Justice. Many topics were discussed such as virtual reality, social media and the digital generation.

Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution

The Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution contributed to the success of this year's ICC Mediation Week where 130 mediation professionals (mediators, academics and lawyers) were present. Nottingham Law School's Joy Davies was a judge in the 12th ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition, which involved student teams from 66 universities representing over 30 countries. Joy also created one of the problems used in the competition and in addition was a member of the Rules Working Party. Joy also attended the fourth ICC International Mediation Round Table.



NEW RESEARCH CENTRE

The aim of the Centre for Marine Ecological Resilience and Geological Resources (MERGeR) is to promote the engagement of law, lawyers and legal systems with the environment and resources in order to safeguard the continued and future resilience of the world's ecosystems.

MERGeR will be led by Professors Elizabeth Kirk and David Ong, experts in international environmental law, and will have a particular focus on marine resources and marine ecosystems, but also including fresh water and terrestrial issues.

The Centre will create a hub for both early career and experienced researchers from the UK and beyond who are working on these issues, and aims to move into new and emerging fields of research, policy advice, teaching and outreach in marine ecological resilience and geological resources.

Professor Elizabeth Kirk, who will lead the research stream on marine ecological resilience, said: "Many ecosystems have been badly degraded by human influence, whether through climate change, other forms of pollution, or through over-use of resources. At MERGeR, we will investigate how the law promotes or hinders resilience in the face of these threats and challenges."

Professor David Ong, who will focus on geological resources, added: "The conjunction of marine ecological resilience and geological resources brings together two significant strands in the general debate on the relationship between the environment and law. We need the law to understand and address the impact of human activities on the resilience of our natural systems, while a complementary focus on geological resources means we can apply a critical approach to natural resource use in line with ecological resilience."

MAPPING INTERNATIONAL LAW TO DYNAMIC THREE-DIMENSIONAL ECOSYSTEMS

An Inaugural Lecture by Professor Elizabeth Kirk

Elizabeth is Professor of International Environmental Law at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). After qualifying as a solicitor in Scotland she spent some time in Canada, first studying and then researching at the University of British Columbia.

On returning to the UK, Elizabeth worked at the University of Dundee, before taking up a chair at NTU.

In this lecture, Elizabeth contrasted the traditional approach of international law to ocean governance with more holistic

approaches now being adopted, such as the ecosystem approach. In doing so, she explored the gaps and problems that remain in the ability of international law to govern naturally dynamic three-dimensional marine ecosystems that are increasingly affected by human activities.

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SCHOOL AWARDS

Winner

- **Nottinghamshire Law Society Awards**

Faye Deverell was awarded Solicitor of the Year 2017 by the Nottinghamshire Law Society. Faye has helped to recover more than £800,000 in benefit gain for Nottinghamshire clients.

- **NTSU Outstanding Teaching Award**

Cat Sjolín Knight won the Outstanding Academic of the Year in the Law School at the NTSU awards ceremony.

- **Global Legal Skills Award**

Matthew Homewood was congratulated on the international impact of his work in using technology to enhance the student academic experience, his extensive experience in teaching, and his role in leading innovative curriculum development.

- **Vice Chancellor's Teaching Award**

Matthew Homewood, chosen for his inspirational teaching, was observed by the panel deploying his scholarly approach with a passion that engaged and enthused students with thought-provoking activities and discussions.

Awarded

- **National Teaching Fellowship**

Matthew Homewood received the award in recognition of driving forward the use of technology in the curriculum and developing initiatives that have made a real difference to the student experience.

Runner-up Nominations

- **Guardian University Awards 2017**

The 'How To' project involved the development of an innovative and interactive online study support space for students utilising bespoke multimedia resources.

- **LawWorks student Pro Bono Awards**

Billy Shaw was nominated for the Best Contribution by an Individual Student Award at the LawWorks student Pro Bono Awards on 26 April 2017.

- **Law Teacher of the Year Award**

Students and colleagues have nominated Matthew Homewood for his exceptional contribution to legal education.

- **Routledge / ALT Teaching Law with Technology Prize 2017**

Nigel Hudson was nominated for his PropertyMon Go! Project.

Nigel used augmented reality and gamification to create PropertyMon Go! a Pokémon-style trail that puts land law in the context of everyday life, making it relevant and interesting to students.



UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

Nottingham Law School
Law Fair
Wednesday 24 January 2018
City Campus

Attend our annual Law Fair! The event is suitable for all years and to anyone who has an interest in working in the legal sector.

Graduate and Placement
Recruitment Fair
Tuesday 6 March 2018
City Campus

This fair provides students with an excellent opportunity to speak to recruiters in a broad range of sectors.

Our Employability team organise a whole range of events.

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

Would you like to contribute to the next edition of *All Things Law*?

All Things Law magazine showcases the excellence of our students and staff, and content for future editions is welcomed from all. If you would like to submit an article for the next edition please email nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

PUBLIC EVENTS

The Legal Advice Centre is running free legal advice summer sessions throughout July on the following issues:

- Social welfare and landlord / tenant issues
- Neighbour disputes and rights of way
- Employment law
- Commercial law

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/lawdropin for more information.

OPEN DAYS

We are holding a series of undergraduate open days for prospective undergraduate students in October, November and December.

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/opendays for more information.

NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY 

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