

The magazine of
Nottingham Law School

ALL THINGS

LAW

Autumn/Winter 2014

Celebrating



Years of Law

IN THIS ISSUE

New Legal Advice Centre | Student success | Mooting | Mentoring scheme

NOTTINGHAM
LAW SCHOOL
Nottingham Trent University 

Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2014/15 academic year and to the second of our special editions of All Things Law, celebrating 50 years of legal education at Nottingham Law School.

In this edition we look back at the events of the summer including a review of the launch of our new Legal Advice Centre, and we hear from students who participated in summer internships in the US and India. We have a great selection of Law School alumni profiles for you to read, and which will hopefully inspire you.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Amerdeep Somal, LLB Law, has been named the Nottingham Trent University Alumna of the Year for Dedication to Social Justice. Amerdeep was nominated by Nottingham Law School for her tireless work in helping victims of domestic violence, and for people who are treated unfairly due to their race, religion, gender or disability. Amerdeep will receive her award at the November graduation ceremony.

Please don't forget that your time at Nottingham Law School is not just about lectures and seminars.

We offer you the chance to join a range of activities that will not only complement your learning experience and enhance your CV, it will hopefully make your time at the University as exciting and enjoyable as possible.

These include mooting, volunteering, work experience, attending guest lectures, careers skills workshops, meeting practitioners and professionals over lunch, attending a prize giving evening, and a wonderful student showcase event to celebrate collaboration and achievement, to name but a few.

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition of All Things Law and to wish you all a successful year.

Jenny Holloway
Acting Dean of Nottingham Law School



Jenny Holloway, Acting Dean of Nottingham Law School

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Want to feature in this section? 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



The latest in Law

Centre for Advocacy launched with international conference

Nottingham Law School launched its Centre for Advocacy earlier this year with the first conference in the world to focus purely on advocacy teaching. The event brought together advocates, judges and legal educators from different backgrounds to share good practice and discuss the pressing issues in advocacy training.

High-profile legal commentator Joshua Rozenberg was a guest speaker at the conference along with a series of prominent experts, including the president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Dan Arshank.

Throughout the two-day event delegates discussed issues such as the future of advocacy training, how to design training and prepare undergraduate students for advocacy training, the transferability of advocacy skills and training in the workplace.

The Law School has considerable expertise in advocacy training and was the first Law School in the UK to award

an LLM in Advocacy Skills. We have now launched a new LLB Law with Advocacy for undergraduate students and the Centre for Advocacy aims to promote and develop the study of advocacy training.

Centre Director, Jeremy Robson highlighted the importance of advocacy, saying: "High standards in advocacy are essential to preserving the rule of law and high quality advocacy training is essential to achieving this."

"The courtroom is the primary location where individuals in society have an opportunity to ensure their rights are protected and it is often the skill with which an advocate argues their case which will ensure that their rights are upheld."

Find out more about the Centre for Advocacy and read the International Advocacy Teaching Conference speaker presentations at www.ntu.ac.uk/advocacy



Nottingham Law School and Radboud University launch new Dual LLM degree

This September saw the launch of Nottingham Law School's new dual LLM degree, delivered in partnership with Radboud University in the Netherlands.

Professors David Burdette, Rebecca Parry and Paul Omar from Nottingham Law School, went to Nijmegen to attend the launch and initiate teaching on this unique course. Students will graduate with two Master's degrees, an LLM in European Law from Radboud University and an LLM in Corporate and Insolvency Law from Nottingham Law School, after just one year of studying. To achieve this, students begin their studies in Nijmegen in the Autumn Term studying European and commercial law subjects. They then come to Nottingham in the Spring Term to attend corporate law and insolvency-themed courses, hosted in the Centre for Business Law and Insolvency at the Law School, which has a very strong reputation for advancing insolvency scholarship in the UK. In the Summer Term, students then complete a dissertation supervised by staff at both institutions, which must contain a strong comparative law element.

Both Law Schools hope the launch of this groundbreaking course will consolidate the close relationship between the two institutions and further steps, including research collaborations and joint funding bids, have already been discussed.

Find out more about the Dual LLM at: www.ntu.ac.uk/llmdual



Nijmegen, The Netherlands

The latest in Law

Nottingham Legal Walk

Members of the legal profession came together earlier this year for a 10 km walk around Nottingham to raise money for the provision of free legal advice for those in need.

The Nottingham Legal Walk was organised by Nottingham Law School on behalf of the Midland Legal Support Trust (MLST), which raises funds for legal advice agencies in the region.

The walk started at 6.00 pm outside the Nottingham Magistrates' Court and ended at the Canal House pub. Participants walked in teams as part of their law firm, chambers, law college, court or in-house legal department.

Martha de la Roche, interim manager at MLST, said: "This will be a difficult year for specialist legal advice charities and for the people who rely on those agencies for access to justice. These organisations make a huge difference to people's lives, reducing debt, poverty and homelessness, and combating discrimination and injustice."



"The MLST raises funds to help legal advice agencies based in the Midlands continue with their brilliant activities in supporting and providing free legal advice for some of the most vulnerable in society."

The walk was sponsored by local legal recruitment agency Bygott Biggs, Canal House pub and Severn Trent Searches and took in the sights of Nottingham, including the Arboretum, Castle and Old Market Square.

Faye Deverell, Solicitor at Nottingham Law School's Legal Advice Centre, is part of the team that organised the event. She said: "There is big focus on pro bono and outreach activities at Nottingham Law School and this walk is a great way for us to bring together members of the legal profession to support continued provision of legal advice for those who can't afford to pay."

Protecting Nottingham's creative ideas with launch of IP Project

Creative businesses in Nottingham will be better able to protect and exploit their ideas with the launch of a new Creative Intellectual Property (IP) Project led by Nottingham Law School.

Janice Denoncourt, senior lecturer and IP expert at the Law School, has been working on developing and delivering the project together with her colleagues Jane Jarman, reader in Legal Education, and Nick Johnson, senior lecturer and Pro Bono director. She said: "This is an important IP awareness raising initiative supported by the UK Intellectual Property Office and local law firms that practise in the field of IP law."

The creative IP project includes a series of five themed workshops, where industry experts, experienced lawyers and Nottinghamshire creative businesses are invited

to share their knowledge and experience on the challenges, pitfalls and opportunities of working in the creative sector. The workshops are scheduled to run until February 2015.

The first workshop and free legal advice clinic organised by the Nottingham Creative Intellectual Property Project focused on the field of design, including product, textiles, fashion and graphics.

The project has been funded through a £69,000 grant as part of the Intellectual Property Office's Fast Forward competition, and the European Regional Development Fund. It has the capacity to help at least 90 businesses and will conclude with the publication of an Effective IP Guide drawn from the lessons learned during the project. www.ntu.ac.uk/creativeip

Spot anyone you know?

Throughout the year we have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of Nottingham Law School, and this provided the perfect opportunity to recognise the commitment of our staff. The continuing success of the Law School would not be possible without them and on a sunny afternoon in September, staff from all departments gathered to enjoy a barbecue and toast their hard work in the Newton Arkwright courtyard. You'll spot lots of familiar faces in the staff photo below.



Staff of Nottingham Law School, September 2014

The latest in Law

Amerdeep named Alumna of the Year for dedication to social justice

Solicitor and "leading force for social justice", Amerdeep Somal, has been named as Nottingham Trent University's Alumna of the Year in recognition of her dedication to helping vulnerable people.

Currently the independent assessor to the board of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), Amerdeep graduated with LLB Law from Nottingham Law School in 1988 and went on to complete the Law Society Finals, the forerunner of the Legal Practice Course. She was the first woman from her family to go to university, determined to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer despite what cultural expectations dictated for her.

After graduating, Amerdeep worked in private practice and then the Crown Prosecution Service, before moving to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for ten years as a commissioner and taking a lead on gender abuse and domestic violence.

Amerdeep said: "The Law School was an amazing springboard. Not only did it provide a fantastic academic education that led on to a diverse and enriching career, it also provided wonderful opportunities in drama and debating which, without a doubt, stimulated my passions for human rights, which have been a core part of my life ever since. I could not have become the person I am without Nottingham Trent University and the inspirational teaching it gave me."

Amerdeep now also sits on the Board of Nursing and Midwifery and has received numerous awards for her work on tackling domestic violence, including the Asian Woman of Achievement award.

She was nominated by Nottingham Law School for her tireless work to help victims of domestic violence, and for people who are treated unfairly due to their race, religion, gender or disability. This year commemorates the 50th anniversary of Nottingham Law School and staff are delighted that a Law School graduate has won this prestigious award in such a special year.

Jenny Holloway, Acting Deant of the Law School, said: "Amerdeep's dedication to standing up for those who are discriminated against, often for reasons they can't change, makes her very deserving of this recognition. We're proud to have her among our alumni and she stands as an inspiration to all our students to use their education and career to do good in society."

Amerdeep will receive her award at a University graduation ceremony on Saturday 29 November 2014.



Expert opinions

Highlighting the issues of advocacy teaching

Jeremy Robson, director of the Centre for Advocacy at Nottingham Law School, discusses some of the issues highlighted by the recent International Advocacy Teaching Conference.

www.ntu.ac.uk/advocacyteaching

EU immigrants could wait five years to receive benefits

The much-awaited yearly British Social Attitudes survey has finally arrived, and with the latest elections marked by a significant rise in support for UKIP, the expectations were that the results would be marked with regards to immigration.

Alfonso Valero addresses the finding that 61% of Britons believe that European immigrants should wait three years or more to receive benefits. And it seems that the European Union is on their side.

www.ntu.ac.uk/euimmigration

Google to action the right to be forgotten

Have you ever typed your own name in a search engine to see what results would appear? That's exactly what Mr Costeja González did, only to despair when finding that his name led to a not-so-happy episode of his life. Alfonso Valero discusses his decision to file a complaint on the basis of data protection legislation, which is ultimately based in European Union law.

www.ntu.ac.uk/googlelaw

Press cuttings

John Tingle discusses the Department of Health's proposed new regulations setting out fundamental standards for the quality of health care in the British Journal of Nursing. <http://bit.ly/1taVZJY>

Dr Samantha Pegg writes in the Nottingham Post on whether people who are alleged to have committed sexual offences should be given anonymity. <http://bit.ly/1sHhEUa>

Jane Ching, professor of professional legal education, reflects on her long career at Nottingham Law School and looks to future changes in the New Law Journal. <http://bit.ly/1v5ZGJl>

Alumni

As part of Nottingham Law School's 50 year celebrations we asked students to interview some of our leading alumni, to hear about their careers and experiences since graduation. Here Anastasiya Lutsenko talks to Legal Practice Course graduate Nellie Alexandrova and Suneet Sharma interviews LLB Law graduate Caroline Brown.

Nellie Alexandrova
LPC (part-time) graduate, 2009
Consultant at Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP

After years of living and practising law in different jurisdictions and countries, Nellie Alexandrova, a successful litigation solicitor, has built up a trove of legal experience and career advice.

She currently works as a consultant for Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP, a litigation law firm which specialises in complex multijurisdictional cases, often involving Russia and former Soviet countries.

The story of Nellie's success goes back a long way and in 2007 she enrolled on the Legal Practice Course (part-time) at Nottingham Law School. At that time she already worked as partner of the international law firm Dentons, based in the Moscow office.

"This is why I chose a part-time mode and once a month travelled to the UK for three-days of face-to-face classes in Nottingham" says Nellie. In 2008 Nellie was transferred to London to work on Russia-related business, before completing her LPC and qualifying as a solicitor in 2011.

"By then I had already been with the firm for 11 years and developed a strange feeling of losing direction and stagnation" says Nellie. "This happens when you stay at

the same place too long and start to wear slippers in the office" she adds jokingly.

The usual daily routine led to a loss of drive, which signalled that the time had come to make a change, and Nellie took the plunge of working on a big litigation case. Working on a case like this requires wide analytical and investigatory skills, as well as a knowledge of the law which has to be kept fresh and updated at all times. "This is the kind of work that develops your mind and makes you truly professional... practising law in a contentious situation is very interesting, as you see your value right away" she comments.

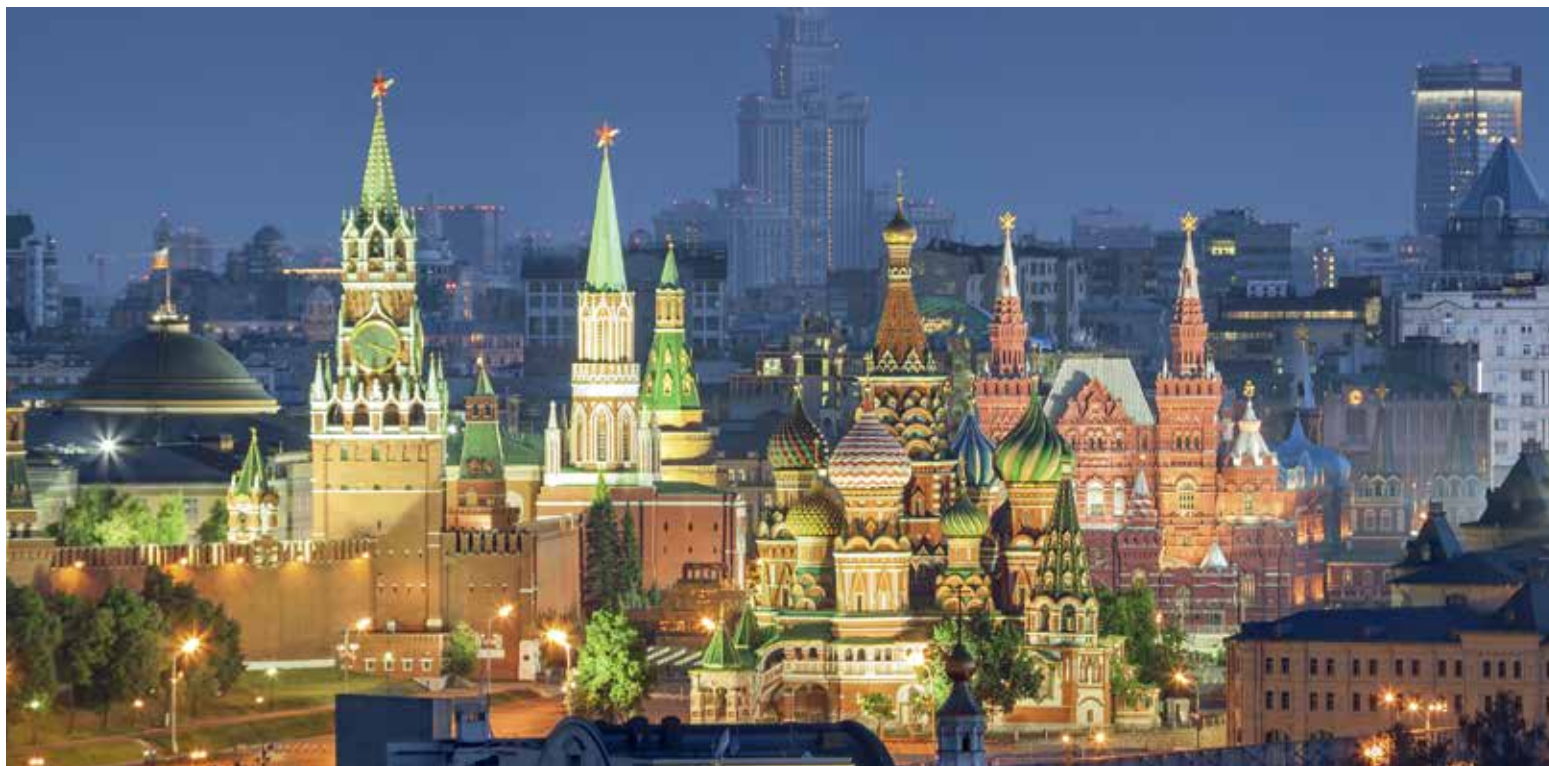
The case was a High Court legal battle between two oligarchs with a Russian background and it made headlines in newspapers at that time, both in Russia and the UK. What made working on the case particularly enjoyable and challenging for Nellie was the interesting facts in play and the amazing team, consisting of the best-possible legal minds and barristers from both sides. "You might be convincing and winning, or appear weak and losing, bearing the pressure of the client who entrusted you. The secret is always in preparation" Nellie believes. She says that when the case was over she couldn't think of doing any work other than international litigation and arbitration.

Looking back at her career Nellie is convinced that choosing Nottingham Law School and qualifying as an English solicitor was the best decision. She remembers it as "a place where everything is about education, growing and sharing knowledge" which gave her a rare chance to step away from her busy life in a law firm and "to explore the ways of thinking and the wisdom of the best legal minds."

At the current moment Nellie continues working for the Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP and enjoys it greatly. Her personal rule for success is "If you want to achieve something, just invest your time in it."

"One's success is strictly proportionate to one's time invested, it is simple and it works" she adds. This belief is a simple formula that has helped Nellie to overcome the challenges of the profession and has brought her to where she is now.

By Anastasiya Lutsenko



Nellie continued to work in Moscow while completing the Legal Practice Course (part time).

Alumni

Caroline Brown (previously Caroline Winter)
LLB Law 2007
Consultant Solicitor

What does your current role involve?

Earlier this year I made the decision to leave my role as an Associate at Eversheds LLP and become a consultant. Working on a freelance basis has given me more choice about where and when I would like to work and therefore I have been able to plan two large trips abroad this year. In April I spent a month in Australia and right now I am writing this on a four-month trip to South America. I am currently in Argentina providing volunteer legal support for a Human Rights project.

Can you describe a typical day?

Prior to this trip the last place I worked was Barclaycard in London. A typical day would start with a team call to discuss how to manage new work coming in from the business and check the progress of existing matters. If a colleague was significantly under or over capacity the work would be reallocated. I would then have a series of meetings with the business and external parties throughout the day to agree how to progress transactional documents in light of new developments. Sometimes these meetings are face to face but very often we would use telephone or video conference calls. In between meetings I would make amendments to contracts and associated documents. It would always feel good to speak to a business contact and hear that the project was progressing in a way that allowed the business to move forward.

How has your career developed since graduating from Nottingham Law School?

Prior to graduating from the Law School I was offered a training contract with Eversheds LLP. I completed this in Cambridge and London after taking the Legal Practice Course at Kaplan College. I had a fantastically varied training contract and the opportunity to help departments other than those I sat in. I undertook seats in Employment, Restructuring, Litigation and Real Estate. Trainee life was always challenging but I really enjoyed being on such a massive learning curve. Being in a large firm meant that there was a large trainee network and so there were always people to share concerns and experiences with.

Qualification coincided with a difficult time in the economy when law firms were taking on fewer solicitors. Consequently I held two temporary roles before becoming a permanent solicitor in Eversheds commercial team.

Were you involved in any extra-curricular activities or societies at the Law School?

Yes, I was a social secretary for LEX and then the President in my third year. Being involved with LEX meant that I had the opportunity to help organise events, meet many students and tutors from the law school and practice skills, for example producing communications, public speaking, selling tickets to events and putting together cost forecasts and budgets.

Have you a favourite memory from your time at the Law School?

There are too many to mention! I remember vividly the collective relief we all felt on handing in every single piece of coursework. I also enjoyed all of Becky Huxley-Binns lectures on criminal law, despite the fact that they were at 9am on a Thursday morning!

What advice do you have for Law students and fellow graduates?

Be positive in all of your professional dealings. Solicitors and barristers often work under pressure and having someone negative in the team adds additional stress.

Be the person who is willing to have a go at anything. In the future it is always helpful to have broad experience as circumstances may arise where you need to move into a different field or area of law.

Make the most of your time at the Law School and the opportunities it offers, take up mooting, join LEX, go on a summer school, attend networking evenings and make the most of all the activities that are on offer. Those dreaded applications will be so much easier if you can talk about how you have embraced your legal career from the earliest stage. Also, all jobs in the legal world now require you to network, I know it can seem a bit painful but the sooner you start then the sooner you will get comfortable with it.

Can you share your plans for the future?

I anticipate returning to being a solicitor on a permanent basis at some point, quite when that will be I couldn't say right now. I am intrigued and excited by how much the legal profession is changing. Many lawyers now work more flexibly, remotely, from home or on a part time basis. It is both a change in the way our clients are working and advances in technology responsible for this shift and I consider this to be a good thing.

By Suneet Sharma



Caroline Brown

Nottingham Law School celebrates 50 years with launch of new Legal Advice Centre



Nottingham Law School commemorated its 50-year anniversary with the launch of a new Legal Advice Centre and teaching law firm, officially opened by the former Attorney General, Dominic Grieve QC MP.



Building on the Law School's existing law clinic, which first opened in 2006, the new premises will allow the Law School greater flexibility to grow the number of cases it takes on from the community. These have risen from around 60 cases in 2012-13 to 120 in 2013-14 and are projected to rise to in excess of 180 in 2014-15.

The Centre is located on the first floor of the Chaucer Building and includes interview rooms, a supervisor's office and a workspace where teams of students can work together in a confidential environment. All of the Law School's pro bono activity will now come under the Legal Advice Centre, including student work on cases, local community outreach projects and the Innocence Project. The Centre will also facilitate increased overseas placements and internships and will develop new international links, particularly in countries with developing economies.

The new Legal Advice Centre provides outstanding opportunities for our students, who work under the supervision of qualified solicitors to provide free legal advice and assistance on a range of services including: employment rights; business law; housing, property and environmental law; debt and welfare rights; and tribunal and court representation. The Centre is also home to the only Free Representation Unit (FRU) outside of London, which means that students have the opportunity to become ratified FRU volunteers and represent clients at employment and social security tribunals.

Dominic Grieve, the former Attorney General, officially opened the Centre at a prestigious event earlier this year, attended by Law School students, staff and alumni, as well as VIP guests.

Mr Grieve said: "I'd like to congratulate the hardworking students who are combining their pro bono work with their academic or postgraduate studies. The importance of pro bono work should never go unnoticed, and I hope that through this hard work the students continue one of the finest traditions of the legal profession."



Nick Johnson, pro bono director at Nottingham Law School, said: "This Centre seeks to provide outstanding educational opportunities for our students to help them become fit and ethical individuals and excel in their chosen career, whether that be in a legal or a non-legal profession. It will also provide access to justice and fulfil an otherwise unmet legal need among individuals and communities."

"The experience the students get when working on live cases or examining the law in other countries is invaluable to their studies. As well as helping students develop vital skills for their future careers, this work teaches them how the law affects people, shows them how to be professional no matter who their client is, and demonstrates how the law can be used for the benefit of the more vulnerable members of society."

New website for Legal Advice Centre

The Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre now has its very own website. If you want to find out more about the Centre, have a legal enquiry or would like to get involved with pro bono, please visit www.ntu.ac.uk/nlslegaladvicecentre

Pro bono

Law students tackle death penalty cases and human rights violations on international placements

Pro bono has always been an integral part of Nottingham Law School and our new Legal Advice Centre enables us to offer more opportunities than ever. This year students have returned from placements in the USA and India where they carried out pro bono work which included reviewing live murder and armed robbery cases in a death penalty state, working to prove prisoner innocence, and providing support for victims of human rights violations.

Here LLB (Hons) Law with Business student Ryan Akhurst tells us about his time working for public defender Michael Edwards in Georgia and LPC student Feriala Cole discusses her experience at the Jananeethi Institute in India.



Public Defender's Office, Georgia, USA Ryan Akhurst

"The Public Defender's Office at Chatham County handles all criminal cases involving a felony crime. This is a crime that carries a sentence of one year or more, and where the defendant is classified by the Law of Georgia as an indigent, something which is based on their household income. I chose to apply for this placement as part of the Law in Practice option module for my final year which includes a minimum of 50 hours spent on work placement. I thought would be beneficial to me and make me stand out from others when applying for a training contract.

"Being a second-year Law student, with the opportunity of an internship abroad I couldn't see why everyone didn't apply! But after my exams the opportunity was finally here and arriving in a country I had never visited before made me a little nervous. Luckily everyone at

Chatham County Public Defender's Office was extremely welcoming and I settled in right away. The first task Michael set us was to speak to all the lawyers, to get to know them and ask any questions we may have had surrounding their job. We were also tasked with formulating a list of all the expert witnesses each individual lawyer had, so that it could be stored in a central folder assessable by everyone.

"After a week of collecting and filing expert witness, Chris Middleton, who works in the Major Crimes Division, allowed us access to his current cases. He gave us three cases to study and report back on, these were:

Armed Robbery with Sexual Battery; Felony Murder with Aggravated Assault; and Rape. For each of these cases we were allowed access to all the case files including police reports, witness statements, crime scene photos and police interviews. From this evidence we had to formulate a plausible argument to present to Chris at the case review meeting.

"At this meeting we discussed the possible outcomes of a jury trial, sentencing and a possible guilty plea, and from this we debated the best possible route for our client in the current situation.

"Together with Chris I also attended client meetings and interviews that were conducted at the jail, including an interview with a male suspected of a Felony Murder with Aggravated Assault. The interview was used to update the client, but to also gain further insight as to what happened on the night of the crime and if the client had anything he needed to tell us.

"I would definitely recommend this opportunity to anyone, whether they have an ambition of pursuing a career in law or not. This placement was a life-changing experience which I would do all over again if I could!"

Pro bono

Jananeethi Institute, Kerala India Feriala Cole

"I initially discovered the pro bono project through a University email. I was immediately intrigued by the pro bono work offered as it was in a field that I'm extremely passionate about. I then applied for the internship and attended an interview by panel of lecturers and a guest speaker from the USA. Nerve-wrecking as it was, I like to believe that my passion for human rights was something that they instantaneously recognised.

"I had the opportunity to intern at the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Jananeethi in India. During my time there, myself and two fellow Nottingham Law School students had been given the task of creating a comparative study on legal aid and alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) in both India and the United Kingdom. This allowed us to witness live ADR sessions which contributed to our final report. We also had the opportunity to present our findings at an International

Conference at a law school in Kerala, India. This was both an exciting and daunting experience as we were essentially representatives of Nottingham Trent University and presented our research to a local judge, lawyers and lecturers. Thankfully this all ran very smoothly and the experience was extremely worthwhile!

"Life in India was something I had never experienced before. The people are so inviting and warm and honestly will do anything to make you feel at home. If you're thinking of going, make sure you have a very big appetite because you will be well fed! It is a uniquely beautiful country. The backdrop of the palm trees and mountains whilst driving through traffic makes it a place like no other.

"It's difficult to narrow my trip down to one highlight as there was so many wonderful experiences, such as visiting the elephants and going to see the waterfalls. But I think my time at the Law College was the most satisfying. The facilities were not as modern as ours yet the students really appreciated it. It was clear that the law can be used as a tool to help the vulnerable and that

it's not just for big businesses. My time in India allowed me to utilise the knowledge and skills I gained at university and I was able to use my knowledge of human rights law in real life situations, which was especially rewarding.

"The trip has completely changed my outlook and has reaffirmed my view that as solicitors we owe a duty to society. It has made me a passionate supporter for female equality in developing countries and one day I hope to do more work in this area. Furthermore, my experience has inspired me to be a dynamic law student, actively supporting human rights organisations

"I would recommend the trip to anyone considering the internship. It allows you to have a working role within an NGO and if you can be an effective member of a team in another country, then you will have no problem securing a fulfilling career in the UK. Each day was an exciting challenge."



Kerala, India

Want to get involved? You can find the Legal Advice Centre at the top of the stairs on the 1st floor of the Chaucer Building. Email nls.legaladvicecentre@ntu.ac.uk to be registered to the NOW page which contains details of the recruitment processes and updates and take a look at www.ntu.ac.uk/probono

Student success

Law student completes the 2014 Berlin Marathon

Congratulations to Dion Chambers, a full-time LPC student at Nottingham Law School, who completed the 41st Berlin Marathon in Germany on 28 September 2014. Dion recorded a time of 3 hours, 13 minutes and 56 seconds on his first try at the 26.2miles/42km distance – a fantastic achievement!

The Berlin Marathon was established in 1974 and has a rich history as one of the most popular road races in the world, with more than 56,000 participants from 130 nations competing this year alone. The course also holds the world record for the fastest completed marathon.

Dion has managed to raise over £400 for his chosen charity, the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, in the process; with further sponsorship coming from his part-time employer in coming weeks. Dion will also be continuing to raise money through his fundraising site until the end of the year: www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/everychilddeservesafamily.



Dion Chambers

Student profile

Clare Newton
LLB (Hons) Law (Full-time)
Awarded Irwin Mitchell prize for Best LLB Full-time student

"I had always wanted to study Law but the things that attracted me to Nottingham Trent University were the great facilities, top lecturers and just a great learning environment.

"I attended an open day for the Legal Practice Course whilst studying at Lincoln University where I was Top Student in my first year. I was so impressed with the Law School that I moved in the second year of my degree which was quite a brave move, but I knew this was the best University for me to study at.

"As a mature student, I was very impressed by the welcome I received, and I was immediately accepted by the other younger students as no different to them. The University could not do enough to help me as a single parent, and condensed my contact time into just a few days to save on my travel and childcare costs. "NOW (NTU Online Workspace) is invaluable to me as a mature student, living an hour and a half commute from Nottingham. Through NOW I have access to everything, which means I can study at home.

"Mooting has definitely been the module that has been most useful. I was fortunate enough to secure one of the 12 places on the module in my final year, and went on to get the top mark and won an award for this. The skills I have learnt on the module will definitely prepare me well for the Legal Practice Course and for my legal career.



Judge John Samuels QC presents Clare Newton with her Irwin Mitchell prize

"My time at the University has made me realise that Law is definitely the profession for me. The way Law has been taught has allowed me to grow in my legal knowledge and piece together the jigsaw puzzle of various areas of law, seeing how certain areas overlap and interlink. I am now very confident about stepping out into the legal field because I know I have a sound grounding in Law which is not only down to my hard work, but founded on the excellent teaching of great lecturers at the University.

"Boots Library is a fantastic facility and I was particularly impressed by the number of books available to borrow, I never had to wait for a book, there were always lots of copies available.

"I am returning to the University to do the LLM Legal Practice Course in September 2014 and have won a scholarship from the Law School for £2,000 towards my course fees. I have secured a Training Contract with Daltons Solicitors in Stamford to start in September 2015. I plan to do a PhD in the future and also do more study to qualify as a Notary Public.

"The University is a great place to study especially if you are a mature student or single parent as they really understand your other commitments and do their best to help you juggle things. Nottingham Law School is recognised as one of the best Law Schools in the country, and I have been very impressed by the number of opportunities specifically directed at Law students here. The learning environment is second to none, and a large number of lecturers are highly regarded in their field, and have written numerous books, some of which are used as core texts on the course. There are also some great lecturers who have worked as solicitors and barristers who are able to teach their areas of Law with the experience of having put it into practice."

Student success

Prize-winning students

The hard work and success of Nottingham Law School students was celebrated at the third annual Nottingham Law School Prize Giving on Wednesday 22 October. Prize-winning students, their families and sponsors of the prizes were invited to an awards ceremony in The Old Chemistry Theatre, which included a celebratory reception with drinks and canapés. Congratulations to all of this year's winners, listed below:

Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution	Ann M Crosby
Howes Percival Prize for Best Performance by a Student in the NLS Legal Advice Centre during 2013-14	Caroline Major
VC's Award for Outstanding and Exceptional Personal Achievement	Decla Palmer
Irwin Mitchell Prize for the Best Performing Student in the Medical Law Module	Emily Silver
Trent Law Prize for Best Overall Performance on the LLB SW & FT Programme	Michael Leadbeater
Cartwright King Prize for Best Portfolio Submission following Placement Year	April Skipp
Irwin Mitchell Prize for Best LLB Full-Time Student	Clare Newton
Freeth Cartwright Prize for Best Law with Business Student	Dion Chambers, Nicola Smith
The Richard Sutcliffe Memorial Prize for Mooting	Clare Newton, Antony Wood
Browne Jacobson Prize for Pro Bono	Richard Ashton
NLS Prize for Best Law and Professional Practice Student	Stephanie Mead
Thomson Reuters Prize for the Student with the Highest Year 2 Aggregate on the LLB FT / SW course	Alexis Vandyke-Mercer
Thomson Reuters Prize for the Student with the Highest Penultimate Year Aggregate on the LLB Distance Learning Programme	Lucy Day
Oxford University Press Prize for the Students with the Highest Year 1 Aggregate on the FT/SW course	Natalie Hair
Cartwright King prize for Best Crime Mooter	Bhupinder Virk
Paragon Law prize for Best LLB International Student	Priya Joshi
Paragon Law Prize for the Best LLM Student Overall	Douglas Jones
NLS Prize for Highest Mark in the Year	John Goss
NLS Prize for Runner up for the Highest Mark	Tom Salton
Shoosmiths Prize for Best Research Project	Tom Salton
NLS Best Overall Student Performance in Year 1	Luke Shaw
NLS Best Overall Student Performance in Year 2	Martin Fletcher
NLS Highest Aggregate Prize	April Horsman
NLS Second Highest Aggregate Prize	Alice Haynes
Geldards Prize for Best Result in Property	Joseph Gunn, Stephanie Mead
Geldards Prize Best Result in Business Law and Practice	April Horsman
Family Law Group Prize for Top Family Law Student	Charley Bellamy, Claire Mills
Irwin Mitchell Prize for Best Aggregate Result in Litigation	April Horsman
NLS Highest Aggregate Prize	Oluwashola Bolawole Akindele
NLS Second Highest Aggregate Prize	Gary Richardson
Irwin Mitchell prize for Best aggregate result in Litigation	Gary Richardson
Freeth Cartwright Prize for Best Law with Business Student	Gary Richardson
Family Law Group Prize for Top Family Law Student	Shreena Parmar
Taylor Prize: 1st Prize – Best Overall Student	Lewis MacDonald
Taylor Prize: 2nd Prize – Runner-Up	Elizabeth Gallagher
St Mary's Family Law Prize –1st Prize	Rebecca Hilton



Oluwashola Akindele



Michael Leadbeater (2nd from left)



Jenny Holloway talks to students



Ann Crosby (2nd from left)

Careers

Nottingham Law School mentors

The Nottingham Law School mentoring scheme is designed to improve your employability prospects. It gives you the chance to build a relationship with an experienced practitioner who can provide valuable insights into the legal profession.

Laura Jewels, a trainee solicitor at Shoosmiths, took part in the mentoring scheme and is now a student mentor herself. Here she tells us how the experience benefited her career:

"During my Graduate Diploma in Law year at Nottingham Law School it became clear how competitive law has become, and that I would need to use all the opportunities available to me in order to become a candidate that stood out when applying for training contracts.

"One such opportunity that arose was the Mentoring Scheme. During my first couple of months at the Law School, all students were invited to apply to be part of the Scheme and be assigned a local trainee solicitor as a mentor. I jumped at the chance and was fortunate enough to be accepted. I was paired with a second-year trainee at Eversheds in Nottingham and quickly began to see the benefits of the scheme.

"By having a mentor, I effectively had the benefit of hindsight. I was able to ask honest questions about the legal sector and about the application process. I say honest because often it is difficult to ask the questions that you really want to ask, for fear of seeming less than knowledgeable. However, my mentor allowed me to ask all sorts of questions, to which he gave insightful answers.

"These answers helped to shape my future career and assisted in answering the main questions that all law students ask; 'do I want to be a solicitor or barrister?', 'what kind of law do I want to qualify into?' and even, 'is law the right career path for me?'

"As well as being a brain to pick, my mentor would also review applications for me. Just having an extra pair of eyes and someone to meet up with for a pep talk over coffee was so helpful and gave me the confidence boost to apply to the big firms in Nottingham.

"I went on to secure a training contract at Shoosmiths in Nottingham the summer after the Graduate Diploma in Law, and in the first month of my training contract I was offered the chance to be a student mentor. Of course I jumped at the chance once again and was paired with a Graduate Diploma in Law student.

"I have really enjoyed getting to know her and offering any advice I can! From a mentor's perspective, we know how stressful the whole process is, and that sometimes just having someone to run your ideas past and boost your confidence can really help to get you where you want to be."

The Mentoring Scheme is run by Melanie King, Employability Coordinator. Remember to check your emails regularly for details of these opportunities.

Futurehub

Don't forget to check futurehub regularly for up-to-date careers information. There is a range of events listed, including workshops on training contract on pupillage applications, and all the latest job and placement vacancies. Don't miss out, visit www.ntu.ac.uk/futurehub



We're here to support you

Nottingham Law School and the Employability Team provide extensive services for all students.

Drop in appointments are available at: City Employability Centre (Newton/Arkwright) **Monday 1 pm – 4 pm.**

Legal Advice Centre, Chaucer 1st floor **Wednesdays 10.30 am – 12.30 pm**

Come along to get advice on CVs, interview preparation and the next steps in your career.

Nottingham Spring Law Fair

If you're interested in a legal career don't miss the annual Nottingham Spring Law Fair in the Newton Building on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

A wide range of exhibitors will be attending with information about training contracts, pupillages, paralegal, vacation and placement opportunities. Firms including Brownie Jacobson, Howes Percival and the Council for Licensed Conveyancers are currently booked to attend. Visit Futurehub for the latest list of exhibitors.

The fair takes place between 5.30 pm and 8 pm and all are welcome. There is no need to book.



...and finally

LEX Law Society

My Name is Kim Wintle and I am the LEX Law Society President for this academic year. LEX is Nottingham Law School's student society and is the biggest academic society the University has to offer.

With more and more students graduating from Law degrees, LEX provides opportunities for students to enhance their CVs and set themselves apart from all the other applicants. We have a dedicated committee who work tirelessly to arrange events and trips for students to enjoy.

This year we are organising mooted competitions and advice workshops, pro bono opportunities, networking dining events, trips to London to the Inns of

Court and to watch a Supreme Court Case. We also have a netball and football team that play in the university league against other societies and we also play against local law firms in the Junior Lawyers Division.

We have a social department of the society who arrange nights out for our members to let off some steam.

We encourage as many Law students (or students with an interest in Law) to join the society as possible. Membership is £5 and you get access to all the things mentioned above as well as priority and discounts on tickets for the events we arrange. Join our Facebook Page for more information: <Nottingham Trent Law Society - LEX>

Our term started with a busy week trying to promote our society to students during Welcome Week. We had stalls at the Clifton and City freshers' fair where we spoke to lots of first year law students about what we have to offer. We also gave two lectures about the benefits of joining LEX and we held a book sale for Law students to sell their old books and buy second-hand ones. It was very successful and was an opportunity for the committee to remind second and third year students to join LEX again this academic year.

We have had our first committee meeting of the year and have started to get the ball rolling for activities this term and we are all really excited about the year ahead.

If any students have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Kim Wintle
LEX Law President
2014-2015



Kim Wintle (far left) with other members of LEX at last year's Law Ball

Upcoming events

Postgraduate and Professional Courses drop-in event
Wednesday 12 November 2014, 4 pm – 6 pm

Nottingham Spring Law Fair
Wednesday 21 January 2015, 5.30 pm – 8 pm

Postgraduate and Professional Courses drop-in event
Wednesday 28 January 2015, 4 pm – 6 pm

For more information on upcoming events visit www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsevents



Discounts and scholarships

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

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

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





Nottingham Law School
Nottingham Trent University
Burton Street
Nottingham NG1 4BU
Tel: +44 (0)115 848 4460
Email: nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

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