JOINT ENTERPRISE

Behind the Supreme Court’s historic decision

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698/05/2016
Welcome to another packed edition of All Things Law

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The latest in Law

Law Society President gives advice to aspiring solicitors

Law Society President and Nottingham Law School alumnus Jonathan Smithers made his way back to NLS recently to speak to students about their legal future. Jonathan graduated with an LLB 32 years ago and remained engaged about his time in Nottingham’s Law Society, LEX, and nights in Rock City before an inspiring speech about the value and future of the solicitor profession.

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

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

Jonathan's advice for current students was clear: “Start thinking and acting like a solicitor today.” He encouraged LPC students and recent graduates to join the Junior Lawyers Division, attend events and make themselves heard on the issues that they take so much from.

He still displays his Nottingham Trent degree certificate proudly in his office and explained how pleased he was to be able to give something back to the place that took him so much from.

He ended with some final thoughts for all those about to embark upon their legal career: “Find something you’re passionate about, that makes you want to go to work in the morning. And don’t be afraid to change. You are entering a great profession. Set your aspirations high, build a network and in 32 years’ time you might be asked back to lecture in these rooms.”

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

Want to feature in this magazine? Be a contributor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congratulations to Jo — and good luck!
Nottingham Law School announces two new Honorary Professors

Nottingham Law School is delighted to announce the appointment of two new Honorary Professors of Law. Honorary Professor Alaness Hodge is an expert in the field of employment law and is newly involved in the leadership of the Bar, in particular, advocacy training. Alaness has extensive experience of employment law and is regularly invited to the Employment Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. He acts for both employees and employers and has particular experience in unfair dismissal, transfer of undertakings and discrimination cases.

Through his work with the Inner Temple, Alaness has been involved with advocacy training in the jurisdiction and overseas. He is the course director for advocacy training at Inner Temple, with responsibility for the training of advocates in the early years of practice. He is the youngest Bench of the Inner Temple and plays a pivotal role in the education and training roles that the Inn provides. He has served on a number of professional bodies committees aimed at improving diversity and training at the Bar.

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

Winner of the Ian Hutton Memorial Moot 2016

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

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

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

John Hodgson, Reader at Nottingham Law School, was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Law Teachers. John has worked at NTU since 1987. Along with his role here at the University, John has also been involved for many years with the Association of Law Teachers, serving in a number of roles, including Chair and Secretary.

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

He said: “The award is made at a dinner held every year as part of the association’s annual conference. This year I turned up at the dinner and one of my colleagues at the association announced the winner – and that was the first I knew of it!”

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

John has enjoyed a distinguished career at NTU during his nearly 30 years at the University, and is currently a Reader in Legal Education. He works mainly on the distance learning courses offered by NTU, teaching and developing materials. He also organises and delivers the MLS summer schools, and undertakes considerable research in the areas of legal education – currently into the role of extramural assessment.

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Winning the Ian Hutton Memorial Moot 2016

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

The latest in Law

The latest in Law

Nottingham Law School offers new LLM BPTC

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

To gain the LLM, students will complete a dissertation worth 30,000 words on a topic of their choosing and submit it for examination. It will count for 70% of the dissertation and the remaining 30% will be the combined marks for the six assessed modules.

Students are also only accredited for the BPTC if they pass all the assessed modules. Those students who fail any of them will either have to take the BPTC again or start the LLM course if they wish to have their LLM qualification.

The LLM Legal Practice Course is designed to help students who wish to work in specialist areas. It offers a range of specialisms such as commercial, corporate and intellectual property law, and public law, as well as offering the opportunity to cross qualify.

Mike Brookes, Head of Professional Training at Nottingham Law School, said: “In a competitive legal services market, a Masters qualification is a really good value to a range of domestic and international students who aspire to either a career within the legal services sector or a career where legal knowledge and skills will be valued.”

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

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

The Sentencing Council recently announced draft proposals which could tightly define the rules concerning the sentence reductions available to defendants who plead guilty early. But this move has beneﬁted to date the idea of our judicial system being fair? If defendants can get up to a third off their sentence for an early guilty plea?

Unfortunately, the most important consideration must be the victim. A beneﬁt of an early guilty plea is that it can avoid an issue needing to go to trial. The trial process is stressful, and the victim’s wait before they can see the man or woman who committed the crime is a long one. Being able to receive a victim’s view of what their emotions must surely be beneﬁted.

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

But I can deﬁnitely see the downsides too. Most worryingly, the danger that innocent people might enter into guilty pleas in fear that they will receive a lesser sentence at trial. Only if measures are in place to ensure that the process remains fair can we even have this debate – otherwise, this risk outweighs any possible beneﬁts.

I can also see how early guilty plea sentence reductions might reduce the fear of punishment by career criminals. This devalues the justice system we can all have trust in. But I can definitely see the downsides too. Most worryingly, the danger that innocent people might enter into guilty pleas in fear that they will receive a lesser sentence at trial. Only if measures are in place to ensure that the process remains fair can we even have this debate – otherwise, this risk outweighs any possible benefits.
The judgment in Jogee [2016] UKSC 8; Ruddock [2016] UKPC 7 was celebrated for three reasons:

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

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

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

D2 is guilty of crime B if she foresaw the possibility that D1 might commit crime A and continued to participate in a way that is required for the to be guilty of crime A, but that D2 contemplated the possibility that D1 might do it, or an offence of that type. D2 can go from being guilty of aiding or abetting to being guilty of murder simply through foresight, that D1 might do something to cause someone’s death with the intention to at least cause grievous bodily harm.

D1 does not have to be looking to murder, or intending to murder, but still intends to do with the requisite mens rea.

There does not have to be a pre-existing plan between D1 and D2. D2 can be held responsible for offending which is spontaneous, as long as the there’s a common purpose outlined above are made out. D2 need not know that D1 commits offence X, instead D2 may only want D1 to commit offence X at all, but still intentionally encourage or assist D1 to commit it. For example, if D1 and D2 rob a bank together, armed with guns, and D1 shoots and kills a security guard, intending to at least cause grievous bodily harm, D2 is guilty of murder even if D2 did not want anyone to be hurt, as long as D2 was intending that anyone get in the way that person would be shot with the intention of doing them at least grievous bodily harm.

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

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

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For more information on Catarina Sjölin Knight and her role at Nottingham Law School, see page DB.
What is your involvement with moots?

Since I joined the Law School I have both taught moots and chaired the moots in charge of the Law School’s extra-curricular undergraduate moot. I work with a student to prepare the moot and to design it. The moot is designed to encourage and develop research skills as well as to improve public speaking, advocacy and legal analysis. The moots are open to all students in the school and are based on a range of subjects. The moots are assessed and the students receive written feedback on their performance. The moots are a great opportunity for students to develop their legal skills in a practical setting.

What is the most rewarding part of your position?

The ability to work with students on a one-to-one basis and to see them develop their legal skills and confidence is incredibly rewarding. I also enjoy working with colleagues and other organizations to improve training on hate crime; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom; Dr Loretta Trickett is working with the Centre for Conflict and Justice on research into religious freedom.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

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

Can you tell us a little about your current research?

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

What is your current position?

My current position is Head of Academic Postgraduate and Professional Programmes at the Law School. I lead the academic programme team for the School and am responsible for the development and delivery of postgraduate programmes. I ensure that the programmes meet the needs of the School and the wider legal profession and that they are delivered to the highest standards.

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

I started at Nottingham Law School as a lecturer twelve years ago teaching public law and human rights and the law of trusts and equity, and continued to carry out research into international law. I was promoted to a principal lecturer position in the School quality manager. The quality manager position involved me in School and University strategy, enhanced my project management skills and brought me into a number of collaborative networks. It was an excellent stepping point for me to my current position.

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

The Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice was set up to pursue and encourage innovative scholarship in the fields of criminal law, criminal justice, human rights, international humanitarian law, conflict resolution and post-conflict justice. It is comprised of a number of researchers with a wide range of related interests. We have some fantastic research projects underway, for example the Centre Director Tom Lewis researches religious rights and freedom of expression. Dr Loretta Trickett is working with Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership, the Hate Crime Steering Group and other organisations to improve training on hate crime. Peter McGregor researches the relationship between people being at risk from HIV and disability. Dr Samartho Pegg has been commenting weekly on the recent ‘revenge pornography’ offensive, and Dr Helen Oomens researches the right to say no to crys, and the specific difficulties faced by the Bill on asylum rights protection.

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

We can use more information and our members’ profiles by visiting: www.ntu.ac.uk/conflictrightsjustice

Meeting our staff

**Catarina Sjölin Knight**

*Role:* Senior Lecturer

*Overview:* I teach on the criminal and matrimonial modules for the law degree and tax in the criminology degree. I teach research with a focus on criminal law.

How did you find the transition from practice into academia?

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

What path did you take to your current position?

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

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Watching students improve throughout the year, gaining knowledge and confidence, particularly on the teaching module where students inevitably struggle to the challenge of the demanding course. Watching these students graduate is a great privilege.

What has been your career highlight?

I had remained a door tenant at my old chambers and then when one of my colleagues there asked me to assist her on the Supreme Court appeal of Jogee I jumped at the chance to try and change the case. I won the case and then the Court’s judgment in which they accepted our submissions and the judge’s questions. It is a brilliant way to learn the law and I am so pleased that it is a mode of assessment for our core module. Second, although it inevitably prepares students for practice as a barrister, I believe it goes further than that in preparing students for life after university. In every form of working life you need to be confident and in very many jobs you will at some point need to research something and then talk to others about it, persuading them to your point of view, researching your point to be just right, but I believe that the Law School’s students are well prepared not just for standing up in court, but also seeking and explaining a new way of working to colleagues or writing and presenting a business plan to the bank manager.

**Andrea Nicholson**

*Role:* Head of Academic Postgraduate and Professional Programmes

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

What has been your career highlight?

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

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

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

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What interests you specifically about international human rights?

I was always interested in international standard setting rather than the more localized domestic and regional rights. Attempts to reach global consensus and the challenges presented by economics, politics, cultural differences, belief, governmental structures and priorities make it a highly complex and fascinating field. Human rights are at the heart of our humanity and freedom. I am very interested in how human rights are valued and addressed and the degree to which various voices are part of our human rights framework.
Alice Radford
LLB (Hons)/Law (full-time)

I am very thankful to say I have hostile opportunity to do some practical work at NTU. In my first year I competed in the external LEX competition. Without participating in this, I don’t think I would be where I am today, both in terms of personal confidence and masses of mooting experience.

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

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

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

One of my greatest experiences was while serving in my role as an external judge for the National University Charity Mooting Competition. I was invited to Mayer Brown, an international law firm in London, and did a presentation with questions to a panel of four (made up of assistants, a partner and a trainee) on the increased court fees that had been introduced that month. It was a thrilling and one-of-a-kind experience.

I have also engaged in a variety of extra-curricular activities such as skeleton argument competitions, the Client Interviewing Competition and the University of Birmingham’s National Advocacy Competition. All of these activities are important to develop various skills; other than the obvious, it allows students to develop their professionalism through first-hand experience. It also encouraged me what you could identify your own strengths and weaknesses and then aim to address them in the proceeding rounds to show improvement.

For me the most pleasant part of participating in competitions was seeing the improvement of the participants in the proceeding rounds. I have identified my own strengths and weaknesses and then aimed to address them in the proceeding rounds to show improvement.

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

Natasha Ward
LLB (Hons)/Law (full-time)

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

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

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

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

The fact that the participation was in pairs added a new challenge, as it forced you to share interactions with the client equally, ensuring that one student does not dominate the proceeding more than the other.

Admittedly, this was something I struggled with as I like to talk!

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

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

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

“The competition enabled me to develop various skills; other than the obvious, it allows students to develop their professionalism through first-hand experience.”
The society’s student committee work tirelessly throughout the year to put on a variety of social and academic events, including an annual networking and dinner event with local barristers and solicitors, mooting competitions, various legal skills workshops, an annual ball, and trips to legal landmarks, such as the Supreme Court in London.

Meet some of the committee members…

Alice Radford (Bar Officer)
LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

My role involves organising the networking events and trips. In term one, the Legal Practice Officer and I organised the Annual Dining Event; the evening was successful and informative. Additionally I liaise with other parties to further enhance the society’s events and expand where possible to ensure students enhance their employability and make useful connections within the legal world.

Alishia Dennehy (Vice President)
LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology

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

Billy Shaw (Mooting Assistant Officer)
LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

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

Shanice Chol (Legal Practice Assistant)
LLB (Hons) Law with Business

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

Jack Roberts (Assistant Bar Officer)
LLB (Hons) Law (full-time)

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

Becoming part of the LEX Law Society can help you to integrate into university life, boost your employability and make the most of your degree.
A day at Lincoln’s Inn

Rhona Scullion and Alice Atay

Student experience

A day at Lincoln’s Inn in the largest of the four Inns of Court. For those new to the world of the Inns of Court were traditionally the educational providers for the Bar. As aspiring barristers are required to join an Inn before commencing the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), knowledge of their purpose and function, as well as their own unique charms, is incredibly useful for all students considering this pathway into law. Nowadays the functions of the Inns are more supportive and social, although they do maintain educational links with the Bar by providing various talks, activities and events to supplement the growing gap of all barristers – aspiring and advanced alike. One of the ways in which all of the Inns manage this for those not yet qualified, by opening their private dining to the numerous students comes about a potential career at the Bar. This open day, generally held once per year, is a chance for students of all ages to learn more about what the Bar can offer them. Lincoln’s Inn alone has £1.4m to give away in scholarships and grants to those in need of financial assistance. In addition, it boosts 10s of ‘rooms’, which include academic gardens and the library, as well as its own chapel and Great Hall. It also has an impressive roll of members including 16 former prime ministers and notable members of the judiciary including Lord Haldane and Lord Denning.

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

All of the speeches reinforced what those committed to the Bar already knew – it is hard, it is tough, and even when you have managed to obtain that holy grail of society, life at the Bar is still a gruelling and demanding in a variety of ways. However, every single person who spoke was unanimous in stating that it was the best career they could have chosen. Perhaps more importantly though, many of the speeches reinforced another common aspect of the road towards becoming a barrister. Of those who eventually settle on this path, a fair number have not come along the most obvious route. Several had previous careers in other areas, such as journalism, or as a solicitor. Several had done more than one degree in different subjects, or had spent time working abroad in numerous capacities. All of them had studied in different places – so it was certainly not an Oxbridge-dominated game – although the universities they studied attended were all of a high calibre. Variety was certainly the name of the game. There was no one-size-fits-all all the Bar and so the underlying theme could have really been the topic to be yourself. The sheer variety of speakers lent itself to understanding their universal thoughts on why the Bar is such an attractive career choice. From shipping and commercial to media and family law, from in-house to self-employed to barristers’ clerks – everyone and every position had something different to offer, providing a unique insight into the great divergence of people and possibilities the Bar supports.

And then perhaps most surprising, or reassuring depending on your view, was the fact that all of the speakers, the Treasurers and those members of the Inn (barristers and judges alike) interspersed along the dining tables, displayed distinctly human characteristics. Humour was ever present in all of the talks, and in the last one – comprising ten top tips for those intending to become a barrister – there was raucous laughter from the student audience at the many self-deprecating anecdotes. Additionally, almost every lawyer, including our ‘mystery speaker’ with the dinner tables, informed us without shame that standing up in court still terrified them and that the job of being a barrister is undoubtedly a scary one. They talked of work-life balance and remaining true to yourself, finding time for friends and family but also appreciating the importance of the work you do as an advocate. The final word had to go to family law barrister, Matthew Welles who proclaimed: “Being a barrister, be, in our time and place, is an opportunity to write the next chapter of life in the Inn.”

Leaving the hall all of excellent food and such useful advice students could hardly go wrong.

Clifford Chance Open Day

Billy Shaw

What made you attend?

I am attracted to the idea of working in a commercial law firm alongside world-leaders in enterprise. I knew that I could gain an insight into that area of the legal profession and the type of work that barristers do in the firm.

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

What did you do at the event?

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

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

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

Was it useful? Why?

I enjoyed speaking to other students about their career aspirations. The firm is a competitive profession and there is competition between students. However, attending events such as this has shown me how to navigate the relationships and how to work together to achieve certain opportunities.

Shoosmiths mentoring scheme

Brian Mendum

Why is it important?

As a final year undergraduate law student, my mind is always preoccupied with thoughts of the next step in terms of career development. My year abroad has cemented the fact that I want to stay ahead of the pack in the ever demanding legal profession outside of academical ability and drive. More so, it’s a well known fact that barristers read the same books and refer to the same law, and as such the network alone is an additional element.

Being selected to participate in the NLS/Shoosmiths mentoring programme has taught me what mentoring is about. The saying “show me your friends and I’ll know who you are” is therefore quite applicable in the legal field.

Simply put, being associated with a positive role model or friend who show you the ropes in your respective pathway to achieving that extra edge in your legal career.

The NLS/Shoosmiths launch event proved to be a very successful and eventful evening to say the very least. For bits aside, our mentors expanded on the benefits of mentoring opportunities and urged us to maintain contact, which the firm developed will ultimately go a long way.

They further emphasized that mentors are always ready to devote their time to teach you about skills and experiences that they hope will make a similar pursuit of wisdom in the mentee. As a result, the mentor is expected to be respectful of your efforts, participating actively and asking relevant questions to clarify grey areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Remember, your Law School employability team is happy to help and support you for up to three years after graduation.
1990: Called to the Bar and became a barrister.

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

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

Graduating with honours.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

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

What would you say to someone who is considering a career in the law?

Advice for law students wishing to go into the legal profession:

The need to prove yourself and earn respect. If you are good enough, you can carve out a successful career for yourself.

Overcoming prejudice and bias.

Any advice?

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

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

Both judges commented on the very high standard of advocacy which continues to improve from year to year.

Events

Celebrating Collaboration and Achievement Event 2016

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

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

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

Invited students then delivered presentations to showcase key School and community business projects.

The evening was brought to a close with a drinks reception.

The Advocacy Cup 2016

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

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

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

What is the value of a law degree?

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

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Events

Alumni

HHJ Avik Mukherjee

Current role: Circuit Judge, Ministry of Justice

Year of graduation: 1989

What was your best memory of your time at NTU?

Graduating with honours.

What did you enjoy most about your course?

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

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

You have to work hard, remain focused and push yourself.
Legal Advice Centre

Get involved

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

If you want to get involved and/or become a pro bono advocate, look for details of upcoming talks in the NOW learning room and follow @NULawFoc on Twitter.

Find us on LinkedIn

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

Student experiences

Katherine Doych
LLM Human Rights and Justice

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

Alice Atay
Graduate Diploma in Law

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

Fatima Bazg
LLB (Hons) Law with Psychology

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

Legal Bake raises money for Nottingham Personal Support Unit

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

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

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

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

Bake coordinator, Fayew Deverell said: “Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us raise so much money for the PSU. It’s a fantastic achievement for everyone who took part and helped us raise so much money.”

Nottingham Legal Walk

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

The annual 5km walk takes in the sights of Nottingham while raising money for local legal advice charities.

There is no cost involved but donations are welcome.

This year’s walkers included President of the Law Society and Nottingham Law School alumnus Jonathan Smethers. The team were also joined by Honorary Nottingham Law School Professor Shaun Smith QC, who is the Joint Head of 1 Hythe Chambers.

Legal Walk makes a difference

The Legal Walk is an annual event that has raised money for over 40 legal aid organisations around the country. Nottingham Law School has raised over £25,000 in just four years for the Nottingham PSU.

The Centre hosts workshops and seminar events on legal practice, and students have the opportunity to perform pro bono and gain legal experience by working here. We had meetings before the Orientation Week started which were really nice as we got to meet all the other mentors involved, and during the week we took part in activities which included fun events like bowling, going out, international dinners and city tours. This led to numerous outings and group dinners where is couple of people each week would talk in turn to each other.

My advice to students planning on studying abroad is to definitely get involved with everything the university has to offer. If I had to I would become a mentor I would have found it difficult to make as many friends because a lot of people leave in the first semester.

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

The modules that I picked for my year abroad included four Masters modules, which definitely broadened my academic studies. It made me more disciplined in my work and made me realise that if you go over what the reading, you’ll find preparing for the exams so much easier.

The additional year also gave me the opportunity to study modules that I wouldn’t have had choice to study otherwise, which broadened my knowledge of law.

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

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

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

Study abroad

My year abroad: Studying in the Netherlands

Vidhya Panchal
LLB (Hons) International Law

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

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

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

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

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

Using data obtained through in-depth interviews with a number of individuals living with HIV across the UK, Peter’s research examined whether the decision to classify HIV as a disability has been successful.

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

David Burdette announced as Extraordinary Professor

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

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

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

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

Lawyers turn pro as sports governance kicks off

Edward Graneau, the barrister and pioneer of the field of sports law in England, once commented that “the rule of law in sport is as essential for civilisation as the rule of law in society generally.” That observation has never seemed more apt. The need to deal with the increase in sports law cases is a new challenge for sports law on the back pages of newspapers and, perhaps more worryingly, on the front pages.

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

The revolution that has occurred over the subsequent two decades has been remarkable. The Bowman judgment triggered a whole new area of study and practice in EU sports law, especially in the role and significance of sports arbitration, especially that of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which has been transformed. These are but two of the most notable examples.

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

The proliferation of new mandates for research funding. With David’s appointment at the University of the Free State, the centre looks forward to close collaboration between the two institutions.

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Awards

Winner at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards
The Access to Justice Foundation Award
This award recognises the work of individuals and education bodies in promoting and supporting access to justice and charities which provide pro bono services.

Winner at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards
Best Contribution by a Law School
In recognition of all the activities we undertake and our innovative use of an alternative business structure (ABS).

Runner up at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards
Best New Student Pro Bono Activity
For the InFroMenT Project – our campaign to raise awareness of female genital mutilation in Nottingham and beyond and to educate communities, voluntary groups and professionals on how the law can be used for the protection of victims and potential victims.

Winner at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards
Best Contribution by an Individual Student
Notasha Ward, LLB (Hons) Law (full-time), was highly commended.

Winner
Nottingham Law Society Contribution to the Community Award 2016

Shortlisted
Legal Education Provider of the Year in the Solicitors Journal Awards

Highly commended at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards
Best Contribution by an Individual Student
Natasha Ward, LLB (Hons) Law (full-time), was highly commended.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whither Adversarialism? Realising Victims’ Rights in Criminal Trials
Thursday 23 June 2016
An Inaugural Lecture by Professor Jonathan Doak, Nottingham Law School
An Inaugural Lecture by Professor Jonathan Doak, Nottingham Law School
The conference will bring together advocates, judges and academics from different jurisdictions and across disciplines to discuss and share best practice in the training of advocates.

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

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

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

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

Behind the Supreme Court’s historic decision

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