WELCOME TO THE JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

As this academic year draws to a close, I write to thank all of the students (and of course the staff) for their hard work over the last nine months.

To the fabulous Leeds Law students, well done for seizing the many opportunities offered to you: visiting our law fair and attending networking events, going on the court visits, offering legal advice via our Law Clinic and helping members of the public navigate the justice system by working with the national charity Support Through Court.

This edition of the newsletter is jam-packed full of interesting stories. I am particularly looking forward to our new Law School opening in September that will provide you with all of the resources you need to succeed in law school.

I know you are all looking forward to the summer break. I encourage you to use this time to relax and recharge. You have earned it! However, I also encourage you to stay engaged with the law. Read newspapers, listen and watch the news and think about the legal items you come across. If you can do some work experience, or even just go to court for a few days, you will learn a little more and see some law in practice.

Take good care and happy reading.

Professor Deveral Capps, Dean of Leeds Law School

LEEDS LAW SCHOOL MEET WITH LAW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Students received a first-class insight into professional life in the legal sector from the trailblazing president of the Law Society in May.

Lubna Shuja, who is the Society’s first Asian and Muslim president and seventh female president, spoke to students and colleagues about her journey through the legal profession and her rise to the presidency of the Law Society, the independent professional body that represents solicitors in England and Wales.

She also discussed with students their pro-bono work as part of Leeds Law School’s Law Clinic and Support Through Court, initiatives which give students the opportunity to provide free legal advice and assistance to members of the public.

As president of the Law Society, Lubna works across the country to champion the work of more 200,000 solicitors, representing their interests to the government, media and the wider public.

LLB student Zeenat Azhar said: “I really enjoyed listening to [Lubna] give an insight into the struggles she faced in her legal journey, her determination and perseverance to combat stereotypes, and the difficulties she faced in getting to her current position. I also loved hearing about what aspects of her presidential plan she has fulfilled and what’s next.”

Professor Deveral Capps, Dean of Leeds Law School, said: “The Law School has grown considerably in recent years, and we’ve now reached a level where we want to give our students and staff a real sense of place, and for them to have somewhere amazing they can call home. This huge investment means we will have one of the most modern law school buildings in the country, which fills me with great pride.”

Work on the project is due to start in June and is expected to be completed by September 2023.

Visit leedsbeckett.ac.uk/law for more information.

WORK SET TO BEGIN ON NEW HOME FOR LEEDS LAW SCHOOL

Leeds Law School is officially relocating to the university’s Broadcasting Place building later this year, a move that will see the School’s facilities transformed.

The new development will serve as a home for Leeds Law School’s undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes, offering state-of-the-art facilities that will allow students to work alongside legal academics and learn in an environment that will promote deep learning and develop critical analysis.

An immersive simulation suite, a courtroom with a jury deliberation room, a reading room and social learning areas are among the spaces that will support students to expand their knowledge of the legal profession and provide them with an ideal platform to launch their career. The national charity Support Through Court will also have a dedicated space within the new premises to support members of the public to represent themselves in court.

Read the latest student stories and discover more about life at Leeds Law School at leedsbeckett.ac.uk/law
“BEST DECISION I EVER MADE”

Final year LLB Law student William Clark is due to graduate from Leeds Beckett University this summer. He shares five highlights of his time on the law degree.

1. FIRST IN FAMILY

I originally applied to study English Literature at Leeds Beckett, but my gut instinct told me to switch to law instead. Law seemed broad enough that even if I didn’t want to practise law at the end, it would still be incredibly useful.

I became part of the first generation in my family to go to university.

2. VARIED COURSE

The law degree has resonated with me in a way academia has never resonated with me before. I’ve particularly enjoyed the Tort Law and Property Law modules, and the Client Care Skills module this year has helped me to apply what I’ve learnt so far into real life working situations. I’ve learnt vital skills that I’ll use throughout my career.

3. IMMERSE LEARNING

Leeds Law School is one of the few universities in the country to offer this bespoke immersive learning experience, where you work in groups to solve a live legal challenge. Think of it as the law version of an escape room!

We had to deal with a developing legal situation from our client, a premiership football club, working together in a live scenario, thinking critically, and prioritising what to action. It was a really excellent experience and one that I am sure I will draw upon in any future job interview.

4. THE LECTURERS

The lecturers at Leeds Law School are genuinely what make the student experience so good here. They always make themselves available, give constructive feedback and their method of delivery is excellent. It feels like we’ve got a lot of input into what the Law School does.

5. SUPPORT THROUGH COURT PLACEMENTS

I recently enjoyed a placement with legal charity Support Through Court, who have an exclusive partnership with Leeds Beckett University. I was able to join online hearings and visit combined court to help clients with issues in family and child law and civil litigation.

I’m now making the most of my final months at Leeds Beckett and I’m determined to get the best degree I can. I’m so pleased I had the instinct to switch over to studying law at Leeds Law School, it’s the best decision I’ve made.

PRIORITISING PRACTICAL LEARNING

A group of 19 students recently participated in our popular Street Law project, visiting local colleges to deliver sessions on social media and the law.

Meanwhile, another group of students expertly represented the University’s Law Clinic at Leeds homeless charity, St. George’s Crypt, delivering an insightful session on employability rights to over 20 of the Crypt’s clients.


Rachel Dunn, director of employability and pro bono at Leeds Law School, said:

Keep an eye on the Law School enrichment programme for upcoming opportunities.

Visit: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/street-law-project/

CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SUPPORT THROUGH COURT

We were delighted to see so many of the legal community from Leeds and Yorkshire turn out to support our partnership event with Support Through Court in April. TV money expert Martin Lewis CBE even made an appearance (via video link!).

We shared more about our work with this vital charity, that provides free legal assistance and information to litigants who cannot afford vital legal services. The charity is now based on campus, and students and academics alike are involved in their day-to-day activity.

Read more about what this charity partnership means to our university. Visit: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school
STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Huge congratulations to final year law student Debbie Speight, who has not only been offered a prestigious scholarship at Lincoln’s Inn after she graduates this summer, but whose essay “Consent and Risk Disclosure – Development of the law and the impact of Montgomery on healthcare professionals” has been selected as a publication for their Student Law Journal 2022/2023. It will also be published in the Inn’s library.

Debbie says: “It’s a huge achievement to have a publication before I’ve graduated, and I’m very proud and humbled to have had my work selected.”

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW WELLBEING PRACTITIONER

This is Daisy, our new Law School Student Wellbeing Practitioner.

Daisy has worked in mental health nursing and is now working with us to support our students’ wellbeing. She is available to talk to you about any worries you might have. Look out for her drop-in sessions.

LAW FAIR REUNITES GRADUATES

Daniel Howard (pictured left), paralegal at Switalskis Solicitors, was recently reunited with friend Connor King (pictured right), trainee solicitor at Levi Solicitors, at this year’s Leeds Beckett Law Fair.

Connor and Daniel met at university and lived together during their time at Leeds Law School. Both studied the LLB Law course and graduated in 2020, before completing the LPC/LLM course part-time whilst working as paralegals in their respective firms.

They were reunited on opposite stands to each other, as they expertly represented their firms at the annual Law Fair, sharing their recent experience of how graduates can stand out in the working world of law.

POSTGRAD SUCCESS

Congratulations to Andrew Peretti, a distance learning postgraduate on the GDL, who has just submitted his dissertation on Insurance Fraud and been selected to co-author a journal article on Insurance Law with his tutor, Gerald Swaby, on completion of his ILRP (Independent Legal Research Project).

Andrew said: “This just shows the possibility and opportunities at Leeds Law School. The article will be focused on Insurance Fraud, and how the criminal and civil courts have dealt with the issue of fraudulent claims. I’m looking forward to collaborating with Gerard further, with has vast experience in this niche area.”
Day one of the law fair included a ‘transactional work’ discussion by Willkie Farr & Gallagher, as well as an inspirational interview workshop.

On day two, there was an Expo which gave us an amazing opportunity to speak with recruiters and trainees from great law firms. This experience is one I could not recommend more. Not only does it give you an insight into the daunting recruitment processes, but you leave feeling more confident and with your questions answered. You can also gain a huge amount of connections if you want to grow your LinkedIn!

Day three was also great - there was an intellectual property discussion led by Pinsent Masons, and a Q&A with trainees from many different law firms such as DLA Piper and Wedlake Bell who shared their journey and gave us lots of tips. All attendees receive a certificate.

I highly recommend this event because not only can you network globally, you also gain a much better understanding on what you want to do and how to achieve that, as well as getting to talk directly with leading law firms.

Overall, it was a fantastic event and I hope my insight will encourage more students to attend in the future. I found it really helpful; thank you Leeds Law School for passing on the opportunity.

Visit: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school

My First-hand Account of a Vacation Scheme

As final year LLB Law student Denice Obeng prepares to complete her undergraduate degree this summer, she recently signed up to a virtual vacation scheme organised by Legal Cheek to help her prepare for the working world of law. She shares her experience.

As we come to the end of our undergraduate journey, life becomes a little daunting for me and my fellow final year students: the pressure to do exceedingly well, not only to make ourselves and our loved ones proud, but also to secure a potential training contract, vacation scheme or job role. It’s easy to feel as if you are behind, but it’s never too late because the opportunities available at Leeds Law School are endless.

I was pleased to attend two vacation schemes organised by Legal Cheek recently, a legal organisation that holds virtual vacation schemes regularly throughout the year. Each event has more than 40 global, US and national leading law firms in attendance.

It was good to see so many law and non-law students, as well as graduates from universities all over the world, participating and asking the same questions. This made me realise that being nervous at this point was more than normal.

Free Books!

Good news: we’ve renewed our membership to Law Trove. It means that as a Leeds Law School student, you’ll save money on textbooks with free access to Law Trove, the complete Law catalogue from Oxford University Press.

Student Lewis Clark said:

“Using Law Trove has made university so much easier, considering all the books are available online and because the university pays for the subscription, it is a lot easier for saving money too! Law Trove has been extremely useful.”

Read the latest student stories and discover more about life at Leeds Law School at leedsbeckett.ac.uk/law