



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
LEEDS LAW SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2023

WELCOME TO THE WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

As winter blankets our campus in a glistening layer of frost and snow, we find ourselves coming to the end of the first semester of this academic year. In this winter edition of the Leeds Law School newsletter, we look at what has been happening over the last few months in the school and reflect on the collective efforts that have shaped our community.

For the students who study with us on campus, I hope that you are enjoying the benefits our new building has brought and are making full use of all the learning resources the space has to offer. The new Harvard lecture theatre is up and running and our new Reading Room on the second floor is a great space to get some work done.

As we approach the end of the semester, it's important to acknowledge the hard work of every member of our community. From students diligently preparing for seminars and assessments, to all colleagues in Leeds Law School dedicating countless hours to teaching and administration; each contribution plays a pivotal role in our shared success. Thank you for all you do.

Wishing you a joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Professor Deverall Capps, Dean of Leeds Law School

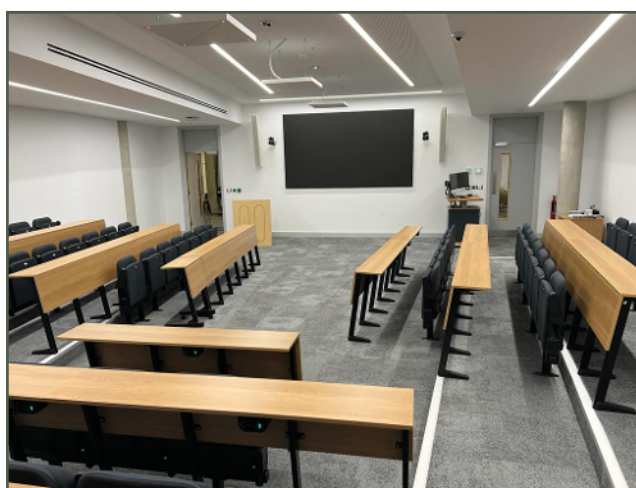


The new development makes us one of the most modern Law Schools in the country, featuring our own contemporary courtroom, jury room, Harvard lecture theatre, immersive learning suite and multiple spaces that suit different learning needs. Support Through Court, our partner charity, also operates from an office within the School, with students working with the team to provide free legal assistance and information to those who can't afford vital legal services.



Visit: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/law

LEEDS LAW SCHOOL'S NEW HOME



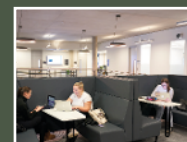
This term, we're thrilled to have welcomed students and staff into our all-new Leeds Law School HQ at Broadcasting Place, which we now call home. Thank you to everyone who attended our launch event in November, it was so good to see people enjoying the new space and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.



"The best part of the new building is that it's our designated place. We see our tutors around the building and can have a quick chat if needed. Also, the coffee shop has delicious croissants!" - Halima Khanom



"Having our own Law School has been a breath of fresh air." - Finn Brown



"I like that all of the academic staff and tutors for law are now together in one building. I also love the extra space and seating areas we can now work in, alone or in groups, in a less formal environment." - Joseph Day

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



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LEEDS LAW SCHOOL CELEBRATES SUCCESS IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY



We were delighted to receive our results in the National Student Survey this year, now ranking 15th out of all Law Schools in England, with an overall positivity rating of 84.4%, which is in line with the overall improved results for Leeds Beckett University.

Professor Deveral Capps said: *"To be the leading law school in Leeds when it comes to the NSS is a real accolade. This is a team effort and testament to the talent, hard work and success of everyone within the School."*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TAMARA FREYONE

Graduate Tamara Freyone took what she describes as a 'life-changing decision' in 2018, when she transferred to the undergraduate law degree at Leeds Beckett. She'd spent her first year on a different course, but felt it didn't truly align with her passions and interests so switched to the Law School in her second year.



Tamara has since gone on to complete the vocational course associated with training to become a solicitor, and is soon to embark on a training contract at Gibraltar's leading international law firm. Congratulations, Tamara!

Read more about Tamara's inspiring story, on the blog.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our partner charity Support Through Court is looking for volunteers (current students at the Law School) to start work with them immediately.

Help litigants in person through the court system, both on the phone and in-person, and from the charity's base on campus.

Start your new year with some CV-boosting work experience! To apply, please ask the academic team for details.

POSTGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: IMBENZI GEORGE



If you're curious about postgraduate study at Leeds Law School, be inspired by Imbenzi George, who lives in Canada but is currently undertaking a Master of Laws in International Law with a focus on Conflict, Security and Human Rights at Leeds Beckett University. He balances his postgraduate level study alongside various demanding roles, including being Director and CEO of a global company.

He explains: *"It's been a fascinating journey. The experience has broadened my perspectives, offering insights into international standards, practices, and thinking. With my extensive background in leadership, public policy, and now a deeper understanding of international law, I aim to be at the forefront of policy making, ensuring that decisions made are rooted in justice, equity, and promote global peace and understanding."*

Find out more about Imbenzi's distance learning experience at Leeds Beckett, on the blog.

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



BREAKFAST TV BECKONS

Professor Deveral Capps had a busy time at our franchise partner Gaborone University College (GUC) last month, attending the first graduation of our students in Botswana.

Dev even made it onto Botswana Breakfast TV, talking about the opportunities available to students!



ACADEMIC TEAM

We recently welcomed four new team members to our academic team, who are already inspiring students with their passion for law and commitment to excellence.

► **Dr Jill Dickinson,
Reader of Law**

Former solicitor Jill worked for national and international law firms for over 10 years, specialising in advising clients on their commercial property portfolios, before moving into academia. Alongside her undergraduate teaching at Leeds Law School, Jill also enjoys her roles as supervisor and examiner for postgraduate research projects. *Welcome, Jill!*



► **Dr Suzzie Oyakhire,
Senior Lecturer in Law**

Suzzie joins us from the University of Benin, Nigeria, where she has published in the areas of criminal law and justice and international economic (trade law) and has taught public international law, human rights law, and international trade law. Suzzie is contributing to the inclusivity and diversity vision of the School and bringing her own unique experience as an African legal scholar to the teaching and research experience of students. *Delighted to have you on the team, Suzzie.*



► **Dr Naomi Cousins,
Lecturer**

Naomi joined the Law School in September as a Lecturer. Naomi's current research examines the role of the internet as an alternative tool for parents engaged in disputes over child arrangements to build legal knowledge and emotional strength. Her areas of research include legal aid, access to justice and the role of the legal professional. Naomi currently teaches Land Law, Public Law and Family Law. *A pleasure to have you, Naomi!*



EXTRA, EXTRA!

Students across all year groups have been throwing themselves into extra-curricular activities this term.



- A group of students took part in an insight day at Squire Patton Boggs Leeds office, getting a glimpse into life as a lawyer. LPC student Aljali said: "It really enhanced my commercial awareness." Meanwhile, another group of students attended a Construction Law talk followed by an insight day with Hawkswell Kilvington, a boutique law firm specialising in construction and engineering who were talent spotting for their upcoming Training Contract in January 2024 and 2025.
- Once again, we hosted the Great Legal Quiz in November, raising almost £400 for The Access to Justice Foundation. Congratulations to quiz winners Weightmans Solicitors.
- We matched students with their professional mentors for the year at a special 'Meet Your Mentor' event this term. It was fantastic to see more former students return to the School as mentors this time, taking on the important role of guiding our students into their dream legal roles after university.
- In collaboration with BPP Law School, we held a valuable student and lawyer panel event to celebrate Pro Bono Week in November. Speakers explored the value of pro bono work and how it changes the lives of those struggling to access justice. First year student Adelina Skarr said: "Not only was this event thoroughly enjoyed and organised, it's also really made me want to be a participant of a pro bono project."
- A group of students have been working with solicitors from law firm Hodge Jones & Allen this semester to deliver fortnightly remote clinics to clients with personal injury claims. They've been attending online client interviews, drafting client correspondence and gaining vital legal practice skills to kick-start their careers.

And there's much more coming up in 2024! Keep an eye on our ever-growing Law Enrichment Programme for news about events, clinics, work experience, mentoring opportunities and more.

STAY UPDATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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DEDICATED GRADUATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS LAW PRIZE

Huge congratulations to Ravi Singh Rathore, a Leeds Beckett graduate who was recently named Trainee Solicitor of the Year at the Yorkshire Legal Awards.

Read more about Ravi and why he never gave up on securing a training contract.

Visit: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/news/

ALL THE FUN OF THE (LAW) FAIR



Thank you to everyone who attended the Leeds Law School Law Fair in November.

It was a huge success, with over 25 law firms and legal organisations from across the country talking to students about their vacation schemes, training contracts, apprenticeships, and Qualifying Work Experience routes alongside graduate jobs. Look out for the next one in Spring 2024.

STAY UPDATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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LEEDS LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAVEL TO NEW YORK TO TEACH LAW

Four lucky law students recently took part in a once-in-a-lifetime exchange with New York Law School, as part of our popular Street Law programme.

During their month in the Big Apple this summer, they taught high school students in the Bronx about important legal topics such as book banning, voter ID rights, gun laws and the rule of law.

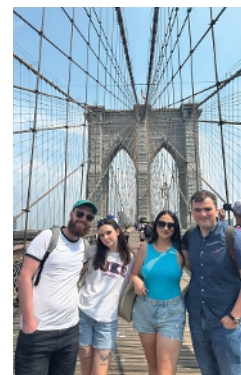


Student Kitty Lambert said: *"I found the trip to be very inspiring and it made me excited about my own legal career and the difference that I could make to the lives of others."*

Dr Rachel Dunn, Director of Employability and Pro Bono at Leeds Law School, added:

"We pride ourselves on practical learning at Leeds Law School, and the New York trip is just one example of the life-changing opportunities that our students are exposed to during their time at Leeds Beckett, helping with real legal issues and public legal education."

Read about the students' account of the summer they'll never forget, on our blog.



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