



## WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL

Welcome to another edition of Leeds Law School's newsletter. The teaching for Semester 2 is all but over and busy times lie ahead.

For students we have the assessments clearly visible on the horizon. Why not take a little time to read Dr Guth's blog on 'Keeping calm during assessment season' in the new blog section of our website? And don't forget that if you need any support, your Academic Advisors can help, as can the university's excellent Student Wellbeing service - I am a firm believer in the old adage "a problem shared is a problem halved": [studentwellbeing@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentwellbeing@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Of course, after all of your assessments are completed, the academic staff then have a really busy time marking everything and preparing for assessment boards!

There is some really interesting material in this edition of the newsletter, including information on new staff, student success and a report on the infamous Law Society Ball; I hope you enjoy it.

Good luck with your assessments,  
**Deveral Capps**

## LAW ENRICHMENT WEEK SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

Our Law Enrichment Week was shortlisted for an Educate North award.

For the last three successive years we've hosted our own Law Enrichment Week, where we've welcomed numerous employers. Students have had the chance to take part in activities such as speed networking events, speak to an array of legal and non-legal employers, develop their academic skills, and visit law firms and a barristers' chambers.



## TOP AWARD FOR LEEDS LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE

A Leeds Law School alumnus has picked up a prestigious award from Lincoln's Inn.

Daniel Masterton-Doig has been awarded the Lord Denning Scholarship, which is only available to prospective Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) students.

Daniel was selected for the award following a written application and then an interview in front of a selection panel of three senior Lincolns Inn barristers, one of which was a sitting Judge and a QC.

"The interview lasted around 15 minutes and I was asked to give submissions to the panel on a particular legal topic of interest," said Daniel.

"My submission focused on the current inconsistency in the law in relation to the unavailability of a limitation extension in contractual claims whereas such an extension exists in negligence claims."

The scholarship, which is only given to a limited number of applicants, is designed to financially support those who demonstrate sustained academic excellence and a real ability as an advocate.

Daniel said: "I was humbled to be given the scholarship and it will cover nearly all of my BPTC fees - which I intend to begin in September 2019."

Now a Paralegal in the Financial Litigation Department at Oakwood Solicitors in Leeds, Daniel graduated from Leeds Beckett University in 2017 with a First Class degree in law.

The internal mooting champion in 2015, he also gained the highest mark in his year in his Terrorism elective in 2017 and helped to co-author a paper with Principal Lecturer Dr Steve Wood on terrorist radicalisation which was published in the Irish Legal Times in 2018.

Leeds Law School Dean, Deveral Capps said: "Many congratulations to Daniel for being awarded the Lord Denning Scholarship from Lincoln's Inn. This is a truly fantastic achievement and he should be very proud."

## ACADEMIC TO LEAD NEW GLOBAL LAW NETWORK

Education network OneHE has named Leeds Beckett University's Dr Jessica Guth as the convenor of its Global Subject Centre for Law.

Dr Guth, a Reader at Leeds Law School, focuses her research on legal education including pedagogy and current legal education and training reform.

Dr Guth said: "I am really excited to have the opportunity to bring legal educators from across the globe together to showcase ideas and approaches, learn new things and share our passion for learning and teaching. I think the Global Subject Centre is a great way to achieve that."

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk/news/0119-academic-to-lead-new-global-law-network](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/news/0119-academic-to-lead-new-global-law-network)

## CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Our Careers and Employer Engagement teams are available to all students within the Law School. They focus on sourcing useful work experience, Insight Days and plan a schedule of careers and employers events on campus such as Law Enrichment Week and the Legal Marketplace. Current level 6 LLB student, Uthman El-Dharrat, visited the team who helped him to secure a placement with Thrive Law.



**Uthman took part in a Q & A about his experience:**

**Name:** Uthman El-Dharrat

**Course:** Law (LLB) Full-time

**Graduation year:** Summer, 2019

**How did the Leeds Beckett Careers team help you?**

The Careers Team helped me set up my LinkedIn account, as well as reviewing and editing my CV so it was ready for applications. They provided excellent opportunities such as networking with legal firms within Leeds and visits to local law firms for taster days. They also set up a mock assessment centre day.

**What work experience have you gained whilst at university, and how has this helped you?**

I managed to secure a placement with Thrive Law, as the team connected me with Jodie Hill, a lecturer with Leeds Law School who had set up her own law firm. This helped a great deal, as it's given me first-hand experience working in a law firm, and a clearer idea of what to expect and how I would like to progress with law, as well as being able to put it on my CV.

**Is there anything else you did at university that you think helped you with your employability or career choice?**

The Law Clinic module. I was allocated a client each week and conducted a fact-finding interview. I researched the legal issue(s) at hand and drafted a letter of advice. Qualified solicitors reviewed this draft and recommended any changes. The final draft was then signed off and sent to the client. This exposed me to different areas of law and taught me how to conduct legal interviews.

**What advice would you give to your fellow students?**

Both the Law School and the Careers and Employer Engagement team are there to help, utilise them as much as you can, especially in your final year at university.

**We'd like to thank Uthman for taking part in this Q & A.**

## THE LEGAL MARKET PLACE



In March, students had the chance to attend a speed-networking event attended by seven employers who were advertising vacancies for the summer. Many students attended with several of them securing interviews.

Michael Hall, Employer Engagement Consultant, said: "Employer feedback was really positive. They were impressed with our students who all attended in business dress and thought the speed-networking format provided an opportunity to really get to know the students."

Yasmin Walker, a level 6 LLB student said: "It was a great event. The platform to network with potential employers is what really appealed to me. It's a fantastic opportunity to speak with various stakeholders across several businesses to make them aware of my interest in working for them. The opportunity to speak face to face was invaluable."

## EXPERT ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR LAW STUDENTS

Our Law Career Mentor Scheme matches undergraduates with a range of barristers, solicitors, trainee solicitors and paralegals from highly-regarded local and national law firms, along with barristers chambers, banks and branches of government.

Every mentor - many of whom are themselves former Leeds Law School students - offers their mentee the opportunity to learn about the realities of becoming and practising as a qualified legal professional on a one-to-one basis.

Jenni Taylor, Senior Lecturer and Co-ordinator for the Mentoring Scheme, said: "It's a fantastic opportunity for students to be paired with a qualified professional and gain valuable insight into a career in the law from a unique perspective. It's also a brilliant example of the support and endorsement Leeds Law School has from the professionals who give up their time to help students with their career aspirations."

## BLOG INTRODUCTION

Following the success of the Law Student Abroad blogs, we're delighted to announce our new blog webpages. These blogs are written by academics, staff, current students and alumni about a wide array of topics.

Here's a snippet of a recent blog by Dr Jess Guth on keeping calm through assessment season:

"Assessment/Exam season is nearly here. It's easy to get caught up in the anxiety and pressure and the whirlwind that is the last set of lectures and workshops, revision sessions and assessment information. And then before you know it, it's over and you've not done as well as you wanted to or could have done. In this short post I want to offer some thoughts on getting through the assessment period in one piece." [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school)

## INNS OF COURT VISIT

We were invited to nominate a small number of students to attend the university open afternoon and evening dinner at one of the four Inns of Court in London last month, Lincoln's Inn. We took the chance to arrange visits to two of the other Inns of Court and had the pleasure of a tour and lunch at Middle Temple, followed by a visit to the Royal Courts of Justice and Inner Temple. The students were fascinated by the history of the Inns, and had their perceptions of life as a barrister challenged and confirmed in equal measure.



Victoria Greenhalgh, a level 5 LLB (Hons) Law student, spoke about the benefits of the visit:

"I visited the Inns of Court with the Law School certain I wanted to become a barrister, and this trip finalised it for me. Everyone I spoke to – whether it was a barrister, judge, or someone from the education department – was so welcoming and helpful. They were completely honest during their FAQs and spoke about the journey to the bar. No one describes it as easy, only possible. They give you realistic statistics and information which every aspiring barrister should hear.

"The Inns themselves are beautiful. They give you an instant historic feel. They have been rebuilt since being bombed during the World Wars and burning down in the Great Fire of London. I think I'd fail to find a better place to conduct legal research than in one of their libraries; everything you need is there.



"I'd definitely recommend this to students that are thinking of becoming barristers. We even visited the Royal Courts of Justice which are just a short walk away from the Inns. My favourite part had to be trying on a gown and wig at Middle Temple!

My best advice would be, if you plan on visiting, make sure you ask as many questions as you can!"

## UPDATE FROM THE LAW CLINIC

### A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH:

In 2018, Leeds Law School Law Clinic was successfully launched. The clinic is student-led and provides advice ranging from family issues to employment matters.

Students have been developing key transferable skills such as interviewing, legal research and letter writing; and their pro bono experience can also significantly improve their chances of getting a great job.

### STUDENT RESPONSE:

**EI-Dharrat, Uthman Omar**, a level 6 LLB student said: "What I loved about it was all the different areas of law that I was exposed to. It taught me how to deal with clients, conduct interviews, conduct note taking and research."

**Hussain, Ennah**, a level 6 LLB student said: "It truly reiterated how law is applied in real life situations. It also provided me with great experience in interviewing and helped increase my confidence in working in teams and splitting workloads."

### AWARD NOMINATION:

The Law Clinic has been nominated for The Student Access to Justice Foundation Award 2019. The awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding pro bono work undertaken by law schools and law students across the UK.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

The Law Clinic is soon to be launching an initiative with Ramsdens Solicitors to provide a voluntary led evening clinic session working alongside students. The evening clinic will focus on family and child issues. It will provide a fantastic opportunity for students to work alongside practising solicitors in delivering advice to the community.

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk/leeds-law-school/law-clinic](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/leeds-law-school/law-clinic)

### A SPECIAL WELCOME TO:

**DR ANNA KAWALEK** joined us as a Lecturer in May. Anna studied philosophy at Newcastle University for her BA and later carried out the GDL. She completed her Criminal Law PhD in 2018, and is a leading expert in Therapeutic Jurisprudence in the UK. Anna is also trustee and a member of the Advisory Board for the International Society of Therapeutic Jurisprudence.

**DR DAVID LOWE** joined us as a Senior Research Fellow. Prior to entering academia, David was a Police Officer up to his retirement from the service. During his police career he studied part-time. He began his academic career at Liverpool John Moores University. Due to his background and operational practice, David's main interests are in terrorism and security, policing and criminal law. He is widely published in these areas.

**DR NIRMALA PILLAY** joined us in February as a Reader and Postgraduate Course Director. Nirmala studied Philosophy and Law in South Africa, Netherlands and the UK. She's worked in the tertiary sector and taught in universities in South Africa, New Zealand, the United States and United Kingdom. Her recent research publications include constitutional and human rights issues in Sri Lanka and Egypt.

## THE STUDENT LAW SOCIETY BALL



From the Student Law Society's outgoing president: "On Friday 5 April, we hosted our annual Law Society ball at the Marriott hotel. It was an amazing night of celebration - with fabulous food, a charity raffle, a magician and dancing!

"Thank you to everyone who came and made the night so special. At the ball I introduced everyone to our president for the next academic year, Brad Graves, who will be working alongside newly appointed Secretary, Jasmine Page, and Treasurer, Jai Aggarwal, to lead the society next year. It was an amazing end to my time as president and I know that Brad and the committee will work hard to go bigger and better next year! I'm really looking forward to working alongside them!"

Rachael McCormack  
**Law Society President**

## LEEDS LAW SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER



On 14 March, more than 380 guests gathered for Leeds Law Society's flagship event, hosted by the Society's President, David Cowgill, to celebrate Leeds as a centre of legal excellence.

Leeds Beckett University was delighted to host colleagues from Hays Legal, Squire Patton Boggs, Reed Smith and F-Lex, as well as being joined by students, James Rowney and Rachael McCormack. James said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to meet legal professionals in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere."

### FINAL WORDS FROM THE HEAD OF LAW

As I write this, we are drawing to the end of a busy semester and soon colleagues in the Law School will be busy marking students' work. This is an important but also quite stressful time - however the flip side of this is enjoying the success of the students and seeing those who have finished their courses striding across the stage at our Graduation ceremony. Graduation is taking place this July at the First Direct Arena and I am excited and daunted in equal measure to be reading out students' names at this venue. However, I am sure it will be a fabulous occasion. I wish all students and colleagues a good and relaxing summer, and I look forward to the start of another busy and productive academic year in September.

**Melissa Askew**

## LEEDS LEGAL WALK

The 2019 Leeds Legal Walk is taking place on Monday 24 June. It's a 10km sponsored walk around Leeds to raise money for local free legal advice services. The need for free legal advice centres has grown in the past few years, as evidenced by the demand for the Law School's Law Clinic.

By taking part in the Leeds Legal Walk and seeking sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues, you will be helping to secure vital funds needed for access for justice in Yorkshire.

The drinks reception has been sponsored by Leeds Law School and is taking place at the Rose Bowl. For more information: [ylst.org.uk/leeds-legal-walk.html](http://ylst.org.uk/leeds-legal-walk.html)

## MOOTING TEAM UPDATE

The internal mooting competition has begun. Level 4 and Level 5 students are battling it out for the opportunity to represent Leeds Law School on a national stage in the next academic year. The top two teams will go head to head in the final in October. The competition is proving tight with all teams impressing the judges.

## STAFF AT THE LONDON MARATHON

Huge congratulations to two of our staff (Dr Jess Guth and Jack Kelly) who ran the London Marathon on Sunday 28 April. As well as being a fantastic personal challenge, both have raised money for charities close to their heart.

Jess ran for the mental health charity Mind: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KathandJess>

Jack ran for child-bereavement charity Winston's Wish: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jack-kelly12](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jack-kelly12)

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### Dr David Lowe

(2018) *Terrorism: Law and Policy* London: Routledge, the book is a comparative study of law and policy, primarily between the UK, the US, Canada, Australia and the European Union

(2018) 'Data Protection and Rights to Privacy Involved in Intelligence Gathering and International Intelligence Exchange' in Cliff Roberson (editor) *Routledge Handbook on Social Justice* London: Routledge

### CONFERENCES

At the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference 3-5 April 2019, University of Leeds:

- Dr Jessica Guth, Is there Method in the Madness: The SQE and the Death of Law?
- Dr Douglas Morrison (with Leona Mydlowski, University of Bradford), A Qualitative Study into Registered Sexual Offenders Capacity to Respond to Questions under Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Dr Louisa Riches, The Universal Periodic Review: Civil Society and Communities of Practice

At the Association of Law Teachers Annual Conference 8 and 9 April 2019, Leicester De Montfort University:

- Dr Jessica Guth (with Zoe Swan, University of Brighton) How do we put wellbeing at the heart of legal education?
- Robin Bennett, PREVENTing Misconceptions