



WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL

Welcome to this edition of Leeds Law School's newsletter. With teaching almost at an end for 2020 we look forward to the festive season, the holiday ahead and all of the delights this will bring. This will come as a welcome break given the new ways of teaching and learning we have all had to adapt to over a very short space of time.

We have some exciting stories and articles in this edition, including how students have transitioned from on-campus to online delivery as a result of Covid-19, how the Law School has helped students on the 'road to the Bar' and some words from students who are studying our degrees in Mauritius and Botswana.

Here's to a bright and sparkly, and coronavirus free, New Year.

**Deveral Capps,
Dean of Leeds Law School**

LAW TROVE REMINDER

Leeds Law School provides students with free online access to what is considered the gold standard in legal educational material. Leeds Law School students have unlimited access to Law Trove – a comprehensive law library published by Oxford University Press. It includes collections ranging from Employment, Environment, Family, IT and Communications, Medical, Evidence, Human Rights, Commercial and Competition Law.

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE GET TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

We would like to bring everyone together to celebrate the end of term with a Christmas themed virtual social. Look out for details over the next few weeks!

FOLLOW #LeedsLawSchool

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all the latest news and information going on at #LeedsLawSchool:

Twitter – [@leedslawschool](https://twitter.com/leedslawschool)

Instagram – [leeds_lawschool](https://www.instagram.com/leeds_lawschool)

LinkedIn – [Leeds Law School](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leeds-law-school)



THE ROAD TO BECOMING A BARRISTER

Daniel Doig began studying the LLB at Leeds Law School in 2014 and graduated with a first-class degree in 2017. Here he explains his journey from law student to barrister:

"During my time at university, I pro-actively made the effort to get involved in the extra-curricular opportunities available to students such as mooting, volunteering, and essay writing competitions. Success in these endeavours helped strengthen my CV and after graduating I secured a paralegal position in the Financial Litigation team at Oakwood Solicitors in Leeds. Shortly after beginning this role I was also successful, with the support of the University, in having a paper on anti-terror law published in an academic journal.

I am currently studying the BPTC and hope to be called to the Bar in 2021. Fortunately, much of the cost of the course has been paid for by the Lord Denning Scholarship that I was awarded in 2019 and I recall drawing upon much of my experiences at university when being interviewed by the scholarship committee. I cannot commend Leeds Beckett any more highly and I wouldn't have had the opportunities available to me without them."

BOTSWANA AND MAURITIUS FRANCHISE

Leeds Law School franchise agreement with Botswana's Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies (GUC) and Rushmore Business School (RBS) in Mauritius.

Gaborone University College of Law (GUC) has commenced its delivery of the Leeds Beckett University law degree (LLB) to 65 students in Botswana. The award is accepted both in the UK and by the Law Society of Botswana as a qualifying law degree. It will mean that students can work as lawyers in both the UK and Botswana, subject to them passing additional professional courses and training. It will be the first time an LLB degree has been franchised in Botswana by a UK university, with the degree also offering other employment opportunities to students in Botswana. Colleagues in Botswana have already met with tutors in Leeds and continue to work together via MS Teams.

As our partnership in Mauritius enters its fourth year, students can study the LLB, PGDL or an LLM; whichever best suits their intentions following completion of their award. We offer an exchange programme with Mauritius which gives students from each institution the opportunity to study the LLB abroad in their second year for either the second or third term. We hope to welcome student applications again once the pandemic has subsided and it is safe to do so.

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Final year Law student Ben Abubacker shares how he has found the transition to online learning so far...



As a student entering the final year of my law degree, I was initially quite apprehensive about online learning and how it might impact on my studies. However, I think the switch from using Skype at the end of last year to Microsoft Teams has been beneficial. Features such as the 'hands up' assist with student participation and the flow of small group sessions. I also think that having a recording of seminars and large group sessions will really help when it comes to revising for our exams and coursework. Having all the required prep and lecture materials for that specific week in folders helps keep things organised and easily accessible. I haven't encountered any difficulties attending live sessions as links on MS Teams are easy to find.

Law Trove has been very useful due to the fact it is all online as well as free to all Leeds Beckett students, which has been such a money saver.

Arranging a one-to-one meeting with my academic advisor has been just as easy, if not easier, due to the fact they are able to send a link to join a call. There, you can talk about anything that you would normally do in person. Overall, I think the transition to online learning has been as smooth as it can be and has been implemented successfully. It is enabling me to get the best out of my studies despite the current circumstances.

Ben Abubacker, final year LLB Law student.

LAWYER PORTAL

The Lawyer Portal (thelawyerportal.com) is a great resource for law students at all levels of their degree. They provide useful information surrounding work experience, insight days at law firms, vacation schemes and training contracts, commercial awareness, and more! This year, I have been selected as the student ambassador for TLP and Bird & Bird for Leeds Beckett University meaning that I'll be working with both.

I aim to share their brilliant resources and opportunities with students to help further their legal careers. It's especially important to get involved this year as there will not be the same presence of law firms/legal resources on campus or in Leeds due to coronavirus. This, however, does not mean we have to miss out. Follow @tlp_lbu on Instagram for more information and to engage with the program this year!

Kelsey Stafford, second year student ambassador.

REFLECTIONS ON MY FIRST TWO YEARS AS A MATURE STUDENT

Hello, I'm Brad, age 23, studying the Law LLB here at Leeds Beckett and this is my story. In 2015, I finished my A-Levels and was given an apprenticeship as a Car Sales Executive.



One year later, I was working for a national sales and lettings estate agency as a negotiator. This required me to be acutely organised and directly focused on maintaining the relationship amongst all parties (seller, purchaser and solicitors for both sides) and guiding the legal transaction through. It was in this job that I realised I wanted to become a lawyer. I would visit the law firms my clients instructed and be captivated by this world of work, and so, I decided to pursue my dream and apply to law school.

Before arriving at Leeds Beckett in September 2018, I did have concerns. One being I had been out of education and was worried about adjusting back into student life, i.e. revising, exams and timetables. Another was the thought of leaving my professional career and making new friends. These worries disappeared on my first day with the law school. Not only did we get a friendly welcome from the Dean of the School, but we also received a warm welcome from the teaching team who advised us that no matter what we did before; what we studied or where we worked, our development and learning began today.

I have now finished my second year of study where I was also President of the Student Law Society; I would strongly encourage anyone who is studying law to join. Not only is it a fantastic addition to your CV, but you meet friends and attend events that expose you to the outside legal world. I was also lucky enough to secure a space at the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple's competitive Pegasus Access and Support Scheme, which will help me with my journey to becoming a barrister.

Another highlight of my year was securing a place within the school's professional mentoring scheme. We got paired up with a professional in practice where you meet your mentor outside of university and shadow them in their place of work. I was lucky enough to be paired with a fantastic employment law barrister, who is a former Leeds Beckett student from Park Square Barristers in Leeds.

My advice to any mature students looking to come to Leeds Beckett and study law is to think about everything I have mentioned in the blog above and look at the other law blogs. You will find multiple accounts from a whole range of students saying the exact same thing...that attending Leeds Beckett is the best thing they've done and the support is second to none: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school

Bradley Graves, third year LLB Law student.

STUDYING ABROAD IN BOTSWANA

I am fortunate to be studying the new law degree in Botswana and I would like to share my experience.



My decision to choose the LLB comes at an exciting time where we are witnessing the progressive development of our local jurisprudence. I don't doubt that learning the various aspects of English Law with Leeds Law School will provide an opportunity to widen our legal knowledge and ultimately contribute towards the development of our jurisprudence during our time at the bar.

So far, I have enjoyed the English Legal System & Skills module. I have found the historical origins of the United Kingdom's system of government and its legal jurisdictions fascinating and it has made me realise that it is a system that has many similarities to our own.

Our lecturers are great, they continue to demonstrate knowledge, passion, and zeal in their engagement and delivery, despite this degree being new for them as well.

The degree, of course, has not come without its challenges. At this time, we find ourselves grappling with and enduring the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has forced us to adapt to the new normal, using virtual learning platforms like Zoom. I think we are rising to the challenge though.

Notwithstanding these challenges, my colleagues and I move one step closer to our dream of acquiring a degree and we are extremely excited to see what the future holds for us.

I would like to thank Leeds Law School for extending the LLB degree to Botswana. I am confident that this engagement will brighten our future upon completion as it will enable us to share our experiences and pave the way to the Bar for some of us who are passionate about litigation.

Kagiso Stephens, first Year LLB Law student.

HELPING YOU THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

During the pandemic it is important that you look after your mental wellbeing, eat a balanced diet and exercise regularly. Here we give you a range of activities and advice which will have a positive impact on your mental and physical health.

leedsbeckett.ac.uk/isolation-and-lockdown/

STUDYING ABROAD IN MAURITIUS

Undertaking the LLB degree with Leeds Law School has been one of the best decisions I have made. I recently completed my first year and this was my experience.

Your first year is a challenging journey, and how well you handle its challenges could have a pretty big impact on your future. During the first few months, I found the initial reading long and difficult but the underlying competitive spirit amongst my peers was all the drive I needed.

The lecturers I have worked with were brilliant and accomplished. They are so experienced and talented at doing what they do, you can feel how much they enjoy their job. There is not a single class I have not enjoyed during my first year. The programme was so well-structured, and every class was perfectly planned. Although most subjects were challenging, Contract Law was the area of law I truly loved studying, particularly because I enjoyed dissecting the problem scenarios.

As for my peers, they attend class and diligently take notes right from the beginning to the end of the class. My peers care just as much as I do about their degree. Sure, I am an ambitious student who wants to do well, but it really helps to be surrounded by like-minded students who are equally driven.

The biggest lesson I have learnt so far is that being a law student is more than just reading the law. Getting advice from your lecturers is quite effective but not every piece of advice is going to work for you, and that is okay. Trust yourself to do what is best for you. Listen carefully to the advice you hear and apply what works for you. Learning the law is essential but learning about who you are as a law student and what study methods work for you is equally important.

Dushyant Ramjeet, second year LLB Law student.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO...

Dr Rebecca Kelly who joined as a Senior Lecturer.

Rebecca is an experienced academic lawyer, having worked for several years as a Senior Lecturer in law across different institutions. She has taught undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional courses. One of Rebecca's main research interests is pedagogy, studying the theory and practice of learning with a particular focus on supporting different learning styles and needs.

Rebecca has authored pieces in national and international law journals and professional publications on topics including cyberlaw, human rights, consumer law, and property. Her current research explores the authority and autonomy of legal systems and the particular difficulties posed by international courts. This work builds on her completed PhD, which focused on the legitimacy of rulings by the European Court of Human Rights.

STAFF UPDATE

Dr Nazia Yaqub began with the law school in January as an Online Learning Tutor and was appointed as a Lecturer in August of this year. She is currently delivering sessions in English Legal Systems and Skills and Criminal Litigation, whilst undertaking leadership for the LPC – Independent Legal Research Project module.

UPDATES FROM LEEDS LAW SCHOOL



LAW CLINIC

“Having to interview real clients and resolve their legal issues allowed me to develop both my interviewing and legal research skills.” Liam Musgrave

The law clinic will be reopening and booking appointments for the week commencing 25 January 2021. We will be booking appointments for Mondays 16:30 to 18:30, Wednesdays 10:00 to 12:00 and Thursdays 13:30 to 15:30.

MENTORING SCHEME

On 16 November we launched this year's scheme. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect with legal professionals and ask questions about working in the legal sector. Recent student Sian Thurkettle and final year student Brad Graves were also on the panel.

We have a range of practitioners including solicitors, barristers, paralegals and more, and we would like to thank the professionals who gave up their time to make the panel event a success. They include; Euan Lawrence – Blacks, Lisa Geary – Capsticks, Elizabeth Turner – Langleys, Nathan Watts – Milners, Victoria Goddard - Pinsent Masons, Hayley Hayes – Walker Morris, Ann Page – Yorkshire Courses for Lawyers and Kitty Colley – Park Square Barristers

Successful applicants are paired with a professional mentor and students then take the lead by contacting their mentor to introduce themselves and to set up their first virtual meeting.

PLACEMENTS

“My placement year has allowed me to become part of a great team and develop my knowledge of the legal sector well beyond my expectations.” Nykki-Marie Smith

We have a number of students in placements this year, at firms including; B Assured Law, Millan Solicitors, Chattertons, Let's Move Conveyancing, Maya Solicitors, and one student in a year-long placement at the Medical Protection Society. Two of our students, James Shipton and Reece Clay, are working within the Law School on different research projects.

Any students interested in doing a placement either as a year out between Level 5 and Level 6 or as one of their electives in Level 6, contact Jenny McCloy: J.McCloy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk Or City Placements: Cityplacements@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

100%, yes 100% of our Legal Practice students were in work or further study 15 months after graduating.

(Graduate Outcomes Survey 2020)

PREVIOUS LAW EVENTS

19 October – Getting Legal Work Experience

Current Leeds Law School students were able to ask questions and receive vital insights from those who have recently entered the legal profession.

19 November – Employment law and Covid-19: Redundancy, stress and mental health (Law in Practice)

Jodie Hill, the Managing Director of Thrive Law and part-time lecturer at Leeds Law School, hosted the event and examined the rules and regulations surrounding redundancy and offered guidance on how to cope with stress and your mental health at this time of national crisis.

23 November – Insight into Working in Family Law

Rebecca Moore is a solicitor at Stowe Family Law, and spoke about her role and the day-to-day experience of working in family law.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our guest lecture events provide opportunities for you to network and hear from speakers from a range of backgrounds and contexts, providing insight into developments and key issues of relevance to the legal sector and professional practice. Our events are open to legal professionals, students and those with an interest in the subject area.

To reserve your place on future events please visit:

leeds.beckett.ac.uk/Law

RESEARCH NEWS

- **Dr Agata Fijalkowski's** research on the legal team behind the Polish war crimes trials is advancing. Agata's IALS Visiting Fellow webinar, in which she discusses this research, is now available: [Legal Team Behind the Polish War Crimes Trials](#)
Her article 'Tadeusz Cyprian: War Crimes Prosecutor and Photographer' is forthcoming in *Law and Humanities* (2021). Agata is currently collaborating with a producer at HistoryHit to produce a short film on war crimes trials.
- **Dr David Lowe and Robin Bennett's** book on the Prevent strategy is now in the production stage with Routledge looking to publish it at the beginning of February 2021. David also has an article 'Manchester Arena Bombings: main lessons that have been learnt', in the professional journal *Counter IED Report*.
- **Dr Jess Guth's** piece on the Court of Justice of the EU and Gender, co-authored with Sanna Elfving (Bradford University), is to be published in the Routledge Handbook of Gender and EU Politics in February 2021.
- **Dr. Anna Kawalek and Anne-Marie Greenslade**, along with Jake Phillips of SHU, have been working on a project for the Ministry of Justice and have just had their report published: 'An evaluation of the Choices and Consequences and Prolific Intensive programmes in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire'.
- **Deverall Capps** spoke at The Times Higher Education conference – THE Live – on 26 November 2020 about online learning and online assessments.
- **Dr Louisa Ashley** has won over £4,000 in research funding to help support her work with Universities in Colombia.