Law Clinic Launch

Staff and students at Lancaster University will be able to access free legal advice as part of a pilot project launched next month by the Law School. Third year law students will run the four-week law clinic - the first of its kind on campus - by inviting staff and students to send in their legal problems.

Students will consider an array of legal issues including consumer rights, credit advice, personal legal problems, and general family law. The pilot will lead to a similar service for local members of the public and a homeless charity later in the year.

Barrister Louise Rae will supervise the students and Lancaster law firm Holdens will support the initiative.

Head of the Law School, Professor Alisdair Gillespie said: “The clinic will provide students with hands-on work experience of dealing with cases in the real world, as well as an opportunity to give something back to staff and the wider community.”

Visit from the Right Honourable Lord Justice Ryder, Senior President of the Tribunals

Lord Justice Ryder visited the Law School on 28th October and delivered a lecture to staff and students on ‘The Context of Change.’ Lord Justice Ryder is amongst the most senior members of the judiciary in his role as Senior President of the Tribunals. He was accompanied by the Law School’s Judge in Residence, His Honour Judge Philip Sycamore, who is President of the First-tier Tribunal, Health, Education & Social Care Chamber. Lord Justice Ryder spent a significant period of time following his lecture answering a range of questions put to him by students. His visit marked the beginning of a new Judicial Lecture series which will be held in the School. A copy of his lecture can be accessed here - http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/law/blogs/staff/lord-justice-ryder-law-school-lecture/

Chloe Branton, a second year LLB student, wrote a blog post on the lecture, which can be read here - http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/law/blogs/student/lord-justice-ryder-judicial-lecture/

New Staff

The Law School is delighted to welcome several new members of staff to our growing team.

Academic Staff
Dr Mukarrum Ahmed – Lecturer in Business Law
Dr Kayode Akintola - Lecturer in International Commercial Law
Dr Amin Al-Astewani – Lecturer in Law
Dr Charlotte Barlow – Lecturer in Criminology
Dr Megan Blakely – Lecturer in Law
Dr Mary Guy – Lecturer in Law
Dr Emily Hart – Lecturer in Criminology

Law Clinic
Louise Rae – Law Clinic Supervisor

Support Staff
Abigail Gudgeon – Administrative Assistant
Lisa Clayton – Part-Time Administrative Assistant

To stay up-to-date with the latest Law School News and Research Updates:
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Law: facebook.com/LancsLaw
Criminology: facebook.com/LancsCrim
Visit from UN Expert

Samantha Spence has been working on a report for the Human Rights Council with the UN Independent Expert on Albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, documenting the effect of Witchcraft Accusations and Persecutions on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Persons living with Albinism. Ikponwosa Ero visited Lancaster University from 2nd - 4th November 2016 to participate in a meeting organised by Charlotte Baker (DeLC) and Samantha Spence (Law), the focus of which was to plan an Expert Meeting on Albinism and Witchcraft at the United Nations headquarters in 2017. The Expert Meeting will put forward a series of recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in a bid to influence policy on this issue in the countries affected. During her time in Lancaster, Ikponwosa Ero gave a thought-provoking talk on Albinism, Witchcraft and Human Rights hosted by the Centre of International Law and Human Rights.

Law School Refurbishment

Over the summer, the Law School was refurbished. The department has been decorated, new furniture has been added into communal areas, new notice boards have been erected, smart TV’s and a conferencing suite have been installed, and the offices of the support staff have been moved.

The Law School in the Media

The Home Affairs Select Committee recently published Dr Amin Al-Astewani’s written evidence on the legal status of Shariah tribunals as part of its current public inquiry into the tribunals. His evidence was subsequently cited by over 20 media outlets. See the written evidence here - http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/written/41326.pdf

Dr Gary Potter’s article "Decriminalise use of medical marijuana and legalise small-scale cultivation", first printed in The Conversation on 16th September 2016, was reprinted in the Lancashire Evening Post and IFL Science.

Prof Paul Iganski delivered a talk at Stormont – the home of the Northern Ireland Assembly – on 18th October. The talk, titled ‘Hate Crime: The Need for Civil Courage’, was at the invitation of the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO). It was attended by members of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly, officials, and criminal justice and civil society practitioners. Prior to the talk Paul spoke on Northern Ireland’s Downtown Radio, alongside a victim of a racist attack, of the need for bystander intervention to support victims in the immediate aftermath of hate crime.
Dr Agata Fijalkowski awarded MacCormick Visiting Fellowship at Edinburgh Law School

Agata has been awarded the MacCormick Visiting Fellowship at Edinburgh Law School, based on her project ‘The Power of Images’. She will collaborate with colleagues there in order to complete further work on her monograph.

Dr Gearoid O’Cuinn’s funding success

Gearoid’s bid for Lancaster University GCRF seed corn funding was successful following a pitch made at the recent 'Africa-Lancaster Springboard for International Collaboration' in Ghana. As PI for the pilot project 'Better Data for Better Health', Gearoid will be bringing together epidemiologists from Lancaster University and health policy experts in Ghana to examine governance issues affecting the surveillance of infectious diseases.

Dr Siobhan Weare launches first UK project on male victims of female perpetrated sexual violence

Siobhan has launched the first research project of its kind on men who are forced by women to have sex against their will. The study aims to uncover the extent of so-called ‘forced to penetrate’ cases and invites men who have experienced this to complete an online survey anonymously. The findings of this research will enable a greater understanding of the experiences of these men and will help to develop policy and practice in this area. The project was picked up by media across the world and featured on Mail Online, ITV News, Yahoo News, The I Newspaper and The Sun, amongst others. The project is being funded by Lancaster University. More information about the study can be found here - http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/forced-to-penetrate-cases/

Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley launches new funded project

Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley has been awarded £4,545.00 by the FASS IKE Fund to undertake a project collaborating with the Quaker United Nations Office and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, both NGOs based in Geneva. The project entitled ‘Creating New Insights into Peacebuilding: Shared Practices and Building Bridges between the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Conflict Transformation Communities’ will run until July 2017 and involves through hosting two knowledge exchange workshops – one in Geneva and one in Lancaster. The project aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of the role of economic and social rights (ESRs) in sustaining peace. The idea is to exchange knowledge and share practices and experiences of the use of such rights within the peacebuilding and human rights communities and across disciplines to develop innovative practice.
David Milman has delivered papers on Stewardship in Personal Insolvency Law at knowledge exchange seminars arranged by Exchange Chambers in November. His paper on the subject will be published by the Journal of Business Law in 2017.

Charlotte Barlow presented a joint paper (with Weare, S.) at the American Society of Criminology Conference in New Orleans in November entitled 'Female co-offenders pathways into crime and experiences of agency'.


Mukarrum Ahmed presented a paper on ‘BREXIT and English Jurisdiction Agreements: The Post-Referendum Legal Landscape’ at the Changes and challenges in cross-border litigation - a post-referendum view from the UK conference in October.

Emily Hart was invited to speak at the University of Liverpool at a British Society of Criminology event entitled Thinking Differently About Prison Reform in November. The title of her paper was ‘Fights, Camera, Action! The Ongoing Struggle Against (Women's) Prison Expansion’.

Claire Fitzpatrick was invited to give the keynote speech at HMP Kirkham in October for an event on ‘Care Leavers in Custody’ that took place to mark National Care Leavers Week.

Gary Potter presented ‘Social supply and ‘hard’ drugs: problematic users’ experiences of crack and heroin markets in the UK’ at the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy in Sydney in May.

Paul Iganski delivered a talk at the HateNoMore conference in Warsaw in December. The talk, titled ‘The needs of crime victims’, was at the invitation of the Polish NGO Campaign Against Homophobia—which also launched at the conference a publication it commissioned from Paul on Understanding the Needs of Persons Who Experience Homophobic or Transphobic Violence or Harassment: The Impact of Hate Crime.


Career Building and Commercial Awareness
Numerous career building and commercial awareness events took place in Michaelmas term, including:

- A talk on ‘Brexit and its impact on the legal sector and law students’ was delivered by Lancaster Alumni and White and Case Partner, Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes.
- David Boyle, Senior Barrister at Deans Court Chambers delivered an interactive Pupillage taster seminar.
- A number of careers events with guest speakers from the University of Law, including the annual ‘Springboard into Law’ event, which was hosted in two parts: firstly an introduction to law and legal careers, and secondly a trip to Manchester with further seminars and networking opportunities.

Pro-Bono
A well-received Pro-Bono week provided a good introduction for students into the pro-bono world. The week started with a talk by the Citizens Advice Bureau. Dr Gearoid O’Cuinn, an academic fellow in the Law School, provided an introduction on how to get involved in pro-bono work. Finally, Sajid Suleman, a Senior Caseworker in the Bar Pro Bono Unit, delivered a presentation about the practical side of Pro Bono work and its importance in the legal world.

The week also provided a launch platform for the continuing Human Rights Film Series. A series organised in collaboration with UNICEF on Campus and Amnesty International Society, the Human Rights Film Series film series is a student-led initiative intended to show provocative films that bring challenging human rights issues to life. The aim is to provide a platform for education and debate on topical socio-political issues. This term the films shown were The Palm Oil Diaries, Thirteen and Citizenfour.

Mooting and Negotiation Competitions
The initial rounds of the annual mooting and negotiation competitions were held in Michaelmas term. Participation was high this year, with some hard fought rounds, and a high level of advocacy skills shown by all. The next rounds will be held in Lent term before the finals.

A number of external moots were also open for students to compete in including: the Kingsland Cup Moot and the Ashurst LLP Competition. The Law Society has also fielded a mooting team for the annual VIS Moot after an intense application process.

Careers Fair and Careers Dinner
The successful annual Careers Dinner and Law Careers Fair took place in Michaelmas term. Both events provided students with opportunities for networking, as well as gaining insights into the legal world. The annual careers dinner was very successful this year with a number of top law firms attending, including Slaughter & May.

BPP Law Advocate of the Year competition winner
Amie Boothman, a final year Law Student won a scholarship due to her outstanding advocacy in the BPP Law Advocate of the Year competition. Amie along with her fellow student Kieran Holmes-Darby, also represented the University in the highly contested Landmark Moot.

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