



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

School of Law
and Social Justice

LAW AT LIVERPOOL

**CELEBRATING
130 YEARS**





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The Dean's foreword



Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas

Dean of the School of Law and Social Justice

We are delighted to celebrate 130 years of Law at Liverpool. This is a time to reflect on our many achievements and to showcase the ongoing impacts of the School on the local community and on advancements in Law nationally and internationally.

Initially established in 1892, Law at the University of Liverpool was designed to meet the needs of the legal practice community, primarily in areas of commercial and civil law. Over the past 130 years, Liverpool Law School has developed into one of the largest and most successful Law Schools in the UK, providing world-leading legal education and producing world-class research.

Today, the Law School is much more than a training ground for aspiring solicitors, barristers and judges; it is equally defined by its pursuit of critical, legal research to inform public debate and legal and policy reform at the local, national, European and international levels. This, in turn, informs our teaching, to provide a relevant, rigorous intellectual and practical foundation for a range of legal, academic or other professions.

We continue to attract the very best in academic talent to our School, not only due to our outstanding reputation for research and education, but because we reflect and contribute to the very best of our wonderful city's cultural,

civic and economic resources. We are immensely proud of the depth and range of our external relationships – including with leading Law firms and Chambers, with iconic cultural institutions such as National Museums Liverpool, with local and national charities ranging from local foodbanks and Citizens Advice to Amnesty International, with government bodies, ministries, EU and UN human Rights bodies, and with local, national and international courts and tribunals.

We hope many of our current and past alumni, as well as our numerous valued, external partners will join us in celebrating this milestone, both at the official anniversary event on 12th October 2023 and in the extended programme of activities throughout the coming year.

Law at a glance



£25m
New £25 million
Building



1,700
Students from over
30 countries

130

Celebrating 130 Years of Law



13,000
Alumni



UK's largest University
Law Clinic



78
Academic staff
from 13 countries



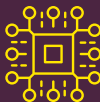
53
Professional
Services Staff



10th
in the sector for
outstanding (4*)
Impact in REF 2021



1st
in Russell Group for
Widening Participation



11
Research
Clusters



Recognised for
gender equality



23
Partner Universities
for Study Abroad
in 15 countries.

Social Justice

Our programmes of education and research are underpinned by the pursuit of Social Justice. A Liverpool law degree focuses on fairness, equality, and the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for all members of society. Every module highlights ways in which the law reflects or, indeed, fails to address, various forms of inequality and oppression, in light of factors such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and disability.' We have a Foundations of Law & Social Justice module in Year One (introducing students to core concepts of law through debates on issues like slavery and climate change); a Law and Social Justice in context module in Year 2 (specialised research-led pathways drawing on a common core of legal philosophy on areas like equity, justice and fairness). In the final year, students can learn how social justice is applied in practice through a range of 'Capstone' projects', including in our leading in-house Law Clinic.

The values associated with social justice drive not just what we do, but how we do it: our approach to student and staff recruitment and support, as well as our research priorities, methods and partnerships, seek to promote equality, inclusion, fairness, opportunity and transparency. We forge and maintain ethical strategic partnerships with external bodies to ensure that the impacts resulting from our research pursue clear social justice goals and our internationalisation strategy responds to broader social justice concerns around decolonising research agendas and ensuring inclusive international research collaborations.

"The pursuit of social justice is at the heart of our research and education."

We are the leading Russell Group Law School for enabling students from disadvantaged backgrounds to study law.



We are the top UK institution for supporting SDG 16: peace, justice, and strong institutions.

A socially relevant, inclusive and rounded student experience



SLSJ Student Welcome Week Fair

Our Law programme fosters strong critical thinking, research skills and effective communication abilities.

The size and scope of our education offering

The Law School currently has nearly 1,600 students at undergraduate level and over 100 at postgraduate level, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to excel in the field of law. Our curriculum covers a wide range of legal subjects, including foundational modules in the first two years of the degree (Public Law, Equity and Trusts, the Law of Tort, etc.) and specialised teaching in domestic law in the final year (such as Company Law, Immigration Law, and Family Law) and international law (including Transnational Crime and World Trade). At LL.M level, we recruit students from around the world and with a diverse

range of backgrounds for our International Human Rights Law and Law, Medicine & Healthcare LL.M programmes, as well as our General LL.M. Our lecturing staff's research-led expertise offers unique perspectives and insights on these subjects. They are not only well-versed in the law, but also experienced in legal practice and public engagement. Our new International Business and Commercial Law LL.M enables students to study a wide range of specialised legal areas and engage critically with important, contemporary issues affecting global business across three broad themes: (1) law, global trade and society; (2) corporate responsibility and accountability; and (3) the law governing technology and intellectual property rights.

Our provision includes opportunities for hands-on training and practical skills development in our award-winning Law Clinic and Public Interest Lawyering modules, which take on hundreds of students each year. Moot court competitions, court observation and placements are valuable experiences that help students apply legal principles in real-world scenarios. Participation in research projects, dissertations and our student-run journal, The Liverpool Law Review, enhance critical thinking and analytical skills.

Real Life Experience of Law in Practice

A range of clinical and experiential projects have been introduced in recent years to give students a real life experience, called Capstone, to reflect the ambition and creativity the projects encapsulate. Our Clinical Legal Skills, Public Interest Lawyering and Dissertation modules ensure that every student has the opportunity to make their mark in the world of practice or research. The dual intention with our Capstone projects is to help students successfully negotiate the transition from their studies into their next career stage, whether that is the workplace or future study whilst developing their higher level cognitive and practical skills.

Studying Law in such an encouraging atmosphere at the Liverpool Law School has been an amazing experience for me so far. I have been able to develop the knowledge and skills to help me in my future career in the legal field through lectures, seminars and by participating in many of the extracurricular activities the School has to offer.

Labeeb Qiaser, 3rd Year Law Student



Each year Liverpool Law School students enter into the Jessup International Law Mooting Competition. It is the largest and most prestigious mooting competition in the world, attracting over 700 law schools from 100 countries and jurisdictions. Liverpool Law School Students consistently finish in the top 10 of finalists.

School of Law and Social Justice



European Council Summer School 2023 hosted at the University of Liverpool.

Research and Impact

Liverpool Law School has a long established tradition of producing innovative and rigorous legal research which breaks new ground. Our research focus has changed radically over 130 years, as we have grown from a small department with specialisms in commercial and common law to a large school with expertise across national, European and international areas.

Our location in the School of Law and Social Justice reflects our particular commitment to contributing, through the excellence of our research and policy work, to critical exploration of the role of law in promoting, or inhibiting, social justice.

We produce world leading research using a range of methods to analyse the operation of the law. Our academics use doctrinal, socio-legal, theoretical and critical approaches to understand and respond to the most significant contemporary legal challenges, as well as training the next generation of lawyers and researchers.

Children's Rights, Health and Medical Law, European Law and International Law, and in areas of unique specialism such as Charity Law. As our School has expanded, we have built units reflecting new areas of strength

and priority, including relation to Law and Non-Communicable Diseases, Feminist Legal Research, and Public Law.

Our research has considerable real world impact. Our academics inform public understanding of major political events such as Brexit, generate evidence to address pressing social challenges in the context of public health, and set agendas to support children and other vulnerable groups in cross-disciplinary projects. Our researchers won the national Socio-Legal Studies Association prize for best research in 2023 for their work on co-ordinating and strengthening legal advice and representation for the most vulnerable groups in Liverpool.

Our research is supported by an extensive network of domestic and international partnerships.

We work internationally with partners such as the Council of Europe, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation. Our research is funded by leading national bodies such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Leverhulme Trust and the British Academy, and we act as consultants to a diverse range of organisations such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Liverpool City Region, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office.

We regularly host high profile public conferences funded by external bodies. This includes recent events on prisoner rights funded by the Socio-Legal Studies Association, narratives of law in exhibition spaces funded by British Academy, a celebration of women in legal history funded by the Socio-Legal Studies, and constitutional accountability funded by the UK Constitutional Law Association. Liverpool has been selected to host a number of high-profile conferences in the coming years, including the Insolvency Service Conference in November 2023, an international conference to mark 100 years since the legal recognition of children's rights in July 2024, and the annual Socio-Legal Studies Association conference in spring 2025.

Our staff are editors of and publish their work in the leading national and international journals, including the Modern Law Review, Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Law Quarterly Review, Common Market Law Review, and International and Comparative Law Quarterly. We write books with the leading publishers, such as Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Hart Publishing, and Stanford University Press. Our work is cited by national and international courts, as well as contributing to academic debates around the world.

Our research is ranked in the top 10 in the UK terms of its impact on law, policy and practice.



Shaping Community and Careers

We provide students with the opportunities and skills they need to succeed in a range of careers. We match students up with professional mentors and showcase employer opportunities via regular law fairs, podcasts and placements. Our 'Law Extra' external speaker programme features a diverse range of prestigious speakers, ranging from judges, lawyers from local and City of London law firms, Chambers and civil society campaigners.

Liverpool Law Clinic

Officially opened on October 2nd 2007, our Law Clinic is now the largest University Law Clinic in the UK. The Clinic is a legal practice in its own right, run by the school's in-house team of solicitors, working in partnership with our students. We provide free advice to people in need of access to justice and we also provide a full representation service to some of our clients in matters of immigration, family and education law.

Each year over 350 students take part in Clinic activities, whether as a formal part of their degree studies through the final year clinic module, or in voluntary projects.

Our Law Clinic lawyers and students help over 400 clients in the community every year to access justice.

Public Interest Lawyering Placements

We run a Public Interest Lawyering module for final year Law students, this is unique in the UK. As part of the module, students study with academics to understand the importance of access to justice from a theoretical perspective and to situate those theories in historical and policy context. Academics also provide the students with training in how to provide practical legal advice in specialist areas such as welfare rights for persons with disability, national minimum wage law, other basic workplace rights or benefits entitlements. Our partner organisations include Citizens Advice Bureau, St Andrews Community Network, Feeding Liverpool, Congolese Association Merseyside, and many other community support services for people who are too often denied access to justice.

Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Our researchers sit on the Alder Hey Clinical Ethics Committee. This work draws on our academic expertise in medical law and ethics to support the committee in providing clinicians, patients and their families with help to navigate often complex ethical decisions around children's end-of-life care and decision-making.



Liverpool Access to Advice Network (LATAN)

Law School academics established the Liverpool Access to Advice Network (LATAN) which brings together a huge and dynamic group of 120 organisations, each providing distinctive community services to the City. Supported by funding from Liverpool City Council, organisations collaborate and co-ordinate their services so that people in need of advice can be promptly referred to the right place. The network has enabled over 3,400 client referrals to date. Through LATAN, organisations access specialist training, advance social policy campaigns by working together and devise robust recommendations for improving the lives of people who are marginalised, experiencing economic deprivation, or have mental or physical health challenges. The Law School makes its own unique contribution to the network by undertaking world leading research to build an evidence base for better understand the power of advice services to improve lives, strengthen communities and deliver on the promises of social citizenship.

Community participation and promoting access to justice is central to the experience of the Liverpool Law student.

Child Friendly Cities

Law School researchers with expertise in children's rights work closely with a range of community partners, including schools, Liverpool City Council, the police, healthcare providers, the fire service and transport services to develop plans to make Liverpool a UNICEF-recognised Child Friendly City. This has involved developing a detailed plan of action over 5 years to ensure that key services providers understand and implement their obligations towards children and create meaningful opportunities to engage directly with children so that they can improve children's health, education, safety and participation in community life.

Liverpool Law School connects with dozens of schools, colleges and community organisations across the region to promote understanding of the law and widen participation in our Law programmes.

International

Discovering the world through student exchanges

Each year, our students travel to partner universities across the globe through our many study abroad programmes. In 2022/3, 36 students travelled overseas as part of our 'Law with a Year Abroad' programme, and 28 will do so in 2023/4. As part of the new 'Law with a Year in China' programme, two students spent a year studying Chinese language and culture at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in 2022/3. In exchange, in 2023/4, we will welcome 46 incoming international students, from 13 countries.

Our students can choose to study at one of 23 partner universities in 15 countries, spanning four continents!

These include leading international law schools, such as the National University of Singapore, Monash University (Australia), Maastricht University (Netherlands), and one of our most recent partners, the University of Bergen (Norway).

Welcoming the world to Liverpool through our student enrolment

We have undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the world studying Law with us. Each year, we are proud to welcome over 100 Malaysian students into our school. Through a UK Transfer Degree Programme, they begin their studies with one of our partner institutions in Malaysia including Brickfields Asia College, Taylor's University, HELP University and Advance Tertiary College. They are then awarded a University of Liverpool Law degree by completing their second and third year of studies with us.

Students in the Cayman Islands may also gain a University of Liverpool Law degree by studying at our affiliated institution, the Truman Bodden Law School. Its graduates include the current Premier of the Cayman Islands, its Police Commissioner, and partners in some of the leading global law firms.

We have Law alumni in 105 countries and regularly host alumni events around the world, connecting with our worldwide graduate community.

Experiencing international law in action

- **Study trips Geneva and the Hague**
Study trips allow our students to experience how international law works in practice. In 2023, 15 LLM students participated in two study trips to Geneva to attend sessions of the Advisory Committee to the UN Human Rights Council, of which our colleague, Dr Vassilis Tzevelekos, is a member. Students listened to debates on cutting-edge human rights issues, such as the impact of neurotechnology and climate change on human rights, and met with diplomats and members of the UN Secretariat. They also visited the World Trade Organisation, World Health Organisation and International Labor Organisation.
In 2023, thanks to funding from the University of Liverpool Alumni & Friends Fund, we were also able to offer undergraduates the opportunity to participate in a study trip to the Hague, prioritising participation by those who may not otherwise have been able to do so. Students visited the International Court of Justice, met its staff, and watched live cases. They also visited the International Criminal Court, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, and other international institutions.



International impact of our research

In line with our commitment to promoting social justice, our research impacts on international policy and legal issues.

Dr Seán Columb's work on human trafficking and the transnational organ trade has been used to design international awareness campaigns (for example with Facebook/Meta), and he has provided expert insight to Interpol on the connection between people-smuggling and the organ trade on the Central Mediterranean migrant route. He has also advised criminal prosecution teams in the Netherlands and government ministries (Lithuania; Thailand; Australia) on the interpretation of laws regulating transplant practice.

Under the leadership of Professor Amandine Garde, the Law School's Non-Communicable Diseases Unit has helped inform public health policy and used the law to hold multi-national marketing corporations to account through work with UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the European Union.

The research of Dr Azadeh Chalabi and Dr Amanda Cahill-Ripley on international human rights law has contributed to the development of human rights policy around the globe, focusing on the UN Sustainable

Development Goals. Dr Cahill-Ripley has provided expert advice to the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on conflict prevention and human rights, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls.

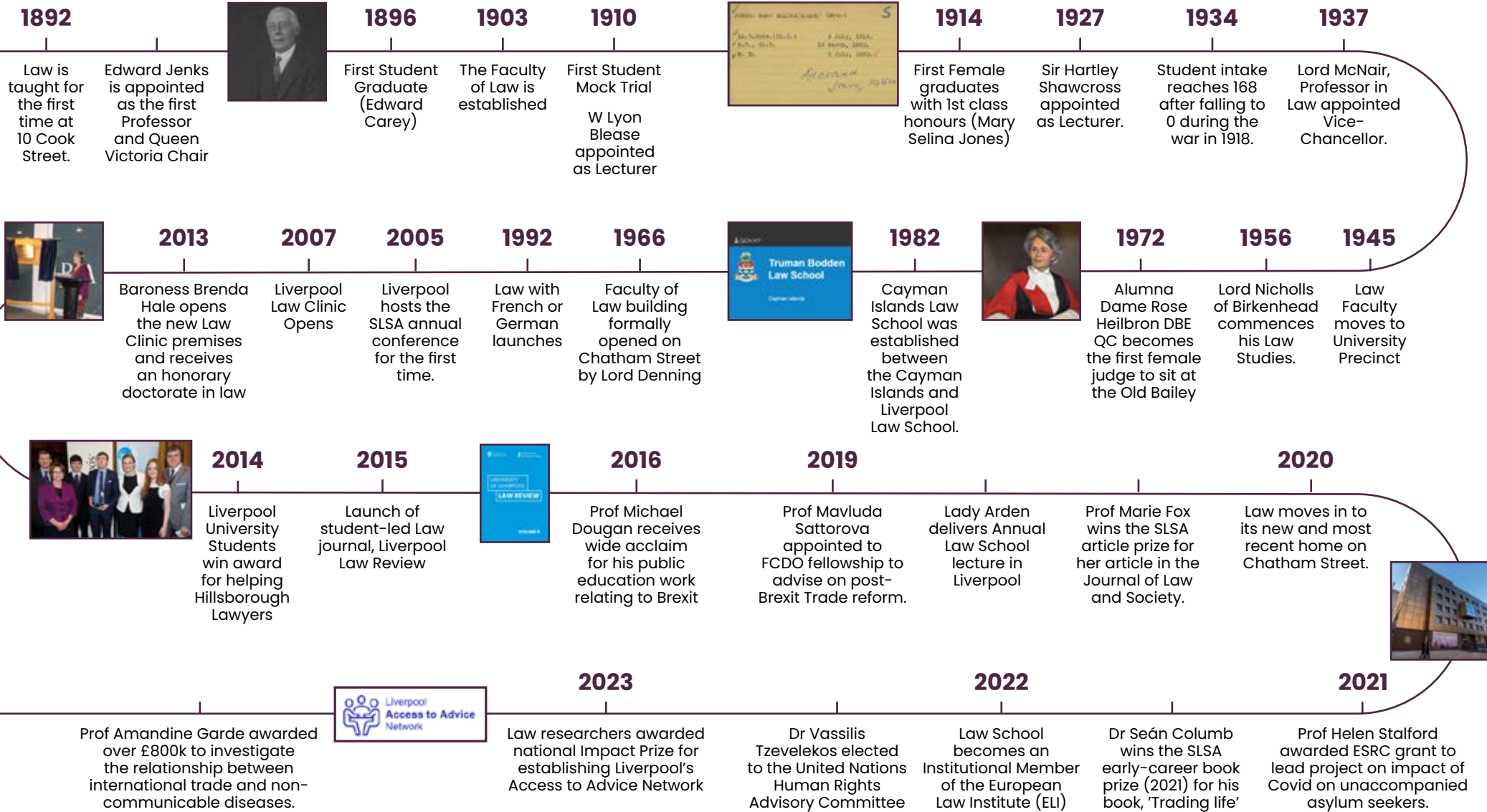
- **Welcoming the world to Liverpool through our International Visiting Fellowship programme**

Each year, we welcome researchers from around the world to spend time working with researchers in the School as International Visiting Fellows. In 2022-3, we welcomed scholars from Thailand, Ukraine, India, France, Turkey, Slovakia, USA, and Australia, working on a range of projects, including human rights, children's rights, intellectual property, EU Law, trans and intersex rights, private international law, and public law.

- **Welcoming the world to Liverpool through attending Summer Schools**

In 2023, we hosted our inaugural Summer School on the Law of the Council of Europe. Delegates heard from world leading experts and human rights professors on a wide range of issues, from climate change, to counterterrorism and police corruption. It concluded with a keynote speech from the former President of the European Court of Human Rights, Professor Robert Spano.

History Timeline





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Celebrating 130 Years of Law

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