



Newsletter

A Message from the Director...

September 2014

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Welcome to the new edition of the Charity Law & Policy Unit newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy reading.

In this issue, we report on another busy and successful past year for the Unit and we include details of our future events.

I am delighted to report that Dr John Picton successfully defended his thesis and has now been awarded his doctorate. Also, we are joined by a new Graduate Teaching Assistant this year, Brett Crumley, whose PhD research will provide a critical evaluation of the Charity Tribunal. I wish him the very best of luck and look forward to working with him. Finally, on staffing matters, I was appointed to a personal chair during the University's Annual Review process.

One of the highlights of the last academic year was the International Charity Law Symposium that was held here in Liverpool. You can read more about this in the newsletter. I am pleased to report that the papers from this Symposium are about to be published in the *Charity Law & Practice Review* so please do watch out for that. The text of Sir John Mummery's public lecture from November 2013 is already published in the same journal.

We have an exciting schedule of events planned for this academic year and details of these are outlined towards the end of this newsletter. All are invited to attend these events which will be both informative and will also provide an opportunity for networking. In particular, I am thrilled that Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the NCVO, has agreed to give this year's public lecture. He will be reflecting on the next steps beyond the Big Society. In an exciting development, whilst retaining our base here in Liverpool, we will be holding some of our events this year at the University of Liverpool in London Campus in Finsbury Square and we hope to attract some new participants as a result of this. If you would like to contact me about our events, or indeed any other activities, please feel free to do so. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events

All the best

Debra Morris

Debra Morris

Professor of Charity Law & Policy
Director, Charity Law & Policy Unit
All the best

Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce that the leading North West law firm Brabners have kindly agreed to continue to sponsor the work of the CLPU. This takes the form of both financial and practical support. We are very grateful to Stephen Claus, Partner and Head of Charity and Social Enterprise at Brabners, and his partners for their continued support.

Brabners

Brabners Charity Law Moot

Once more, as part of the Unit's sponsorship by Brabners, second year law students from Liverpool University were given the opportunity to participate in the Charity Law Moot Competition. The winning mooter, whose prize was a week-long summer work placement at Brabners was Sarah Deakin. In addition, all the participants received a small prize from Brabners to mark their overall achievement in the competition. Sarah later described the placement week as a 'great week'. Stephen Claus of Brabners said: 'We are again delighted to show our support for the next generation of lawyers by offering a legal placement to the winning student. We have been able to offer a placement now for several years in the area of Charity Law, something students appear to be very interested in taking up. Brabners is a strong supporter of the University of Liverpool, and in particular the Charity Law & Policy Unit's work and we are proud to be able to continue to give it our support. Ranked as the North West's leading Charity Law practice, we are naturally interested in supporting the research and activities undertaken by the Charity Law & Policy Unit, and remain very impressed with the achievements to date which seem to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Debra, Warren and their team.'

Members of both teams of mooters together with the panel of judges.



Public Lecture

In November 2013, the Charity Law & Policy Unit held its annual public lecture. Sir John Mummery, recently retired Court of Appeal Judge and chair of the Unit's Steering Committee spoke on 'The Charity Experience: Cases, Courts and Counsel'. Sir John entertained a full house which included many students when he spoke about his experiences of being involved in charity cases over the years on both sides of the bench. The lecture has now been published in the *Charity Law & Practice Review*.

Sir John Mummery speaking at the annual lecture.



International Charity Law Symposium

The Charity Law & Policy Unit held a very successful International Charity Law Symposium here at the University in April 2014. Thanks to support from the Charity Law Association and Key Haven Publications, we were able to invite participants from Australia, Canada, Ireland, USA and of course the UK. Almost 60 people attended from across the country to explore recent international Charity Law developments, focussing on problems and reforms across the common law world. For part of the day, participants (including charity representatives, Charity Law practitioners, academics and postgraduate students) joined one of three workshops in which they discussed similarities and differences in their countries, both in terms of the Charity Law challenges faced and in terms of national responses to these challenges. The three workshops were focussed on charity regulation, charity definition and charity taxation. Papers from the Symposium are due to be published in the *Charity Law & Practice Review*. Feedback from the day was extremely positive with participants commenting that they had learned a lot from other jurisdictions during the day. The dominant theme was that each country has its own issues to deal with, which make our own seem a little less pressing!

Book Launch

At the close of the International Charity Law Symposium, a reception was held to mark the launch of *Not-for-Profit Law: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives* edited by Matthew Harding, Ann O'Connell and Miranda Stewart, all of University of Melbourne. We drank a toast to celebrate the forthcoming publication by Cambridge University Press of this important contribution to the field of Charity Law. A number of the contributors to the book (including Debra Morris) together with two of the editors, were present. Book details available here <http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/law/comparative-law/not-profit-law-theoretical-and-comparative-perspectives>

Dr Fiona Martin of University of New South Wales (a contributor to the book and Symposium participant) enjoying a drink with Dr Oonagh Breen of University College Dublin who had presented a paper on recent developments in Irish Charity Law at the Symposium)



Modern Studies in Property Law Conference

Directly preceding the International Charity Law Symposium, the University of Liverpool hosted the 10th Biennial Modern Studies in Property Law Conference. The conference series has its origins in the biennial conference first held by the University of Reading in 1996. Those conferences gave rise to the book, *Modern Studies in Property Law*, which, since 2001, has been the medium for refereed publication of the conference papers by Hart Publishing Ltd. In 2008 the conference took place away from Reading for the first time and was held at Queen's College, Cambridge. In 2010, the conference was hosted at New College, Oxford and in 2012 the conference was held at the University of Southampton. Modern Studies in Property Law 2014 will again be closely tied to publication of the 8th volume of the book, edited by Warren Barr. The event (which included a conference dinner) took place at the Maritime Museum where delegates from countries around the world listened to papers on topics varying from sub-surface ownership to mutual wills and many topics in between. Sir John Mummery gave the keynote address on 'Property in the Information Age'.

A postgraduate conference (organised by John Picton) took place on the final day of the main conference. Alongside providing an opportunity for postgraduate students to present their work in a specialist forum, the programme also included talks on early career advice.

Main conference organiser, Warren Barr, was delighted with both the attendance and the quality of the presentations. Delegates reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the conference, both for the quality of the academic papers and the friendly, Liverpool welcome. Publication of the book is due by the second quarter of 2015.

Delegates enjoying dinner at the Conference at the Maritime Museum.



Changing Cultures

Debra Morris and Warren Barr have been recently awarded £4,000 from the University of Liverpool's Changing Cultures pump priming fund to begin work on a new project 'The Changing Face of Charity and its Regulation: Capturing the Picture'. The funds will enable Dr Karen Atkinson, who continues to work as a Research Associate for the Unit, to engage in detailed learning about a methodological approach developed outside the social sciences – the systematic review – and to use this methodology in a novel way to conduct a rigorous, cross-disciplinary review of Charity Law, regulation, policy, academic and practitioner literature from the 1960s to the present day.

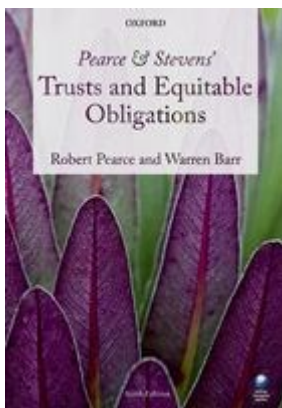


Publications and Presentations

A number of articles, reports and chapters were published by members of the Unit during the year. A full list can be found here:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/publications/>

Warren Barr completed revisions to the 6th edition of *Pearce & Stevens: Trusts and Equitable Obligations*, and the new edition will be published by Oxford University Press by the end of the year. This includes updating chapters on Charity Law generally, as well as the specific issues of cy-pres schemes and the regulation of charities.



A full list of papers presented can also be found here:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/conference-papers/>

Debra Morris with members of EXCEL 3 project at Hong Kong University.



News from our Postgraduates

Tessema Mebratu whose PhD research on laws and policies governing charities and their impact on the democratisation process of a country: Ethiopia as an example, is now back in Ethiopia in the final writing up stages of his thesis.

Charlotte Hood-Fredriksen continues her PhD studies, looking at the impact of changes in social housing allocations. Charlotte continues in her Graduate Teaching Assistant role. She also helped with the organisation of the Modern Studies in Property Law conference held in Liverpool in April 2014.

Potential students interested in pursuing postgraduate research in the area of Charity Law are invited to contact the CLPU in order to obtain further information or to discuss any research proposals that they might have. Students may register for the postgraduate degrees of LL.M and PhD, either on a full-time or part-time basis

Forthcoming Events

All events carry non-credit bearing CPD accreditation. These varied events are designed to encourage participation from all those involved with charities, whatever their discipline. As well as its regular visitors, the Unit hopes to welcome some new faces this year.

Public Lecture:

Sir Stuart Etherington

Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations

'Beyond the Big Society'

12th February 2015: 6pm – 7pm

Hearnshaw Theatre, Eleanor Rathbone Building, University of Liverpool

Followed by a reception

Please register at http://payments.liv.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=16&prodid=681

Seminars:

Charlotte Hood-Fredriksen

Charity Law & Policy Unit

'Fairness or Folly? The Impact of Legislative Change in Social Housing and the De-serving Poor'

30th October 2014: 6pm – 7pm

Lecture Theatre 4, Rendall Building, University of Liverpool

Please register at http://payments.liv.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=16&prodid=682

Professor Alex Murdock

Professor Emeritus, London South Bank University

'Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread; Exploring Issues Arising from the Growth of Food Banks'

15th January 2015: 6pm – 7pm

NOTE – this seminar will be held at the London campus

Please register at http://payments.liv.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=16&prodid=683

Professor Peter Edge

Oxford Brooks University

'Charitable Status and Religious Freedom: Anglo-American Perspectives'

21st May 2015: 6pm – 7pm

Lecture Theatre 4, Rendall Building, University of Liverpool

Please register at http://payments.liv.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=16&prodid=685

Law Commission Reform Event:

Charity Law Reform – Selected Issues in Charity Law

24th April 2015 11am-3.15pm

NOTE – this event will be held at the London campus

Further details to follow

This event will be led by the Law Commission to discuss issues around their Charity Law reform programme.

Contact Details

For More Information

If you would like more information about supporting research by the CLPU or more information about postgraduate study contact:

Professor Debra Morris

Director, Charity Law & Policy Unit

The Liverpool Law School

University of Liverpool

Liverpool L69 7ZS

England

Telephone: +44-(0)151-794 2825

EMAIL: Debra.Morris@liverpool.ac.uk

For up to date details of the Charity Law & Policy Unit's activities please see its website at:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/>