



UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL LAW CLINIC STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2028

Introduction to strategic goals (for publicity material to be produced over summer, provided by way of background here)

The Liverpool Law Clinic opened in 2007 and has since undergone a steady expansion. Since its inception, it has had the experience of live client work at its heart and this unique approach is central to our strategy for the coming years. As our award-winning Clinic expands and develops, we have devised this Strategic Plan to set out our vision and priorities for the next five years (2023-2028).

The Clinic's primary aim is to provide law students at the University of Liverpool with direct experience of legal advice and representation in order to deepen their engagement with the law and with social justice, and to develop their employability skills. Our secondary aims are to:

- promote access to justice
- to provide a valuable service to those living in Liverpool (and further afield) and
- to develop research linked to our practice.

The Law Clinic runs a combination of advice only and full representation services in immigration, family and education law. We provide opportunities for students to assist practising lawyers to advise and represent real clients. **We currently provide approximately 350 students a year with this opportunity.** We do this through a combination of voluntary projects and through our final year clinic module (for the majority of our students), in which our teaching is embedded in our legal practice.

This approach to the student experience ensures that our students gain a deep and meaningful experience of legal skills and practice that is distinctive to Liverpool Law Clinic graduates.

We have developed this Plan to ensure we can continue to have a positive impact locally, nationally and internationally and do so whilst supporting the University's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 through our access to justice mission.

We reflect our place in the School of Law and Social Justice through our practice areas, our teaching and the values we instil in all our students, whether they are benefitting from our taught programmes or our extra-curricular projects.

We operate from the School of Law and Social Justice building and have custom-made, sector leading premises, offering workspace for over 100 students to work simultaneously and a suite of interview rooms. We also provide advice services at the premises of our partners across the city.

Whilst there is much to commend Liverpool, it is one of the most deprived areas in the country and its services and citizens have keenly felt the effects of austerity. Our Clinic prioritises those who are unable to access justice to enable them to resolve their legal issues, understand and enforce their rights, or to hold public bodies to account.

This strategy sets out our aim to educate to the highest of standards, to provide a unique student experience, and to deliver services to our community and beyond.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

We have the following 6 strategic goals for 2023-2028:

Strategic goals	To achieve our goals, we will:
To Deliver and Maintain Clinical Teaching of the Highest Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain our high-quality teaching standards whilst providing a rich experiential learning environment through live client work with lawyers who are specialist in their fields and are dedicated to Clinic teaching.



Provide Clinic opportunities for a wide range of students in a wide variety of experiences, keeping live client work and access to justice at the heart of what we do.

Ensure that our students are effective in articulating their unique Clinic experience.

- Maintain our focus on access to justice to deliver to students a deep understanding of their community, the problems it faces, and the power of the law to resolve a range of problems.
- Empower our students to understand the impact they can have on their communities and provide them with a firm commitment to continued civic engagement through their future work.
- Develop our students' ability to articulate their unique experiences within the Clinic so they are able to demonstrate the depth of their learning and skills, the quality of their experiences and the value of their impact on their clients.
- Develop our extra-curricular on-line learning opportunities for all law students.
- Increase our range of projects involving live client work, to enable students to engage in a range of activities to develop their skills and confidence.
- Increase our Public Legal Education opportunities for students to share their knowledge and learning with a wide variety of organisations.
- Provide our students with a robust understanding of the ethical and professional duties of a lawyer through teaching, reflection, and careful supervision by the Clinic's lawyers.
- In partnership with the careers team, encourage and develop our students' abilities to reflect on their skills in order to enhance their future opportunities.
- Continue pedagogical research to enhance the Clinic's reputation.
- Increase staff resources to enable the development of this strategy.

To Develop and Deliver Public Legal Education

- Bring Street Law under the Clinic umbrella.
- Explore partnerships with new community organisations, schools and FE colleges to



<p>Expand our outreach and Public Legal Education to enable us to make the widest impact locally and break down access to justice barriers.</p>	<p>ensure that our street law programme is targeting those most in need of the advice it provides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure students are taught the skills they need to effectively present their projects and engage with the community.
<p>To Deliver Legal Advice and Support to Clients</p> <p>Continue to provide specialist advice and assistance to clients otherwise unable to access advice or representation, prioritising those in the North West.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop projects and activities with external agencies to reach a greater number of clients, particularly those who are hard to reach. • Maintain expert legal advice and support in the areas of: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; Immigration, Asylum and Statelessness; and Family Justice. • Develop new areas of practice and future projects that are designed to meet the needs of our community. • Increase staff resources to enable the development of this strategy.
<p>Research, Collaboration and a Policy Development</p> <p>Seek opportunities to work across and beyond the department in specialist areas to advance law, policy and understanding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain research collaborations with academic colleagues working in related areas to maximise the relevance and impact of research on law, policy and practice. • Develop new clinical/multi-disciplinary relationships across the University in order to advance our clients' interests. • Continue to seek opportunities for scholarship related to clients' problems and issues.
<p>Organisation</p> <p>To operate a well-resourced, professional organisation recognised for its excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper governance which encourages a team-based approach to Clinic, overseen by our Clinic Director(s) and supported by our management committee. • Improve monitoring and reporting of clinic clients and their issues and student activities to ensure we respond to the needs of our clients and students. • Improve our external profile, including our website to allow for the better sharing of our



	<p>achievements, partnerships, good practice and pedagogy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a rolling calendar of events both internal and external events, including our annual celebration event.• Develop systems for keeping in touch with past Clinic students.• Develop paid graduate roles within the Clinic to support the work of the solicitors and students and enhance the employability of our own graduates.
<p>External Profile and Civic Contribution</p> <p>Expand the clinic's profile locally, nationally and internationally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain our local, national and international profile for our legal practice, clinical legal education and impact on legal and policy reform.• Increase awareness of the unique nature of our students' experiences and their impact amongst future employers.• Develop our existing links and collaborative opportunities with firms, chambers, civil society organisations and other University-based law clinics.• Embrace opportunities to work with the wider legal community and beyond through committee membership and conferences.• Explore opportunities for clinic exchanges, particularly with international partners in jurisdictions/institutions with a strong social justice focus.