Liverpool Law School
A Year in Review
2017/18
Looking Back, Moving Forward

In our 2017/18 review of the academic year we reflect on new and exciting research initiatives, and improved employability opportunities for our students. Over the past academic year we have been joined by several new colleagues bringing impactful research and teaching innovation, enhancing our strengths as a School. On a personal level, in September 2017 I took up the post of Head of Department for an initial period of five years. I am supported in my role by three Associate Heads of Department and a number of staff in other key roles, including Education and Research, providing the Law School with a strong and effective leadership team.

A significant highlight for the student experience has been the successful launch and subsequent embedding of the ‘LawExtra’ programme; a series of sessions covering all aspects of employment alongside skills workshops. This has been possible thanks to the excellent support of alumni and friends in Liverpool and beyond, and provides students with a transcript of their activities through the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR). April 2018 saw two of our staff members being recognised in the Faculty Learning and Teaching Awards. Dr Amel Alghrani won an award for her approaches to deeper learning resulting in excellent student attainment and Dr Rob Stokes’s work in championing good practice through his leadership on the Curriculum Enhancement Project was also the subject of an award.

We have also continued to produce cutting edge research in areas such as the legal implications of the UK Brexit vote (with our own Professor Michael Dougan’s YouTube videos going viral and attracting in excess of 6 million views) the rights of children to be appropriately involved in legal process and legal regulation of food advertising in combating childhood obesity. The School’s research continues to engage with key stakeholders and make a real difference to the law and policy landscape. These are interesting times for us all. The country faces an uncertain future in Brexit and has been through a period of sustained economic austerity. A review of Higher Education funding in England and Wales (the Auger review) is due to report soon. The UK Education Sector is also under increasing scrutiny, with the potential introduction of a subject level Teaching Excellence and Outcomes Framework being introduced in 2019-20, the same year as UK Universities submit their research quality and impact statements in advance of the Research Excellence Framework 2021. Even closer to our home discipline, we await with interest final details on the content and cost of the introduction of the new Solicitor’s Qualifying Exam, which sees the end of the Qualifying Law Degree and redeline the future training of solicitors. Similarly, September 2019 sees the last cohort of students undertake the BPTC through the existing routes to the Bar and a new framework introduced thereafter by the Bar Standards Board.

We are well placed to meet these challenges, and the opportunities that arise from them, and will, as always, take actions subject to our ethos, which protects the interests of our students, defend our professional values and continue our commitment to social justice.

Professor Warren Bell
Head of Liverpool Law School
Our Future

University of Law Joins Liverpool Law School

A new arrangement with the University of Liverpool allows the University of Law to offer both the Legal Practice Course (LPC) and Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) programmes on campus in Liverpool. Currently based in the Rendall building and moving to the new SLSJ building in September 2019, there are three classes of LPC and one class of GDL students in this first year, all taking the next steps in their legal career with the University of Law.

The University of Law’s offering of these professional courses in Liverpool presents a huge opportunity for graduates of Liverpool University. If you would like to know more about the University of Law and any of our courses please do come and see us in the Rendall building and look out for invitations to events that we will be hosting during the year.

Carol Draycott
University of Law

The New Home for the School of Law and Social Justice

As part of the University’s investment in the South Campus, the Cypress Building is undergoing major renovation and extensions, which, once complete, will be the new home for the School of Law and Social Justice.

The renovation will feature anodised cladding to the exterior, with glazed walls to provide light, open spaces. A large atrium will be central to the building, bringing in natural light and housing social and breakout spaces, including a multi-purpose event space and café.

Completion will be phased, with phase one opening in September 2019 and phase two opening in December 2019. The School will be joined in its move by the Liverpool Law Clinic, University of Law and MOWLL (Moving on with Life & Learning).

The new building will be known as the School of Law and Social Justice Building.

If you would like to see the ongoing work please visit https://cypresswebcam.liverpool.ac.uk/cgi-bin/guestimage.html

*Architect images
Student Successes

Law Extra success

Since its launch in 2016-17, Law Extra has given students the opportunity to hear from legal experts, practising lawyers, judges and other professionals, as well as from individuals from organisations which have played a significant role in uncovering miscarriages of justice or in reforming the law. The sessions have given students a greater appreciation of their own potential as future law graduates, whilst also exposing them to compelling stories from individuals whose legal work has had a positive social, commercial or political impact.

In 2017-18 Law Extra hosted 25 events featuring judges from the European Court of Human Rights, senior partners in multi-national law firms, managers of campaign groups, barristers, solicitors, financial experts and forensic scientists.

The range of talks within Law Extra goes far beyond the conventional law careers event. We have welcomed speakers to discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on the work of the ‘future lawyer’, the experience of working as a lawyer on serious criminal cases, how lawyers tackle piracy on the high seas, the role of campaign groups and volunteers in shaping the law on assisted dying, the un-tapped potential role for human rights lawyers working in commercial practice, the experience of working in a global firm in an increasingly global world, working as ‘in-house’ counsel, the role of local authority lawyers in child protection cases, and many more.

Plans are in place to improve the offering in 2018-19, with an increased number of sessions and a focus on alternative career pathways.

Law Extra Key Speakers

Matthew Kellett

As part of the series, Matthew Kellett (LLB Hons 1988), Head of Law for Financial Services at Ernst & Young UK, returned to campus to discuss the development of the LawTech sector, the impact of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics on the legal world and what this may mean for the future of the profession and, in turn, future careers for students.

Judge Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque

Judge Paulo delivered a talk to our students and staff on the role of human rights law as a tool for the commercial lawyer – ‘Corporations and Human Rights’.

Davina Hehir

Davina Hehir, a representative from Dignity in Dying, spoke to students about the current law on assisted suicide and the building momentum for change. The talk was delivered in anticipation of the Court of Appeal’s decision in R (on the application of Conway) v The Secretary of State for Justice [2018] EWCA Civ 1431.

Nicholas Fell

Nicholas Fell (LLB [Hons] 1984), General Counsel and Senior Vice President of BW Group, delivered a talk to students on how a law degree from the University of Liverpool offers opportunities far beyond the borders of the UK.

The Law Extra team

Deborah Tyfield
Jeremy Marshall
Alex Botesmith
Rob Stokes
Lucy Yeatman

Matthew Kellett

Each year BW Group recruits summer law interns from the University of Liverpool to sample the life of an in-house lawyer in its Singapore and Oslo offices.
Student Successes

Placements
There are many different placements on offer for students, all of which provide valuable preparation for employment. Initiatives have included:

- Ten students in the second or third year of their degree being selected after a competitive interview process for minipupillages at Exchange Chambers in Liverpool.
- Six of our final year students were selected and started their placement in September 2018.
- One of our prestigious six month placements included Dr Karstantin Dzhtsiarou’s European Court of Human Rights (EHRC) internship. This internship involved the student working alongside an ECHR judge, providing research assistance on ECHR case law on a range of issues relating to the European Convention on Human Rights. Law student Anthony Wenton was selected to work with the Ukrainian Judge at the EHRC in Strasbourg. In 2017/18 one of our LLM students, Olena Ashchenko, was selected and started her placement in September 2018.
- Initiatives have included;
  - Valuable preparation for employment.
  - There are many different placements on offer for students, all of which provide valuable preparation for employment.

Law Professional Mentoring Programme
The Liverpool Law School Professional mentoring programme offers students the opportunity to connect with a solicitor or barrister, many of whom are former students, to gain career insights and support.

- Being connected with a graduate was a real turning point for me. I’m now starting my third year with confidence and a clear career plan. During my degree I am exposed to bright legal minds and this, complemented by my mentoring relationship, has given me an all-round great university experience.

Anthony Wenton’s Overview
I am very grateful to have this opportunity to share my overview with University of Liverpool Law students about my placement at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

I was extremely fortunate that my lecturers, Alex Batesmith and Karstantin Dzhtsiarou, were able to help secure a work placement for me with the Ukrainian Judge. It has been an incredible opportunity and I have met so many wonderful and accomplished people. In particular, the opportunity to meet world leaders in the field of human rights and public international law is something that has really impressed me. As a great example, on my third day, I was invited to attend a film screening about the Japanese war crimes tribunal after WWII and I got talking to a friendly man about where I was from and why I was at the Court. After thinking to me with genuine interest and enthusiasm, he introduced himself and explained that he was very interested in the film because he was formerly the President of the Rwandan War Crimes Tribunal and is currently the Norwegian Judge at the Court. As you can imagine, I was astonished that such a leading light in human rights had engaged in a friendly chat with me and months later we still stop for a quick catch-up in the Court canteen.

I am working as a judicial assistant at the Court and my main duty is to help the Ukrainian judge with legal research and to provide her with my opinions on cases that come before her. This really is an opportunity to have a direct impact on a case – if you have done your homework and can present the judge with a well-reasoned, well-supported argument then there is every possibility that you will help to inform the judge’s findings on that matter. One of my proudest moments was to have some of my contributions included in a judgment on a gender discrimination case which achieved widespread international coverage. It is hard work and I have had to put in some long hours but it is certainly the most interesting work I have done and the best work experience anyone could have.

It is not all work however, and I have made many friends. The Court runs a formal trainee scheme twice per year which brings around 12 trainees to the Court for five months. Additionally, Lincoln’s Inn sends one newly-called barrister to the Court for three months and Yale University sends two of its recent graduates to the Court each year. So, there have been plenty of people to hang out with.

I hope that more of our future students enjoy picturesque Strasbourg!

Anmar Alghadhanfari, (LLB Law 2018)

Anmar Alghadhanfari

Anmar Alghadhanfari (LLB Law 2018)

Partners
Weightmans and the Liverpool Law School have close collaborative links and are currently in the process of creating a specialist module ‘Law and Technology’ which will run in September 2019.

Weightmans continues to support the Law School, with many of their Solicitors engaging with our Professional Mentoring Scheme and offering an ‘open evening’ for our students to visit their offices and see what life is like working for their firm. Over the last year, we have worked with many other key stakeholders, including several placement opportunities at Irvings Law, Morecrofts Solicitors, Quinn Melville Barrow and the Vauxhall and Merseyside Law Centres, to name just a few.

As part of Access to Justice and Welfare Rights Advice Placements (an optional final year module), Law students have worked with local Citizens Advice Bureaus across Merseyside, supporting members of the public who contact the services. These placements bring substantial benefits to our students in their professional and personal development and offer opportunities for students to apply their knowledge to real-life situations.

Law students have also been involved with a project run by the Roby Child Contact Centre in Huyton, an accredited member of the National Association of Child Contact Centres. Through this project our students offered support for children who do not live with family members, due to relationship breakdown, meeting with them in a safe, neutral and non-judgmental environment.

This year we will be developing links with non-legal organisations to broaden awareness of different career paths for our Law students. We are also looking at working with third sector organisations, through a project led by Jennifer Sigaloffs, to see how Law students can adapt their knowledge and practices to support these types of organisations.

Anmar Alghadhanfari
Student Successes

University of Liverpool Facts

- The University of Liverpool is ranked in the top 200 Universities worldwide.
- The Guild of Students was awarded Best Student’s Union at the NUS Awards 2016.
- We are one of the Top 25 UK universities targeted by graduate employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).
- Our students feel at home in the city that was voted the UK’s ‘friendliest city’ (Rough Guides, 2016).

Law School Facts

- Law School Leavers are earning an average of £22,588 just six months after graduating (DLHE, 2017).
- Over 90% of our graduates are in employment or in further study (DLHE 2017).
- Over 75% of students felt their time on the course positively prepared them for work.

International Partners

Throughout the past year we have continued to reinforce our partnerships in Malaysia, recruiting high quality students who make a valuable contribution to the School's academic and international profile. As part of our international activities, and to strengthen our relations with our Malaysian partners, a number of staff regularly visit our partner institutions. Teaching staff deliver sessions on core and specialist modules and undertake staff development sessions. The teaching sessions are intended to give students, who transfer into years 2 or 3 of the LLB degree in Liverpool, an early opportunity to experience the ‘Liverpool’ teaching style. We continue to explore opportunities in Canada and the School has seen an increase in students from the North Americas.

The School continues to maintain good relations with its longest-standing partner, the Truman Bodden Law School in the Cayman Islands. Since 1982 the University has validated LLB degrees in the British Overseas Territory and, in the last year, the first cohort of students have embarked on a new LLM in International Finance: Law and Regulation. Caymanian students regularly travel to Liverpool to spend their second or third year of their degree with us and there is the opportunity for Liverpool students to do the same in Grand Cayman.

Opportunities continue to be developed for our students to travel abroad either as part of their degree provision or through the offer of internships/placements opportunities abroad. Several of our students travelled to Malaysia and Singapore during the summer of 2018. A number of these opportunities are available to year 3 students who take advantage of their opportunity after graduation. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be able to offer an internship/placement. Please email: arora@liverpool.ac.uk.

Professor Anu Arora, Director of External Relations
This academic year saw the first cohort of Law with a Year Abroad students embark on their year-long exchange programme to Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany and Stockholm. The programme has grown in popularity since its launch; 2017/18 saw eight students travelling abroad, 20 will start their year abroad in 2018/19 and 63 embark on their year abroad in 2019/20. The number of places has grown from 17 to 51 over the course of the first year and additional partnerships are being developed with New Zealand, Spain, Netherlands, US, Italy amongst others. The School looks forward to supporting these students and to the programme’s success in future years.

Destinations 2019/20

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The Liverpool Law Clinic at the University of Liverpool is a legal practice with six lawyers that provides pro bono legal services in a variety of areas, including in child arrangements cases, community care/special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), international protection and EEA free movement. We try to reach clients who are not in scope or otherwise eligible for legal aid and who cannot pay privately for services. Students at the Liverpool Law School can take part in modules or projects that work with clients on live cases, developing their skills and gaining experience to prepare them for legal practice.

This year a group of students from the Law Clinic supervised by Deborah Tyfield were runners up for Best New Student Pro Bono Activity at the Attorney General’s Awards. They were nominated for helping to provide free legal advice and assistance to parents and carers of unwell or disabled children at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. The Law Clinic Family Court Project, supervised by Lucy Yeoman, was also shortlisted. Students worked alongside solicitors to provide free advice and support to people without lawyers in child arrangements cases at the Liverpool Family Courts. The Clinic also has the largest body of statelessness casework in the country and is a centre of best practice in this area. This year the Clinic will complete a two-year, grant-funded statelessness litigation project. In July 2018 the Clinic hosted an international conference on statelessness law and practice and continues to be a leader in this field, providing students with the opportunity to work with the leading lawyers in this area.

Jared Ficklin, Director, Lecturer & Barrister
Liverpool Law Clinic

Celebrating 10 Years

On 4 July 2018, the Liverpool Law Clinic held a celebration of 10 years of providing legal services in Liverpool and giving law students with opportunities to experience legal practice at the Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool. Lord David Neuberger, former President of the Supreme Court, gave the keynote address of the evening. Lord Neuberger spoke about his experience as a senior judge, the effects of legal aid retrenchment on the legal system and his own path to qualification as a barrister. Lord Neuberger candidly answered questions about some of the awkward political and legal challenges for the senior judiciary, and also very kindly posed for selfies with many of the students present. Alice Stephens of Brodie Jackson Carter, the Liverpool Law Society Junior Lawyer of the Year 2017, gave an inspirational talk about her experience in the Clinic working on the Hillsborough project and how that led to her career as a solicitor. Alice told the assembled students and aspiring lawyers that despite the challenges of finding a job in legal aid practice, if it was what they wanted they should pursue it with “white hot passion”. Jared Ficklin, the current director of the Clinic, gave a short history of the Clinic’s origins in the garret of the Student Union and the progression from a small extra-curricular activity to a functioning legal practice with six lawyers and hundreds of student places per year. The Clinic now has partnerships with organisations and firms in the region and across the UK, provides award-winning legal services on a large scale and contributes to best practice and research in specialist areas. The Clinic has become a mainstream provider of legal services in Liverpool in child arrangements, international protection and community care. Jared highlighted the successes and outstanding provision of opportunities for law students, and that experience working on real cases can be the key for law students to succeed in getting legal jobs, training contracts or pupillage. By working on cases, students are able to see exactly how the lack of advice and representation leads to unfairness and injustice for vulnerable people, many of whom have a complex set of problems. The students learn about the limits of pro bono services provision and see for themselves how advice and representation is crucial to access to justice. The Liverpool Law Clinic looks forward to the next ten years of providing crucial legal services in our community and training legal aid lawyers who understand the importance of access to justice and a properly funded legal aid system.
Liverpool Law School, Year in Review 2017/18

Liverpool Law Clinic

Children’s SEND and Disability Clinic at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital

We launched the Children’s SEND and Disability Clinic at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, which gives advice to parents about education and support from local authorities for disabled children. Students from the final year law clinic module assist the in-house solicitor at client appointments and then prepare a detailed letter of advice in the coming weeks.

Not only do the students develop their skills, but in this very practical way, they must learn a new area of law very quickly. This experiential learning is at the heart of the law clinic. The children’s clinic also benefits the city; we provide legal advice to parents who are unable to access advice elsewhere in the region.

During the summer break, three students joined the national charity Newcastle for a few weeks. They helped the charity with legal research and preparations with the launch of their new legal campaign to improve the lives of disabled children. This was a great success and we hope it will become a regular summer placement.

Support for disabled children was also the focus of some of the law clinic’s extracurricular projects. First and second year students prepared a series of fact sheets and template letters about support for disabled children for the national charity MENCAP to use on their website. Other extracurricular opportunities saw students with an interest in employment law preparing fact sheets relating to employment issues which might arise when caring for a disabled child, which was kindly supervised by Jon Gregson at Weightmans.

Over the summer we piloted an advice clinic in the offices of local MP, Dan Carden. Working with Dan and his team, we identified constituents in need of legal advice, which we provided in the MP’s office in the heart of the community. The pilot was a success and we intend to build on it in the coming semester and recruit volunteer students to assist the in-house solicitor. We also placed a volunteer student caseworker with the MP and his team and more students will join her in September.

The Children’s SEND and Disability Clinic has had a flying start, but we hope to be able to build on its success in the coming year. We want to offer more opportunities to our students to get involved and really see the impact they can have on the lives of people in our city through the effective use of the law.

Deborah Tyfield, Lecturer & In House Solicitor, Liverpool Law Clinic

Research Clusters

Liverpool Law School currently hosts eight research clusters, the Charity Law and Policy Unit, Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law, European Children’s Rights Unit, International Law and Regulation Unit, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Law and Non-Communicable Diseases, Liverpool Economic Governance Unit and EU Law/Liverpool.

A ninth cluster, the International Criminalological Research Unit, is hosted by the School of Law and Social Justice, and brings together researchers from both Liverpool Law School and the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology. Our research clusters are crucial in supporting the building of external partnerships, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, and coordinating timely responses to current legal and policy developments. Each Unit hosts regular conferences and events to showcase our research impact.

For more information visit our website: www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/events/

The past year has been a busy and productive year for the school. We have hosted a range of events including Statelessness: Theory and Practice, Challenges and Opportunities, Conflict Prevention through Societal Integration: Insights into the Work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, NHS at 70 and Voice through Law: Navigating and Negotiating Brexit as an EU Citizen. The pages below showcase some selected highlights from a few of our research clusters.

For more information on all of our clusters and their research activities and events, see www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/research

Charity Law and Policy Unit – Summary of Activities 2017–2018

The Charity Law and Policy Unit (CLPU) carries out research into the legal issues facing charities and third sector organisations, often with a strong empirical element and leading to proposals for legal and regulatory reform, which have made important contributions to policy change in this field. April 2017 this year saw the Unit design and host an international symposium titled ‘The Future of Charity Law: Teaching, Scholarship and Research’. This solutions-focused international symposium, held at the University of Liverpool’s Foresight Centre, considered how researchers with an interest in charity law could collectively raise the profile of charity law teaching and scholarship and, as a result, generate new research interest (particularly among early career researchers). It was noted during the discussions at the symposium that members of the public recognise the importance of charities and not-for-profit organisations, but that in the UK we do not currently mirror that in our law courses. The event drew from international expertise to lay the groundwork for a robust future for charity law. Participants included academics and postgraduate researchers from various jurisdictions, researchers from within the UK voluntary sector, and practising UK lawyers. The event was supported by Babners LLP and by a competitive award from the School of Law and Social Justice Teaching Development Fund.

The Unit has also been involved in numerous other research activities, detailed elsewhere in this publication including the House of Lords Select Committee on Charities and the Law Commission’s ‘Technical Issues in Charity Law’ work, but this year also saw considerable activity in providing considered responses to law and policy consultations, including:

Law and Non-Communicable Diseases Unit: Summary of Activities 2017 – 2018

The Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Unit (or Law & NCD Unit) was set up in January 2015 to conduct research into how legal instruments can be used as tools for the prevention of NCDs, and more specifically how robust evidence-based policy interventions can be designed to support effective NCD prevention strategies at local, national, regional or global levels. Research primarily focuses on unhealthy diets, alcohol and tobacco as three major NCD risk factors, and on more overarching themes such as health inequalities, addiction, and the relationship between public health, human rights and international trade and investment law. The Unit have also undertaken work on air pollution and antimicrobial resistance – though to a lesser extent. Within these broad themes, Unit members have developed expertise in a number of more specialised areas, including the protection of children against unhealthy food and alcohol marketing, food labelling, tobacco plain packaging, food taxation, and alcohol minimum unit pricing. Many of the publications of the Unit are detailed elsewhere in this publication.

Key activities this year have included, in the area of ending childhood obesity a two-day conference in January 2018 in Lausanne, Switzerland (co-organised with the University of Nantes) on ‘Nutrition information as a tool of consumer empowerment and public health protection’, as well as a one-and-a-half day conference at the Liverpool in London campus in May 2018 to discuss similar issues and explore the relationship between the NCD prevention policies and international investment law. Other activities and project details can be found from the Unit’s website: www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/research/law-and-non-communicable-diseases/
Researchers in the Law School have been working on a number of research and training initiatives aimed at bringing children’s rights methods, principles, and law to bear on the legal process. In recent years there has been an increasing focus, at international, European and domestic level, on achieving ‘child-friendly justice’. This refers to justice processes—whether it be pre-trial interviews and advice, court hearings, appeals or referrals—that are responsive to the distinct needs, rights and vulnerabilities of children who are involved in legal proceedings.

Lawyers and judges are uniquely positioned to address many of the obstacles to children’s access to justice by ensuring, not only that they adapt their procedures to the distinct needs, rights and vulnerabilities of children who are involved in legal proceedings.

A third important project is Aoife Daly’s ground-breaking analysis of children’s right to be heard in best interests’ proceedings (particularly in a medical and family law context). Through her forensic, comparative analysis of the case law and of the multidisciplinary empirical evidence from different jurisdictions, she exposes the opaque and, in many cases indefensible deference to paternalistic decision-making and the vacuous nature of simply ‘hearing’ children. In the process, she presents a compelling case for giving more decisive weight to children’s expressed wishes and feelings. These arguments are published in A Daly (2018) Children, Autonomy and the Courts: Beyond the Right to be Heard (Netherlands, Brill).

The team are engaged in ongoing research and training with judges and lawyers. For further details please contact Helen Stafford: stafford@liverpool.ac.uk

The UK and The EU: Living Apart Together

Members of the EUWattLiverpool unit have worked together over the last year to provide sustained input to debates surrounding the UK’s withdrawal from the EU. Professor Michael Dougan has continued to make substantial contributions to wider public and political debates around European law and Brexit. He has provided written evidence to numerous UK Parliamentary inquiries, appeared as an expert witness before various Parliamentary committees in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and provided external advice to a range of UK Government departments as well as Union institutions such as the European Parliament and European Commission. Professor Dougan’s public engagement activities, including videos of his lectures and after the 2016 UK referendum, received extensive public and media attention and he continues to be a popular authority on the matter for individuals and groups all around the world - delivering regular lectures and talks to community and citizen groups all across the UK.

The unit has undertaken a number of events offering expert content to inform the general public of the legal complexities of Brexit through question and answer events, public lectures and media appearances with major broadcasters (Sky News, LBC, BBC Radio), their own YouTube channel and Facebook page. For more information on the impact of this work see: https://eulawathl.wordpre.com/2016/09/22/media/

New Strands in International and Human Rights Research

The longstanding strength of the School in this field is developing in exciting new directions. Michelle Farrell and Eleanor Drywood, along with Edel Hughes at Middlesex University, have recently edited a collection entitled Human Rights in the Media: Fear and Fetish. The book was the subject of a conference held at the Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool for which Michelle Farrell received funding from the Modern Law Review. The resulting collection, drawing together academics from across the UK, investigates complex debates in political, judicial, academic and public life on the role and value of human rights are represented in the media. Underpinning the contributors is the observation that there remains a profound lack of understanding of the role of children’s rights in society, and the degree to which legal developments are driven by political, military, economic, and social factors rather than by children’s interests and needs.

The book appeals to a varied audience across the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and provides a platform to generate a genuinely interdisciplinary collaboration in the human rights field between the School of Law and other schools across the Faculty. Dr Gaetano Pentassuglia has written a collection of essays as the outcome of a collaborative project on human rights and the media with scholars and experts from the United Kingdom, continental Europe and Canada. The book discusses some of the key challenges facing the international community and individual states in responding to increasing demands for ethno-cultural diversity in human rights law and policy, and human rights thinking more broadly. Drawing from diverse scholarship in international law, legal and moral philosophy, and political science, the volume charts new territory and exposes misconceptions in contemporary UK political controversies. The book will be published by Routledge in 2019.

Offering a mix of theoretical, doctrinal, empirical, and practical perspectives and addressing the gap between human rights theory and practice, the volume opens a new strand to Human Rights and International Law Unit in the School and facilitates its engagement with communities and practitioners in the field. Advancing new contextual, substantive, procedural and analytical theories of human rights planning from interfaces of law, sociology, social policy, political science and philosophy, this book appeals to a varied audience across the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and provides a platform to generate a genuinely interdisciplinary collaboration in the human rights field between the School of Law and other schools across the Faculty. Dr Gaetano Pentassuglia has written a collection of essays as the outcome of a collaborative project on human rights and the media with scholars and experts from the United Kingdom, continental Europe and Canada. The book discusses some of the key challenges facing the international community and individual states in responding to increasing demands for ethno-cultural diversity in human rights law and policy, and human rights thinking more broadly. Drawing from diverse scholarship in international law, legal and moral philosophy, and political science, the volume charts new territory and exposes misconceptions in contemporary UK political controversies. The book will be published by Routledge in 2019.

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Citizens Assemblies to Renew Engagement (CARE) for the Future of Europe

CARE for the Future of Europe is led by Dr James Organ and funded to the tune of €127,500 by EACEA. It has designed, run and evaluated an innovative form of decentralised EU Citizens Assembly combined with online deliberation. At eight meetings led by partners in four Member States (Hungary, Italy, Romania and Germany), representative groups of citizens were asked: How can we increase effective citizen engagement in debates about the future of Europe, and influence EU policy? In a structured, informed process, participants examined different options for a more meaningful participatory EU. They recommended an EU Citizens’ Assembly as the best option to enhance EU democratic participation. The project concluded with an inter-institutional event at the European Parliament and a major conference in Liverpool later in 2018 titled Citizens Assemblies: Time to Renew European Democracy. CARE has contributed to the important debate on EU democracy by demonstrating that there is a real appetite for ‘doing politics differently’, and that citizens want to participate in informed, reasoned deliberation about the complex questions facing Europe. The project’s innovative approach also showed that the Citizens’ Assembly method, successfully used at local and national level, is an excellent way of providing the space for flexible, inter-societal engagement in a geographically and culturally diverse polity such as the EU.

Legal Aid and Access to Justice

In early 2018 Dr Jennifer Sigfusos and Dr James Organ led a large-scale, qualitative study, funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission that examined the impact of legal aid cuts on routes to justice and on people’s lives. A team of researchers interviewed 115 people who had legal issues in employment, family or welfare rights law, but who could not receive legal aid because of the LASPO cuts. They interviewed 16 service providers and analysed Citizens Advice data to understand the impact of the legal aid cuts on providers of welfare rights advice. The study highlights the severity of the struggles that people face when trying to resolve their civil law legal issues without access to legal aid, and the devastating emotional, social, financial and mental health impacts on people from delayed or unresolved legal issues. Based on this evidence, Dr Jennifer Sigfusos and Dr James Organ wrote the EHRC report titled ‘The Impact of LASPO on Routes to Justice’. Published in Autumn 2018, which will inform the current government review of legal aid.

The Human Rights Implications of Excluding Animals from Care Homes

Professor Marie Fox, a member of the Health Law and Regulation Unit, was awarded funding (together with Co-Investigator Professor Mo Ray, University of Lincoln) by the Dunhill Medical Trust (£77k) for a project entitled ‘He means the world to me’: Human rights implications of separating older people from their pets in residential care/ nursing homes.’ which investigates the implications of separating older people from companion animal(s) when they move to residential care homes. It will examine variability in care home policies and their implications for the well-being of both the older person and their companion animal(s). This will be the first study to map (via a survey and follow up qualitative interviews) the extent to which care homes in England are ‘animal friendly’, and to examine whether forcing a person to relinquish a much-loved companion animal may breach their human or legal rights (notably their right to a family life under Art 8 ECHR). It will also consider the State’s obligation to remedy any such breach. It will address the consequences for the animals that many be abandoned under such policies and the implications for already overstretched animal charities that are left to deal with them. It will disseminate examples of good practice and will evaluate the arguments for and against using legal initiatives such as the (failed) Care Homes and Sheltered Accommodation (Domestic Pets) Bill 2009-10 to compel a change in national policy.

Conflict Prevention Through Societal Integration: Insights into the Work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, April 2018

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy took up the mandate of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on 19 July 2017, succeeding Ambassador Astrid Thor of Finland, whose three-year tenure ended on 19 August 2016. Before taking up the position as High Commissioner, Zannier was OSCE Secretary General during two consecutive three-year terms, from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2017. From June 2008 to June 2011 he was UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Intern Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

In his keynote speech at the School of Law and Social Justice, High Commissioner Zannier provided an overview of the evolution of the HCNM mandate as an instrument established twenty five years ago to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts, and discussed current geographic and thematic priorities and most prominent challenges. “Countries must continue working together despite the difficulties created by the ‘polarisation of international relations’”, said HE Zannier. The former UN special representative for Kosovo said a strength of the OSCE is its consensus approach that ensures ‘nobody can be a victim of a decision; but he noted this is becoming more difficult due to ‘increasing polarisation’.

Since taking on the role, in July 2017, HE Zannier has placed emphasis on raising its profile and also reaching out to other areas of the world. HE Zannier considered his talk at the School of Law and Social Justice to be part of this work, with the aim of further increasing public profile to help the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe spread ‘best practice’. Supported by the School and our International Law and Human Rights Unit, and well attended by students, staff, and members of the public, the lecture was followed by an extensive and lively discussion over the High Commissioner’s current activities and past professional trajectories.

Dr Goetano Pentassuglia, Reader in Law

Voice Through Law: navigating and negotiating Brexit as a resident EU citizen, May 2018

This multi-stakeholder conference, held in May 2018 and funded by the School of Law and Social Justice’s research development fund, focused on the residence security of EU citizens living in the UK following the Brexit vote. In particular, it questioned whether comparing current proposals on residence rights to the existing EU citizenship framework could ensure protection when, in practice, many EU citizens already slip through Union citizenship’s supposed safety net. The conference employed the concept of ‘societal voice’ as an alternative analytical framework to assess whether an adequate range of citizens’ voices are being heard as new legal mechanisms concerning residence rights are being developed. Specifically, the morning session ‘Navigating Brexit’ welcomed speakers from academia, the charity sector, and legal practice to discuss the particular impact of Brexit on children, homeless EU citizens, and EU workers in precarious employment and to examine the extent to which the emerging legal mechanisms around Brexit recognised and catered for these specific consequences. The afternoon session, ‘Negotiating Brexit’, also welcomed speakers from academia, the media and campaigning to explore the various ‘routes to voice’ that might be employed to ensure better representation in the design of Brexit-related law and policy.

Dr Stephanie Reynolds, Senior Lecturer
Critical Thinking in Teaching Law event, May 2018
This workshop focussed on undergraduate teaching. teaching in its current form, its ideal form, as a (potentially) creative and personal process, to try new things or intentionally change traditional elements. The workshop was attended by several academic colleagues, and was discussion-based, with creative exercises to stimulate discussion and thought about the choices that we can, and do, make for our teaching to be productive, engaged and interesting for students and lecturers alike.

Dr Lucy Yeatman, Senior Lecturer and In House Solicitor.

Statelessness Conference: Theory and Practice, Challenges and Opportunities, Liverpool in London Campus, July 2018
The ‘NHS at 70’ event involved a series of leading academic lawyers, historians and politicians coming together to deliver timely and engaging presentations about the NHS 70 years after it was established in 1948. The event was one of many that took place across the country. It was well attended and gave attendees an opportunity to reflect on the history of the NHS, its underlying rationale on inception, its core values and its future. The focus of the conference was to reflect on the history of the NHS, its core values and its future. The focus was on the NHS as a (potentially) creative and productive, engaged and interesting for students and lecturers alike.

Dr David Horton, Lecturer

Child Sexual Exploitation: Towards a ‘Child-Centred’ Protection System
This Funded Project aimed to assist in developing a child-centred response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Despite a proliferation of government and charity-led campaigns that have attempted to develop existing knowledge and public awareness of CSE, it remains the case that frontline child protection officials are under increasing pressure to protect children from this developing and complex phenomenon. Government recommendations to improve social and legal responses to CSE suggested that professionals should adopt a more ‘child-centred approach,’ but as yet, have failed to define what this term means or how this can be adopted in practice. This project adopted a unique, children’s rights reflective participatory methodology which placed the views, voices and concerns of young people at the forefront of the research. This project was developed following a collaborative campaign with a UK children’s and young people’s charity, Evers, during which young people reported on their experiences of CSE and expressed concerns about the way in which professionals responded to them. This then led to two workshops at the University of Liverpool which brought together a range of social professionals (workshop 1) and legal professionals (workshop 2) with the aim to develop a better understanding of the different perspectives between professionals and young people, in order to develop practical suggestions/strategies of how professionals could adopt effective, child-centred child protection. As a result, a number of participating child services and CSE policing teams have since implemented some of the recommendations stemming from this project.

Dr Jamie-Lee Mooney, Lecturer

Public lectures
'The Last in Line: Occupiers and Third Parties. Too Many Steps, Too Far?'
In conjunction with the Chancery & Commercial Practice Group, Atlantic Chambers, we hosted our Property Law public lecture by Martin Dixon, Professor of the Law of Real Property, University of Cambridge. The lecture considered whether the way in which courts currently interpret and apply legislation in property disputes between proprietary occupiers and third parties misrepresents the policy balance intended by that legislation.

'Civil Justice Reform After Jackson'
The Master of the Rolls, The Right Honourable Sir TERENCE ETHERTON delivered the 11th Conkenon memorial lecture. He argued that what ought to be apparent is that the current reform programme in the UK will not result in a ‘one-size fits all’ approach to the delivery of civil justice. The idea at the heart of the Woolf reforms that process should match the dispute will continue to guide the courts’ approach. For some disputes this will mean an entirely online process. For others, it will mean a more traditional court-based process, albeit one with all the advantages that the digital revolution provides such as paperless hearings with virtual booths on flash drives. As justice after Jackson increasingly becomes digital justice, it will be a form of justice that can be more tailored to the needs of the dispute and the parties. As such it should be an increasingly accessible, efficient and cost effective form of justice.

‘Repeal the 8th’ - public discussion on the Irish Abortion Referendum
In the run-up to the Irish abortion referendum, the department hosted a public discussion of the referendum in the Eleanor Rathbone Building. It examined the current law and practice and the proposed legislative changes should the referendum pass. The referendum was of particular importance to us in Liverpool given our profound links to Ireland; not least, in this context, Liverpool Women’s Hospital’s continued delivery of abortion services to women who travel from Ireland. Featured speakers included Professor Louise Kenny, Executive Pro Vice Chancellor who, before joining University of Liverpool was Professor of Obstetrics and Consultant Obstetrician at Cork University Maternity Hospital. As well as contributions from our own Aodh Daly, Marie Fox and Anne Neylon. Dr Deirdre Duffy, Senior Lecturer in Childhood and Youth Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, also discussed her project on the Liverpool-tesis Abortion Corridor.

'The world is changing, civil society is changing: is charity law fit for purpose?'
Every year, the Charity Law and Policy Unit hosts a lecture by a leading person from the sector. It links into an ongoing exchange between the Unit’s academic expertise and the deep policy knowledge in the wider city. Julia Unwin - the Chair of Civil Society Futures - presented the Charity Law and Policy Unit’s annual lecture. Julia focussed on the key questions emerging as part of a national enquiry into the sector across England and Wales. The sector has undergone a period of rapid transformation in the last two decades. Fundamental policy questions are ones more back on the agenda. The Civil Society Futures enquiry is addressing such core issues as the definition and purpose of charity, the attitudes of young people, the voice of charity members, questions surrounding the payment of trustees and the funding of organisations.
Alumni Association

Since its launch in 2015, the Liverpool Law School Alumni Association has brought together alumni, staff and students from all over the world to network, develop and inspire each other.

Liverpool Law School Alumni Association Event in London
In October 2017 the Liverpool Law School Alumni Association held its annual alumni event in London with special guest, the Right Honourable Sir Brian Leveson (Hon LLD 2007).

Sir Brian offered a unique insight into his life and career in the Law, sharing his career highlights and offering tips for graduates starting their legal careers. Following the talk alumni had the opportunity to network and build contacts with their fellow graduates.

Annual Liverpool Law School Lecture in Liverpool
Liverpool alumna and US District Judge, Wendy Beetlestone (BA Hons Philosophy 1984), delivered this year’s Annual Law School and Alumni Association Lecture, offering a unique and insightful talk entitled 'The United States Federal Judiciary: The Weakest Branch of Government? Or What?'

Judge Wendy Beetlestone (nominated to the role of District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by Barack Obama in 2014) was back in Liverpool for the first time since her graduation, to deliver this lecture. Through a contextual and historical analysis of Supreme Court precedent and an examination of how President Trump’s executive orders regarding immigration have fared when challenged in the courts, Judge Beetlestone examined how the founders' assumptions and expectations have stood the test of time.

Supporting Future Generations
Alumni are an integral part of the student experience in the Liverpool Law School. As well as returning to campus to offer inspiring talks through our Law Extra speaker series, alumni also act as career mentors, and many also offer placements, internships and jobs, to the next generation of Liverpool Law School graduates.

Supporting Work Experience and Graduate Opportunities
Liverpool Law School alumni offer opportunities within the workplace to access graduate talent and support students in their career journey. Nick Fell (LLB Hons 1984), Senior Vice President, Corporate Services and General Counsel at BW Group Ltd maintains a close connection to the University and each year he recruits law students to sample the life of an in-house lawyer through offering internships based in Singapore and Oslo.

Stay Connected!
If you are a Liverpool Law School graduate you can update your details to ensure you receive future event and association updates, or to offer your support for employability initiatives, by emailing alumni@liverpool.ac.uk

Alumni Association

Liverpool Law School Alumni

- Law alumni: 11,056
- Class of 2018 graduates: 557
- Class of 2017 graduates: 717
- Law alumni by region:
  - UK: 7,562
  - London and the Home counties: 636
- Alumni living and working in the following countries:
  - Canada: 87
  - Nigeria: 94
  - Singapore: 137
  - China: 153
  - Cayman Islands: 355
  - Malaysia: 865

"Undertaking placements with Liverpool alumni made me realise the importance of a law degree from our University. We have some incredible alumni, active in the legal profession right around the world and I would encourage students to build on these contacts as much as possible."

Alex Eaton (LLB(HONS) 2018)
Staff Publications


Barker, N. J. (n.d.) The Evolution of Foreign, Development and Relationship Recognition in Western Jurisdictions.


Picton, J, ‘Why charities should be allowed to campaign freely at election time’ [2017] 31 May The Conversation

Picton, J, ‘Supreme Court legacy ruling: leaving a gift to charity can be egoistic as well as altruistic.’ [2017] 15 March The Conversation

Pentassuglia, Dr G., ‘It’s hard to not see Brexit at play. The International Court of Justice – and the World Health Organization. (2017). Key considerations for the use of law to prevent non-communicable diseases in the WHO European Region.


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Meet the Team – Academic Law Staff

Morris, Prof Debra
Professor, Dean: School of Law and Social Justice

Barr, Prof Warren
Professor, Head of Department - Law

Alghrani, Dr Amel
Reader

Arona, Prof Anu
Professor, Director of International Recruitment

Barker, Prof Nicola
Professor

Batesmith, Mr Alexander
Lecturer

Behn, Dr Daniel
Lecturer

Bezzano, Ms Johanna
In-house Solicitor/ Lecturer, Law Clinic

Byrne, Mr Seamus
Lecturer

Carter, Ms Judith
Senior Lecturer

Case, Dr Paula
Senior Lecturer

Cengiz, Dr Firat
Senior Lecturer

Chalabi, Dr Azadeh
Lecturer

Columb, Dr Sean
Lecturer

Currie, Dr Samantha
Senior Lecturer

Curtis, Dr Joshua
Lecturer

Daly, Dr Aoiife
Senior Lecturer

Dougan, Prof Michael
Professor

Drywood, Dr Eleanor
Senior Lecturer

Dzehtsiarou, Dr Kanstantsin
Senior Lecturer

Fanning, Dr John
Senior Lecturer

Farrell, Dr Michelle
Senior Lecturer

Ficklin, Mr Jared
Director, Law Clinic

Fox, Prof Marie
Professor

Garde, Prof Amandine
Professor

Gibson, Dr Matt
Senior Lecturer

Gideon, Dr Andrea
Lecturer

Gordon, Prof Michael
Professor

Gray, Dr Harriet
Lecturer

Horsley, Dr Thomas
Senior Lecturer

Horton, Dr David
Lecturer

Knox, Dr Robert
Lecturer

McAuliffe, Prof Padraig
Professor

Marshall, Mr Jeremy
Lecturer

Messenger, Dr Gregory
Senior Lecturer

Mooney, Dr Jamie-Lee
Lecturer

Murphy, Dr Ben
Lecturer

Neylon, Dr Anne
Lecturer

Organ, Dr James
Lecturer

Pentassuglia, Dr Gaetano
Reader in Law

Picton, Dr John
Lecturer

Reynolds, Dr Stephanie
Senior Lecturer

Ridi, Mr Niccolo
Lecturer

Sattorova, Dr Davluda
Reader

Savirimuthu, Mr Joseph
Senior Lecturer

Shillito, Dr Matthew
Lecturer

Sigaffos, Dr Jennifer
Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

Singh, Ms Sabrina
Lecturer

Soubise, Dr Laurene
Lecturer

Sowery, Dr Katy
Lecturer

Stafford, Prof Helen
Professor

Stokes, Prof Rob
Professor

Subramanian, Dr Sujitha
Senior Lecturer

Tataryn, Dr Anastasia
Lecturer

Thompson, Mr Brian
Senior Lecturer

Tribe, Dr John
Senior Lecturer

Tucker, Dr Adam
Senior Lecturer

T菲尔, Mrs Deborah
Lecturer, Law Clinic

Tzevelekos, Dr Vassilis
Senior Lecturer

Vagiaitsis, Dr Nikos
Lecturer

Waxman, Dr Sacha
Lecturer

Willems, Dr Auke
Lecturer

Woodhouse, Dr Andrew
Senior Lecturer, Law Clinic

Woodhouse, Dr Sarah
Senior Lecturer, Law Clinic

Yeatsman, Ms Lucy
Lecturer, Law Clinic

Zrllic, Dr Jure
Lecturer

Media

