



## WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL

Welcome to Leeds Law School's Summer Special Newsletter, which is a roundup of some of the best newsletter items from the past twelve months.

This year has been a year like nothing else and I would like to say thank you to the Leeds Beckett staff, including all who work in academic, administrative and professional services, as well as all our students for helping to make this Covid year more bearable. It goes to show that when we put our mind to it and pull together, we can move mountains and achieve great things!

This year the Law School rose 28 places in the Complete University Guide and our success in the 2021 NSS year shows our students appreciate all we have done to support them and help them to succeed. Please enjoy this newsletter and have a wonderful Summer!

**Deveral Capps, Dean**

## STUDENT UNION NEWS

A new Student Union society, the 'Leeds Beckett Legal Tech and Innovation Society', has been created by students Jasmine Guy (President), Kierra Tranter (Secretary) and Orla Devoy (Treasurer).

The society is to promote the significance of legal tech and innovation in the legal profession. They hosted their first event, "Intro to Legal Tech and Innovation in the Legal Industry", on 29 March 2021 with two speakers from DWF Law. You can find out more about the society and how to join, here:

[leedsbecketsu.co.uk/groups/legal-tech-and-innovation](https://leedsbecketsu.co.uk/groups/legal-tech-and-innovation)

## FOLLOW #LeedsLawSchool

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all the latest news and information going on at #LeedsLawSchool:

Twitter – [@leedslawschool](https://twitter.com/leedslawschool)

Instagram – [leeds\\_lawschool](https://www.instagram.com/leeds_lawschool)

LinkedIn – [leeds-law-school](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leeds-law-school)



## MLAW IN LAW AND LEGAL PRACTICE

**Leeds Law School are delighted to announce that we have launched our new MLaw in Law & Legal Practice, a four-year integrated master's course.**

This is an exempting law degree, meaning that students combine the study of a law degree with the study of the Legal Practice Course (LPC) – one option on the journey to qualifying as a solicitor.

Our four-year course means that students who would like to qualify as a solicitor will benefit from undergraduate student funding for both fees and most importantly maintenance, for the full four years rather than the usual three.

Students starting any of the LLB (Hons) Law courses at Leeds Law School in September 2021 will have the option to transfer onto this course at any point, until the start of their third year of full-time study, subject to meeting the entry requirements. So, if students don't yet know whether they want to be a solicitor, then our course will give them the flexibility to jump to the four-year integrated master's course if they wish to.

## LAW CAREER MENTOR SCHEME

Career Mentors are volunteers, many are alumni of Leeds Law School, they offer their time to support and guide a student. The latest panel event included a range of practitioners including solicitors, barristers, paralegals and more.

Successful applicants are paired with a professional mentor and students then take the lead by contacting their mentor to introduce themselves and to set up their first virtual meeting.

## PLACEMENTS

**"My placement year has allowed me to become part of a great team and develop my knowledge of the legal sector well beyond my expectations."**  
**Nykki-Marie Smith**

We have a number of students in placements this year, at firms including; B Assured Law, Millan Solicitors, Chattertons, Let's Move Conveyancing, Maya Solicitors, and one student in a year-long placement at the Medical Protection Society. Two of our students, James Shipton and Reece Clay, are working within the Law School on different research projects.

Any students interested in doing a placement as a year out between Level 5 and Level 6 or as one of their electives in Level 6, contact either:

Jenny McCloy: [J.McCloy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:J.McCloy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

City Placements: [Cityplacements@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Cityplacements@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

# STORIES TOLD BY OUR STUDENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS



(From left to right: Nykki-Marie Smith, Seth Hooker, Ros Kearney)

## CHANGING CAREER IN YOUR 40S

**I started my career in the army, Royal Logistic Corps. I did tours of Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan in my 17 years with the British Army.**

When I left, my children were still young, so I spent a few years being a full-time mum until last year when I wanted a change. I was struggling to find employment despite being told I was the best candidate as I could not guarantee staying long enough. This really frustrated me, so I decided to use some remaining education funding I had from the Army to part-fund my GDL.

Distance learning really suits me. I can do it around the family and with a part-time job. I have support and recently set up a remote social group with students. We share our tips, advice and random GIFs to keep each other motivated and focused. I've made some fabulous friends.

The Law School team help to answer any questions. Lectures are recorded so we can listen to them whenever, and there are interactive activities that we receive feedback on. The timetables are set out in advance and it is a stress-free way of studying that fits in neatly around commitments.

Whilst I am only at the start of my law career, I am confident that the teaching and support I receive will stand me in great stead when I embark on the next stages of my journey, hopefully to become a solicitor.

**Ros Kearney, GDL student.**

## PLACEMENT INTERVIEW

**Final year, LLB (Hons) Law student, Nykki-Marie Smith, interviewed fellow students Georgia Schien and Lyle Baradell about their recent placements.**

**N: Where was your placement?**

G: I undertook my placement at Chattertons Solicitors, and I was delighted to be offered a contract at the end.

L: I completed my placement at Plexus Law (Leeds). I was also delighted to be offered a contract of employment.

**N: What areas did you work in during your placement?**

G: I dealt with residential and commercial conveyancing, immigration and private client work. There was also administrative work, you have to do the preparation work sometimes to understand why legal work is important.

L: I dealt with corporate motor including vehicle damage, Personal Injury and employer liability work.

**N: What was your favourite thing about your placement?**

G: I found an unexpected passion for immigration law. It was something I never imagined going into or liking, however I really enjoyed it. Staff in the department were supportive and I particularly enjoyed gathering information on behalf of clients and helping with applications.

L: I'd say my favourite thing was building relationships with my team. It meant the firm allowed me to take on additional work outside of my usual responsibilities.

## MAKING THE BEST OF A PANDEMIC

**As we approach the end of a university year, I thought it would be a great time to reflect on my placement.**

Let's rewind to the start of my second university year. I'm a keen tennis player and have a part-time job. As the year went on, COVID-19 rates were rising, and life was changing.

As I waited for my exam results, I checked my emails and my eyes were drawn to an email from the placement team... was this a sign? A placement at the Medical Protection Society for a law undergraduate. This job was about applying practical law and dealing with negligence claim cases for doctors and dentists. Could I do this? Would I have the skills? I filled out some details and attached my CV. Within a week, I had a law placement with a salary!

The first weeks were tough. My laptop and headset were delivered to my house and I was working from home. Training was delivered remotely, I had new systems and processes to learn, new people to meet and I had to wake up every morning at 08:00! Initially, I felt overwhelmed and would have liked to have been in an office. However, I did settle into the routine and my hard work and persistence paid off. I now feel relaxed in my role.

I would absolutely recommend the Placement Module. The experience and knowledge I have gained throughout has been invaluable. Not only has it given me a better understanding of what I want to do in the future, but it has also shown what working life is about.

**Seth Hooker, LLB (Hons) Law student.**

**YOU CAN READ MORE FROM OUR STUDENTS HERE:**  
[leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school)

# 10 REASONS TO STUDY AT LEEDS LAW SCHOOL

From studying in the vibrant city of Leeds, to ample support and networking opportunities, we believe Leeds Law School has a lot to offer you.

**Location, location, location** - Leeds is a vibrant and student-friendly city, as well as one of the UK's largest legal hubs. This means there is a wealth of opportunities to take advantage of on your doorstep.

**Bring your learning to life** - Leeds Law School has state of the art facilities to help put your learning into practice. These include a Courtroom and Professional Practice Suite.

**Dedicated mentor support** - Our students get the opportunity to pair up with a professional mentor who can provide valuable insights into the industry. You can also access support from fellow Law students with our Peer Mentoring Scheme.

**Free books online** - Save money on textbooks with our subscription to Law Trove, which gives access to the complete Law catalogue from Oxford University Press.

**Opportunities to develop, grow and connect** - We have a wide range of career planning, skills development, and networking events which our students benefit from. These have previously included insight days with law firms, speed networking events and careers fairs.

**Your chance to give something back** - Our Law Clinic allows you to gain real-life hands-on experience and give something back to the local community. You will be given the opportunity to help people who need legal advice, with the guidance of a legal professional.

**Be inspired by the best** - Our high-profile Law in Practice guest lectures provide inspiration and insight. Previous speakers include Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer QC MP, and human rights campaigner Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE PC.

**Impress employers and stand out from the crowd** - At Leeds Law School there is ample opportunity to impress employers and establish connections. Students with excellent academic achievements are often rewarded with sponsored prizes from law firms.

**Explore your interest in law** - There are opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular activities to explore your interests. You could join The Student Law Society and The Junior Barristers Society, as well as take part in mooting competitions which will help your CV stand out.

**Supporting you in your journey and next steps** - Leeds Law School has a team of dedicated staff, always on hand to support and guide you. In addition, we have a range of postgraduate law courses and many of our students choose to continue their journey with us.

## LAWYER PORTAL

The Lawyer Portal ([thelawyerportal.com](http://thelawyerportal.com)) is a great resource for law students at all levels of their degree. They provide useful information surrounding work experience, insight days at law firms, vacation schemes and training contracts, commercial awareness, and more!

# THE ROAD TO BECOMING A BARRISTER

Daniel Doig began studying the LLB at Leeds Law School in 2014 and graduated with a first-class degree in 2017. Here he explains his journey from law student to barrister:

"During my time at university, I pro-actively made the effort to get involved in the extra-curricular opportunities available to students such as mooting, volunteering, and essay writing competitions. Success in these endeavours helped strengthen my CV and after graduating I secured a paralegal position in the Financial Litigation team at Oakwood Solicitors in Leeds. Shortly after beginning this role I was also successful, with the support of the university, in having a paper on anti-terror law published in an academic journal.

I am currently studying the BPTC and hope to be called to the Bar in 2021. Fortunately, much of the cost of the course has been paid for by the Lord Denning Scholarship that I was awarded in 2019 and I recall drawing upon much of my experiences at university when being interviewed by the scholarship committee. I cannot commend Leeds Beckett any more highly and I wouldn't have had the opportunities available to me without them."

## WHAT OUR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SAYING ON LINKEDIN

**Martina Boccia:** "Thank you to all the lecturers at Leeds Law School who have helped me through my academic years and for always supporting me despite the challenges of online studying. Especially my academic advisor Thomas Knight for the endless amount of stressful emails he's received from me 😊 Thanks to all my friends that have made my 3 years so enjoyable. Uni has been the best time of my life and I'm so sad it's over!"

**Leah Scarth:** "Today I submitted my final 2 assessments and it feels so surreal to say I have completed my law degree! 🎓 Working from home over the past year has been a strange experience, but I enjoyed every bit of it thanks to all of my tutors at Leeds Law School for their incredible help and support throughout!"

**Niamh Burke:** "My final modules of my LLB are now finished and submitted. I feel completely relieved but also emotional that the last three years at university for my undergraduate degree have now come to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute and would like to thank all the lecturers at Leeds Law School for their teaching and dedication even throughout online learning and coronavirus. I hope to continue my studies with the LPC/LLM in September."

**Danielle McGrath:** "And just like that, with the click of a button, my law degree is over! 🎓🎓🎓 It's been the weirdest 3 years of tears, all nighters and FAR too much reading, but also pride in the work that I've produced and so much fun. I've learnt to play ice hockey (pretty poorly but I still learnt!), had the opportunity to stand on my own two feet and made a bunch of friends. It's also confirmed for me that I absolutely want a career in Law. 🙌 I couldn't be more grateful to Leeds Law School and to all of the fabulous tutors that I've had over the last 3 years. The lengths that they're prepared to go to for their students is incredible and I feel so lucky to have had the chance to work alongside such impressive law brains."



## UPDATES FROM LEEDS LAW SCHOOL



### LAW CLINIC

**“The practical nature of the clinic has really suited my personal style of learning and being able to help clients is extremely rewarding. I have also had the opportunity to learn about areas of law that I haven't yet had the chance to study.” Danielle McGrath, LLB (Hons) Law student.**

The Law Clinic has successfully adapted to running a completely online and paperless service and has continued to be able to offer a pro bono advice service to members of the community. The Law Clinic has introduced a new case management system and all appointments are conducted using MS Teams. Students are able to take part in this unique module, which enables them to develop and enhance key transferable skills, such as interviewing and letter writing: [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/leeds-law-school/law-clinic](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/leeds-law-school/law-clinic)

### LAW ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Our online programme has hosted a mixture of sessions including panel events, employer talks, alumni and career topics. We have welcomed back graduates, who explained how they had found their first legal work experience and how the online Law Enrichment Programme helped them win places on vacation schemes, Bar scholarships, paralegal roles and training contracts.

In November, we held our most popular session - the Law Mentoring Launch - which many students attended. Deveral Capps, Alex Green, Beth Williams from Lincoln's Inn and Tom Jackson of Park Square Barristers Chambers provided specialist advice on careers at the Bar.

Next year, we hope to supplement the Law Enrichment Programme with visits to workplaces, a Legal Fair and Speed Networking. But even though 2020/21 has been a very strange year, the online Law Enrichment Programme has enabled students to speak to employers, legal professionals and alumni, and gain insight into their future career paths.

### LAW TROVE REMINDER

Leeds Law School provides students with completely **FREE** online access to what is considered the gold standard in legal educational material. Leeds Law School students have unlimited access to Law Trove – a comprehensive law library published by Oxford University Press. It includes collections ranging from Employment, Environment, Family, IT and Communications, Medical, Evidence, Human Rights, Commercial and Competition Law.

## LAW EMPLOYABILITY FUND

Leeds Law School has a small fund available to support students with the expenses associated with career and employability enhancement activities. These might include the cost of conference attendance, travelling costs to work experience or anything else related to enhancing your employability! The activity doesn't have to be in the legal sector.

For an application form, please contact Mary Macfarlane, School Careers Consultant:

[m.k.macfarlane@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:m.k.macfarlane@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### STUDENT SUCCESS

Lauren Pearson (LLB) and Cheryl Armit (GDL) have been awarded a Middle Temple Bar Scholarship through the Inn's Access to the Bar Award with the Middle Temple scheme.

Congratulations go to the students on a great achievement and thanks to the team, Safina Zarif, Sorcha McCormack and Mary Macfarlane, for supporting them with their applications.

### RESEARCH NEWS

- Dr Agata Fijalkowski has been invited to lead an AHRC-funded workshop on 'Exploring the Cold War Visually', as part of the 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Transitional Justice' conference at the University of Loughborough.
- Dr Nirmala Pillay has had her paper entitled, *“Gender Inequality, Health Rights, and HIV/AIDs among Women Prisoners in Zimbabwe”* accepted for publication in the June edition of the Health and Human Rights Harvard based Journal for which she is the lead author.
- Dr Nirmala Pillay presented at the 69th Dies Natalis international conference (webinar) on changes to the legal landscape and civil liberties during the pandemic.
- Dr Nirmala Pillay has had an article published, *“The EU Charter of Rights and Brexit Effect on the Implementation of Economic and Social Rights among EU Member States”* as part of the Special Issue The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union: The First Ten Years - New Challenges and Perspectives.
- Dr Anna Kawalek, co-founder of Therapeutic Jurisprudence UK (TJUK) has recently started a podcast series, which can be found on the TJUK website.
- Robin Bennet recently presented a paper at the ALT Online Conference.
- Dr Sorcha Mc Cormack presented her paper, *“Should England & Wales adopt the Canadian approach to sexual assault law? A critical exploration of autonomy based frameworks, a shift to vulnerability”* at a Law Gender & Sexuality Network Research Seminar series.
- Dr Sorcha Mc Cormack is acting as one of the UK advisors to a European initiative ‘Campaigns on Consent’.
- Dr Mercedes Rosello has accepted invitations to two round table seminars. One, at City University on post-Brexit changes and their impact on small fishing communities. The other is at the Spanish University of Santiago de Compostela, and covers the application of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (sustainable ocean) in Spain.