

Summer 2014

Holdsworth

An annual publication from Birmingham Law School

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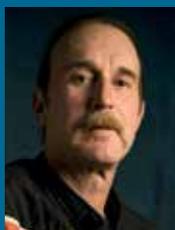
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BIRMINGHAM



Welcome from the Head of Birmingham Law School

Another year has gone by already. As you'll see when you look through this year's Holdsworth a lot has been happening, as always.

Some of the news is sad. Professor Brian Harvey, a distinguished property lawyer who held high office in the University as well as the (then) Faculty, passed away this year. As did Dr Frank Wooldridge, a distinguished company lawyer and classic eccentric academic with a heart of gold. Frank and Brian were among the many scholars who, by spending much of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s here, helped give us the international reputation that forms the foundation of our current success.

Looking back, learning from history, and retaining the best of the old traditions is essential. But so is looking forward and innovating. Take the Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research (CEPLER), which has been running for just two years. Its new initiatives include student-run (but professionally-supervised) law clinics to provide free legal advice for the increasing numbers of people without access to legal aid; lectures from speakers as diverse as retired Appeal Court judges and Death Row exoneree Ray Krone; and a one-day conference looking at changes in the legal profession and legal education, the papers from which will be published as a book by Hart in the autumn.

You'll find items about all this, and more, in the pages that follow. Enjoy your reading, and please let us know what you think.

Professor Andrew Sanders
Head of School

Holdsworth Presidential Address 2014

The Holdsworth Club is proud of its tradition of inviting outstanding leaders in the legal profession to act as Club President.



This year is no exception – The Rt Hon. Lady Justice Hallett, the fifth woman to sit in the Court of Appeal, was delighted to accept the role. In February 2013, Lady Justice Hallett was assessed as the eighth most powerful woman in Britain by Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4. In November 2013, she was appointed Vice-President of the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal, succeeding Lord Hughes. She delivered the Holdsworth Club Annual Address on 1st March 2014.

Delivered in the grand surroundings of the new Elgar Concert Hall this was the first time that the Holdsworth lecture took place in the Bramall Building, in Chancellors Court, allowing a larger number of people than ever to attend the event.

Lady Justice Heather Hallett discussed many topics of interest including the need for greater efforts to improve equality and diversity in the judiciary, and within the legal profession.

Lady Justice Hallett also expressed her pleasure at being invited to be Holdsworth Club President and commented on how impressive the campus looked!

The Holdsworth President for next academic year will be Lord Hughes of Ombersley, Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2015–16 the President will be Lord Justice Lloyd-Jones, currently Chair of the Law Commission, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2015.



Our alumni are always most welcome to attend the Presidential Address or any other Holdsworth Club events which are advertised on our website. George Applebey remains Director of the Holdsworth Club – contact him for Holdsworth related matters on g.applebey@bham.ac.uk

A year in Moots

Alumni Cup

The Alumni Cup participants are first year law students. The winner of this year's Alumni Cup was **Lorna Kenyon**.

'When I entered the mooting competition I was very unsure as to what to expect. However, I am so pleased that I took part as I have enjoyed every moment. It has given me a glimpse of what practising law is really like but it also gave me an opportunity to meet new people from the Law School and the law profession generally.'

'Winning the Alumni cup was one of the proudest moments of my life and an experience I will remember for a long time.'

Judged almost exclusively by alumni of the Law School this year's volunteers included: Ann Houghton; Douglas Houghton; Simon Ward; Paul Clements Laura Kearsley; Jaime Parkes; Ravinder Chumber; Douglas Mullen and Mark Beesley. A massive thank you to all of our alumni volunteers!

If you would like to get involved in judging the alumni cup moots or debates please contact Theresa Lynch: t.lynch@bham.ac.uk

Camm Cup and Postgraduate Cup

The Camm Cup participants are second and third year law students; and the participants of the Postgraduate Cup are LLM and LLB for graduate students.

The winner of this year's Camm Cup was **Meredith Major**. An added pleasure for the Camm Cup judging panel was Lady Justice Hallett who chaired the panel.

The winner of the Postgraduate Cup was **Richard Murtagh**. Since his win, Richard has been awarded the Jules Thorn Scholarship from Middle Temple. He said: *'I am an elated recipient of the scholarship, which has removed £10,000 worth of "sting" from my upcoming Bar School fees!'*

These cups are sponsored by No5 Chambers. The competitions are judged mainly by barristers from No5. Shirley Titmarsh from

New Advocacy Module launched

A new module entitled Advocacy (Mooting), led by Theresa Lynch, began this academic year. The module provides students with the opportunity to engage with courtroom advocacy and there is an emphasis on mooting. However, students also carry out court observations and are asked to reflect on their visit. This year, HHJ David Worster oversaw the student visits at Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre. Students also learn other advocacy skills, including mediation and negotiation.



Head of Law Prof. Andrew Sanders presents the Postgraduate Cup to winner Richard Murtagh

chambers does a fantastic job in co-ordinating members of chambers to attend. Members of No5 Chambers who have assisted this year include: Michelle Heeley; James Dixon; Walter Bealby; Adrian Keeling QC; Gareth Compton; Alex Mellis; Paul Bleasdale QC (Head of Chambers); Tim Newman; Corbett Burcher; Malcolm Duthie; Thea Osmund-Smith; Mugni Islam-Choudhury; Hugh Richards; Victoria Hutton; John Coughlan; Esther Gamble; Lynette McClement; Sarah Allen; Richard Gibbs; Steven Reed; Matthew Boyden; Richard Oakes.

A big thank you to all the members of No5 Chambers who have attended to judge the moots this year!

News in brief



Bencher of the Inner Temple

Philip Punwar (BA Hons Philosophy, 1987) was elected a Bencher of the Inner Temple in 2013. Now a partner at Baker Botts in Dubai he has spent 25 years as an advocate. Philip has appeared before all divisions of the English High Court, the English Court of Appeal, the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts ("DIFC") Court of First Instance, and the DIFC Court of Appeal. Congratulations!

Public Order in Singapore

Dr Jack Lee (PhD, Law, 2012) started his career as a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant at Birmingham while he completed his PhD with us. Now at Singapore Management University, Dr Lee was interviewed in January for Singapore TV and Al-Jazeera. He spoke about a new public order bill introduced to the Singapore parliament and discussed its implications – you can watch Jack's interview [here](#).

Debating

A team of final year students: Christopher Barratt; Claire Kellett and Rachel Pavey competed in the final of the Birmingham Law Society Debating Competition.



The CEPLER team with No 5 Chambers

Ray Krone: The 100th Inmate Exonerated from Death Row

By Gratsiela Madzharova

Many students attended Ray Krone's lecture about his Death Row experiences – here we are reproducing LLB student Gratsiela Madzharova's opinion piece for the student magazine Law Talk.

These days capital punishment is part of the United Kingdom's legislative history. It was abolished by the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965, and substituted with a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. However, in 32 states of the USA, capital punishment is still a legal sentence.

The main arguments in favour of capital punishment revolve around its supposed effectiveness as a deterrent, the comparatively high cost of imprisonment, and the principles of retributive justice. However, the biggest flaw of such a system is that it applies a sentence that is irreversible. Statistics show that mistakes are not rare occurrences. Indeed, 143 prisoners have been exonerated from death row to date, 18 of them due to DNA tests.

On October 10 2013, Birmingham students had the chance to hear the story of Ray Krone, the 100th inmate exonerated from death row in America.

Krone was born and raised in Dover Township, Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he served in the US Air Force and then worked for the US Postal Service. At the time of the crime in question Krone was in his mid-thirties. He enjoyed spending his free time playing various sports, including darts. He was a member of a team that was sponsored by a local bar. 'That was where my trouble arose from,' said Krone.

On December 29 1991, the owner of the bar found his night manager, Kim Ancona, on the men's room floor. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed to death. No money was missing from the till. The police started questioning her co-workers about Kim's

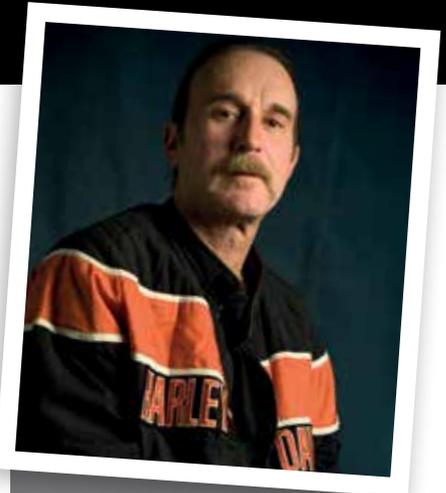
relationships, and one of them happened to mention Krone's name. The police then questioned Krone, basing their investigation on the assumption that he and Ancona were partners. This was expressly rejected by Krone, who was single at the time. He co-operated and gave fingerprints, blood and hair samples, and teeth impressions, believing that he would soon be cleared. In fact, on December 31st 1991, Krone was charged on the basis of bite marks that were found on Ancona's body.

Strongly believing in his own innocence, Krone refused to spend money on a defence and was given a public attorney. His lawyer was paid just \$5000 – usually insufficient for even a simple divorce case.

At the trial, Krone maintained that he was not guilty, and claimed to have been asleep in his bed at the time of the crime. But experts for the prosecution testified that the bite marks matched the impression of Krone's teeth. He was subsequently found guilty of murder and kidnapping, and was sentenced to death. However, he was found not guilty of the sexual assault. Krone stated that he does not, to this day, have an explanation for the verdicts.

Ray Krone told Birmingham students that his experience on death row was indeed tough and unpleasant. He was isolated and treated like an animal. He said that other prisoners often attempted to commit suicide. However, Krone himself dedicated his time to legal literature, and often acted as a legal representative for other inmates, defending them on internal matters and helping them with their cases.

In February 1996, Krone appealed his conviction and received a second trial. His parents remortgaged their home and hired an attorney from Florida. In the trial, new evidence came to light, revealing that the DNA and saliva found on the victim did not match Krone's. However, his conviction was upheld on the basis of the bite marks. Krone said that the second verdict was much harder for him. He remembers his mother's screams, and how the prosecution cheered. Five months later, the sentence was announced – 46 years in all, meaning Krone would have been 81 before he was released. He believed that he would die in prison.



Credit: Sofia Moro / Witness to Innocence

Yet, in 2001, new laws regarding the importance of DNA were enacted. Krone asked for a retesting of Ancona's underwear, and at first the previous results were confirmed. However, the lab worker decided to run the DNA through the database and found a match. Kenneth Phillips, who was then serving 10 years for the sexual assault of a seven-year-old girl, confessed to being in the area on that exact night. In a recorded conversation with Ray's attorney, he mentioned having blackouts but remembering waking up the day after covered in blood.

On April 8 2002, Krone was released from prison. Murder and sexual assault charges have since been brought against Phillips. Now 56, Ray Krone campaigns against the death penalty for Witness to Innocence. Through public education, legislative and media work, the organisation fights for abolition of the death penalty in the USA.

Interestingly, on 24 June 2013, the Capital Punishment Bill 2013–14 was presented before the House of Commons for its first reading. The private members' bill propose reintroducing capital punishment for certain offences. This was highly controversial, not only because of cases like Krone's, but also because of legislation such as the Human Rights Act 1998 and the UK's international obligations.

Ray now works as Director of Membership and Training at Witness to Innocence, an organisation for exonerated death row survivors. Learn more about their work [here](#).

***'I was a Boy Scout, a postman...
I was in the Air Force. If they
could do it to me, they could do
it to anyone.'***

Killing the Innocent: The Death Penalty and Miscarriages of Justice

Marking the 11th World Day Against the Death Penalty, Birmingham Law School welcomed Ray Krone, the 100th person to be exonerated from death row in the United States, to campus at the University of Birmingham on 10 October 2013. He delivered an engaging and inspiring talk about his experience to hundreds of people in the Elgar Concert Hall.

Innocent people have been, and continue to be, sentenced to death with alarming frequency in the United States of America. For every ten people on death row who are executed at least one person is innocent. The One for Ten documentary series recently highlighted the stories of innocent people who found themselves facing execution. Some people falsely confess to the crime under pressure, whilst other people have been wrongly convicted owing to racial prejudice.

Ray Krone was sentenced to death in 1992 for the kidnapping and murder of Kim Ancona in Pheonix, Arizona. He spent ten years in prison and two on Death Row.

Krone, like so many other death row 'exonerates', now travels the world to share his experiences.



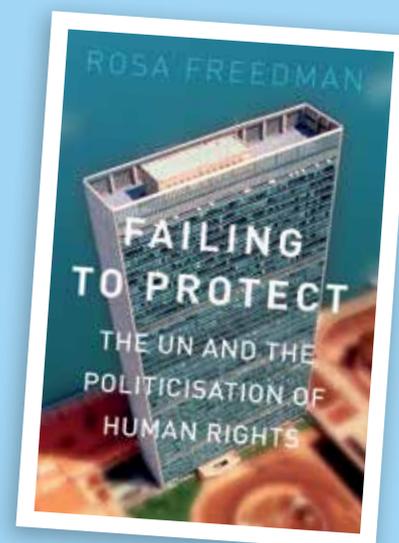
Failing to Protect: The UN and the Politicisation of Human Rights

Failing to Protect (Hurst 2014) is the latest book by Birmingham Law School Senior Lecturer Dr Rosa Freedman. It examines the role of the United Nations in protecting Human Rights.

Rosa is an expert in international human rights law and writes, speaks, and blogs on related issues. We asked her about the inspiration behind the book:

'I wanted to write a book that is accessible to a non-specialist audience. After five years of being asked – at dinner parties, over drinks, or even by colleagues – why the UN fails to protect human rights, I decided to combine my academic expertise with the my journalistic writing skills to answer those questions.'

This is Rosa's first book for a wider audience.



The Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research (CEPLER)

www.birmingham.ac.uk/cepler

CEPLER is part of the Law School at the University of Birmingham. It encompasses the Law School's activities which are linked to law in practice and to the legal profession. Its aims are to extend and enhance the vocational training opportunities available to Birmingham Law School students, and improve their employability by making them distinctive from graduates from other Law schools.

New Pro Bono initiative for the homeless

In November 2013, CEPLER launched a new Pro Bono project in conjunction with Shakespeare's Solicitors and Birmingham-based homeless charity, SIFA Fireside. The initiative sees Birmingham law students give free legal advice, under the supervision of a qualified solicitor from Shakespeare's, to SIFA Fireside's clients. Thanks to this new project homeless people in the region have benefited from free, fortnightly legal advice surgeries to help them to tackle legal issues in areas such as debt, housing and insolvency.

The Birmingham Law School Pro Bono Group is a CEPLER initiative which provides free legal services for the local community, and gives students the opportunity to develop the practical legal skills that they will need for their careers.

For the first time this year, Birmingham law students have also been volunteering with the Personal Support Unit (PSU) in the Birmingham Civil Justice Centre.

For students interested in immigration law, CEPLER teamed up with the University's International Student Advisory Service (ISAS), which offers immigration advice to international students.

CEPLER continues to take free legal information into the local community through its Street Law programme, in which Birmingham students give presentations to schools and community groups on legal rights and responsibilities in areas such as Euthanasia and the Law; Parental Rights and Responsibilities; and Victims and the Law.

As we reach the end of CEPLER's second year we take great pleasure in looking back at some of the highlights from the last year.



Legal Aid research

Under the leadership of newly appointed CEPLER Director of Research, Professor Hilary Sommerlad, CEPLER has been working to develop its research strategy.

One of CEPLER's research highlights from 2013–14 is a qualitative study led by Professor Sommerlad on the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 on family legal aid.

Hilary presented the findings in a paper entitled 'Access to Justice in Hard Times and the Deconstruction of Democratic Citizenship' at a conference on 'Delivering Family Justice in Late Modern Society' at Onati, Spain, in May 2014.

'I thoroughly enjoyed this clinic and I am excited for my next rota slot in two weeks' time. An invaluable experience.'

A third year undergraduate law student on their experience volunteering at the SIFA Clinic



Our students need you!

CEPLER is seeking to expand the number and range of internships and work experience opportunities for students – are you able to offer a high quality BLS student some practical experience to support and enhance their studies?

Work experience is vital for our emerging future lawyers and leaders. Are you able to offer an opportunity ranging from a short placement to a full summer internship?

Please contact Charlotte Heap, College Alumni Relations Manager, at c.heap@bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 2787.

Futures of Legal Education and the Legal Profession

The focus of CEPLER's second annual conference was the *Futures of Legal Education and the Legal Profession*. This ambitious event examined some of the key issues confronting the profession and legal education in light of the radical access to justice reforms and the significance of the Legal Education and Training Review.

The conference attracted a capacity audience of academic and professional delegates and the event concluded with Professor Abel's fascinating international perspective on Research in both legal education and the profession. CEPLER is also delighted to announce that the conference themes will soon be available in a publication by Hart Publishers.

CEPLER Professional Development
This academic year saw the launch of a brand new initiative – CEPLER Professional

Development (CPD). The pilot scheme was introduced for the incoming first year cohort in October and credits were allocated to each individual activity according to its demands. CPD recognises and values our students' ongoing commitment to developing their skills, whilst also increasing their knowledge, confidence and employability, through participation in the extensive range of CEPLER activities.

Leaders in Law

CEPLER was honoured to present some very key figures in the Leaders in Law lecture series, including: Nazir Afzal OBE, Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North West; Lord Justice Ward, describing the background to the complex and moving case of conjoined twins, Rosie and Grace Attard; Lord Justice Rix, revealing the challenges and fulfilment of the role of the judge; Jacqueline Minor, EU Head of Representation and a Birmingham alumna, who charted the progress of her extraordinary

career in Luxembourg and Brussels; and Professor Francois Crepeau, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

Inspiring Careers

CEPLER has extended the range of its careers provision this year in order to help prepare Law students for the diverse and challenging environment in which they will find themselves upon graduation. CEPLER has: hosted a speed networking event between students and local practitioners and encouraged debates amongst practitioners on topical issues such as diversity in the legal profession.

Birmingham Law students will undertake work experience facilitated through CEPLER with a range of organisations, including the Birmingham Personal Support Unit; Birmingham Citizens' Advice Bureau; No5 Chambers, and a range of local and national law firms.

CEPLER Professor becomes Judge

Birmingham Law School extends its warmest congratulations to Professor Sonia Harris-Short, Director of CEPLER, on her full-time appointment as a Judge on the Midlands Circuit of the District Court in May.

District Judge Harris-Short has been a leading member of the Law School and the wider academic community for over seven years. As Professor of Family Law and Policy

her modules on Adult Relationships and Child Law have been highly prized by our students.

Since 2010, Sonia has juggled her academic work with a part-time role as Deputy District Judge, Northern Circuit and, in 2013, membership of the House of Lords Adoption Legislation Select Committee.

Sonia's leadership of CEPLER, which launched in 2012, has overseen two successful international conferences, the expansion of the Pro Bono Group and careers provision, and the introduction of a student CPD scheme,



along with the doubling of the CEPLER team. Her inestimable contribution will be greatly missed.

World Cup Fever

Two perspectives

With World Cup fever fresh in the minds of football fans, we sought two very different perspectives on football. Dr James Treadwell, Lecturer in Criminology at Birmingham Law School, explores the link between football and crime. David Winner (LLB Law, 1978), journalist and author of *Around the World in 90 Minutes* (plus extra time and penalties) based on his journey to 13 countries during the four weeks of the 2006 World Cup talks of the impact of football on our culture.

The sinister side of Football

by Dr James Treadwell

'During the World Cup it was clear to see the ecstasy and agony of the competing countries. Most enjoyed the celebration of football, and the possibility of being crowned the best footballing nation on the globe. However, among the festivity, it is easy to forget that the beautiful game can often have quite an ugly face.

The concern about the internal protests and disorder that characterised many ordinary Brazilians' reaction to the extravagant spending on the tournament was overstated but some violent disorder did occur – most notably linked to Brazil's shocking defeat at the hands of a rampant Germany team.

But there has been plenty of evidence to consider the less obvious ways that the game is connected to illicit, violent and criminal and socially harmful activity. This point is well supported by recent examples such as a recent Channel 4 Dispatches documentary 'How to fix a football match' which highlighted the commonality of match fixing as part of betting scams, or with the allegations concerning the bidding process for involving Qatar for the 2022 World Cup tournament.

So while we celebrate the beautiful game on the field, it's important to remember the sinister side of football, and work at Birmingham Law School is playing an important role in keeping such debates in focus.'

Football Hooliganism, Fan Behaviour and Crime has been co-edited by Dr James Treadwell, Birmingham Law School, with Dr Matt Hopkins, University of Leicester. The book explores the argument that there is a long and much more complex connection between football and crime.

Dr James Treadwell and his former colleague, Dr Matt Hopkins, assembled a cast of leading academic experts in the fields of criminology, law, sociology, psychology, and cultural studies and tasked them with examining issues such as the links between football supporter sub-cultures and hate crime.

Football and civilisation by David Winner

Football is now the biggest cultural form on the planet. It might be a good idea to try to understand how and why this has happened, and what this tells us about our civilisation.

Ancient Rome was in thrall to chariot racing but there is no precedent for what we're seeing.

Right across the globe the appeal of football (and its attendant never-ending soap opera of stars and teams) cuts across barriers of culture, language and climate. The sport moved from the back to the front pages a long time ago. Big World Cup games can bring entire populations onto the streets. Football is a metaphor for life. But no-one knows exactly why the game's rituals have such a powerful hold over us. What exactly are the human impulses it sublimates?

As far as I know only one book – the great *The Soccer Tribe* by alumnus Desmond Morris (BSc Zoology, 1951) has ever attempted to explain the game's deep symbolism.

I reckon a large part of the game's appeal derives from its power as a never-ending story. Football obeys classical rules of story-telling, the unity of time place and action, protagonists/antagonists, arcs, etc. The audience is desperate to know what happens next... but no-one knows because this story makes itself up and keeps on going.

This gives it an edge over other kinds of story-telling. It helps explain why sport in general – and football most of all – has overtaken Hollywood as the world's favourite source of entertainment. (One bit remains a little mysterious to me: why people identify so fiercely with 'characters' in the story. Tribalism is only part of the answer.)

My idea in going around the world in 2006 was to watch people watching their teams. I hoped this would help me better understand this new phenomenon. But visiting 14 countries in three weeks was tiring. The book ended up being more about jetlag!

I think the point remains valid though. During a World Cup the tens of thousands of fans in the stadium are like the studio audience of a TV show. The more important audience is the hundreds of millions following the drama on their screens at home.



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CHRISSIE WELLINGTON MBE

Four-time Ironman Triathlon World Champion, and the first British athlete to hold the title. As a passionate University of Birmingham alumna and campaigner for women's sport, Chrissie is supporting the sports centre as an inspirational community facility.

GLADSTONE SMALL

Former England, and Warwickshire cricketer, one of the most popular characters in County Cricket. With close ties to the city and fond memories of training at the University's running track, Gladstone is delighted to support the Name of the Game.

ELLIE SIMMONDS OBE

Four-time Paralympic Champion with 10 world records to her name. Ellie grew up near Birmingham but had to relocate to Swansea to train due to the lack of a local 50-metre pool. Our sports centre will help provide training facilities for future champions!



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Law in the Doghouse?

The past decade has revealed a crisis in human relationships with dogs – a relationship which is increasingly mediated by law.



Dogs are celebrated in popular television shows such as 'The Wonder of Dogs' and 'The Secret Life of Dogs' and increasingly viewed as companion species more akin to family members than to legal property, albeit that this is a heavily commodified relationship with owners spending vast sums of money on accessories, while vets are faced with the ethical problems posed by ever more extreme medical interventions to prolong lives.

Simultaneously, media headlines reveal a crisis in which the number of stray dogs has reached an all-time high, and dogs are depicted as out of control weapons and killers. The 2013 annual Stray Dogs Survey by Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity,

revealed a shocking 111,986 stray and abandoned dogs were picked up by Local Authorities across the UK over the last 12 months. This equates to a staggering 307 stray dogs being found every day. Significant numbers end up being euthanised.

Media campaigns have fuelled the stigma attached to certain breeds making them – and their owners – particularly vulnerable to stigmatization. This has led to particular crisis in bull breeds and so-called status dogs, while making them perversely attractive to the 'wrong' sort of owners.

Against this backdrop the heavily criticized and largely ineffective Dangerous Dogs Act

1991, which has itself contributed to the issue with bull breeds, remains in force.

Professor Malcolm Press, PVC for Research, University of Birmingham, and Professor Marie Fox, Birmingham Law School, welcomed speakers from University of Nottingham, and University of Aberdeen, as well as Kent and York Law Schools to campus in June for a workshop which explored the problematic relationship between humans and dogs, and the law's role in its governance.

The event was hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies and sponsored by the journal Social and Legal Studies.

Francis Wooldridge (1929–2014)

Francis Wooldridge was a well-respected lecturer and senior lecturer at Birmingham Law School from 1973–1988. He worked in education for many years and was appointed lecturer in many other institutions including Manchester Metropolitan University, London Metropolitan University, and the University of Kent.

His main academic interests were in the fields of Company Law, Public International Law, and European Community Law, and he published extensively in these areas. Some of his most original work was done in the field of comparative company law, including articles in journals such as *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* and *Amicus Curiae*. He wrote three books himself including *Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Enforcements*, (*Intellectual Property Institute, 1997*).

In 1988 he visited Ukraine as a European Union consultant to advise the Ukraine Government on their proposed accession to the World Trade Organisation and amendments they needed to make to their Intellectual Property Laws. As a parting gift Frank promised to review the whole Copyright Law of Ukraine and compare it to the UK's Law.

His main enthusiasm in education was for postgraduate teaching, supervision, and research. Among those who are indebted to Frank for all his kind and considerate support in various ways are Mr. Ian Insley, Dr Gino Naldi, Dr Rose D'sa, and Dr. Peter Macalister-Smith, all of whom were his postgraduates at the University of Birmingham.

Francis Wooldridge died on 28th March 2014 aged 85. He will be remembered as a learned scholar who was both compassionate and generous, who enriched the lives of many people by his common humanity, as well as outstanding acts of personal kindness and consideration for others.



Abortion Privacy/Abortion Secrecy – What's the Difference and Why Does It Matter?

The Centre for Health Law, Science and Policy, and the Public Law Research Cluster were delighted to host Professor Carol Sanger (Barbara Aronstein Black Professor of Law, Columbia Law School and Visiting Fellow, All Souls, Oxford) at Birmingham Law School on 29 April 2014.

Professor Sanger's visit involved two research events which drew from chapters in her forthcoming book with Harvard University Press; *About Abortion*. She led an afternoon reading group where a chapter of her book entitled 'Fathers and Fetuses: What Would Men Do?' (sic) was discussed.

A range of scholars, both from the University of Birmingham and other institutions across the UK, were invited to attend the reading group. It was a lively afternoon of discussion, debate, and theorising the possibilities for regulating abortion.

The reading group was followed by a public lecture where Professor Sanger spoke to a chapter of her book entitled 'Abortion Privacy/Abortion Secrecy'. This was an

interesting and provocative problematisation of the difference between abortion being a private issue and abortion being a secret.

The subject of abortion rights in Northern Ireland continues to be a contentious issue. The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to NI where abortion is still primarily regulated by an 1861 statute. This has been interpreted to permit abortions only in cases where continuance of pregnancy threatens the life of the pregnant woman or poses a 'real and serious' risk of 'permanent or long-term' harm to her physical or mental health. In June, the High Court affirmed the position that Northern Irish women are not entitled to NHS-funded abortion care in England.'

Professor Marie Fox (Socio-Legal Studies at Birmingham Law School) and Dr Sheelagh McGuinness (Birmingham Fellow based in the Centre for Health Law, Science and Policy) discuss the impact of this decision in the Birmingham Perspective which can be read [here](#).

Alumna awarded Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year

Birmingham Law School proudly congratulates Hayley Simonds (LLB Law, 2010) – winner of the 2014 Birmingham Law Society Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award. Hayley is a Trainee Solicitor at Mills & Reeve LLP and Chair of their Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group (FLAG) Committee.

Hayley was the very first student FLAG volunteer when the project was set up by Dr Bharat Malkani in 2010. In her pro bono work at Mills & Reeve LLP she leads a 13-strong committee of volunteer trainee solicitors and paralegals who, along with a solicitor volunteer base of 30, support the efficient running of the Mills & Reeve advice provision for this valuable service to the community. The chair role has been especially challenging this year with a significant increase in enquiries to the service.

Birmingham FLAG provides free legal advice in a large range of legal areas to members of the local community. It is CEPLER's principal Pro Bono Group project involving around a hundred students, and providing them with opportunities to make a difference and develop their skills in interviewing, client care, drafting and research.

CEPLER's In-house Solicitor, Linden Thomas, was also nominated for the award. Linden joined the Law School from SGH Martineau in September, sits on Birmingham Law Society Council, is a member of the Law Society's Pro Bono and Student Committees, a trustee for Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau, and chair of the Bureau's personnel committee.

The Golden Years

We've been delighted to host two very special reunions at Birmingham Law School over the last 12 months. In October, eight Law alumni from the class of 1962 visited campus for a special reunion and tour of the Law School, which they found to be much changed.



The group were brought together by Dr Ronald Wong, a retired solicitor and former secretary of the Holdsworth Club. Now living in Hong Kong, he worked with the Alumni Relations office to reconnect with his old classmates and arrange the get-together. They recalled that there were only four women in their year (three of whom took part in the reunion) – the proportions are now much more equal!

The 1962 graduates were part of a cohort of just 30 students who arrived in Birmingham to study Law in 1959, the Law school now takes over 400 students every year!

More recently, a group celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation visited us in June – led by Malcolm Davies (LLB Law 1964). The alumni recalled being the only students on campus that wore gowns for lectures! After meeting with Holdsworth Club members and academic staff, both groups enjoyed a thorough catch-up over food in Birmingham.



In both cases, some of the alumni hadn't seen each other or visited campus in 50 years.

If you would like to arrange a reunion or want to update us on your life since graduating, please contact Charlotte Heap, College Alumni Relations Manager, on c.heap@bham.ac.uk / 0121 414 2787

What's your Birmingham history?

Malcolm Davies (LLB Law, 1964) has kindly donated a collection of letters that he wrote to his family while studying at Birmingham Law School and living in nearby Kings Heath. These letters provide a fascinating insight into what it was like to study and live in Birmingham in the 1960s. We're most grateful to Malcolm and others for their kind nostalgia donations.

Do you have memorabilia from your time at the University that you could share? Special Collections Archivist Helen Fisher says: 'We are delighted to accept donations of this kind of material to add to the University archives. Papers and photographs of individual students offer an insight into student life and experience not visible in the official archives, and often provide a different perspective on aspects of the University's history.'

Learn more
www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/cadbury/index.aspx

'Looking for a job is like the Hunger Games!'

We spoke to Holdsworth Club chairman Luke Masih about his experience leading 'the Best Law Society in the UK'...

So Luke, why did you choose to study Law at Birmingham?

I chose Birmingham when I was 11 years old, when I saw my brother graduating in the Great Hall. When I decided to study Law, this was compatible with my desire to study at the University of Birmingham due to the recognized law school and outstanding teaching staff. As well as having the best student law society in the UK, of course!

Can you tell us why you wanted to lead the Holdsworth Club?

I loved being a part of the Holdsworth Club as a member in the first year, and being able to get involved with the variety of events it organised.

How do you juggle your studies and your duties?

Thankfully I have had an organised and willing committee that I could delegate to relieve the heavy workload the position entailed. As a result, the organised committee were able to work together as a team to ensure events were a success.

What do you think the biggest challenge facing students is now?

That's an easy answer. Finding a job! The competition for the likes of training contracts and pupillages can easily be compared to the fierce competition of the Hunger Games!

Finally, tell us about the highlights of the year!

The Law Ball was certainly a highlight. Another highlight of the year was the Presidential Address. The Honorary President, Lady Justice Hallett gave a fascinating lecture on 'Educating Lawyers' and how our legal sector differs to other jurisdictions.



Stay in touch!

We always want to hear your news – whether it's a new job, a new programme of study, or perhaps you just got married. If you would like to find out more about volunteering for the Law School, or make suggestions about the content of the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

To stay in touch and receive regular events notifications, please make sure we have your current email address. Join your.bham,

the online Birmingham alumni community, at www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni and join 9000+ of your fellow alumni in our LinkedIn group, called 'University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends.'

Learn more

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