

Holdsworth

An annual publication from Birmingham Law School

Birmingham Law School in Pro Bono Initiative



Birmingham Flag Mills & Reeve and Birmingham Law School Student Committees

Birmingham Law School launched its first pro bono initiative in February, in collaboration with the Birmingham office of Mills & Reeve LLP.

See pages 6–7 for full story



Charlotte Mawdesley (Mills & Reeve) Bharat Malkani (Birmingham Law School) Elly Childs (Mills & Reeve)

From the Head of School

Welcome to this, the latest edition of our alumni newsletter. The last year has, as always, been a busy one for the School. From the always successful Law Ball, and Holdsworth Drama Society's very enjoyable version of *Twelfth Night*, to the hustle and bustle surrounding the final national Prime Ministerial debate hosted by the University in May, it has been 'all go', all the time. We also managed to perform very well in the National Student Survey, and *The Times* and *The Guardian* newspaper rankings.

I am delighted that the Law School has inaugurated a pro bono clinic, under the leadership of Bharat Malkani, to provide free legal advice to those in need, and give students experience of the law in action.

We have been assisted in this by kind support from our alumni, and are very grateful for it. It is also very pleasing to be able to bring news of Birmingham Law School alumni who have made the news. Dame Nicola Davies QC, who read Law here in the early 1970s has recently been made a judge of the High Court, and Michael Wright, who was a Law undergraduate here in the 1960s, and is Vice Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, has been made a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

This is my first, and last, contribution to this newsletter as Head of School, as I am only Head for a year, and step down at the end of July. It has been a learning experience, as well as a rewarding one. I will be succeeded by

Professor Andrew Sanders who has returned to the University, having originally taught here in the 1980s. I am certain that he will lead the School in a manner which will ensure its continued success. We'll keep you informed.

Professor Robert Cryer
Head, Birmingham Law School



The Holdsworth Club

2010 Presidential Address

The highlight of every Holdsworth year has to be the Presidential Address and this year was no exception as we welcomed Lord Hope of Craighead as the Club's President in February. Lord Hope is a highly respected judge, recently appointed Deputy President of the new UK Supreme Court. It was an honour to have such a distinguished member of the judiciary associated with the Holdsworth Club. The subject of Lord Hope's address was 'What happens when the judge speaks out', which gave a fascinating insight into the role of a judge both inside and outside the court room. Lord Hope spoke to a crowded audience and the event was even covered by the Redbrick newspaper, a proud moment for Holdsworth. Afterwards he judged the Camm Cup mooting final. The Law School will be publishing the lecture on its website and in a small print edition soon.



L-R front row: Professor Rob Cryer, William Barrington, Nav Moonga, Lord Hope of Craighead, Natascha Ferrie, Daisy May Costa, Samantha Ellis and Samm Lewis. Back row: Brandon Large, Joseph Hewton and Micheala Diakiw

The Holdsworth year by Joseph Hewton

Chairman, The Holdsworth Club 2009–2010

The Club has had a hugely successful beginning to its ninth decade. We were delighted to welcome over 150 new members to the Club this year and the close-knit community that Holdsworth provides has once again seen great interaction and friendships between the various year groups develop. This has largely been a result of the variety of events that we have hosted this year. As well as our usual careers evenings, sporting endeavours and vastly popular social events we have had some new additions to the Holdsworth calendar; November saw the club's first pub quiz where the team of lecturers, aptly named 'we mark your exams', ended in third place, much to the delight of the two teams of students that beat them!

The Christmas trip saw 70 of Birmingham's most enthusiastic potential lawyers descend upon Paris where all tourist boxes were ticked at Euro Disney. We also enjoyed a trip to the West End to see *The Lion King* in March, closely followed by the famous Lawyers v Medics event, where the lawyers triumphed for the third time in succession. Without a doubt the highlight of our social calendar is the annual Ball. After last year's dramatic Phantom of the Opera themed evening this year's Ball was a Midsummer Night's Dream, fittingly hosted in the forest of the Wroxall Abbey estate, making for a magical evening enjoyed by both students and staff alike.

Our Holdsworth calendar would not be complete without the extra-curricular and career opportunities that students are provided with. These include mooting, the recently formed pro bono group and Holdsworth drama who hosted a wonderful production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

This year has once again seen many successes for Holdsworth's sports teams. As well as our long standing hockey, football and netball teams, who continue to put in strong performances in the intra-mural league, the Club was proud to introduce its first ever rugby team which we hope will go from strength to strength in years to come after their strong start in the annual Manchester sports tournament.

As always there was a plethora of careers events, which were well attended and hugely beneficial to all who took part, particularly at a time when competition for graduate jobs has never been tougher. Firms laid on events ranging from meals to commercial awareness workshops; we have been delighted by the strong relations that continue to exist between the Club and the legal community.

Learn more
www.holdsworthclub.org

News

The Honey Pot Scheme

Undertaking a mini-pupillage might not seem, at first glance, to have anything in common with sex education in Ugandan schools. Both projects, though, formed the basis of internships undertaken by Law students.

Johnny Davis

What was involved in the internship?

Johnny spent eight weeks as a volunteer teacher for the NGO Straight Talk Foundation in Uganda. The Foundation runs an outreach programme teaching and peer-mentoring students aged 12–22 about sexual education and puberty with a particular focus on safe sex and HIV/AIDS awareness. In addition to presentations and role play Johnny was involved in offering 1:1 advice to students with often harrowing experiences such as losing parents to AIDS.

What benefits were gained from the experience?

Johnny believes that the experience greatly improved his communications skills and ability to deal calmly with highly emotive issues. He appreciated having the chance to experience the diversity of education on offer in a country like Uganda and challenges that young people there face.

'This project has taught me that social and cultural understanding of the people you are working with and the area you are working in is essential. The ability to work closely with a non-government organisation such as Straight Talk allowed me to develop a closer understanding of how these organisations work, the challenges they face such as funding, resources, staffing, and provided me with motivation to look deeper into pursuing a career in this line of work.'

Each year University of Birmingham students embark on diverse placements which would not be possible without the Honey Pot Scheme. Students who demonstrate that their proposed work experience supports their future development and is linked to their future career can apply for up to £800 to support low or unpaid work experience placements.

We ask our alumni to help offer our current students valuable opportunities without being

Satnaam Kaur spent 3 months in a variety of Chambers and solicitors firms.

Describe your internship.

At the barristers chambers I acted as a mini pupil. I shadowed many different types of barristers specialising in criminal, family, property and medical negligence in high profile cases in the Courts of Appeal.

In the solicitor's firms I handled different types of client problems and resolved these by undertaking research using the legal databases provided. I attended employment tribunals and took notes for solicitors on the progress of cases.

What did you enjoy most about your internship and why?

I got to experience the practical and pragmatic methods in which solicitors and barristers interact with their clients. This was enjoyable because it differs from learning about law in theory.

What skills have you developed during your internship?

I have learnt how to work with different teams and members from partners, associates through to the support staff. I have also strengthened the key skills which are necessary to be a successful commercial solicitor. Finally these work placements have increased my confidence and have armed me with the relevant social interaction skills to work in such a competitive and tough environment.

inhibited by financial costs. These students will soon be embarking on their careers and these placements provide excellent career enhancing experiences.

Please help us by making a gift. <https://www.ecommercegateway.co.uk/bham/eDonate/>

Last year 44 students were awarded Honey Pot funding amounting to over £18,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this funding.

Judges and Jurists: Reflections on the House of Lords

In November 2009 the Centenary Seminar of the Society of Legal Scholars, held in the Law Society's Hall, the setting for the first meeting of the SLS in December 1908, took place under the auspices of Birmingham Law School and was organised by our lecturer Mr James Lee. The Hon. Michael Kirby gave the opening address. Six sessions then formed the programme structure, each taking its title from a previous Holdsworth Club Presidential Address: Judges and Process of Judging, The Independence of Judges, The Common Law in the Age of Human Rights, Law Reform, The Common Law and Europe, and Private Law: Fashions in Juristic Thinking. A concluding address was given by Lord Rodger of Earlsferry. Speakers included the Law School's Professor Anthony Arnull, Mr James Lee, and former members of staff Professor David Feldman and Professor Andrew Le Sueur. A collection of the papers from the Seminar, entitled *From House of Lords to Supreme Court: Judges, Jurists and the Process of Judging* will be published by Hart Publishing in late 2010.



Research Spotlight: Medical Law at Birmingham

From the activities of the Swiss clinic Dignitas and the advent of 'Death tourism', to women seeking to give birth in their 60s and the regulation of fertility treatment and patients' attempts to bypass NHS waiting lists by using their rights under EU law to seek treatment in other EU countries and then claim reimbursement from the NHS, the relationship between health and law is rarely out of the headlines.

It is easy to forget that it is only relatively recently that Law Schools have engaged with health care and health law issues. Until the late 1980s Health Care law was rarely taught on undergraduate and postgraduate law syllabuses. Today the situation is very different. The increasing engagement of law schools with health issues reflects a number of developments.

First, the challenges presented by rapidly changing innovative health technologies changed attitudes to the need for greater legal engagement with health care practice. In many ways a seminal moment was the publication of the Warnock Committee report in the mid-1990s into human fertilisation and embryology, triggered by concerns following the birth of Louise Brown the first 'test tube baby' as to where such technology would lead. This report was ultimately taken forward by the Government and led to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 which today regulates the provision of reproductive technologies and of embryo research.

Secondly, a number of notable scandals triggered debate and subsequent regulation in several areas. For example, the investigations into the deaths of children in the paediatric cardiac department of Bristol Royal Infirmary led to the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry in the mid-1990s, and subsequently to extensive legislative reform, which created health regulatory bodies such as the Healthcare Commission, and to revision of health professional regulatory structures, such as that of the GMC. Also significant was the

vast unauthorised retention of human material in hospitals up and down the country, which triggered the Alder Hey inquiry and other investigations. At Alder Hey children's hospital alone over 2000 hearts were stored along with one and a half thousand stillbirths and fetuses and other body parts, including in the words of the Inquiry chairman Michael Redfern QC, 'perhaps the most disturbing specimen is the head of an 11 year old boy'. The public outcry here led to the passage of the Human Tissue Act 2004, a radical piece of legislation which regulates the use of material from cadavers and living persons for purposes including anatomical examinations, research and transplantation.

Thirdly, litigation simply increased, driven by changing patterns in litigation and also through enhanced patient expectations of the delivery of health care.

Fourthly, the engagement of the EU has impacted upon the legal and regulatory structures in this area.

Finally, responsiveness within the health care professions themselves to law and ethics developed, triggered by the need to respond to a changing society and also through different approaches within the health care professions to the need for such engagement. Health care professionals became increasingly willing to see both law and biomedical ethics as relevant to practice. The 1980s saw pioneer projects such as Dr Tony Hope's Oxford Practice Skills project at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford include training in law and biomedical ethics for medical students.

The explosion in both litigation and in regulation of the area that began in the 1980s was accompanied by a consequent rise of academic engagement with the area. The discipline itself was fostered through the engagement of interdisciplinary groups of scholars in a few universities during that decade – notably in Manchester through the Centre for Social Ethics and Policy and in Kings College London through the Centre for Medicine Ethics and Law. In Birmingham the Institute of Medical Law was established in 2005 with the aim of fostering research and teaching links between the Law School and the Medical School.

Medical Law at Birmingham

A number of colleagues within and outside the Law School have fostered its development. Leading scholars from the University of Birmingham currently engaged in working with the Institute include biomedical ethicists, Dr Heather Draper and Dr June Jones, from Global Ethics, Professor Heather Widdows, from the Law School, Dr Sonia Harris-Short, Dr Claire McIvor, Dr Stephen Smith, Dr Elizabeth Wicks and Mrs Moira Wright and Dr Hardev Pall and Professor Maurice Zeegers from the Medical School. The Institute's current Director, Professor Jean McHale, formerly a Director of the Centre for Social Ethics and Policy at the University of Manchester and a professor at the University of Leicester joined Birmingham on 1 September 2009. The expertise and interests of Institute members range from health care and human rights to end of life decision making, from European Health Law to nanomedicine, from the regulation of genetics to causation in clinical negligence.



Recent books to be published by Law School members of the Institute include Dr Elizabeth Wicks' new book *The Right to Life and Conflicting Interests* which will be published by OUP in 2010. Stephen Smith's book *End of Life: Principles and Policies for Regulating the Dying Process* will be published by CUP in 2011. Jean McHale is writing a new book *European Health Law* with Tamara Hervey for Cambridge University Press taking forward their work on the EU and Health. Her co-edited collections *Principles of Mental Health Law and Policy* (with Gostin, Bartlett, Fennell and McKay) was published by OUP in March 2010 and *Principles of Medical Law* 3rd ed (with Grubb and Laing) will be published by OUP in October 2010. On-going interdisciplinary collaborations within the Institute include Claire McIvor and Maurice

Zeegers on causation. Colleagues in the Institute are also part of a cross-University collaborative group examining ethical, legal and regulatory challenges arising from the interface between health and religion for the delivery of health care by the NHS in multi-cultural communities. Health law subjects are also taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate level within the Law School and the Institute welcomes postgraduate students in the area.

Over the years the Institute has run a number of successful conferences and seminar series. The 2008 Institute Conference has led to the publication of an edited collection, *The Legal Medical and Cultural Regulation of the Body* co-edited by Stephen Smith, Deputy Director of the Institute, and Ronan Deazley, a former

Birmingham colleague. In September 2010 a panel from the Institute will run an event 'Regulating Genetics: An Urgent Necessity or an Impossible Challenge' at the British Science Festival which is being held in Birmingham.

The Institute is evolving its identity and over the next year hopes to take forward its work through engagement with developments in biomedical sciences, medicine, nursing and new health technologies. A new web identity will launch in 2011 and a new structure is being proposed drawing upon a wide range of national and international networks. The Institute is well placed to respond to the dynamic challenges of the discipline over the next decade.

Attracting the brightest and the best

Birmingham Law School continues to attract some of the brightest and the best students in the country. Applications for September 2010 are up by 35% for undergraduates and 45% for taught postgraduate courses. The growth in applications has been matched by a rise in the quality of applicants with average A-level score per applicant increasing year on year.

We are committed to providing opportunity to those who show the talent and determination to succeed and believe that no-one should be dissuaded from attending university by their background.

We are delighted that a number of Law students have been able to benefit from our Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme, which works with schools that do not have a track record of sending many students on to higher education by working with their most able students to help them realise their potential.

Daniel Bradshaw, a second year Law student, commented, 'Receiving the A2B Scholarship is extremely valuable as it has allowed me to focus on my studies, instead of having to take on a part-time job. As a result I cannot thank the donors enough, as they have played a significant role in the degree classification that I will be able to achieve'.

As our current final years graduate this summer, upholding the traditions of all that is best about 'the Birmingham Graduate', we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of the brightest and the best this autumn including our new A2B scholars.

Learn more

www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence/



Without an A2B scholarship I do not feel that I would have been able to gain from all aspects of university life in the way that I have. The scholarship motivates me to continue to strive for excellence. I will be eternally grateful to my sponsor and hopefully, in years to come, I would like to give back to the University of Birmingham – more specifically to a student of the Law School.

Kimberley Anderson, final year Law student

Let's Get Quizzical

Welcome event for local students in Arts and Law

In September the College held its first 'Staying Local' event and quiz to welcome new students from the Midlands region to the departments in the College of Arts and Law. Our Widening Participation Officer, Lisa Alberici, was assisted by 19 enthusiastic current students, including 12 from the Law School. 55 new students got involved and they gave a big thumbs-up to the initiative. As students arrived they were invited to join in a big map activity to indicate whereabouts they lived and to break the ice. The College of Arts and Law Director of Education, Professor Martin Stringer, gave a welcome talk; this was followed by a 'Staying Local' quiz with rounds on famous local faces, local sport, local music, local history and, of course, the University of Birmingham!

Pro Bono Initiative

Birmingham Law students launch free legal advice clinic with Mills & Reeve LLP

Birmingham Law School students have joined forces with the Birmingham office of national law firm Mills & Reeve LLP to provide free legal advice to those unable to pay for it.

This pro bono initiative, which was launched at the University of Birmingham on Thursday 25 February 2010, is a first for the Birmingham office of Mills & Reeve LLP, as well as for the Law School. In this new scheme qualified solicitors will work alongside law students to deliver a free service to the community.

Members of the public can contact the legal advice team via a dedicated telephone line provided by the Law School. In all suitable cases they will then be given an appointment to meet at the law clinic at the University,

where they will be interviewed by law students, supervised by lawyers from Mills & Reeve LLP. A letter of advice will then be issued.

The scheme, called Birmingham FLAG (Free Legal Advice Group), initially ran as a three-month pilot and was promoted by students through community centres, a leaflet drop and poster campaign. Clinics were held from 5.00pm–7.00pm on alternate Thursdays at the University.

Guy Hinchley, managing partner at Mills & Reeve LLP, commented, 'This pro bono activity will supplement Mills & Reeve's already established corporate social responsibility programme in the Birmingham office. As well as providing a community service, it will be

good for the personal development of our volunteers, and great hands-on experience for the students.'

Bharat Malkani, lecturer in the Law School and the Clinic Director at the University of Birmingham, added, 'From the students' point of view the opportunity to gain practical legal experience by helping people is invaluable, and the current student volunteers are incredibly bright, articulate and enthusiastic. The Free Legal Advice Group also reaffirms the University's commitment to the local community.'

Learn more

<http://www.law.bham.ac.uk/prospectus/life/pro-bono.shtml>

'All lawyers should strive to provide information to those who are unable to afford expensive professional legal advice. We must not underestimate the power that comes with the knowledge we have, and the application of that knowledge can often provide a lifeline to those in desperate need of help.'

*Owen Watkins
Pro Bono Public Relations Officer
2nd year LLB*



Birmingham Law School Student Committee



Chris Townsend (Mills & Reeve) Bharat Malkani (Birmingham Law School) Ruth Creed and Charlotte Mawdesley (Mills & Reeve) and James Piggott



Anthony Minnis (Mills & Reeve) Students Maggie Silbin and Toby McCrinle, Kam Sandhar (Lecture Series Co Ordinator)



Mills & Reeve Committee



Ruth Creed (Mills & Reeve) and students Alexandrina Valova and Owen Watkins



Mills & Reeve Committee

Events

In addition to the clinic, the Pro Bono group organised a series of lectures which proved to be extremely popular with students.

The Work of Public Interest Lawyers and the Promotion of International Justice

Tessa Gregory discussed the advocacy work carried out by Public Interest Lawyers (PIL) in a number of high profile cases at the administrative court, the Court of Appeal and the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of parents of British troops, Iraqi civilians and others affected by the war in Iraq, and the importance of such cases. PIL is a firm of Birmingham solicitors specialising in international human rights law.

The Role of NGOs and Student Volunteer Opportunities in African Prisons

Alexander McLean, Director General of African Prisons Project (APP) discussed the role that NGOs can play in prison transformation in Africa and what students and young people can gain by volunteering overseas. APP is a young charity founded to improve the welfare, health and education of detainees in Africa. It aims to restore the dignity of prisoners by providing humane conditions and improving welfare, access to medical facilities and the opportunity to learn.

Student Pro Bono Work in American Capital Defence

The inaugural lecture was given by Professor Julian Killingley, Professor of American Public Law at Birmingham City University. Professor Killingley spoke about the death penalty in the United States of America and discussed how British law students can work pro bono in American capital defence law offices, research law for practitioner manuals, and contribute to amicus curiae briefs in cases before the US Supreme Court and US Court of Appeals.

'The success of the lecture series demonstrates that students are becoming more aware of career paths available to them other than the usual path into commercial law. Our aim is to provide more information about alternative career opportunities in the law to our fellow students. I see the group expanding greatly in the next few years: our client list is already growing.'

Kam Sandhar Lecture Series Co-ordinator, 2nd year LLB

Alumni events

The Law School continues to thrive and its extensive programme of events is one of the ways in which alumni can get involved in School activity. To find out more and keep track of upcoming events, keep an eye on the Law School website www.law.bham.ac.uk or contact Marion Fleming-Froy: m.flemingfroy@bham.ac.uk or telephone: 0121 414 2787

House of Lords

5 November 2010, 6.30pm–8.30pm

Join more than 300 alumni and guests at the seventh annual reception at the House of Lords, hosted by Professor David Eastwood, the University's Vice-Chancellor. Enjoy wine, canapés, stunning views over the River Thames and take the opportunity to explore the Houses of Parliament on a guided tour. Tickets cost £30 each and will be available to buy online in August.



Jack Straw on Issues in Criminal Justice

The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, then Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, gave an address at Birmingham Law School on Thursday 29 October 2009 in our lecture series on 'Issues in Criminal Justice'.

Addressing a lecture room packed with members of the legal professions, students and staff, Mr Straw spoke about the challenges facing sentencing policy and the penal system today. After the lecture, he engaged in a lively question and answer session with members of the audience.

The Issues in Criminal Justice lecture series was a highlight of the School calendar and represented a significant occasion for staff and students across the University and for criminal justice professionals working in the Birmingham region and elsewhere. Other recent speakers included the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, and Michael Mansfield QC.

Read the speech online
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/speech291009a.htm>

Anniversary Reunions for Classes of 1961, 1971, 1976 and 1986

18 June 2011—all day

Celebrate the anniversary of your graduation with a visit back to campus. Meet up with friends, take a tour of campus and enjoy a reunion lunch. Visit the Law School and meet current academic staff and students. Make the day extra special by organising a group of friends for lunch; contact the Alumni Office for help getting in touch with friends or classmates.

Learn more

Contact Clare Gordon
Tel: 0121 414 8904
Email: alumnievents@contact.bham.ac.uk
www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/events



Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market

10 December 2010, 6.30pm–9.00pm

Join fellow alumni at Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market in the city centre for a pint of authentic German beer or a warming mug of Glühwein, with our compliments. Following the success of this event in 2009, we will once again hire the heated indoor area of a traditional beer stall and hope to see you all there. Free event, please RSVP.



Make sure you never miss an event or your copy of Holdsworth by updating your details online at www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/update or email alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Alumni Profile

Kirsty Brimelow

Kirsty Brimelow is not only a leading junior in complex criminal law at Doughty Street Chambers but also a regular legal commentator in the media with appearances on *Newsnight*, *Dispatches*, *Law in Action* and the *Today* programme.



An inaugural member of the Times Law Panel, she defended in the first murder case where the defence was 'in camera' on grounds of national security and is currently challenging the first judge only crown court criminal trial.

Kirsty's practice encompasses human rights law and international criminal law. In addition to acting for the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago and for the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, Kirsty has been appointed counsel to a Commission of Inquiry in Antigua. She is committed to the work of the Bar Human Rights Committee in her position as Vice-Chairwoman, carrying out pro bono work on behalf of the Committee including work in Jamaica supporting lawyers representing defendants on 'death row', tackling the issue of 'witch' children in Nigeria and leading training in Colombia aimed at targeting impunity.

Kirsty is in her sixth year on the Criminal Bar Association Executive and regularly advises upon proposed legislation. Also, she acts as legal adviser to programmes such as *EastEnders*.

What made you choose the University of Birmingham?

I am from a working class background and choosing universities was daunting. The daughter of a friend of a family friend had been to Birmingham. She was clever, attractive and fun and her enthusiasm struck a chord. I wanted to study law because I thought that it was a strong degree – which would support me in a variety of careers – and Birmingham had an excellent law faculty.

Which memories of Birmingham really stand out?

I'm afraid that I did not study very hard at university. I threw myself into committees and organisations as well as into the social life. I was part of a group who fund raised for Birmingham's deprived kids; we took some 50 of them on holiday for a week each year. I remember vividly being part of a 24 hour tandem bike ride, sitting

in a bath of custard for way too long and attempting to break the daisy chain world record. However, I do have a very proud memory from the Law Faculty of winning the Law Faculty mooted competition and Lady Barber Mooting prize (judged by Sir Stephen Brown). I was a definite rank outsider and it was great to be recognised. That was the time that I thought that maybe I could become a barrister.

Tell us about the earlier part of your career after graduating in 1990

After graduating I studied the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London. I received a grant from Lancashire Local Authority and an award from Gray's Inn. An award from 2 Crown Office Row (now Lyttleton Chambers) set me on my way into pupillage. However, before I started pupillage I spent a year backpacking and working around the world. After pupillage I was given tenancy in a set of chambers called 10 Gray's Inn Square. Unfortunately the set folded after I been there for only 18 months and I then had a period of 'squatting'. One day I met a senior barrister and part-time judge who prosecuted my client in a hard fought trial. He brought me back into the fold of tenancy by his invitation to join his chambers. After a number of years I completed the move from my civil law roots to purely criminal law.

Could you explain your current role?

My practice is in criminal/human rights law – often with an international element. I defend those accused of the most serious crimes and seek to assist those whose rights have been violated.

In addition, as Vice-Chairwoman of the Bar Human Rights Committee, I am heavily involved in training and supporting lawyers in other jurisdictions. I have spent two months working alongside lawyers in Jamaica, carried out trial observations (eg. in Bahrain) and was part of a fact finding mission and subsequent trainer in human rights law in Colombia. I am part of the Child Rights Unit of BHRC; we are working with Stepping Stones Nigeria to stop the abuses of children through witch stigmatisation. Also, I was a legal spokesperson for the Bar Council for 10 years and continue to try to demystify the law through the media.

If you still had your career to this point ahead of you, would you do anything differently?

I would have studied law with a language, such as French. I would have chosen easier options within my degree together with those subjects which were dependent upon dissertations rather than exams.

Do you have any advice for our current students studying law?

It is trite but I wish I had studied harder – but you don't want to hear that advice when you are a student. So, I suggest that it is the end result of the degree which is important rather than its component parts. If I was a young lawyer starting a career I would definitely try to work overseas for a period – for example in a UN or International Criminal Tribunal, the ICC or ECHR. Deepening and broadening learning provides its own inspiration.

Alumna appointed to High Court



Nicola Davies (LLB Law, 1974), who appeared in last year's University alumni newsletter, has been appointed as a High Court Judge assigned to the Queen's Bench Division. During her

successful career as a barrister she specialised in medical law and was involved in several high-profile cases, including appearing for the defence in the cases of Dr Harold Shipman and paediatrician Professor Sir Roy Meadow.

New appointments

Professor Jean McHale, LLB (Hons) MPhil, (Manchester), Professor of Health Care Law

Jean McHale joined the University of Birmingham in September 2009. She previously taught at the Universities of East Anglia, Nottingham, Manchester and Leicester where she held a chair in Law from 2000–09. She has written several monographs and textbooks in the area of health care law, including *Health Care Law Cases and Materials* with Marie Fox (Sweet and Maxwell) and *Law and Nursing* with John Tingle (Butterworth Heinemann). She is a co-editor and contributor to two major volumes of essays for OUP, *Principles of Mental Health Law* (1st edition) (with Peter Bartlett, Larry Gostin, Phil Fennell and Ronnie MacKay) and *Principles of Medical Law* (3rd Edition) (with Andrew Grubb and Judy Laing) which will be published in autumn 2010. She is currently writing a new monograph *European Health Law* for Cambridge University Press with Professor Tamara Hervey of the University of Sheffield which takes forward on-going research interests in this area which formed the basis of their earlier collaboration *Health Law and the EU* (2004). She is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Medical Law Review*, the UK Advisory Panel for Health Care Workers Affected by Blood Borne Viruses, and is the legal member of Ethics and Governance Committee of the Airwave Health Monitoring Study which is being run jointly by the Home Office and Imperial College London. She is the director of the Law School's Institute of Medical Law.



Mr Martin George, LLB (Leic), LLM (Nott)

Martin George joined the Law School as the CSET Lecturer in Property Law in September 2009, having previously been a Birmingham Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, and a College Lecturer at Hertford College, Oxford. Martin is a graduate of Leicester and Nottingham Universities, and is currently completing a doctorate at Birmingham. His major research interest is in the conflict of laws and, within that, on the private international law aspects of the carriage of goods by sea. Martin is the Director of student mooting at Birmingham and is the creator and editor of the *conflictoflaws.net*, a blog devoted to news and views in private international law.



Dr Alexander Orakhelashvili, LLM (Leiden), PhD (Cantab.)

Alexander Orakhelashvili joined Birmingham in September 2009. Previously, he was Shaw Foundation Junior Research Fellow in Law at Jesus College, Oxford (2005–08). His research interests focus on all areas of public international law. He is an author of *Peremptory Norms in International Law* (OMIL, OUP 2006) and *The Interpretation of Acts and Rules in Public International Law* (OMIL, OUP), as well as numerous journal and yearbook articles and contributions to edited volumes. His work has been cited in 2004 by Mance LJ (as he then was) in the Court of Appeal decision on *Jones v Saudi Arabia*.



Dr Anastasia Vakulenko, LLM, PhD (Nottingham)

Dr Anastasia Vakulenko joined Birmingham from the University of Dundee in 2009. Having obtained her masters degree in International Human Rights Law with Distinction at the University of Nottingham, she was involved in practically-oriented human rights work, including representing cases before the European Court of Human Rights. Anastasia has written extensively on gender, Islamic dress and human rights. Her forthcoming monograph, entitled *Understanding the Islamic Veiling Controversy*, examines the Islamic veiling issue for what it reveals about western perceptions of human rights, gender, agency and religion. Anastasia's other current research projects explore how freedom of religion in domestic and international human rights law is configured by a particular secular understanding of religion, which does not always adequately represent the reality of religious experience.



Professor Andrew Sanders, LLB, MA, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology

Andrew Sanders joined Birmingham early in 2010 from the University of Manchester, having previously taught at Manchester Met, Birmingham, Oxford and Bristol. This summer he will take over as Head of School, from Professor Rob Cryer. He was previously Head of Manchester School of Law 2003–07. He is the author of *Criminal Justice* (with R Young), 3rd Ed, 2007 and *The Case for the Prosecution* (with M McConville and R Leng), 1991. He is a member of the Northern Ireland Life Sentence Commission (from 2000 to date) and has previously been a member of the Parole Board for England and Wales, and the Attorney-General's Advisory Board for the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. His current research looks at ways to integrate victim, suspect and defendant perspectives in criminal justice.



Dr Astrid Sanders, BA (Hons) (Oxon), BCL (Oxon), MPhil (Oxon), DPhil (Oxon)

Astrid Sanders joined Birmingham Law School in September 2009 after completing both her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Astrid's particular area of interest is labour law, including both domestic and international labour law. She has also published articles on domestic labour law, in particular on the law of unfair dismissal. Astrid has presented papers both on her thesis, and related to her publications, to a wide variety of audiences.

Learn more

www.law.bham.ac.uk/staff

The Moot Report



The OUP and BPP National Mooting Competition 2009–10 Finalists. Rupert and Jon are standing to the judge's right-hand side. Reproduced with kind permission of Ben Spagnolo (Oxford)

It has been a very successful year for Mooting at Birmingham. On 1 July the team from Birmingham, consisting of Rupert Jones (GDLS) and Jonathan Jackson (LLB, second year), reached the final of the OUP and BPP National Mooting Competition 2009–10, having beaten Ulster, Oxford Brookes, Reading and King's College, London along the way. His Honour Judge Charles Gratwicke of Chelmsford Crown Court presided over one of the closest finals of recent years, held at BPP Law School, Holborn. The OUP and BPP National Mooting Competition is one of the largest in the country drawing over 60 teams each year. After four rounds of knock out competition four teams compete in the final; this year, Birmingham was pitted against Chester, and Oxford took on the defending champions, Sheffield Hallam. In a tense final, Oxford was declared the winner, and Birmingham was awarded second place – just one point separated the two teams. Rupert and Jonathan, as runners-up for the 2009–10 competition, were awarded £350 each.

The fictitious mooting problem, devised for the competition by Dr Kirsty Horsey from Kent Law School, was in the Court of Appeal, *Slade v Trowell Entertainment*. It focussed on 'You've Got Talent' contestant Dave Slade fluffing his audition and running off only to be forced back on stage to perform by the show's presenters Pant and Deck; much to his embarrassment

but the audience's entertainment. Dave sues Trowell Entertainment, alleging assault, battery, false imprisonment, intended emotional harm and loss of the opportunity to win the show's £500,000 prize.

This year's Camm Cup final at Birmingham was judged by Lord Hope of Craighead, Deputy President of the Supreme Court and President of the Holdsworth Club 2009–10. The competition is open to second and final year law students and is sponsored by No5 Chambers. Held in February on the same day as the Holdsworth Presidential Address, the finalists were second year students Harriet Drury, Misbah Rahman, and Michael Young, and third year student Abisola Latunji. On a proud day for Birmingham Law School. His Lordship was joined by Professor Nelson Enonchong, Barber Professor of Law and barrister at No 5 Chambers, and by David Williams QC, also from No 5. The moot problem was based on contract law and the legal position surrounding the part payment of a debt. After careful deliberation, the judges declared Harriet Drury to be the winner and Michael Young to be the runner-up. Harriet was awarded a cheque for £100 and Michael received £50. Afterwards, a buffet reception was held where audience members had the opportunity to discuss the moot with the judges and the competitors.

Professor John Baldwin retires

The end of September 2009 saw the retirement of Professor John Baldwin, one of Birmingham Law School's longest serving and most distinguished members.

John's long association with the University of Birmingham began in 1964, when he joined the then Faculty of Commerce and Social Science as a student, graduating with a BSocSci degree in 1967. John proceeded to the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge and then the Faculty of Law at Sheffield, where he was awarded a PhD for his work on variations in delinquency rates.

After teaching criminology at a north-eastern polytechnic, John took up a lectureship in the Law Faculty at Birmingham in 1974. His appointment was intended to reinforce the Institute of Judicial Administration, which had been set up in 1968 to investigate the administration of justice from a 'law in action' perspective.

Shortly after his arrival, John and a colleague secured funding from the Home Office for a study into the outcome of jury trials in the Birmingham Crown Court. The project led to the publication in 1977 of the book *Negotiated Justice*, which tackled the controversial subject of plea bargaining in the criminal courts. It attracted enormous media attention and a certain amount of criticism in legal and political circles. As Lord Bingham was later to put it, John became for a while 'the legal equivalent of Salman Rushdie'.

John went on to publish a large body of work, helping to build an international reputation for the Institute of Judicial Administration, of which he served as Director from 1982 until 2003. In that year, John relinquished the Directorship to become Head of the Law School. He discharged his responsibilities in that role with great diligence, enthusiasm and good humour until 2006, laying much of the groundwork for the School's impressive performance in the 2008 RAE.

In recognition of his enormous contribution to the School, the University and the academic and policy-making communities, both in the United Kingdom and abroad, John was made an emeritus professor in 2009.

News in brief

New alumni manager

The College of Arts and Law has appointed its first Alumni Relations Manager. Dr Marion Fleming-Froy joined the College last summer after seven years working as an international relations manager in the public sector. Marion is looking forward to strengthening links between students, staff and alumni and is working to develop volunteer opportunities for alumni who have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the life of the College.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering in the Law School, or any other part of the College, share some news about yourself, make suggestions about the content of the newsletter or receive further information about alumni benefits we would love to hear from you.

To stay in touch and receive regular information about events please make sure we have your current email address. Join your.bham, the online Birmingham alumni community, visit www.alumni.bham.ac.uk

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Got something to share?

If you ever spend time wondering what happened to some of the people you met while you were studying or working at Birmingham, you can be sure others will be asking the same questions about you.

What have you been doing since your time at university? What are your proudest achievements? Have you lived abroad or do you have a family? What activities do you enjoy or have since discovered?

Birmingham Law student wins Ince & Co Prize

Last September, Hadassah Shulman, one of our second year students, received the Ince & Co Tort Prize, awarded for her outstanding performance in her first year Obligations B examination.

The firm hosted an evening reception for the prize winners from several leading universities at their London office. Ince & Co Recruitment Partner, Jeremy Farr, remarked: 'We are delighted to be able to support Birmingham Law School and Hadassah in this way.'

Our focus on contentious shipping, aviation, energy and insurance law means that tort and contract law are of particular relevance to our practice. It is very pleasing, therefore to be able to reward excellence in the tort module of the first year law degree exams.'



(L-R) Birmingham lecturer James Lee, Hadassah Shulman and Jeremy Farr (Ince & Co)

Birmingham academic influences G20

Dr Luca Rubini's work, and particularly his distinction between scope and justification in the definition and discipline of subsidies, has been relied on in a policy brief of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The IISD was invited to officially participate in the recent G20 Summit in Canada, where the paper provided a basis for discussion on the discipline of fossil-fuel subsidies and beyond.

Birmingham alumnus wins prize for doctoral thesis

The Procedural Aspects of International Law (PAIL) Institute, Washington DC, has awarded the second biennial Lillich Prize for the best S.J.D. or PhD dissertation submitted to any Faculty of Law in the world in 2006 and 2007 to Dr Antonis Antoniadis, an alumnus of Birmingham Law School. Antonis graduated with a PhD from the University of Birmingham in 2007 following the submission of his thesis earlier the same year. It was entitled 'The European Community and its Member States as WTO members: a constitutional perspective.' Antonis' thesis will be published in the prestigious PAIL series of monographs.

His former supervisor, Professor Anthony Arnall, said: 'This well-deserved prize is a testament to the excellent research environment we have created in the School.'