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About Birmingham FLAG

Birmingham FLAG aims to bridge the justice gap by assisting people who cannot afford legal advice. It empowers law students and provides the opportunity to take an active role in responding to the legal aid cuts and helping to resolve community legal problems.

Open all sections

Areas of Expertise

FLAG runs two advice clinic sessions a week during term time only offering free legal advice to the community on a variety of issues.

Wills & probate

We can provide advice on how best to protect your wealth to maximise the benefit of it for those you care about and how to efficiently manage the administration of an estate or an existing trust.

Employment

We can provide advice to both employers and employees on all aspects of employment law including discrimination, harassment, unfair or constructive dismissal and matters relating to redundancy. We can explain what an employer must do to comply and guide your through the legal process.

Mental health & mental capacity issues

We can advise on the implications and impact of the law on those suffering from mental illness. We can outline the rights of individuals who have been detained in hospital and explain the legal process to safeguard their interests.

Clinical Negligence

We can provide help and legal advice to people who have suffered an injury as a result of medical negligence.

Bankruptcy/insolvency

We can provide help and advice to individuals who are unable to pay off their debts. We can explain the role of bankruptcy and outline the legal process.

Civil litigation

We can provide advice to people who have suffered injury as a result of another person's actions. This includes cases involving a range of legal claims, such as negligence, defamation, nuisance, occupier's liability, judicial review, human rights, discrimination, harassment and breach of copyright.

Contract law

We can provide help and advice to small companies and individuals on all aspects of contractual issues and contract disputes including agency and distribution; financial obligations and sale, delivery and hire of goods. We can outline the legal process and explain the alternatives to litigation to resolve disputes in a quick and cost effective manner.

Company law

We can provide help and advice on all aspects of company law including business start up and incorporation, shareholder's agreements, funding options and corporate tax.

Data protection

We can help if you need advice in relation to data protection or privacy policies. We can advise on what information needs to be provided when data is collected or how personal data can be transferred to another party inside and outside the UK. We can tell you whether a company is complying with the UK's protection legislation and explain how you may make data requests for information.

Minor road traffic offences

We provide help and advice in relation to notices of intended prosecution or summons for offences of speeding, careless or inconsiderate driving and failing to provide driver information.

Professional Supervision

All students participating in FLAG are required to attend additional training sessions in order to ensure they are fully prepared to carry out the work necessary to provide good and accurate advice. They are supervised by the FLAG Coordinators who sit on the Pro Bono Committee and FLAG Director, **Dr Bharat Malkani (/staff/profiles/law/malkani-bharat.aspx)** . In addition, a Professional Volunteer, who is a qualified solicitor or barrister of at least three years call, is allocated to every case.

The Professional Volunteers are provided by Mills and Reeve and No5 Barrister's Chambers. Mills & Reeve also deliver training to the Student Advisers on interviewing techniques and letter writing skills. No5 Chambers provides additional expertise in the areas of Landlord and Tenant.

The Professional Volunteers work very closely with the students to enhance their clinical education experience. They assist with interview preparation and technique to ensure that the students accurately establish the key facts and outline the necessary legal issues. They provide guidance on the best research methods and aid the drafting of a detailed letter of advice. The students are taught to break down the relevant legal procedures into clear step by step processes to help clients identify the next steps which will be beyond the remit of the clinic and allow them to progress matters on their own if necessary. This is especially important for clients who have no option but to represent themselves before the courts.

By working together and taking an observational but active role when necessary, the Professional Volunteers and FLAG Directors, ensure that students participating in the clinic develop the essential practical skills to provide good and accurate legal advice in a professional manner. This enhances the students' ability to "hit the ground running" and progress their careers in legal practice

Birmingham FLAG is operated by students at the University of Birmingham, working under the supervision of qualified legal professionals. Birmingham FLAG reserves the right to not provide legal assistance in any case, but if we cannot help you, we will try to refer you to a service that may be able to provide assistance. Birmingham FLAG is unable to take any action on behalf of a client against the University of Birmingham, its Governors, employees or current students.

For more generic information on the services provided by Birmingham FLAG, please contact one of the FLAG Directors

- Dr Bharat Malkani: **b.malkani@bham.ac.uk (mailto:b.malkani@bham.ac.uk)**
- Ms Linden Thomas: **l.thomas@bham.ac.uk (mailto:l.thomas@bham.ac.uk)**

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