



### **INAUGURAL STUDENT ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION**

The Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research ('CEPLER') at the Law School, University of Birmingham, is delighted to announce its first student essay writing competition. The winner will receive an iPad mini and the opportunity to have their essay published on the CEPLER website as a CEPLER Working Paper. Two runners up will also have the opportunity to have their essay published as CEPLER Working Papers. The title for this inaugural competition is as follows:

*"In an age of austerity, access to justice is a luxury."*

Please discuss this title in no more than 1,500 words. Your answer should use OSCOLA footnote references,<sup>1</sup> and be written in such a way as to be accessible to academics, students, practitioners, policy makers and the public. The competition is open to all students studying English law for the first time, whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level, such as a LLB for Graduates programme or the CPE/GDL.<sup>2</sup> All submissions must be received, attached to an email as a Word document, by 3pm on 15 September 2014.<sup>3</sup> Send your entries to Ms Lesley Griffiths, the CEPLER Administrator: [l.griffiths.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.griffiths.1@bham.ac.uk) – your covering email should state your name, educational institution and home address. However, in order to maintain fairness and impartiality in judging, please do not include your name or any other personal/contact information on the essay itself.

#### **Competition Judges**

- REJ Fiona Monk, Regional Employment Judge (Birmingham)
- Janice Nichols, Chief Executive, Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau Service
- Dr Steven Vaughan, Director of Education, CEPLER (Birmingham Law School)

#### **CEPLER**

Since its launch in November 2012, The Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research has been dedicated to enhancing opportunities for students to develop their employability; fostering world class research on legal practice and education; and developing innovative approaches to the curriculum. More information can be found here:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/CEPLER/about/index.aspx>

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<sup>1</sup> References are not included in the 1,500 word limit.

<sup>2</sup> This includes those students who were in their final year of study in 2013/2014 and may have just graduated

<sup>3</sup> The winner and runner up will be notified by Monday 6 October. If you have not been contacted by this date, then your entry was not successful. The decision of the judges is final.