

Annual Report

2015-16

**The Centre for Professional
Legal Education and Research**



PROFESSIONAL LEGAL
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

BIRMINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

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.

We are grateful to all of our partners within the legal community who provide generous support and collaboration for our extra-curricular activities; to those practitioners who have committed their time to participating in our research projects; and to the members of the CEPLER Steering Group who have helped us to shape the growth and development of the Centre.

In particular, we would like to extend our thanks to our key partners No5 Chambers for their conceptualisation, investment and continued support.



July 2016

Introduction from Professor Robert Lee Director of CEPLER, Head of Birmingham Law School

It is a pleasure to introduce CEPLER's 2016 annual report.

Another year in the life of our developing centre sees CEPLER continue to evolve and expand the range and diversity of opportunities for our students, and extend our collaborations with the professions, legal and non-legal.

CEPLER's tenacious research ambitions are advancing our reach; examining key issues affecting legal practice and education, as well as the changing face of the law in other contexts.

Our education agenda is progressing as we consolidate on the success of our existing undergraduate modules through the introduction of two new additions: Employment Law and Global Legal Services.

CEPLER continues to thrive and this is due, in no small part, to the commitment and dedication of the team; the invaluable support of our academic colleagues and professional partners; and for the generosity of the many Law School alumni whose enthusiastic support of our activity is of immense benefit to our students.

Once again, we are grateful for your continued engagement.



The CEPLER Framework

CEPLER is part of the Law School at the University of Birmingham. It encompasses those Law School activities which are linked to law in practice and to the legal profession.

CEPLER's objectives are to:

- create opportunities for and facilitate world class research on the legal profession, law in practice and legal education;
- support and facilitate the impact of the Law School's research across all fields of law, and encourage public engagement;
- enhance the legal practice skills, commercial awareness and employability of Law School students;
- have instilled in Birmingham Law School Graduates a sense of civic duty and citizenship; and
- increase awareness of legal rights and responsibilities amongst the wider community, each in collaboration with the legal profession, our students, the wider university, other academics, policy makers, regulators and others.

Contents

Page 2 **Introduction and the
CEPLER Framework**

Page 3 **The CEPLER Team**

Page 4 **CEPLER Headlines**

Page 5-6 **Pro Bono Group**

Page 7-8 **CEPLER Careers Calendar**

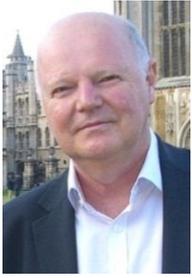
Page 9 **Careers**

Page 10 **Advocacy**

Page 11-12 **Research**

Page 14 **Education**

Meet the CEPLER Team



Professor Robert Lee
Director of CEPLER

A specialist in regulation, particularly health and environmental law, Robert has worked in two of the UK's largest law firms and has held positions on numerous committees and panels.



Linden Thomas
In-House Solicitor and CEPLER Manager

Linden qualified as a solicitor with SGH Martineau, specialising in Employment Law. She oversees many of our pro bono projects and links with the profession.



Dr Steven Vaughan
Director of Research

Steven has been a practising solicitor and held lectureships at Cardiff and Bristol. He is a Future Research Leader for the ESRC and is currently working on a 3-year project on Corporate Lawyer-Client relationships.



Dr Bharat Malkani
Director of Pro Bono

Bharat specialises in the field of human rights and criminal justice. He joined the Law School from Bristol University in 2008 and established the Pro Bono Group in 2009.



Emily Carroll
Director of Careers

Having qualified as a solicitor in 2005, Emily brings a decade of experience and understanding of the legal marketplace from roles with Irwin Mitchell, Walker Morris and Shoosmiths.



Theresa Lynch
Director of Advocacy

Theresa was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn before joining the Law School from her role with the CPS. She also teaches the CEPLER Advocacy Module and is researching BME Students and Mooting.



Emma Flint
Director of Education

Emma joined the Law School in December 2014. A corporate lawyer for nearly ten years, Emma left private practice in 2008 and was made a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Authority in 2014.



Lesley Griffiths
Senior Administrator

Lesley supports the extra-curricular and careers-related activities in the Law School, including devising and coordinating the CEPLER Professional Development (CPD) Scheme.



Caroline Bowen
Administrative Assistant

Caroline joined CEPLER in October 2015 and quickly became an integral part of the smooth-running of our systems and projects, coordinating the CPD records and supporting careers and pro bono activity.



Professor Erika Rackley
CEPLER Professor

Erika has an international reputation for her research in judicial diversity, the nature of judging, and gender equality in the legal profession. Her influence has earned her a coveted Leverhulme Prize.



Dr Julian Lonbay
CEPLER International Development Officer

Julian researches and advises on the law relating to legal education, lawyers and other professionals and he teaches on the CEPLER Regulation of the Legal Profession module and the new Global Legal Services module.



Piers Von Berg
CEPLER Member

Piers is a Law School Teaching Fellow, specialising in Youth Crime and Justice and Advanced Constitutional Law. He is also a practicing barrister and a member of 36 Bedford Row.

CEPLER Headlines

Birmingham Law School Shortlisted for National Pro Bono Award

In April 2016 Birmingham Law School was shortlisted for the 'Best Contribution by a Law School' Award at the prestigious LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards. We were selected for the shortlist in recognition of the breadth and high quality of our pro bono work.



Caroline, Lesley and Linden, with student Pro Bono Group Chair Christopher Walker

Birmingham Project

In June, participants in this two-week initiative were asked to consider 'How can technology assist with access to justice?' as part of the Birmingham Project. The Birmingham Project is a university-wide multidisciplinary initiative for first year students. Teams of students are given two weeks to research a topical problem and design a solution, which they are then required to pitch in a formal presentation to a panel of judges from industry. The CEPLER theme, sponsored by IBM, saw students conduct research into the challenges faced by litigants in person and develop innovative technological solutions to assist them. We are delighted that one of the CEPLER teams won their category for their development of an app called 'JustEase', designed to aid litigants in person.

Celebrating the Harding Law Library

The Harding Law Library has served the Law School since 1961 and, on the eve of its closure and relocation to the new, state-of-the-art main library, we invited our alumni to join an evening reception to reminisce with peers, academics and former library staff. The library's relocation marks an exciting new phase in the life of the Law School as the development of the space will include new facilities for mooting and advocacy.



Former Librarians: Mary Blake, Sheila McDougall, & Margaret Vaughan

Court of Justice of the European Union

In May we were pleased to sponsor a trip for three of our LLM students, Blerina Bulica, Elena Alert Moreno and Victoria Annells, to visit the CJEU in Luxembourg, a rare opportunity to see the inner workings of this important institution. Organised by our colleague Karen McAuliffe, the students spent a packed day touring the buildings, attending case briefings and hearings and meeting with members of the court.

"Visiting the European Court of Justice further sparked my interest in European legal systems, particularly regarding human rights and international law. It has encouraged me to incorporate European law and human rights in my future career." Blerina Bulica

CEPLER Awards

The Annual CEPLER Awards recognise the commitment and achievements of our students in activity outside the curriculum. This year saw the introduction of four new awards: Highest Achievement in Careers, Highest Achievement in CEPLER Professional Development, Highest Achieving Student in 'Regulation of the Legal Profession' and the Head of School Award. These sit alongside existing awards to celebrate Outstanding Contribution to Pro Bono and Mooting, and the overall CEPLER Award for Outstanding Achievement in Extra-Curricular Endeavour.

In addition, 73 graduating students received Gold, Silver or Bronze awards in recognition of extra-curricular activity.

Pro Bono Group

CEPLER's Pro Bono Group has continued to increase the scale and scope of its offering during the 2015-16 academic year, with over 185 Birmingham Law School students engaging in pro bono work. The Group has grown rapidly in the last three years, with the total number of projects undertaken increasing from three to ten during that time.

Meanwhile, the capacity of the Group's existing projects has also increased. Some of the highlights of the last 12 months are set out below:

The **Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group** had a record breaking year in 2015-16 with 92 student volunteers working alongside over 60 professional volunteers to advise more clients than ever before on a diverse range of areas of law, including: family; wills and probate; employment; personal injury; contract disputes; landlord and tenant; and discrimination law.

The addition of Shakespeare Martineau LLP to our existing partnership with Mills & Reeve LLP and No5 Chambers has helped to increase our capacity. In particular, as demand for advice on family law matters has continued to be high, we have been able to increase the number of cases taken on in this area by an additional 50%.



The 2015-16 FLAG Coordinator Team

Student Pro Bono Conference

In November 2015 CEPLER partnered with BPP Law School to hold Birmingham's first Student Pro Bono Conference. Held during National Pro Bono Week, the event, hosted by Shoosmiths, was open to law students from universities across Birmingham and featured perspectives from within professional practice - including DLA Piper, Shoosmiths and No5 Chambers - along with presentations from: law students engaged in pro bono; Michael Bates, the manager of the Birmingham Community Law Centre; and Robert Bourns, Vice President of the Law Society.

"Pro Bono: Little words, BIG impact! The diverse range of speakers from Birmingham universities and the legal profession made for a highly informative and engaging afternoon. I attended the conference with an appreciation of the impact of Pro Bono work, but upon leaving felt committed to ensuring Pro Bono services are, as Robert Bourns (Vice President of the Law Society) stressed: 'sustained, long-term and accessible to the most vulnerable in society, representing shared values in the profession.'"



Sarah Hall
LLB Student and
Pro Bono Group
Member

Birmingham Student Beth Johnston shares her:
'Five Benefits I Got From Doing Pro Bono'

- 1. I learned the place that law students have in the world of law;*
- 2. I've been able to experience the importance of using our privileged position to give back;*
- 3. I've gained an understanding of the realities of the civil law system and the complexities of the court;*
- 4. I have discovered the fulfilment of being able to pursue passion;*
- 5. Lastly, I've learned just how patient, giving and passionate those involved with pro bono can be.*

Beth's full article can be downloaded as a CEPLER Working Paper: www.birmingham.ac.uk/cepler-working-papers



"...There is no doubt in my mind that when I qualify I will continue to be involved in pro bono work and, hopefully, help some students along the way."

Beth Johnston, LLB Student



CEPLER and partners at the 2015-16 FLAG Launch reception

Student volunteers have also continued to assist with weekly sessions at **Birmingham Community Law Centre** by interviewing clients of BCLC who present with immigration law queries and relaying pertinent details to the supervising solicitor, who then delivers advice to the clients. Students take attendance notes of all client interactions and assist the solicitor. This approach has increased the capacity of the supervising solicitor considerably, often allowing four clients to be interviewed and advised during a timeframe in which, without student support, only one client would have been seen.

Our **Environmental Law Foundation (ELF)** clinic, which is supported by No5 Chambers, has advised on a range of fascinating cases affecting local communities. Issues we have advised on include: odour and noise pollution; water pollution; and traffic pollution.

In addition to the projects outlined above: our **Criminal Appeals Assistance Unit**, continues to conduct casework on matters referred by the Centre for Criminal Appeals on cases of alleged miscarriages of justice; another cohort of students has participated in our project in conjunction with the University's **Immigration Student Advisory Service** to support the University's international students; our **Casework Research Assistance Group** has provided ad hoc research assistance and administrative capacity to local advice agencies and pro bono organisations; and our LLB for Graduate students continue to volunteer with the **Personal Support Unit**, assisting litigants in person through the Court process.

Street Law

StreetLaw is the Pro Bono Group's public legal education initiative, through which our students deliver informative and interactive presentations on legal topics to schools, community groups and other organisations, thereby empowering individuals by helping them to understand their own legal rights and responsibilities. The Group has increased its focus on public legal education this year, delivering nine times as many hours of StreetLaw sessions as last year.

Street Law in Schools

We have continued to deliver numerous StreetLaw sessions to secondary school students, including a brand new 'Justice Day' with year 7 pupils at The University of Birmingham School. We delivered a range of interactive sessions which got pupils thinking about the law and how it relates to them. We discussed their human rights, why we have criminal laws and how our justice system works. Our students challenged the pupils to decide what they would do if aliens invaded planet earth; we asked them to determine what they think should be a crime and what shouldn't; and we got them to conduct a whole mock trial.

Street Law in the Community

SIFA Fireside is a Birmingham based charity that supports the homeless and drug and alcohol dependent. Since October 2015 our student volunteers have delivered a series of presentations on topics requested by SIFA's clients, including: squatters' rights; rights for EU migrants; stop and search; and disability rights.

Street Law and Litigants in Person

In November 2015 the Group launched a project at the **Birmingham Employment Tribunal** which is aimed at helping litigants in person. Bringing a claim is a complex process and can be a daunting experience. Many people seek to represent themselves in Tribunal proceedings without legal advice or representation because they cannot afford the services of a lawyer and there is no public funding available to assist them. So our students deliver weekly presentations at the Tribunal which seek to demystify the Tribunal process by giving an overview of the entire procedure and what to expect at a Final Hearing, explaining technical terms and giving practical examples and tips to help litigants manage their cases effectively.

Leaders in Law Lecture Series

CEPLER's distinguished Leaders in Law public lecture series continued to welcome esteemed figures in their respective fields:

Thursday 15th October

Dame Linda Dobbs

Is it the end of lawyers? The changing legal landscape

Linda Dobbs was the first non-white High Court Judge in 2004, becoming Senior Liaison Judge for Diversity and has been named one of Britain's most powerful black women, featuring regularly in the Power 100 List of Influential Black Britons.

Tuesday 8th December

His Honour Judge Brian Barker

The Changing Face of the Criminal Trial: Is the Jury Fit for Purpose?

Judge Barker graduated from UoB in 1966 and went on to excel as a criminal barrister in London, both prosecuting and defending. He was appointed as Senior Circuit Judge in 2000 and has served as Common Serjeant of London and Recorder of London.

Thursday 11th February

Karl Chapman, Riverview Law

All Change: Customers are the winners in the emerging legal market

Karl is CEO of Riverview Law, a Legal Service provider set up in 2011. He has a long pedigree in starting, growing and managing successful companies and providing a fascinating forward-thinking perspective on the future of legal service provision.

Monday 28th September

LLM Careers Talk

Making the Most of Your LLM

Clare Doolan & Emily Carroll

Tuesday 29th September

Careers Talk

To Be ... or Not to Be a Lawyer

Emily Carroll

Thursday 8th October

Careers Lecture

Has the Bar a Future?

Judge John Price

Thursday 15th October

Careers Workshop

Dame Linda Dobbs

Tuesday 20th October

Skills Session

Negotiation Skills

Browne Jacobson

Thursday 22nd October

Careers Event

RPC Trainee Solicitor Panel Event

Tuesday 27th October

Careers Lecture

What's My Career Strategy?

Emily Carroll and Clare Doolan

Tuesday 3rd November

Careers Lecture

Making the Most of the Law

Fair & What Not to Wear

Emily Carroll and Clare Doolan

Wednesday 4th November

Skills Session

Lawyer in a Business Deal

University of Law

Thursday 5th November

Shoosmiths, 2 Colmore Square

National Pro Bono Week

Student Conference

Tuesday 10th November

Careers Event

Speed Networking

Bevan Brittan

Tuesday 10th November

Skills Session

Insight into Commercial Awareness

Clifford Chance Workshop

Wednesday 11th November

Skills Session

Application Hints and Tips

Freshfields

Thursday 12th November

Careers Lecture

Sex, Sexuality and Freedom of

Religion Under the Law

Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton

Wednesday 25th November

Clifford Chance and My Kind of

Crowd Workshop

Thursday 26th November

Skills Session

Squire Patton Boggs

Interview Questions That Every Law

Student Should Know

Tuesday 1st December

Careers Workshop

Global Work in the West Midlands

& Application Hints and Tips

Deutsche Bank

Thursday 3rd December

Careers Lecture

Researching my Law Career

Emily Carroll and Clare Doolan

Thursday 3rd December

Perspectives in Public Law

Administrative Law from the

Coalface

Richard Gordon QC

Calendar of Careers Events

Tuesday 8th December
Birmingham Law in the City
DLA, Eversheds, Pinsents,
Wragges

Tuesday 8th December
CEPLER Breakfast Lecture
**Protection of Civilians by UN
Peacekeeping Missions Under
International Law**
Conor Foley

Thursday 14th January
Skills Session
**Mock Assessment 1:
Written Exercises**
Emily Carroll

Wednesday 20th January
Skills Session
Aspiring Lawyers
Mock Interviews

Thursday 21st January
Skills Session
Negotiation Skills
Slaughter and May

Tuesday 26th January
**Working as an International
In-house Lawyer**
Anita Adam
Head of Legal, UK and Ireland
Molson Coors Brewing Co.

Thursday 28th January
Law in Practice Series
Child and Family Law
Oliver Powell, Barrister

Wednesday 3rd February
Skills Session
Negotiation Case Study
Macfarlanes

Wednesday 10th February
**Step by Step Guide to Applying
for Firms, Getting Through Your
Interviews and What 'Commercial
Awareness' Really Entails**
Simon Davies, Linklaters LLP

Tuesday 23rd February
Skills Session
**Mock Assessment 2:
Legal Focus Exercise**
Emily Carroll

Thursday 25th February
After My (Graduate) Law Degree
Dilmini Bonas, Campbell Bader LLP
Patrick Wisheu, Mills & Reeve LLP

Tuesday 1st March
Skills Session
**Mock Assessment 3:
Group Session**
Clare Doolan

Thursday 3rd March
Careers Workshop
**Changes to the Solicitor
Qualification Process**
Paul McConnell
University of Law

Monday 7th March
**Climate Change Law: Atmospheric
Trust Litigation in the US**
Professor Randall S Abate

Monday 13th June
Skills Workshop
Mini Mock Assessment Centre
Emily Carroll, Clare Doolan

Alternatives to Traditional Legal Practice

Monday 15th February
After My Law Degree
Anthony McCourt
Court Collaborations
Anthony, a UoB alumnus, qualified as a solicitor in 2007 but left the law a year later to pursue a career in property development. His successes include leading the £92m 'Cube' development out of administration and founding Birmingham's first Enterprise Academy.

Tuesday 16th February
Pro Bono in Practice
Stas Kuzmierkiewicz
DLA Piper
Stas is a full-time pro bono associate at global law firm DLA Piper. In this talk, he examined the pro bono culture at his firm, and his own career in the sector, highlighting the benefits of pro bono to young lawyers.

Wednesday 17th February
Global In-house Careers
Charlotte Cale
Carillion PLC
Carillion is one of the UK's leading support service companies and this talk profiled some of the alternative legal careers emerging as a result of de-regulation of the legal market, in the context of working for a global corporate.

Thursday 18th February
Research Careers in Law
Laura Holloway
Solicitors Regulation Authority
Laura is a researcher and analyst and here she highlighted the varied work of her role with the SRA, such as informing the SRA consultation on the revision of solicitors' qualifying examinations.

Work Experience Opportunities

CEPLER continues to partner with a variety of legal and related organisations to offer work experience opportunities to students.

Placements vary in length and scope; we provide traditional four-week summer schemes, including placements with:

- Bailey Wright & Co
- Birmingham Personal Support Unit
- British Pregnancy Advisory Service
- CM Solicitors

Up to one-week placements with organisations such as:

- Higgs & Sons
- Deutsche Bank
- No5 Chambers mini-pupillage
- Employment Tribunal/Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau

One-day 'insight' opportunities at:

- Allen & Overy
- Birmingham Employment Tribunal
- *Birmingham Law in the City*: co-hosted by four leading firms
- A guided visit to the Court of Justice in Luxembourg

We also facilitate occasional longer-term paid internships, such as with Hill Hofstetter

Law student Daisy Walker participated in a four-week work experience placement with the Birmingham Personal Support Unit:

"My placement with the PSU was the best work experience I have had to date. I began the application process knowing very little about the organisation and the area of law I wished to pursue. By the end of my internship, I had better knowledge, increased skillset and a firm career direction. This is not just a 'making cups of tea' type work experience – you are actively encouraged to take part in the day to day running of the Unit. I cannot stress highly enough how worthwhile undertaking a CEPLER internship is."

Careers

CEPLER's comprehensive careers provision expanded in scope this year, delivering lectures, seminars and workshops on a wider variety of law and law-related careers.

Traditional fixtures prevailed, such as the Law in Practice lecture series, but in response to student feedback, there was a greater emphasis on skills development, with sessions including: interview techniques; negotiation skills; applications sessions; networking; and commercial awareness.

This year we launched the Birmingham Law in the City scheme, inviting 30 of our highest achieving students to an event hosted by four city centre firms each delivering an interactive session to enhance skills and inform participants of life in practice.

Alternatives to Traditional Legal Practice

Not all of our students are intent on pursuing careers as barristers or solicitors and, increasingly, students look outside the traditional routes for different ways to use their legal skills. During February CEPLER hosted a week of careers talks focused on a range of different paths, focusing on widening choices, including: business and property development; coordinating the pro bono department of a leading law firm; in-house opportunities in a multinational business; and legal research and analysis.

Advice and Support

Working in partnership with the University's Careers Network, we have continued to provide a weekly advice drop-in service for students looking to sharpen their interview technique, refine their CV, increase their understanding of employers' expectations and a host of other questions.

In June, we staged a mock assessment centre, which gave students the opportunity for practical application of some of the principles presented at three workshops earlier in the year. Second year student Hannah McKay participated in the event and said:

"Before today's session I was really nervous about not being able to cope in assessment days, to the point where I wasn't confident enough to apply for a lot of things. I now feel much more prepared, however - your advice and feedback has been invaluable, and I just wanted to express how grateful I am for the opportunity."

Advocacy

CEPLER Director of Advocacy, Theresa Lynch, has once again steered our mooting participants through three hard-fought internal competitions, as well as organising teams to represent the School at various external competitions.

Alumni Cup: first year law students compete in this competition, and this year's winner was **Tony Roberts**. The Alumni Cup is judged almost exclusively by our generous alumni and we are very grateful, as always, for their support.

Competing in the Alumni Cup has not only strengthened my ability to read law but also to understand its application in a way which is otherwise difficult to achieve. Each stage provided new, and thought provoking, challenges which really tested one's ability. Furthermore, our etiquette definitely evolved; an opportunity which is hard to come by outside of the mooting court. It is an opportunity I am proud to say I took, and provided an experience I will certainly remember.

Tony Roberts, 2016 winner of the Alumni Cup



Camm Cup: participants are second and third year law students and this year's Camm Cup was awarded to **Alexander Barbour**. In keeping with tradition, this year's Holdsworth President Lord Justice Lloyd Jones chaired the Camm Cup judging panel.

Participating in mooting activities in the law school is a great experience, and one I would certainly recommend. Not only does it improve advocacy abilities, but it allows you to engage with the law in a unique way, more akin to practice. The support of No5 Chambers also means that you have the opportunity to gain invaluable feedback from barristers.

Alexander Barbour, Camm Cup winner 2016



Postgraduate Cup: LLM and LLB for Graduate students participate in the Postgraduate Cup and this year's recipient was **Chelsea Thompson**. Both the Camm and Postgraduate Cups are sponsored by No5 Chambers. The competitions are judged mainly by barristers from No5 and CEPLER is grateful to them for their support.

Participating in the Postgraduate Mooting Cup was not only an enjoyable experience, but also a valuable one. It expanded my understanding of how to apply the law by providing a more tangible experience than that offered by textbooks. The advice from the No.5 barristers helped me to not just evaluate my advocacy skills, but also improve them. Overall, the competition solidified my belief that the legal field is challenging, exciting and right for me.

Chelsea Thompson, 2016 winner of the Postgraduate Cup



External Competitions

CEPLER was proud to be represented at national mooting competitions this year, which included:

The Inner Temple Inter-varsity Moot in January; The English Speaking Union (ESU) Moot in February; and the London School of Economics LGBT Moot in March.

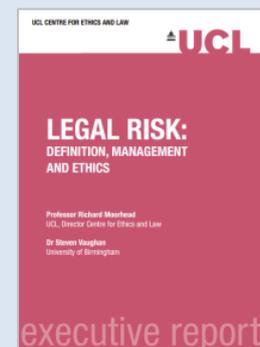
Research

CEPLER's aim is to foster cutting edge, independent research on the legal profession and legal education and to provide a forum for debate for policy makers, regulators, practitioners and national and international academic communities. We want to do work that is rigorous, critical and reflective, and which also speaks to the various stakeholders with whom CEPLER engages.

Publications and Projects

Members of the CEPLER team have worked together on a wide number of research projects over the last twelve months, including:

- Bharat and Linden undertook a piece of empirical work to explore student motivations, perceptions, and experiences of doing pro bono work at the Law School. Their paper is to be published this year in an edited collection titled *Social Justice and Legal Education*.
- Continuing the social justice theme, Linden and Steven worked with a Law School student (Alastair Young) on a piece on how large law firms 'do' corporate social responsibility. This was published by *Legal Ethics* in 2015.
- Steven and Emma Oakley have written about corporate lawyers in large firms, arguing that they are 'ethically apathetic'. This will be published by *Legal Ethics* in 2016 and also forms part of their *The Limits of Lawyers* book that they are writing.
- Before her departure, Hilary Sommerlad initiated an empirical piece of work with Linden and Lesley on litigants in person and the impacts on them of cuts to legal aid. This ties in with working currently being undertaken by Bob on litigants in person at the Birmingham courts.
- Emily and Steven are in the middle of a project looking at 'northshoring'; the use by global law firms of 'hub' offices outside of London. Emily will speak on this work in New York in July 2016.
- As part of her Professional Doctorate in Education studies and building on Steven's work on diversity within the legal profession, Emma Flint has been evaluating the Legal Service Board's diversity reporting rule using a critical race theory lens, which will be published as a forthcoming CEPLER Working Paper later this year.
- Steven's research on large law firms and the professional principle of independence has been cited by the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and led to an invitation to give the keynote lecture at the March 2016 'Legal Ethics Forum' of the Canadian Bar Association in Toronto.



Conferences

This last year, we have presented CEPLER research at conferences in the UK, the wider EU, the US, Canada and South Africa. We have also continued to host our own CEPLER conferences at the University of Birmingham, and to support our Law School colleagues with their events: this has included our sponsorship of the summer 2016 Institute for European Law conference; and of the November 2015 event 'Appointing Judges in an Age of Diversity' to mark the 10th anniversary of the Judicial Appointments Commission (organised by Erika and Graham Gee, and co-funded by the Socio-Legal Scholars Association and the Institute for Judicial Administration).

In June 2015, Steven held a two-day symposium at the Law School as part of his three year, UK government funded project *The Limits of Lawyers*. The papers, speakers and delegates at the 2015 symposium intentionally reflected a broad church: academics, students, private practice solicitors, in-house lawyers, law firm General Counsel, regulators, consultants and members of the public. The more than 100 delegates and 35 speakers also represented a wide geographic spread, drawing on experiences of corporate lawyers and corporate clients in the UK, the wider EU, North America, Australia and Indonesia.

Over two days last summer, we explored various aspects of large law firm practice: the relationships between corporate lawyers and their clients; lawyer independence and the rule of law; legal professional privilege; law firms, businesses and human rights; legal risk; the changing role of General Counsel; bribery and corruption; lawyers' duties etc. Paul Philip, Chief Executive of the Solicitors Regulation Authority, opened the symposium and the keynote address was by Richard Moorhead, Professor of Law and Ethics at University College London. Eight of the papers from the Symposium are currently in production for a Special Issue of the international journal *Legal Ethics*, guest edited by Steven. A number of other papers from the Symposium appear as CEPLER Working Papers.

CEPLER Working Papers

We are enormously proud of our Working Paper series which offers up a free-to-access, public space for reflection on the legal profession and legal education for authors from the academy, from practice, from our student body and further afield. Some of the papers are draft articles; others are shorter op-eds on matters of current interest.

The 22 current Working Papers have had more than 4,000 downloads since the series began in late 2014. If you would like to write for us, we would love to hear from you.

Published in the last year:

'Typical Lawyers': Clones, Clients and Fitness for Purpose in Times of Change (Mark Crowder, Catherine Shephard)

The Regulatory Balancing Act (Iain Miller)

Corporate Lawyers: Values, Institutional Logics and Ethics (Prof Richard Moorhead)

Corporate Bribery and Tax Abuse: what's law got to do with it? (Prof Celia Wells)

Corporate Lawyers and the Public Interest (Dr Steven Vaughan)

Keepers of the Gate: Access to the Solicitors' Profession in the 21st Century (Dr Lawrence Etherington)

Response to the 'Future Bar Training' Consultation (Dr Steven Vaughan)

Guidance and the Regulatory Space for Solicitors (Dr Steven Vaughan)

A 'brexit' would be a serious threat to London as the centre of globalised legal services (2015 Essay Competition Winner)

Symbolism over Substance? Large Law Firms and Corporate Social Responsibility (Dr Steven Vaughan, Linden Thomas, Alastair Young)

Response to LSUC Consultation Paper: 'Promoting Better Legal Practices' (Dr Steven Vaughan)

The 'Lottery' of Justice: Exploring Some of the Consequences of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and the Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Linden Thomas)

Five Benefits I Got From Doing Pro Bono: A Student Pro Bono Conference Paper (Beth Johnson)



www.birmingham.ac.uk/cepler-workingpapers

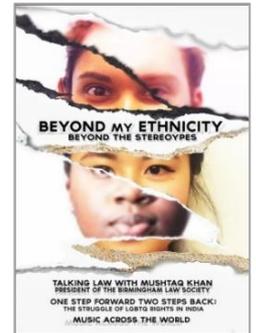
Education

CEPLER's focus on innovative, practice-led approaches to legal education enhances our students' understanding of professional practice and develops their commercial awareness, incorporating practitioner input and reflecting real world legal environments.

Project work

Members of CEPLER work collaboratively with our law students on legal educational project work. Examples of this in the last 12 months include:

- Bharat and Emma Flint supporting a team of second year law students led by Stephanie Stevens in their successful application for CLAD Educational Enhancement Fund (EEF) funding to design and develop an 'e-magazine' to provide a platform for BAME students to engage with Birmingham Law School. Launched in March 2016, '*Beyond my Ethnicity*' (the first edition of which can be found at: <https://issuu.com/beyondmyethnicity/docs/final?e=23914382%2F34257755>) contained articles written by law students tackling diversity issues and interviews with members of the legal profession from a range of global, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



- Emma Flint working alongside Law School colleague Dr. Clark Hobson on a project involving staff and students working collaboratively as partners in curriculum design. The student partners, Grace Morrow, Charlotte Whitehead, Alex Barbour and Andrei Pintilli (3rd year law students) and James Williams, Eileen Hsieh, Sarah Carlyon, Tihomir Dimitrov (2nd year law students) have designed and developed online learning materials to support the student learning experience in selected 1st and 2nd year undergraduate core legal modules. Funding for this project was provided from the College of Arts and Law Student Experience fund and the student partners will be disseminating their work, experiences and evaluation of this project at both internal and external conferences over the summer of 2016.

CEPLER Reading Group

Looking to promote the CEPLER role as a bridge between our students and the 'real' worlds of law, in 2016, members of the CEPLER team will be working with students to launch the 'CEPLER Reading Group'. The Reading Group will provide a forum for students and staff to come together to discuss and explore readings related to public legal education and the legal profession from a variety of sources (media, literature, blogs, journals, policy briefings etc.). Our aim will be for the Reading Group to be student centred and led whilst providing an opportunity to build on our existing CEPLER community of practice. We are currently applying for funding from the College of Arts and Law to support the project, with a view to launching the CEPLER Reading Group later this year.

CEPLER and the Birmingham Graduate

Steven, Emily, Theresa, Linden and Emma Flint, along with students from Birmingham Law School, will be presenting at the University's annual Teaching and Learning Conference on 28 June 2016. The theme this year is '*Developing the Birmingham Graduate Attributes*', which overlaps with a number of CEPLER initiatives and themes. The CEPLER team will be sharing their work on CEPLER modules, such as Regulation of the Legal Profession and Advocacy, plus Street Law and Careers support, at the event.

CEPLER Re-skill

Launched during the summer of 2015, the Re-skill scheme matched LLM students to Law School staff to provide assistance with the staff member's research. The scheme was devised with the dual aim of supporting colleagues in their work and providing students with the opportunity to enhance their research skills whilst earning money. Since its launch, CEPLER has sponsored over 500 hours of research time, providing services such as: proof-reading, compiling footnotes, literature reviews, database development, and transcription.

Emma Flint, CEPLER Director of Education, was one of the participating academics. Emma commented:

"I applied for a CEPLER RE-Skill Student to help with the evaluation of one my Birmingham Fellow (Teaching) educational research projects involving providing multi-media feedback in my Tort law module. Amirah worked with me on the coding of data and evaluation of the data set to identify emerging themes, and assisted with the drafting of a literature review and designing a conference poster in respect of the data findings. In addition to presenting our poster at the University's Teaching and Learning Conference in June 2015, the literature review that Amirah worked on will form part of an article that we are writing together, which we are exploring publishing in the University's 'Education in Practice' journal later this year. Working with Amirah was a great experience – she was imaginative, creative and reliable. It was really useful to have the student perspective on my research work."

Amirah Hussein, Emma's student Re-skill assistant, added:

"What I gained through the programme was one of the more rewarding experiences that I have undertaken in my academic career. Assisting Emma on her project gave me confidence to venture cross-discipline and outside of my comfort zone. I gained valuable experience in writing about an area of research that was completely foreign to me and then presenting these findings to other academics in CAL. The Re-Skill programme gave me the opportunity to completely immerse myself in a different area of academic discipline, all the while enhancing my research and presentation skills."

CEPLER Essay Competition

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Essay Competition, this year's CEPLER essay competition focused on Brexit, with students from across the country invited to respond to the question of whether 'A *'brexit' would be a serious threat to London as the centre of globalized legal services'*.

Entries were judged by Dr. Steven Vaughan, then CEPLER Director of Education, and Professor Robert Lee, Director of CEPLER and Head of School

The winning essay (which has been published in CEPLER's Working Papers series) was written by Laurence Dushenski of Queens University, Belfast, who earned himself an iPad.

New CEPLER Modules for 2016-17

Following the success of our current undergraduate modules, Advocacy and Regulation of the Legal Profession, we are delighted to be expanding the provision by launching in September 2016 two brand new study options offering a practice perspective:

Employment Law Module

Led by Linden Thomas, this module gives students an insight into the theory and practice of employment law relating to individual rights, drawing on clinical legal education models, in a simulated practice setting to introduce topics such as unfair dismissal and discrimination, as well as professional conduct issues.

Global Legal Services Module

Led by Dr Julian Lonbay, this module looks at transnational legal services and their international regulatory arrangements, examining factors that affect lawyers and clients engaged in cross-border legal practice. It also covers areas such as: citizenship, recognition, scope of monopoly, organisation and training of lawyers, publicity rules, anti-bribery/corruption regulations, and legal services delivered by non-lawyers.

CEPLER Year in Numbers 2015-16

100%

The percentage of unrepresented parties in Employment Tribunal cases who found the advice in student Street Law presentations helpful

The total number of CPD points earned by this year's graduands

21,635

48

The number of external speakers who provided careers talks and interactive workshops this year

73

the total number of CEPLER Professional Development award-winners in 2015-16

98%

The percentage of students who felt that working on FLAG cases has been of educational value

the number of downloads of CEPLER Working Papers since its launch

4,343

The number of cases advised on by students through the Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group

40

The number of students undertaking external CEPLER work experience opportunities

82

513

Hours of paid academic research assistance given Birmingham Law School staff by LLM students through the CEPLER Re-skill scheme

If you have any comments or questions about the contents of this report, or if you or your organisation would be interested in working with CEPLER please contact Linden Thomas, CEPLER Manager, at l.thomas@bham.ac.uk or on 0121 414 5780.

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PROFESSIONAL LEGAL
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
BIRMINGHAM LAW SCHOOL