Dr. Semande Ayihongbe

Semande joined Newcastle Law School as a Research Associate in February 2017. Her research interests lie in the field of Medical Law and Ethics, with a focus on the legal and ethical challenges raised by advances in healthcare biotechnology and medicine. She also has a growing interest in the legal and ethical challenges raised by emerging autonomous systems and robotics. Her current research examines the legal and ethical challenges posed by implantable medical devices and complex prosthetics. Semande holds an LLB from the University of Bedfordshire and a PhD from the University of Southampton. She was also awarded the Richard Newitt Bursary to support her doctoral study. During her time in Southampton, she worked as a Supervisor and Instructor on the Innocence Project and taught Land Law, and subsequently Public Law as a Part-time tutor.

Prior to her appointment, Semande worked in the NHS on projects to support the implementation of the Carenotes Electronic Clinical Record System across NHS Trusts (Worcestershire Health & Care Trust and Devon Partnership Trust). In the past, Semande has also worked with the Legal Services Department at Central Bedfordshire Council where she worked as an authorised officer for the Council in matters covering a range of areas which include litigation (criminal and civil), contract law, administrative law, social security law, and licensing law. Her teaching interests include Constitutional and Administrative Law, Medical Law and Ethics, Land Law, and Employment Law. At Newcastle, Semande teaches Medicine and Law, and Public Law.

SLSA Conference 2017

Newcastle University hosted the 2017 SLSA conference between 5th and 7th April 2017. With more than 400 papers presented across forty-one streams and themes, and with fourteen posters presented, the over 450 colleagues who attended the conference enjoyed three days of varied discussion covering the whole range of socio-legal studies.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘visions of law’. On the one hand, this meant exploring the visual representations of law and the relationship between law and the visual. On the other hand, it also encompassed the myriad ways of ‘seeing’ law which are made possible by socio-legal studies. Our plenary panel, who spoke to the central conference theme, were: Thomas Giddens, Linda Mulcahy, Amanda Perry-Kessaris, and Leonora Saunders.

For the duration of the conference, Newcastle also hosted Leonora Saunders’ Athena Project, a photography exhibition which celebrates inspirational women of the law. Delegates were also invited to explore the Laing, an art gallery in the centre of Newcastle featuring a number of permanent exhibitions and, at the time of the conference, an exhibition on the illustrations of Quentin Blake.

On the first day of the conference, we held a drinks reception in the main gallery space of the Great North Museum and on the second day the conference dinner and prize-giving took place in the beautiful art deco Great Hall of the Discovery Museum. The SLSA was once again able to fund conference attendance for postgraduate researchers, thanks to the generosity of the *Journal of Law and Society* and *Social and Legal Studies*; and we were also able to grant several hardship bursaries to people who would not otherwise have been able to attend. A total of nineteen awards were made under these two schemes.

The organising committee were grateful to all those that helped with the running of the conference, particularly those academic and support colleagues without whose help it would simply not have been possible to organise such a large, complex event. Even the weather was on board: attendees enjoyed three days of beautiful weather for this year’s conference. The 2018 SLSA conference will be hosted in Bristol.
Inspirational women of the law 2017 celebrated the achievements of iconic and influential women who have a strong connection to the law – including legal practitioners, academics, and campaigners. It was an event for students (Newcastle and local sixth formers) and aimed to increase the visibility of women in law and encourage and inspire our students to use the law in their careers. This year we celebrated in particular black, Asian and minority ethnic women, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the conferral of an honorary degree by the University on Dr Martin Luther King (and part of Freedom City 2017). This was a half day event featuring seven speakers including Funke Abimbola (a Newcastle graduate, and general counsel at Roche pharmaceuticals), Chrisann Jarrett (an LSE law student who led the Let Us Learn campaign that resulted in a successful legal challenge before the Supreme Court); and Marcia Willis Stewart (solicitor who, inter alia, represented families of victims at the Hillsborough Inquiry). It was attended by approximately 120 people including sixth form students and members of the Angelou Centre, as well as members of the legal profession. It received lots of positive coverage on social media (see the twitter feed @Women_ofLaw) and visits to the webpage (www.iwlaw.uk).

The event was as good as the inaugural event in 2015! The focus on women from a BAME background was especially important in terms of providing role models for students and women of colour. A local solicitor emailed to say ‘Yesterday was a triumph that will impact the lives of those young women Law students, especially the BME students, probably for the rest of their lives. You may never know the impact you have had in putting this together for them’ and it was appreciated by local sixth formers who attended with their teacher saying ‘Thank you so much to you and your team for every aspect of this fantastic occasion. Though my students can be a little reserved and shy on such occasions they exercised themselves into some wonderful conversations, as well as thoroughly enjoying all of the sessions’. The event was a phenomenal success and the speakers were truly inspirational. Students who attended found it very worthwhile with one noting that ‘It was by far the best day of my degree here at Newcastle, and gave me the motivation for my finals and to carry on applying for work experience”.

The Judiciary: Empirical Analyses (Seminar Series)

Empirical analysis of law is an area of intensifying research-related activity. For this reason, academics within and outside the School have contributed to a seminar series on ‘The Judiciary: Empirical Analyses’. The series has included papers on ‘Studying Judicial Disagreement: The Case of Judges on the UK’s Highest Court’ (Professor T.T. Arvind and Professor Lindsay Stirton (Sussex)), ‘The Selection of Panel Members on the UK Supreme Court’ (Dr Chris Hanretty (School of Politics, East Anglia)), and ‘The Impact of the Good Friday Agreement on the Judiciary in Northern Ireland’ (Professor Brice Dickson (Queen’s University Belfast)). Forthcoming papers include: ‘The European Court of Human Rights’ Influence on the Institutional Relationships and Administrative Efficiency of the UK Supreme Court’ (Dr Jaclyn Paterson (Northumbria University), and ‘Judicial Personalities, Judicial Reasoning: an Empirical Investigation’ (Dr Hélène Tyrell (Newcastle)).

Imagination and Legal Practice (Workshop)

The Law School hosted an inter-disciplinary workshop on ‘Imagination and Legal Practice’ on Wednesday 10 May 2017. the workshop was intended as a scoping event to explore the relationship between imagination and legal practice, drawing on the insights of disciplines outside of jurisprudence, and to consider the potential for a new research network based around this theme. As such, attendees from any discipline that were interested in joining such a network were welcome. The workshop was organised into two substantive sessions: ‘Imagination Beyond Law—views from other disciplines’ and ‘Imagination in the Common law’. Speakers were drawn from Neuropsychology, Literature, Philosophy and Law.
Law School News

Law School Teaching Excellence Awards Nominations

Congratulations to the Law School staff nominated for the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEAs) 2017! The TEAs are the students’ chance to nominate staff who have helped improve their student experience here. Staff members who were nominated: Ms Jasmine Winter and Professor Muireann Quigley (both Outstanding Contribution to Pastoral Support); Dr Elena Katselli (Research Supervisor of the Year); Mr Richard Hogg (Professional Services Staff Member of the Year); Dr Sylvia Demars and Dr Ole Pedersen (both Outstanding Contribution to Teaching). Special congratulations to Dr Nikki Godden-Rasul who was shortlisted for the Research Supervisor of the Year Award.

International Legal Studies (ILS) Degree Stream Launched

Newcastle Law School continues to expand our international student exchange programmes to mirror the growth of our school over the past 6 years, and to reflect our inclusion this year in the QS World University Rankings by Law. In 2017/18 several Newcastle Law School students will be studying on exchange at the National University of Singapore and the University of Hong Kong for the first time, both outstanding international law faculties. We also have a new exchange partnership with the University of Trento, which is one of the leading Italian legal research institutions, and set against the beautiful background of the Dolomites in Northern Italy. 12% of our current second year students will be studying abroad, spread across the globe, during 2017/18, and we continue to expand our exchange places to ensure that every able student has the terrific opportunity to spend a year studying law at one of our excellent partners.

Participating exchange students enter the standard Law LLB 3 year degree programme and apply for either our new International exchange (ILS) or European exchange (ELS) stream towards the end of Stage 1. If selected, participating students undertake an exchange year at a partner Law School between stages 2 and 3, and after the four years of study they are eligible for a distinctive exit degree – either the Law (International Legal Studies) LLB Honours degree or the Law (European Legal Studies) LLB Honours degree. These new exchange partners and expanding places with prestigious international partners highlight the growing international reputation and standing of Newcastle Law School. Queries should be directed to Dr Jonathan Galloway (jonathan.galloway@ncl.ac.uk).

The Not So Beautiful Game Conference

On Monday 8 May 2017, the Law School hosted a conference on the liability of football clubs for sexual abuse: ‘The Not So Beautiful Game’. The aim of the conference was to explore the prospective liability of the football clubs to compensate victims of sexual abuse. Specifically, whether the clubs can be held strictly liable for sexual abuse on the basis of the relationship between the clubs and the coaching staff who engaged in the sexual abuse, by way of vicarious liability or liability for breach of a non-delegable duty of care. A renowned group of international experts on strict liability were brought together for one afternoon to discuss the issues. Dr Desmond Ryan (Trinity College Dublin) chaired the seminar and speakers included: Professor Greg Keating (University of Southern California); Professor Paula Giliker (University of Bristol); Philip Morgan (University of York); Dr Christine Beuermann (Newcastle University).
Professor Richard Collier has recently been awarded a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship to pursue the project ‘Wellbeing, Law and Society: Politics, Policy and Practice – A Socio-Legal Study’, which will run from 1/9/17 to 31/8/18. The research links to Richard’s role as a member of the recently established Legal Professions Wellbeing Taskforce, spearheaded by the Law Society and Lawcare. Richard’s recent presentations include a Public Lecture in March 2017 ‘Asking the ‘Man Question’: Men, Masculinities and the Legal Professions’ in the Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Grand Challenges Lectures 2016-7 Series, University of Keele.

Dr Kevin Crosby’s paper, ‘Keeping Women off the Jury in 1920s England’, funded by the British Academy / Leverhulme Trust and Newcastle University, was one of only three papers to be shortlisted for the Best Paper at the SLS Annual Conference in Oxford.

Dr Jonathan Galloway was invited to visit and present a paper on ‘the legitimacy of sanctions in competition law’ to the Japan Fair Trade Commission’s Competition Policy Research Center in April 2017. Jonathan’s current research focuses on the regulatory enforcement approach adopted by competition law regimes, and a comparative assessment with other regulatory fields, and a comparison between Japan and the UK forms part of this research. Jonathan has also been appointed as a non-governmental adviser (NGA) to the International Competition Network by the UK Competition and Markets Authority.

Dr Elena Katselli has been visiting the European Academy of Bolzano and the Law Faculty of the University of Trento, Italy, as a Visiting Professor during the month of April. Her visits were organised as part of Dr Katselli’s research leave and her current research work on forced displacement by armed conflict and migration. Previously Dr Katselli held posts as Visiting Professor at the TC Beirne School of Law (University of Queensland, Australia), the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands), the Law Faculty (University of Tubingen, Germany) and the Human Rights Centre (University of Ghent, Belgium). During her visit to the European Academy of Bolzano, Dr Katselli presented a seminar titled ‘The Obligation of States to Protect Human Rights Extra-territorially’ (5 April 2017). The presentation focused on the results of research carried out with Dr Vassilis Tzevelekos (Liverpool University). Dr Katselli was also selected to present a paper at the 2017 annual conference on The Promotion and Enforcement of Human Rights by International and Regional Organisations organised by the Association of Human Rights Institutes in Leuven, Belgium, on 27 & 28 April 2017. Her presentation was titled ‘The Extra-territorial Reach of Human Rights in the Context of Migration’ and focused on the results of research carried out jointly with Dr Vassilis Tzevelekos (Liverpool University).

In May Dr Katselli was invited to present a paper at the European Society of International Law Prague - Nottingham Symposium on Non-UN Sanctions and International Law which was organised in Prague on 5 May 2017. The paper, titled ‘Critical Reflections on the Right of Non-injured States to Resort to Countermeasures for Protecting Collective/Community Interests’ focused on Dr Katselli’s expertise on the law on state responsibility and her monograph titled The Problem of Enforcement in International Law: Countermeasures, the Non-Injured State and the Idea of International Community. The monograph was nominated for the Paul Guggenheim Award in 2011 and remains internationally influential and one of handful pieces of research on this area of international law.

Professor Richard Mullender gave a paper entitled ‘Transmuting the Politico-Legal Lump: Brexit and Britain’s Constitutional Order’ at a conference on ‘Brexit: Origins and Prospects’ that took place in New York University’s School of Law in April.


On the 25th October 2016, Dr Turkmendag and Dr McMahon hosted a workshop on human genome editing which brought scholars from Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences (PEALS) from the university, and Prof Paul Martin from the University of Sheffield to discuss the various social, legal and ethical issues around the new techniques of genome editing including CRISPR/Cas9. In November 2016, Dr Turkmendag presented a paper on regulatory issues around human genome editing the EURORDIS workshop in Paris.

Dr Hélène Tyrell along with Professor Roger Masterman (Durham) and Ms Merris Amos (Queen Mary University London) was successful in an application to host the WG Hart Workshop 2018. The workshop will draw together a number of academics and practitioners, including high profile keynote speakers. The event will be held in London at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in June 2018, on the theme: ‘Building a 21st Century Bill of Rights’.

Professor TT Arvind and Dr Hélène Tyrell joined panellists from the Universities of Sheffield and Strathclyde to speak at a seminar entitled ‘Exit from the European Union: Article 50, Parliament and the Prerogative in the UK Courts’, hosted by the University of Liverpool on 28 November 2016. Dr Hélène Tyrell will return to Liverpool on 13-14 July 2017 to contribute a paper at a conference titled: ‘Twenty Years On: Assessing the State and Legacy of New Labour’s Constitution’.
**Staff Appointments**

**Professor Muireann Quigley** has joined the Editorial Board of Medical Law International.

**Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth** has been appointed to the advisory board of the Howard League’s programme to end the criminalisation of children in residential care homes.

**Dr Mac Sithigh** has been appointed as a panelist of the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) system administered by ADR.EU.

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**Research News**

**Recent Staff Publications**

**Books**


C Rodgers, *Agricultural Law* (Bloomsbury 2016)


ZS Tang (with Y Xiao, Z Huo), *Conflict of Laws in the People’s Republic of China* (Edward Elgar 2016)


**Articles**


R Collier, ‘Wellbeing in the Legal Profession: Reflections on Recent Developments (or, what do we talk about when we talk about wellbeing?)’ (2016) 23(1) International Journal of the Legal Profession 41


N Godden-Rasul (with N Cobb), ‘Campus Feminisms - A Conversation with Jess Lishak, Women’s Officer, University of Manchester Students’ Union, 2014–2016’ (2017) Feminist Legal Studies (online)


D Lawrence (with C Rhodes), Editorial: Translational Bodies: Ethical Aspects of Uses of Human Biomaterials’ (2016) 24(3) Health Care Analysis 175

D Lawrence (with J Harris), ‘The Edge of Human? The Problem with the Posthuman as the ‘Beyond’ 2016 Bioethics (online first)

McMahon A (with B Ní Ghráinne), A Public International Law Approach to Safeguard Nationality for Surrogate-Born Children 2016 Legal Studies (Epub ahead of print)


S Morley, ‘The subject matter, form and process of convergence and the ever-increasing role of the foreign investor’ (2016) 37(3) The Company Lawyer 71


C Murray (with A O'Donoghue), ‘Towards unilateralism? House of Commons Oversight of the Use of Force’ (2016) 65(2) International and Comparative Law Quarterly 305

C Murray (with A O’Donoghue), ‘A Path Already Travelled..."
Research News

in Domestic Orders? From Fragmentation to Constitutionalisation in the Global Legal Order’ [2017] International Journal of Law in Context (Epub ahead of print)
C Murray (with L Pitsillidou L, C Caine), ‘Student-led law reviews: What every UK law school needs?’ (2017) 51(2) The Law Teacher 170
M Quigley (with I Jones), ‘Preventing Lawful &; Decent Burial: Resurrecting Dead Offences’ (2016) 36(2) Legal Studies 354
R Smith (with S Farran), ‘When is a Child not a Child and Other Questions - a commonwealth-wide overview (2016) 105(4) The Round Table: the commonwealth journal of international affairs 363
T T Arvind (with L Stirton) ‘Legal Ideology, Legal Doctrine and the UK’s Top Judges’ [2016] Public Law 418
I Turkendag (with M ewitt, R Dingwall) ‘More than research intermediaries: a descriptive study of the impact and value of learned societies in the UK Social Sciences’ [2017] Science and Public Policy (e-pub ahead of print)
I Ward (with C McGlynn), ‘Women, Law and John Stuart Mill’ (2016) 25(2) Womens History Review 227

Book Chapters

A K Aldohni, ‘Conclusion: the lessons to be learned from the now told stories of the 2008 financial crisis’ in Law and Finance after the Financial Crisis: The Untold Stories of the UK Financial Market (Routledge 2017)
K Crosby, ‘R v Shipley (1784): The Dean of St Asaph’s Case’ in Landmark Cases in Criminal Law (Hart Publishing 2017)
N Godden-Rasul, Repairing the Harms of Rape of Women Through Restorative Justice in Restorative Responses to Sexual Violence: Legal, Social and Therapeutic Dimensions (Routledge 2017)
D Mac Sithigh, ‘The game’s the thing: properties, priorities and perceptions in the video games industries’ in Research Handbook on Intellectual Property in Media and Entertainment (Edward Elgar 2017)
S de Mars, ‘Exclusion and Self-Cleaning in Article 57: Discretion at the Expense of Clarity and Trade?’ in Reformation or Deformation of the EU Public Procurement Rules (Edward Elgar 2016)


M Quigley, ‘Organ Transplantation & Donation’ in Medical Ethics, Law and Communication at a Glance (Wiley Blackwell 2016)


Book Reviews


Reports

C Murray, S de Mars, A O’Donoghue, B Warwick, Policy Paper: ‘Brexit, Ireland and Northern Ireland’ (Durham University; Newcastle University, Social Science Electronic Publishing 2016)
**Undergraduate News**

### Bursaries, Scholarships and Work Placement Awards

Several Law School students have received bursaries, scholarships and work placements in the last few months. Cora McLaughlin and Nathan May received bursary agreements with work experience attached with Ward Hadaway while Oliver Smith received a certificate offering work experience. All were formally granted their awards at a ceremony at Ward Hadaway on Tuesday 28th February 2017. Oliver Smith was also awarded a scholarship and vacation scheme at Squire Patton Boggs. Caroline Stevens, head of resourcing at Squire Patton Boggs, described Oliver as an "outstanding" candidate. Squire Patton Boggs have also offered Catherine Zacharczuk a week’s work experience in their Leeds office, with accommodation and breakfast / evening meals paid for. Meanwhile, our Law School Alumni fund is currently sponsoring students in all 3 years at Newcastle: Mollie Fornander (stage 3), Bethany Hutchinson (stage 3), Sharina Navani (stage 2), Melissa Livingstone (stage 2), Fran Kirby (stage 2), Matthew Timm (year abroad), Alexander Kidd (year abroad).

### *New* Newcastle Law School ‘Achievement through Adversity’ Grants

Newcastle Law School is pleased to announce the creation of the new Achievement through Adversity Grant, which is funded by Law School Alumni. Alumni generously support the Law School Alumni Scholarships with are available to stages 2 and 3 students, and this is the first time financial support has been made available to Stage 1 students who satisfy the criteria. The grants are designed to offer a modest amount of financial support in Semester 2 to Stage 1 students who are committed to the degree programme, have clear academic potential, and who are overcoming (or have overcome) adversity in order to pursue their studies. This year, the panel made awards of £500 each to stage one students and it is expected that the Grant will be available again in 2017/18.

### Wider Academic Skills Programme (WASP) Launched

The Law School has launched a major learning and teaching initiative this year: the Wider Academic Schools Programme (WASP). Professor TT Arvind has lead the initiative, aiming to support undergraduate students alongside their substantive modules. Students attending the WASP sessions receive guidance on working with complex legal texts as well as researching and writing in law. In 2016/17 the programme was aimed at stage one students and ran in the first semester. There are plans to expand the programme into the second semester for 2017/18 as well as plans to develop sessions for stage 2 students soon after. A fuller report of the programme will be published in the coming months and reported in a future edition of this newsletter.

### *New* Westlaw Research Prize

A new research prize was established in 2016/17, to recognise and reward research skills evidenced by stage one students. The first Westlaw Research Prize for Newcastle University was awarded to a Stage One student for the most well-researched Legal Institutions and Method essay. Westlaw is an accessible online legal database containing cases, legislation and secondary sources such as journal articles, and many students find it a useful starting point for their research. At the beginning of a law degree, students can feel very overwhelmed by the concept of researching effectively, and this award was created with the aim of recognising what a crucial skill this is to develop. Essays achieving a mark of 67 or above were eligible to be considered for the prize. The essays were judged by Dr Hélène Tyrrell, who named Sam Burgess as the winner. Dr Tyrrell explained that “Mr Burgess’ essay showed a solid research trail coupled with a very strong understanding of the cited materials ... Overall, Mr Burgess’ essay demonstrated a maturity that is rarely seen in undergraduate work, let alone in stage one.”

Sam reacted: “winning the research prize was totally unexpected. As a first year student, learning how to conduct legal research and use pertinent authorities to construct a legal argument is a steep learning curve. Westlaw and other online tools form an indispensable element of such research. Accordingly, for my work to be acknowledged by the Law School is very encouraging. I look forward to further developing such skills while at Newcastle.”
The Newcastle Law School Moot Team have made it to the Finals of the ESU-Essex Court Chambers Moot Competition. Joe Beeney and Dan Boal, both stage 2 students, fought off stiff competition as one of 64 teams in the competition. The Newcastle Team secured wins against the University of Central Lancashire, University of Glasgow, University College London and, most recently, Birmingham City University. Issues mooted included nervous shock, vicarious liability, the loss of control defence and privacy/defamation.

The finals will be held in London on 20 June 2017. In the morning, the semi-finals will be held in Dartmouth House, which is the home of the English Speaking Union. If successful, the team will then compete in the grand final in the Royal Court of Justice in the afternoon. The one moot problem will be used for both the semi and the grand-final, requiring the team to prepare both sides of the argument. We wish Joe and Dan every success!

Newcastle University Bar Society and BPP University Law School (Leeds) jointly held the final of a pioneering new advocacy competition in the prestigious surroundings of the old Moot Hall in Newcastle.

The competition focussed on witness-handling instead of the traditional submission-based advocacy readily seen in mooting competitions across the country. The competition was organised principally by Newcastle University Law Students, with guidance from tutors at BPP University Law School in Leeds and followed a session on examination-in-chief and cross-examination delivered to all students by Criminal Barrister and BPTC Lecturer, Ben Smith.

The turnout and standard was refreshingly high in the early rounds, and the competitors were eventually narrowed down to just two finalists (pictured), Olivia Anne Lea (Newcastle University stage 1 student) and Rachel Butt (BPP University Law School). The final was heard at the Moot Hall in Newcastle, with Ben Smith and Ayshea Megery taking on the judging responsibilities. Miss Butt represented the Crown and Miss Lea the Defence.

The final was based on the fictitious criminal trial of Sidney Vicious, charged with causing Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent on Michael Jagger, with evidence coming from both, as well as Keith Richards and Johnathan Rotten. The students were required to perform five pieces of advocacy in the final, two examinations-in-chief, two cross-examinations and a closing speech. The winner, by a single point at the end of the trial, was Rachel Butt but both Judges were jointly impressed with the standard of advocacy on show and reported that the performance of both advocates was impressive. (This newsletter entry is adapted from an event report published on the BPP Blog, authored by Ben Smith, Barrister and BPTC Lecturer at BPP University Law School in Leeds: [http://blog.bpp.com/uncategorized/bpp-university-law-school-enjoys-mooting-competition-with-a-rockstar-twist/](http://blog.bpp.com/uncategorized/bpp-university-law-school-enjoys-mooting-competition-with-a-rockstar-twist/))

Newcastle Law School staff and students have been recognised for help with a local campaign to prevent a McDonalds drive through restaurant being built close to the largest secondary school outside of London. The campaign was successfully concluded in June 2016, when McDonalds withdrew their appeal. Along with staff and students in other university departments, two law students - Sam Benedict and Grace Holland - were actively involved in the campaign’s pro bono legal team. Sam and Grace worked with a local paralegal in developing the various witnesses statements and proofs of evidence; preparing bundles; collating evidence; developing counter arguments; and prepping witnesses. Unfortunately Grace was unwell and therefore unable to attend the actual appeal, however Sam was able to be there for the full 5 days. During this time he acquitted himself most professionally, indeed to the degree that McDonalds were of the understanding that he, and the other student from Northumbria were both qualified solicitors! The campaign team also extended their thanks to Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth, who helped to advertise the opportunity for law students to be involved in our campaign, and to the wider student body. The feedback was that the overall input from Newcastle University was immeasurable, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the local community and translating academic knowledge into practical action.
The Sir Mark Waller Postgraduate Law Scholarships support students embarking on postgraduate study at Newcastle Law School. The awards are available to international and home/EU students intending to pursue studies at Newcastle University in one of the following programmes: LLM International Business Law; LLM Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development; LLM International Law.

These Scholarships are awarded exclusively on academic merit in recognition of academic excellence. Those eligible to apply include: recent graduates; undergraduates completing their course before the start of the new academic year; those currently completing professional legal qualifications; non-Law graduates in a discipline related to the programme; International and home/EU students. There is no deadline or closing date. However, interested applicants are strongly advised to apply early. The recipients of the scholarships this year are: Sophie Archer, Takachengetwa Gambe, Ashleigh Hamidzadeh, Alexandra Irvine, Isobel Thompson, Li (Evelyn) Wang. Congratulations to all six students. More information about the Scholarships and the LLM programme at Newcastle Law School are available online, via the Newcastle University website and the Law School pages.

LLM Alumnus Appointed as Judge

Anton Scherr (pictured right) has been selected, after a very competitive process, to become a Judge. Anton obtained the LLM in International Legal Studies last year and was a holder of one of the Sir Mark Waller Postgraduate Scholarships.

In the 13 months after completing his LLM at Newcastle Law School, Anton worked at different courts in his home county (circuit court, criminal court and regional civil court) and participated in a selection procedure to become an Austrian judge.

After a variety of examinations, psychological vetting and interviews, Anton was one out of four successful candidates selected for the post (out of 70 applicants). For the next three years Anton will continue to work at different courts working towards appointment as a judge.

Anton commented that it felt “totally surreal”. He added: “I am sure that my year in Newcastle was a crucial additional qualification in my CV that gave me an advantage over all the other applicants.” Well done, Anton.

PhD candidate: Yasmine Nahlawi

PhD student Yasmine Nahlawi is researching the emerging 'responsibility to protect' (R2P) doctrine in relation to the Syrian and Libyan crises, exploring legal precedents that the Arab Spring may come to offer in terms of responding to future mass atrocity situations. Yasmine has been sharing her expertise through a number of media channels, most recently on Channel 4 (pictured, left).

Alongside her studies, Yasmine serves as the External Affairs Director of the Syrian Legal Development Programme and the Advocacy and Policy Coordinator of the Rethink Rebuild Society” Yasmine is also a teaching assistant for the undergraduate Human Rights Law module and the postgraduate Public International Law module at Newcastle Law School. Yasmine did the LLM in International Legal Studies at Newcastle Law School before proceeding to do her Ph.D. Yasmine was also a recipient of one of the Sir Mark Waller Post-graduate Scholarships.
Two Postgraduate Student Competitions 2017-18:

The **Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership** offers high-quality supervision and exceptional resources for the training and development of outstanding Arts and Humanities postgraduate researchers. The AHRC awards cover tuition fees and provide a maintenance grant at the RCUK national rate for UK applicants. In 2017 the AHRC award covers tuition fees only for EU students; however, Newcastle University will make maintenance awards to EU students that are equivalent to those of AHRC. We welcome applications from outstanding candidates who can demonstrate evidence of academic excellence at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as evidence of sufficient research skills to undertake the project.

The **NINE Doctoral Training Studentship Competition** is funded by the ESRC and brings in seven institutions (Newcastle, Durham, Queens Belfast, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teeside Universities). As a joint venture between universities the NINE DTC Scheme brings together each institution’s strengths in research and teaching to create an integrated centre of excellence for doctoral training in the social sciences. A masters is not a prerequisite and all studentships.

Deadlines for the 2018 competition have not been set and further details are not available yet, but it is anticipated the application deadline for candidates to submit to Schools will be in January 2018. Potential candidates for both schemes are strongly urged to read the Applicant Guidance when it is available and to contact the School at that point and in advance to ascertain whether their proposal is in an area in which we can offer supervision. Candidates are also encouraged to submit their application in advance of the deadline wherever possible. Further information on both of these schemes and full details of how to apply will be advertised at a later date and will appear in the Autumn Newsletter – Watch this space!

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**Recent Postgraduate Conference Presentations**

Yuki Motoyoshi and Andrew Beetham presented papers at a two-day Post Graduate Research conference on the theme ‘Defending Individual Rights’. The conference was held in Durham on 8-9 May 2017. Andrew presented his paper, “The Right To Be Let Alone”: Incest and Sexual Freedom Following Lawrence v Texas, in the ‘Privacy and Human Rights’ panel. Andrew’s paper reviewed the US Supreme Court decision in Lawrence v Texas (2003) and how it has since been applied to other areas of sexual and private autonomy and whether the decision could be applied domestically in specific regard to incest. Yuki Motoyoshi spoke on ‘The Role of the United Nations Charter to Defend People against the Threat of Terrorism’ in the ‘United Nations and Human Rights Defence’, focusing on whether the current international law have been adaptable to fight against terrorism or not since after the emergence of ‘so called Islamic State’. Yuki and Andrew are pictured (below) among other presenters at the event.
As Semester Two draws to a close, it’s time to reflect upon a busy few months of careers activities at the Eldon Society. Building-upon the successes of Semester One, the Society has continued to welcome a range of employers onto campus, both law and non-law, from Herbert Smith Freehills, to Teach First. Newcastle Law School continues to be an attractive institution for employers to visit and recruit graduates from.

Outside of Newcastle, key events which the Eldon Society has attended include a networking dinner at Lincoln’s Inn in London for students who are interested in a career at the Bar (March 2017, pictured right), and the Law School’s annual alumni event at Gray’s Inn in London (May 2017). At the Lincoln’s Inn event, students from Stages One, Two and Three learnt more about a career at the Bar, whilst they also had the opportunity to meet current barristers. The students who attended were Lukas Schneider, Jon Flaherty, Caitlin Stiles, Mollie Briggs and Pappa Ankomah.

Meanwhile, in May 2017, myself, the Society’s President, three students who receive the Law School’s alumni scholarship, and several lecturers attended the annual alumni event (pictured below right); at the event, those in attendance networked with numerous Law School graduates, all of whom spoke fondly of their time in Newcastle. The Rt Hon Sir Mark Waller was the guest of honour. The three students who receive the alumni scholarship were Matthew Timm, Melissa Livingstone and Sharina Navani, whilst the lecturers who attended were Rhona Smith, Bronwen Jones, Samantha Ryan, Jenny Johnstone, Keith Patten and Richard Collier. Special guests were Joanna Gray and Ashley Wilton, an ex-Head of the Law School.

With end of year exams just around the corner, I am delighted to say that over the past year, a number of students have secured vacation schemes and training contracts, with firms such as Ward Hadaway, Allen & Overy, Muckle and Osborne Clarke. Additionally, many students have secured graduate opportunities with organisations outside of the legal sector, including PWC, Teach First and Frontline. It has been a privilege to work as the Eldon Society’s Careers Officer over the past year, and I would like to wish the best of luck to the Society’s incoming 2017/18 Careers Officer, Tay Docherty – I hope he enjoys the role as much as I have!

The Eldon sports teams took part in a national law sports tournament at Manchester university on the weekend of the 17th of March, where rugby, netball and football played against teams from Nottingham, Leicester, Loughborough, Manchester, Liverpool and Warwick. The Football and netball teams played well, and the Eldon rugby team won the tournament!
The annual Eldon Society Winter Ball was held at the Discovery Museum on 4 February 2017. This year’s theme ‘A Night at the Cabaret’. Staff (pictured below left) and students (pictured right) enjoyed Buck’s Fizz on arrival, a three-course meal, half a bottle of wine each and all the glittering extras. A band drew everyone onto the dancefloor, photographers roamed around the room and a photo booth provided some laughs. A good night was had by all.

The Eldon Society organised a trip to Barcelona in March 2017, visiting Molly and Matt (next year’s Eldon President and Secretary) who are doing a year abroad out there as part of the European Legal Studies programme.

Having a couple of newly established locals as guides meant being taken to some lovely spots. The group were led to a place called ‘Bunkers’, which has a great view out over the city and coast, and is very popular with locals. Almost everyone also took advantage of the opportunity to visit Barcelona’s best known sights: La Sagrada Familia, Park Guell and, of course, the beach.
The Street Law Project, which works with children and young people in schools and community groups, was nominated for the Northern Law Awards 2017 in the ‘Pro Bono / Community Initiative category’.

In 2016-17 the Street Law Project has been working with and delivering Street Law Sessions in cooperation with the Gateshead Youth Offending Service, the Gateshead Young Women’s Outreach Project, the West End Women & Girls Centre, St Joseph’s Rc Comprehensive School and the Air Cadets 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron. The Team have also established new working relationships with the North East Young Lads & Dads Project, the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (SafetyWorks facility) and the North East Solidarity and Teaching Project. The aims of the Street Law project are: to work with young people and youth groups to educate and raise awareness of issues relating to the legal system, children’s rights, and the law; and to encourage young people to further develop their own awareness of the law and the legal system and how it affects them. ‘Street Law Ambassadors’ are recruited from first and second stage law students. The delivery of Street law sessions is completely free of charge. Typical Street Law sessions may cover police powers; street drinking; rights in education and general legal rights/access to legal services. A key aim is to encourage young people to further develop their own awareness of the law and the legal system.

The Awards took place on 1st June, with Street law Ambassadors Emily Radford, Shannon Aiken and Emily Milner representing the Law School on the night (pictured left). Street Law was nominated against 2 other extremely good nominees and Teesside Law Clinic were the overall and well deserved winners. The nomination alone is a reflection of the hard-work that past and present student ambassadors have put into the project as well as the work of those that have worked to set up, develop and manage the project. Congratulations to all involved!

Student members of the McKenzie Friend project were able to take advantage of a developmental session in May. The group were offered the opportunity to meet with a practicing solicitor, Jonathan Flower (Ward Hadaway), and District Judge Charnock-Neal. Students working with the McKenzie Friend project support survivors of domestic violence, primarily by taking information over the phone and compiling witness statements. The witness statements are later used in court, to secure an injunction against the perpetrator. It was invaluable, then, to hear an insight into what judges are looking at when they refer to witness statements, facilitating a better understanding of legal writing and the practical application of these documents in court.

The session concluded in the Law School mooting room, where District Judge Charnock-Neal agreed to put students through their paces in a courtroom environment. Any lawyer is nervous going before a judge for the first time, so these lucky students have managed to get a head start on that particular experience! Aside from the practical benefits, sessions like this are a brilliant opportunity to get an insight into the legal system and it is anticipated that more will be arranged in the future.