Newcastle Law School Newsletter

Issue: Spring 2015

Inside this Issue

Law School News  2-6
• Research Excellence Framework Results
• Professor Mullender Inaugural Lecture
• Inspirational Women of the Law Event
• Street Law and McKenzie Friend Projects

Postgraduate Studies News  7-9
• LLM Taught Studies
  • Scholarship News: University Postgraduate Excellence Scholarship Scheme
  • Symposium on Islamic Finance Education
  • LLM Field Trip to the International Criminal Court and International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia - 2015/2016
  • Getting to know our LLM students
• Postgraduate Research Studies  10
  • Getting to know our PhD students
  • PGR Seminar Series

Eldon Society Updates  11-12
Research News  13-14
Forthcoming events  15
The outcomes of the latest audit of University research - REF 2014 - were published on 18 December 2014. The results confirmed external recognition for the very high quality of the research carried out at Newcastle Law School. 21% of the publications produced by Newcastle Law School staff were ranked as world leading (4*) and a further 49.3% of publications were rated as internationally excellent (3*). In total, 70.4% of the research outputs published by the School and its staff were rated as world leading or internationally excellent in terms of their originality, significance and rigour. This demonstrated a major increase in the proportion of internationally excellent and world leading research published by the School since the last research audit in 2008.

Professor Chris Rodgers, Head of School, commented:

“This is a remarkable achievement for a comparatively small law school. One in five of all the publications submitted by our staff for review were judged to be world leading. This confirms the strong, supportive and collegial research culture we have at Newcastle, and provides a strong basis on which to further build research capacity in the School for the future. It also underlines the significance of our commitment to research led teaching, which is of enormous benefit to our students”.

Professor Richard Mullender (Professor of Law and Legal Theory) addressed an audience of students, present and former colleagues and friends on the theme “Law as a Practice”. The lecture presented Law as a practice that can ramify in ways that sustain plural values, a variety of ideals of justice, and distinct models of human association. The lecture drew together the jurisprudential contribution of Herbert Hart and the political philosophy of Isaiah Berlin and Michael Oakeshott to make sense of law as a practice. Professor Mullender also stressed links between law as a practice and Immanuel Kant’s account of pragmatic anthropology, and dwelt on law’s uneasy relationship with the individual. The lecture concluded that the practice of law presents us with a history to which we are answerable.

Introducing the lecture, Professor Chris Rodgers, Head of School, observed that Mullender’s work exhibited many qualities but was characterised by an ability to inspire generations of students, while at the same time challenging them to think about difficult and often controversial legal issues. He is not only an inspirational teacher, but has an established international reputation as one of the leading scholars in legal theory and the law of obligations. He has published extensively in the top law journals, including the Modern Law Review, the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, and the Journal of Law and Society. His work on incrementalism, community, and the law’s moral impulses has offered a new understanding of this branch of private law. His extensive writings on Tort and human rights have also made distinctive contributions that have shaped academic debate in controversies concerning, among other things, ‘blame culture’, the place of private and public concerns in this branch of private law, and the liability in negligence of public bodies.

A video of the lecture can be viewed at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOCtk DxKok.
The IWL event took place on 5th March (1.15-6.30pm), and involved 7 inspirational women speakers, a plenary lecture by Lady Hale and the launch of the portrait exhibition in The Long Gallery (adjacent to the Hatton Gallery). It truly was an inspirational event, with passionate talks from all the speakers on women’s challenges and progress in the legal profession and the use of law to achieve social justice, and Lady Hale’s lecture detailed stories of the sadly too often forgotten inspirational women from the past. In between the sessions there was a structured coffee break, during which time the attendees - which included students from Newcastle, Durham and Northumbria Universities and pupils from local sixth forms - chatted to the speakers about their careers and engagement with law. The speakers have said that they thoroughly enjoyed talking to the attendees, and were very impressed by the Newcastle Law School students.

The speakers, to whom we are very grateful, were:

- Lady Hale: The only (ever) female member of the UK’s highest court, the Supreme Court. Prior to being appointed to the judiciary Lady Hale was a law professor specialising in family law.
- Vera Baird QC, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and former Solicitor-General for England and Wales. She was MP for Redcar in 2001-2010, and was Solicitor General from 2007-2010, and has particular expertise on the law and policy on violence against women.
- Pragna Patel, founder and director of Southall Black Sisters, a charity established in 1979 to campaign and support Black and Asian women escaping domestic violence and forced marriages. In 2011, Pragna was named as one of the Guardian Newspaper’s Top 100 Women.
- Shauneen Lambe, barrister and campaigner, and founder of award-winning Just for Kids Law (with Aika Stephenson). In 2010, Shauneen was chosen as a World Economic Forum ‘Young Global Leader’, and in June 2011 she was made a Shackleton Fellow.
- Cris McCurley, Partner at Ben Hoare Bell (which won Legal Aid Law Firm of the Year in 2014), a solicitor who specialises in representing women from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. In 2014, Cris was awarded Lawyer of the Year by the Law Society for work with victims of abuse and campaigning to save access to justice.
- Sanchita Hosali, Newcastle graduate, Deputy-Director at the British Institute of Human Rights and Sanchita is on the Board of Trustees of Rights of Women.
Inspirational Women of the Law Event

• Hilary Prescott, Partner at Covington, with over 20 years' experience in the corporate and commercial field. She was awarded the Euromoney Legal Media Group’s Europe Women in Business Law Awards for Investment Funds in 2013 (and was shortlisted for Investment Funds and Real Estate (2012 and 2014 respectively); it is an award honouring firms which 'set the standard in terms of female-friendly work practices, and women leading the field in the legal sector across Europe'.

• Caoilfhionn Gallagher, Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and recognised as a Leading Junior in Legal 500. Caoilfhionn specialises in prison law, children’s rights and inquest work. She has represented clients on high profile Inquiries including the 7/7 inquiry and the Hillsborough Inquiry.

Some of the speakers are represented in the exhibition, which celebrates and promotes the achievements of just a small number of the inspirational women who have worked with the law, or who have used the law, to make a significant contribution to society. The exhibition is displayed from 5th-14th March 2015 and all invited to view it. The portraits will then move to their permanent home in the Law School where we hope it will continue to inspire current and future students and visitors to the University. The exhibition is supported by a website (www.iwlaw.uk) which has so far attracted 700 visitors from over 20 countries.

The exhibition and event were organised by Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth and Dr Nikki Godden, assisted by Gemma Herries (fine art graduate and curator of the exhibition), Phoebe McElhatton (fine art student and photographer), and Aleksandra Wawrzyszczuk (law student and researcher). The project was generously supported by the Catherine Cookson Foundation, the Newcastle Institute of Social Renewal (NISR), Newcastle Law School, DigitaLab, the Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, and two law firms - Squire Patton Boggs and Ward Hadaway.

Please visit the website www.IWLaw.uk and follow us on twitter: @Women_ofLaw
Newcastle Law School has over the past few years been involved in developing a number of pro-bono initiatives aimed at strengthening positive community links with a variety of organisations and individuals. Two such initiatives are the Street Law Project and the NCDV McKenzie Friend Project. The enthusiasm of the students is matched by the enthusiasm of many of the groups and people that we work with which has been fundamental to the successful implementation of these projects.

**Street Law**

The Newcastle Law School Street Law project started in September 2011. A meeting with representatives from local Youth Groups identified a lack of advice and support available for children and young people regarding their legal rights. To help fill this gap this project was set up with three main aims: to work with young people and youth groups to raise awareness of issues relating to the legal system, children’s rights, and the law; encourage young people to further develop their own awareness of the law and the legal system and how it affects them; and encourage Law Students to develop and enhance their transferable skills and knowledge whilst studying at NULS.

Working with local youth groups, primary and secondary schools, our Street Law Ambassadors (SLAs), in teams, provide interactive sessions to young people on a variety of topics including police powers, transitions from care/custody into the community, teen abuse, education rights, hate crime to name but a few. Students work with a vast array on young people on a diverse set of issues. The Street Law Ambassadors undergo an intensive training period which includes awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues. The success of the project relies on the enthusiasm and hard work of our SLAs, supporting each other and through reflective practice, feeding directly into the development of the project.

This year has seen a number of new groups come on board. One has been the Young Women’s Outreach project, based in Gateshead which has involved our SLAs working with a group of school aged mums. Another group is Barnardo’s which has involved working with a group of young people who have become disenfranchised from school. We’ve retained our strong link with the Gateshead Youth Offending Service with a number of our students supporting the work that they run within local schools. In addition we have retained our links, developed last year, with local schools. Two of our SLAs were actively involved in helping to prepare a group of young people involved in the European Child Friendly Justice project for a presentation. To meet this growing need the pro-bono project has expanded and we now have 25 Street Law Ambassadors.

Funding cuts across the youth sector has made this project become all the more important and valued amongst local youth groups and schools. The opportunity for young people to engage with our students is extremely important as our students effectively provide a link to the University.

Training is crucial for our students and we work closely with Youth Focused North East who develop and provide the training. Kevin Franks, the Programme Director at Youth Focus North East, recently said:

“We are delighted to support the Street Law initiative and are always impressed with the commitment and motivation of the students involved. The students manage to balance the pressure of their studies with their role as volunteers on the project and make a real contribution to creating a positive difference in schools and communities in their role as Street Law Ambassadors."

This speaks volumes for the students that become involved in these initiatives and their commitment to engaging with the local community.
McKenzie Friend

Newcastle Law School in partnership with the National Centre for Domestic Violence (“NCDV”) has re-established the McKenzie Friend Project in Newcastle Law School as a pilot in 2015. The NCDV was established in 2002. The aim of the NCDV is to provide a one stop shop where the concerns of those in an abusive situation can be addressed. The NCDV provides a route for victims seeking a non-molestation and/or occupation order.

Police and victims face two problems when using local firms of solicitors to obtain non-molestation orders. Generally, solicitors are only willing to accept clients that are either eligible for public funding or clients who could afford to pay privately. This then leaves many people unprotected who do not meet the legal aid criteria and have no access to funds. Legal Aid changes, introduced in April 2013, have had a devastating impact on the number of people suffering from domestic violence who are not eligible to receive legal aid with the Rights for Women organisation stating that a major reason for not taking action is that victims do not qualify for legal aid. In their evidence to the Justice Select Committee on the impact of changes to civil legal aid under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 the organisation were critical of the extra evidence required for victims of domestic violence to demonstrate they qualify for any legal aid. This acts as a significant barrier.

The McKenzie Friend Scheme aims to fill that gap by providing a much needed opportunity for women and men in abusive relationships to seek a non-molestation and/or occupation order where they cannot afford to pay for legal advice. The NCDV encourage their volunteers to act quickly as the order may be required as a matter of urgency. The impact of domestic violence on children is also significant and why a quick response, once the victim has made that difficult and extremely brave decision to seek an order, is required. The NCDV aims to ensure clients are in court and having their application heard within 24 hours of the client contacting them.

So, the role of the Newcastle Law School NCDV McKenzie Friends is very important. Primarily the students take witness statements over the phone. The victim will initially contact the NCDV who will make an assessment as to the appropriate order. The NCDV will then refer to their volunteers to contact the victim and take the appropriate statement. The students who are engaged in taking these statements over the phone require a unique skill set to ensure they obtain the information needed to support the application for an order. Students need to be able to empathise, demonstrate understanding of the clients situation but at the same time obtain the all important information to successfully pursue an order. NULS is the only academic Law School actively engaged in this project in the North of England and, given the increasing number of calls the national helpline is receiving from victims in the North East we believe that we will be able to meet an urgent and important need within the local community. In some cases there will be the opportunity for the students to attend court with the client to offer support as a McKenzie Friend.

Importantly the NCDV are keen to encourage male volunteers as well female volunteers due to their experiences of the increase of domestic violence involving male victims. Newcastle Law School is keen to reflect and ensure a balanced approach by encouraging male and female students to participate. The project has received funding from the Social Renewal fund. The Law School is also working very closely and in partnership with SCAN (Student Community Action Newcastle) which is a new venture for them working with an academic department.

For more information on either the Street Law or NCDV McKenzie Friend Project: Please contact Jenny Johnstone (jenny.johnstone@newcastle.ac.uk) or Jasmine Winter (jasmine.winter@newcastle.ac.uk)
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has announced that it offers up to 35 £2,000 scholarships to Newcastle University students who will graduate in 2015 and will pursue postgraduate taught studies in 2015-16. Students will be eligible to be considered for a Humanities and Social Science Postgraduate Excellence Scholarship if they:

- Have graduated with an undergraduate degree in any discipline from Newcastle University in 2015.
- Hold an offer of admission to study a full or part-time postgraduate taught degree in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences commencing in the 2015/16 academic year.
- Expect to achieve at least 65% in their undergraduate degree.
- Are classed as a UK or EU student for tuition fee purposes.

The scholarships are only available for taught masters degrees. Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Certificate in Education, and Master of Architecture degrees are not eligible. The scholarship will be awarded as a tuition fee discount. For more information about the Master of Laws Taught degrees in International Business Law; International Legal Studies; and Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development please contact Dr A K Aldohni at a.k.aldohni@ncl.ac.uk

These scholarships are offered in addition to other scholarships available for LLM study for Home/EU and International students, such as the Newcastle University International Postgraduate Scholarships (see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/nuips](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/nuips)), the Sir Mark Waller Postgraduate Scholarships (see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/funding/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/funding/)), and country specific funding sources (see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/css](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/search/list/css)).

Newcastle Law School organised and hosted (on the 14th January 2015) a one day symposium entitled: ‘Delivering excellence in Islamic Finance Education at Western Higher Education Institutions: developing the UK human capital’, the event was sponsored by the Society of Legal Scholars.

The keynote speaker Dr. Mohd-Pisal Zainal Director, Centre of Research and Publication, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) Malaysia, examined the internationalisation of Islamic finance and the role of international educational centres in human capital development. The second session, led by Professor Habib Ahmed, Sharjah Chair in Islamic Law & Finance, Durham University Business School, examined the challenges of introducing the subject of Sharia law into higher education. The event provided an excellent opportunity for postgraduate students and academics to discuss the best approaches, which can be adopted by higher education institutions, to introducing Islamic finance as part of their syllabus.

Optional LLM Field Trip to the International Criminal Court and International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia 2015/2016

Students on the 2015/2016 LLM in International Legal Studies programme will have the opportunity to take part in an optional fieldtrip to the International Criminal Court, and International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague. This fieldtrip organised by Dr Elena Katselli and Jenny Johnstone, will provide interested students with the opportunity to attend trials scheduled before these courts giving them first-hand experience of international criminal proceedings. This fieldtrip will take place in the second semester of 2016. Please note that students who wish to attend this optional fieldtrip will have to pay full costs and make appropriate visa and travel arrangements.

For more information about the fieldtrip please contact Dr Elena Katselli at elena.katselli@ncl.ac.uk
There were 48 students who commenced study on our LLM programmes this year. Some students from the LLM in Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development, and the LLM in International Legal Studies have kindly shared their experiences below. The next issue of the newsletter will contain a feature on our LLM in International Business law programme. Further details on our LLM programmes in International Business Law, International Legal Studies, and Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development, and the entry requirements for these programmes can be found at: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/index.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/index.htm) and [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/requirements.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/postgraduate/taught/requirements.htm)

For further information, please contact a.k.aldohn@ncl.ac.uk or gemma.hayton@ncl.ac.uk

**LLM Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development—Anna McClean.**

I am in my first year of a 2 year part-time postgraduate LLM in Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development. I chose to study this as I have previously practised as a Commercial Property solicitor and am very interested in environmental aspects of property development. I chose to study at Newcastle Law School as I live locally and had a very positive experience completing my Law Degree there. Studying the programme on a part-time basis enables me to fit it in around my commitments to my young family. The subjects I am studying this year are: Science, Climate Change and Environmental Justice; International Environmental Law; Public International Law; and Legal Simulation. I have thoroughly enjoyed the course so far. I have found the modules incredibly interesting and have been very impressed by the quality of the teaching. As I am enjoying the course so much, I am giving serious consideration to undertaking a PhD in some aspect of environmental law in relation to property development once I have completed the LLM.

**LLM International Legal Studies—Anton Scherr.**

I am a postgraduate student of International Legal Studies at Newcastle Law School. Originally from Austria, I started studying Law and Sociology in 2010 at the University of Graz. Towards the end of my studies I thought about doing an LL.M. abroad to widen my personal and academic horizon. The programme at Newcastle Law School was convincing not only because the modules appeared to be very interesting, but also because of the Law School’s reputation as one of UK’s top schools especially in relation to student satisfaction.

The particular modules on the programme cover a wide range of aspects of international law, such as environmental, criminal, commercial or public law. The lecturers are highly ambitious and present the specific issues in an interactive way, which I really appreciate. My dissertation is concerned with the implications of annexing Crimea and supporting rebels in Eastern Ukraine by Russia in light of public international law. To me the experiences of studying in a different educational system and living in a foreign country are invaluable and will surely be helpful for my future career.
Postgraduate Studies News—LLM Taught Studies

LLM Taught Programmes - Getting to know our Students

LLM Scholarship Recipient - Luciana Souto.

Since my bachelor studies, I was always very interested in studying global mechanisms for the enforcement of international law and in developing an understanding of the principles used to engage national institutions. For the past three years I have been working with human rights in Brazil, particularly in relation to the rights of indigenous communities, involuntary resettlement, children and forced labour. Hence, both my education and work experience has kindled in me a desire to study international law and the Sir Mark Waller Postgraduate Law Scholarship gave me the opportunity to move to the United Kingdom in order to gain further knowledge of this area through academic research at Newcastle University.

I believe the LL.M in International Legal Studies offers an excellent opportunity to gain world class education. In particular, the learning environment provides incentives for research and critical analysis, with invaluable experiences of academic discussions during the seminars and dialogue with international students from various backgrounds. I believe undertaking this LLM is a milestone in my career that will allow me to become an innovative professional and to further assist the enforcement of international law in Latin America.
I joined Newcastle Law School in 2012 and am currently undertaking an ESRC-funded PhD in the field of Environmental Law. The aim of my PhD is to explore the consistency between the legal mechanisms that are designed to protect the environment in offshore renewable energy projects, and understand what level of environmental protection they achieve. I am focusing on three offshore renewable energy case studies in the United Kingdom in the areas of tidal, wind and wave energy, and am collecting both empirical and doctrinal data from each. My research consists of analysing the consent documentation, and environmental impact assessment for each case study to determine the range of legal mechanisms employed in the consenting process, and conducting interviews with the parties involved in the development in order to garner an understanding of how the aforementioned legal mechanisms function when applied to the project.

I decided to move to Newcastle to undertake my PhD research as the law school has a strong support network for its PhD students. I have been provided with a supervisory team who not only specialise in my subject, but who have also provided me with a wealth of support for career enhancing activities such as presenting at conferences. Since joining Newcastle University, I’ve had the opportunity to get involved in a number of groups and conferences. From being part of the Committee that started the North East Law Review, to running various postgraduate conferences and seminars, the law school has provided a friendly environment for student engagement and interaction amongst the postgraduate community. I’m about half way through my PhD at the moment, and am looking forward to publishing the results of my research to the academic community, as well as the industry individuals who have kindly given their time to speak to me.

Postgraduate Research Seminar Series

This Postgraduate Research (PGR) Seminar Series at Newcastle Law School is an annual seminar series, which comprises of a series of training seminars and presentations by our PhD students. This series is designed to develop research skills for our research students. It also provides an important opportunity for PhD students to deliver presentations on their current research in a friendly and supportive environment. The series commenced this year with a training seminar on the topic of “Writing Skills for PhD Students” which was delivered by Ian Dawson, lecturer at Newcastle Law School on the 4th February, 2015. The second seminar was held on the 18th of February, where Samet Caliskan presented his research on the topic of "The Approach of the Doctrine of Illegality Defence (Maxim Ex Turpi Causa) and Principles of Corporate Attribution to the Relationship of Company/Directors" and Derek Whayman presented his work on the subject of “Where are we with Remoteness of Gain after Novoship (UK) v Nikitin and AIB v Mark Redler?” A full list of forthcoming presentations in the PGR series is available here.
The Eldon Society has been as busy as ever over the past few months. Student engagement with our activities is very high, and the ongoing support received from Law School staff and our partners outside the University remains invaluable. It is only through the hard work of our student run committee that the Society is able to continue its work for our members. So in this edition of the Newsletter, we decided to get a few words from a number of our committee members.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Eldon Society, please feel free to get in touch. I hope you find our update useful!

Calum Redhead, Eldon Society President  eldon.president@ncl.ac.uk

‘This year I have held the position of Social Secretary for the Eldon Society. The importance of the social aspect on a course such as law is next to none, with such a heavy work load and many hours spent in the library, a well-deserved break is important! This year we have had a number of memorable socials but what in particular stands out from them all was our last event, the Eldon Society Law Ball. We began with a committee of around eight people back in November where it was decided upon the theme of Winter Wonderland. After a few stressful meetings, the rest, including venue, music, dressing, all came together. The Ball was a huge success, held at the end of January in Newcastle’s historical Discovery Museum and hosted 245 people, a great turnout!

Our most recent event  was a social organised with Northumbria Law School. We were really pleased to have such a large turnout. Pairing up with another Law School allows students to share any worries they have about their course and ideas for the future, it’s also useful to make new friendships as you never know when those connections will help you in later life.

It has been a great year so far and is sadly very quickly coming to an end but I’m sure the Eldon Society will continue with its success and popularity in the years to come!’

Laura Toland, Eldon Society Social Secretary  eldon.social@ncl.ac.uk

‘The Eldon Society has experienced a very successful careers calendar this year. The highlights of the year include the eventful Pinsent Masons Cocktail Master Class, in which students had the opportunity of teaming up with Solicitors, from Pinsent Masons, and try their hands at cocktail mixing. This turned out to be an outstanding opportunity for students to make some contacts for the future. Furthermore, we have hosted a series of workshops ranging from ‘Mooting Skills’ to ‘Finding Legal Work Experience’, which have proved useful to students in terms of developing their CV. The Eldon Society piloted a ‘Bar Basics’ talk, in which practising barristers came into the Law School to talk about their own experiences and answer any questions students may have. These events have proven complimentary to our students’ academic studies by providing a glimpse into the law in practice.

In March, students had the opportunity to visit the offices of Allen & Overy and Shearman & Sterling, in the same day, allowing the students to conduct a comparative analysis of how different London commercial firms operate. Furthermore, a number of students had the opportunity to attend a careers event with Lincolns Inn. It was a great opportunity, for those aspiring to the Bar, to rub elbows with practising Barristers and we thank all three firms and chambers for hosting our students.’

Benjamin Donnell, Eldon Society Careers Officer  eldon.careers@ncl.ac.uk

The Eldon Society has been as busy as ever over the past few months. Student engagement with our activities is very high, and the ongoing support received from Law School staff and our partners outside the University remains invaluable. It is only through the hard work of our student run committee that the Society is able to continue its work for our members. So in this edition of the Newsletter, we decided to get a few words from a number of our committee members.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Eldon Society, please feel free to get in touch. I hope you find our update useful!

Calum Redhead, Eldon Society President  eldon.president@ncl.ac.uk

‘This year I have held the position of Social Secretary for the Eldon Society. The importance of the social aspect on a course such as law is next to none, with such a heavy work load and many hours spent in the library, a well-deserved break is important! This year we have had a number of memorable socials but what in particular stands out from them all was our last event, the Eldon Society Law Ball. We began with a committee of around eight people back in November where it was decided upon the theme of Winter Wonderland. After a few stressful meetings, the rest, including venue, music, dressing, all came together. The Ball was a huge success, held at the end of January in Newcastle’s historical Discovery Museum and hosted 245 people, a great turnout!

Our most recent event  was a social organised with Northumbria Law School. We were really pleased to have such a large turnout. Pairing up with another Law School allows students to share any worries they have about their course and ideas for the future, it’s also useful to make new friendships as you never know when those connections will help you in later life.

It has been a great year so far and is sadly very quickly coming to an end but I’m sure the Eldon Society will continue with its success and popularity in the years to come!’

Laura Toland, Eldon Society Social Secretary  eldon.social@ncl.ac.uk

‘The Eldon Society has experienced a very successful careers calendar this year. The highlights of the year include the eventful Pinsent Masons Cocktail Master Class, in which students had the opportunity of teaming up with Solicitors, from Pinsent Masons, and try their hands at cocktail mixing. This turned out to be an outstanding opportunity for students to make some contacts for the future. Furthermore, we have hosted a series of workshops ranging from ‘Mooting Skills’ to ‘Finding Legal Work Experience’, which have proved useful to students in terms of developing their CV. The Eldon Society piloted a ‘Bar Basics’ talk, in which practising barristers came into the Law School to talk about their own experiences and answer any questions students may have. These events have proven complimentary to our students’ academic studies by providing a glimpse into the law in practice.

In March, students had the opportunity to visit the offices of Allen & Overy and Shearman & Sterling, in the same day, allowing the students to conduct a comparative analysis of how different London commercial firms operate. Furthermore, a number of students had the opportunity to attend a careers event with Lincolns Inn. It was a great opportunity, for those aspiring to the Bar, to rub elbows with practising Barristers and we thank all three firms and chambers for hosting our students.’

Benjamin Donnell, Eldon Society Careers Officer  eldon.careers@ncl.ac.uk
The client interviewing competition has been a large success this academic year at Newcastle – incorporating even more students than ever and widening the involvement of legal professionals from the local community. We have engaged a total of 6 law firms and 2 barristers chambers that judged both the junior and senior competitions. In late February we held the ‘finals’ including 12 second and third year teams, and the 5 highest scoring first year pairs from the junior heats in January. We are very pleased to announce Jaime Carr and Nicole Georgiou (senior); and Alex Thompson and Megan Whitworth (junior) who were the respective winners this year. Congratulations to everyone who took part – the standard was exceptionally high this year! We are very proud to have retained Newcastle’s excellent reputation in external competitions – competing against other universities and professional institutions. Simba Gonodo and Taka Gambe (two third year students) reached the national finals of the ‘Client Interviewing’ competition – held in Brighton. We wish all competitors this year the best of luck and hope that the experiences they have gained will stand them in good stead when considering career opportunities either with other law firms or in a non-legal context!’

Joshua Harper, Client Interviewing Officer j.d.t.harper@newcastle.ac.uk

We organised a baking competition and sale in order to raise money for our charity – Newcastle Marrow which took place on the 26th of February. Marrow is the student arm of Anthony Nolan – a charity which endeavours to find donors for those suffering from leukaemia and blood cancers. During the event Marrow ran a clinic and entered volunteers on their bone marrow register, which gives donors the opportunity to potentially save a cancer sufferer’s life. You can find more information at: http://www.anthonynolan.org/

We wanted to get as many people as involved as possible, as a result we have partnered with Sintons – a Newcastle based law firm in order to offer 3 prizes for the best three creations! The prizes included freebies for the next Eldon social and the opportunity to have a one on one session with Sintons’ recruitment team. The event was a great success with all money raised going directly to support the Anthony Nolan Trust. Thank you to all who came along.’

Jonathan Bowen, Eldon Society Social Responsibility Officer j.bowen@newcastle.ac.uk

Joshua Harper and Corey Krohman, Eldon Society Client Interviewing Officers

Jonathan Bowen, Eldon Society Social Responsibility Officer

Eldon Society Winter Ball, Discovery Museum, Newcastle.

Newcastle Law Students attending the Jones Day Careers Event Durham.
Below follows a selection of some of the current research being carried out in the Law School:

**Statute Law Society Lecture—Professor TT. Arvind**
Professor TT. Arvind delivered an address, with Professor Jenny Steele, to the Statute Law Society on 26 January 2015 with the title 'Tort law and the legislature: Themes in an evolving relationship.'

**French Commercial Code—Dr Jane Ball**
Dr Jane Ball last year acted as scientific director of a team translating the French Commercial Code for the comprehensive government website Legifrance. This has now been published at [http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/Traductions/Liste-des-traductions-Legifrance](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/Traductions/Liste-des-traductions-Legifrance).

Innovations include greater accuracy in company law by retaining the French names for the different types of organization, with restrained use of footnotes to refer to where these are defined. Also, "solidary liability" (responsabilité solidaire - sometimes known as solidarity) is substituted for the old translation "joint and several liability". The term "solidary" has become common in European private law texts, such as the EU-sponsored Draft Common Frame of Reference, and is thus now much better known.

**Children and Youth Justice—Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth**
Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth has recently been appointed to a steering committee for the establishment of the Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC) which is being set up by Shauneen Lambe and Just for Kids Law. YJLC aims to be a centre of excellence providing specialist legal resources, accreditation, training and advice for those working in youth justice. Professor Hollingsworth has also been appointed to act as academic advisor (criminal justice) for the NGO submission to the United Nations on England’s compliance with its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Professor Hollingsworth spoke at an event at Doughty Street chambers celebrating 25 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20th November 2014 where she delivered a paper on children's rights theory and its relevance to the practice of children’s rights and judicial decision-making. She delivered a paper on ‘The Rights of Incarcerated Children’ at Durham University's Human Rights Centre on 8th December, 2014 to celebrate International Human Rights Week and also gave a research paper at Birmingham Law School in November 2014 entitled 'A Typology of Children’s Rights in Youth Justice'. Kathryn has also established with Liz Todd and the NISR a children and young persons research hub. This is a web-based presence that brings together and showcases the work of academics across the University who are engaged in research relating to children and young people. See: [http://research.ncl.ac.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/](http://research.ncl.ac.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/)

**Newton Fund Workshops, Cairo —Dr Bronwen Jones**
In February 2015, Dr Bronwen Jones participated in a series of workshops in Cairo bringing together early career researchers from across the UK and Egypt, funded as part of the Newton Fund initiative. The Newton Fund is part of the UK’s official development assistance, whose aim is "to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries." The workshops have been coordinated by Hull University in the UK and Helwan University in Egypt under the auspices of the British Council. They will explore "how knowledge exchange and collaboration across nations, research areas and with end-users can bring valuable insights and societal benefits particularly in the field of formal education."

**Centre for Information Law and Policy Advisory Board Appointment—Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh**
Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh has been appointed to the advisory board of the new Centre for Information Law and Policy at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in London (CLIP@IALS). The Centre aims to promote and facilitate cross-disciplinary law and policy research, in collaboration with a variety of national and international institutions. The 13-member Board is comprised of scholars working in this field and experts from legal practice, the public sector and the media. Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh spoke at a seminar marking the Centre's launch in February 2015. Information on CLIP is available at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/clip/clip.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/clip/clip.htm) and on the advisory board at [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/clip/clip_advisory_board.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/clip/clip_advisory_board.htm). Daithí is also an invited speaker at the “Designing Smart Cities: Opportunities and Regulatory Challenges”, conference which will take place in the Technology and Information Centre, University of Strathclyde on the 31st March –1st April, 2015 for further details see [http://www.create.ac.uk/blog/2014/11/06/designing-smart-cities/](http://www.create.ac.uk/blog/2014/11/06/designing-smart-cities/)

**Intellectual Property —Aisling McMahon**
Environmental Law—Dr Ole Pedersen
Dr Ole Pedersen recently spoke at the Oxford Lawyers without Borders Annual Conference as part of a panel on the ‘right to sustainable development’. This event took place on February the 7th in Oxford. Dr Pedersen was also invited to give a paper at the University of Michigan Law School International Law Workshop on the theme of justice and international environmental law on the 16th March, 2015: http://www.law.umich.edu/workshopsandsymposia/intlworkshopseries/Pages/workshop-series.aspx

Multiple Derivative Actions—Lida Pitsilidou
Lida Pitsilidou delivered a paper on “Multiple Derivative Actions and the Pursuit of Justice” on the 27th October 2014 as part of the PGR Research Seminar at the Institute of Commercial and Corporate Law (ICCL) Durham University.

External Appointment DG Justice, European Commission—Professor Sophia Tang
Professor Tang has recently been appointed as an external expert to the DG Justice, Judicial Training Programme, European Commission. Professor Tang also delivered a paper on 27 February 2015 on the topic of ‘Mandatory Rules in Arbitration’ at the University of Edinburgh, Private International Law and International Arbitration Conference.

Brands - Professor Andrew Griffiths
On 8th November, Professor Griffiths delivered a paper on "Brands, Weightless Firms and Complex supply Chains" at a conference on "Corporate Accountability and Access to Remedies for Corporate Wrongs" at the University of Bristol. Professor Griffiths also gave a seminar on "Brands, Branding and Corporate Social Responsibility" at the Centre for Business Law and Practice, University of Leeds on 18th November, 2014. He was recently a leader on a session on "The Means of Production" at a workshop on "Intellectual Property and Production" at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, University of Cambridge on 24th January 2015.

Children’s Rights Judgments Project Launch Newcastle Law School—January, 2015
Professor Kathryn Hollingsworth and Professor Helen Stalford (Liverpool University) formally launched the Children's Rights Judgments Project with the first workshop on Friday 16th January, 2015 which was held at Newcastle University. The project brings together sixty academic experts on children's rights from across the world to employ the emerging methodology of judgment re-writing to the area of children's rights. More information on the project can be found here: http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/european-childrens-rights-unit/childrens-rights-judgments/

The Newcastle Forum for Social Justice and Human Rights continued with its very successful seminar series in the second term of 2015, with papers from Professor Janice McLaughlin (sociology), Professor Liz Todd (Education), Professor Richard Collier (law), and Dr Lars Waldorf (York Law School). Further, details can be found at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/research/groups/humanrightsgrp.htm


Recent Staff Publications

Recent Staff Publications include:

The 2004 decision of the House of Lords in Campbell v Mirror Group Newspapers was a significant case regarding privacy, and for human rights law and tort law more generally. Its influence is clear in current debates on the future of the Human Rights Act (particularly as we approach the General Election), and the relationship between the press, the State and the public. The legal status of the cause of action for ‘misuse of private information’ recognised in the decision has provoked significant debate, in the courts and in universities. A decade on, it is appropriate to reflect on both the case and its influence, both in domestic law and across the common law world.

At this one-day conference at Newcastle Law School, Campbell’s legacy will be debated by a range of speakers. A draft programme is available at [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/assets/documents/CampbellPosterv3.pdf](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/assets/documents/CampbellPosterv3.pdf)

Keynote addresses will be given by Dr. Nicole Moreham (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand) and Rachel Atkins (Schillings).

- **Nicole Moreham** is a globally-recognised scholar of privacy law, and co-editor of and contributor to the second edition of key reference work The Law of Privacy and the Media. She has published numerous articles on the protection of privacy in England and Wales, New Zealand, and Europe. Her other research interests include the law of tort and media law.

- **Rachel Atkins (Schillings)** couples her experience in media law with a detailed knowledge of reputation threats that emanate from non-media sources. With a wealth of experience in this area, she is frequently instructed by HNWs, CEOs, private businesses and PLCs to defend reputation. She is also ranked in the Chambers and Partners legal directory and most recently has been appointed as a member of the Economist General Counsel Summit Advisory Board.

Other speakers include Hugh Tomlinson (Matrix Chambers), Gavin Phillipson (Durham), Paul Wragg (Leeds), Jacob Rowbottom (Oxford), Eric Descheemaeker (Edinburgh), Patrick O’Callaghan (Cork), Rebecca Moosavian (Northumbria), Robin Callender Smith (Queen Mary) and Tanya Aplin (KCL).

Registration for the conference is available [here](#) and closes on 10 April 2015.

Registration is free for academics. A nominal fee of £25 is charged to practising barristers and solicitors, for whom evidence of attendance will be provided in recognition of participation in 5 hours of learning and development. All registered delegates will have the option to attend a conference dinner on Friday evening, at a cost of an additional £25.

This conference is organised by Tom Bennett and Daithí Mac Síthigh. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Newcastle University Conference Support Scheme, Schillings, and the Journal of Media Law (Hart Publishing).

**Professor Andrew Griffiths Inaugural Lecture— ‘Brands, Business Actors and Responsible Capitalism’ 6pm, 23rd April, 2015**

Professor Andrew Griffiths will deliver his inaugural professorial lecture on the 23rd April, 2015 on the topic ‘Brands, Business Actors and Responsible Capitalism’. This lecture will examine the impact of branding on business organisation and the development of the firm and will also consider how far branding is an effective mechanism for corporate accountability. The lecture will be held at 6pm in the Law Lecture theatre.

The event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.
Newcastle Law School,
Newcastle University,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 7RU
England, UK

General Enquiries: Richard.Hogg@ncl.ac.uk
Admissions Enquiries: gemma.hayton@ncl.ac.uk

Tel: (+44) (0)191 208 7624
Fax: (+44) (0)191 208 8990

Follow us on twitter: https://twitter.com/NCLLawSchool