

# Learned Friends

Issue 1 2009

Co-Editors Kate Hancock and Eleanor Dawson



## Note from the Editors:



Welcome to the first edition of 'Learned Friends'! Firstly, we would like to thank everybody who has been involved and given us information to include. Obviously this is the first edition and isn't perfect so if anybody has any suggestions or would like to be involved in future issues, please let us know!

We hope you have had a successful semester and are ready to face exams in the New Year...but before that, we hope

you each have a Merry Christmas! Enjoy the first edition!!

Eleanor and Kate



## Student in the Spotlight...

Our featured student in this edition is Hannah Baynes, a third year Law student who travelled to Africa over the summer with nine other law students/graduates. Here's an insight into the exiting journey Hannah went on!

Hannah travelled around Africa visiting Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. Whilst in Uganda, Hannah visited officials including senior Judges and governmental officials in Kampala. A very surreal meeting for Hannah was with the Chief Justice who spoke to her about serving under Amin! Hannah also had the opportunity to work with the Ugandan Christian Lawyers Fraternity and visited police stations, carried out paralegal work and visited a young offenders prison to interview inmates about their cases. Hannah also assisted with legal education work about child rights and succession which are big problems in Uganda with child sexual abuse and widows' land being taken off them by dead husband's families

Whilst in Rwanda Hannah stayed in Kigale the capital known as the 'Great City of Hope', Hannah reminisces on this as a sad experience with the memory of genocide 15 years ago still a permanent fixture in people's minds. Following her visit to Kigale, Hannah says she still can't quite comprehend why/how it happened and how the rest of the World could so easily turn a blind eye.

Hannah also visited Kenya where she worked with CLEAR, which is supported by the Legal Society here in the UK. During her first week in Kenya, Hannah stayed in Nairobi where she visited courts and also worked with Philemon a prisons charity.

The main legal issues which Hannah dealt with in Africa were issues relating to access to justice; in some areas people will be held in prison for years awaiting trial simply because they cannot afford representation. Additionally, corruption is a very big problem in Kenya and Uganda with police, for example, asking for bribes and also citizens offering bribes to ensure their case is dealt with in court quickly. Hannah also witnessed major human rights issues given the high levels of poverty and very little legal aid available. Clearly, this was a worthwhile journey for anybody interested in legal aid, access to justice and human rights.

Hannah sums up her experience as challenging but very rewarding, she faced challenges such as being incredibly busy (she certainly fitted a LOT into just one month!) whilst having no personal space and surviving on an omelette diet being a strict vegetarian! Clearly, Hannah has had an amazing experience which she can look back on for the rest of her life. Law aside, she got to meet elephants, go white water rafting and spend two nights at an idyllic beach! However, perhaps the most important memory Hannah has brought back was that of seeing justice done for marginalised people. Hannah has had an experience we're sure most will envy!

If anybody wishes to contact Hannah about her experiences, her e-mail address is [lwou72ad@student.liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:lwou72ad@student.liverpool.ac.uk)

**The Debating Society** meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the International Room at the Guild, followed by drinks.

Public speaking is a highly important aspect of any lawyers life, and is a great addition to your CV. In the highly competitive world of Law, it is essential that you make your CV stand out, and debating could be a great way to do it!

For any questions regarding the Debating Society please contact Dominic Fagan, or take a look on the "Liverpool University Debating Society" page on facebook.

## Legal Society

The University of Liverpool's Legal Society was established to secure both current and future contacts between the School of Law and solicitor firms, locally and nationally. Furthermore the Society is designed to promote and enhance student participation in University life.

The Legal Society consists of a committee of elected student members whose main priority is to ensure that students gain the most enjoyable experience possible whilst studying law at the University of Liverpool.

The current committee promises; memorable social events throughout the year, including trips away and a stunning Christmas Cocktail Party and Annual Law Ball.

The Society is a great way to de-stress from the complexities of studying a Law degree and is a fantastic way to meet and socialise with your fellow law students from all years.

### Members:

**President:** Jo Rothwell

**Vice President:** Kurtus McEvoy

**Events Co-ordinator:** Alex Irving

**Treasurer:** Luke Pep

**Secretary:** April Longstaffe

**General Officers:** Bronte Coward, Nicola Robinson, Alex Adamson, Sam Jones, Julie Duane.



## Pro-Bono Society...

The pro-bono society's role is to encourage students to take an active role in pro-bono work, this allows students to apply their knowledge to help the wider community whilst gaining valuable practical experience, this is an essential addition to any student's CV whether you are an aspiring Solicitor, Barrister or have other career aspirations.

Take a look on their notice board in the Law Cafe for information on specific aspects of pro-bono activity and feel free to drop an email to either Hannah Brookfield or Laura Hannah if you have any more questions.

**President:** Hannah Brookfield

**Secretary:** Laura Hannah

**Treasurer:** Lauren McLoughlin

**Committee Member:** Lisa Marshall

**Committee Member:** Sharif Al Gamri

## Legal Society Nights Out!



### The Maffus Show...

Our very own third year Law student, Matthew Lowery, has his own, very successful radio show which broadcasts every Wednesday at 3.00-4.00 on Icon Radio. ([www.iconradio.co.uk](http://www.iconradio.co.uk))



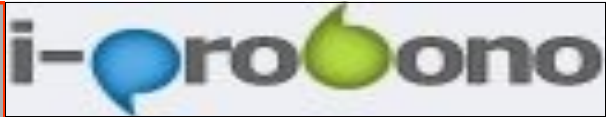
Matthew set up the Maffus show in his first year of his degree due to his interest in radio broadcasting, once he saw the iconradio stand at the Fresher's fair, he jumped at the chance to be involved, and the rest is history...

He spends a couple of hours a week preparing for his hour show, but admits that it is a lot more work than he expected!

After listening to the shows ourselves, we have nothing but praise for them, and would encourage all law students to support Matthew and listen to his show on a Wednesday afternoon! His Christmas show was particularly entertaining...with a special appearance from Santa Clause!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Matthew, and from all at Learned Friends, we wish him the greatest of success. Listen to past shows on [www.maffus.me.uk](http://www.maffus.me.uk).

*Lawyers' Christian Fellowship: welcomes all, Christian or non-Christian, to meet fortnightly on Monday nights. Includes time to pray and focus on the Christian perspective on law. For more details contact Hannah Baynes.*



i-Probono is a new website due to launch in **Spring 2010**.

The website has been designed as a community website similar to 'Facebook' where Law students and professionals can create **profiles** detailing the types of **pro-bono work** they are involved in or would like to be involved in, the website then matches up individuals to relevant companies.

The University of Liverpool **i-Probono student officers** are Laura Hannah, Chaya Domnitz and Kate Hancock and they will be available as the website establishes itself to answer any queries.

i-Probono is endorsed by **Google**, **Apple** and **Cherie Blair** to name a few so is bound to be a big deal!

To be the first to hear news about the launch of i-Probono, **become a fan** on facebook! Also, look out for the University of Liverpool's own **i-Probono event** in **February!**

## Post Card



Well Uni out here is crazy, you have 4 subjects like in the UK, but only have tutorials in 2, but these tutorials are every week and last an hour and a half, like all the lectures. It's all incredibly hardcore here; lectures can start at 8.30 am and finish as late as 8.30 pm!

The main differences between French Law and English Law are that obviously France has a Constitution and is codified. If you cite a case in an answer instead of the relevant article of the relevant code (A Code is a ridiculously large and expensive book which becomes every French student's best friend as it includes all the relevant legislation, in fact they're so important to your average "frenchie" that finding a "code civil" in the library is like searching for the holy grail – (good job I don't need that one much this year!).

The next problem was finding a pint under 5 euros, I think we're all yearning for the Raz and 70p a pint! At least most bars do a "happy hour" where pints are 3 euros, and you can get syrup put in, like peach or raspberry or even Kiwi!

It's an amazing opportunity, and such a shame the Law department decided to cut the course really, although we all moan about the cost of a pint and the lack of cheddar cheese, it's really amazing, especially as we get the opportunity to get a "licence en droit" which is a 3rd year qualification in law (the French degrees generally last 4 years), and from the prestigious Sorbonne it must help in the ever competitive and globalised Legal world.

*Rosie- (Third year Law and French Student)*

A note from France.

# Question and Answer Sessions...

## Five Minutes with Andrew Leakey (Partner Stephenson Solicitors)

- **Where do you work and what position do you hold?**  
Partner at Stephenson's, Managing the Social Welfare teams (about 60 people across Consumer, community care, debt, employment, housing and welfare benefits)
- **Where did you study your law degree and LPC?**  
Liverpool and then Chester
- **Can you please give a general outline of how you have got to where you are today?**  
Erm, I'm unusual in having worked in the one firm since the age of 18. I worked in vacations at Stephenson's, did my training contract here, and basically I'm now part of the furniture
- **What was your first ever job?**  
Paper boy
- **Did you take part in work placements at solicitor firms as a Law student? If so, where and did they help you?**  
Yes, I got a realistic view of what law was like. I also did a mini pupillage in London and realised I didn't want to work at the Bar.
- **As a trainee solicitor what was your worst experience and what was your best experience?**  
Worst was mis-hearing an opponent whilst somebody played a marketing jingle over the firm's internal system. I was accused of settling a case. My robust litigation principle confirmed I hadn't! Best was assisting with an attempted murder trial from beginning to end.
- **Is there any advice you would give to current Law students hoping to 'follow in your footsteps'?**  
a. run ! b. be very determined
- **What is the best thing about your job?**  
Managing people
- **Is there anything you would do differently with regards to your career given the opportunity?**  
Probably have a gap year split between snowboarding and working on charity justice projects (see [ijm.org](http://ijm.org))
- **If you weren't a solicitor what would you be?**  
Architect
- **What is the most exciting case you have worked on?**  
Some of the group litigation we have done in relation to unfair loans - taking on lenders to prove that loans should be written off when they are unfair
- **What is the longest you have worked without sleep?**  
36 hours, whilst doing call outs to the police station for the crime team as a trainee. Met some very interesting people!
- **What car do you drive?**  
Ford S-Max (that's what happens with 3 kids!)

...and finally, describe yourself in three words!

Bad snow boarder (but I'm learning.....)

## Five minutes with Stephanie Reynolds (University of Liverpool Law and French Graduate)

**What are you doing since completing your degree at Liverpool?**

Working as Assistant European Liaison Officer for the Merseyside Brussels Office in Brussels. This involves researching EU funding programmes or recently adopted or recently proposed EU legislation that affects various bodies and groups at a regional level. I also attend and help to organise events which might debate certain European issues and policy or reveal useful information on upcoming European Commission funding or legislative action. Reports are written following these events. I have also been asked to prepare more indepth reports on various EU issues.

**Why did you decide not to train to practice as a solicitor or barrister?**

Having done work experience in a criminal law firm and also having spent some time researching the 'typical' Commercial Law firm route often promoted the best within universities I decided practising law wasn't for me. Rather than working within and applying the law on a day-to-day basis with often frustrating consequences (which is what I experienced during placements), I found, while at university, that I preferred analysing the law, discovering where it did not work and finding out and reflecting upon different opinions on what could be done to make it better.

**Has having a Law degree helped you despite deciding not to practice law?**

Yes. My job requires an understanding of the EU institutions and so having a law degree really helped me during the first few weeks when I was finding my feet. Depending on modules studied during the degree, different areas of the job would be easier. Jobs in diplomacy and international representation tend to just require a degree that has given some understanding of EU/international institutions: a political sciences degree is not needed. However, in Europe it can be hard to find a job without a Masters unless you are working for a UK office or company.

**Would you ever consider practicing law as a solicitor or barrister in the future?**

No but I would like to continue working in the legal field.

**Do you miss doing the degree?**

I miss the uni life a lot! I miss being able to focus on issues in depth which I cannot do in my current job but am looking to do in the future. I miss the social aspects but after four years I was feeling a bit mentally drained from all that study but I still really enjoyed my time at Liverpool.

**Any advice for anybody who doesn't want to practice law after uni?**

Don't panic and take your time! You don't have to know what you want to do at 21. Think about what you have enjoyed and what you haven't and take the time to research different routes, looking at the experiences of those who have already done them but allowing yourself to think about how you would react. Good luck!

## Sports News



### Netball:

The Liverpool Law School is proud to have a fabulous girls netball team, captain for which is Hannah Edwards. The netball team is ideal for those who want to socialise and keep fit and any girl can join from the Law School!

Recently the netball team came second in a tournament on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, so well done to the girls! The next major tournament the girls are due to take part in is in Manchester on the 19<sup>th</sup> March where they will be playing against teams from Law Schools around the North West – good luck!

There are also plenty of socials, the girls clearly have an excuse to consume lots of alcohol given the exercise they do on the pitch, along with plenty of friendly games.

So, if you think this may be for you then just drop Hannah Edwards an e-mail ([lw0u733b@student.liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:lw0u733b@student.liverpool.ac.uk))

### Rugby:

The most recent sporting edition to the University of Liverpool Law School is the Mens Law Rugby Team, founded by Jack Hughes (Captain) and Sam Jones (Vice-Captain).

Currently in its early stages, the team has only had a couple of training sessions and is in need of new members to create an award winning team! So if you have a talent for rugby, or just want to try your luck then e-mail either Jack ([lw0u8344@student.livrpool.ac.uk](mailto:lw0u8344@student.livrpool.ac.uk)) or Sam ([lw0u831a@studet.liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:lw0u831a@studet.liverpool.ac.uk)) for further details, but remember, they will require some level of commitment from you!

Additionally, please visit the Law Rugby teams Facebook group titled "University of Liverpool Law Rugby Club."

We wish the lads every success in establishing a team the Law School can be proud of! Hopefully in the next edition we will be able to report on their successes!



# Westlaw

Our Westlaw Representative is third year law student Hannah

Brookfield. If you need any help with Westlaw you can drop her an email at any time. Hannah also holds weekly clinics which take place in the Sydney Jones library, 11am-1pm Wednesdays and 2pm-4pm Thursdays. Keep an eye out for free goodies and Westlaw competitions were you can win a variety of prizes ranging from a set of Nutshells revision guides to a free laptop!! Hannah also wants to remind everyone that she will be available over the Festive Season via e-mail to help with any Westlaw queries!

# LexisNexis

Our University of Liverpool Lexis Nexis Student Associate is Jo Nessa, for any advice on Lexis Nexis contact Jo and look out for the free goodies that she leaves around the Law Foyer!

Thanks for reading the first edition of Learned Friends! Look out for our next edition!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

*Eleanor and Kate*

