

Learned Friends

Co-Editors Kate Hancock and Eleanor Dawson



Note from the Editors:

Welcome to the second edition of 'Learned Friends.' We hope you enjoy reading it. We would like to thank

everyone who has supported us in starting and maintaining the newsletter! This will be the last edition from us as co-editors and we hope that there will be some willing participants who will take over our role!

Kate and Eleanor



Student In the Spotlight—

Third Year Law Student Georgie Thomas discusses how she has secured her Training Contract.....

When did you have your interview?

It was at the end of a two-week Vacation Scheme last July.

What was the process you went through to get an interview?

The firm holds an Open Day at the beginning of each year, where there was a chance to learn more about the firm and meet some of their team. The application process is an online application form including details such as education, work experience and a section with essay questions such as; 'Why did you choose to study Law?' I was invited to an interview in February last year in order to secure a place on the Vacation Scheme. It was held at their office in Liverpool and I found it very friendly and quite informal. It only lasted about 20 minutes and seemed to be geared more towards assessing my personality and commitment to the legal profession. If you secure a place on the Vacation Scheme, the assessment centre and interview are automatically included.

What was the interview itself like? How long did it last?

The interview itself only lasted about 45 minutes but the assessment centre lasted for the whole day. I had to deliver a presentation which could be on any topic; I chose quad-biking. Then there was an assessed group activity with the other candidates where we had to debate a topic and come to a unanimous conclusion. After that, there was a one hour 'exam' which looked at our organisational skills and attention to detail. Then I had my interview in the afternoon. It was nowhere near as bad as I thought it would be. The interviewers were really friendly and easy to talk to; it felt more like a chat because I'd been working there for two weeks. The interviewers did try to challenge me and find out exactly what I knew but it wasn't too stressful.

Do you have any tips for other students due to attend interviews for Training Contracts?

Make sure that you know everything you possibly can about the market and the firm itself and be confident, friendly and professional on the

day.

Did you do lots of extra-curricular activities to make you stand out at the interview?

Last year, I took part in the Liverpool Law Clinic, the internal mooting competition and the Peer Mentoring Scheme. I think that these helped, however, I put more focus on getting work experience. I have had experience at a few different firms and also at barristers' chambers. I also work part-time in local politics and conferencing and events.

How did you prepare yourself for the interview?

I looked at the firm's website to find out which recent deals were important to them and which were their main practice areas and locations. The firm's website was useful for finding out who the key partners are. I also looked in the legal news such as Legal Week, www.thelawyer.com and in newspapers to find out what the general perception of the firm is. On the day of the interview, I re-read my application form and CV to check that I knew exactly what I had already told them. I also went over my presentation a few times. On the morning of the assessment, I read the newspapers as I had heard that interviewers will check that you know what's going on in the news on the day.

How long after your interview were you informed that you had secured a Training Contract?

Students who have just finished second year and are about to start third year can only be informed that they have a training contract on or after the 1st September, so they phoned me on that day.

When are you due to start your Training Contract?

It will be either the end of August or beginning of September 2011; the date won't be confirmed until this time next year.

Do you know which department your first seat of your Training Contract will be in? Did you get to choose?

No, not yet. We will get to choose which seats we would like to sit in sometime next summer before we start. After each seat, trainees have a meeting with the Training Partner to discuss the seat that they've just sat in and which seat they'd like to go to next.

Interview with Jesvin Sekhon, third year law student and CAB advisor

Which CAB do you volunteer at?

I volunteer at Warrington CAB. I started training at the end of May 09 and was a certified advisor by the end of December.

Why did you decide to volunteer at the CAB?

I decided to volunteer at CAB because I wanted to get some experience at dealing with people's legal problems and apply what I have learnt during my degree to real life situations. It is only after I started I realised CAB deals with a whole range of problems, including housing and homeless applications, benefit related issues, immigration problems and employment disputes to name a few. I also did it to enhance my CV.

What was the interview process like to become an advisor at the CAB?

There is no formal interview as such. I went to the bureau to find out more about the advisor role and had a chat with the training supervisor. He explained what the training consists of and I signed up there and then. You do not have to have any legal background to become an advisor and the volunteers at Warrington are all from a wide range of backgrounds.

What sort of training did you have to do to become an advisor?

The training normally takes between 10-12 months and during this time you have different modules to work through such as housing,

commercial law, learning about the benefit system, immigration etc. You work through a series of booklets on different topics and answer a set of questions at the end to check your understanding. There is also a two day training course you must attend before you can begin advising.

What sort of tasks do you do on a typical day at the CAB?

On a typical day you see between 3-4 clients. It involves assessing their problem, identifying any key concerns and using the specialist advice software system to research their problem. You then provide them with advice and finish by writing up a case sheet. The interviews are generally quite varied and can involve telephoning different people, such as private companies, the courts, the tax office, the benefit office and housing associations etc.

Are there any downsides to volunteering at the CAB?

The only downside to working at the CAB is you do not have any choice in the cases you deal with so you could end up with all debt cases one day or all housing etc without much variation.

Would you recommend volunteering at the CAB to other Law students? If so, how can they get involved?

I would recommend volunteering at CAB to all law students. It provides you with hands on experience and you learn a lot about a whole range of issues. You can get involved by approaching your local CAB and speaking to the training supervisor.

Salut!

Post Card



A NOTE FROM FRANCE...

Well we're all settled in properly now, and are well over half way through the academic year! The pace isn't slowing though, and this semester there's an essay set every week in one of our tutorials, but it's up to the tutor to pick who's essay she takes in, it's like Russian Roulette because if you have nothing prepared for 3 weeks they can fail you!

We've changed subjects too after the "partiels" (January exams, which we've only JUST got the results for!) It's all going well and I think that we've got used to being picked on for essays and having to get up for 8am lectures most days we're really enjoying the opportunity of being out here and studying in one of the most prestigious universities in Europe, and in one of the world's premier cities! Even being stuck in the Library isn't that bad when you're in Paris, besides, you can always pop out for a stroll around the Jardins de Luxembourg or head to the Louvre for a picnic in the Tuilleries!

We've managed to fit in a few trips to various places recently though, including Rennes, Rouen, Grenoble and hopefully the Château de Versailles to come soon! As well as the obvious Eiffel Tower. I even managed to fit in all 293 of the Metro Stops of Paris in a single day to raise money for Cancer Research along with a couple of my gap year friends!!

To think, at the end of this year of fun in Paris, we even get an extra qualification - the Licence en Droit!

Rosie (Third year law and French student)

The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship Liverpool Group by Jourdain Tambo, 1st year Law Student

This academic year we have seen the numbers of member's increase. To witness an increase in the numbers is always refreshing and motivating for all. In addition, this year the format of the fortnightly fellowships have somewhat expanded. We have managed to dedicate more time to worship and prayer which has been extremely beneficial for me individually and also for the group as a whole.

The Law and Justice Bible study remains the pinnacle of our fellowship. The Bible study is a means for us to exchange views and outlooks on how to apply Biblical principles in our daily lives and in our roles as prospective lawyers. From a personal perspective, the Bible study has increased and matured my understanding of how to apply Biblical principles in my everyday life.

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Sports News

A message from Law Girl's Netball Team Captain Hannah Edwards.....

"Recently the girl's netball team took part in a tournament in Manchester, unfortunately we didn't place. However, we won 2 matches and drew one. In the matches that we did lose, there was only one goal difference so I felt proud that the girls, who played literally all day, did really well!"



From another perspective—Law at Other Universities.....

London School of Economics: Law Student Sean McGuinness:

LSE

What was your favourite subject throughout your time at Uni?

This will be an unpopular answer, but I think I'm going to have to go with Jurisprudence. Although I haven't finished the course, it's taught in third year at LSE, it's something I've really clicked with. I think it's the truly academic way to study law in its purest form, and although that sounds massively cheesy it's something I've enjoyed. Other than that, I'm doing my dissertation on "The rule of law in the Mafia" which has been a great research topic, and has allowed me to apply the Jurisprudence I've been learning to something that really exists. Overall once I've got stuck into the revision of topics I've generally enjoyed them.

What was worst subject?

Probably EU law, I didn't really engage with it during the year so revision was an upward struggle. That, and the fact that I feel the EU organisations are largely irrelevant/self-absorbed/narcissistic. Bit of a Euro-sceptic! I actually ended up quoting Peep Show in the exam... "And that is why the EU will continue to be seen as a 'banana straightening machine' (Mitchell & Webb, 2005)".

What extra-curricular things did/do you do?

At LSE people are competing for jobs from day one, so I got fully involved with all the obvious things like mooting/societies/SU politics. This didn't last very long, as I genuinely didn't find them that interesting. One legal related thing I did engage with was the "Pathways for Law" scheme, set up by the Brightside Trust. I acted as a mentor for state school students in deprived areas of London who wished to study Law. This was really rewarding and I made some good friends out of it. In my second year I joined the University of London Air Squadron, which is a part of the RAF. Although not law related, it really enhanced my last two years at Uni and have made some of my best friends here.

What are your plans for the future?

I was one of the lucky few to obtain a training contract during the recession (who can resist a charmer?), so I'll be going to the College of Law, London next year sponsored by DLA Piper. I'm also going to study for the New York Bar exam next June which, if I pass, will qualify me to work in the States. I'm planning on staying in the Square Mile long term to establish myself, with maybe the option of moving to one of DLA's offices over the pond in years to come.

Overall have you enjoyed doing your degree?

I would have to say yes. I've perhaps been a little lazy throughout the years, but have always put the effort in over Easter, where at LSE degrees are won or lost. From this, I spent a lot of my time a little confused and a little absent in lectures, but when I've got down to it I've had a really good time. And living in the centre of London has topped it all off!

How can girls get in contact with you if they have any further questions?

If you need my details contact Eleanor or Kate, if you're ever in London and in need of some special local knowledge give me a call, and I may just take you out!

University of Central Lancashire: Combined Honours Student Scharlotte Walsh:



What was your favourite subject throughout your time at Uni?

Throughout my time at Uni my favourite subject has been criminal law, it was interesting and was a good topic for debates in seminars.

What was your least favourite subject?

My worst subject was Public Law as it was very in depth and at times extremely boring.

What extra curricular things did/do you do?

Extra curricular wise I became a mentor for someone on my course to help them with their work and revision, I found this a very rewarding experience.

What are your plans for the future?

As of yet I'm not sure as to my plans for the future. I may decide to study the LPC part-time or embark on a Masters Degree.

Overall have you enjoyed doing your degree?

I really enjoyed doing a Combined Honours Degree as it has given me more options as I will still get a qualifying law degree but will also be able to go into business, which is good as a HR career is a strong possibility for me at the moment. I also feel like the tutors at UCLAN really made the effort to get to know the students, as a result I found them really approachable and always happy to help and offer guidance.

Elections

LEGAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Legal Society elections will take place in the coming weeks. The nominations are as follows:

PRESIDENT

1. Julie Duane
2. Kurtus Mc Evoy
3. David Perikhanyan

VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Caffrey

SECRETARY

1. Francis Agunbiade
2. Bethan Williams
3. Julia Hollis
4. Eve Horren

TREASURER

Daniel Glover

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

1. Vincent, Xiangyang Xiao
2. Luke Morgan
3. Yasmin Brown

GENERAL OFFICERS

1. Jayne Davies
2. Rosie Kavanagh
3. Charlotte Hopwood
4. Jack Hughes
5. Emma Sharkey

LEGAL SOCIETY NEWS:

The Law Ball is being held on the 8th June 2010, so look out for Alex's email detailing relevant information about the upcoming event!



BAR SOCIETY ELECTIONS 2010/2011

The Bar Society will shortly be holding elections for the 2010/2011 committee.

The Bar Society welcomes applicants for the following positions:

- President;
- Vice-President;
- Treasurer;
- Secretary;
- Inns of Court Liaison Officer;
- BVC Liaison Officer;
- Chambers Liaison Officer
- Courts Liaison Officer;

- Master/Mistress of Moots;
- Junior Master/Mistress of Moots (x2)

For more information generally on the Bar Society please follow the following link


www.liv.ac.uk/law/enrichment/barsoc/index.htm

Please e-mail Matthew Bainbridge (lwou7320@student.liverpool.ac.uk) if you would like to be considered for nomination for one of the positions.

All applications must be received by 10:00am on Monday 26th April 2010.

FRESH YEAR, FRESH PRESIDENT

VOTE NOW



Here are a number of reasons why YOU should VOTE me as PRESIDENT:

I will ensure that all events in the academic year of 2010/11 will without doubt, be FUN, JOYFUL, and most of all ENTERTAINING.

Having firsthand experience I know just what YOU'RE looking for and ways to improve the success of the Society.

Having lived in Liverpool throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to explore the city therefore being in a very good position to take YOU to the best venues around with the BEST possible deals.

As PRESIDENT of the Committee, I will ENSURE that we represent YOU and YOUR interests, and not ourselves as the elected body.

The ANUAL LAW BALL. This I PROMISE, will be, not only a Ball to remember, but the BEST BALL EVER!!!

By electing me as your PRESIDENT I promise, not only to make the Legal Society the best it can be but also to advance it in such a way that YOU will be PROUD of being a member.

I promise, if elected, to get the best out of the year with live bands at events, I promise, to always be on hand for questions and so forth and to keep everyone in the loop for the big events. I promise exclusively to push for a MEGA trip somewhere with the Legal Society, perhaps a weekend in Spain or France!!!

Finally, if elected, I will start off our year with a free bar in the first bar crawl

Come on people; we can't get better than that!

Thank you, your vote will be much appreciated and worthwhile,

Kurtus McEvoy
Vice-President

Life as a Trainee Solicitor.....

Interview with Rachel Lamsley:

Which firm are you training at?

Stephensons Solicitors LLP

Where did you do your degree?

University of Liverpool

How long ago did you start your training contract?

I started my training contract in September 2008

Have you already completed your LPC or are you completing it whilst training? Where did you/are you doing your LPC?

I completed my degree in 2007 and went straight to BPP Law School in Manchester to complete my LPC. I had already obtained my training contract whilst at uni and was starting it in 2008. I was grateful that I didn't have to do it part time.

What was the interview process like to get your training contract?

It was one of the most stressful few days of my life, you can ask any of my friends! There was an initial CV and questions section and if you were successful you were invited to the assessment day.

The morning section included a psychometric test, followed by group work where we had to prepare an advert for the firm and present it to the rest of applicants.

As I was applying for two years in advance I was told that if I got through I would not be coming back for a panel interview until the next day. You can imagine that this was ample time for my nerves to sky rocket. I got through the assessment day and went to the interview the next day.

The first question was tell us about yourself in 1 minute. Well you can imagine my surprise as I hadn't prepared for this question, this had nothing to do with law or the firm, I struggled to remember my name!

There was a mixture of questions including ones relating specifically to the firm. You have to be prepared for the more obscure questions, such as 'were do you see our IT system in 5 years time?'

Is there a lot of pressure on you as a trainee solicitor?

As a trainee you do have pressure on you to do well but I think this pressure is inflicted mainly by yourself. It really depends on your supervisor, but you learn very quickly that you are learning

and that there are going to be times when you have a bad day. Its more about ensuring that you not only ask questions, but that you also ask the right questions. The pressure comes when you have been given some instructions, you ask your questions and then you realise you still don't really know what you have to do. What I did and still do when I am getting instructions from a supervisor, is to always take a notebook and write everything down. You can then go through what is written before leaving their office and can see what information gaps there are making sure you ask the right questions.

I am now in my final seat in the Employment team. I was lucky enough to get the newly qualified position so I have new pressures now, a case load. This is a learning curve for me as I had never run my own cases. I have learned however, that you are supervised for a reason and you need to remember to speak up when you are not sure. If you think there is a problem, don't think it will go away as the likelihood is that it wont.

What is your typical daily routine as a trainee solicitor?

I usually get in to the office around 8:45, time for me to settle in and get my 'to do' list sorted. I like to get a lot done in the morning so will start with the big things first, this means that if they are going to take longer than anticipated, or if something urgent comes up, they are already underway. We take all of our calls, so you are sometimes bombarded with queries from clients.

My day continues like this really, but I often don't get out if the office until 7pm. It was not always like this, in my first year of my training contract I would get out usually by 6pm, if not earlier. But as this is a very busy department and now having my own case load, I find that my days are a little longer, especially when an urgent matter comes up or if you have a particularly complex file.

Is being a trainee how you expected?

It is what I expected in that you bundle, work extra hours and be a general dogs body at times. However I was not expecting the level of responsibility I was given in my second year. Also, I didn't expect to be attending the House of Lords during my first seat, which will go down as one of the highlights of my Training Contract. Although it has been a bit tough at times, with crazy deadlines and difficult clients, it has been a great experience and have really enjoyed it so far.

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

Westlaw®

The University of Liverpool Law School Mooting Competi- tion 2010

Mooting Final Results

First Year

*Winners - James Greenwood and Katie Dunn
Runners Up - Rebecca Jones and Shelley Lam-
bourne*

Second Year

*Winners - Joe Cater and Liam McLoughlin
Runners Up - Julie Duane and Shelley Burley*

Third Year

*Winners - Rob Kilcoyne and Hannah Fulcher
Runners Up - Sharif Al Gamri and Victor Adia-
mah*

*Many thanks to our sponsors Atlantic Chambers
and Exchange Chambers.*



The University of Liverpool Legal Society (ULLS) on the 23rd February 2010 launched its first ever website along with its new logo both developed and designed by Littered Light.

The site is part open to the public and part private membership, open to Legal Society members only. The committee aims to modernise the Society with the use of the website by providing students with access to useful information and a variety of features such as:

Profile pages of the Pro Bono Society; Bar Society; and Law and Business Society

Law sport teams – Football; Netball; and Rugby

Events calendar – to keep students informed of different academic and social events

Forum – enabling students to initiate discussions

Social and academic links
Society minutes – access to past committee meetings

Picture gallery
Core Statutes

The Committee hope that current and future law students benefit from the website as much as possible. To achieve this we intend to promote a number of law firms on the site enabling students to have quick, easy and direct links to the firms.

LEGAL SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENTS!

On November 10th 2009, Liverpool Legal Society went on a trip to Manchester as part of an 'Invasion' event. There was a mixture of first, second and third years from Liverpool Law School, as well as students from John Moores University, and also from University of Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds. It was a great opportunity to meet people from our own university, as well as others. The night started as soon as we got on the coaches and left from Liverpool, and continued into the early hours of the morning. The majority of the night was spent in the Printworks in Manchester city centre – with a detour to a takeaway midway through the night. We rotated between bars throughout the night so there was no chance for us to get bored, and there were plenty of cheap drinks offers around. It was great to have a night out in a city other than Liverpool, and the 'Carnage-style' T-shirts were a good little addition. It was definitely one of the best social events in my three years in the Legal Society.

On February 25th 2010 we then ventured to Leeds which was also a really good night. The coach journey was slightly longer, and it was raining for most of the night, but that did not prevent us from enjoying the night. Again, this was another great social event, and thanks must go to the Social Events Co-ordinator Alex Irving, and the other committee members of the Legal Society who spent time organising the events!

Richard Burrows, third year Law student.



Thanks for reading the second edition of Learned Friends. A special thanks to all those who assisted with writing articles and sending us photos and information!

Good luck with exams and coursework and for the future for all third year students graduating in July!

Eleanor and Kate