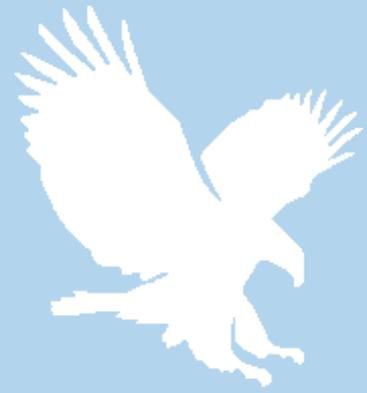


The Eagle



2018/2019



The University of Sheffield Edward Bramley Law Society

An insight to Sheffield Law School and beyond

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Law



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About Us

The Edward Bramley Law Society pays tribute to the inspirational solicitor Edward Bramley, who provided lectures to help improve the skills of solicitors and article clerks in Sheffield. His work facilitated the creation of the School of Law in Sheffield, and in turn the creation of the Society itself.



As one of the largest student-led Law Societies in Europe, we aim to enhance the studies of Sheffield Law students by providing activities to enhance career opportunities as well as their personalities and overall time at university. Our commitment to this has been reflected in continuous nominations for the University of Sheffield Academic and Activities Awards.

Each year we strive to get students to fully immerse themselves in what the Law Society has to offer, whether it be pro-bono work, volunteering, sports or trips abroad. We hope this year we can continue to provide this service to the students at Sheffield Law School and facilitate further growth of the society.

Editor's Note



Once again we find ourselves at the beginning of another academic year—for some of us, the first at university. I would therefore firstly like to welcome all new and returning students to your law society for the next twelve months. We have a truly excellent committee this year with a wealth of ideas to make it the best year yet.

I hope you have found yourself well rested and ready to tackle university whether for the first or fourth time—Summer certainly flew by—I spent a good deal of mine editing this magazine so I really hope you find it useful and interesting. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this year's edition, from staff to students past and present and of course our kind sponsors who have made this all possible.

I look forward to meeting you all this year.

Dilara Topcu

A message from the president...



With the start of the academic year just around the corner, I am excited to welcome back the existing members of Ed Bram, alongside those who will be joining us for the first time here at the University of Sheffield. This year will be especially exciting for the Edward Bramley Law Society. With the acquisition of some amazing benefits from partner firms, bars/restaurants and organisations we would hope that our members feel as though we are aiming to promote inclusion with their fellow peers and help in the endeavour to access their dream career, whatever that may be.

We have, and will continue, to push for the best events to help you, no matter which stage of your degree you are in. Irrespective of the careers focus that I wanted for our committee this year, there is lots more to look forward to from our society. From the bi-annual balls to the sport teams we have, there is something that everyone can enjoy to wind down from the stress of work and applications! On behalf of the committee, I would just like to mention the pride that we all have based on what the previous committee achieved. I hope that I am successfully able to move the society forward, building on what they have done, to continue it's legacy.

- Emily Kellett, President of the Edward Bramley Law Society 2018/2019

And from Bartolomé House...

Each morning much of the news that we hear on the radio, watch on the television or consume on twitter underscores the global interconnectedness of law, politics and commerce. Whether the latest twists and turns in the Brexit negotiations, the rise and fall of markets, the cross-border implications of technological advances, or the fallout of political uncertainty in seemingly remote countries, there can be little doubt that law, politics and the economy interact in increasingly complex ways around the world. The rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world presents a very real challenge for those of us who study, teach and practice in the fields of law and criminal justice.

Fortunately, our School is one of the most 'international' law schools in the UK. 'Internationalisation' is part of our DNA, and our goal in the School of Law is to prepare you for living and working in increasingly globalised workplaces. The degree programmes that we offer reflect our international perspective. Each of our programmes is designed to help you grasp that everything from commercial transactions to criminal justice has increasingly important international dimensions. For example, our undergraduate degrees enable you to specialise to a much greater extent than the traditional law degree. We believe that this will enable you to develop the skills and specialisms that you need to make you attractive to leading international law firms. Our LLM degrees are taught by leading international experts, offering our postgraduate students the chance to select from an exciting range of modules that confront the most pressing questions of international legal regulation.

Not only have we structured all of our degrees in order to maximise the ability for you to select the modules that you want to study, we have also ensured that every undergraduate student who wants to study abroad is able to do so. We are rightly proud that more of our undergraduate students spend a year studying abroad, and at more destinations, than any other UK law school. The ability to adjust to living and working in a new culture is a skill highly prized by employers. Above all, a year living and studying in a new country with its own unique blend of history, politics and culture offers you the chance not only to learn about a wholly new legal system, but - more importantly - to learn a lot about yourself.

Our commitment to preparing you for a global workplace is also reflected in our staff. The staff delivering your lectures and leading your seminars have an extraordinary range of professional experiences from around the world. Many of our staff practised law at many of the UK's biggest international law firms, including but not limited to the staff who teach on the Legal Practice Course. Our expertise extends beyond the UK, with our collective experience encompassing the practice of law in more than a dozen jurisdictions. We also have staff who have worked in criminal justice systems overseas as well as in the UK. Throughout the School you will find staff who have advised and influenced governments, parliaments, judiciaries, regulators, law enforcement agencies, companies and NGOs around the world on questions of law and criminal justice. The staff who teach you day-in-day-out are also writing papers and books that influence law and policy, and through this, change lives around the world.

Over the coming year the School will - as always - host a huge variety of conferences, seminars and employability workshops. These will feature not only the international experts in law and criminal justice on our staff, but also leading judges, lawyers, policy-makers and academics from around the world. Events such as these are proof that our School is a beacon of excellence in law and criminal justice. I very much hope that you will take the opportunity to attend as many of these events as possible. Similarly, there will be many events across the wider University that will enrich your understanding of our changing world, with university clubs and associations which will allow you to meet students from different departments and all corners of the globe.

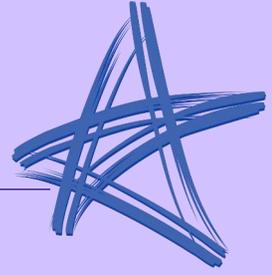
As a student at the University of Sheffield, you have a fantastic opportunity to do so much more than just attend lectures, study and revise for exams. In addition to committing yourself to your studies, I urge you to use your time in Sheffield to explore what our university, city and region has to offer. Doing so will help to prepare for you living and working internationally.

Graham Gee
Professor of Public Law
Head of the School of Law (from 1st October 2018)



Meet the team

Your committee 2018/2019



President: Emily Kellett

Year: Second

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The food, of course. You have to try Mount Lebanon on West Street, it's amazing!



Vice President: Dilara Topcu

Year: Second

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: Broomhill Friery



Secretary: Carly Griffith

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The people! It feels like a home away from home –not just the university bubble, but the whole of the city.



Treasurer: Cathryn Horton

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: Going to the parks and beer gardens in the summer



Mooting Secretary: Jaden Whitehall

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: How much I feel like I'm part of something really special. The connections I've made and experiences I've had through the university have been invaluable.



Mooting Secretary: Georgie Allsopp

Year: Third

Course: Law with Criminology

Favourite thing about Sheffield: having the Peak District on your doorstep for day trips, hikes and brunch



Male Sports Secretary: George Ottewell

Year: Second

Course: Law with Criminology

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The friendly, welcoming atmosphere makes it feel like a real home away from home



Female Sports Secretary: Maya Rogers

Year: Second

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: (other than the nightlife) the amount of parks and greenery around the city - the Peak District is also very beautiful!





Careers Secretary: Alisha Sedhev

Year: Second

Course: Law and Criminology

Favourite thing about Sheffield: Compared to London I like how relaxed and friendly the people are out and about, and the student community is great

Volunteering and Inclusions: Mary-Lou Abbott

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The city is small enough to get to know well yet it still has lots going on all the time - and is so close to the peaks!!



Publicity Secretary: Ben Peters

Year: Fourth

Course: Law and Criminology

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The reduced section in Broomhill Morrison's



Charity Secretary: Grace O'Donnell

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: Varsity season because it brings out everyone's TRUE colours



Social Secretary: Morgan Westoby

Year: Third

Course: Law and Criminology

Favourite thing about Sheffield: All the amazing people I have met here



Social Secretary: Rebecca Hawkrigg

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: The diversity of the city

Social Secretary: Katie Evans

Year: Third

Course: Law

Favourite thing about Sheffield: All the beautiful parks!





PROGRESS

WITH PURPOSE

How do you know when you're making progress? It's all about the firsts. First day. First client. First deal closed. First mistake, and what you learned from it. It's the little steps as well as the big ones. And here's one for you now: first encounter with your future. Find out about our training contracts and vacation schemes at:

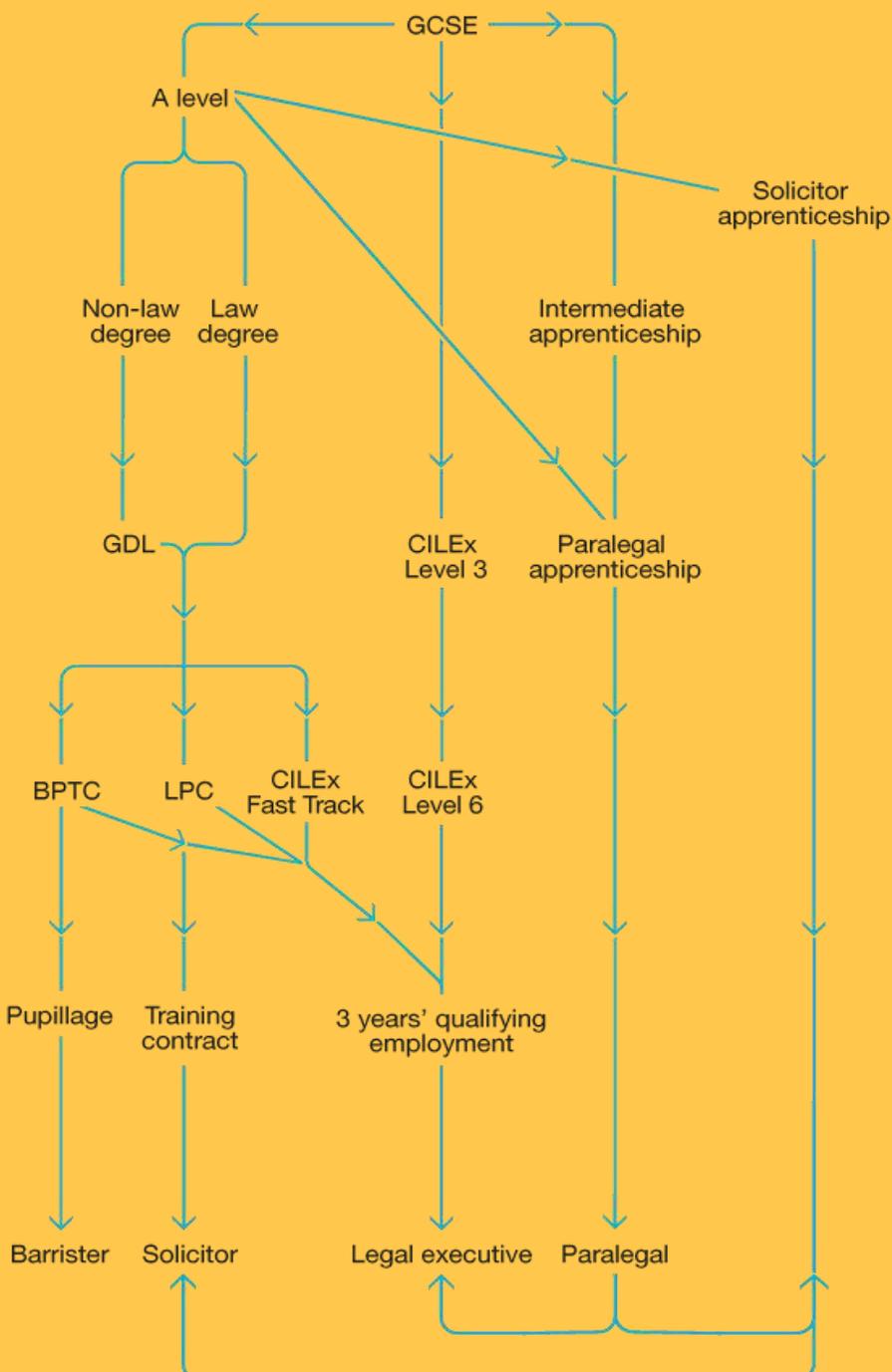
nortonrosefulbrightgraduates.com

Pathways to Practicing Law

If you have decided you want to practice law or are considering the possibility, it is helpful to have an idea of just how you will end up in the job you want. This guide by lawcareers.net provides the standard routes into becoming a solicitor or barrister.

Which is the right profession for me?

Just as different degrees suit different people and personalities, so do different jobs in law. Most of you will be considering either becoming solicitors or barristers: the basic roles of each are outlined below.

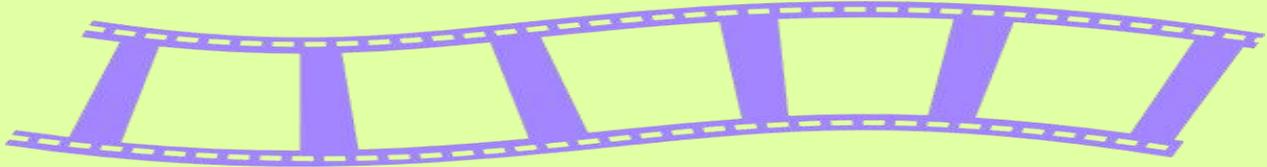


Solicitor

Solicitors generally work outside of court for firms, advising clients on a range of legal issues. It can mostly be said that solicitors therefore work in teams. They also negotiate deals and draft and review important documents such as contracts.

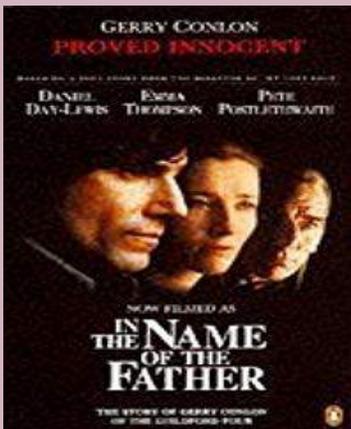
Barrister

The role of a barrister consists of advising clients, drafting documents and undertaking negotiations. They must stand in court and argue a case on behalf of their clients in front of a judge. Around 80% of barristers are self employed.



5 Films For First Years

In my first year of law, I found that films and documentaries dramatically enhanced my understanding of some of the law that we were learning on our course. Here are a few which I hope will bring your first year modules to life!

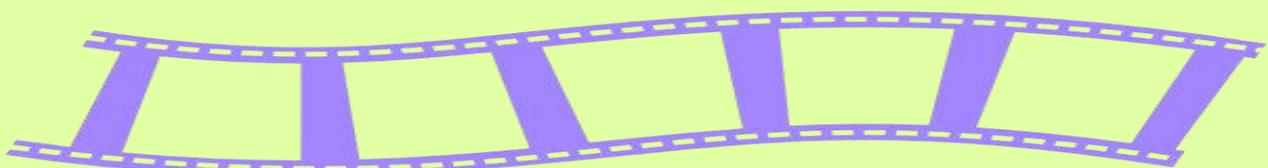
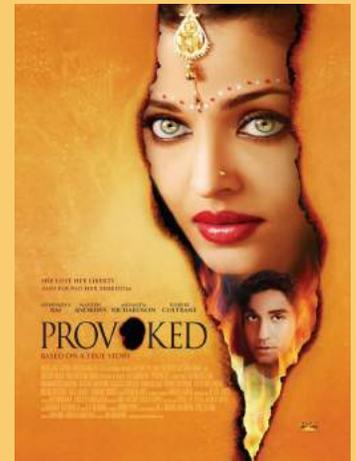


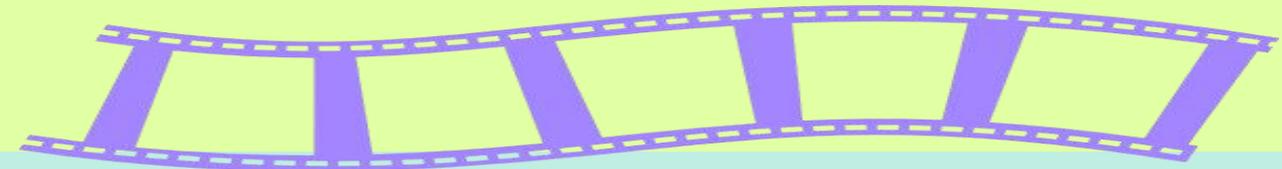
In the Name of the Father (1993)

This film was nominated for seven Academy Awards, and details the events surrounding the wrongful conviction of the 'Guildford Four'; who served 15 years in prison for an act of terrorism that they didn't commit. This is extremely useful for illustrating the importance of due process in criminal litigation, a fundamental aspect of first year criminal law.

Provoked (2006)

In 1989, Kiranjit Ahluwalia made history when she mixed homemade napalm in her garage and set fire to the feet of her sleeping husband. The night before, he had tried to break her ankles and burn her face with an iron; the culmination of ten years of abusive behaviour. He burned to death. The court ruled that this scenario did not constitute 'provocation', and she received a murder sentence. 'Provoked' is the story of her fight for justice, which resulted in a change in the legislation for manslaughter to encompass women who defend themselves against abuse.





Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election (2004)

The United Kingdom currently has a blanket ban on prisoner voting rights; a controversial position which the European Court of Human Rights has ruled against four times. This documentary explores the wider impact of felon disenfranchisement in the 2000 US presidential elections, and demonstrates some of the potential consequences of a restricted voting policy.

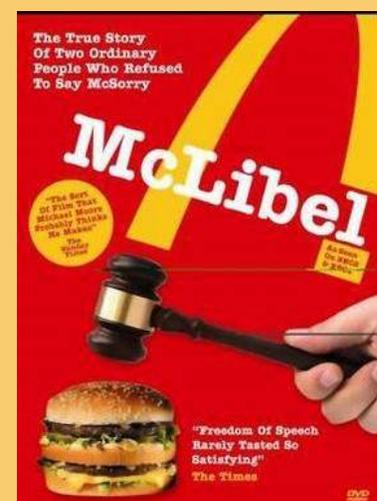


The Children's Act (2018)

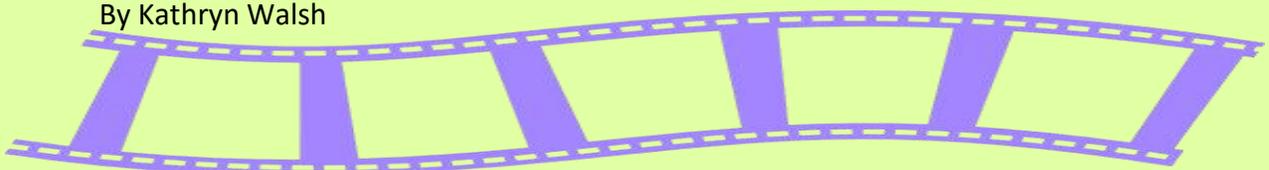
Catch it in cinemas if you can! This film explores the law associated with patient choice, religion, and children. It is also a window into the life of a judge, and the impossible decisions they are sometimes forced to make. Watching this will give you a greater understanding of criminal law cases like *R v Blaue*, in which an 18 year old Jehovah's witness died after refusing a blood transfusion.

McLibel (2005)

This documentary chronicles the longest running court case in English history: McDonald's spent £30 million fighting two members of London Greenpeace who received no legal aid. One was a part time gardener, the other a single father. The David and Goliath aspect of the case is riveting, as is the exploration of English libel law. Furthermore, the events of the documentary illustrate how the European Court of Human Rights interacts with national courts, which is useful for almost every module of a first year course.



By Kathryn Walsh



INNS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS



The
University of
Law

Applications for Inns scholarships open in September, so we've been speaking to **Joe O'Leary** – Future Pupil Programme Coordinator at The University of Law – to get some top tips on what students should be doing to prepare before applying for these coveted awards.

Prep your CV

It might seem obvious, but it's amazing how often people forget to update their CV with their latest exploits. Make sure you keep yours up-to-date with your full education and employment history, including any scholarships or awards you've received. Be sure to include additional achievements or experiences too – any legal experience, pro bono and voluntary work, things you've had published and public speaking ventures will go towards ticking more of the boxes that the Inns will be looking for.

Pick the right Inn

You can only apply to one Inn for a scholarship, so it's worth doing your research into each of them to decide which one you want to go for. Pore over their websites to get all the information you can, and try to arrange a visit to each as well. You can book a tour so that you can take a look around and learn more about the Inns in person.

“Just the facts, ma'am”

When you're writing on a subject you're passionate about it can be easy to get caught up in your own excitement. Keep yourself in check and don't stray from giving a clear picture of who you are and what you're bringing to the table. Rely on facts rather than claims, and always use evidence so that you're showing, not telling. Make your writing as concise as possible – remember that you want to get straight to the point, so avoid hyperbole or overcomplicating.

Get straight to the point

In your application make sure you highlight helpful facts as clearly and directly as you can. Don't shy away from picking out an excellent mark in a particular module or essay, or emphasising the relevance of a part-time job. This is your chance to draw attention to the things about you and your skills and experiences that matter to you, your ambitions and hopefully to them too. As you're applying for a scholarship to study the BPTC, it's definitely worth talking about any acting, debating or other public speaking that you've done. After all, that's what you want to do for a living. Don't dismiss any other extra-curricular activities either – you never know what interests you may share with whoever's reading your application.

Get grammatical

It should go without saying, but grammatical or spelling mistakes in your CV and application are a big no-no. Be sure to double- and triple-check your final versions before submitting your application. For a basic review you can use online grammar checkers, but don't rely on them too heavily. And it always helps to have a fresh set of eyes take a look at it too, so ask someone else to give it a read – they might spot something you've missed.

Time is on your side

With applications opening in early to mid-September and not closing until the beginning of November, you've got plenty of time to do more to add to your CV and application. If you feel like there are any gaps in your experience, see what you can do in the next few months to remedy that. Get involved in some work experience, do some voluntary work, do a charity fundraiser. Get creative and see what you can do to give your application that extra boost.

GOOD LUCK!

A YEAR ABROAD IN BUDAPEST

By Jake Hardman

So, you want to know about a year abroad in Budapest? Well, there's a lot to tell so get yourself comfy, put on your reading specs and get ready to immerse yourself in what must surely be a city on anybody's bucket list of places to visit.

Flying out to a new country alone alongside families with screaming children and fully equipped with an obscure magazine you picked up from WHSmith's can be a daunting prospect. It's normal; it might be the first time you have ever lived more than a short train journey away from relatives and you're moving to a city where you literally know no one. What surprised me is how quickly this nervous anticipation was replaced by daily excitement and enthusiasm to jump into anything and everything.



I had organised private rented accommodation before arriving in Budapest, which I would fully recommend to anyone doing the same trip as the dormitories in the halls are pretty isolated and often you will have to share a room. My housemates were two Italian guys who became my best friends, a French girl and another student doing law at Sheffield – it can be a huge bonus at times having someone there for you that you don't have to adapt your speech around, who you can discuss home/Sheffield life with and who you naturally share some common ground with for when you first arrive! I loved having a diverse, international household; it makes conversations dead interesting, can be absolutely hilarious at times and really does give you an insight into different cultures and traditions.

In this sense, the year abroad does exactly what it says on the tin. Erasmus allows you to meet so many different people, from different countries and backgrounds offering both an eye opening and immensely entertaining experience. What's more, you're discovering a new city together and especially with Budapest being so landlocked, it's so easy to organise short trips across borders! I have very good friends now that I still contact regularly and intend to do so for a long time. In fact, it almost feels as if wherever you go in Europe you're not very far from someone that would be happy to meet for a beer and give you some helpful hints for discovering hidden gems.

... Now onto Budapest. For me, its quite telling that of all the visitors I had over to see me when I was there, spanning an age range of about 65 years, each and every person said they would rush back and that the city's offerings surpassed all of their expectations. I guess this proved that my affection for the place was not just biased because it had become home!

What's instantly striking about Budapest is the way the river divides the city, into Buda and Pest, with Buda being a very scenic and green landscape and Pest being the more developed commercial part of the city. This contrast brings with it such diversity, where the old clashes with the new and the historical landmarks blend in with very natural backdrops. It also means there is loads to do! Whilst Buda lends itself to gruelling hikes cured by a trip to the outdoor baths overlooking the river Danube, Pest thrives with a vast array of eclectic restaurants, bars, clubs and live music venues. The best bit? Hungary is so cheap you can afford to do these things on an almost daily basis, meaning there is no chance for boredom to creep in and you're never (too far) into the red. There's always something you haven't found in Budapest and I will still uncovering cool hideouts until the day I left.

(It helps that the workload is a little less demanding than in Sheffield too!)

On that note, I'll leave you with an Erasmus top tip. It sounds cliché but throw yourself into everything. There will be times when you miss the ease of life at home, when you are bored with starting new conversations requiring initial small talk to get them started or where you feel that its far easier to sit in and chill than go on a trip with people you don't know. However, it is only by going to various events and speaking with loads of different people that you are able to discover what you like and dislike doing and who you want to spend more time with. Trust me, you learn a lot more this way and it will be worth it in the long run!

I hope this helps and for anyone that is doing/planning to do their year abroad in Budapest in the future, I envy you – you'll have one of the best years of your life!

Jake



Some key recommendations:

Attractions: Citadella, Fisherman's Bastion, St Mathias Church, Heroes Square, Szechenyi or Gellert baths

Restaurants: Il Terzio Cerchio, Dionysos Taverna, For Sale Pub, Mazel Tov and Puder

Bars: Szimpla Kert, Lampas, Fuge Udvar, Csendes, Elato Haz, Kupling

Clubs: A38, Instant/Fogas/Larm, Hello Baby, Corvin, Otkert, Toldi, Akvarium

A FRESHER'S GUIDE TO FIRST YEAR AND YOUR NEW HOME

By Beth Burgess



Get organised and stay on top of your work

It is tempting to miss lectures and not write up your notes, especially when you have been out the night before, but I found that attending every lecture helped me to stay up to date with my work and not fall behind. Also, I found it useful to write up or read through my lecture notes after the lecture to help me understand the content better. It also allowed me to identify areas to work on and improve, which is best to do earlier so you will be less stressed around exam time.

Ask for help

It may seem daunting at first to ask for help, especially because university is such a different environment to school, but the tutors and lecturers are here to help. Academic staff are experts in their field, and they are passionate about their area of law, so make the most of them. Also talk to your personal and academic tutor as they are here to support you and give you advice.

Learn from your peers

It is helpful to discuss revision and reading techniques with other students as this allows you to try a variety of methods of note taking and revision, and you may find a better technique for you.

Make use of the 301 Student Skills and Development Centre and the English Language Teaching Centre

The 301 Skills and Development Centre is extremely useful to develop your essay writing skills, revision techniques and reading skills through attending workshops or online courses. I would recommend using these resources as they help you develop vital skills that you will need throughout your degree. By perfecting these vital skills earlier your work will be better. If English isn't your first language, make the most of the English Language Teaching Centre. It offers language support in the form of English Language Support Classes and the Writing Advisory Service, amongst other services.



Get involved

It is important to get involved in every aspect of uni life. You should join societies that interest you as it is a great way to meet new people. I would also recommend that you get involved in activities within the law school, such as pro bono projects. They are really good ways to work on your teamwork skills as well as providing more opportunities to meet new people. Pro bono projects, in particular, are good to get involved in in first year as you have more time on your hands. Your participation in these schemes also sets you out above the rest, which is important for applying for first year schemes and vacation schemes.

Get ahead

It is never too early to seek work experience and volunteering opportunities for your applications for vacation schemes and training contracts, if that is the route you want to go down. In first year it is important to make the most of the year while you have more time. If you don't want a career in the legal profession then seek other opportunities; for example, the careers service has lots of schemes and events throughout the year for non-law related careers.

Enjoy yourself

It is important to remember that university is not all about working. It is also important to make sure you make time to socialise and do things you enjoy— getting the 'work life balance' right. You can do this through societies, law society socials, and making the most of the surroundings in Sheffield.



Discover your new home: Places to go and things to see

- 1) Visit the Peak District**
- 2) Go to the Peddler Night Market**
- 3) Go to Tramlines Festival**
- 4) Visit Ecclesall Road**
- 5) Make the most of Endcliffe Park, Western Park and The Botanical Gardens**
- 6) Do a bar crawl down West Street**
- 7) Head down Division Street and Devonshire Street for the independent shops, bars and restaurants**
- 8) Visit Meadowhall**

○ ELSA SHEFFIELD COMMITTEE | ○ 2018-2019

ELSA Sheffield

AS A LOCAL GROUP OF ELSA WE AIM TO EXPAND THE KNOWLEDGE AND CAREER POSSIBILITIES ACROSS EUROPE FOR STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.

ELSA Sheffield was founded in 2012 and is affiliated with Sheffield Students Union and School of Law – University of Sheffield. The first UK based President of ELSA Sheffield, was elected in 2012 which makes it one of the oldest established UK groups.

Helping you achieve your goals

You may ask yourself how ELSA differentiates among all the other law societies at the University of Sheffield. With over 5,000 international students, ELSA Sheffield is constantly trying to raise above what the UK legal sphere can offer and attract more international opportunities for its members. Being international is not actually defined by having other origins apart from English. Having connections with students all over the world, interacting with them and spending valuable time at the University of Sheffield makes you an international student too.

But what is the secret behind being a Sheffield law student?

Life revolves around your next seminar or tutorial- a sentence you might have heard from a wide range of law students. A typical day of a law student will begin with a two-hour lecture with an assigned reading of at least 20 pages which will be discussed thoroughly during a seminar session with other fellow students. You will be constantly wandering between the Bartolome House, the Information Commons and the Diamond, preparing for your next WINS tutorial or simply trying to catch up with the reading for your Property Law seminar the next day. Doesn't sound like the most pleasant experience, right?



Be that as it may, this is not completely true. Regardless of the constant question whether a law degree is the right one, the law can happen to be unequivocally intriguing. Being a law student does not mean just to read 24/7 and to pass your exams with flying colors. You will dive in the legal world while being provoked to think outside the box, discover more about the global economic issues, think about human rights and the whole idea of the functioning of the contemporary society. In the meantime, you will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of student organizations, where you can put this knowledge into practice and see the law from a practical perspective. Our University offers a wide range of law societies where you can meet new peers, make friends and develop your understandings of the law while working in a team.



Getting the most from your time as an ELSA member

ELSA LAW SCHOOLS.

unique experience. Every year we organise two sessions, one during winter holidays and one during summer.

Have you ever wanted to study for at least two weeks in another country? ELSA provides for both members and non-members, the opportunity to apply for a two-week academic programme provided by top Universities and international Law Firms during which you can enhance your legal skills and create new connexions. The only things you have to do is to choose your destination and your area of law and apply for the

Among the benefit of meeting people from different cultures and legal systems and having connexions with our EU Alumni network, ELSA also offers special participation fees on our activities, LLM Scholarships, traineeship programme and much more.

For more information about the society, tickets, membership and upcoming events send us an email or visit our social media web-pages

The European Law Student's Association, ELSA, is the biggest law society for European law students. We at ELSA try to make people think outside the conventional. As a non-political organisation we aim to avoid being biased and remain impartial when it comes to the relationship between UK and EU. We are a part of the global family of ELSA and collaborate with branches of the Association across the UK as well as in the EU.

ELSA provides all young people, interested in legal education, with a wide range of activities. As a new society, we plan to organize various events such as conferences and seminars, mock interviews, CV workshops and panel discussions with representatives and recruiters of the most distinguished law firms in the country. Not only that but we are about to make essay competitions which will aim to broaden your understanding of the law and make you more commercially aware. **Last but certainly not least, institutional visits to London and Edinburgh will be held in March so as to get inside the UK Supreme Court.** Sounds more interesting, doesn't it? However, there is much more that can be done and it will be! We also have some socials coming up such as cocktail networking events, collaborations with other law and non-law societies and plenty of night outs!



Committee

President – Luiza Ana-Maria Herisanu (president.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Vice-President for Marketing – Natalia Vladimirova (marketing.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Vice-President for Academic Activities – Berdzh Draganov and Rene Garansky (academicactivities.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Vice-President for Seminars and Conferences – Irene Jiyeon Kim and Rhian Edwards (seminarsconferences.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Secretary-General – Cristian-Razvan Popa (secgen.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Treasurer – James Humphreys (treasurer.sheffield@uk.elsa.org)
 Inclusion Officer – Petros Panayiotou (elsa@sheffield.ac.uk)
 Social Secretary – Aleksandra Pitula (elsa@sheffield.ac.uk)

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2018/2019 Agenda



15th Sep - Launch of the 17th edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

20th Sep – Activities Fair, Location: the Octagon, Students Union

22th Sep – ELSA Law School Winter Session application opens

26th Sep - Launch of the 7th edition of the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition

1st December - Law National Pupillage Fair 2018 (ELSA goes to London trip)

Facebook: ELSA Sheffield
 UK Website: www.elsa-uk.org/
 EU Website: www.elsa.org/

The European Law Students' Association

Miscarriages of Justice - An all too familiar problem in the British criminal justice system

By Annie Akers, President of MOJAS 2018/2019

The Criminal Justice System in its current state is failing those who are the victim of a crime, and also those who have been falsely accused and charged with an offence which they either didn't commit, or were not aware of.

The question which is asked often, to people who want to, or are pursuing a career in Criminal Law is 'how do you defend someone you know is guilty?', but very rarely 'how do you defend someone who you know is innocent?'

The Justice System is there to prosecute individuals who have committed a crime, with the presumption of innocence, until guilt can be proven. The names of suspects and those under investigation are often released in various forms of media - although one is to be treated as innocent until proven guilty in the courtroom, can this really be the case in everyday life if the allegations which a person faces are publicised everywhere, for anyone to see?

Although not strictly a *wrongful conviction*, false allegations and the effect of these also carry a huge burden for the victim of the allegation and their family. False allegations happen for many reasons, whether if it was with malicious intention or a white-lie gone wrong, but the defendant is still faced with this allegation and likely the media presence surrounding it.

In the case of *R v Allan*, Liam was charged with six counts of rape, and six of sexual assault by his ex-girlfriend. He was on bail for two years. It wasn't until undisclosed material came to light which proved Liam's innocence, that the Crown Prosecution Service dropped the case. Liam says;

"It was hard because I'd spent so long trying to not let it define me, but when it broke out in the media, I had to accept the possibility it would".

Similarly, Simon Warr, a teacher, was falsely accused of historic sex abuse, by a student whom he had never met. Simon was on bail for two years, not knowing the progress of the case, yet being subject to online hatred, although he was an innocent man. Simon went on to tell me;

"My thirty-five year teaching career was ended. I was on bail for 672 days before a unanimous jury acquitted me. I still lost my career and home. The lies told about me will be online forever"

Around the UK, organisations work on and fight for the freedom of those who are currently incarcerated, such as the Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre at the Sheffield Law School, Joint Enter-prise Not Guilty by Association (JENGbA) and the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation (MOJO). A person's life can be shattered, their families can be torn apart, careers are lost and there is an immense financial burden too, and with almost no compensation payable for the majority of the cases, how is a person able to recover from the trauma of being imprisoned wrongfully?

Many are fighting for compensation to be available for all victims of a Miscarriage of Justice, as since the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 amended s133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, it is required for you to be able to prove, *beyond reasonable doubt, that the offence was not committed, which is not an easy task. After you have been imprisoned for a crime you didn't commit, life isn't easy to commence, the victims of this and their families can't go back to normal - they can't relive those moments they missed, see the family who passed away, see their children grow up.*

The life of a victim of a fault of the system, and the lives of their families and friends are so severely disrupted that it becomes unbearable to do much than survive on a daily basis. I have spoken to many peoples distraught from facing what seems like a lifetime alone, and they don't know who to turn to as they feel the law is against them. People who once had faith in the Criminal Justice System no longer do.

"You are in a very large dark hole without a shovel to help dig yourself out. Your family and friends can't afford a shovel. No matter how hard you dig with your hands, the dirt just keeps falling on you. There is no way out".

The system needs changing to support those who have been dragged through such a traumatic time, but when will it change?





WHAT DOES THE MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE SOCIETY DO TO CHANGE THIS?

The society based at the University of Sheffield Students Union doesn't work directly with active appeal cases, however, we do work closely with the Miscarriage of Justice Review Centre.

The primary aim of the society is to raise awareness that wrongful convictions do happen, and the extent to which these destroy lives.

"My false accuser destroyed my most precious dreams in one go. Destroyed my quality of life. Destroyed all my confidence. My parents never lived to see me amount to anything. All I am doing now is existing"

We are working to combat the stigma surrounding these allegations. Although a person can be convicted, and their conviction might be overturned, the presence of these accusations are still on the internet and the innocent person who was convicted for this crime will take a long time to recover. We are fighting to make the wider public aware. We are fighting to see change and to give those without a voice some hope.

During the academic year of 2018/19, we will be holding a wide variety of events, such as talks from barristers around the UK from some of the biggest Criminal Law chambers, and also from Solicitors, both junior and senior, who have the experience of working on these cases.

The law students at the University of Sheffield are the future Barristers, Solicitors and Judges who will be working in the Criminal Justice System. They can make the change which needs to happen and the Miscarriage of Justice Awareness Society will contribute by sparking an interest in these individuals.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Please come along to the Activities Fair and the Law Fair where you can ask the current committee any questions and get involved with our events. Our membership runs for one year and is £5 to join, one of the benefits of being a member is that you will receive a regular bulletin with stories from real victims and professionals who work in this area.

Alongside events relating to Miscarriages of Justice, we will also be hosting a range of career specific events for those wishing to work in Criminal Law, and also socials!

We will be recruiting a first-year and post-grad representative in November, so please do come and ask questions and get to know the team!

First Year Scheme Story

By Zoe Norton

During the last Easter break from University, I was lucky enough to attend a first steps scheme at DLA Piper. These schemes are organised by law firms to allow you to learn more about them as a firm, and more about life as a city lawyer. They are also a stepping-stone to getting that elusive vacation scheme, and eventually a training contract with that firm.

The scheme that I attended was at DLA Piper, which is a large global law firm that has acted on more mergers and acquisitions than other law firm has since 2005. It has several offices across the UK, such as in Sheffield, but the scheme took place solely in its London offices, close to the Museum of London.

The scheme lasted three days, and every single day was broken up with lots of food and drink breaks! Even if you are not sure about being a City lawyer, these schemes are worth attending for the top-notch food. Each day, we were given breakfast, lunch, an afternoon snack, and two of the three days we were given dinner!

On the first day, we played some icebreaker activities to get to know everyone else on the scheme because there were around fifty people from all different universities in the UK. It was useful to chat to other people studying law to see how Sheffield Law School differs from and compares with other law schools.

The rest of the first day was a chance to understand the ethos of the firm and the work it does on a day-to-day basis. This consisted of talks from senior partners at the firm, such as Michael Fiddy, who told us of his love for the famous torts case *Bolton v Stone*, and how he used to manage Fulham FC. We also had a speed-dating activity with trainee lawyers and associates from different practices in the firm. They moved around each table and told us about the work of each practice and their role on a day-to-day basis. The first day was rounded-off with a pizza-and-wine networking evening, chatting to the current and future trainees at the firm, with impressive views across London.



The second and third days were centred on a group project. Each group was given time to prepare for a presentation on one of the sectors in which DLA Piper works. Our team had the real estate sector and we had five questions to answer. The purpose of this activity was two-fold. Firstly, it allowed us to see DLA Piper presents itself to clients as sector experts, with not just a knowledge of the law, but also an understanding of the sector in which the client operates, and how that law affects those clients.

Secondly, each group presented to a senior partner and a member of the recruitment team. After our presentation, we were given individualised feedback on how we could improve in the future and what DLA Piper looks for both in a presentation and in a good team. This was very useful because they told us that presentations form a part of DLA Piper's vacation scheme! Having already done a presentation at the firm, I am better equipped to illustrate my capabilities if I am lucky enough to attend a DLA Piper vacation scheme.

Other activities on the second and third days included a negotiation activity, talks from more senior members of the DLA Piper team, a pro-bono activity, a CV workshop and networking sessions with some of the trainee lawyers. The negotiation activity was particularly interesting because we were able to see what actually happens when two law firms are hoping to achieve the best deal for each of its clients. Before the face-to-face negotiations even begins, large amounts of research are done on the other party in order to find its vulnerabilities that can be used to leverage the best deal for the firm's client.

The pro-bono activity was equally as thought provoking because it showed us how DLA Piper chooses its pro-bono cases, using a series of tests. It also demonstrated another side of DLA Piper and how it makes the law accessible to all.

The second and third days were also not lacking in food nor drink. At the end of the second day, we were all treated to a three-course meal (with wine!-) at an Italian restaurant, called Giorgio's in Leadenhall Market. The restaurant was the kind of restaurant you could imagine Robert de Niro having his dinner in, and the prices matched accordingly!

To gain a place on this scheme, I had to complete an online application form through the firm's website. The application form included the usual personal and academic questions, and asked two specific questions: firstly, why am I interested in DLA Piper as a firm; secondly, to summarise a news story from the business press and explain why it had caught my eye.

Equally, I had previously attended an open day for the firm at its Sheffield office in March 2018 and a drinks reception at the University in February 2018, organised by the Sheffield Law School. I think attending these events increased my prospects of gaining a place on the first steps scheme because it, firstly, shows a vested interest in the firm, and secondly, several other people on the scheme had also attended open days at the regional offices.

A final point on the experience was that it was completely free! We did not have to pay for any food nor drinks whilst we were with DLA Piper. They also contributed up to £100 to travel expenses, and if you lived more than 60 miles away from its offices (anyone outside of London) a hotel was provided.

Overall, it was a highly enjoyable three-day experience, which opened my eyes to what life as a City lawyer is really like. It has confirmed that being a solicitor is the career for me and hopefully it will help me in any future applications to DLA Piper.



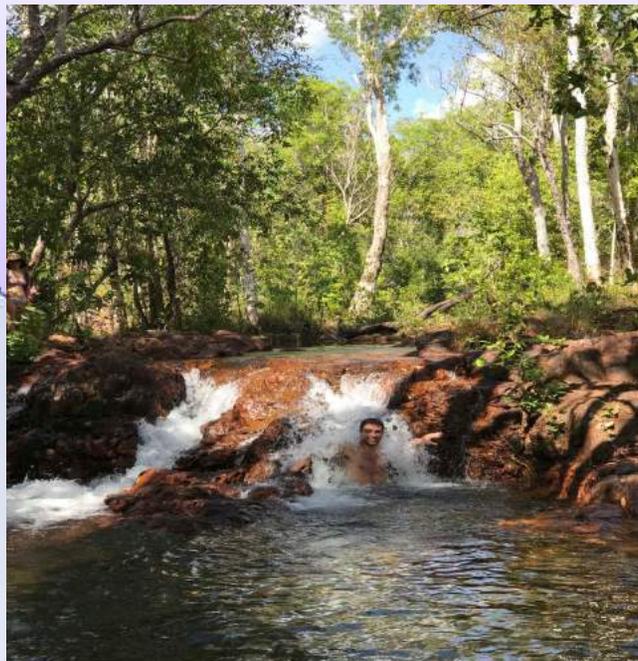
STARTING OUT DOWN UNDER

I'm currently on my study year abroad at Griffith University in the city of Gold Coast, Australia. Due to the seasons being different here, I actually started at the end of June rather than in September like most people doing a year abroad. This also meant that I started in Trimester Two and will have November, December and January off for Australian Summer Holidays, before doing Trimester One in 2019 and finishing at the start of British Summer Holidays.

Because I started my year abroad so much earlier than other students, I was finished with my entire application process before most had even started. I thought this was pretty good as it meant I didn't need to worry about doing anything for it in exam season. The application process itself was quite difficult to finish and took me several weeks - but was completed eventually. I'm currently staying in what could be considered halls, but it's quite different to what you'd expect in any British University since the vast majority of Australian students live at home. Most of the students in my accommodation are other internationals with a few Australians, so it's a nice mix of people to make friends with. Most of the international students are from the United States, Canada and mainland Europe for one Trimester only, with there being comparatively few British students (almost all from the University of Leeds).

Since I started halfway through the academic year, I was lacking the pre-requirements to do most of the law modules so am currently doing only one law module with three others in politics, business and international relations. The system of studying is very similar to Sheffield's, with there being weekly lectures and seminars for each module and exams or coursework as the assessment method. The only major difference is that some of my modules award marks for simply attending the seminars or completing an online quiz, regardless of how well you actually do in it. Having done much of the

Unlike you'd expect from Australia, it really isn't that hot most of the time. Although it's gradually gotten warmer since I first arrived, it's unfortunately not enough to use the pool next to my flat. The beach, however, is much nicer! Gold Coast is famous for its great beaches which can be reached via the tram that runs throughout the city. The tram here is so much better than Sheffield's; it's



usually pretty quiet, runs 24 hours (until 1am on weekdays) and only costs about 70p for a single to anywhere! You can even use the linked train service to reach Brisbane for around £2.50 in less than an hour. My only major dislike about Australia is how far everything is from each other - you can't just walk home from a night out and will need to get back on the tram or Uber.

Gold Coast is also known as a major tourist city and boasts plenty of restaurants, bars and attractions. There's three big theme parks, two water parks and numerous city attractions all within half an hour of my flat so the only trouble is deciding where to go. The nightlife, compared to the UK, is a different scene - most clubs are similar to Crystal in Sheffield (not fun) and there's nothing that comes close to Pop Tarts or Roar (I miss these more than my parents). Alcohol too is annoying to get with it only being sold in liquor stores that close early and is crazy expensive; nasty vodka costing £15+ and decent beers being triple the price you'd expect. I've visited the Northern Territory, Byron Bay and Sydney over the weekends and am planning many more over the coming months.

The Ed Bram committee is as much of an education as any module. Don't believe me? Try it.

Cellan Griffiths, President of the Edward Bramley Law Society 2017-18, gives an insight in to what he learned from being on the committee.

“It's very hard for them to attack me on looks, because I am so good looking.”
 – *Donald Trump, August 2015.*

No, I'm not talking about myself (as much as I'd love to, though I'm not sure this magazine's the best place for it), I'm talking about the Society. This year is **looking good**. There's always bound to be a niggling worry in any walk of life where you have to hand over your job to someone else, hoping they're good, but not so good that they put you to shame! Petulance aside, you just hope that they can better something you've put a great deal of effort in to. But, I need not worry, the committee have got this, their planning for the year has started remarkably early, they have some great activities, events, and general support in the pipeline. I've handed over the ropes, confident that Emily and her committee are going to do it justice.

At the time of writing this article, the committee have days before the Activities Fair in the Octagon and Bartolome House. The Activities Fair is as much an opportunity to put names to faces and tell first-years how wonderful everything is, as it is an existential crisis to the Society. The Activities Fair is the one-time opportunity to recruit first year members, miss that, and consign Ed Bram to the desolate wilderness of other folded societies! Ok, I exaggerate a bit, but it is important!

That brings me on to the first, and most obvious skill you learn from being on the committee, ~~making it up as you go along~~ leadership. Nobody should really expect you to know what you're doing when you're on the committee, but they do. When in a meeting, I always found these two things are so important: don't let the meeting go on for longer than an hour, if it's longer than that, decide something rather than continually talking about it; **listen**, go around the room, because everyone will have something to say (some louder than others).

Commercial awareness. To those of you reading this in second and final year, I can hear you screaming through the magazine article. To those of you in first year, innocuous as these words may seem, have fun. To those of you who don't know what I mean by commercial awareness, Google it. “How can a university society possibly teach me commercial awareness?” I hear you say. Well, it's never going to teach you the wider concepts of business, giving you all the insights into commercial trickery like a Panamanian bank manager, but it will teach you how a business works. The Society actually is a business, search Student Law Societies on Companies House, it turns over about £50,000 a year. You'll very quickly learn what business and commerce looks like being on the committee, because you have to! I found that the most enjoyable way to learn these skills is to actually do it yourself.

To Emily, Dilara, Cathryn, Mary, Ben, Maya, George, Alisha, Grace, Jaden, Georgie, Katie, Rebecca, Morgan, you're going to be amazing! To everyone else, please get involved, because you'll love it too. Visit www.edbramlaw.co.uk, and click ‘Join Ed Bram’.

*Cellan Griffiths was the President of the Edward Bramley Law Society last academic year.
 @CellanGriffiths.*



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Using the internet to make your first year at law school a success!



Studying law can be a very daunting experience, especially if the subject is completely foreign to you! Having never studied law at GCSE or A level previous to university, I did what any normal, clueless student would do- I turned to the internet. This isn't to discourage you from reading good old books, but the internet is full of many great resources that I found really aided my learning experience in first year. I thought I would share some of these with you.

1. Broadening your Commercial Awareness

Even the newest law students will quickly realise the importance of developing a commercial awareness. It is important to keep up to date with on-going cases and understand headlining news. This skill becomes undoubtedly sought after by employers as it shows an interest and passion for real-life law. To show an ability to follow, understand and interpret the significance and implications of cases, makes for a highly coveted asset. One essential, online source that helped me improve my commercial awareness is **'THE LAWYER'**. This publication is one of the most informative and topical news sources for law, as well as offering **'Lawyer2B'** which is aimed at law students and anyone who is interested in a career in law. This offers career advice and provides news about opportunities such as training contracts! Other good sources for building commercial awareness include the **'Law and order' section of BBC News**. It also helps to stay attentive to what is happening within politics by reading news providers such as **The Economist** and **The Telegraph** for reliable facts and directives on legislative plans and outcomes.

2. Nailing your applications

Although it seems obvious, to further find information regarding opportunities within law firms, browsing on their individual websites is an excellent way to find out if they are offering any schemes, as well as to understand what they specialise in and what kind of candidates they are looking for. Before applying anywhere, you should always do your best to have a good understanding of what the business or firm does and what they're looking for you to demonstrate. This will give you the best chances for submitting a tailored application that will be exactly what they are looking for- it will need to be specific to that firm because no two firms are the same!

3. Keeping up with Social Media



Another great way to keep up to date with exciting opportunities, such as competitions, mentoring and events, is to follow the University of Sheffield Edward Bramley Law Society on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**. Across these social media platforms, you can be informed on the latest courses and opportunities around campus! One course that has featured on the Edward Bramley Facebook, for example, is the 'How to succeed at: Writing Applications'. By signing up to a free, three-week course with Sheffield's FutureLearn team you can master a skill that will better prepare you for career prospects during and after university!

4. The School of Law's website

Using the internet is the easiest way to quickly find programs and experience you can engage in that will also benefit your first-year studies. For me, searching the **Sheffield Law School website** gave me a great insight in to groups I wanted to be a part of, as well as being enrolled on all the university emails and law school-related emails. The Law school website provides plenty of information regarding, for example, the Law-related societies (e.g. the Edward Bramley sports teams) and the pro-bono schemes! At the University of Sheffield there is plenty to get involved in, both related to your studies and extra-curricular, all will look great on your CV. You want to be seen as someone who gets involved, can manage their time well, and be a great team player- so get browsing and become a part of a team!

5. Your own professional online presence - LinkedIn

Finally, creating a **LinkedIn** account in first year is an excellent way to ease your way in to networking! At first, understandably, you will have few contacts. However, by initially adding other students on your course and contacts you may meet at university open days and networking events, you will have accustomed yourself to a platform that may bring opportunities you never expected.



I am sure that there is plenty more to be found on the internet that may help you become even more successful in your first year, but I hope that this helps for now!

- By Eva Pennycate

Volunteer

With Ed Bram

This year, we are continuing our rewarding and highly successful volunteering programme of helping to raise the aspirations of local primary school children and teach them the basic principles of law. The current format of the project is set around a mock trial starring Goldilocks and through interactive learning and fun activities, allows pupils in years 5 and 6 to explore and debate aspects of criminal law to come to a final decision. This project is a hugely valuable experience for all involved and develops The University of Sheffield's outreach work into deprived local areas, engaging with children who may not have considered attending university in the future.

Volunteering is beneficial not only to the primary school pupils who will take part in the project but also to our students. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people on your course and build your confidence skills, give back to the local community and it serves as a great addition to your CV! The project is available for recognition on your HEAR record and well worth giving up a couple of hours of your time for. Our project has been an established opportunity for our students for a number of years and continues to gain brilliant feedback from participating primary schools.

Training and resource packs will be provided by the University to this year's team of volunteers and the sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons throughout the academic year. If you're interested in working with children in the future or getting into teaching after you graduate, this project will be a hugely valuable asset to your CV.

Look out for information of how to sign up which will be posted on our social media sites in the coming weeks. You will need to attend a compulsory training session for safeguarding and then supplied with all the materials you will need!

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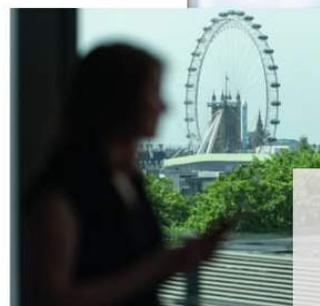
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LAW, POLITICS & SHEFFIELD

3rd year Politics & International Relations student Conor Gallogly walks us through the important relationship between law and politics, Brexit and the effect on our city.

The best definition of politics is ‘who gets what, where and when’. Since the time of Plato this has been determined through law set by legal precedents, or more, elected politicians – legislatures. The integral link between politics and the law means that for centuries the law has shaped politics and politics has shaped the law. Understanding how this link comes about and its importance is vital for both students of politics and law; not only for their future careers in either field, but also as a foundation of their studies, to remember where it all begins, and to remember that everything a politician or judge decides is about ‘who gets what, where and when’ – whether that be welfare or justice.

As a student of politics, I visualise this link differently to a student of law. The easiest way to visualise the link is that for politicians the law is two things; a goal and a constraint. This is by no means an academic paper but there are a number out there that analyse the link using this two-part definition in more depth.

First the law as a goal; our whole political system is set up so that the party with the most number of seats in the House of

Commons wins a General Election. This is because a strong majority in the House is required to make the passing of legislation a smooth process. Tony Blair’s government rolled legislation through like a freight train in the late ‘90s because he had a majority of 179 MPs. Today, Theresa May could only dream of such a majority, emerging from the 2017 General Election with a majority of 3. This led to a confidence and supply deal with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from Northern Ireland, giving May a working majority of 13; effectively the DUP props the Conservative Government up by voting with the government on major issues like Brexit where they see eye to eye.



House of Commons

Such a deal emphasises the importance of the parliamentary majority to any government because its goal is to pass laws that effectively change the country. New La-

bour shaped the new century in the UK through new pieces of significant legislation such as the Human Rights Act, a number of pieces of equality legislation such as removing section 28 and the Freedom of Information Act 2010. Many would argue these are expressed New Labour’s commitment to a more tolerant and fair society. Other pieces of legislation such as the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 and the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 showed a desire for a tougher approach towards crime and the causes of crime, but also an approach that critics argued the security of the state was favoured over certain civil liberties. These two examples highlight firstly the impact passing major pieces of legislation has on a country, this goes without saying. They also highlight that for politicians, reaching the goal of passing a major piece of legislation is a big win. It not only signals a shift in policy direction but plays well in the media and shows a government that gets stuff done.

All governments pass legislation, it’s a given. Some systems of government pass more than others (the UK Parliament passes 97% of legislation proposed whereas the US Congress only passes about 3%), some gov-

-ernments find it easier than others, but all governments and political institutions are constrained by the law. There are of course many Acts of Parliament that dictate the work of government and restrict the government from acting beyond its power. Without a written constitution and with so much power based on convention, effective checks and balances are important. Most effective at holding the government to account is judicial review; a procedure by a court to review the actions of a public body. Brexit is a great example of this, a legal process stemming from a political decision and directed not by legal experts but by politicians. The Brexit process so far has seen a number of legal challenges both to the referendum decision and the process itself; the most notable being *R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union* (2017) UKSC 5. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Government could not trigger Article 50 and the UK's withdrawal from the EU without passing an Act of Parliament allowing the Government to do so. The Brexit process has obviously caused a significant amount of debate, not just over the new direction for the country but also how the process itself should be carried. One point of significant contestation was the sovereignty of Parliament; argued for by

Brexiteers but then sacrificed in favour of the government's control over the Brexit process. The decision in this case reaffirmed Parliamentary Sovereignty when it came to the Brexit process; the Government could not solely rely on its prerogative powers. It is a perfect example of the law acting as a constraint on politicians as it forced the Prime Minister to first seek the permission of Parliament before triggering Article 50.



Gina Miller, Claimant

A more local example of the law as a constraint is the Sheffield tree felling scandal. Sheffield City Council (SCC) has a Highways Renewal contract with contractor Amey which involves the felling of trees that damage pavements and highways. So far around 5000 trees have been felled in Europe's greenest city. This has obviously led to significant backlash from campaign groups leading to legal action on both sides. Campaigners seeking to protect the trees have sought a judicial review of the contract and process by which SCC have gone about the fellings. In 2016 they secured a High Court injunction suspending the tree felling for three months. This point high-

lights that the law can be a constraint on the actions of both national and local government – no public body is above the oversight of the courts.



Protesters in Sheffield

So, from the point of the politician the law is both a goal to determine 'who gets what, where and when' and also a constraint on how one goes about delivering that – but could the law also be a means to an end? And not necessarily a happy ending. In Sheffield, trees are being felled in the early hours with a heavy police presence preventing any disruption. This has led to an injunction banning 'direction action' protests against the fellings and convictions for breaches of this injunctions – in short Sheffield citizens are being convicted for protesting in support of Sheffield's famous trees, and this legal action is being supported by the political leaders of SCC. Questions are beginning to be asked, in Sheffield and elsewhere, if this is a just use of the law or have politicians in Sheffield gone too far to protect a controversial commercial contract?

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TRAINEE AT CMS

Laura studied Law and the LPC at the University of Sheffield and is now a 3rd seat trainee at CMS in Sheffield.

I get into work at about 8.30am and grab a coffee from the kitchen before catching up with my colleagues for a chat. By 9am I'm ready to start work.

I've usually created a to-do list at the end of the day before, which means I have a pretty good idea of what deadlines I have and what tasks I need to complete that day. I also check my emails to make sure nothing urgent has come in overnight or earlier that morning. Naturally, work is fast moving and you have to be prepared to change your plan for the day if a piece of work comes in that needs prioritising. Luckily, this makes the days really interesting and never what you quite expect!

My current seat is Technology and Media, which focuses mainly on commercial contracts. At CMS, we have some very high-profile tech and media clients, which means the work is interesting and always changing. I will often have a training session to attend either in person or by dialling into a session in London. The training package for this seat is extensive because it includes the legal aspect and also training on the industry. For example, the other day the whole department had training on Adtech, which is all about the technology behind online advertising.

My supervisor is my main source of work and I will either assist him with simpler parts of big matters or, where the job is more straightforward, I might prepare a first draft myself and then have it supervised before making amendments and sending to the client for comment. I also get work from the team in London, which is a great way to get to know the wider department.

Trainees are also encouraged to get involved in the firm's wider activities. For example, every year all staff have the opportunity to attend the CMS Football Cup which takes place in a different country every year. Each CMS office from around the world (we have 74 offices!) sends players to compete against the other offices. This year, the tournament took place in Vienna and after a day

I also get involved in the firm's charitable initiatives. For example, next week I'm travelling to Switzerland as part of the support crew for a group of colleagues who are cycling from the CMS office in Zurich to the office in Geneva to raise money for the firm's chosen charities.

Trainees also get the opportunity to go on a secondment for one of their seats; either to a client or to another CMS office. Currently, there are trainees in the Rio de Janeiro, Dubai and Beijing offices, and at Amazon, Goldman Sachs and Mercedes (amongst many, many others!). So far, all the trainees in my intake in Sheffield have been or are on secondment, and I'm hoping to complete one in my final seat as well.

The Sheffield office is super friendly so most people tend to stick around at lunchtime and eat in the canteen. The firm also provides complimentary pay day drinks on Fridays each month. This is great because the whole office is invited and we get a chance to chat to people that we don't normally work with on a daily basis.

My day tends to end at around 6pm. If there isn't much to do, we are very much encouraged to leave earlier than this. Equally, if there is a big job that needs completing we might be asked to stay later, although this is very rare in Sheffield.

I didn't have a traditional route into becoming a trainee. Although I studied law, I wasn't sure I actually wanted to become a lawyer! After graduating, I worked in the City doing tax work, and then in the music industry before managing a youth project for a couple of years. Needless to say, all this experience really helped me gain confidence and work out what I wanted to do with my life.

Since joining CMS, I've set up a firm-wide Social Mobility Network which aims to make CMS as accessible as possible to people from all backgrounds. This includes assisting with the delivery of various work experience programmes and coming up with strategies to help people progress through the firm.



An Introduction to FreeLaw

The FreeLaw Legal Advice Clinic is a student led service open to the public, providing advice in a broad range of legal sectors such as contractual disputes and employment.



HOW DOES FREELAW BENEFIT YOU?

- FreeLaw provides an important link between legal study and the application of law in the real world.
- FreeLaw can form part of your degree as an optional pro bono module.
- Real responsibility in sensitive legal matters.
- Increased employability and interview skills.
- FreeLaw covers a range of legal sectors allowing students to gain experience in a breadth of key areas.

For more information:
freelaw@sheffield.ac.uk

WHY IS FREELAW SO IMPORTANT?

Services such as FreeLaw have become increasingly important since Ken Clarke's legal aid reforms which saw cuts of £350 million- as per the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. Under this, legal aid is only routinely available where "life and liberty" is at stake. In smaller cities such as Sheffield, pro bono advice provided by law firms represents just 25% therefore FreeLaw helps the public in gaps created by the legal aid reforms.

HOW DO WE OPERATE?

FreeLaw offers advice regarding any query with the exception of debt, immigration or criminal law. Students work in groups of ten members, including two experienced group leaders and attend regular drop-in sessions at Bartolomé Lodge. All legal research and advice is provided free of charge and supervised by a qualified

RACHEL WOODWARD, FREELAW STUDENT MANAGER 2017-18

"I always say to people that taking part in FreeLaw is invaluable for your CV and job interviews...it's also invaluable to anyone looking to get more than a degree from Sheffield."



A Year Abroad Story from France

It is August 25th. I've woken up in my new bedroom in Lyon. It's thirty degrees, the blinds are as thin as paper and the thought of meeting new housemates that might not understand a word I say plays on my mind. The day flurries by and after unpacking all day it approaches 6pm. Tea time. I whip up the standard student meal of pasta with a jar of tomato sauce and my new french cohabitant Mariam wanders into the kitchen *"It is a bit early for your dinner isn't it?"* 6pm? Early? No no mon ami. Not where I'm from. Providing I have my Shreddies just before bed I'll be right as rain. But little did I know there would be no Shreddies in Lyon...or rain.

Lack of rain or appropriate cereal choice may not seem like a massive problems. But these problems can build up. If it isn't the cereal being wrong it might be the people, the banks, the uni or even just your cup of tea being a little too milky. Everything being just a little bit different can throw you off and get you down in your first few weeks abroad. You might feel like you don't belong. I was even told by a friend a few weeks in - *"You don't speak French?! I could never do what you're doing."*



You can take this two ways. You can book the next flight home and check yourself into the local mental asylum because, clearly, you're just a big dafty who had the stupid idea to do a year abroad. Or you can see it as a challenge. Yes I can barely count to 12 in French but I'm going to make this year abroad my own. I suppose this is the route I took.

Months pass and I appeared to be getting by. I may not have learnt as much French as I thought or made trendy new European friends, but it turns out I don't really care. I preferred making friends with Sarah from Telford or Alex from Leeds. I might not have travelled Europe as much as I'd liked, but I do know where the cheapest (flat) pint is in Lyon on a Saturday night.

Year abroads are what you make of them. I basically went from pub to pub talking in broken French for 9 months without missing a single Manchester City game on the telly and it was bloody brilliant. So if you're reading this thinking a year abroad might be for you, go for it. You're guaranteed to learn something new about yourself but it definitely won't be that you now prefer having your tea later than 6pm. That is just mental.

By Ben Peters



Campus Ambassadors: A Year with Norton Rose Fulbright

By Maria Tamarra Kai

During my second year I was brand ambassador for Norton Rose Fulbright. I had a fantastic year and managed to develop my skills set through organising events and promoting the firm on campus and to my peers.

This article will tell you a bit about what it is like to be a brand ambassador and how you can apply to be one yourself.



What is it?

Promotion – Promotion – Promotion

Quite simply, a brand ambassador is like being a company's personal cheerleader.

As a brand ambassador your main goal is to raise the firm's awareness among the student body. This can be done through social media, law fairs or networking events.

Being a brand ambassador for any firm is a big commitment. Representing your chosen firm on campus throughout the academic year is not an easy job. This may seem like a challenge, but you will not be alone, you will be working alongside the graduate recruitment team; where you will be able to communicate with them regularly and ask for advice.

Also, I am sure if you speak to the previous brand ambassador they will be more than happy to pass on their words of wisdom and let you know what worked best for them.

If you get the chance to be a brand ambassador, you will have the opportunity to build useful connections between university societies as well as external organisations. In turn, helping you develop your core communication and networking skills, which will be beneficial later on down the line in graduate job applications and interviews.

More than that though, you are getting to know the firm you represent very well, it is an amazing opportunity where you get to liaise with the graduate recruitment team (the same people who assess your applications).

Characteristics you need to obtain:

- A degree of professionalism
- Leadership skills
- Ability to build relationships
- Being responsible
- Being creative and innovative
- Deadline focused
- Communicating with a team



Why you should consider it

It is an extremely rewarding role in the sense that it is an undeniably strong start to your career. Also, you have the chance to develop your core skill set which increases your employability. Most importantly you are building connections and stronger relationships with your peers and it is a great chance to get to know other brand ambassadors.

Also, for the freebies. Who doesn't love a free hoodie and a load of stationery?
(This should not be your reason for applying for the role, this is just an added benefit!)

When do you apply?

Most applications open at the beginning of March, specifics can be found on each firm's website. Or the brand ambassador (if they did their job correctly) will probably post about it on the Law society's Facebook page.

Most applications consist of competency questions, or ask why you would be best suited to the role, what you would do if you got the position, your means of promoting etc. So, before you apply be sure to have given these some thought. It is also a good idea to research your chosen firm beforehand.

Remember – your main goal is to increase awareness of the brand on campus throughout the academic year and to spread the word amongst your peers and other students who may be interested in the company you represent.



Five Essential Tips for any Application



As the window for vacation schemes and training contract applications draws near, it is good to have a reminder of what firms and more generally all employers are looking for in the short number of words you can offer. These tips come straight from your careers secretary for this academic year, Alisha Sedhev.

1. Research!

I cannot stress enough how important it is to research the company or organisation that you wish to apply for. By accepting you they are investing in you, and you need to show that you are worth investing in and that you know what you are applying to do.

2. Be original

No one wants to hire a robot. You have a personality so let it show! Think about the questions on the application and relate them back to you, your experience, your interest and strengths.

3. Relate your experience

Relate your experience to the role and the skills required to the role. Even if your experience doesn't seem to be related, use what you learned and apply to the role you're applying for. Even a sentence at the end of each listed work experience makes a big difference.

4. Proof read, proof read, proof read!

More times than you think necessary. I have been told so many times by recruitment consultants that a very good application gets rejected for bad grammar, typos and forgetting to put capital letters in the right places. A larger percentage of applications than you might expect have simple errors that can be fixed by proof reading, and can make the difference between rejection and acceptance.

5. Quality over quantity

Lastly, it is much better to do fewer numbers of good quality applications rather than a large number of mediocre ones. No one is looking for mediocrity, so don't put so much pressure on yourself to apply to 20 different firms or companies if you can realistically only do 6 or 7 really excellent applications. Those 6 or 7 have a much better chance of being accepted.

Good luck!

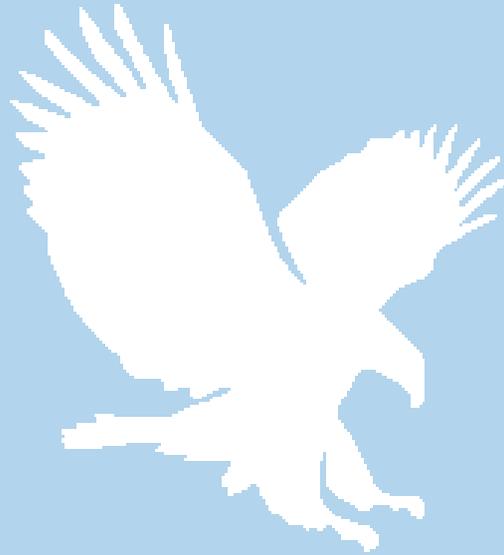
Ed Bram Sports - Get Involved

The Edward Bramley Law Society is extremely lucky to have a great sporting focus. Our netball and football teams are lead this year by Maya Rogers and George Ottewell, our newly appointed sports secretaries.

Joining one of our intra-mural teams allows you to relieve the stresses university can bring in a fun, friendly environment which is less competitive than playing for the university itself. You will also make many new friends along the way across different years. Not to mention it is always a good thing to talk about in applications!



The social side is great, with several events being organised through the year such as socials and awards nights. Most of our members' favourite part of being involved in a team is the annual trip to Manchester where we compete against other law society teams, followed by a night out. It's a great way to end the year and is always a good laugh.



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