

Annual Report 2009-10

The College of Law 
of England and Wales

Pro Bono

Pro Bono Service



A great decade for The College of Law

Pro Bono

Probably, because I am now at an age when time seems to speed past increasingly quickly, it hardly seems possible that College of Law Pro Bono (CLPB) is 10 years old. Paradoxically, though, in view of all that it has achieved, it seems equally extraordinary that CLPB is only 10 years old

CLPB has become by far the largest, most ambitious and best funded education-based PB operation in the UK – and, indeed, as Richard Grimes suggests elsewhere in this Report, possibly even the world

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Last year over 3000 College students undertook PB work of one kind or another, and with the opening of Bristol in September 2010, CLPB is now available in eight centres and in almost every region of the country. In each of them CLPB has enabled the College and its students to network with a wide variety of practitioners and organisations in the private, voluntary and public sectors.

More generally, CLPB has not only engaged the skills, motivation and sheer energy of our students, but it has inspired many of them to remain committed to legal aid or PB after they qualify as barristers or solicitors. In doing so, CLPB has, therefore, also helped the professions and the government achieve some of their key policy objectives.

Unsurprisingly, then, CLPB has gained an enviable reputation for the contribution it has made both to legal education and to legal services, and this is very evident, for example, from: the number of Attorney General's Pro Bono Awards that it has received; the external funding it has obtained from, e.g. the Legal Services Commission, the United Nations, the New Deal for Communities programme, and, via the Trainee Litigation Programme, from a number of major law firms; its involvement in key 'PB' bodies, such as Law Works and the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee; and the number of invitations CLPB staff

have received to speak at seminars and conferences, and to help set up other 'Pro Bono-in-education' programmes both in the UK and overseas.

However, without doubt the value and importance of CLPB to the College of Law can best be understood with reference to the College's charitable character and objects, mission, and educational values.

For example, the College has long been committed to the provision of education which meets the needs of all the sectors and specialisms of legal practice; which is thoroughly student centred; and which requires 'learning-by-doing'. CLPB is clearly relevant to all three, and indeed has become an integral and indispensable component of the College's (unique) LPC 'Legal Aid Pathway'; and of its Practice Related Activity programme on the GDL.

It is equally relevant to the core aspects of the College's mission, which, as recently re-affirmed by its governors, includes commitments to:

- Promote access to justice and an awareness of the social and ethical responsibilities of lawyers:
- Provide market leading legal education and training that meets the needs of diverse student communities and promotes access to professional careers:
- Encourage innovation and enable lawyers to become self-reliant professionals:

CLPB is now, therefore, an important plank in the 'Social Responsibility' programme, which the College launched in 2009. This is funded to the tune of c£1.6m pa, and, in addition to CLPB, includes: support for the Law Society's 'Diversity Access Scheme' bursaries; the highly successful Pathways to Law programme; and the Legal Services Policy Institute.

Last, but certainly not least, CLPB will be vital to the College's new 'employability' strategy. This aims to ensure that all students are equipped for the intensely competitive job market, in which they will have to operate. It will, therefore, consist in part on the unrivalled know-how, guidance and recruitment programmes offered by the Careers Service. However, the strategy will also seek to provide as many students as possible with high-quality, relevant work-experience. As last year's Milburn Commission report emphasised, this has now become a 'cv-imperative' for a first job in any profession, and law is certainly no exception.

High quality, relevant work experience is, of course, precisely what CLPB offers to around 40% of the College's students each year, and for that reason alone CLPB is likely to remain just as indispensable to the College over the next 10 years, as it has been over the last.

Professor Richard de Friend
September 2010



From broom cupboard to largest clinic in the world* ...

10 years

of Pro Bono at The College!

In 1999 The College of Law took the decision to establish a Centre for Pro Bono Services and Clinical Education. The idea was to expose students to legal practice in the real world through closely supervised legal clinics. The term 'clinic' may have medical connotations but here it is clients rather than patients. In this way The College could not only improve the quality of the student learning experience but could serve a wider mission and make its contribution to society through improved access to justice

From modest beginnings in 2000, in a room literally not much bigger than a cupboard The College has developed a comprehensive pro bono programme designed to help meet legal needs with a service that hits the necessary professional and educational standards. Over 2,500 students annually now have the chance to get involved in a range of different activities – these range from providing individual advice and representation to community-based projects aimed at raising awareness of civic rights (and responsibilities).

The College works with a variety of people and organisations including women who have suffered from domestic violence, schools as part of the Citizenship curriculum, minority ethnic groups who have experienced discrimination, prisoners who want advice on future employability and many more besides. This programme is present at all 8 of the College's Centres. Help is offered in a range of cases including housing, employment, debt, social security and family matters – the sorts of issues people find hard to get assistance with on a daily basis. Over 5000 clients have been helped since the programme began.

Perhaps this is why The College's pro bono programme has been described as the largest clinic in the world!*

I must now declare a vested interest, as the first Director of the programme I,

with a dedicated and committed team of colleagues, helped design, implement and develop this work which had been initiated by two tutors at the Bloomsbury Centre. When I left The College at the end of 2005 it had a solid base to build on and had received a number of major awards in recognition of the achievement.

It is a great tribute to the present Pro Bono team that not only has this work continued to meet the high standards we set for it but it has responded and grown to reflect the demands of both students and clients. It continues to attract accolades. It was and remains a development at the forefront of legal education. It is perhaps no co-incidence that when this initiative began only a handful of law schools were doing pro bono work – today over 75% have clinics.

Also we must not forget that The College has shared its knowledge and experience not only amongst UK law schools but further afield and clinics are now up and running in a number of countries where The College Pro Bono team has been – including Iran, Nigeria and Ukraine. In fact as I 'pen' this note I am in Kabul helping develop – you have guessed it – Legal Advice Clinics!

Congratulations to everyone concerned. I am very proud to have been part of this history.

Professor Richard Grimes
Now, Director of Clinical Programmes
York Law School
University of York

*quote from conference organisers at the Global Alliance for Justice Education conference in Argentina in 2007

It all started as an idea ...

...at the Bloomsbury Centre when a letter from the Solicitors Pro Bono Group landed on Steve Levett's desk suggesting that the students do some Pro Bono work

Steve, a tutor and former practising solicitor, had always thought that the students' education would benefit from "hands on" teaching so he responded enthusiastically and, together with a fellow tutor, Margaret Catlow, put some proposals to the Centre Director, Richard de-Friend.

The response from management was positive and very soon a room and equipment was provided to start the programme. Being initially cautious, expecting perhaps 50 students to be interested they were amazed at the response when over 400 applied; the first year names were drawn out of hat.

Advertising for the Legal Advice Clinic was through an article written by a colleague and published in The Times. Clients came from as far as Cornwall with a huge variety of cases. Procedures were adopted utilising those established at Sheffield Hallam University LAC, who in true Pro Bono spirit agreed to share their experience and materials. Margaret's experience from practice proved to be invaluable when preparing office procedures, ensuring that they replicate those in practice and satisfy the requirements of the SRA.

Having established the LAC, Steve and Margaret together with Devika Raval and Sally Gill who had both now joined the team went on to launch the College Streetlaw scheme which started with inmates in HMP Wormwood Scrubs. There was no stopping the programme after that and soon they were working with Steve Illingworth to set up a scheme to provide students studying the BPTC with the opportunity to advise and represent clients at the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal.

Steve and Margaret's idea about enhancing the students' education proved to be so successful that it was soon rolled out to other Centres.

standards



Standards and Training

The Pro Bono work at the College is of a standard expected to be delivered by lawyers in practice. Each Centre employs at least one solicitor to supervise the work and ensure that the SRA regulatory standards are met. Additionally over the years the Centre has enabled students to achieve further qualifications:

City & Guilds

Between In 2004 - 2007 students could qualify for the City & Guilds Senior Awards Scheme by undertaking placements and writing detailed portfolios of their work for assessment of their developing knowledge, skills and values.

Police Station Accreditation

From 2004 students at Bloomsbury were supported by G.S. Stewart Solicitors, Tuckers, Fisher Meredith, Foresters, Christian Khan, and Sheratte Caleb & Co to obtain this qualification.

Quality Assurance

In 2004 Bloomsbury achieved the LSC Specialist Quality Mark in Housing, then received funding from the Legal Services Commission to set up the Housing Casework Training Scheme. This scheme enabled students to undertake a full casework service for our clients and to represent at chambers hearings on small claims cases. During this period a scheme was developed to assist duty advocates on housing possession days at Lambeth and Central London County Courts. Students continue to participate in this today.

Trainee Solicitors

The College has enabled a number of members of staff to complete their training contracts through experience gained in the Pro Bono departments.

Henry Hodge Trainee Solicitor

Tejal-Roma Karia joined the staff in September 2010 as the first Henry Hodge Trainee Solicitor. This traineeship has been set up in memory of Henry Hodge and his remarkable contribution to legal aid.

In 2009/2010 278 students at Birmingham participated in at least one of the Pro Bono opportunities on offer to them

Birmingham

Pro Bono was established at Birmingham shortly after the centre opened in 2002. From the start the Pro Bono team has benefitted from strong links with the local legal community



Legal Advice Centre (LAC)

The first services were the in-house Legal Advice Centre (LAC), sponsored and supported by Wragge & Co, together with a Streetlaw programme sponsored and supported by Eversheds and small placements at Saltley and Nechells Law Centre (SNLC) and Shelter.



Birmingham Employment Rights Advice Line (BERAL)

Started in 2003 as an outreach of SNLC with the support of Wragge & Co. It has been the model for employment advice-lines throughout the College. Now in its 8th year, the service has involved over 550 students in the work, has advised over 1250 clients and is supported by a number of firms.



Refugee Law Clinic

In 2003, funding was provided by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and a Refugee Law Clinic launched in partnership with the Wardlow Road Centre/Refugee Council and Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) to provide advice and assistance to asylum seekers. The work and links with the Refugee Council continued after the two year funding finished.



“ In my (chambers) interviews I was asked about my pro bono employment work and it helped me to answer other problem questions too and secure the pupillage so thank you so much for your big part of that. ”

Student

“ I would like to thank the College and especially your willingness to offer Pro Bono facilities to the public. The advice given helped me to frame my claim correctly and to enforce it achieving a satisfactory solution. I would therefore like to thank you for the assistance I received. ”

Client

Birmingham Employment Advice Clinic (BEAC)

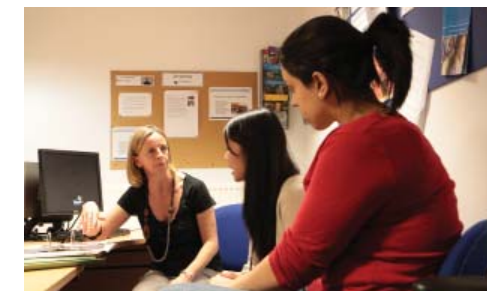
In 2007 a new face-to-face Clinic was developed in conjunction with LawWorks and local Employment Lawyers Association lawyers as an outreach of The College's LAC – Birmingham Employment Advice Clinic (BEAC). Now in its 4th year, the service has involved over 120 students in the work and assisted over 300 clients.



At The annual Law Works and Attorney General Student Awards took place at the House of Lords in April, The College of Law was Highly Commended for Best Contribution by a Law School.

Birmingham TUC Centre for the Unemployed (BTUCCU)

A further programme was developed in 2008 to involve bar students working in partnership with the Birmingham TUC Centre for the Unemployed (BTUCCU). With training support from St Philips Chambers and Tribunal Judges students continue to provide representation for TUC Centre clients before the local Employment Tribunal & 1st Tier Tribunal, Social Entitlement Chamber. The Centre also and became a partner in the firm-led Birmingham Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC) in conjunction with Birmingham Central Library.



“ Dear all at Birmingham Employment Advice Clinic, I would like to thank you all very much for your help and advice. I am happy to let you know that I have won my employment case! ”

Client

staff : thanks

Becky Parker
Pro Bono Co-ordinator, supervising solicitor
Becky, a former nurse, came to the role from a Derbyshire firm of solicitors where she was regularly involved in pro bono work. She completed her training contract being the first College trainee to qualify in 2004. She has been actively involved in promoting pro bono and hands-on learning at a local, national and International level having co-written articles and co-facilitated workshop sessions at the GAJE conference in Cordoba, Argentina in 2006 and teachers' skills training and curriculum development workshops for the Nigerian Law School and Council of Legal Education in 2008

Angela Cobb
Pro Bono Administrator
Angela joined the team very recently in August 2010. She spent many years in the science technology industry where she gained a wealth of experience in business administration and management. She is currently in the final year of BA Hons degree in Business and Management and is also proficient in the use of business French

Laura Madhloom
Streetlaw
Laura, senior lecturer, co-ordinates the Streetlaw programme

A big thanks to all our partners

Wragge & Co
Shakespeare Putsman Solicitors
Eversheds
Anthony Collins
Browne Jacobson
Citadel Chambers
Cobbetts
Davies and Partners
Hammonds
Higgs and Sons
HLB Gateley Wareing
Irwin Mitchell
Legal Services Commission
Lyons Davidson
No 5 Chambers
Pinsent Masons
Schofield & Associates
Shakespeare Putsman
St Philips Chambers
Weightmans and Wragge & Co
Birmingham Employment Tribunal
Birmingham Law Centre
Birmingham Tribunal Unit
Cadbury College
Connexions
Front Line Agency Training and Support Project (FLATS)
Great Barr School
Hampstead Hall School
LawWorks
Refugee Council
Saltley & Nechells Law Centre

And for placement opportunities

Birmingham Law Centre
Birmingham Tribunal Unit
Interights, the Refugee Council
Saltley & Nechells Law Centre and Victim Support and Streetlaw works with British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) Cadbury College
Connexions
Cruse Sandwell
Great Barr School
Hampstead Hall School



Bloomsbury offered a total of 1428 Pro Bono places to students during the 09/10 academic year, which represented 52.2% of the total student cohort

Bloomsbury

In 2002 a brand new Legal Advice Centre opened followed by a move to even larger premises in 2008, providing space for around 500 students volunteers each year. External placements expanded hugely over the next 8 years from 4 to 34 partners all over Greater London. From 2003 the Legal Advice Centre includes international pro bono in Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Antigua, Colombia and Tanzania



Bloomsbury started placements with the Free Representation Unit, Community Links, the Royal Courts of Justice Advice Bureau and Crisis homelessness campaign and thanks to funding from the UNHCR and Reed Smith, the College expanded its external work to include working with refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2003 we commenced a special programme with Linklaters to enable trainee solicitors to complete their litigation seats while doing pro bono work for the College of Law's clients. That programme has now grown considerably to enable 273 trainees to assist 197 clients in 2009/2010.

The Streetlaw programme expanded from prisons to 'Your Day in Court' mock trials in schools and legal education with community groups. Further funding (2004 to 2008) from New Deal for Communities programme in Clapham Park enabled the Centre to provide community legal education, advice and assistance to residents in Clapham Park, a large estate undergoing regeneration in Lambeth.

From July 2004 students participated in the Asylum Support scheme to appeal decisions by the National Asylum Seeker Support Service (NASS) to withdraw accommodation and financial support from asylum seekers.

In 2004, Angela Jackman of Fisher Meredith trained 8 members of staff and

16 students to undertake education appeals and from 2003 to 2005 students were trained by Camden Council's trading standards department staff to assist members of the public with a Consumer Small Claims Service.

In 2003 we launched the first Deaf Legal Service for Andrea's School of British Sign Language, and every year since students are trained in Deaf Awareness and Communication Tactics in order to advise Deaf clients in the Legal Advice Centre.

In 2006, a Harvard intern, Jasmine Zhang, developed a scheme whereby students volunteered using their language skills.

Thanks to staff 1999 to 2010

Richard Grimes, John Lloyd, Rob Herniman, Clare Bignall, Sally Gill, Nathalie Montaut, Stephen Levett, Margaret Catlow, Devika Ravell, Sara Chandler, Tom Dunn, Emma Douglas, Jennifer Mintah-Sem, Hadijah Nswa-Ngugi, Pamela Robotham, Navaid Chaudhury, Jasmine Zhang, Ginika Ezegu, Shuang Teng, Wendy Pettifer, Jane Heybroek, Suzanne Carthy, Suha Lewis, Colin Egemonye, Neena Acharya, Sharon Anthony Tewkesbury, Reshma Unwar, Farah Parekh

Thanks to Tribunal Representation staff 1999-2010

Valerie Beardsmore, Stephen Illingworth, Nicholas Ross, Carolyn Marsh, Anna Steiner, David Cusick, Anne Marie Lynch, John Van Issum, Emma Brown, Andrzej Kolodziej, Victoria Latimer, Flora Page, Susan Peacock, Catriona Vine, Nigel Waddington, Anne-Marie Critchley, Jennifer James, Lindsey Rose, Val Vickery, Gail Price

Legal Advice Centre and Tribunal Representation Service 2009-10

204 LPC students worked on triage, or housing and employment cases. 87 BVC students assisted 18 immigration detainees with bail applications, and 21 housing clients with representation at the Residential Property Tribunal Service.

Trainee Litigation Programme

In 2003 Bloomsbury commenced a programme with Linklaters to enable trainee solicitors to complete their litigation seats while doing pro bono work for clients. The programme has grown to host 273 trainees in 2009-2010 who assisted 197 clients..

Streetlaw 2009-10

Thanks to 55 students and our Streetlaw partners: Luton Young Leaders Academy, New Horizons, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, Thomas Tallis School, 90 West End Lane Hostel.

Larger External Placements 2009-2010

National Centre for Domestic Violence

82 students assisted 65 victims to obtain emergency non-molestation orders.



Royal Courts of Justice

15 students were trained as Gateway Advisers at the Principal Registry of the Family Division, 12 students assisted as receptionists at the Advice Bureau in the High Court, and 15 students assisted litigants in person at the High Court Personal Support Unit.



Lambeth County Court

172 students or trainee solicitors assisted duty advocates at County Court possession hearings.

Central London County Court

149 students assisted duty advocates at County Court possession hearings.

Liberty Letters Clinic

107 students drafted detailed replies on human rights and civil liberties law for members of the public.



Interights

140 students were trained to do case summaries of human right cases from all over the world.



thanks

We are indebted to the pro bono lawyers from the following firms for their participation in COLETA

Joanne Dawson *Port of London Authority*, Peter Finding and Tom Perry *Withers*, Paul Mohamudally *Islington Borough Council*, Nigel Machin, Clare Murray *Beachcrofts*, Julia Mingay, Lynn O'Malley, Prettys, Jenny Poole *Olswang*

Thanks to the following for supporting 711 students on placements in 2009-2010

Bar Pro Bono Unit, Chinese Community Centre, Central London Law Centre, Housing Possession Duty Schemes at Lambeth and Central London County Court, Community Links, Disability Law Service, Free Representation Unit (FRU), Great Chapel St Medical Centre, Hackney Migrants Centre, Ibex Earth Pro Bono, Legal Aid Practitioners Group, Liberty, Mary Ward Legal Centre, Royal Courts of Justice, Shelter (Hatfield), Stifford Community Centre, Victim Support, Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior Residents, Amicus, Reprieve, International Lawyers Project, Interrights, Law Society, International Action Team, Peace Brigades International, Advocates for International Development



In 2004 Bloomsbury convened the first Advisory Group of partners who support the work of the Legal Advice Centre by acting as a sounding board as services to the community are developed.

Thanks to members 2004 to 2010

Emma Baldwin, James Banks, Veronica Barran, Justin Bates, Julie Bishop, Sue Bucknall, Margie Butler, Iain Byrne, Martin Curtis, Francis Davey, Kelly Essery, Lynn Evans, Rachel Fleetwood, Vivien Gambling, Jonathan Gavaghan, Heather Honour, Dr Kan Inglez, Angela Jackman, Alexandra Marks, Nasreen Nasser, Lucy Scott Moncrief, Wilma Morrison, Mike Norris, Monika Pirani, William Purcell, Mahmud Quayum, Pip Salvador Jones, Marcie Shoul, Alice Sheldon, Jo Silcox, Andrea Simpson, Mary Spillane, Clive Tulloch, Lesley Walmsley, Rebecca Wilkie, Nicolas Vial

Law Society International Action Team



150 students trained as volunteers to assist pro bono lawyers who monitor and intervene in cases where lawyers are at risk, imprisoned, attacked or assassinated.

Victim Support

Offers 3 different schemes: VS in the Community, VS National Helpline, and VS Witness Service at court 82 Students volunteered.



staff

2009-2010

Professor Sara Chandler *joined the College's pro bono team in 2003 having worked 15 years in Law Centres and 5 years in legal aid firms. She specialises in landlord & tenant law and is the Law Society Council Member representing solicitors in the not for profit sector*

Pamela Robotham *joined the College in 2005 from a legal aid firm, is a housing solicitor supervising landlord and tenant cases with LPC students in the Legal Advice Centre, and is Streetlaw Coordinator for the GDL students*

Sally Gill *joined the College in 2001, is an Employment solicitor in the Legal Advice Centre and manages COLETA employment helpline with pro bono lawyers and volunteers at Mary Ward Legal Centre with LPC volunteers*

Sharon Antony-Tewkesbury *Administrator, Legal Advice Centre*

Nathalie Montaut *Part time administrator, Legal Advice Centre*

Reshma Unwar *Part time administrator, Legal Advice Centre*

Emma Douglas *Full time supervising solicitor specialising in immigration law (replacing Neena Acharya who left in February)*

Colin Egemonye *Full time supervising solicitor specialising in housing law*

Anna Steiner *Part time supervising solicitor specialising in immigration and housing law (replacing Katherine Currie who left in June)*

Yasemin Isik *Administrator (maternity locum for Farah Parekh) and replacing Suha Lewis who left in May*

David Cusick *Part time supervising solicitor specialising in immigration and housing law*

Anne-Marie Lynch *Part time supervising solicitor specialising in housing law*

London Legal Support Trust

On 17th May 2010, 25 students walked from Lincoln's Inn to the Law Society, via Hyde Park and raised £3,370 for the Legal Advice Centre Client Disbursement Fund.



292 students took part in a pro bono activity

Chester

Pro Bono work at Chester started with the team piloting many of Richard Grimes' innovative ideas and as one of the longest serving members of the College's pro bono team Heather has been lucky enough to have been involved in all the exciting years of pro bono at the College



Heather combines her pro bono activities with teaching; she and the other members of the team have been responsible for developing a variety of schemes. Their work at the Chester centre over the past ten years has ranged from handing out leaflets advertising the Legal Advice Centre to Sainsbury's customers, bidding for a barrister's wig on E-Bay for Streetlaw, appearing on local radio and television publicising Streetlaw, and mock trials, culminating in two trips to set up a Legal Advice Centre at the National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy (the University of Kiev).

High Spots included an Attorney General's Award for one of the Streetlaw projects at a community group for young people excluded from school. The Centre also awarded a prize of a trip to Kiev in 2004, to two of the outstanding Legal Advice Centre students. This was presented to them by the then Attorney General, Peter Goldsmith in National Pro Bono Week. In 2008 students gave a demonstration of a Streetlaw presentation on Rules of Conduct before the then Law Society Council members under Fiona Woolf in 2008, the then President of the Law Society. Indeed the students were runners up in the Law Society Junior Lawyers Division best pro bono team that same year.

Equally rewarding for staff and students are the times when a student overcomes their nervousness at making presentations, or becoming much more confident over their ability to be a lawyer, whether it stems from their involvement in the Legal Advice Centre, CHERAL or indeed as an advocate at one of the Centre's mock trials.

“I would recommend this scheme to everyone wanting to pursue family law.”
Student
 Judge shadowing scheme

Legal Advice Centre

36 students were involved in the legal advice centre and 55 took part in a Streetlaw presentation.

The other 201 students were involved in either CHERAL – Chester Employment Rights Line, National Centre for Domestic Violence, the Witness Service placement scheme, Contact 4 Kids or Families Need Fathers.

Contact for Kids

We advised several clients with contact issues this year. We have even secured the backup of local solicitors, SAS Daniels to help us promote and supervise this scheme.



Families Need Fathers

Students have attended the Saturday morning clinic in Birkenhead and helped families that have broken down.



Streetlaw

Students made 18 presentations to various local schools and community groups, on a range of different topics.



Monopoly game used in a parental responsibilities game at a community group for young mums



Role plays used in a Homelessness streetlaw presentation at a group for excluded teenagers

“Only upon volunteering do you realise the true value of the service.”
Student
 Witness service

“It was a great opportunity to cross-examine someone.”
Student
 Mock employment tribunal

We always encourage students to use various mediums to get their legal message across – be it quizzes, role plays or showing an amusing DVD.

Witness Service Scheme

We sent 44 students to both Liverpool and Mold Crown Courts, and also Birkenhead and Wrexham Magistrates Courts. This is a great opportunity for students to find out what goes on with witnesses due to appear in court. Feedback both from the Witness Service and the students is always positive.

Judge Shadowing

These are available at the Family Court in Liverpool due to Heather Smith also being a family magistrate. Students have attended and observed cases, and been allowed to liaise with judges, magistrates and solicitors involved in the cases.

Our students also attend Birkenhead County Court to shadow a district judge.

Magistrates Mock Trial

We held a Magistrates Mock Trial in Wallasey Old Courthouse at the end of April. We ran this jointly with the University of Chester and the school involved was The University of Chester Church of England Academy. We had the benefit of several other JPs sitting with the school children and explaining the case and how to extract the salient facts to enable them to reach verdict. A total of 10 students took part.

Mock Employment Tribunal

We ran a new case this year in Liverpool Employment Tribunal Service with the help of local solicitors SAS Daniels. It involved sex discrimination and unfair dismissal. The students involved found it worthwhile. The Judge involved (Dawn Shotter) was excellent and gave helpful pointers throughout the procedure. Students not only took on the roles of the advocates but also the witnesses and managed to fit into their roles convincingly. Sixth formers from Neston High School sat as wingers, with the other pupils sat in the court room and observed.

staff

Heather Smith
Pro Bono Coordinator/Supervising Solicitor/Lecturer started work at the College as a lecturer in 1982, having arrived from Alsops Stevens Bateson (now DLA) in Liverpool. Heather quickly became a Senior Lecturer and by 2000 Heather started setting up pro bono at Chester

Julie Brown
Julie started work at the College in 2004 having worked in Market Research for 17 years

Maddy Swan Manning
Employability Administrator Maddy started work at the College in 2003 and came from working at Chester City Council as PA to the Head of Planning

thanks

With particular thanks to

SAS Daniels and Shelley Hesford for supervising students in the Legal Advice Centre and with Contact 4 Kids

Daniel Valentine from Regents Solicitors for supervising with CHERAL and being our only solicitor for this scheme.

Pam Green from the Courts service for taking on students in their witness service departments.

Sandra Zachary – from Mold and Wrexham Courts for having the students in the witness service

Maureen Thompson – from Wirral Magistrates for chairing the Magistrates mock trial

Dawn Shotter – Liverpool Employment Tribunal for chairing our mock Employment Tribunal

“I had a really good time and learned a lot – I would recommend it to anybody.”

Student
 Mock employment tribunal

“My only wish is that I should have contacted you sooner for advice.”

Student
 Cheral

Guildford offered a total of 441 Pro Bono places to students during the 09/10 academic year, which represented 49% of the total student cohort

Guildford

Pro Bono first started at Guildford in the 2000/2001 academic year with a pilot Streetlaw project and has since gone from strength to strength. In 2004/5 following the recruitment of a Supervising Solicitor, our in house Legal Advice Centre opened to advise the public and GERALD, our telephone employment rights advice line was established. BLAC, our leasehold advice clinic based in Brighton followed at the start of the 2005/6 academic year



Casework, the provision of advice to clients, is carried out on a number of schemes

Legal Advice Centre

16 clients were advised in writing by 27 students on a wide range of legal issues including family law, litigation, contract law, personal injury and property law.

Guildford Employment Rights Advice Line Direct ('GERALD')

83 clients received advice from our team of volunteer lawyers on issues such as redundancy, unfair dismissal and discrimination. 38 of our students conducted initial client interviews and ensured the scheme ran smoothly.

Brighton Leasehold Advice Clinic (BLAC)

12 clients received advice on problems with their long leases. 10 students were involved.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to work on a case involving a real person as opposed to a fictional scenario. (I also enjoyed) the feeling that I was able to give someone practical advice and in this case, advice they wanted to hear.”

Student
LPC 2009/10

“I enjoyed advising in an area of law that I wouldn't normally have chosen and finding I was actually quite interested in it! (I also enjoyed) applying things I have learned on the course in practice and knowing it has hopefully helped someone.”

Student
LPC 2009/10

The Centre provides a number of external placements/shadowing

Just Advocacy

3 students assisted this charity by facilitating self advocacy groups for their clients with learning disabilities.



National Centre for Domestic Violence

66 students volunteered and were trained to take statements from victims, prepare court documents and accompany applicants to court when making emergency applications for non-molestation orders.



Citizens' Advice Bureau & Guildford County Court Helpdesk

16 students shadowed CAB housing advisors at County Court possession hearings.

Citizens' Advice Bureau

31 students shadowed and prepared attendance notes at Thursday evening advice sessions at CAB.



Surrey Law Centre

88 students have shadowed volunteer solicitors at Tuesday evening advice sessions via the CAB/ GEAS.



Judicial shadowing

39 students sat with District Judges at a number of county courts on the South Eastern circuit. Students learned about the civil process from the judicial point of view.



Sponsored walk

“Level was appropriate, material excellent, perfectly timed.”

Partner
Howard of Effingham School 2009/10

“The fact that the service was free, immediately available and has provided professional quality advice, has enabled me to reach a better understanding of my options in these matters.”

Client 2009/10

Public Legal Education includes schemes where students work with groups to facilitate their understanding of the law

Streetlaw

71 students delivered workshops on legal topics ranging from Human Rights to Employment Law at 13 different local schools, a STEPS Ahead programme and at Guildford Action, a local charitable drop in centre.

Your Day in Court

7 LPC students worked with Year 10 from Guildford High school, preparing them for a mock trial in the Crown Court at Guildford, which also involved a Crown Court judge and numerous volunteer staff from the court service and SERCO. 4 GDL students worked with pupils from Guildford College, preparing them for a mock trial at Guildford Magistrates' Court, with volunteer Magistrates from the Magistrates in the Community Association presiding.



What else do we do?

Surrey and Kingston Universities

In November / December 2009 our Pro Bono coordinator ran taster workshops with 16 students from each of these universities to introduce them to Streetlaw. These students then presented their work to local school children.

London Legal Support Trust

On 17th May 2010, a combined group of staff and students took part in the annual LLST sponsored walk in Surrey and raised £508 for Surrey Law Centre.

staff

Sarah King
Supervising Solicitor/Pro Bono coordinator, joined the College from private practice, initially as a lecturer and then took on the pro bono role to establish, and supervise, direct client advice services. Sarah combines her work at the College with a recent judicial appointment

Jeanette Carle
Legal Advice Clinic Administrator, is a qualified Solicitor, who combines her work with the College with practice at Surrey Law Centre

Rachel Massey
Streetlaw Administrator, studied the GDL and LPC at Guildford and is now doing her training contract at Charles Russell solicitors

thanks

We are indebted to the pro bono lawyers from the following firms for their participation in GERALD

Hedleys
Karslakes
Jackie Anderson (*sole practitioner*)
Charles Russell
Barlows

And to the following for BLAC:
Dean Wilson Laing
Howlett Clarke
Crowther Wood
Wooley, Bevis and Diplock
Engleharts

Thanks to the following for supporting our students on placements/shadowing

CAB Guildford
Surrey Law Centre
Clyde & Co
CAB Woking
National Centre for Domestic Violence
Interights
District Judges on SE Circuit
HMCS
Just Advocacy
International Law Book Facility

Thanks to the following for Your Day in Court:
Guildford Crown Court
Guildford Magistrates' Court
Magistrates in the Community Association

Nearly 60% of students signed up for at least one pro bono scheme

Manchester

The Manchester Centre of The College of Law opened in September 2009, and the Pro Bono programme started immediately. In 2009/10 the Pro Bono Department offered legal advice to members of the public, public legal education, help for victims of domestic abuse and a range of other schemes which both benefit the public and strengthen our students' education, helping them to become better lawyers



The Manchester Centre operated a variety of pro bono schemes in 2009/10

Settlement Legal Advice Clinic (SLAC)

Provides advice to members of the public on a range of legal issues. Clients are interviewed by students and receive a letter of advice within three weeks of their interview.



Manchester Employment Rights Advice Line (MERAL)

A telephone advice service offering free advice on employment law. Clients are interviewed by students over the telephone and a specialist employment solicitor phones clients back to give them free initial advice.

Personal Injury Advice Line (PIAL)

is a telephone advice line operating along the same lines as MERAL, but giving advice on personal injury and industrial disease.

“The students and Paul Roebuck have helped me with my complicated problem for more than 4 months. They are still helping me now as I prepare to go to court to get back the money I am owed. I could not possibly have come this far without their help. I don't know how I would have coped without their help.”

Client
Settlement Legal Advice Clinic

Streetlaw

is a public legal education initiative. Students devise and deliver an interactive workshop for a group of people who have asked for information about a discrete area of law, such as human rights, stop & search powers, abortion or euthanasia. Most of our clients are schools, but we also work with community groups and a local airforce training base.

Personal Support Unit (PSU)

Offers support to litigants in person at the Civil Justice Centre in Manchester. Students meet clients before their hearing to explain court procedures and to reassure them. They accompany them into court for moral support and to offer guidance and then they sit with them after the hearing to explain what happened in court and to tell their clients what their next steps might be.

National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)

helps people who need to obtain an injunction against an abuser. Students interview clients over the telephone and draft the witness statement they will rely on in court. Students have the opportunity to accompany their client to court as a McKenzie Friend and speak on their client's behalf.



“Thanks to the Pro Bono opportunities available at the College of Law, Manchester, not only have I enhanced my CV and helped those in need, but I have developed real skills which I will draw upon in practice. I have interviewed clients, developed my research skills, drafted witness statements, prepared court forms, attended county court as a McKenzie friend and written letters before claim. My Pro Bono work has given me the unique opportunity to work with real clients and develop my skills beyond the classroom.”

Zoe Davis
GDL 2009/10

Judicial shadowing

The Centre for Pro Bono Services also provides judicial shadowing opportunities for students to learn how the courts and the judiciary work. In 2009/10 we worked with:

Coroner's Court

Students shadow the Manchester City Coroner as he investigates deaths and sits in inquests. The Coroner likes to get students involved, asking their opinions and giving them a thorough insight into the work of a coroner.



Asylum & Immigration Tribunal

Students shadow an immigration judge, looking over files before hearings, sitting in on hearings and discussing the issues and findings with the judge when the hearings are concluded.

In 2010/11 we are adding 2 County Courts and a Crown Court to our shadowing programme

What else do we do?

Manchester Legal Walk

In addition to our pro bono activities, we also seek to contribute to the pro bono efforts of others. Last year we fielded the largest team on the Manchester Legal Walk, decked out in fetching green t-shirts. The Walk raises money for the North West Legal Support Trust, a charity which helps other charities which deliver free legal advice.



Sponsored walk

staff

Paul Roebuck
Pro Bono Co-ordinator & Supervising Solicitor, joined the Pro Bono team at York in 2005, having studied both the GDL and the LPC at the Centre. As a student he participated in a range of the Centre's activities. He completed his training contract whilst at York and then took the opportunity to use his experience to develop opportunities for students at the new Manchester centre

thanks

We are indebted to the following organisations for the help they have given us over the past year

- Davies Arnold Cooper solicitors
- Hill Dickinson solicitors
- Irwin Mitchell solicitors
- Asylum & Immigration Tribunal, Manchester
- Nigel Meadows, Manchester Coroner
- National Centre for Domestic Violence
- The Settlement, Openshaw
- LawWorks
- The University of Manchester

“The Pro Bono scheme has enabled me to put into practice what I've learnt. Taking ownership of actual cases and helping clients to resolve their issues is not only satisfying, but it also gave me the confidence that I need when working for a firm in the future. I would definitely recommend the Pro Bono scheme at Manchester as it not only helps the community but also gives us students the knowledge and skill to be effective and efficient practitioners.”

Gajendra Manohara
GDL 2009/10

Moorgate offered a total of 234 Pro Bono places to students during the 09/10 academic year, which represented 21% of the total student cohort

Moorgate

Pro Bono first started at Moorgate when the Centre opened in 2006 initially offering Streetlaw. Colleagues from Bloomsbury introduced the Bail Advice Scheme to the centre in 2008. In January 2009 a dedicated Pro Bono Coordinator was appointed and the programme has developed further to include advice and casework. In 2010 to 2011 there will be a Moorgate in-house Legal Advice Centre opened to advise on consumer and company and partnership law



Casework, the provision of advice to clients, is carried out on a number of schemes

Bail Advice Scheme

Students advised clients detained by the UK Immigration Service about their chances of success on bail. 23 students helped 8 clients, one of whom was successful in his bail application.



Intellectual Property letter writing clinic with Own-it!

38 students took part in this advice clinic helping 19 clients with general queries about intellectual property law.



Legal advice for the homeless at the Dellow Centre

20 students assisted at the weekly legal advice clinic at the Dellow Centre day centre for the homeless run by the charity Providence Row. These students worked with volunteer advisers, taking initial client details, observing interviews and carrying out follow up tasks.

“... perhaps the most valuable part of the experience was to be able to interact with the judges. They were all very happy to answer any questions I had. This is a clear advantage over just observing from the back of the court room (I have done this quite a bit over the past 2 years). Also, seeing the facial expressions of counsel, parties, instructing solicitors and even observers is very instructive.”

Sam Pape
Trainee, Debevoise and Plimpton

The Centre provides a number of external placements/shadowing

Interights

34 students completed the research and summaries of international human rights cases for Interights.



National Centre for Domestic Violence

In a pilot project, 4 students assisted clients throughout the year in preparing applications for injunctions.



Judicial shadowing

In another pilot project, 2 students spent 3 days at the Central London Civil Justice Centre with His Honour Judge Dight learning about the work of the Court.



Competition Appeal Tribunal

24 students attended a presentation by George Lusty, Referendaire at the Tribunal, about its work and upcoming cases. A number of students then followed this up by attending hearings.



“It's such a privilege to use the legal knowledge I have gained during the LPC to serve someone in need. This experience put a human face on the law for me. In particular, I will always remember the look on our client's face through the teleconference video (he was in a detention facility during his bail application) when the immigration judge told him that he would be granted bail.”

Benjamin Koh
Trainee, Linklaters

Public Legal Education includes schemes where students work with groups to facilitate their understanding of the law

Streetlaw

28 students delivered workshops on legal topics ranging from the rights of children to parking offences at 4 local community groups.

Your Day in Court

11 students prepared a group of young people to act out a mock trial at the Royal Courts of Justice. This was the culmination of a legal programme run by the Kings Corner Project, a local service for young people. Moorgate students delivered 3 preparatory workshops and then assisted at the hearing.

Firm specific projects

Clifford Chance Freelaw

12 students with training contracts at Clifford Chance took part in the firm's Freelaw sessions at Tooting Legal Advice Centre, Stratford Advice Arcade and Community Links at Canning Town.



“I am writing to you to thank you for your help with the recent bail applications you have run for detainees held at Gatwick ... I know that (Mr N) too was very happy with the overall service he received from everyone at the College of Law who assisted in the application.”

Nic Eadie
Director,
Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

staff

Stella Dunn
Supervising Solicitor/Pro Bono coordinator, joined the College from Lloyds TSB where she was Senior Manager in the Group's Public Policy Department. She qualified as a solicitor at Lovells (as it then was) and, shortly after, switched to legal aid practice. Stella has also worked in policy for the national Law Society, the City of London Law Society and the College's own Legal Services Institute
Stella coordinates the pro bono programme at Moorgate and supervises students on particular projects

thanks

We are indebted to the following

Bail Advice Scheme: colleagues at Bloomsbury, Anna Steiner and David Cusick
Own-it!: Bird and Bird and staff at Own-it! – Marice Cumber, Lesley Wilkins and Emma Jones
Dellow Centre: Freshfields, Reed Smith and staff at the Dellow Centre

Thanks to the following for supporting our students on placements/shadowing

Rachel Fleetwood at Interights
Pamela Robotham
Pro Bono Coordinator, Bloomsbury
His Honour Judge Marc Dight QC
Cheryl Morris at the Judicial Office
George Lusty, Competition Appeal Tribunal

And thanks to

Staff at the Dellow Centre
The Eastside Young Leaders Academy and Heather Johnson of Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network for Streetlaw
The Royal Courts of Justice and staff and trustees of the Kings Corner Project for Your Day in Court
Marilyn Hendleman, Clifford Chance for Freelaw

In total in 09/10 we were able to make 339 opportunities available to our students through our in house Pro Bono team and the partnerships it has forged with external organisations. 47% of all students participated in Pro Bono work

York

Pro Bono work started at York in 2002 after external funding had been secured from Doncaster New Deal for Communities. In the eight years of Pro Bono at York the range of opportunities has increased to enhance the educational experience of the students and provide much needed services to individuals and groups. The Pro Bono team continues some of the work which was initiated in Doncaster. Over the years the team has forged links with the legal profession, educators and not-for-profit sector in Leeds, Doncaster, York and Hull

Steve Levett moved from the Bloomsbury Centre to start the work at York which at first involved around one third of the students who worked on projects to raise legal literacy and to support residents in community activities. After the first year, when the team won awards, further NDC funding was granted until 2005. Steve, along with an administrator and part time supervising solicitor, continued and expanded the work until 2005 when he left and was replaced by the current Pro Bono Coordinator. The College then funded the service, with partnership contribution from Doncaster NDC until December 2009.

The Centre at York also received external funding in 2003, from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This was to provide advice and assistance, in partnership with the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS). The sessions were base at the Refugee Council in Leeds and relationships continued after the two year funding ceased.

“The Pro Bono team at York provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills relevant to a legal profession. The framework of support provided by the team was fantastic. Thank you.”

Jonathan Webb
GDL 09/10

Casework, the provision of advice to clients, is carried out on a number of schemes. Students work alone or in pairs

Doncaster Women's Centre LAC

18 clients received legal advice from 37 students.



LAC at College

3 students provided advice to 5 clients.

Castlegate

21 students provided advice to 10 clients at a centre for young people.



New Beginnings

2 students provided advice to 1 client at a drug rehabilitation project.



Next Steps

12 students advised 8 clients at a centre for people with mental health issues.

E-mail advice

56 clients were advised by 50 students e-mail.

Employment Rights Line

48 students took instructions and facilitated our volunteer lawyers in assisting 52 clients through ERL.

“Having the students at court makes my work so much easier and I enjoy seeing their interest and enthusiasm.”

Val Blood
HARP housing advocate
York County Court

“Thank you for the information provided. It was in depth and exactly what I wanted. I have used it in my witness statement.”

E-mail advice client

There are a number of shadowing opportunities at York

Grahame Stowe Bateson

free legal advice clinics: 16 students assisted GSB in the provision of their weekly free LAC in Harrogate.

Housing possession advocates



37 students shadowed and assisted solicitors at Leeds County Court and advocates at York County Court.

Duty Criminal Solicitor

18 students shadowed the duty solicitor at Harrogate Police Station and the Magistrates Court.

York County Court

35 students shadowed a District Judge sitting at York CC dealing with family matters.



Judge Sneath, ERL volunteer lawyers and staff at ERL launch



Sponsored walk

“As I had no relevant work experience Pro Bono has really enhanced my CV and has provided an excellent opportunity to gain experience in a legal environment.”

Laura Martin
LPC 09/10

Public Legal Education includes schemes where students work with groups to facilitate their understanding of the law

Streetlaw

43 students delivered 10 presentations on legal topics to audiences at The Foyer in Doncaster; HMP Doncaster and Doncaster Womens' Centre.

Bar Mock Trial

14 students coached and judged sixth form school students from 3 local schools in a BMT event.

Pathways to Law

10 students worked with sixth form pupils engaged in the Pathways to Law scheme at Leeds University. They participated in a Magistrates Court challenge and a criminal law and careers taster event at the York Centre.

Publications

3 students wrote articles on legal topics for a publication in Doncaster.

External opportunities

Interights

23 students wrote case summaries for this organisation which works to ensure human rights are up held before regional and international bodies.

Youth Offending Team

9 students participated in training to become Appropriate Adults in the York YOT.

What else do we do?

North East Legal Support Trust

Staff and students participate in a number of activities to raise funds for legal charities in the region – North East Legal Support Trust walk Leeds September 2009.

staff

Lindsay Ward
Senior Pro Bono Coordinator/ Supervising Solicitor joined the College in 2005 having previously worked in the not-for-profit sector and as a partner in private practice in Leeds. She has a part time judicial appointment and is a Trustee of the North East Legal Support Trust and a domestic violence advocacy project

Laura Milner
Supervising Solicitor, has a range of post qualification and supervisory experience. She was funded by Doncaster NDC until December 2009 and then by the College until May 2010

Helen Metcalfe
Pro Bono Administrator, joined the team in August 2008 having previously worked for an accountancy firm in York

thanks

Thanks to the solicitors from

Hethertons
Harrowells
Sykes Lee Brydson and Langleys for their hard work and support for ERL and our students

And thanks to solicitors from

Grahame Stowe Bateson
Leeds Law Centre
Godloves
Henry Hyams
Zermansky & Partners
Davies Gore Lomax
Advocates from HARP
Sean Hutton and District Judges Wildsmith & Handley for providing these invaluable shadowing opportunities

Thanks to audiences and staff at

The Foyer, HMP Doncaster and Doncaster Womens' Centre for their participation and feedback
The students and staff from Pathways and Ripon, Ermysteds & Heckmondwike Grammar schools for their participation and contributions

Thanks to Interights and YOT, York for these external opportunities

awards

We are proud of the work undertaken in our Pro Bono teams.
Much of this has been recognised over the years by a variety of awards

Pro Bono Awards 2003 to 2010

2003	The Lawyer: Best Pro Bono Programme
2003	The Law Society Gazette Centenary Award
2003	Winners of Pro Bono Essay Competition: Caroline Chatterton (York) and Ross Fentem (Bloomsbury)
2004	Attorney General's Pro Bono Award for Best Law School won by the College of Law. Two students from Bloomsbury, Georgina Nwabueze and Richard Wheeler, win a trip to the US
2006	Law Society Young Solicitors Award: Birmingham Employment Rights Line won the Best Team award
2007	Attorney General's Pro Bono Award for Best Law School won by the College of Law
2007	Attorney General's Best Individual Student won by Jenisa Thumbadoo from Bloomsbury and Carita Thomas (Guildford), Andrew Kerr (Bloomsbury) and Richard Wood (York) were Highly Commended
2007	Law Society Junior Lawyers Division Best Pro Bono Student was won by Tarik Al-Mallak from Bloomsbury
2008	Law Society Junior Lawyers Division: Best Pro Bono Student was won by Asad Ali Naqvi from Bloomsbury with Siobhan Howard-Palmer (York) being Highly Commended; Runners up in the Best Team category were Jenney Riley, Jenny Stephenson and Matthew O'Neil (Chester)
2008	Law Society Excellence Awards: Katherine Craig (Bloomsbury) was runner up in the Best Young Lawyer category
2008	Attorney General's Best Law School: The College was Highly Commended and Nadia Whittaker was Highly Commended for Best Individual Student
2008	Attorney General's Best Student Team: Chinese Information and Advice Centre students (Bloomsbury)
2009	Attorney General's Best Individual Student category won by Camilla Graham Wood at Bloomsbury; The College of Law was Highly Commended for Best Law School
2009	Law Society Junior Lawyers Division a Special Award was given to Ben Spencer (Bloomsbury) from the International Department
2009	Attorney General's award for Best New Activity was won by BTUCCU
2009	Law Society Junior Lawyers Division Birchlyn Conte (Bloomsbury) was Highly Commended in Best Pro Bono Student
2010	Law Works Awards: Best Partnership: Birmingham BLAC

At the annual student awards *Left to right:* Lindsay Ward Senior Pro Bono Co-ordinator, Pamela Robotham Supervising Solicitor Bloomsbury, Stella Dunn Supervising Solicitor Moorgate, Rebecca Campbell student at Moorgate Highly Commended for Best Contribution by an Individual Student. Imogen Burton Business Development Director (London & South)



We aim to continue our award-winning work enhancing our students' education and employability and ensuring that future lawyers are ready for practice when they leave the College.

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Senior Pro Bono Coordinator

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