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University of Kent

# The Reporter

**Kent**  
Law School

Bringing you the latest news from Kent Law School at the University of Kent

Autumn Term 2019

## Aspiring lawyers network with leading firms at annual Law Fair

The annual Law Fair at Kent offered aspiring lawyers an excellent opportunity to network with leading local, national and international law firms.

Organised by Kent Student Law Society (KSLS) – with support from the Law School's Employability Officer Jayne Instone – the Fair attracted more than 30 firms and organisations including Magic Circle firms Clifford Chance and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Hundreds of law and non-law students took advantage of the chance to explore their career options and make important connections. In the run up to the October event, KSLS invited Clifford Chance to run a workshop for students on 'how to secure a training contract'. Final-year Kent Law School student Tyra Ntege, who secured an offer for a training contract with the firm at the end of her first year, was among the panel members. Other preparatory events organised by KSLS included an application and interview skills workshop with Hogan Lovells, a workshop on effective networking with BPP University Law School and a talk by trainee solicitor Matt Speed from Pinsent Masons LLP on how to make a good impression and how best to approach law firms.

Law Fair Organiser Yoginni Gopal said: 'The Fair is definitely one of our most important events of the year. We had many amazing firms attending and it was such a great chance to network and get your name out there. We worked hard to encourage students to do their research in advance so that they would be ready and prepared to network. It's so useful for applying for vacations schemes and training contracts and also for exploring your preferred professional training route after graduation'.

*See inside for a full list of exhibitors*



Kent Law School

# News

## Kent Law Fair exhibitors

Kent Law School and Kent Student Law Society extends its grateful thanks to all the firms and organisations who supported our annual Law Fair held in Eliot College on our Canterbury campus in October:

### Law Firms

- Boys & Maughan Solicitors
- Clifford Chance
- Cripps Pemberton Greenish
- Dentons
- dgb Solicitors
- F:LEX
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Furley Page Solicitors
- Girlings Solicitors
- Hatten Wyatt
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Hogan Lovells
- Judge & Priestly
- Martin Tolhurst Solicitors
- Mayer Brown
- Outset
- RPC
- Thomson Snell & Passmore
- Trowers and Hamlin

### Other organisations

- Aspiring Solicitors
- BARBRI International
- BPP Law School
- Chambers Student
- City Law School
- Employability Points (Kent)
- ICSA (The Chartered Governance Institute)
- Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
- Kent Law Society
- LawCareers.Net
- Law Training Centre
- TARGET Jobs
- University of Law



## Ellie's tips for career success

Since graduating this summer with a degree in Law from Kent, Ellie Sullivan has been working as a paralegal for Irwin Mitchell and will join Thomson Snell and Passmore as a trainee solicitor in September 2020. Ellie's top tips for improving your chances of career success include:

- **Become a Student Ambassador:** Ellie worked as a Student Ambassador throughout her studies
- **Read Kent Law School's Employability Bulletin:** it's sent out each week in term-time, via email, by Law School Employability Officer Jayne Instone
- **Get involved with Aspiring Solicitors:** Ellie met representatives at the annual Law Fair and signed up as a member on their website
- **Work as a Campus Ambassador for a law firm:** Ellie says that being an ambassador for Herbert Smith Freehills gave her incredible insight into the process of making applications
- **Attend careers events:** Ellie attended an event hosted by Irwin Mitchell which helped her secure a job with the firm as a legal assistant
- **Go to the annual Law Fair:** Ellie says: 'A list of firms attending the Fair is sent out prior to the event which is super useful as you can research the firms that will be attending and ask informed questions. Last year, I spoke to Thomson, Snell and Passmore's HR team and this led to me gaining a place on their vacation scheme'
- **Get networking:** Network with as many aspiring solicitors, careers advisors and legal professionals as you can to gain an insight into the industry
- **Create a LinkedIn profile:** Connect with all of the students, professionals and teachers you meet and keep your profile updated
- **Develop commercial awareness:** Read commercial news sources such as *The Economist* and form opinions about different commercial issues





1 Law Society President Simon Davis presents the award to Dr Lucy Scott-Moncrieff

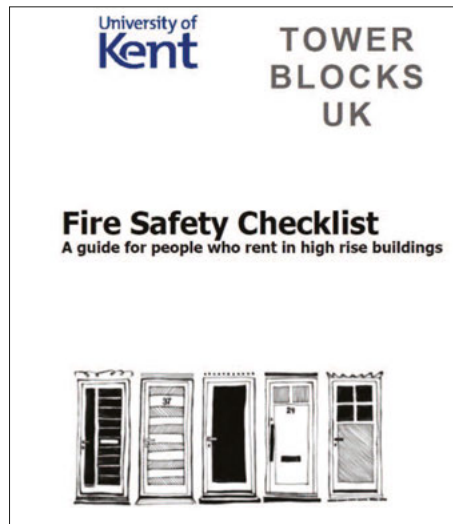
## Launch of Fire Safety Checklist

Kent Law School housing law expert Professor Helen Carr addressed politicians, policymakers and leading fire safety professionals at the parliamentary launch of a crucial Fire Safety Checklist for tower block residents.

The Checklist is a practical tool that helps residents check the fire safety of their homes. It has been compiled by Professor Carr working in collaboration with Kent Law School colleague Dr Ed Kirton-Darling, Tower Blocks UK (a website for people who are concerned about tower block safety), Dr Stephen Battersby (a freelance Environmental Health and Housing Consultant), and with input from fire safety expert Phil Murphy.

The launch event, held at Portcullis House, was hosted by Karen Buck, MP for Westminster North and supported by Inside Housing trade magazine.

Professor Carr urged widespread use of the Checklist to help support necessary cultural change. She said housing laws remain 'out-dated, complex and patchily enforced'. She added: 'The best way to empower occupiers of poor-quality housing is enforceable rights to get remedial works done speedily, and we should not lose sight of that. We have to keep repeating it so that government hears it and updates the law.'



## Law School ranked 51st in the world



Kent Law School's strong international character and world-leading reputation for research sees it ranked 51st in today's prestigious *Times Higher Education* (THE) World University Rankings 2020 for law.

Only 190 law schools across the globe met strict criteria (related to the number of publications published in the last five years) to be ranked. Out of this total number, only 33 UK law schools made the list.

Within the ranking, Kent is 18th in the world for 'international outlook' and is listed among the top 60 best law schools in the world for research.

Kent Law School also maintains a strong and consistent performance in all three major UK league tables, with a top 20 ranking in all three for 2020: 16th in *The Guardian University Guide 2020* for law; 17th in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020* for law; and 18th in *The Complete University Guide 2020* for law.



Image credit: The Law Society

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## Lifetime Achievement Award

Kent Law School alumna Dr Lucy Scott-Moncrieff has been presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the prestigious annual Law Society Excellence Awards for solicitors in England and Wales.

Dr Scott-Moncrieff, a former Law Society president, graduated with a degree in law from Kent in 1975. She is a former patron of the Kent Law Campaign (to raise funds for the Wigoder Law Building) and was made an Honorary Doctor of Laws at Kent in 2009.

# News

## Mooting helps secure scholarships

Aspiring barrister, Mark Nagy-Miticzky says mooting experiences at Kent were 'critical' in helping him secure more than £20k in scholarships from Inner Temple and BPP.

The scholarships will help support Mark as he progresses to the BPTC, the next stage in his professional training to become a barrister. Mark completed his four-year International Legal Studies degree at Kent this summer. He said: 'My mooting experiences were critical in my interview. Really the three things scholarship providers and chambers look for the most (I think) are good grades, and involvement in mini-pupillages and mooting'.



## Mock Trials at Kent

Kent Law School's vibrant mooting programme is complemented this year by the introduction of an exciting extra-curricular module in Mock Trial Advocacy (for Stage 2 and Stage 3 law students). This new module introduces the skills required by an advocate to win their case in a Crown Court Trial. As part of their assessment, students assume the role of advocate in an internal mock trial competition while other students take the roles of Court Clerk, Usher, witness, defendant and jury members.

Mock Trials are held in Kent Law School's replica courtroom within the Wigoder Law Building and, this term, four of the trials will be judged by Criminal Judges from Canterbury Crown Court.



## Eritrean man reunited with mother

A young Eritrean man in Kent was reunited with his mother for the first time in five years thanks to lengthy efforts by Kent Law Clinic to secure a visa that has enabled her to come to the UK. The young man fled from indefinite national service in Eritrea at the age of 14, making a perilous journey to the UK via Libya and the Mediterranean Sea. He was placed in the care of Kent Social Services and was eventually granted refugee status in the UK. Shortly after he fled, his mother was also forced to flee her home in Eritrea and ended up in a refugee camp in Sudan. Now a young man of 18 with serious health problems, he approached Kent Law Clinic when he was 17 to seek help with making an application to bring his mother to the UK. After an application was initially refused in 2018, Clinic Immigration Caseworker Richard Warren and Clinic Immigration Solicitor Sheona York won an appeal after presenting a compelling case in court.



## Model of European collaboration

During a speech at the British Council's 'Going Global' conference in Berlin earlier this year, the UK government's Universities Minister Chris Skidmore MP cited Kent's Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) as a model of European collaboration. In a speech to leaders and representatives of international education from around the world, the Minister shared his vision for 'the UK's approach to 'going global' in higher education' and said that 'when it comes to higher education and research, the UK is most certainly open'. He went on to cite BSIS as an example of an established institution that delivers a transnational education (TNE) and 'enables the UK's Higher Education sector to maximise and benefit from the full range of international opportunities and interconnectedness'. Among the programmes available to study at BSIS are two Kent Law School LLMs (Master's in Law) and a PhD in Law.



## Revolutionary student-led research project

A revolutionary, student-led research project at Kent Law School has empowered Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) students to begin 'decolonising' their curriculum.

Student members of the Decolonising the Curriculum Project (DtCP) undertook research to critically explore perceptions of the BAME attainment gap. They wrote a Manifesto, based on their findings, to suggest ways for enhancing inclusivity, identity and academic performance at Kent.

As a result of the project, a new Kaleidoscope Network has been set up at Kent for staff and students who support the principles of race equality. A DtCP conference, planned for March 2020 at Kent, will focus on 'whiteness and empowering colleagues promoting BAME inclusion'.

The project, the first of its kind to be established in a UK law school, was initiated by Kent Law School Senior Lecturer Dr Suhraiya Jivraj and supported by Student Success colleagues Dave Thomas and Sheree Palmer.



## Teaching award

Kent Law School Senior Lecturer Dr Suhraiya Jivraj won the Social Sciences Faculty Teaching Award 2019 for her leadership of the Decolonising the Curriculum Project (DtCP). She was recognised for her work in leading the project which aims to support BAME students in becoming change actors and co-producers of knowledge.



## Award-winning students

At the 2019 Kent Student Awards in June, students involved in the Law School's Decolonising the Curriculum Project were recognised for their work in making an 'outstanding contribution to equality, diversity and inclusivity.'

Law and Criminology student Daniel Rozenberg was named overall 'Student of the Year' and was also the winner of the trophy for making an 'Outstanding contribution to the local community'. Law and Accounting and Finance student Aarish Hyder was a joint winner for the 'Outstanding International/Multicultural Initiative of the Year'.



## Supporting victims in court

A group of 16 Kent Law Clinic students has begun training that will enable them to support victims of domestic abuse during court proceedings. The students are being trained as volunteers by SATEDA (Support and Action To End Domestic Abuse) for a project called Support2Court. This initiative is the result of a new partnership established between the Law Clinic and SATEDA by Family Law Solicitor Philippa Bruce.



# Feature

## Extraordinary breadth of doctoral research at Kent Law School

Doctoral scholars at Kent Law School are engaged in an extraordinary breadth of critical, socio-legal research. But don't just take our word for it; we've spotlighted a small selection of thesis summaries to help you see the diverse aspects of the law our scholars choose to interrogate!



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Dr Thanos Zartaloudis, Co-Director of Postgraduate Research at Kent Law School said: 'Our research students are exceptionally capable. Their projects make a wonderfully intellectual contribution to the present and future legacy of Kent Law School. At Kent we have, over the decades, developed a challenging, interdisciplinary, critical and above all collegiate and collaborative research programme that has rendered Kent Law School one of the very best places to study for a research degree, worldwide.'

### Access to medicines in Tanzania: Utilising TRIPS flexibilities to promote public health

Zainab Bakari

This research focuses on access to essential medicines in Tanzania, in terms of physical and geographical availability and accessibility, affordability and quality. Access to essential medicines has been a problem in Tanzania. This research is specifically looking at the role of legal regulation in mediating access to medicines, and at how Tanzania has sought to deploy adequate responses to enhance or facilitate access.

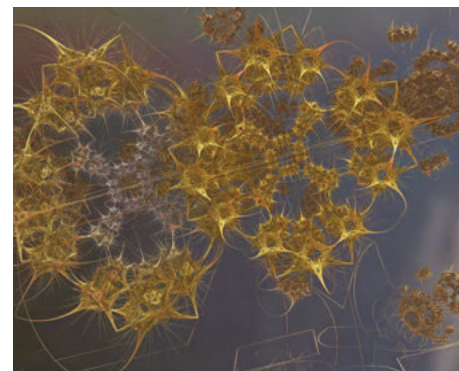
A core (if not exclusive) focus of this analysis will be the international agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), and the flexibility it offers to its signatories, including Tanzania, in the context of public health. My research will also look beyond the issue of compliance and implementation of TRIPS flexibilities (particularly if the latter is found to be inadequate) to consider feasible policies that will enhance physical and geographical availability and accessibility, affordability and quality, including the support for local pharmaceutical industries.



### Juridical Truth: Metaphysical Closure in Modern Legal Thought

Hüseyin Disli

On the basis of the argument that modern law's relation to truth is marked by the discourse of 'metaphysical closure', this thesis undertakes a reading of the 'metaphysics of law' in relation to the notion of juridical truth, through examining the relation between the 'elimination' of metaphysical thought in both philosophical discourse and modern legal thought.



- 1 Kent Law School PhD scholars
- 2 Onderstepoort landfill in Pretoria (now closed)

## Parents on the Periphery: Child Protection Law and Parents with Learning Disabilities

Siobhan Collins

This thesis seeks to identify aspects of current child protection law and legal process that particularly disadvantage parent(s) with learning disabilities. I am undertaking a critical exploration of the emergence and development of current ideologies such as theories of individual responsibility and the post-liberal subject underpinning the current legal

framework relating to parenthood and child protection. I'll contrast these with more communitarian theories of responsibility (Eckstein) and the Vulnerability Theory (Martha Fineman) in an effort to propose alternative ways to reimagine the current law on child protection to enable it to be more inclusive of this group of parents. My research will include the views of parents with learning disabilities and professionals who work with them on their experiences of the current legal system and include their voices on how the law could be reframed to empower more parents with learning disabilities to raise their own children.



Image credit: Allison Lindner

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## Localising international law: the implications for sustainable development in the lives of waste pickers in South Africa

Allison Lindner

This thesis explores what happens in a localised setting when sustainable development, an international legal concept, is translated into national laws through an empirical case study involving waste pickers in Johannesburg, South Africa. I chose South Africa as the centre of the empirical examination given that sustainable development is both enshrined as a right in the highly-regarded and progressive South African Constitution, and is the prime objective of many local laws which comprise the waste management regime.



## A critical reflection on the no-property rule in the human body and biomaterials in the context of biobanks

Rebecca Gulbul

My research examines the ambiguity around the property status of biomaterials in the context of biobanks. This uncertainty appears to be the foundation of the asymmetry between the rights exercised by tissue donors and third parties. It has led to a dualism in biobanking where public interests exist alongside commercial ones. My thesis explores this using three main concepts: the gift, biological citizenship and temporality.



Image credit: rawpixel.com

## The Regulation of Online Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending: A Comparative Study in the UK and China

Chen Yang

Over the last decade, P2P lending has emerged in markets of most countries and experienced a high-speed growth in the wake of the progress of internet technology and fintech. The objective of this study is to generate new insights about the design and evaluation of P2P lending regulation regimes of today, by undertaking a comparative study of the P2P lending regulation of the two leading P2P lending markets, the UK and China.

## STUDY YOUR PHD IN LAW AT KENT

Kent Law School has an active and supportive student community, with excellent dedicated postgraduate facilities. You are usually allocated two supervisors, who give guidance about the nature of the research, the standard of work required, and about the relevant literature and sources that should be consulted. You meet with supervisors monthly, ensuring consistent and continuous support during the length of the degree: [www.kent.ac.uk/pg/340](http://www.kent.ac.uk/pg/340)





# Research

- 1 Professor Anneli Albi
- 2 Professor Lydia Hayes
- 3 Professor Nick Grief
- 4 Professor Erika Rackley
- 5 Dr Connal Parsley
- 6 Professor Maria Drakopoulou
- 7 Dr Ed Kirtton-Darling
- 8 Professor Helen Carr

## Role of national constitutions

A five-year Kent Law School research project examining 'The Role of National Constitutions in European and Global Governance' recommends reconsideration of the prevailing focus on sovereignty. The project, led by Professor Anneli Albi, found that the focus on sovereignty overlooks the deeper comparative European constitutional cultures and their common and diverse elements. The findings are published in a two-volume, open access book entitled *National Constitutions in European and Global Governance: Democracy, Rights, the Rule of Law* (TMC Asser Press, 2019).

## Care sector workforce

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care has acknowledged 'a great debt of gratitude' to a team led by Kent Law School Professor Lydia Hayes for providing 'expansive, thorough and vigorous' research in support of their All-Party Inquiry into the care sector workforce. Professor Hayes collaborated with Dr Eleanor Johnson and Alison Tarrant to investigate how care workers could be better supported to develop as career professionals and why this was necessary. Their report 'Professionalisation At Work in Adult Social Care', provides a picture of professionalisation in adult social care across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and is cited frequently in the APPG Inquiry Report entitled 'Elevation, Registration and Standardisation: The Professionalisation of Social Care Workers'.

## Case for new human right

Professor Nick Grief and Shona Illingworth (Kent School of Arts) have been in Australia for the second hearing of The Airspace Tribunal, a people's tribunal that is considering the case for and against the recognition of a new human right to protect the freedom to live without physical or psychological threat from above. The Tribunal hearing was held in Sydney as part of The Big Anxiety, an international arts festival organised by the University of New South Wales. Experts across a range of disciplines and lived experience made representations on whether increased protection through the proposed new human right is needed.



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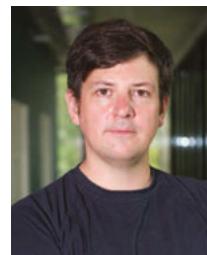
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## Shattering Lives and Myths

A new report co-authored by Professor Erika Rackley reveals how sexual images shared online without consent can be devastating for victims – who then find that the law fails them. *Shattering Lives and Myths: A Report on Image-Based Sexual Abuse* has been produced by Professor Rackley in collaboration with Professor Clare McGlynn and Dr Kelly Johnson from Durham University. The report reveals the extent of the devastation caused by image-based sexual abuse and shows that current laws are too limited and are 'gambling with people's lives'. The report's authors are calling for urgent action before more people suffer.

## Law and the Human

Kent Law School is hosting a new AHRC-funded international network on the theme of 'Law and the Human', with the participation of network partner Amherst College in the US. The interdisciplinary network, supported by a £45,000 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is led by Dr Connal Parsley (Principal Investigator) and Professor Maria Drakopoulou. Its aim is to gather, support and advance interdisciplinary research that raises questions, provokes reflection and generates new knowledge on the figure of the human and its relationship to law.

## Homeless veterans in London

In an ongoing collaborative investigation into housing responsibilities for homeless veterans in London, Dr Ed Kirtton-Darling and Professor Helen Carr have identified a need for research to determine how the law may be hindering coordination and decision-making. Their latest findings arise from a workshop organised by the London Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC). Attendees from 13 local London authorities, the Greater London Authority, the charitable sector and military organisations engaged in critical discussions about homelessness, allocation of social housing and working with others.

## Celebration of Lady Hale

Professors Erika Rackley and Rosemary Hunter have been awarded £11,000 by the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) to celebrate the legal life and jurisprudence of The Right Honourable The Baroness Hale of Richmond, as one of the Society's flagship Annual Seminars in 2020. The two-day conference in central London will be a focus of celebrations to mark Lady Hale's retirement from her role as President of the UK's Supreme Court in January 2020. Papers from the conference will be published as an edited collection by Cambridge University Press.



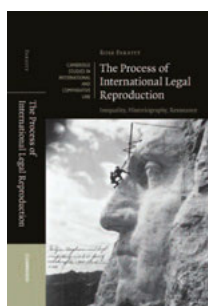
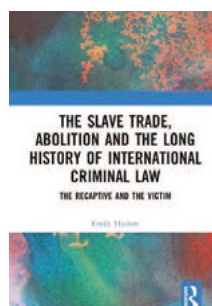
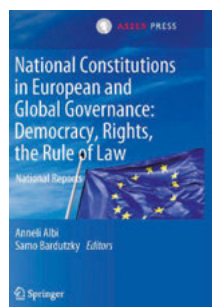
# Staff News

- 1 Professor Diamond Ashiagbor
- 2 Professor Rosemary Hunter

## Books by Law School academics

Books authored and edited by Kent Law School academics in 2019 include:

- *National Constitutions in European and Global Governance: Democracy, Rights, the Rule of Law* (TMC Asser Press, 2019) edited by Professor Anneli Albi and Samo Bardutzky, Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- *Re-Imagining Labour Law for Development: Informal Work in the Global North and South* (Hart Publishing) edited by Professor Diamond Ashiagbor
- *The Slave Trade, Abolition and the Long History of International Criminal Law* (Routledge) by Dr Emily Haslam
- *The Process of International Legal Reproduction: Inequality, Historiography, Resistance* (Cambridge University Press) by Dr Rose Parfitt
- *Women's Legal Landmarks: Celebrating the history of women and law in the UK and Ireland* (Hart Publishing) co-edited by Professor Erika Rackley and Professor Rosemary Auchmuty (University of Reading)



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## AHRC Advisory Board

Professor Diamond Ashiagbor has been appointed to the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Advisory Board for a three-year term.

## Family Justice Panel

Professor Rosemary Hunter has been appointed to a government Family Justice Panel steering a public call for evidence on how the family courts protect victims in cases of domestic abuse and other serious offences.

## Postgraduate research success

Congratulations to postgraduate research students who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis in 2019, including: Dr Mohammad Afshary; Dr Mohammed Alhamzi; Dr Mark Charoenwong; Dr Hayathem Bin Hasher; Dr Marie Kerin; Dr Joao Araujo Monteiro Neto; Dr Dami Odetola; Dr Josipa Saric; Dr Josephine Uwineza; Dr Pamela White.



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## Leavers and Joiners 2019

This academic year we bid farewell to retirees: Dr Cheryl Dolder; Penny Grinter. We have also said goodbye to: Dr Karen Devine; Naomi Evans; Dr Sinead Ring; Hannah Uglow; Dr Will White.

Professor Bill Howarth has moved to emeritus status and Dr Eleanor Curran is now an Honorary Fellow.

In 2019, we have welcomed three new professors: Professor Lydia Hayes; Professor Shaun McVeigh; and Professor Alain Pottage (from January 2020). We have also welcomed: Dr Mohammed Afshary; Dr Gian Giacomo Fusco; Dr Allison Holmes; Eric Loefflad; Moses Malekia; Dr Jeremmy Okonjo; Luminita Olteanu; Dr Josipa Saric; Russell Weeks; Dr Pamela White; Karen Widess.

## Promotions 2019

Our congratulations to the following colleagues on their promotion: Dr Jose Bellido (Reader); Dr Luis Eslava (Reader); Dr Rose Parfitt (Senior Lecturer).

# Student Society News

## Kent Law Temple Society

**Jennifer Earle, President 2019-20**

Kent Temple Law Society (KTLS) is the oldest law society at the University of Kent and our focus is on professional development and the Bar. This term, we are holding a talk from Inner Temple on the road to joining an Inn. We are also hosting a panel discussion of barristers who practice in civil law vs criminal law. This talk will include Kent alumni.

In November, we are co-hosting a Christmas dinner with the other law societies at Wildwood (in Canterbury). This will provide an opportunity to network with fellow students. Students can reflect upon and celebrate the near completion of the autumn term 2019/2020.

In the spring term, we are hosting a panel discussion in collaboration with the Kent Student Law Society. Students will hear from practicing barristers and solicitors about their professional journey. The talk will be followed by a Q&A session. This will assist students in deciding which path to choose.

Our mooting tournament will be held in February 2020. Student mentors and mentees will compete as a team (junior and senior barrister) against their peers in this student-led moot.

The KLTS Annual Dinner will be held at the end of the spring term. This is an event attended by students, barristers, faculty and judges. This affords students the opportunity to meet and network with legal professionals and Kent Law School staff. Several Kent alumni also attend this dinner and are eager to share their experiences following their law degree.

Keep up with our events on our Facebook page @KentLawTempleSociety, Snapchat and Instagram @KentLawTemple.

## Kent Student Law Society

**Jordan Yohannes, Commercial Awareness Officer 2019-2020**

Kent Student Law Society is an academic society for both law and non-law students, typically known as the society for aspiring solicitors. We help and encourage students in their preparation for legal careers in a way that goes further than the curriculum.

Our lectures and events mostly feature Kent Law School alumni who are solicitors with significant experience in the legal sector or successful trainees who can give a true account of what a training contract is like. Some of the firms include Hogan Lovells, Pinsent Masons and Latham and Watkins. Some aspects that we focus on include: interview training techniques, broadening commercial awareness and submitting an excellent application to a law firm.

In the last month, we have hosted talks on how to get a vacation scheme, how to get a training contract, and how to prepare for the Law Fair.

KLSL also has the pleasure of hosting the annual Law Fair in Eliot College. Organised by Yoginni Gopal, the Law Fair was open to everyone pursuing a legal career. In addition to this, we have a great following on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, where we update our members on our events. Exceptional tips for those just beginning their legal career are summarised in the 'The Advisor', as well as commercial and financial updates on the legal market.

We look forward to hosting a number of exciting events, including: our Christmas dinner social and our barrister vs. solicitor event in collaboration with Kent Law Temple Society in the spring term.

## Kent Critical Law Society

**Alisha Dhume, President 2019-2020**

Kent Critical Law Society (KCLS) is a student led law group that specialises in hosting engaging lectures, networking events and conferences that encompass the values of critical legal studies. We place emphasis on historic and current social, political and economic issues, and their continued effects upon the law.



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- 1 Kent Law Temple Society
- 2 Kent Student Law Society
- 3 Kent Student Law Society
- 4 Kent Critical Law Society
- 5 Kent International Law Society
- 6 Kent International Law Society
- 7 Kent Canadian Law Society



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Our lectures and events are led by academics and professionals who are respected specialists in their field of expertise. However, we also provide a safe forum for budding legal minds to express their opinions, theories and research.

This year, the Society has altered the traditional approach of solely hosting evening lectures. In addition to holding events that promote questioning the issues in law, we have also held and plan to hold events that will help members make an informed decision about what they want to pursue in the future. Thus far, we have hosted a society introduction event, which informed new members of our aims. We then hosted an event with Akil Hunte, a future trainee solicitor at CMS UK who shed light on the do's and don'ts of a legal education and spoke about his journey and the problems he faced from being a university student to achieving a trainee contract.

Our next event was a panel discussion featuring Professor Maria Drakopoulou, Dr Alex Magaisa and Dr Connal Parsley. As a Critical Law school there is an emphasis on how we can use this mode of thinking in applications to various branches of Law. At this panel discussion, we expanded on the importance of this academic lens, through the insight of these distinguished academics who have devoted their research to this field.

Next term, we look forward to hosting a number of exciting and distinct events. These include our annual and biggest event Kent Critical Student Law Conference which seeks to explore the theme of 'Legal paradoxes'. The conference will take place on Saturday 14 March 2020.



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### Kent International Law Society

**Timothy Thirukkumar, President and Sabrina Aziz Khan, Vice President 2019-2020**

Kent International Law Society's goal is to provide members with an opportunity to get to know more about international law through our various events. Our major event of the year is the trip to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands. This insightful trip will offer students insights into many opportunities available in international law, more specifically human rights law. We also expect to have guest speakers from City law firms to explain their roles and their impact on an international level. This will also open up opportunities for students to learn more about the recruitment process at these international firms. We will also be having a moot in the upcoming year where students will have the opportunity to tackle an international law dispute. We also plan to collaborate with all the other Kent Law School societies with social events to ensure that the law societies and its members remain tightly knit.



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### Kent Canadian Law Society

**Kalen Handford, President 2019-20**

The members of the Canadian Law society are a top tier group of students, whose academic ambition and success is unmatched at the University of Kent. You have all taken a great leap towards success, but you do not have to face this journey alone.

Our mission is to introduce you to a new school, a new country, and a new way of life. We will show our members how to be successful at the University, and how to adapt to an entirely new school and culture. We will strengthen our sense of community by showing our members the very best that Canterbury, and England, have to offer while retaining some comforts of home. And finally, we will present the paths available to you once you finish your law degree, whether you want to return to Canada, stay in England, or practice elsewhere in the world.

By taking this great leap towards becoming a lawyer, you have left behind many things, family, friends, and home, but what you have started is a journey into the world. The places you will go, the people you will meet, and things you study will change your life, and your outlook forever. Welcome to some of the greatest years of your life. Welcome to the Canadian Law Society!



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# Student in the spotlight

## Alexandra Nadasan, European Legal Studies

### You completed a year abroad in Maastricht last year, can you tell us what that was like?

It was a wonderful experience. I studied at Maastricht University's Law School where I studied a range of courses from Comparative Contract Law and EU Law to Human Rights Law, and International Business and Company Law. The best part of my year abroad was participating in a European Human Rights Moot Court Competition (organised by ELSA – the European Law Student Association) as part of the team representing Maastricht University. I hadn't mooted before I went but, with a lot of hard work and practice, our team became very good and we won: the pre-rounds in Odessa, Ukraine; best respondent written submission; and 3rd place at the oral rounds in Strasbourg. Besides my travels as part of the competition, I visited The Netherlands, Barcelona (with friends from Kent) and Germany (to visit my parents). At Maastricht, I got to meet a lot of people from all over the world, since – just like Kent – it has a very international and diverse student body. I think doing a year abroad is a great way to expand your horizons, become more independent and learn about other cultures, people and places – I would definitely recommend it!

### Have you been involved with any of the student societies during your studies?

Yes, I was the first-year representative for the Kent Critical Law Society and Kent Student Law Society's treasurer in my second year. I also tried to go to and proactively engage with the other law societies because I think they all organise so many great events and interesting talks. I think they present a really good opportunity to make new friends, interact with fellow students, network with professionals and spice up your day-to-day student experience.

### Tell us about your role as a Kent student rep for Thomson Reuters – what do you do and what have you learned from doing it?!

As the TR Student Rep, I make myself available to help students navigate the online Westlaw platform. I show them useful functions which can help them research more effectively. I hold weekly drop-in sessions in the Skills Hub and ad-hoc sessions on how to use Westlaw for academic research or for enhancing employability skills and commercial awareness. Having a job (any kind of part-time work I think) helps a lot with time management skills as you have to learn how to juggle that and your studies. With this work specifically, I think I have become better at conducting research but also I've improved my communication and marketing skills.

### You work as a Kent Law School Student Ambassador, what's that been like?

Amazing! I really love getting to talk about the Law School, what it has to offer and my experience here. It is always a pleasure to interact with potential students. It's great to remember myself before coming to Kent and how many great things I've had the chance to do since then. This work has also really helped improve my communication skills, especially in terms of public speaking and doing presentations. If you'd have told me when I left high school that I would be able to speak to more than 200 people in a place like Woolf Lecture Theatre, I wouldn't have believed you!

### What other extra-curricular activities have you been involved with at Kent?

I've done quite a bit – volunteered at the Law Clinic in my first year and I'm still continuing to be as involved as possible there. I also did a module in Negotiation in my second year, Client Interviewing just recently and I'll be doing a module in Mediation next term. I enjoy studying for my courses but I think the best part of my degree is predominantly all the extra- or co-curricular things I get to do.

### Favourite module?

The Clinical Option (LW453) is definitely at the top; I loved working on cases in the Law Clinic and having the opportunity to help people. I'm also really enjoying the Human Rights and English Law module and the Law and International Development module which I am taking at the moment.

### Any all-nighters in the library?

Oh yeah – not just at the library. However, none since the start of this year. Everyone is different in the way they study but I would really recommend getting enough sleep every day because sleep deprivation can put an immense strain on your health so, yes, take your studies seriously, but make sure you take care of yourself and your health too. If you are struggling with this there is plenty of support around!

### Best thing about living in Canterbury?

I would say its location is pretty high on the list since it is so close to Europe but also to London. I am not a fan of big, busy cities so Canterbury is pretty much perfect for me, with all its historical and modern sides.



### Most surprising thing you've learned about the law?

Probably the complexity of it. I had some awareness that 'law' does not really work in isolation, which I why I never wanted to study black letter law, so I chose Kent for its interdisciplinary and critical approach to learning law. That being said, I was still amazed by how many things you can and sometimes must take into consideration when discussing legal issues.

### Worst thing about studying law?

This is a really hard question because I don't think there is anything I completely dislike about it. So even if I cannot say I loved all the mandatory modules (criminal law was not my favourite) or that I'm over the moon when I see the never-ending reading lists... at the end of the day, I believe it's about how we, as students can make the experience enjoyable and fun by using all the resources and opportunities available to us.

### And finally, what advice would you give to aspiring or first-year law students?

Take advantage of the opportunities available to you. It's ok to focus on your studies but I think it would be a shame to miss out on all the other good things happening around you. Pursue your hobbies and interests, get involved with societies, do some part-time work or volunteering – these things will not only make you stand out as a candidate in the very competitive job market but will enrich your entire student experience. Everything you can do to make sure you have the time of your life at uni is worth it, because, trust me, it goes by much faster than you think!