

EDITORIAL

We are delighted to publish the third edition of the *Plymouth Law Review* headlined by Lord Justice Thorpe's 17th Annual Pilgrim Father's lecture *Globalisation and International Family Justice in the 21st Century*.

Staff articles in this edition include Maggie Hemsworth's evaluation of the use of podcasting and Penny Childs and Nigel Firth's research on graduate employability underlining the Law School's developing expertise in pedagogical research. The launch of our new Research Centre for Law and Criminal Justice this year and appointment of Research Fellow David Cox is celebrated in his nineteenth century investigation into magisterial abuse of process and police abuse of powers. Such interdisciplinary historico-legal and historico-criminological themes are becoming an embedded feature of research within the School as evidenced in our previous two editions and particularly amongst our doctoral students, in this edition John Kirkhope's examination of the unique legal status of the Duchy of Cornwall.

For the first time we are also publishing the three best Graduate Diploma in Law research projects which all gained distinctions alongside the best undergraduate dissertations/projects as recommended by our external examiners. These cover a wide range of topical issues including carbon emission regulation, consent in rape, gender crime at the International Criminal Court, compulsory admission to hospital under the Mental Health Act, the *Purdy* decision and fatal medical negligence.

Our news and student activities section includes reports from Richard Blackmore, former President of the Student Law and Criminal Justice Society with a wonderful allegorical image of law students and sharks at the Plymouth Aquarium, Mooting Officer Charlie Bird, and Jennifer Pollitt and Iain Henning's update on the Plymouth Innocence Project. Eni Timi-Bui's inspiring reflection of a volunteer is a must-read for all and underlines a truly well deserved Vice C'hangellor's and UPSU award for outstanding volunteer of the year 2010.

Finally with the establishment of the new research Centre for Law and Criminal Justice and the merging of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies into the Plymouth Law School we will be relaunching the *Plymouth Law Review* in 2011 as a joint Law and Criminology publication. We are delighted to announce that Lesley Simmonds from CCJS is going to join Kim as joint general editor. As an initial taster and lead-in Lesley and Paul Richards, also from CCJS, inform us about recent initiatives to expand work based learning and volunteering opportunities with local criminal justice agencies. Paul's work in particular focuses upon developing links with the police, and a follow-up piece looking at student experiences will be published in the 2011 edition.

Kim Stevenson

General Editor December 2010