

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY 2010-2011

Jessica Maidment

Committee 2010-11

President:	Jessica Maidment
Vice President:	Rebecca Butler
Secretary:	Laura Offer
Treasurer:	Luke Jones
Health and Safety Officer:	Lindsey Howells
Mooting Officer:	Nicholas Schwaderer
Deputy Mooting Officer:	Victoria Lush
Negotiations Officer:	Leanna Darke
Deputy Negotiations Officer:	Lauren Moore
Careers Officer:	Vanessa Nwadiogu
Deputy Careers Officer:	Francesca Tomalin
Special Events Officer:	Charles Neveu
Social Secretary:	Rhiannon Williams

Having been involved in the running of the Law Society as the Careers Officer on last year's committee, I was keen to ensure that the success and development of the Society continued. Working with a committed, driven and hard-working team of people ensured that we successfully organised a number of legal skills and networking events throughout the year to provide the best opportunities for our members. This year we had groundbreaking membership numbers, enabling us to fund fantastic events, trips and competitions for the benefit of all of our members.

Networking Events

The year began with the annual Cheese and Wine Evening, which is an important event for students to network with members of the legal profession. We held the event at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth (see photograph below). Following the success of last year's event, student tickets were sold out within the first few weeks of sales. In total, 250 guests attended the evening comprising of a wide range of professionals such as barristers, solicitors, the Crown Prosecution Service, Devon & Cornwall Police, the Youth Offending Service, Plymouth Probation Team, Shelter and many more. The Committee received exceptional feedback from local professionals who continue to talk highly of the event to this day.



The Student Forum

The Forum was organised by the Careers Officers, Vanessa and Francesca. The question for debate at this year's forum was: 'Should sentencing be left to the discretion of the Judges, or be subject to strict guidelines?' The evening encompassed a debate between a panel of legal professionals including Ali Rafati and Jonathon Bosanko from Kings Bench Chambers, Alisdair James from Byng Solicitors, and Russell James from Devon Chambers. Following the debate the audience were able to interact with the panel and put forward questions. The evening then concluded with wine and canapés, provided by Plymouth Law School, giving students the opportunity to network with panel members and other local legal professionals who attended the event.

Lincoln's Inn

This year the committee organised a trip to London to attend the Lincoln's Inn Annual University Dinner. A group of 13 students from all three stages of the degree programme attended this prestigious event and were able to benefit from an afternoon of interesting presentations from Barristers on subjects including: 'Life at the Bar', 'Training for the Bar' and 'Top Ten Tips'. These engaging talks were then followed by a three course dinner in the Great Hall where students accompanied members of the legal profession and students from other universities. This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an understanding of life at the Bar, being a member of an Inn and obtaining work experience placements and contacts for the future. This year we were fortunate enough to meet Dr Michael Powers QC who was keen to get involved with the University of Plymouth. The LCJS continued to maintain a relationship with Dr Powers by inviting him to the End of Year Ball and as a result he has continued contact with the Law School.

The End of Year Law Ball

The Committee was keen to re-instate the past tradition of having an End of Year Ball for the students, lecturers and professionals. To ensure the event was a success, the Committee focussed on advertising the event as soon as possible and as frequently as possible. Due to a successful year, the Society was able to subsidise the cost of the meal for student members. Within a few weeks of sales the tickets were sold out. The evening was a fantastic success and students were able to celebrate the end of a busy year with a free drink, three course meal and live music from local band 'The Alex Hart Band'. In addition, the Committee put together an outstanding raffle to which both the Law School and the Society contributed prizes. The raffle therefore resulted in the LCJS raising over £200 to be shared by two local charities; 'Father Abraham's Motor Neurone Disease' and 'Jeremiahs Journey'.



Mooting

In the hands of our Mooting Officer, Nicholas, and Deputy Mooting Officer, Victoria, the Society has seen one of its most successful mooting years in recent memory. The year long, five-round internal competition saw over 30 teams whittled down to just two for the final in March at Plymouth Crown Court. Judge Taylor once again presided over the final, alongside Devon Chambers' Jason Beale and King's Bench Chambers' William Higginson, which centred around two tricky areas of criminal law. The Appellants, Joshua Lintern and Emma Pierce, narrowly won over the Respondents, James Simmons and Stacy Higgs, but the judges were very impressed by all of the participants, particularly as none had yet studied crime.

Similarly, Plymouth's involvement in National Mooting events has seen record success and participation. Iain Henning and Joshua Lintern gave a brilliant performance against

Nottingham in the OUP/BPP mooting competition, as did David Murray and Joshua Lintern in the WLR mooting competition (see Josh's personal account of his mooting experience in this edition of the Review). Special mention, however, must be given to two particularly successful competitions. Firstly, to the Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Moot, where Joshua Lintern and Laura Offer finished ahead of participants from King's College, UCL, College of Law and 17 other institutions, making it to the semi-finals and achieving joint third. And secondly, to the UK Law Students Association Moot, where Victoria Lush and David Murray did the University proud, bringing home the trophy, despite fierce competition from King's College in the final in London.

Lastly, a fantastic year of mooting was rounded off by Plymouth's participation at international level, in the Jessup's International Moot. Our team did another fantastic job so thanks again to Nicholas and Victoria, the Mooting Officers, and to all of the mooters who took part and worked very hard.

Negotiations

Having worked last year to develop and promote the success of the Negotiations Competition, Vice President, Rebecca, Negotiations Officer, Leanna, and Deputy Negotiations Officer, Lauren, continued their commitment to further expand and develop the competition. The aim this year was to both promote the competition and secure further involvement and support from local law firms, as well as ensuring increased student participation in the internal competition. By doing this we hoped to elevate the profile of the LCJS and the internal competition both with the students and local legal professionals. At the beginning of the year Leanna and Lauren held two workshops for students interested in entering the internal negotiations competition, to give an idea of what was required of students and how the competitions would run. They also performed a demonstration negotiation for students. As a result, sign up was high this year with 16 teams participating in the first round of the competition.

Local law firms Bond Pearce LLP, Ashfords and Foot Anstey were all keen to provide support to the committee's negotiations competition and consequently solicitor Melissa Paul and a trainee solicitor Tom Potts, from Ashfords, judged the quarter final and Associate Julia Green and Partner Matt Smith, from Foot Anstey judged the semi finals. Bond Pearce continued their support and commitment for the third year running by providing judges, a prize and a location for this year's final. The final was held at the Bond Pearce Offices in Plymouth and was judged by Partners Stephen Dilley and David Skelton. Samantha Lee at Bond Pearce kindly offered to provide drinks and food on the evening. This was a fantastic

opportunity for students to talk to and network with Bond Pearce professionals and gain an insight into working for the firm. The final began with an introductory presentation on Bond Pearce from David Skelton followed by a gripping negotiation between the finalists: Joshua Lintern and Emma Pierce and Joe McGrath and Ben Cresswell. The winning team were Joshua and Emma who won a two week work experience placement at the Bond Pearce Plymouth office.

Students this year also had the opportunity to compete externally at a negotiations competition held in Birmingham. Joe McGrath and Ben Cresswell took part in this and did very well.



A Fantastic Year

As a result of an exceptionally hard working and enthusiastic Committee who worked as a committed team, it has been an incredibly successful year. I would like to thank all of the committee members for their commitment to their roles and for making the last year both a fantastic success and an enjoyable experience. The Society received excellent support from the Law School who have not only provided funding for events and travel, but also support by way of advice, judging competitions, and donating prizes for our raffle. I would also like to thank all of the professionals who have helped us throughout the year and dedicated time to the Society and its members. Finally thank you to all of the student members for their interest in and attendance at events which makes the work of the committee possible.