

# Kent Law Reporter

The Newsletter of Kent Law School at the University of Kent

[www.kent.ac.uk/law](http://www.kent.ac.uk/law)

Student  
Special

Issue Four Autumn 2017

## WELCOME!

**Whether you are** a new student just starting at Kent Law School, a second or third year returning from summer vacation, or a fourth year student returning after a year abroad, welcome to the start of a new term and new academic year.

This issue of the Kent Law Reporter is a special edition introducing some of the people and services you are likely to come into contact with during your time at Kent.

With features from people both within and outside of the Law School, we hope that this issue will have something for every student; whether your priorities are settling in, getting involved, or looking towards life after your degree.

This academic year is a particularly special one for the Law School as we celebrate forty years of legal teaching and research at the University of Kent. Celebrations started at the end of last

term and we look to continue them with further activities and events throughout the course of the year.

The Kent Law Reporter is the newsletter of Kent Law School and normal editions feature student and staff news. Student news is always welcomed and details of how to submit news for a future issue can be found on the back page.

Have an enjoyable and successful year!

### GETTING INVOLVED - STUDENT SOCIETIES



Kent Law School has an active student community with a variety of societies and activities open to all students.

Societies open to undergraduate students at Canterbury are:

- The Temple Society  
For intending Barristers

- The Law Society  
For intending Solicitors

- ELSA

If you are interested in European law

- Critical Lawyers Group  
Critically examines the wider effects and intentions of the law

And at Medway:

- Medway Law Group  
Incorporating many of the elements of all Canterbury Societies

There is an academic and social group for postgraduates which organises a variety of cultural and social activities.

All of the societies arrange a wide mix off activities - from speakers and trips to legal employers and institutions, to social events where you can meet other law students.

Getting involved has never been so easy and so much fun!

### STUDENT REPS

Each year, Kent Law School (KLS) appoints student representatives for individual year groups.

Student reps are your voice and one of the primary ways in which students can communicate with the department.

Student Reps meet regularly, attend KLS committees, and liaise directly with the Head of Department and the Director of Learning and Teaching.

This is not as scary as it sounds and gives you a great chance to tell us what you really think about life at KLS!

If you are interested in standing as a rep, please contact Helen Letley ([lawadvisor@kent.ac.uk](mailto:lawadvisor@kent.ac.uk)) elections will be held in the first few weeks of term.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER...

### • Helpdesk

New law students are encouraged to visit the student helpdesk which will be running in Kent Law School from Saturday 15th September.

### • Welcome Drinks Reception

There will be a welcome reception for both undergraduate and postgraduate students in orientation week - check your packs from the helpdesk for more information!

## WHO'S WHO AT KLS?

### CANTERBURY

John Wightman  
Head of Department

Liz Cable  
Departmental Administrator

Nick Jackson  
Director of IT

Alan Thomson  
Head of Learning and Teaching

Dr William Howarth  
Director of Graduate Studies

Paul Hubert and Helen Letley  
Student Advisors

Maureen Wilson  
KLS Office Supervisor

Lynn Risbridger  
Graduate Officer

Lisa Dickson  
Director of Studies

John Fitzpatrick  
Director of Kent Law Clinic

Davina Cooper  
Director of Centre LGS

### MEDWAY

Lesley Phippen  
Director of Legal Studies

Helen Strotten  
Clinic Supervisor

Lindsey Wilmshust-Smith  
Student Administration (Medway)

### BRUSSELS

Harm Schepel  
Acting Director

Wade Mansell and Emily Haslam  
Principal academic staff

Anja Sablon  
Student Administration (Brussels)

## POSTGRADUATE OFFICE

We spoke to **Lynn Risbridger**, Postgraduate Officer, about the role of the Kent Law School PG Office:



Kent Law School has a designated office for postgraduate students. It is generally the first port of call for information relating to anything associated with postgraduate studies at the Kent Law School!

Dylan (PG Office Assistant) is here for enquiries relating to postgraduate admissions and can advise on making an application as well as the progress of applications after they have been

made. I deal mainly with the registered students, both taught and research. With over 200 students in different stages of their programmes of study the postgraduate office is a busy place!

The office deals with every aspect of administration for students' registration and also provides a pastoral support for students. If we cannot answer your queries, we will know someone who can! Behind the scenes the postgraduate office also provides a support service for academic staff assisting with the production of materials and posting of information on the webpages.

The office can be found on the lower ground floor of the Eliot Extension and is open from 9 am to noon and then from 2 to 5 pm. Please feel free to pop in and say hello!

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP - THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE

What is the Careers Advisory Service (CAS) and just who is it for? We found out the answer to these questions and many more by speaking to **Jenny Keaveney**, Careers Advisor at the Service:



In spite of the name, we are not just about careers – or even just advice. We can offer information and help with everything from graduate employment to vacation work to postgraduate study to time out.

We are also involved in helping students develop the skills which graduate recruiters will look for. To succeed in a competitive area such as the legal profession takes more than

just a good degree – you will also need to demonstrate skills such as communication, problem-solving and time management.

Your studies, part-time or vacation work and involvement in sports and societies will all help you to develop these skills: see our booklet "Career Management Skills" for more about what these skills are, how they relate to different careers and how to develop and improve them. This booklet, and our "Career Planning Guide" can be collected from the Careers Service at Canterbury or Medway: our website [www.kent.ac.uk/careers](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers) will give you details of our locations and opening hours and the range of help we can offer.

You can use the CAS resources at any time during your studies – and, as a law student, the earlier you start planning your future career the better!

The Careers Advisory Service at Canterbury is located on the entrance to Keynes College and is for the use of all students at the University of Kent.

## THE KENT LAW CLINIC - FAQ'S WITH CLINIC DIRECTOR JOHN FITZPATRICK

### What exactly is it?

It is a legal service for local people who cannot afford to pay for one. The service is provided by students under the supervision of legally qualified staff, and by volunteer solicitors and barristers in private practice locally. There is a very varied caseload: employment, housing, consumer contract, tort, welfare benefits, planning, family, immigration, asylum and much else. It is a collective endeavour, and an entirely optional one.



Students in the Canterbury Clinic

### Where is it?

The Clinic has two offices: one is in Eliot College on the Canterbury campus between the main building and extension looking out on the lovely garden; the other is on the third floor of the Medway Building with a splendid view of the Chatham Maritime campus.

### What do students actually do?

Students interview clients, research the law, draft correspondence and court statements, conduct negotiations and appear as advocates in the County Court or Employment or Benefits Tribunals. They also organise and assist at the advice sessions, take an hour a week on reception in the office, work on projects (eg on criminal appeals cases), take part in debates and discussions, and discuss new cases at the Weekly Meetings.

### Why is it?

Many staff and students at Kent, and many local solicitors and barristers too, believe that lawyers (whether

student, academic or practitioner) have a special responsibility for ensuring that the law is accessible to all. They have come together in the Law Clinic to provide a service which makes a small contribution to that end. They also believe that law students benefit enormously from participating in that service.



The Clinic facilities in Medway

### How do I get involved?

Come to a Weekly Meeting:  
Canterbury: Tuesdays 12.00pm, Upper Staff Common Room in Eliot College.  
Medway: alternately Wednesday lunchtimes/Thursday evenings, Medway Building, Chatham Maritime.

## STUDENT ADVISORS



Student Advisor Helen Letley (left) with Assistant Jane Vella

The Kent Law School Student Advisors are **Dr Paul Hubert** and **Helen Letley**, both of whom work in the office on a part-time basis with their assistant **Jane Vella**. The Student Advisors are based in the Kent Law School building with their office in Room L24/25 (next to the main Law School Office).

We spoke to Student Advisor Helen Letley to find out more about what

they do and how they can help students at all levels at Kent Law School:

### Who are the KLS student advisors and what do you do?

We act as tutors to almost all stage two and three students, some stage one students and are available to all undergraduate students through our drop-in sessions. We deal with a wide range of student queries, including

questions about concessions, appeals, study skills, extensions, student references, and much more!

We also provide limited advice about qualifying as a Solicitor/Barrister, provide most references for the Legal Practice Course and some references for the Bar Vocational Course. In addition, we can discuss module choices in relation to your professional development.

### Why should students think about coming to see you?

If you are struggling with your studies for any reason or you have a general query, please come in to see one of us. We will be pleased to meet you and offer confidential assistance as appropriate.

Students are welcome to visit the Student Advisors during their drop in times: Monday 11-1, Tuesday 1-3, Thursday 11-1 and Friday 1-3. Alternatively, you can e-mail them at [lawadvisor@kent.ac.uk](mailto:lawadvisor@kent.ac.uk) with a query or to make an appointment.

## MEET THE FACULTY - LESLEY PHIPPEN



### Tell us about what you do at Kent Law School?

I teach Obligations II and Media law at present. Currently, I'm Director of Legal Studies at Medway which involves organising some events and doing a fair bit of administration there relating to the delivery of the LLB at Medway. I'm also the liaison person for Bermuda and have been since May 2005. I've been there each year since for a few days - as you can imagine this is very tough!

### How long have you worked at the Law School?

Since 2001.

### Do you have any particular research interests?

Law relating to freedom of speech and the media particularly issues

surrounding media intrusion and privacy of the individual. I'm also very interested in Medical law & Ethics which I teach sometimes.

### Can you give us a run down of your typical day?

I'm not sure there is one. I teach at both Medway and Canterbury but spend most of my time at Medway. If I'm in Canterbury it's usually only for one day a week so that will be spent delivering a lecture and seminar and then working in the office in Eliot and seeing students.

If I'm at Medway, apart from the teaching, I may be preparing materials, doing administration or attending meetings. I rarely work at home Monday - Friday.

### What do you like to do to relax outside of working at the Law School?

Going for walks, reading newspapers/books/magazines, visiting art exhibitions, going to the theatre, shopping (yes, the usual I'm afraid - shoes and jewellery .. and books). I enjoy listening to music and the radio which I invariably have on in the car.

I've lost count of the number of times I've said 'Did you hear on the radio today?'

### How would you spend an ideal day away from work?

Not having to dash off anywhere too early in the morning and being able to potter at home for a while. I like to visit an exhibition possibly or go to the coast for a walk along the beach and then on to a delicious meal with family or friends. My daughter has read this and says I should insert the word 'noisy' before 'delicious' as we all tend to talk at once.

### And finally, what is the one piece of advice you would give to Law School students?

Apart from working as hard as possible I'd say choose your options carefully. Choose what interests you rather than what your friends might want to study. If you have a genuine interest you will put more effort into it and enjoy the work far more. I once had a student who loved Family Law so much she read it in bed at night -- it takes all sorts...

## MEET THE FACULTY - DIANE RAPER



### Tell us about what you do at Kent Law School?

I am the law librarian – officially entitled Academic Liaison Librarian (Law) and I am based on the 3rd floor of the Templeman Library.

I organise and provide training in the use of legal resources and ensure that KLS has the best selection of legal materials both online and in print.

### How long have you worked at the Law School?

I joined the staff in July 2006 – so just over a year. I have worked in different law libraries and it is a relief to see that online access is finally overtaking the use of printed material.

### Do you have any particular research interests?

Enabling lawyers to use legal resource materials effectively.

### Can you give us a run down of your typical day?

I work at Canterbury Monday to Thursday each week. I start off by checking my email for urgent requests for help and then move on to any of the projects I currently have running. At the start of the academic year I spend more time on teaching ensuring that new students understand how to access all the material that is available to them. Later in the year I may be able to work on specific projects designed to improve services. Last year I updated the Lawlinks website.

I have an open door policy to staff and students so when I am in the Library I am always ready to assist individual students who may be having difficulties. I try to spend time discussing services with staff and students so that I can find out what works and doesn't work and make any

changes to improve services.

### What do you like to do to relax outside of working at the Law School?

I am a keen dog agility competitor and spend weekends in the summer competing. I keep fit for agility by running with my cocker spaniels, Dash and Flyte.

I have a large garden and seem to spend lots of time planting interesting new trees and shrubs.

### How would you spend an ideal day away from work?

That's easy. I have just come back from holiday and the best day was spent on a long walk followed by a long relaxing lunch outside in the sunshine.

### And finally, what is the one piece of advice you would give to Law School students?

Based on what I observed last year - Keep up with your reading as you go along – don't leave it all to the last few weeks before exams.