THE KENNEDY WONG MOOTING CHAMBER
The new building on a landscaped site at the heart of the University between Eliot and Rutherford Colleges, with magnificent views over the city of Canterbury, will provide a home for

- the Kennedy Wong Mooting Chamber, a state-of-the-art environment for Kent Law School’s mooting programme, deepening legal knowledge and developing confident advocacy
- the Kent Law Clinic, teaching students through their participation in a free legal advice and representation service to those in the local community who need but cannot afford access to justice

The contemporary two-storey building will deliver three times the space of the current Law Clinic office that it replaces, and in addition a wholly new, bespoke and elegant moot court.

The overall feeling and quality of the building will be that of an accessible, professional environment which welcomes all comers and gives students the opportunity to transfer from learner to law professional. Whilst the design is modern, the clever use of materials gives a warmth and colour which fits in well with its surroundings. The building will emanate peace and calm. The architects have used concrete and wood throughout, embodying a sense of timelessness, tradition and practicality.
KENNEDY WONG
MOOTING CHAMBER

The top floor houses the Kennedy Wong Mooting Chamber comprising a modern courtroom fit for the largest critical law school in the country, with outstanding south-facing views over the city, a visiting judges’ deliberation room, a training space for students and further offices and conference rooms.

The Kent Law School is proud to be providing a purpose built moot court to support students in their mooting activities – a vital part of any law degree. This high quality multi-use learning environment will significantly enhance students’ experience of advocacy and boost their confidence when presenting legal arguments in a formal setting. Inspiration for some of the design features has been drawn from the UK Supreme Court.

As the KLS mooting programme continues to grow, this bright and spacious moot court will provide an unrivalled space in the South East of England to host moots in both internal and external competitions. In 2014-15, more than 100 students had some direct involvement in mooting-related activities and more than 40 judges, legal practitioners and academics assisted with judging or training. These numbers are likely to increase as students continue to see the added value of mooting to their learning and deeper understanding of the operation of law in society.

The Kennedy Wong Mooting Chamber will seat a five court Bench and a six seat Bar. It will have a witness stand for use in mock trials – doubling up as the IT and AV control centre. AV equipment will record student performances for pedagogic feedback purposes; and a well thought-through acoustic design will teach students how to project their voices without sound amplification.

The court can host up to 70 people in a session which makes it one of the largest in the UK. As such, the space can also accommodate the law school academic staff as well as medium-sized lectures or CPD training sessions. Spectators in moots will no longer have to stand or sit on tables. Most importantly, mooters may be heard.

The ground floor provides expanded, brighter and more accessible Law Clinic office space so that more students can learn and work with more staff to help more clients.

Students under the supervision of five Clinic solicitors, work closely with clients and community groups, and engage enthusiastically with the Clinic’s public service ethos, and ideas of social justice. Cases are taken on mainly in the areas of employment, housing, welfare benefits, immigration and asylum, access to land and family law.

The Clinic not only enhances the education of students but also complements the long-standing focus of the Kent Law School on the study of law in its social context and makes a positive contribution to the life of the local community. Many students continue to undertake pro bono legal work after qualifying.

Every year more than 250 students work in the Clinic, helping staff to deal with nearly 2,000 enquiries and to provide free legal advice or representation in over 500 cases. Staff, students and clients will get a terrific boost from this magnificent new suite of offices as they grapple with serious and ‘live’ legal problems.


Professor Toni Williams, Head of the Kent Law School, said “we are extremely grateful to Dr Kennedy Wong for his generous support and we look forward to being able to host mooting competitions in proper surroundings”.

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