



University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

10 Year Anniversary



2003—2013

Ten Years of Serving the Community



Pride, Awe and Good Fortune: Ten Years On

Professor Donald Nicolson OBE reflects on Ten Years of Success at the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

Anniversaries are a time of heightened emotion. The Law Clinic's Tenth Anniversary is no exception.

Perhaps the most obvious emotion evoked is that of pride at what has been achieved in the last ten years: well over a thousand clients assisted, well over half a million pounds won or saved for them, as well as important other outcomes like saving people from eviction or losing their jobs, and a success rate for clients of over 90%. All of this before one counts the many other achievements which were not even part of my original vision: the public legal education programmes in prisons and schools, the investigation of miscarriages of justice through the Innocence Project, the setting up of evening Initial Advice Clinics staffed largely by our alumni, and various law reform and research projects all designed to improve access to justice.

The fact that these other projects came about largely because of the initiative and hard work of our student volunteers underlies the second emotion – that of awe. I have not ceased to be amazed by the enthusiasm, commitment and courage of the students, who not only run the Clinic but also take on the best that legal and other professionals can throw at them whether in the small claims court or tribunals and now even in the intimidating atmosphere of the Sheriff Summary court and beyond.

However, personally, perhaps the most pronounced emotion is the sense of good fortune that a combination of favourable factors has made possible the most rewarding experience of my career. Foremost among these is the student volunteers. However, it also includes a then head of Department with the vision of clinical legal education at Strathclyde and subsequently three very supportive heads of Departments, Faculty Deans, Principals, a series of efficient and warm Clinic administrators, and perhaps above all a University which takes seriously its mission to be a place of useful learning. Equally important in launching and sustaining the Clinic was the financial and other support, most notably in the form of training, from the local legal community and the recruitment of two of its members as supervisors, Kate Laverty and Annabell Fowles, to take the provision of services to a new level of professional competence. In reality, this list does not nearly do justice to the numerous people who have supported the clinic. It does, however, underlie the final emotion which all connected with the Clinic will feel – that of gratitude to all those who have made its success possible.

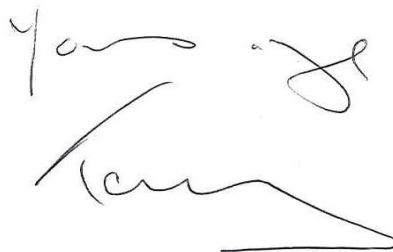
Law Clinic: Recognised at all Levels

Dear Donald

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic's 10 Year Anniversary celebration on 6 February. As you will be aware, it was my intention to attend this event. Unfortunately however, due to Parliamentary commitments, I will now no longer be able to attend.

The legal sector represents a valuable and important segment of the Scottish economy with the University of Strathclyde providing a new generation of lawyers a direct route into this vital profession. The value of the Law clinic to the wider community as well as students cannot be under estimated. I am aware that the clinic has now completed over 950 cases.

Whilst I am unable to attend, I would like to take the opportunity to wish the University of Strathclyde's Law Clinic continued success and look forward to the clinic providing continued assistance to students and the public for many years to come.



KENNY MACASKILL



“From start to end the service was wonderful and very supportive”

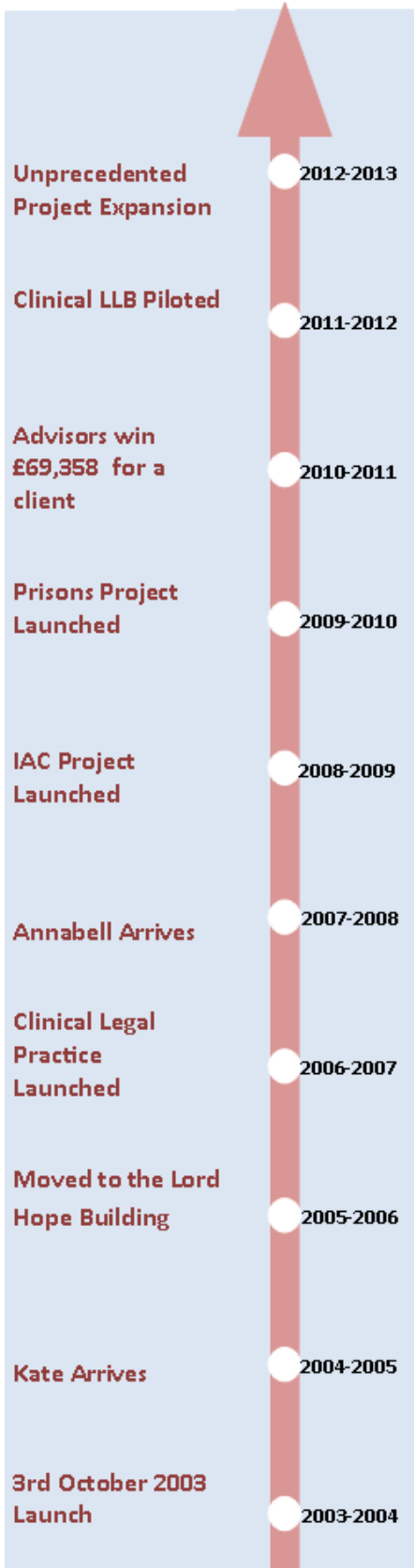
“I cannot thank the advisors enough for all their effort and for their sensitivity”

“I could not be happier with the level of commitment to my case – I thought there was nobody out there who would help me with this”

“Advisors put my faith back into humanity”

Client Testimonies

Thanks



We are always extremely grateful to our many supporters. Without them we would not be able to provide vital services to our clients and the community. We therefore would like to thank the Law School, The Faculties of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, the Principal, the Alumni Fund, our law firm sponsor DLA Piper, those who make regular monthly donations via our Supporters of the Law Clinic Fund and all those who have helped with training and advice over the years.

The service that we have offered our clients over the years would not have been possible without the tireless support of all of our student advisors, our committee members, and our supervisors. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who have been involved in this capacity.

We are indebted to all those who make not just financial contributions, but also those who offer their knowledge and spend their time offering training and advice to our advisors. We are also enormously grateful to all those solicitors who have spent evenings assisting at our Initial Advice Clinics.

Looking to the future, we will always seek to expand our services, and if you think that you may be able to offer some support we would urge you to get in touch.

If you would like to make a gift to support the Clinic's vital work, please contact Merle O'Byrne on 0141 548 5840 or via email: merle.o-byrne@strath.ac.uk. To donate online please visit www.strath.ac.uk/donate and select "Law Clinic"

To learn more about the Clinic's work, please visit www.lawclinic.org.uk. Alternatively, you can follow us on Twitter (@StrathLawClinic) or join our LinkedIn Group (University of Strathclyde Law Clinic).