



Law Clinic's Effie Awarded Honorary Doctorate

Effie Shaw, who has volunteered for the Glasgow Citizens Advice Bureau since 1974, was presented with her degree at a ceremony in early November.

Effie is renowned for her expertise in Employment law and has fought for workers' rights since becoming an industrial tribunals specialist in 1989. Her determination and legal skill have even managed to alter the law in favour of workers rights. In 2001 she won the landmark case of *Motorola v Davidson* ensuring that agency workers should be held as employees of their third party employers.

Speaking after the ceremony Effie could hardly believe she had been bestowed such an honour. She said: "Collecting my award, I was in a daze, but everybody was so nice."

As a close colleague of the Law Clinic's Effie has referred countless cases onto students since the Clinic's inception. Giving his speech during the ceremony Clinic founder Professor Donald Nicolson said that the award of a legal doctorate was particularly appropriate for Effie's contribution to Scottish public life, and he told the story of Effie's remarkable career since her qualification as a tribunal specialist. He said: "Central Glasgow Citizens Advice Bureau obtained three years worth of National Lottery funding to operate a Specialist Representation Unit. Although this unit had three paid staff, Effie Shaw played a principal role in the Employment section as a volunteer advisor. When the Lottery funding ended, and the paid staff had left, the workload continued with Effie at its centre. Towards the end of the 1990s and into this century, she was carrying a monthly case load in excess of 20 cases - a figure comparable to that of a solicitor specialising in Employment Law. Over the years she has won thousands of pounds for her clients and equally important provided them with a sense of justice, or at least the knowledge that someone cared about their plight."



A tireless public servant and friend of the Law Clinic has been awarded an honorary doctorate in Law by the University.

"Effie's achievements in fighting for the rights of employees is all the more remarkable given that she remained in full-time employment throughout this period. After various agency placements, what started off as a six week stint at Scottish TV as a production secretary ended with 26 years of full-time employment. Perhaps STV were worried about the consequences of treating her like other agency workers. During this period, Effie achieved something which I am sure is unique amongst those honoured by this university. She had a soap opera character named after her. Some of you might remember Effie McDonald in 'Take the High Road'. Lord and Chancellor I present to you the original."

"From 2005 Effie's consultative role on employment law cases has extended to students of the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic."

"Since then Effie has been invaluable in helping a new generation of lawyers to get to grips with employment law and procedure. They all speak of her warmth and generosity in overcoming their nervousness in having to represent clients in complicated litigation of such great importance to the clients. I know of at least two students who have been inspired by Effie to pursue a career in employment law and I am sure that there are many more."

"Indeed it was the students of the Law Clinic who first suggested that Effie be nominated with the award of an honorary degree. As someone who has for decades been a champion for justice and a source of invaluable legal assistance to countless fellow citizens of her native city, the choice of a legal doctorate is particularly appropriate."

From the Director's Desk



As many of you can testify, this semester has been crazy – though in a good way I hope. We have already taken on 28 cases – more than 25% of last year's total caseload. Our recent recruitment drive led to 85 applications – more than the existing membership at the start of term. When successful candidates are added to Diploma students recruited in October, we now have a membership of over 180. In addition, acting alongside the students as advisors are 15 volunteer solicitors from DLA and McGrigors. As a result I seem to have spent most of the semester training new recruits.

I have also been kept off the streets (or more accurately away from my research) by entertaining a steady stream of guests to the Clinic. In October Kenneth Campbell from the Faculty of Advocates visited, resulting in the offer of advocacy training. He was followed by Lindsay Bruce's new boss from Thompsons, with offers of helping with government contacts and the funding of a computer room for advisors. A rather

different aim was sought by Trading Standards who want to refer at least some of the six consumer cases they are forced to turn away each week. A few weeks ago, the founder of CaseCheck visited to offer us publicity on his website (<http://www.casecheck.co.uk>). Finally, last week we were visited by a law clinic director from India who wants to set up an exchange programme between our two clinics. Summer in Goa anyone?

I have even been involved with cases this year – one being the now famous Dog case and another a possible race discrimination case. As you will see from the reports below, we continue to make a very real difference to the lives of our clients, though there is also no room for complacency, and we are currently in the process of reviewing our case handling procedures. However, we are also in the process of building on our past successes by setting up outreach clinics. And in order to cope with additional supervision and funding requirements, we have just

been joined by Annabell Fowles, who I am sure will make a substantial contribution to the Clinic.

As usual, it's not been all work and no play – though sometimes it seems that way. We had a very successful fourth anniversary party in October attended by such luminaries as the Sheriff Principal and the Deputy Lord Provost to name just two. As in previous years, the highlight (apart from my speech of course) was the annual awards, with student of the year going to Lindsay Bruce for her sterling work, most notably in making clinic procedures more efficient and democratic. Case of the year went to John Harper and Anthony Munro for their very successful sex discrimination case, and Donald's Ducks being awarded to Helen Bain, Andrew Logie, Scott McMaster and Adrian West for managing to be beaten by Kate Laverty's son at tenpin bowling. No doubt, equally embarrassing events will occur at the Christmas drinks outing - but not, I hasten to add, the sight of me dancing.

Scott's Thoughts

It has already been stated by DN that this semester so far has been quite busy! The Clinic is evolving at an almost exponential rate and to cope with this everyone involved has had to muck in, so to speak. My legacy, if you like, will hopefully be the establishment of outreach Clinics and the significant expansion of the Clinic to accommodate this. However, the day to day running of the Clinic at present is also becoming increasingly complex and it is testament to the efforts of our committees and supervisory support structure that we continue to operate smoothly at the base level. Of course there are issues which need to be addressed and a rethink of the present

allocation system and also a formalisation of all procedures across the board is essential to create a fully functioning Clinic machine, which will not only serve central Glasgow but also its environs. At this juncture I must thank the Advisory Committee for their tremendous input to date and their presentation of policy directives for discussion without which the Clinic could not evolve as it has been doing.

This year has seen the Diploma Project take on a new lease of life and the successful allocation of cases to all project members by the end of November showed the progress that has been made in this respect. Again

this would not have been the case if it were not for the work of our supervisors and specifically Linda Ion, they deserve all the credit!

However, the continuing efforts of all Clinic members must not go unrecognised.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to thank everyone for their great effort and hard work so far this year, our success shows why, in my opinion, the Clinic continues to provide the legal profession with its most diversified, interesting and capable trainees and will do for years to come. To that end, keep up the good work folks!



Outreach Clinics

by Scott McMaster

The implementation of an outreach program is something which was first given thought to during the latter stages of last year although I am sure it is something which has been evolving in the thoughts of Professor Nicolson for some time. It is only now, with the expansion of the Clinic becoming apparent, that we have the requisite numbers and hence the capacity to expand outwith central Glasgow. The concept is borrowed from a South African model which DN is keen to establish in order to enable us to service the more deprived areas of Glasgow and reach those most in need of our assistance.

Over the summer months the “outreach team” comprising Stephen Farrell, Alison Fotheringham and myself decided that in order to successfully operate in the future, by way of an initial three month pilot program, it was essential to carry out research to identify the areas in Glasgow which would most benefit from such a Clinic. With this in mind we carried out research into the geographical areas which already benefit

from the provision of voluntary sector legal assistance and hence, by way of elimination, identified those areas which were most in need. The nature of the third sector is such that we needed to ensure that we would not be overlapping with any of the existing legal service providers and would be providing a complementary service to that of other advice agencies. Therefore, we visited areas which did not appear to benefit from a legal service agency but merely debt and money advice, benefits advice and various others which do not fall within the sphere of legal services. A complementary service would ensure that there was no overlap in relation to funding applications and also that we would not appear to be “stepping on the toes” of successfully operating agencies, as the competition for funding in the third sector is fierce.

From our research it was apparent that the North of Glasgow is an area particularly deprived with respect to civil legal assistance, the majority of the legal offices in the area provide criminal assistance. Although we have pursued many other avenues, this is the subject matter that I will

concentrate on as I essentially took ownership of this project and have continued to do so. After meeting with Gillian Black, the Social Welfare Officer at Sunnyslaw Advice Centre in Possil Park we began to realize the enormity of the task but were encouraged by the fact that the centre was extremely accommodating and that the area was clearly in need of a civil legal assistance service.

Over the past few months there has been significant progress with respect to making our proposal concrete and we are now at the stage whereby a date has been set and the task lies with me to formalise the details and format of the Clinic, the final draft of which will be forthcoming. Following this we will intimate to Sunnyslaw our intentions and the first ever University of Strathclyde Law Clinic Outreach Project will go live! With this in mind it will be superb to see the Clinic operating in areas of Glasgow that are most in need of our help and by transferring the enthusiasm and commitment exemplified by all Clinic members into the wider community we are sure to continue making a difference.

cases

Dementia Carers Group: Stuart Kelly

One relatively new case to the Law Clinic has seen an exciting development in the relationship between the Law Clinic and DLA. As you may be aware, DLA - a major multi-national commercial law firm - provide sponsorship to the Law Clinic, and in return the Clinic provides a forum for volunteering DLA solicitors to engage in pro-bono activity.

An appeal for legal assistance by a local charity has provided an ideal opportunity to utilise hugely appropriate advice from DLA. The East Kilbride Dementia Carers Group is a not-for-profit

organisation who seek to provide respite and care for dementia sufferers and their families. The Group operates from a tight budget, and would have no finance to seek legal advice from practicing solicitors, and no standing in law to apply for legal aid.

The Group were made aware of the commercial strength in being registered as both a charity and a company, this being a development that many charities have adopted. The benefits in doing this are primarily financial: tax benefits are but one example therein of how charities can benefit from having a duality in registration as both company and charity. Having recognised this potential, the Group contacted the Law Clinic seeking initial advice as to how they could go about applying to Companies House for company registration, and the costs and complications involved in developing Articles of Association and so on.

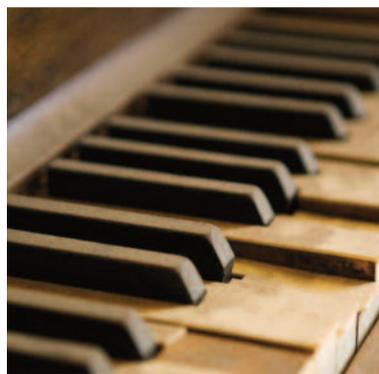
It is hard to imagine how the Law Clinic would traditionally have been able to really help with such requests, aside from provision of general company law advice. Yet the involvement of DLA seemed to provide a perfect opportunity to bring together the commercial pedigree of the firm alongside a case which involved law that DLA solicitors would be extremely familiar with. And so it was, almost perfect that a DLA solicitor was able to help on the case alongside a Law Clinic adviser.



Industrial Injury Benefits Delay: Daniel Edward Cox & Evelyn Wallace

We are Diploma students who are involved with the Law Clinic for the first time this year. A few weeks ago we were allocated our first case, which involves a client who is pursuing a claim against the UK Government.

Mr A is a former music teacher forced into early retirement twelve years ago after a series of accidents at work caused him lasting spinal damage. He was denied benefits by the Department of Work and Pensions on the grounds that his injuries were not covered by the benefits scheme at that time. Mr A appealed against this decision and due to several lengthy administrative and substantive errors on the part of the DWP, there was a delay of almost eight years between Mr A's first written application and the determination of his appeal.



The appeal tribunal found in Mr A's favour and he was

awarded benefits, which were backdated to cover the length of time taken from his first application. Mr A then made a claim to an ex gratia scheme for financial redress run by the DWP. Under this scheme, consolatory payments are made to individuals where the determination and administration of their claim has suffered due to official error, which includes unreasonable or exceptional delay and clearly incorrect decisions. The decision maker refused to take into consideration several phases of Mr A's claim and refused to award any compensation.

Mr A has since had legal assistance from the Legal Services Agency, as well as different solicitors and advocates. He has a claim against the Government in both the Court of Session and the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the delay and maladministration of his benefits claim. Mr A has had Legal Aid withdrawn and has come to the Law Clinic seeking advice and in the hope of being able to further his claim via our affiliation with the Free Legal Services Unit of the Faculty of Advocates.

We hope to do the best we can for the client in helping him achieve a satisfactory outcome from such a difficult and protracted case.



The Elephant Case: Barry Berlow Jackson & Andrew Logie

The client had spent almost a year in Africa on a programme working with elephants – for which she had paid a considerable sum. Unfortunately it hadn't ended well.

She and the programme coordinator did not get on at all. Although things had started out well, she discovered that his fantastic stories were embellished to impress the volunteers. She began to feel that he was not quite what he claimed to be. Worse than that, his behaviour towards her was inappropriate. They began to argue and our client felt that he began to pick on her, sometimes humiliating her in front of others. When she asked for help from the course organisers in the UK, they told her to make the best of things. Matters improved for a while, but then deteriorated again. Eventually, just 2 weeks before the end of the programme she had had enough, and felt that she had to leave.



On her return she contacted the Law Clinic. We corresponded with the course organisers – who had contracted with another organisation in Africa which ran the programme. They told us that they had conducted an investigation and that our client had been to blame – they claimed that our client's attitude and her own inappropriate behaviour had caused the difficulties.

We didn't feel that our client had a particularly strong case. It would be very difficult to prove that she had been forced to leave the course – that the coordinator's behaviour, and that lack of support from the UK organisers, had breached the contract.

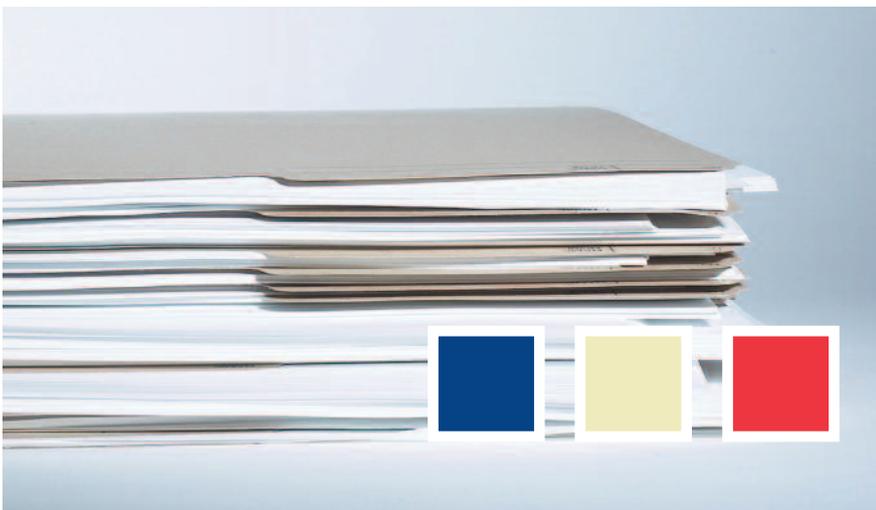
However, we composed a slightly threatening letter, which spelt out our case very simply and clearly, "seeking early settlement to avoid any further action". A few weeks later the UK organisers replied with a fair offer to settle.

Traveller Case: Scott McMaster, Mauro Dilullo & Archie Coleman

The status of Gypsy Travellers as a recognised ethnic minority in Scotland is the subject of much debate. Although there has been significant reform in other parts of the UK in achieving such recognition, mainly by the efforts of the Commission for Racial Equality, Scotland lags in this respect. Hence, the possibility of representing a Gypsy Traveller, as the client describes herself, excited the team of advisors to whom the case was allocated. At the outset, the case appeared colossal in stature and involved many issues, which to our knowledge had never been explored in any previous Clinic case. We had to utilise our base knowledge of subjects such as human rights, administrative law and housing legislation in order to achieve the wishes of the client.

The facts of the case are rather convoluted, however to set the scene we must venture back to the post World War two years and understand the attitudes and beliefs that ran parallel to such an era. In 1962 the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Office established a "Tinker Experiment" in order to reintegrate Gypsy Travellers back into the community by allocating a site where they would stay and which would be maintained by the Council. They failed to do so and this is, in short, the crux of the matter. The client and her family have been subjected to these conditions for the best part of 50 years and there is still no running water, electricity or various other amenities, the treatment of our client could be viewed as contrary to Articles 8 and 14 of the ECHR. Essentially, the attitudes of society have moved on since the 60's but there has been no action by the Council, in this case, to reflect these.

The client has sought legal representation from over 60 legal organisations and firms and although the Council are now doing all in their power to rectify the problems at the site, the client feels it is too late and wishes a referral to an Advocate who may ultimately take the Council to Strasbourg.



cases

Discrimination Case: John Harper & Anthony Munro

Our client, a single mother, was referred to the Law Clinic by her local CAB after terminating her employment. She had been working part-time by agreement with her employer since the birth of her child. After requesting that she start work later in the morning to allow her to place her child with a carer, the employer asked her to resume full-time hours, relying on a clause in their letter agreeing to her working part-time. When our client declined, citing child care responsibilities as her reason, her employer suggested that they would need to let her go, as the business required her position to be filled full-time. The employer subsequently retreated from this position, but over the next two months our client was repeatedly pressured to resume full-time work and subject to spurious disciplinary procedures. After visiting her doctor she was signed off sick with stress, and subsequently resigned.



After being referred to the Law Clinic we contacted the employer stating our client's grievance. Replying through an agent, the employer denied the allegations. Our next step was to instigate proceedings against the employer in the Employment Tribunal, on grounds of constructive dismissal and sex discrimination.

At each and every stage of proceedings we met with our client, advised her fully as to her options, and proceeded according to her instructions. We were assisted in our preparations by experienced advisors within the Law Clinic, University, Citizens' Advice Bureau, and Equal Opportunities Commission.

We represented our client at a Case Management Discussion before the Employment Tribunal, and carried out preparations for the hearing. At the same time we continued negotiations through the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) regarding a possible settlement. In the end, a week before the case was due to be heard, our client accepted an offer to settle from her former employer. After such protracted procedures, our client was delighted to achieve a settlement without the need to go before a tribunal, at which her success was by no means guaranteed.

The Durability of Flexible working rights: Helen Bain & Ramiza Mohammed

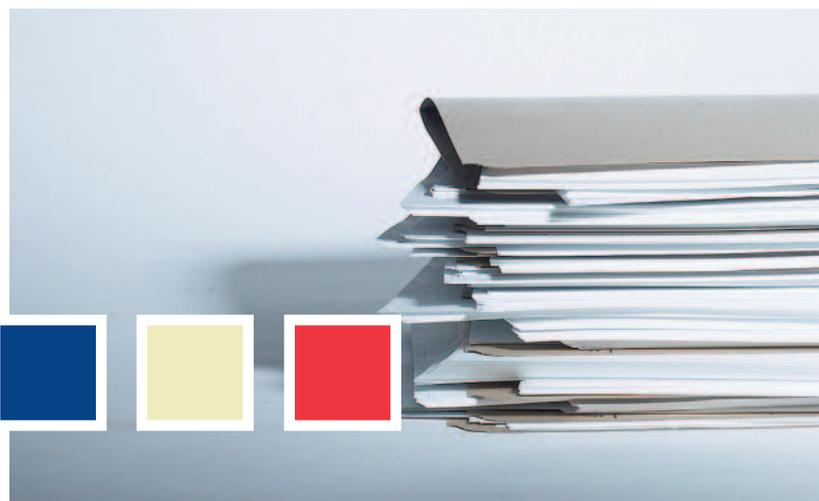
This case came as a referral from Effie Shaw at CAB. The client had previously entered into a flexi-time agreement with their employer and the employer was attempting to revoke the agreement. The right of employees to flexible working is provided for in s80F-80I of the Employment Rights Act together with The Flexible Working (Procedural Requirements) Regulations 2002 and The Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and Remedies) Regulations 2002. The employer was maintaining that as the client's child had reached the age of 6 they were no longer entitled to the flexible working hours.



The client had taken advice from CAB and attempted to challenge this using the grievance procedure. She began the first step by putting her grievance in writing to her

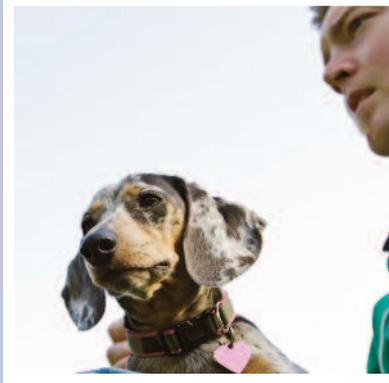
employer. However she was unable to progress any further as her employer failed to respond to her grievance timely. Upon the expiry of the time period the client made an application to the tribunal. She was contacted by her employer after the time period had expired however. They suggested she attend a meeting when she was on holiday and when she informed that she could not attend this meeting and had submitted her claim to the tribunal she heard nothing further. It was at this point the client came to the Clinic.

After the employers received the ET1 they obtained legal representation and changed their argument in their ET3 form. They no longer argued that flexible working rights were revoked once a child reached the age of 6, instead they argued on the basis of a provision in the original agreement which provided for the flexible working rights. At this point the employer's solicitors also made contact to see if our client would be willing to return to the grievance procedure and sist the case with the tribunal pending the outcome of this. Our client instructed us that she was willing to do so and during the grievance procedure her employers backed down and she was able to retain her flexible working hours.



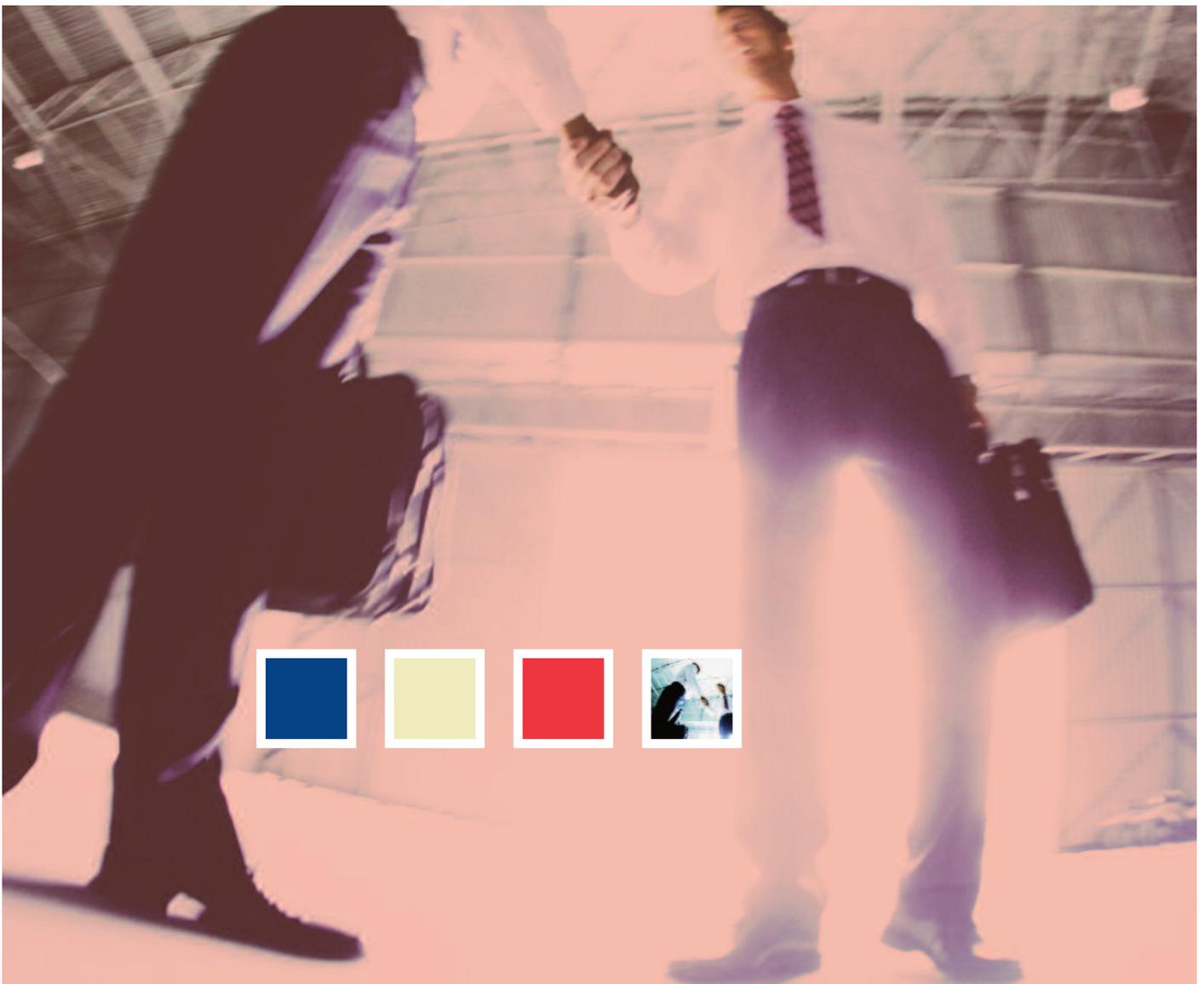
Dog Case: Julie Hodson and Susan Henderson

One of the star cases in the law Clinic this year was that involving custody of a dog. Our client came to us in an extremely distressed state having been served with a summons for delivery of his dog, Casey, from his ex partner. After much deliberation we decided to help the client prepare for the case, but due to the slim chance of success, we thought it would be better that he represent himself to limit any expenses awarded against him. With guts and determination from myself, Susie, Donald and Kate we drafted the entire proof. On the day, we appeared in court and our client gave his story. The witnesses were honest and that shone through. In his judgement, the sheriff



found that the pursuer's evidence was flawed and incredible and he found in favour of our client who now has exclusive ownership of the dog.

This was the first summary cause that the Clinic has dealt with and the first action for delivery. The client was unbelievably grateful for all our help and assistance in guiding him through the process saying, "I would like to thank everyone at the Law Clinic, especially Miss Julie Hodson and Miss Susie Henderson for all the help and advice given to me throughout the last few months regarding my court case over possession of my dog... I wish them both the best for their future studies and thank everyone at the Law Clinic for everything you did for me."





Clinical Legal Practice

by Melanie Barrie

As it was its first year, the combined Ordinary and Honours Clinical Legal Practice class was inevitably experimental to a certain extent. The handbook for the class was sketchy in terms of content, which allowed the course to take a very student-oriented path. This was a huge success, and the classes themselves were unlike any other offered in the Law School.

Learning was focused on relevant subjects, mainly related to professionalism and legal ethics, and practical legal skills. In addition to the weekly seminar, case surgeries were held, with different students discussing their cases each week, and debating various issues arising from the cases. This meant that issues were discussed in more depth and with much more opinion and insight than would normally be the case.

Perhaps one of the most valuable aspects of the class was the level of interaction

involved. In the seminars, for example, we were given reading in advance, often along with directed questions which led to a lively debate.

In terms of assessment, there are three aspects. The first is a reflective learning diary, where students write each week reflecting on their learning in the seminars and case surgeries. The second aspect is the case files of your law clinic case(s). The file is taken from the clinic and you are assessed on the organisation of the file and on the performance in your case. Most students submitted two files. The third aspect is an essay, on a topic of discussion which has arisen from one or more of your cases. The essay is to be academic, rather than reflective, and the purpose is to get students to research various issues which they have faced in their cases.

The following are some the comments of the first Clinicians, all of whom commented that the course went beyond their expectations: "It has exceeded [my expectations],

especially for a class in its first year. I don't think it's possible to get a valuable practical legal education without a clinical experience" "It has been a really useful place to learn the real meaning of ethical dilemmas for lawyers and practical skills for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation. The CLP course has also demonstrated how lawyers can make the difference in our society with their commitment, dedication and professionalism."

Law Clinic Founder Professor Donald Nicolson commented: "I have always wanted to teach students legal ethics, which is one of my research areas and require them to reflect on the sort of professional they want to be. But the response from the students, who truly engaged with the issues far exceeded my expectations. It was also interesting to put into practice many of the insights of educational theory which all stress the value of experience-based, student-centered learning, and reflection on that experience. It was fascinating to read students' weekly diaries and observe their learning experience."

Law Clinic on Tour: Kent Trip

by Jo Winters

On the 24th and 25th of February of this year the Kent law school hosted the Critical Lawyers Conference 2007, Human Rights/Human Wrongs. The conference invited academics, lawyers, politicians and students for an “explosive forum designed to extend critical teaching” as an essential alternative to the Black Letter approach. Strathclyde Law Clinic sent their own delegation to the conference for an educational expedition.

The delegation set out on the Friday by bus, enduring the long trip over the border to the south, a break down, and a broken toilet! They then settled into a day of talks, on issues ranging from the environment to the Israel/Palestine conflict, from the big names at the conference.

Mike Mansfield QC, well known in the legal world, was one of the speakers. Mansfield regards himself as a political lawyer, and is known for his involvement in the Bloody Sunday enquiries, and in the cases of the Guildford four, and the Birmingham six. He

also famously worked for Mohammed Al-Fayed in the Princess Di conspiracy case.

The delegation also had the opportunity of meeting the Kent Law Clinic whilst at the conference. The Kent Law Clinic was the first law clinic in Britain, and offers free legal advice and representation in tribunals and the Court of Appeal, as does Strathclyde Law Clinic. And, to their acclaim, Kent law clinic was, in 1998, the joint winner of The Times/Justice award for an Outstanding Contribution to Civil Justice. And in 2004 they won awards at the Solicitors Pro Bono Group Attorney General's Awards for pro bono legal work. This may be something for Strathclyde law clinic to aspire to. Also, this year, the Kent clinic has been involved in taking on the supermarket giant Tesco, fighting for redundancy pay for 27 of Tesco's employees. Good to see they are doing the good work.

Seeing the Kent law clinic was, said Stephen Farrell, the highpoint of the trip. He noted that the Kent clinic has larger premises than at Strathclyde. It had, in fact, a separate building with its own reception desk, computers for

five or six students, two interview rooms, plus a library doubling up as a meeting room. It seemed to Stephen that Kent clinic students had more autonomy from the law school. And although they had their version of Donald it did not seem that they had as much staff involvement as the Strathclyde clinic has.

Both Kent and Strathclyde gave presentations which brought to light the operational differences between them. For example, in Kent the clinic runs as part of the degree, but students don't become involved until later on in the course. In addition, Kent does not have committees as Strathclyde does. And, Stephen said, there was in fact not so much of a formalised structure, which was a surprise for him. Of course, with pride, Stephen was sure the Strathclyde presentation was superb and far superior, aided by one poor soul from Kent's difficulty with pronouncing Strathclyde, even after Scottish speech coaching!

All in all, the trip was a success. A fun time was had by all, with good food washed down with good beer.



'Where they Now'

Jennifer Wallace



I was among the original group who were involved in setting up the Law Clinic back in 2003. I subsequently became Membership Secretary; Case Manager in the first year of Firm D, and then I was Student Director for two sessions. I had great hopes for where the Clinic could go and what it could become, and I haven't been disappointed. It's definitely the element I miss most from my University days - not least the social side!!

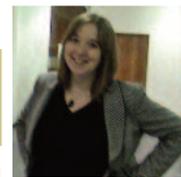
I am now in the second year of my traineeship with the Housing Legal team at

South Lanarkshire Council; and I've just been admitted as a Notary Public and solicitor with a restricted practising certificate which allows me to appear in court.

It was difficult at first to work for a local authority - the Council and the Landlord are usually the Defender in your average Clinic case, and it was hard to adjust my way of thinking. But now I love my job. I love the place, I love the work, and I love the people. However, I don't have the client contact that I enjoyed so much in the Clinic.

My traineeship isn't very strict in terms of the seats that I work in, and given that four out of the six solicitors had babies in my first year, I've been thrown in at the deep end a little! Sometimes I think that's the best way to learn. The work varies from quite complex conveyancing prior to first registration, Council House Sales and regeneration, to civil litigation relating to ASBOs, evictions and debt recovery, so although I'm not sure what I want to do eventually, having a traineeship with a local authority means that I'll have a lot of experience in a variety of areas.

Lindsay Bruce

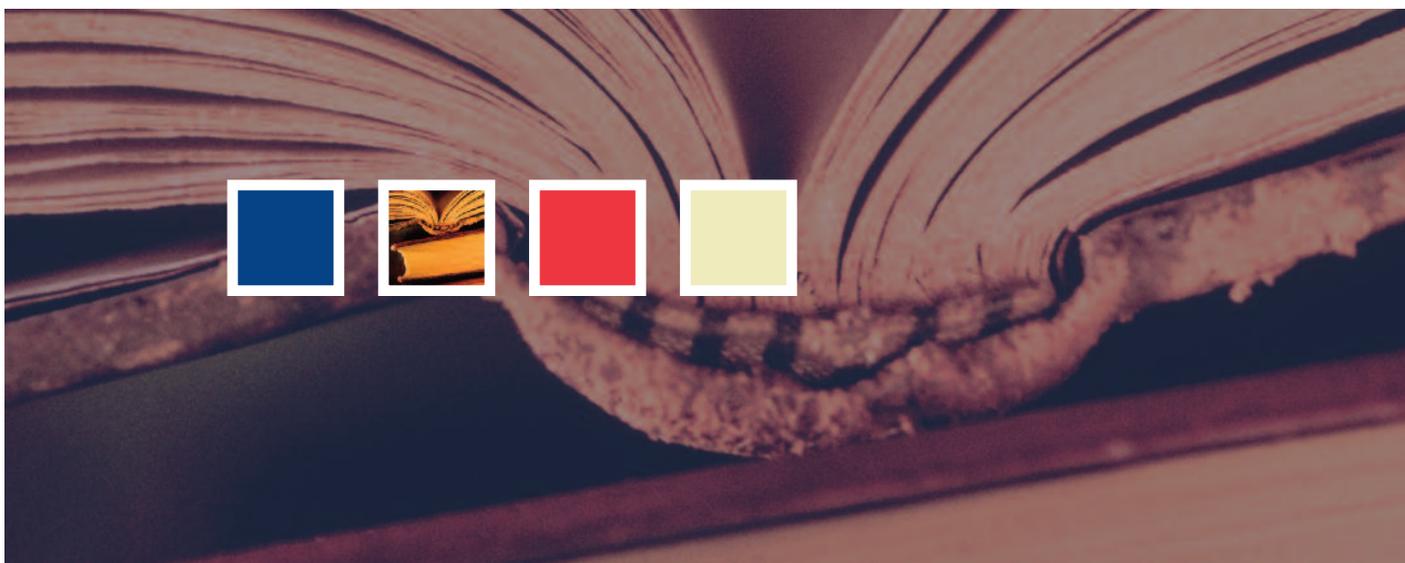


I left Strathclyde Law Clinic during the summer of 2007. Before starting my traineeship I travelled through Europe for three months and finished my trip at the Benicassim festival outside Barcelona.

In September 2007 I started my Traineeship with Thompsons Solicitors Glasgow. They are a Trade Union firm specialising in Personal Injury and Employment. I am currently

based in the Employment Department in a team of nine staff including support staff. I am the first trainee to be placed in the Glasgow Employment Department and will complete my traineeship in September 2009. My daily activities currently involve dealing with dismissal, disability and race discrimination and equal pay litigation. I regularly attend Employment Tribunals, Pre Hearing Reviews and Case Management Discussions.

I have fond memories of being part of Strathclyde Law Clinic and I know the valuable skills it provided both personally and professionally. I hope that in the future I can give something back to the Strathclyde Law Clinic for all the experiences it gave me including the ability to drink lots of wine!



Training

by David Martyn

One of the most valuable elements of the Law Clinic experience for student advisers is the opportunity to develop a range of sophisticated practical lawyering skills in parallel with their academic studies. The last three months of 2007 have seen seventy undergraduate and twenty-five diploma students pass through the Clinic's two day advisor induction programme, where students are introduced to the key skills of client interviewing, file management and letter writing. These are skills which they will use throughout their time in the Law Clinic and in their professional career beyond. However, this is just the start of the investment made into student training. Through a range of contacts within the legal profession, Law Clinic advisers have access to an unprecedented array of professional development opportunities.

In December of 2007, sixteen advisers travelled through to Parliament House in Edinburgh to attend a two day advocacy training course with the Faculty's Free Legal Services Unit. Based around the training received by trainee advocates ('devils'), the sessions were focussed on how to represent clients effectively in an employment tribunal, an arena already familiar to a number of Law Clinic students. Elements of practical advocacy were also developed by a high profile advocate, Mike Jones QC, who gave his time one afternoon to discuss some of his experiences and pass on some priceless tips. One of the highlights for students was the session run by one of our sponsors, McGrigors LLP, who invited twenty students to their offices in Glasgow for an invaluable session on Unfair Dismissal. The session was so good you have to wonder how confident McGrigors will be coming up against Clinic advisers at Tribunals in the future!

Softer but no less important client management skills were developed in sessions with experienced counsellor Margaret Gilroy, where the interactive atmosphere really helped students to reflect on their developing practice. Selected students have also made great use of a variety of professional development courses offered free to students by the Legal Services Agency, offering not only up to date specialist knowledge but the opportunity to mix with experienced practicing lawyers and recognised experts in their fields. Benefit the student as they might, the overriding objective of all these endeavours is to better equip students to represent the clients they serve. It is a still hugely satisfying that the Clinic is producing some of the best trained young lawyers in Scotland.



Christmas Curry

by Siobhan Connor

This year the annual Christmas dinner for committee members was held at the Lord Hope Building where we thoroughly enjoyed a mouth watering Indian take away. Korma, chasni, and spicy onions were in abundance, so much so that we had enough left over to donate to the security guard on night shift. A fabulous time was had by all, and it was great to see some old members, as well as Charles Hennessey and Gerry Kelly who

came to join the festive fun. A big thanks to everyone who helped out, and special thanks to Linda Ion. When our bellies were full and the wine bottles empty we headed down to O'Neil's to join the other members to celebrate Christmas at the Law Clinic. It was a great chance to meet some of the new recruits as well as catch up with old members. By this time the drink was flowing and the laughter getting louder, we made a merry group and it was great to celebrate Christmas in the company of so

many friendly people. After the pub, a hardcore group of celebrants made it out clubbing where we were on the tiles for most of the night. Although our heads were sore in the morning it was worth it and I am already looking forward to the next law clinic social event, details of which shall follow soon! I would like to thank everyone for coming along and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Photos from the night can be seen by joining the law clinic group on Facebook

