



Annual Report 2010-2011

Room 551c, Level 5  
Graham Hills Building  
40 George Street  
Glasgow  
G1 1BA

Tel: 0141 548 5995

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## 1. Year Highlights 2010-2011

- One in four of our cases resulted in a financial outcome for our clients. In the last year we won or saved for them over £160,917
- A record-breaking win of £69,358 for a client at an Employment Tribunal.
- LawWorks & Attorney General Student Awards 2010:
  - Winner of the Best Contribution by an Individual Student, Alasdair Stewart, Student Director 2010-2011
  - Law Clinic Committee shortlisted for Best Contribution by a Team of Students Award
- Law Clinic Director, Professor Nicolson, awarded an OBE for his services and dedication to the legal community.
- Finalist in the Evening Times Community Champion Team Award, Glasgow Central and West division.
- Introduction of Innocence Project in collaboration with journalism students

## 2. Director's Statement

If it seems impossible for the Law Clinic to stand still, 2010/11 marked a period when the Law Clinic took a slight pause to consolidate its new incarnation as an organisation as much concerned with educating the public on their legal rights as with assisting them directly to vindicate these rights. However, with the advent of the new Clinical LLB next year, which allows students to gain credit for their clinic work, it was perhaps only a brief pause to take breath before the next major change to the Law Clinic.

This is not to say that the Law Clinic remained static; far from it. To the growing number of projects developed and run by the students was added the exciting new Innocence Project, which involves working with journalism students and staff to seek to help miscarriages of justice victims gain release from prison. It is difficult to think of a more important service we can provide those in need and I look forward to this collaboration go from strength to strength.

Nor did our other projects stand still. Our work in prisons grew apace and has been extremely well-received by prisoners and prison staff alike, while our Initial Advice Centres are providing an important additional piece in the access to justice jigsaw by ensuring that those with the ability to act for themselves gain the necessary advice to do so. Much work was also done to provide such a service on an even greater scale with the development of information sessions for consumers who receive faulty goods or inadequate services. In this way, the Law Clinic intends to ensure even greater access to justice by helping clients to help themselves.

It has never been the intention for these various public legal education (or 'street law') projects to replace our core activity of providing quality legal advice and representation to those most in need. Nor did this activity decline. While case numbers were marginally down, perhaps due to the introduction of stricter guidelines for means testing clients, the level of complexity of cases and their significance certainly were not. We have always insisted that the significance of cases cannot be gauged from the amount of money at stake. Indeed, many issues of crucial importance for clients, such as potential eviction from accommodation or the cessation of anti-social behaviour by neighbours, may have no determinable financial value. Nevertheless, the fact that there was more than a 64% increase in the amount of money we won or saved for our clients on the equivalent figure for the previous year – itself a record year – does suggest an ever increasing success rate for our cases. In fact, this year's figure of almost £161,000 is more than double that saved or won for clients in the first five years of the Law Clinic's operation!

As in previous years, these successes were down to the incredible commitment and enthusiasm of our paid staff and student volunteers who put much time and energy into helping those less fortunate than themselves. It was therefore gratifying to see the efforts of the outgoing Student Director, Alasdair Stewart being recognised by the LawWorks & Attorney General's Students Awards. On a personal note, I can honestly say that my own award would not have happened without the amazing way in which the students, as well as my Law School colleagues, the University and many of the local legal community, have responded to the challenge of ensuring access to justice in Scotland. I would like to thank all of them for making running the Law Clinic such a rewarding and exciting experience.

### 3. Law Clinic Background

Launched in October 2003, the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic seeks to provide free legal advice and representation to those in Glasgow and its environs who are unable to obtain such help through other means. The Law Clinic is intended to be complementary to existing legal services provided by lawyers and other agencies such as Citizens' Advice Bureaux. It does not act for anyone who can afford professional legal services or who qualifies for legal aid, nor will it act in areas like debt advice where there are already adequate services provided.

As the first and, until recently, the only University Law Clinic of its kind in Scotland, the Law Clinic builds upon a long tradition of clinical legal education in the United States, and more recently in England, Wales, and Commonwealth countries where law clinics are recognised for their value, not only to the community at large, but to each new generation of lawyers. While the Law Clinic's ethos prioritises the needs of the community for legal services and the interests of individual clients, it is also recognised that students can gain much by their involvement in clinic work in terms of developing legal skills, seeing law being applied, and reflecting on the ethics and justice of legal practice. Student advisors find their involvement in law clinics challenging, rewarding and useful in providing an invaluable insight into the actual operation of law. The Law Clinic provides a refreshing break from the increasingly competitive and commercial nature of legal practice and encourages young lawyers to adopt a more empathetic and grassroots perspective on their future careers.

#### **Mode of operation**

The Law Clinic was set up and is overseen by its Director, Professor Donald Nicolson, who has extensive experience in law clinic work, both as a student advisor and as the founder of the University of Bristol Law Clinic. It is run by a committee of student volunteers under his direction, with appointed students who are responsible for the day to day running of the Clinic and elected students responsible for representing the views of all members. Finally, a Management Committee, made up of non-Clinic members from the University, legal profession and local community, provides advice on Law Clinic direction.

Originally, all advice and assistance was provided by student volunteers, acting under the supervision of the Director. In 2006/7 Kate Laverty was employed on a part-time basis to supervise students and cases, and she was joined by Annabell Fowles in 2007/8, also on a part-time basis. The student advisors are organised into six 'firms', each of which is headed by a student Case Manager, who acts as a mentor to firm members, assisting them with their cases and helping to resolve any problems they might have in carrying out their Law Clinic duties. In assisting clients students work in pairs, unless the complicated nature of the case demands a larger team. From 2007, the students have been able to contact volunteers from the law firm DLA Piper for advice and assistance with cases, and in the same year a referral arrangement was set up with the Free Legal Services Unit of the Faculty of Advocates, enabling the Law Clinic to instruct a pro bono advocate where the difficulty of the case or rules regarding rights of audience prevent representation by the students. In 2008/9, the Clinic entered into a similar relationship with Simpson Marwick.

No advisor can take on a case until they receive training. In the case of Diploma students, who already receive intensive training in legal skills, and volunteer solicitors, who may also have years of experience, such training is limited to orientation in the Law Clinic's unique procedures

and ethos. All other students attend a training course over four afternoons on client interviewing, case management, legal research and letter writing, delivered by the Director, Supervisors and Charles Hennessey of Hennessey & Co and Visiting Professor in the Law School.

In addition, Law Clinic advisors have also been fortunate enough to benefit from a number of training opportunities over the past year, boosting skills and knowledge. The Legal Services Agency generously allowed our students to benefit from significantly discounted places at many of the sessions on various aspects of substantive law and procedure. Professor David McQuoid-Mason from the University of KwaZulu-Natal provided us with two wonderful training sessions - one on Rebellious Lawyering and one on Street Law, Catherine Cary, Mediator, Arbitrator and Attorney from San Francisco held a highly insightful training session on mediation, and former Law Clinic alumni Helen Turner, now working for the Scottish Mediation Network, kindly provided an information session on mediation. Finally, student advisors were able to benefit from an excellent employment session ran by David Hoey (Partner, BTO) and Ian McPherson (Employment Tribunal Judge).

No advice can be given to clients without it first being checked by one of the supervisors. Additional specialised advice is also obtained from Law School academics, and solicitors who have volunteered their services, including those at DLA Piper. The Law Clinic has its own insurance and all clients have to sign a disclaimer form which points out that the advice and assistance they will be given is from students who are not professionally qualified. A strict policy of confidentiality applies, and all client files are securely kept with access to them strictly limited. The Law Clinics applies, at a minimum, the same standards of ethics and professional conduct that apply to Scottish lawyers.

Details of staff and Committee membership are given in Appendix 1 and 2.

#### 4. Law Clinic Members

Once again, we had a record number of applications for Clinic membership. We received 121 applications from LLB students for our intake in October 2010, of which 45 were successful. In addition, we have continued to recruit students from the Diploma in Legal Practice, which resulted in an additional eight advisors joining the Clinic.

Our ability to recruit new advisors and respond to the increasing interest from students wanting to become involved and give something back to the community is limited by our finances and the consequent availability of supervision. As a result, this led to only a modest increase in the number of volunteers last year, up 8% from 196 to 211 students. With our current level of financial support, we expect that the number of volunteer student advisors will remain constant around 200 in future years - which unfortunately will mean that a large number of students who are keen to become involved will be unable to do so.

To ensure that the Law Clinic is able to operate all year round, eight advisors were employed part-time (3.4 FTE) over summer 2010 to provide cover for our activities, administrative support and co-ordinate our development projects. This is a significant reduction from previous years (summer 2009: 5 FTE) and is part of the Law Clinic's cost cutting efforts. The costs for this cover are split between this financial period (June and July 2010) and our 2011-2012 year (August and September 2010).

## 5. Cases & Clients

Despite continuing to strictly screen for cases with little chance of success and for those eligible for legal aid or able to pay for a solicitor, the Law Clinic took on 153 new cases in the last year. This represents an average of 12.75 cases every month, which is down from 14 cases per month for the previous year. Surprisingly given the economic situation enquiries for assistance and eligible cases suffered a noticeable drop during the year. Consequently, towards the end of the year and for the first time ever, the Law Clinic engaged in publicising its services to the public and other advice agencies, resulting in a dramatic increase in enquiries for assistance in the weeks that followed, but not enough to bring up the monthly average to that of the previous year. However, if cases continue to flood into the Law Clinic as they did, next year will break records for the number of cases handled.

Although case numbers might not have been quite as high as in the previous year, cases continued to grow in terms of their significance and complexity. This is reflected in the increasing number of cases being argued in the Small Claims Court and the Employment Tribunal, and in the record amount of money won or saved for clients (see below). However, it should be noted that assistance to clients continued to predominantly involve advice and various forms of assistance such as making phone calls, writing letters and negotiating claims on behalf of clients. Thus, despite nearly all cases being successful and achieving the outcome sought by the client, only one in four cases resulted in some sort of financial outcome for the client.

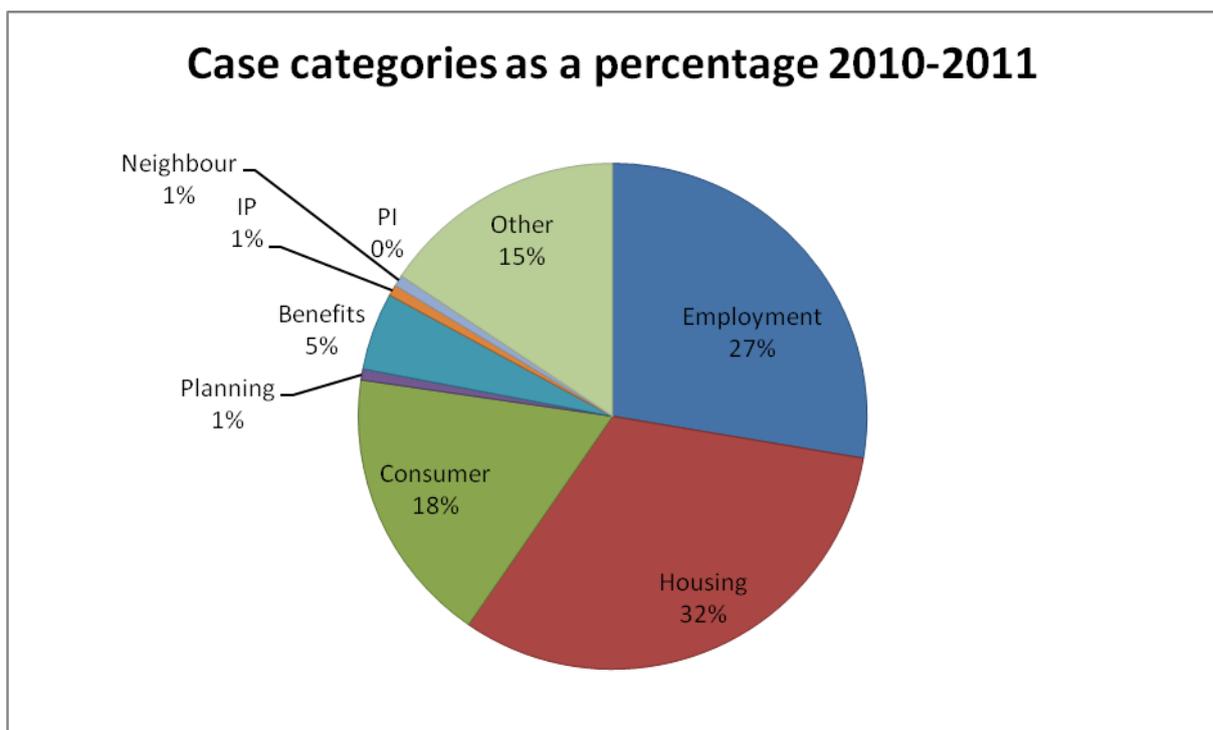
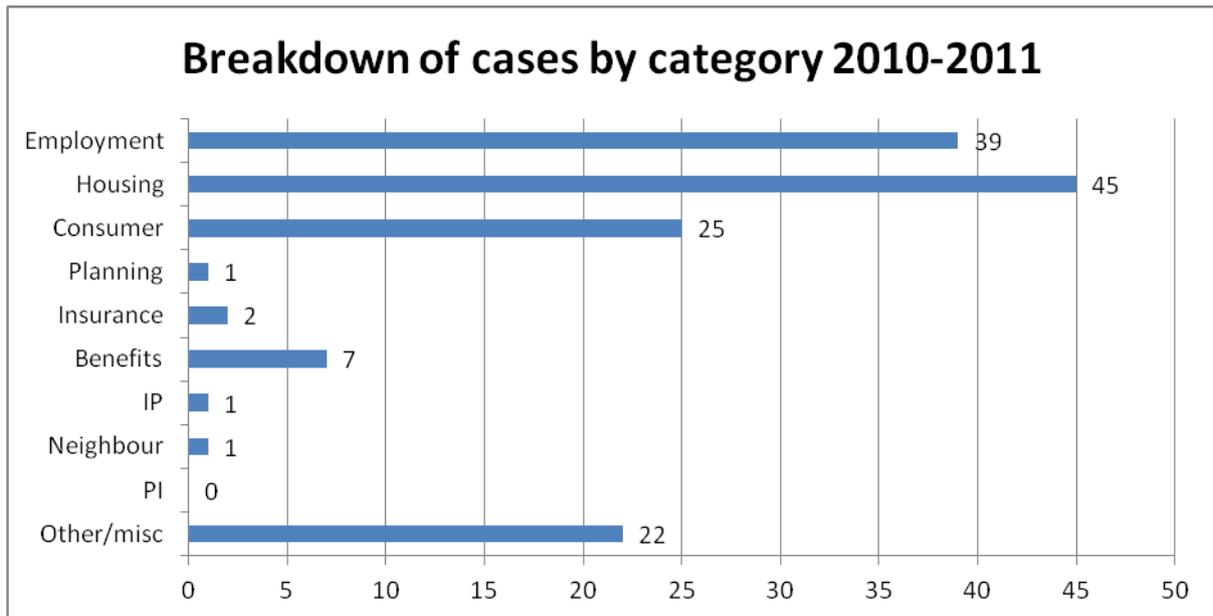
### **Law Clinic Case Success**

It is difficult to measure the success rate of the cases undertaken as some clients are able to resolve their problems following our advice, whereas other clients bring cases to the Law Clinic where there is no chance of success or indeed any legal solution. Nevertheless, leaving aside the fact such clients still obtain useful assistance in clarifying their situation, the Law Clinic has had some notable successes, which cannot be valued solely in monetary terms, but which also provide clients with a satisfactory sense of obtaining justice. These include:

- Our biggest monetary win thus far, with two of our advisors winning £69,358 for a client who had been unfairly dismissed by Argyle and Bute Council.
- A £13,000 award by the Employment Tribunal where the claimant was constructively dismissed.
- A £15,000 settlement for an employment dispute where the claimant was unfairly dismissed allegedly due to his disability.

It should be remembered that the Law Clinic aims to provide a full package of services: it understands that legal problems are rarely isolated from other problems clients might have and is therefore committed, where appropriate, to empower its clients by equipping them with the knowledge to help themselves and providing them with access to other relevant organisations which can address their related non-legal problems. It also refers cases to lawyers or agencies better equipped to deal with clients and, where necessary, accompanies the client to the new advisor to ensure that they understand the advice given and are comfortable with the new advisor.

Finally, as in previous years, the vast majority of cases continue to involve housing law (45 cases or 32%), employment law (39 or 28%), or consumer law (25 cases or 18%). Apart from these areas, cases were fairly evenly spread over a wide variety of other subject areas. One notable change is the almost 100% increase in benefit cases, albeit from a very low base. Surprisingly, benefit cases have not hitherto constituted a substantial area of activity for the Clinic, but it is an area where we intend to develop in the future.



### Comparison of case types, 2009-2010-2011

Category	2009-2010 (10 months)	2010-2011 (12 months)	Percentage Change
Employment	46 (32.9%)	39 (28%)	-4.9%
Housing	<b>38</b> (27.1%)	<b>45</b> (32%)	+4.9%
Consumer	<b>28</b> (20.0%)	<b>25</b> (18%)	-2%
Planning/Environmental	<b>2</b> (1.4%)	<b>1</b> (1%)	-0.4%
Insurance	<b>0</b> (0.0%)	<b>0</b> (0.0%)	0%
Benefits	<b>4</b> (2.9%)	<b>7</b> (5%)	+2.1%
IP	<b>1</b> (0.7%)	<b>1</b> (1%)	+0.3%
Neighbour Disputes	<b>4</b> (2.9%)	<b>1</b> (1%)	-1.9%
Personal Injury	<b>4</b> (2.9%)	<b>0</b> (0%)	-2.9%
Other/misc	<b>13</b> (9.3%)	<b>22</b> (16%)	+6.7%
Period Total:	<b>140</b>	<b>153</b>	
Monthly Average:	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	

## 6. Projects

### **Prisons Project**

The Law Clinic Prison's Project is designed to provide employment advice and information on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 to offenders shortly before their release from prison. These rights relate to how and when a conviction may become 'spent' for the purposes of employment i.e. when a person no longer has to declare their conviction when applying for a job. The information is given through a PowerPoint presentation assisted by hand-outs. Presentations take place approximately once a month and are given by two project members.

Since its pilot year in 2010, the Prisons Project has now expanded into Her Majesty's Young Offender's Institution Polmont and HM Prison Barlinnie. Sessions run every month in both of the prisons, with two advisors attending to give the presentation. Since its inception eighteen months ago, the project has now seen over 200 prisoners. The project is currently looking at expanding the content and areas covered to include housing and is also hoping to extend the service to other prisons.

### **Initial Advice Clinics**

Two years ago, the Law Clinic developed the first of what it hopes will be a number of Initial Advice Clinics, organised and run by the Law Clinic, but staffed by volunteer solicitors who provide clients with basic legal advice and information to assist them in seeking to resolve their problems themselves. In cases where a client requires further assistance or representation, the solicitor may decide to refer their case to the Law Clinic.

Currently, the Law Clinic runs a drop-in session at the Mitchell Library once a month. Volunteer solicitors come largely from the ranks of Law Clinic alumni, but DLA Piper solicitors also take responsibility for a number of sessions during the year. Legal issues which have been advised on have been diverse including, amongst others, housing, consumer, licensing and employment law issues and queries relating to court procedure.

Students who help run the sessions benefit from the opportunity to observe client interviews and to gain an insight into the work of practising solicitors, whereas the solicitors value the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills to give something back to the community (and indeed for Law Clinic alumni, the chance to give something back to the Law Clinic). The IACs are also a great way for trainee solicitors to engage in direct client contact where they might not have a great deal of experience of dealing with clients or may not do so on a day-to-day basis.

Following a leaflet drive at the beginning of this year, numbers attending the IAC have risen from 40 individuals in 2009/2010 to 50 in 2010/2011. In 2011/2012, the Clinic is hoping to hold another session within the University with the intention of increasing advice for the general public and students of the University of Strathclyde, especially international students.

### **Innocence Project**

This year has seen the Law Clinic team up with the Journalism Department for the purpose of the Innocence Project, with currently eight students from the Law Clinic involved in the project. The Strathclyde Innocence Project was set up in 2007-08 by Dr. Eamonn O'Neill, Director of the MSc. in Investigative Journalism at Strathclyde, and is part of the global Innocence Network.

The Innocence Project is effectively the last resort for those who genuinely believe themselves to be innocent of a criminal conviction, but who have been unsuccessful through the appeal process. The role of the Project is to analyse the circumstances of the conviction, the people and documents connected to the case, and to search for fresh evidence in striving to achieve access to justice for those wrongly convicted. Following this a submission may be lodged to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC) in the hope that appeal to the High Court will be allowed. The Innocence Project does not consider appeals based solely on technicalities, but only those where the evidence suggests the person is genuinely innocent.

This cross-discipline venture has manifold advantages. First and foremost, it helps address access to justice from a new angle, one that helps those who are most in need. Secondly, it promotes collaborative working and learning within the University. Following a successful first year, it is hoped that the Law Clinic will see an increase in the number of student advisors involved in the project.

### **Consumer Project**

Over the past year, the Consumer Project has worked on creating materials, including a presentation and booklets, ready to be delivered in September 2011. The Consumer Project was created to address the growing concern of consumer problems in the Glasgow area. The Project aims to provide consumers with a non-legalistic approach to consumer redress. This takes the format of a Power Point presentation with the aid of booklets and is given by two project members. The presentation covers everything from the practical aspects of making the initial complaint to completing a Small Claims Summons.

The presentation begins with a brief outline of how the Law Clinic operates followed by an overview of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 aimed at giving the consumer the ability to identify the area of law under which their problem falls. This progresses to the remedies available to the consumer and finally, the means of obtaining these through writing letters of complaint initiating and pursuing Small Claims proceedings. Law Clinic details are given should the consumer require any further advice, and if matters have reached the Small Claims Court representation.

## **7. Awards and Highlights**

### **Attorney General & LawWorks Student Awards 2011**

Following on from our LawWorks 2010 when the Law Clinic was nominated and shortlisted in the 'Best Contribution by a Team of Students' (the Law Clinic Committee) and 'Best Contribution by an Individual Student' (Liam Maclean), the Law Clinic reached higher levels of success this year, shortlisted in two categories. These were Best Contribution by a Team of Students for the Clinic's pioneering Projects Team and Best Contribution by an Individual Student for Alasdair Stewart, the Clinic's Student Director and creator of the Clinic's innovative and ground breaking online Case Management System.

Alasdair was a well deserved winner in the 'Individual' category, impressing the judges with his unwavering commitment and dedication to pro bono activities during his four years at university. In nominating Alasdair for the award, Law Clinic Director, Donald Nicolson, said, "In twenty years of Law Clinic experience, I have not met a student who has put more into pro bono activities than Alasdair Stewart. ... Over the last two years, I have been constantly able to call

upon him, often at very short notice and late at night, for statistics and advice and suggestions on a variety of issues ranging from funding applications and project development to sensitive issues of ethics and management of occasional problems with and amongst the student advisors. Alasdair has proved wise beyond his years and has an amazing instinct for the right decision." Event sponsors, legal publisher and information supplier LexisNexis, were so impressed with Alasdair's contribution to pro bono that they offered him the chance to take a trip to Canada in order to gain first-hand experience of pro bono activity on the other side of the Atlantic.

### **OBE for our Director, Professor Donald Nicolson (11th June 2011)**

This year also saw our Director, Professor Donald Nicolson gain recognition for his dedication and services to the legal profession as he has been the proud recipient of an OBE as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Professor Nicolson has been a Professor in the Law School since 2000. Prior to his appointment here, he taught law at the Universities of Cape Town, Reading, and Bristol, where he also ran a law clinic. In particular, within our Law Clinic Professor Nicolson has acted as a brilliant mentor and consistently provided encouragement for all students involved to help address the problem of access to justice.

The Law Clinic is very proud of all of the work that Professor Nicolson has achieved and we are extremely privileged to be part of it.

## **8. Finances – Funding & Expenditure**

As in previous years, the Law Clinic has been funded in 2010/11 by a variety of sources. The vast bulk of our funding has again come from the Law School, which has underwritten the costs of payment for part-time contracts for permanent staff (£68,671.50), while also covering other 'hidden' costs, such as the salary of the Director and provision of rooms within the University for the Law Clinic.

The Law Clinic has also been fortunate to secure funding from other parts of the University, including the University Principal who has provided funding of £10,000 per year over the last three years, along with the Alumni Fund, who generously increased their contribution to £6,400, respectively, this year and the Graduates Association which has again promised to increase its usual £5,000 donation to £10,000. However, funding from law firms has dropped considerably with contributions either being reduced or withdrawn altogether – in one case subsequent to a donation being promised!

As a result, significant cuts have continued to be made to the seasonal staff budget which is used to ensure sufficient cover is in place over summer to allow our cases and service to continue operating (recruitment of only 3.4 FTE for summer 2011 compared to 5 FTE in 2009). On the other hand, expenditure on other items has increased compared to previous years, as charges for office equipment, stationery and photocopying are now being passed down and debited from the Law Clinic account rather than being absorbed by the Law School.

Overall, however, the Law Clinic managed to cope within its financial means. When money spent on permanent salaries is ignored, given that it will be covered retrospectively by the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Science, the income we have been able to attract more than offsets our overall expenditure for the year by £20,972.40.

## Financial Details, 2010-2011

### Period 1 August 2010 – 31 July 2011

<b>Deficit carried forward from 2009-2010</b>		<b>£-20,182.03</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>£37,107.82</b>
<b>Cash on hand as at 31/07/2011</b>		<b>£21.30</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>£94,798.16</b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£77,851.07</b>
<b>Debtors</b>		<b>£78,671.50</b>
<b>Income</b>		
University Donation (Principal)	£20,000	
Alumni Fund	£6,400	
DLA Piper	£2,000	
General Donations	£2,270.90	
Tax	£178.16	
T/f from Law KE Fund	£6,258.70	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,107.76</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Staff:</b>		
Permanent Staff	£68,671.50	
Seasonal Staff	£16,673.65	
	<b>£85,345.15</b>	
<b>Other:</b>		
Travel and Accommodation	£2234.95	
Catering	£405.17	
Stationery	£213.15	
Prizes/Gifts	£127.88	
Training	£605.00	
Insurance (AdviceUK)	£508.23	
Office Equipment – Photocopier costs	£4797.93	
Petty cash	£28.70	
Business and Publicity Materials	£532.00	
	<b>£9453.01</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£94,798.16</b>
<b>Debtors</b>		
Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Science (salaries)	£68,671.50	
Graduates Association	£10,000	

## 9. Future developments

### **The Clinical LLB**

2011/12 will mark a new phase in the Law Clinic. For the first time, it will incorporate a substantial teaching as well as social justice role. From September 2011 students admitted into the Law Clinic can opt to take a new law degree – the Clinical LLB - which allows them to fully integrate their conduct of Clinic cases with their academic learning. Clinical LLB students will take the standard LLB, but in addition, they will have to take: 1) four compulsory Clinical classes, two of which incorporate skills and ethics teaching into existing LLB classes, one of which involves reflection on the ethics and justice of law and legal practice and finally another which provides students with credit and a mark for performance in their clinic cases and the keeping of a reflective diary on their clinical experiences; 2) two additional standard LLB classes in which they replace part of the assessment in each class with reflection on a case relevant to the subject area of the class.

In order to prevent the volunteerist nature of the Clinic not being substantially diluted, numbers allowed onto the Clinic LLB will be limited to no more than the equivalent number of volunteers and no priority will be given to Clinical LLB in the taking on of cases or in any other way. The only differences will be that their performance in handling cases (and in reflecting on such handling as well as the justice of law and ethics of practice) will be assessed and that training sessions optional for volunteers will be compulsory for Clinical LLB students. Given that the Clinical LLB will be unique world-wide, its advent will substantially enhance the reputation of the Clinic as well as cementing its place within the University and hence securing its continued support. It will also have considerable advantages for clients in terms of increased level of skill and ethical awareness of advisors. Thus while additional classes on ethics, negotiation, mediation and advocacy have been developed for the Clinic LLB, these will now have to be taken by all in-coming advisors. Moreover, sessions teaching other skills such as Employment Tribunal procedure which are optional for all volunteers will be compulsory for Clinical LLB students, thus increasing the overall level of training undertaken in the Clinic.

### **The Schools Project**

In July 2011, the Law Clinic was successful in its bid to the Alumni Fund for £6,400 to go towards two new projects. The first is our new Schools Project which will take public legal education or what is often called “street law” into schools. It is a proactive initiative, raising awareness of young peoples’ rights and responsibilities. The project is currently being researched and is intended to commence in September 2011.

The purpose of the project is to provide young people with information on the difference between criminal and civil law, employment law, consumer law, the Children’s Hearing System, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Sectarianism. It is intended that the information will be delivered through a series of interactive sessions which will include mock trials, quizzes and negotiation sessions, and hence will be the most engaging, stimulating and efficient experience for the young people involved. In this way, pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of the law, participate in group and whole-class debates and discussions, and work individually and in groups, taking on different roles and responsibilities. Additionally, we hope that pupils will also gain social competences, such as empathy, caring, communication skills and resistance

skills, develop their problem-solving skills, gain a sense of purpose through planning and goal setting and gain insights into the legal world, while also encouraging them to apply to University and to think about a legal career.

### **Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance Appeals**

From shortly after its launch in 2003, the Law Clinic has had remarkable success in arguing cases on behalf of its clients in both the Small Claims Court and Employment Tribunals. However, it has only rarely been approached for assistance in the areas of social security, possibly because of an adequate supply of other sources of help. Recently, however, we have been approached by a Welfare Rights Officer, working for the Glasgow Welfare Rights Service, who reports that there is a growing problem in relation to Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance Appeals, arising from the withdrawal of entitlement. All people in this position have a right of appeal, but it appears that many are failing to take advantage of these rights. Furthermore, those who do appeal are poorly prepared and unrepresented. Following financial support from the Alumni Fund, the Law Clinic will begin to research the relevant areas of law and train students in arguing Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance Appeals, with the aim of commencing representation in November 2011.

## 10. Thanks

As a voluntary organisation, the Law Clinic owes a huge debt of gratitude to a wide variety of people who have given their help and support to it. The Law Clinic would like to thank the Alumni Association for its continued financial support and the Graduates Association for its long-standing financial support. We would particularly like to thank the University Principal for his donation of £10,000, and for pledging a further £10,000 next year.

The Law Clinic is very lucky to receive a large amount of assistance by way of training. Here we would like to thank Professor David McQuoid-Mason, Catherine Cary, Helen Turner, Charles Hennessy, David Hoey and Ian McPherson, as well as the Legal Services Agency who make available their own training sessions for Law Clinic members at vastly reduced rates. The Law Clinic also draws on a wide variety of law firms and individual lawyers for advice and assistance on cases and research projects. DLA Piper provided us with useful backup advice, solicitors for our IACs and two solicitors working on cases, as did Charles Hennessy, Frances McCartney, David Hoey and John Reilly. In addition the Faculty of Advocates Free Legal Services Unit played a vital role in taking over the advocacy of cases where our advisors were unable to continue.

Finally, we would like to thank the Management Committee for giving up their time and the benefit of their experience, Professors Mark Poustie and Alan Paterson for their strong support and encouragement of the Clinic, as well as the many Law School academics and support staff who have provided advice or administrative help to the Law Clinic.

## Appendix 1 - Staff Details

### Employed staff

For session 2008-2009, in addition to the Director, the Law Clinic had four staff members:

Supervisor	Annabell Fowles	19 hours per week
Supervisor	Kathleen Laverty	19 hours per week
Supervisor	Amanda Benstock	7 hours (until December 2010)
Administrator	Amanda Benstock	28 hours (until June 2011)
Administrator	Hannah Cosgrove	14 hours (July 2011)

## Appendix 2 - Committee Membership

### Management Committee

The Management Committee is made up of members from the University of Strathclyde Law School, local community, other agencies and members of the legal profession.

Chair	Professor Alan Paterson	Law School
	Professor Mark Poustie	Law School
	Professor Donald Nicolson	Law Clinic Director
	Sheriff Ian Miller	Glasgow Sheriff Court
	Richard Farquhar	Solicitor
	Dr Rose Mary Harley	University Graduates Association
	Gwynneth James	Glasgow CAB
	Frances McMenemy QC	Advocate
	Richard Young	In-Court Advice Service
	Jean McFadden	Glasgow City Councillor

### **Student Committee**

The Student Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Law Clinic, and is chaired by the Student Director. Each of the six firm managers also sit on the committee, along with other students who take responsibility for different areas. The appointed members are selected for a one year term every year in April after an interview process, and elected members are voted in for a one year term by members at the AGM in October each year.

### **Student Committee: April 2010 - April 2011**

Student Director	Alasdair Stewart	
Deputy Student Director	Heather Kemmett	
Case Manager	Michael McDougall	(Firm A)
Case Manager	Kiran Uppal	(Firm B)
Case Manager	Hannah Cosgrove	(Firm C)
Case Manager	Catriona Milne	(Firm D)
Case Manager	Elise Lang	(Firm E)
Case Manager	Patrick Campbell	(Firm F)
IT Officer	Gavin Campbell	
Training Officer	Andrew Alcorn	
Development Officer	Amy Hunter	
External Officer	Liam MacLean	
Elected	Callum Hiller	
Elected	Gary Thompson	
Elected	Balal Pervaiz	
Elected	Rachel Leggett	
Elected	Claire Montgomery	
Elected	Michael Briggs	
Elected	Angela Duncan	