



It is hard to do justice to all the highlights since our last Newsletter: hosting the second annual roundtable conference of the Scottish University Law Clinic Network is one; and obviously the celebration of ten years of service to the community is another. Personally, seeing the first tranche of Clinical LLB students graduate was also incredibly satisfying. It involved four years of planning, seemingly endless preparation and two years of troubleshooting a highly complex degree programme to ensure that provision of the world's most thorough integration of learning and clinical experience in a law degree was not prohibitively costly. An idea born while walking the dogs on Helensburgh beach has proved revolutionary, not only educationally and in terms of stabilising the Clinic's position in the University, but also in terms of the benefit gained by the Clinic and its clients through the additional skills taught in the CLLB. Perhaps most gratifying, the CLLB has not undermined the volunteerist spirit of the clinic in the slightest— CLLB students now provide the core of the Committee and our Student Director, Helen Donnelly.

However, while the success of the now fully subscribed Clinical LLB is hugely personally gratifying, it is matched by the pride in reaching our tenth anniversary. The last ten years have been so eventful that it is difficult to remember the Clinic as nothing more than a plan hatched by a small group of students and myself. We never dared to imagine that ten years later almost 200 student advisors and three invaluable clinic staff members would also run clinics with solicitors in the evenings, helping us reach 340 cases in a year (1296 in total since our launch). Nor could we have known that our students would appear regularly in courts and tribunals, winning or saving well over half a million pounds for our clients, while also defending evictions, saving jobs and incorporating charities. (...continued)



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## 2) From the Director's Desk (cont)

It is testament to our success that four other Scottish universities followed suit, making law clinics a crucial part of the access to justice landscape. It is also little wonder that we are constantly being approached by other organisations, such as those who assist the disabled, asylum seekers and victims of domestic and sexual violence, to collaborate in serving the community. I was always interested in involvement in the latter two areas, given my background as a political refugee and researcher on male violence. That we may now work in these areas is immensely satisfying. However, one central aspect of our work which would never have crossed my mind would be our work in schools and prisons to provide vital legal information to pupils and prisoners. These initiatives are solely down to the students and are a testament, like most of the Clinic's success, to their innovation, dedication and hard work.

### Law Clinic AGM

The Law Clinic held its AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> November, and, as usual, this was an inspiring event where the success of the previous year was showcased – not just at the level of casework, but also in terms of our projects. To pick just a few highlights:

- Student Director 2012-2013, Hannah Cosgrove, won Best Individual Student Award at the Law Works & Attorney General Student Awards 2013, while the Clinic was also highly commended for the best Law School and won Team of the Year at the Herald Society Awards;
- 341 clients were assisted: 180 by Students Advisors (up from 146 in the previous year) and 161 in the Initial Advice Clinics;
- Expansion of the Prisons Project from two to five prisons, and of the Schools Project from three to six schools involved;
- First case settled through Judicial Mediation;
- Clinic hosted annual Scottish Universities Law Clinic Network event

Well-deserved congratulations were extended to all our members, and some members received

awards for outstanding achievement. To add to existing awards, the Effie Shaw Award for Dedication was instigated to commemorate the memory of Effie Shaw. She came to us after years of being a formidable fighter for worker rights as a volunteer at Central Glasgow CAB. She wanted to continue the fight but as her health no longer allowed her to appear in court, we entered into collaboration with her to take on her cases and in doing so benefitted from years of her knowledge and the example of her dedication. Craig Leslie was the much deserved recipient of this award. In addition, Jacky Wall was presented with the Amanda Benstock Award for Compassion by Amanda's father. The full list of awards is:

**Best Advisor Award: Michael Dempsey**

**Best Overall Contribution: Andrew Maxwell**

**Best Newcomer Award: Jacob Hay**

**Effie Shaw Award for Dedication: Craig Leslie**

**Best Case Award: Katie Souter, Emma Watson, Andrew Maxwell**

**Amanda Benstock Award for Compassion: Jacky Wall**





*Ben Sheppard speaks of his experience studying the CLLB— an innovative degree choice available exclusively at Strathclyde in conjunction with the Law Clinic*

Two years ago I was about to begin the accelerated LLB, I felt overwhelmed and was very unsure that I was doing the right thing. Before I knew it, I was sitting in a Strathclyde lecture room having all sorts of information thrown at me in the induction meeting: about the law degree itself; the various legal societies, organisations and events; and the overwhelming message throughout the meeting appeared to be “this is a highly competitive subject, in order to succeed you must hit the ground running”. In truth I sat there rather naively feeling I had succeeded by getting in the door, but I soon learnt that was just the first hurdle. It was at this point that Donald Nicolson detailed the Law Clinic and the Clinical LLB to our year.

I had heard about law clinics whilst in Australia on my gap year when my Australian roommate, a trainee solicitor, told me how valuable they were to his experience as a student. Not only did Strathclyde have a law clinic, but now we could combine our LLB with practical clinical experiences from the Law Clinic in the CLLB. To me this seemed like a no brainer.

The interest within my year in the CLLB was however a lot less than I predicted, perhaps due to it being in its first year, with worries about teething problems and a potential lack of credibility in the legal sector. In my opinion they missed out unnecessarily. The few minor teething problems were combated by regular meetings and support from Donald (the programme coordinator) and with help from Amanda Benstock and then Diane Inglis in their administrative roles.

Meetings and support allowed us to be involved in moulding the CLLB in a way we thought best fitted

students. With regard to a potential lack of credibility for the CLLB, I can only talk from my own experiences: placing CLLB on my application form did not prevent me from getting to the interview stage for a traineeship. In fact, it allowed me to interest the interviewers by being able to describe the innovative programme that allows for the combination of practical legal skills alongside the theoretical and academic side of the law degree. I had the advantage of being better prepared than many others, through the insight gained from the training we received, experiences with clients, advice from qualified solicitors acting as supervisors on my cases, and guidance from academics following documented reflection, ethical debate and discussion on learning experiences on the CLLB.

As I progressed on the CLLB, I realised it gave me the opportunity to research real life problems I was experiencing whilst working as a student advisor in the Law Clinic. I was afforded the flexibility to advance my knowledge in areas relevant to Clinic cases by replacing standard LLB essay question in relevant module with essays on topics raised by my cases which meant that my interest in the subject was a lot higher due to its relevance to me.

Now that I have completed the CLLB I am extremely glad I went with my gut feeling and took the risk. I would encourage others to take up this opportunity and I imagine it will continue to grow and help influence the development of the LLB. I feel the experiences I gained will be of great use as I advance through the diploma stage into professional legal practice.

## 4) 10 Years of *Pro Bono* at Strathclyde



After 10 years of hard work and commitment from so many people – student volunteers and dedicated professionals alike – the Clinic has become a source of immense value to the local community. As the need for pro bono legal advice and representation has grown, the Clinic has also grown, probably beyond the wildest imaginings of any of those who were involved with the Clinic in its earliest stages.

But the extent of the continuing increase in the need for access to justice has manifested itself most notably in the work of our Clinical Legal Education and outreach work. In 2012/13 the Prisons Project expanded its links from 2 prisons to 5. Likewise the Schools Project doubled its links from 3 schools to 6 and reached 1000 pupils — a ten-fold increase on the year before. Finally, last year was one of immense growth for the Initial Advice Clinics. They managed to provide on-the-spot assistance to a record 161 clients who attended sessions in the Mitchell Library and the Strathclyde Law School.

In the current year, the demand for our services continues to rise. We are busier than ever. We are taking steps to increase our knowledge of a wider range of legal areas and have started to flex our advocacy muscles in higher tier courts. Through the development of the Online Project we are exploring ways in which we can use technology to help those who have trouble gaining access to advice for reasons of geographical remoteness, time constraints or disability.

Still the enthusiasm and initiative of the students continues. The Innocence Project, which investigates miscarriages of justice, has seen a dramatic rise in interest from new advisors and we are also currently exploring ideas for the development of two new projects. It is an extremely exciting time for the Law Clinic and I am very proud to be able to play a part in its important work.

***Helen Donnelly, Student Director***



***“...the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic [is] 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.***

***Kenny McAskill, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice***



# 10 Years of *Pro Bono* at Strathclyde

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For our Law Clinic, turning ten years old is a milestone, and it certainly merited the celebration that it received – with a lovely evening spent with alumni, supporters, and current members of the Clinic. However, the true cause of celebration on the evening wasn't what the Clinic had achieved for itself; but what it had achieved on behalf of others.

Of our recorded cases (now over 1200 not including the work of the evening initial advice sessions), we have secured success for the vast majority of our clients (for instance, in 93% of cases last year). It is very easy to lose the sense of enormity of this achievement in a sea of statistics – but each of these clients represents someone who would have slipped through the net and was likely to have received nothing but for the help of the Clinic. However, the Law Clinic could never pretend that so much could be done without the enormous web of support it receives. From within, our Supervisors, Administrator and Director work tirelessly to realise the Clinic's ambition. Externally, our donors, supporters and friends provide the vital money, time and assistance without which we could not function. We have the enormous fortune to be part of a supportive University at all levels – and, for all involved, this is enormously heartening.



What strikes me the most is that despite the Clinic's expansion and growth, our ethos remains strong. In 10 years there have been many jokes concerning "a year of consolidation." However, this has never happened. Each year has taken the Clinic in some new direction and helped make the Clinic what it is today.

This constant expansion endures: the new Online Project hadn't even been finalised before the inspiration arose for the next—the Housing Project. While in some ways we seem impossibly removed from the original 10 students sitting with Donald on the lawn behind the Stenhouse Building planning the Clinic; in reality, as long as we continue to share their enthusiasm, we remain the same Clinic, albeit a bit larger and in an office we haven't needed, unlike in the past, to paint ourselves!

**Kirsten Holmes, Firm A Case Manager**

Notwithstanding the excellent food and drinks later in the evening, the best part of the event was Student Directors past and present talking about the last ten years. Hearing of the achievements made even in the very beginning and tracing the Clinic's progress through successful cases, money won or saved, awards granted and new projects implemented reminded us all of how much the Clinic matters, how much help and support we provide to our clients and the community, and how vital a resource it is.

Hearing of Clinic's past successes highlights the fact that the Clinic shows no sign of resting on its laurels, content with the *status quo*. Through new projects and partnerships and through moving into new areas of law: this year, under Helen Donnelly, is proving equally ground-breaking, and I, for one, am proud to be part of it.

**Clara Smeaton, Training Officer**

## 6) Scottish Legal Awards

*Helen Donnelly writes about accompanying DLA Piper at the prestigious Scottish Legal Awards ceremony*



For many years now the Clinic has enjoyed a good relationship with the multinational law firm DLA Piper. We were given a chance to celebrate this on 20th March at the 2014 Scottish Legal Awards ceremony held at The Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh.

Gavin Deeprise, DLA Piper's Senior Professional Support Lawyer (pictured above with myself, Tom Jamieson and Callum Sinclair), has always been a great supporter of the Law Clinic and had extended an invitation for two Law Clinic students to accompany DLA to the awards. Tom Jamieson and I were the lucky ones and we arrived, in immaculate black tie attire, at the glamorous Assembly Rooms, to meet the DLA team over a glass of cold bubbly and a lovely meal.

Alongside Gavin, 'Team DLA' was made up of Callum Sinclair (Pro Bono Partner, Edinburgh), Celina Benedict (Corporate Responsibility Communications and Reporting Manager), Stacey Martin (Solicitor, Corporate), Michael Greig (Legal Director, Planning), Paula Craik (Secretary, Restructuring), Emma Johnston (Trainee Solicitor) and Sarah-Jayne Scott (Marketing Co-ordinator). They were an inspirational group of people to meet and we were delighted by the interest they showed in the Clinic's work, and how willing and generous they were in the sharing their ideas to help us.

It is worth noting that the Scottish Legal Awards ceremony is probably the ultimate award ceremony for law firms and practitioners in Scotland. It is a great sign of the times that the category for which DLA had been nominated — Contributions to Pro Bono Services by a Firm—was newly instituted this year

DLA's support of the Law Clinic pre-dates this award by almost 7 years. They have worked with us in a variety of ways: providing trainee solicitors as Law Clinic Advisors, regularly helping at our Initial Advice Clinics and donating money to us annually (currently to the tune of £2000).

We have always been extremely grateful for this level of support because without it we would not be able to provide the service we do. We are entirely dependent on contributions from people and organisations who believe in what we do.

Sadly, this was not DLA's year to win but to be shortlisted was a great achievement in itself and another example of how working together can lead to great results. For us, it is encouraging to note that the importance of pro bono work is now being recognised at this level. Hopefully this will increase awareness of its value and provide an extra incentive for law firms to place more support behind organisations such as ours.

# Symposium in Honour of Lord Hope

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***Jacob Hay recalls the recent symposium held at the University in honour of the remarkable contribution Lord Hope of Craighead made throughout his career.***

The University of Strathclyde Law Clinic was delighted to receive an invitation to the University's recent Symposium in Honour of Lord Hope of Craighead's career.

The event took place over most of a day: with a lunch and drinks reception, followed by the unveiling of the new portrait of Lord Hope. As usual, many of the other guests were very interested in the work of the Clinic, and, off the back of the event, we are hopeful that some exciting new training opportunities will become available.

Lord Hope has had a truly remarkable career, being, not only, a UK Supreme Court Justice but also Chancellor of the University and now an emeritus professor of the Law School. We are, however, informed that he sadly won't be available to conduct legal methods tutorials. His contribution to the University has been unmistakable, with many fond stories being told of various events he had attended over the years. However, the greatest achievements of his career were celebrated by brief talks by Lord Neuberger, Lord Reed and Lord Sumption (pictured below with Lord Hope, Helen Donnelly and myself). Each reflected upon the human rights landscape of today, and especially the contribution that Lord Hope had made in his individual judgments.

The Law Clinic has enjoyed frequent support from Lord Hope. Beyond his visits throughout the years, and his company at awards ceremonies, Lord Hope has mentioned the Law Clinic only recently in the House of Lords:

*"One thing that has been growing, both in Scottish universities and certainly in the universities in England and Wales as well, is an appreciation by students of the gaps that emerge and the part that they can play in filling them by providing legal advice where it is needed. There are two particular projects that I know about, one of which was started in 2003 by the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic, which is the largest of these institutions in Scotland, with 195 student advisers, and more recently the Aberdeen Law Project, which started in 2009 and has much the same ambitions, conducting much the same kind of work."*

(HL Deb 25 Feb 2014 : Columns 906-907)

Events such as this one are truly inspiring, and demonstrate yet again that the Clinic is gaining recognition for the work it carries out on at the highest possible levels. We are very grateful to Lord Hope for his support, and we wish him all the best in the coming years.



## 8) Our Clients

*In the 2012-2013 session, the Law Clinic assisted 180 clients, achieving at least some of the clients' objectives in 93% of these.*

### ***Law Clinic Advisor Becomes the Youngest Small Claims Representative***

After seeing an advertisement concerning the Motability scheme, our client negotiated a deal with a Car Salesroom. But he was paid £500 less than he was due under the scheme. He then returned to the car dealer, but was only offered a new paint job. This did not satisfy the client and so he raised an action and contacted us.

This was my first case as lead advisor and it was a great one to get stuck into. I really enjoyed the case and the client was lovely to work with. I was nervous about having to represent the client at the small claims court. When Kate asked if I was happy to go ahead and do it, I said yes initially, but considered backing out later. I am glad that I didn't because, despite my nerves on the day, thanks to the help from Kate and the work that Stacey Martin and I did in preparation, we were successful and the client won his case and was awarded £500 and costs.

I am proud to say that this case resulted in me being at 18 years old one of the youngest people to win a small claims case—a fact which was highlighted in an article by the Scottish Legal News. I am glad that, with the Clinic's support, I went ahead and represented the client at my first court appearance.

***Laura Russell, Student Advisor***



### ***Successful Law Clinic Client at Tribunal***

Our client had been employed as a gardener on a large estate. He approached the Clinic in an anxious state seeking redress for harassment he had suffered during his employment. When our client complained about how his employer treated him, the employer engaged another person to act as a gardener. And when he continued to query what was going on he was dismissed. Initially, the Clinic attempted to engage the estate in mediation. Unfortunately this ended quite acrimoniously. The estate refused to accept they had done anything wrong, refused to pay our client any of the money he was legally due and even threatened to report the situation to the police.

This exacerbated our client's anxiety. Despite this, and with reassurance from the Clinic, he remained determined to take the case to Tribunal in order to be duly redressed. Together, we prepared for the Tribunal. It was a gruelling day for both client and Clinic advisors. The Tribunal agreed that his dismissal was entirely without justification and that it was little more than a charade. The client was awarded a four figure sum of compensation, and was delighted.

Whilst being able to help a client and appear in an Employment Tribunal while still a student was a unique experience, the best lesson I learnt was the value of the help which the Clinic offers. I learnt the power of having an advocate supporting you to vindicate your rights. Our client had been pushed around by a powerful company. He was anxious and at their mercy. The Clinic cannot always offer all that which law firms can, but we empowered him nonetheless.

***Andrew Ross, ex-Student Advisor***



***Under the stewardship of Jacky Wall, our IACs (Initial Advice Clinics) have experienced huge growth.***

We are delighted that the Law Clinic's Initial Advice Clinic continues to go from strength to strength. As many of our committed practitioner volunteers know, the IACs form part of the Law Clinic's programme of outreach services. Their aim is to provide free consultations to clients on a drop-in basis at sessions which run on the first Wednesday of every month at the Mitchell Library and on the third Monday at the University of Strathclyde Law School. Students work with volunteer solicitors to help manage the sessions and advise the clients.

With the help of the volunteer solicitors we can cover a wide range of legal problems, although principally we deal with employment, housing and consumer law. As we have developed this project, and increased the number of solicitors with different areas of expertise, we find that we are now able to match client needs with practitioner skills. In the last academic year, the IAC programme

was able to provide advice to over 160 clients, and this year we are set to exceed that number significantly.

IACs form a significant part of our service, and, as client demand is growing, we are keen to expand the initiative. We plan to match client demand and thereby fulfil our raison d'être— facilitating access to justice. To achieve this aim, we need to add to our cadre of practitioners and student advisors. To this end, we have already trained students from the latest Law Clinic intake. Solicitors continue to join our programme through word of mouth recommendations, but we are keen for even more to join us, so we can achieve our ambitions.

If you would like to become involved or would like to know more about the initiative, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the IAC Coordinator Victoria Robinson at Victoria.Robinson@uni.strath.ac.uk



***Shelley Matheson, Prisons Project Manager, recounts more Law Clinic success.***

The Prison Project is yet another success story from the last academic session. We are currently reaching out to between 25 to 40 inmates on a monthly basis through our work in Kilmarnock and Polmont prisons providing prisoners with information on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act regarding the impact of imprisonment on their employment rights. We are also in talks with Low Moss, Greenock and Corton Vale about extending our Project to their inmates this academic year. In terms of demand, the prisons appear to be keen to get involved with us.

We currently have over 50 active members of the Project and are about to offer 14 places to non-

Clinic members in order to extend the opportunity to assist the community to the general law school population and to allow us to develop the Project further. Deputy Prisons Project Manager Danielle Connell has now been appointed and she is already making a very positive contribution to the Project, not least by overseeing visits. A new working group is currently being recruited and this will carry on last year's invaluable work through redesigning the Project's materials to include new areas of information useful to prisoners, such as their housing and social security rights, and through helping to keep the Project relevant to the needs of prisoners as we continue to expand.

# 10)

# Beyond Casework

## *Rachel Gibb reports on the Schools Project.*

Last year saw the Schools Project expanding dramatically by adding Drumchapel High, St Roch's High, Our Lady and St Patricks High and Castlemilk High to the three schools already involved. Feedback from both students and teachers has been fantastic, and each school is very keen to ensure our continued involvement

We have focussed on cyberbullying, drugs, alcohol and anti-social behaviour presentations, all of which link with the S2 curriculum. A working group has also enhanced the drugs and alcohol presentation by adding more interactive games and activities. We also carried out an Employment presentation which was very well received.

We hope that in the next year we can repeat the high level of activity and carry on the great work with the pupils, and are already well on the way to doing so.

## *Steven McKinley reports on the Innocence Project*

The Innocence Project is the first of its kind in Scotland. Its central aim is to improve the criminal justice system through eradicating miscarriages of justice. Advisors undertake investigations into claims of innocence by convicted criminals who have exhausted the ordinary appeal process by re-interviewing trial witnesses, obtaining murder weapons and gaining forensic re-analysis of them, and examining the loci of crimes. The project provides an insight into criminal law in practice, with members regularly liaising with the police, the Crown and defence agents. Clinic members are joined on the project by Masters students in Investigative Journalism.

Owing to the recent successes and popularity of the project, we have now taken on a second case, and are working hard on both.

## New Clinic Members



This year we welcomed 57 new members to the Law Clinic and after a gruelling 4 weeks of Initial Adviser Training (I.A.T.) they have been officially let loose in the Hub, ready to take on their first cases and IACs!

The I.A.T. training ran from weeks 4 to 8 this year and, as always, included a thorough introduction to life in the Clinic including the Practice Rules, Ethics and good interview technique, with stellar performances from all our current members.

Consisting of four hour sessions on four consecutive Wednesdays, the training really tests the commitment of our new members and can be a baptism of fire. We were therefore really happy to see such dedication from our new members who showed up every week without complaint (or at least no complaints within earshot!) and really put in the effort to participate in role play and interview practices.

Good luck to all our new advisors in their first year of Law Clinic service!

**Clara Smeaton, Training Officer**

# Law Clinic Network Round Table

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**Craig Leslie discusses his experience of an event designed to help share thoughts and experience amongst law clinics in Scotland. This year, the Roundtable focused on Street Law – law that is made relevant to the lay person on the street. Speakers included Ed O’Brien, pioneer of Street Law Inc., and David McQuoid-Mason, father of street law in South Africa.**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 I attended the Scottish University Law Clinics Network Annual Roundtable which was hosted by the University of Strathclyde and focused on “Street Law” .

The first activity that I participated in was a Question and Answer session with David McQuoid-Mason and Ed O’Brien, which as well as being very interesting was particularly helpful as it gave us a working definition of “Street Law” for the day and allowed David and Ed to state their opinion on what street law can do and how law clinics can embrace it. This ensured that all participants were in tune with each other and what they were there to learn over the course of the conference.

I elected to spend the rest of the conference in David McQuoid-Mason’s workshop on “How to Teach Street Law.” In this workshop we participated in a number of activities designed to enhance our ability to think on our feet as well as learn the best methods for teaching street law. These activities included mini-moots and devising a 30 minute lesson on a street law related topic that we had to present at the end of the day.

Alongside the workshop I attended, delegates had a wide range of sessions that they could attend. Presentations were made on a wide range of topics, such as street law provision throughout all Scottish universities, issues of case supervision, and clinical legal education. The day ended with speeches by representatives of The Higher Education Authority and the Law Society of Scotland, both of which generously sponsored the conference, the Bar, the Scottish Young Law Association, LawWorks Scotland and SULCN itself on the importance of pro bono. We then adjourned to a local pub for dinner, drinks and a continuation of conversations started at the conference.

Such conferences are invaluable. Alongside the knowledge and skills delegates gain from the various sessions attended in a friendly environment surrounded by new acquaintances, opportunities are provided for established law clinics to share experiences and to provide those interested in setting up a Clinic in the future with the opportunity to receive guidance and advice from established clinics like ours.



## 12) Where are they now?

I joined the Clinic at the end of my first year in early-2007, after being rejected the first time round (it happens to the best of us!). I didn't start my degree intending to go on to practice, viewing it instead as a good degree and one that would be useful in business, but I quickly took on my first cases and soon found myself dealing with a complex unfair dismissal and discrimination claim, against a sizable employer with an even-larger law firm representing them. We fought on, and negotiated what was then one of the largest settlements in the Clinic's history – and the client was ecstatic!

I was involved with over a dozen other cases in the following years, and it was an amazing opportunity to be able to help clients right wrongs, but it was my involvement in the committee which for me defined my time at the Clinic. As IT officer, I built the case management system that is still used today, and went on to hold the posts of Deputy and then Student Director. Fighting for access to justice - whether in court or behind the scenes to find funding for activities and new partners - really inspired me and opened my eyes to issues I hadn't considered in the past.

I was fortunate on graduating to start a job at LawWorks, a charity based in London that works with law firms, law schools and advice agencies across England to develop new pro bono projects and clinics. I left in 2012 to join the management team at one of the largest Law Centres in the UK, where over 20 solicitors assist 5,500 clients each year from four offices across SW London, and on top of looking after our premises, IT, admin staff and fundraising, I manage our pro bono clinics that assist another 4,500 individuals each year. The last year has been particularly challenging for the organisation and our clients, due to the government's huge cuts to legal aid, but it has illustrated the enduring importance of pro bono work and the commitment of the profession to access to justice. I would also have never guessed that Donald's ethics and justice seminars would prove to be some of the most useful from my degree!

***Alasdair Stewart, previously IT Officer, Deputy Student Director and Student Director tells of his continuing involvement in the pro bono community.***



## Our Supporters

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, Thorntons Solicitors, 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.

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](mailto:merle.o-byrne@strath.ac.uk). To donate online please visit [www.strath.ac.uk/donate](http://www.strath.ac.uk/donate) and select "Law Clinic"

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