



University of Strathclyde  
**LAW CLINIC**

Annual Report 2014-2015

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## **Director's Report**

2014/15 was perhaps the most momentous year the Law Clinic has seen since its launch in 2003. After seven years of sterling service in which she helped raise the Clinic to her exacting standards of professional service and governance, we said goodbye to Annabell Fowles who retired. There followed many weeks in which our sole remaining supervisor, Kate Laverty had to cope on her own until we appointed a new supervisor who lasted a mere matter of weeks before resigning at short notice and once again leaving the uncomplaining Kate to cope on her own. In the end, however, all the upheaval was worth it. Thanks to a legacy worth around £175,000 left to the University, we were able to employ two supervisors to replace Annabell: Heather Kemmett and Gillian Melville, both of whom were previous advisors in the Law Clinic. We now have an incredibly strong supervisory team which has allowed us to put into effect an expansion plan funded by the legacy. In terms of the plan, the Clinic aims to annually increase both its full members able to take on face to face casework and associate members able to take on all other work to the point where in 2016/17 we will have 300 student members. With the first such annual increase we reached a record level of 217 Students in 2014/15 and in this way were able to help more clients than ever before - 382 cases, at an increase of 72 (or 19%) on the previous year.

But it was not only the increased number of students that helped us reach this record level of service. The first full year of our new online service meant that we were able to provide 88 clients with a speedy but effective answer to their queries instead of them having to wait for an interview. Nor was the year only notable for the number of clients we served. 2014/15 saw two very important developments in which we collaborated with other prominent organisations to provide two groups of highly vulnerable people with legal assistance. The first group is that of survivors of gender-based violence who, in collaboration with Rape Crisis Scotland and the Legal Services Agency, the Law Clinic began to help by staffing a weekly helpline. The second group is that of destitute asylum seekers who the Law Clinic has started to help by investigating the possibility of a fresh asylum claim while our partners the Refugee Survival Trust and the Scottish Refugee Council attend to their other needs. Through the money we have brought in through this collaboration we have been able to employ yet another supervisor, Barbara Coll, to add even further to the professional supervision available in the Clinic.

However, it has not only been our casework that has blossomed. All our existing public legal education work has continued and been expanded to include assistance to litigants in person seeking to argue cases in the Home Owner Housing and Private Rented Housing Panels while an internal law school initiative led to a project to research Scotland's position in relation to international law protecting women against domestic violence.

Obviously, the assistance we have rendered to so many members of the public is a reward in itself. Nevertheless, it was very gratifying to gain a clean sweep of nominations in all four categories of the LawWorks & Attorney General Student Awards – a first for any law clinic. We won the Best Contribution by a Law School and Jacob Hay was runner-up for the Best Contribution by an Individual Student. We were also commended for Best New Student Pro Bono Activity for our new online advice project. It is a matter of great pride on the part of all those connected with the Clinic that no other clinic has received as many nominations or as many awards as us. It is difficult to imagine how we might improve on this showing over the last year. But I have no doubt we will.

## **Law Clinic Background**

### **History**

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 complement existing legal services provided by lawyers and other agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau. It does not act for anyone who can afford professional legal services or who can access legal aid, nor will it act in areas like debt advice where there are already adequate services provided.

As the first of the current university law clinics to be established 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 through their involvement in clinic work in terms of developing legal skills, seeing law being applied in practice, while reflecting on the ethics and justice of legal practice. Student advisors find their clinic involvement 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 altruistic perspective on their future careers.

### **Mode of operation**

The Law Clinic was set up and is overseen by its Director, Professor Donald Nicolson OBE, 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 an Executive Committee made up of Law Clinic staff but primarily of student volunteers, some of whom are appointed to be responsible for the day to day running of the Clinic and some who are elected to represent the views of all members. Power to make urgent decisions is delegated to a Management Committee made of the Director, Clinic Supervisors, and Student Directors who lead the Executive Committee. Finally, a Supervisory 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. Since the advent of the Clinical LLB four years ago, both were put on permanent contracts and were joined by a full-time Administrator, Diane Inglis. In 2014/15, in order to cater for the Law Clinic's expansion and following the retirement of Annabell Fowles, Heather Kemmett and Gillian Melville were appointed as supervisors. Barbara Coll also joined the team as Immigration Case Advisor to oversee the work of the Immigration Unit.

The student advisors are organised into six 'firms'. Each firm is headed by a student Firm Coordinator, 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 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.

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 of our sponsor, DLA Piper. The Law Clinic has its own insurance and all clients have to sign a disclaimer which points out that the advice and assistance they will be given by 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 Clinic applies, at a minimum, the same standards of ethics and professional conduct that apply to Scottish solicitors.

### **Law Clinic Membership**

The beginning of the reporting period saw a Law Clinic membership of 191 Student Advisors, two part time Supervisors (1.2 FTE), one full time Administrator and one Director. However, during 2014-2015 due to a generous legacy, we were able to begin an expansion project that allowed us to recruit more student advisors and an additional part time supervisor (0.5 FTE). During this reporting period, we received 146 applications from LLB students for the October 2014 intake, of which 101 were shortlisted and 71 were successful after interview. In addition, we recruited five students from the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice. We also welcomed 26 Associate Members to work solely on the Law Clinic's projects involving non-client facing work. As a result, in 2014/15 there was an overall student membership of 217, an increase of 28 on the previous year.

### **Summer holiday cover**

During the summer holiday period, Student Advisors are employed on a part-time basis to ensure continuity of casework, provide administrative support and to develop new projects. The summer student work is highly significant in ensuring casework continuity throughout the year, and enabling the development of new and existing clinic activities.

The appointment of 5.57 FTE summer students in this reporting period represents a 44.3% increase on the appointments over last year. This was possible as a result of: the Refugee Survival Trust providing funding for two part-time students to help develop the Immigration Unit; the Scottish Women's Rights Centre providing funding for two part-time students to develop this project; a donation from David Stirling, an entrepreneur who funded a further two part-time students to investigate the possibility of developing a business law unit; and funding by the University Alumni Fund to pay for the appointment of three part-time students to explore means of extending Clinic help to those most in need in the community.

## **Training**

In order to ensure that the community receive high quality services, the Law Clinic takes advisor training very seriously. Induction training is delivered over four afternoons in October and November and focuses on client interviewing, case management, ethics and letter writing. In addition, the Law Clinic has a comprehensive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme aimed at increasing student advisor skills and extending their legal knowledge beyond that obtained in law classes. During the reporting period, 39 hours of CPD training time was offered to student advisors covering: employment law; sheriff officers' procedures; body language and court skills; street law; housing; and, advocacy. The Legal Services Agency continued to provide space on their CPD programme to Clinic student advisors and staff at a significantly discounted rate. During the reporting period, 13 student advisors and one member of staff took up on this arrangement, and the Law Clinic benefited from 79.5 hours of extremely valuable additional training.

In an effort to support student advisors in their casework, fortnightly Case Surgeries are held to enable advisors to discuss specific case-related issues and thus increase their practical legal awareness. Each surgery is run by a practitioner who is an expert in that particular area, or by one of the Supervisors, who can draw upon their knowledge of the current Law Clinic cases as well as their legal expertise. In 2014/15 surgeries were held by visiting Professor David Hoey on employment law cases, supervisor Kate Laverty on housing and consumer law cases, and by Professor Charles Hennessy, Academic Director of the Diploma in Legal Studies on all other types of cases.

## **Cases and Clients**

### **Overview**

The Law Clinic applies strict screening criteria in order to focus resources on cases deemed to have a reasonable chance of success, and to eliminate clients who are eligible for legal aid or able to afford a solicitor.

During the reporting period, Law Clinic student advisors took on 118 new cases and provided advice on 88 online enquiries. In addition, 176 cases were dealt with by solicitors in the Initial Advice Clinics (IACs) run by the Clinic. Each category of cases is discussed separately on page 9, but overall the Clinic took on a total of 382 cases - an increase of 72 (or 19%) on the previous year and just under 300 more than in its first year of operation. While this number is substantially boosted by the streamlined nature and quick turn-around time of the online enquiries and the outside assistance of solicitors, such cases would previously have been dealt with by students in a less efficient, one-size-fits-all fashion. Hence it can be said that the reach of Clinic services have been vastly expanded, but without any diminution in the quality of services as each group of clients receives a service suited to their needs: urgent and simple enquiries through the online advice services; more detailed advice through the IACS, and even more detailed advice and substantial representation by Clinic advisors (henceforth described as "casework").

## **Casework**

### *Law Clinic Case Successes*

The Law Clinic aims to provide a full package of services: legal problems rarely present themselves in isolation from other issues. The Law Clinic also aspires, where appropriate, to empower clients by equipping them with the knowledge to help themselves and providing them with access to other resources. By referring clients to selected legal practitioners and agencies better equipped to deal with specialist issues, the Law Clinic is able to ensure clients receive the assistance they need.

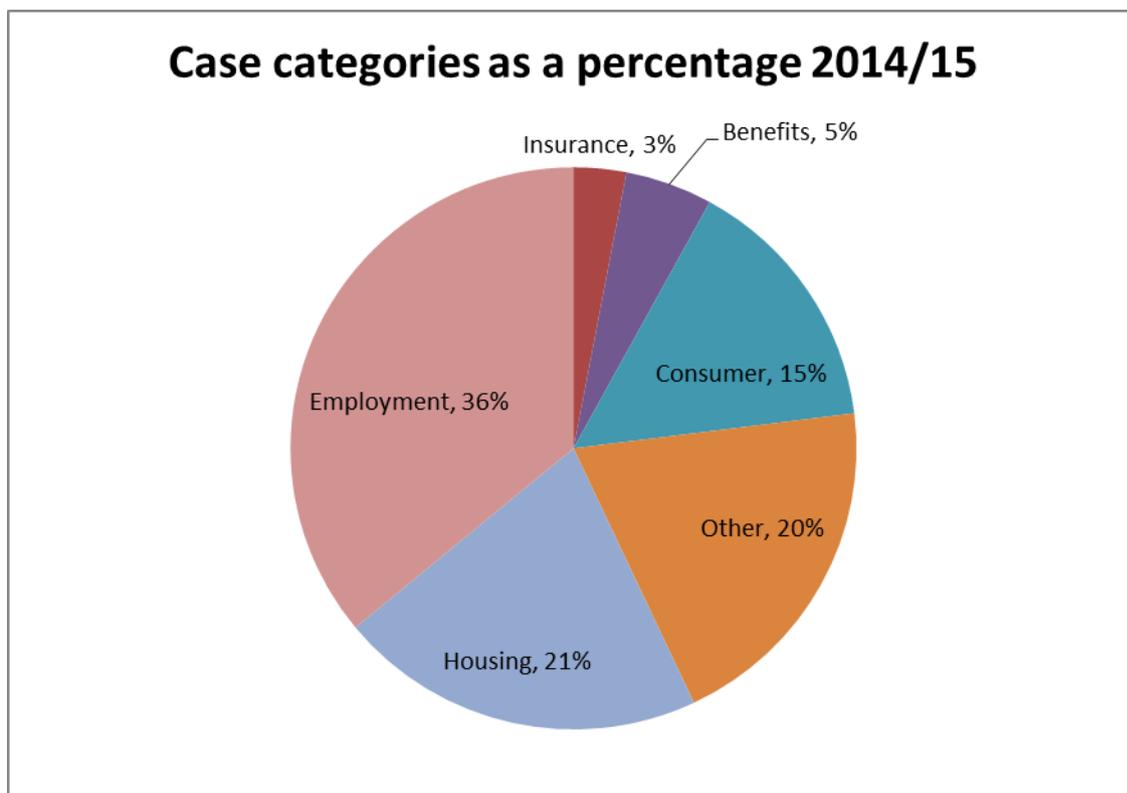
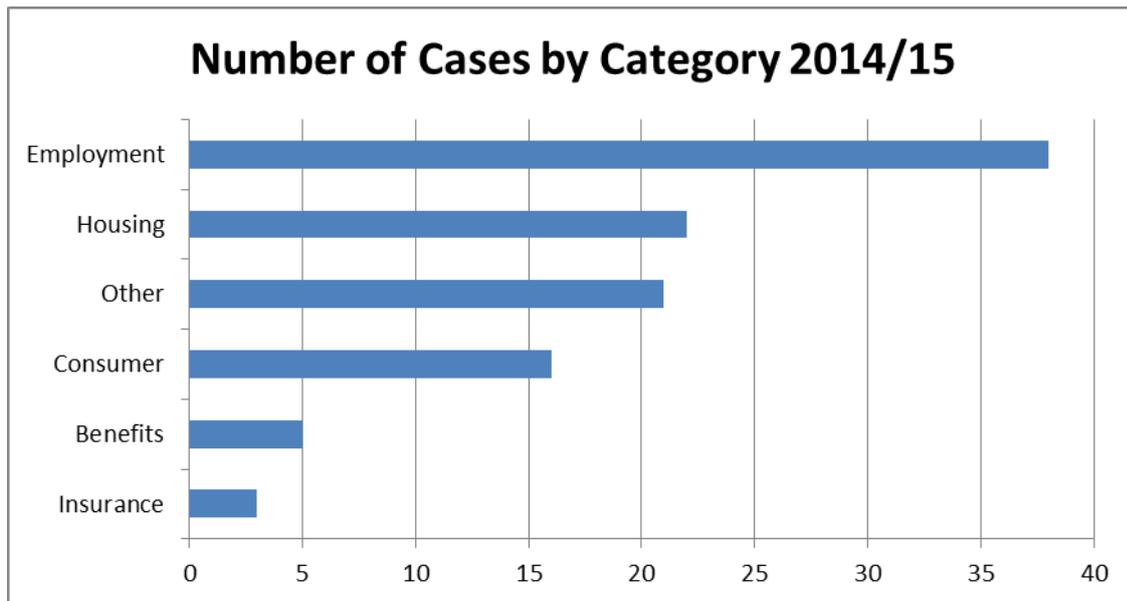
It is difficult to measure the success rate of all cases undertaken as some clients are able to resolve their legal issues following advice, whereas others have cases where there is no chance of success or indeed any legal remedy. Nevertheless, the Law Clinic has had some notable successes, not just in terms of positive financial settlements, but also in terms of providing clients with the satisfaction of obtaining justice. These include:

- A £12,000 settlement in an unfair dismissal claim following procedural mistakes made by the employer;
- Successful representation in a Scottish Social Services Council hearing where a subcommittee found no misconduct as alleged, therefore ensuring that the client's ability to work with children was not restricted;
- As a result of communication with the Law Clinic, an IELTS course provider agreed to pay for a registered blind client to resit a test with necessary adjustments following the course provider's initial failure to provide the test in a format that the client could use.

### *Summary of Cases*

Of the 105 cases closed in 2014/15 in which some assistance could be given over and above that of advice alone, only two failed to result in any positive outcome for the client, amounting to a rate of 98% of cases in which client objectives were fully or partially successful.

In total, the Law Clinic expended 2,448 hours on casework, and won or saved for clients a total of £67,398.90 (an increase of £5,638,80 on the previous year). These figures do not include time spent providing representation, or an estimation of the legal fees saved, as our processes do not currently allow us to capture this information.



#### Case categories 2013/14 and 2014/15

Category	2014-2015 (12 months)	2013-2014 (12 months)	Percentage Change
Employment	<b>38</b> (36%)	<b>43</b> (31%)	+5%
Housing	<b>22</b> (21%)	<b>32</b> (23%)	-2%
Consumer	<b>16</b> (15%)	<b>29</b> (21%)	-6%
Insurance	<b>3</b> (3%)	<b>6</b> (4%)	-1%
Benefits	<b>5</b> (5%)	<b>3</b> (2%)	+3%

Other/misc	<b>21</b> (20%)	<b>21</b> (15%)	+5%
<b>Period Total:</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Monthly Average:</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>-2.75%</b>

From these figures, it can be seen that there was a drop of 33 cases taken on by students in the Clinic (resulting in 614 fewer hours worked on cases compared to last year). The primary reason for this drop in numbers is the introduction of a moratorium on cases between 9 February 2015 and 3 June 2015. This was imposed during the period between one Supervisor leaving and two others beginning work at the Clinic. Another reason is the more efficient outsourcing of those cases requiring advice only to the IACs and the Online Project, thus allowing Clinic advisors to concentrate on cases requiring representation as well as advice.

### **Initial Advice Clinics**

The Initial Advice Clinics, which have now been running for six years, provide a drop-in service to the public where they can obtain legal advice from a qualified solicitor. This year, the IACs continued to run two sessions per month; one located in the Mitchell Library and the other in the Law School. The IAC initiative has once again seen a growth in attendance with 176 clients served, at an increase of 4 on the previous year.

Through the IACs, the Law Clinic maintains close links with solicitor practitioners who volunteer at the IAC sessions; a significant percentage of whom are Law Clinic Alumni. There are also plans to increase advertising for IACs and to expand according to demand.

### **Online Advice**

In August 2014, the Law Clinic launched an online service to answer enquiries via the website. The Online Advice Service offers access to the Clinic to those unable to attend the Clinic, for instance the elderly or disabled, or who need urgent legal advice, thus greatly extending the reach of our services. Since its launch, the Online Advice Service has dealt with an ever-increasing stream of enquiries on a wide range of topics, including employment law, housing disputes and court procedure, and, during the reporting period, the project provided advice to 88 enquirers. Of these, as with our casework, the bulk of enquiries (63.6%) involved employment (25 cases), housing (22) or consumer issues (11). Of the 26 remaining enquiries, five involved succession, five family law issues and with criminal law – areas which we do not usually cover. The only other areas to attract more than one enquiry were contract law (3) and debt (3).

Our website now also contains an online library of legal resources which can be accessed by the public, offering standard information relating to Frequently Asked Questions, such as Employment Tribunal time scales and procedures, small claims procedure and consumer advice. This empowers clients to resolve their own legal problems, thus freeing up valuable Clinic resources for clients who need more bespoke advice or representation and further enhancing our service to the community.

## **Projects**

### **Criminal Convictions Unit**

The Criminal Convictions Unit (CCU) began life as Scotland's first campus-based Innocence Project, functioning as part of the Innocence Network UK (INUK). Following the disbandment of INUK in 2014, the project was renamed and became a fully independent Law Clinic endeavour for the first time. Through providing thorough investigations into potential miscarriages of justice and supporting applications to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC) where appropriate, the CCU continues to operate as the last resort for those convicted of a crime but who believe themselves to be innocent and have exhausted the appeal process.

As a result of a massive growth in student membership during the reporting period, the CCU was able to increase its membership to 50 and to continue its work on two pre-existing cases and begin investigations into a further three. This has been supported by a new collaboration between the CCU, Abertay Justice Project and the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation. Together, the groups have formed the Presumed Innocent Network (PIN) in order to share the caseload involved in investigating claims of innocence, provide training for individuals undertaking such investigations and promote more widely the issues surrounding alleged miscarriages of justice. In this way, it is hoped that PIN will contribute to the improvement of the criminal justice system in Scotland.

## **Public Legal Education**

### *Schools Project*

This project aims to provide information on important legal issues to school pupils. Since its launch in 2011, with the help of the Alumni Fund, the Schools Project has expanded at an astonishing rate. In 2014/15 it had around 40 members who continued to deliver sessions at Our Lady and Saint Patrick's High School in Dumbarton and began new connections with King's Park Secondary School, Govan High School, St. Ninian's High School and Kirkintilloch High School.

During the reporting period, as well as continuing to deliver interactive presentations on drug and alcohol abuse and cyber-bullying, a new presentation on anti-social behaviour and police powers was introduced. Presentations have been delivered in a variety of ways, including games, quizzes and mooted competitions. These are designed to create an engaging and stimulating experience for the young people involved. Additionally, it is our aspiration that students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the law and will be able to participate in group and class discussions as part of the learning experience.

### *Prisons Project*

The Prisons Project is designed to provide advice and information on a variety of legal issues to offenders shortly before their release from prison. Since its pilot in 2010, the Prisons Project has grown steadily. However, in academic year 2013-2014 the project faced significant challenges due to new policies being implemented by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). In the reporting period of 2014-2015 the Project Team liaised with SPS to try and maintain the prison visits programme. A number of prisons were unable to allow the Project Team to continue without fulfilling the new disclosure requirements. After in-depth discussions with HMP Low Moss, they agreed to waive the requirement for disclosures to be carried out in exchange for the students involved undertaking a prison training programme. At least one of the members who attended the training session will attend every presentation.

The Project Team are currently in discussions to arrange the first visit in the next academic year. The Project Team are also liaising with other prisons to see if a similar arrangement can be made with them. We are also currently discussing the possibility of extending the service to HMP Greenock and attempts are being made to re-establish links with HMP Barlinnie.

### *Housing Project*

The Housing Project aims to educate people on their housing rights so that they are in a position to vindicate their rights themselves. Established this year, the project arose out of an approach by the President of the Home Owner Housing Panel (HOHP) and Private Rented Housing Panel (PRHP) who was concerned about the problems faced by applicants to both panels. Ten Project members have received training from HOHP on how to complete applications and, in the coming year, it is hoped that the team will begin providing assistance to individuals seeking to submit such applications. The project also intends to produce leaflets to raise awareness in relation to common housing issues, such as deposits and rent.

## **External Collaborations**

### **Scottish Women's Rights Centre**

April 2015 saw the launch of the Scottish Women's Rights Centre (SWRC) – a partnership between the Clinic, Rape Crisis Scotland and the Legal Services Agency. The SWRC aims to provide support, via a helpline staffed by students and supervised by a solicitor, who can provide representation where necessary, to women who have experienced or are experiencing gender based violence.

Ten students were recruited and trained to be ready to staff the helpline on the day of the launch. Since then, they have answered the phones on one afternoon per week and have dealt with the increasing demand for the service. During the reporting period, 97 calls were received. The next steps are to increase publicity to ensure as many women as possible are aware of the Centre, provide weekly drop-in sessions and possibly expand helpline hours.

### **Immigration Unit**

The Clinic is now also collaborating with the Refugee Survival Trust (RST) and the Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) on the Destitute Asylum Support Service (Project which aims to assist destitute asylum seekers who have exhausted all rights of appeal, but who may have grounds for a fresh application for asylum in the UK. Many such asylum seekers have good grounds for remaining in the UK as a refugee because their human rights will be violated if they return to their countries of origin. The Clinic seeks to assist those who meet our criteria by providing detailed research in support of fresh asylum applications before referring cases onto specialist solicitors. In November 2014, Barbara Coll, an experienced immigration lawyer, was recruited on a part-time basis to develop the Unit. She recruited and trained 15 students to form the Unit and two students to work over the summer to prepare the Unit for its first case. In the short period to the end of the reporting year, the Unit has seen seven people for initial assessment, one of whom became a Law Clinic client, but is poised to take on many more clients and student members in the coming year.

### **Human Rights Project**

The first initiative of Strathclyde Law School's newly established Human Rights Project was to take part in research coordinated by the CARR centre at Harvard University involving universities from six countries. The Human Rights Project is a joint initiative of the Law School's Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law and the Law Clinic. The research initiative on Violence Against Women examines the legal and implementation gaps in the global framework on Violence Against Women. The Strathclyde research group included Clinic members, and was supervised by Professor Jane Scoular and Dr Elaine Webster. Over a period of four months, the group researched and wrote a report on the current state of Scottish legislation and policies on Violence Against Women and examined the impact of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

### **Miami Exchange**

This year, the Clinic embarked upon an inaugural exchange with the University of Miami School of Law's Health Rights Clinic. The first leg took place in January when four student advisors travelled to Miami along with the Director, Donald Nicolson, and one of the supervisors, Kate Lavery. The exchange allowed advisors to compare the practical differences in the way the two clinics operate, witness the difficulties in gaining access to justice in another society and explore the cultural differences that arise in the work they undertake.

The second leg of the exchange took place in May when four student interns from Miami visited Glasgow accompanied by its Clinic Director, Professor JoNel Newman and Associate Director and Clinical Instructor, Melissa Swain. While visiting the Law Clinic, the Miami students assisted with an Initial Advice Clinic, observed initial interviews with new clients and sat in on an executive committee meeting, seeing first-hand how decisions are made in a student-run clinic.

The exchange culminated with the presentation of projects on which a student from each Clinic was paired to research a topic relevant to the way our clinics operate and deal with clients. The result was an insightful comparative study of whether there should be credit for clinic participation, whether it should be compulsory, whether we should engage in high impact casework and how to deal with vulnerable clients. We hope that our relationship with the University of Miami School of Law's Health Rights Clinic will go from strength to strength in the coming year and that the clinics will continue to learn from each other's experience.

### **Scottish University Law Clinic Network**

The Scottish University Law Clinic Network (SULCN) was formally launched in June 2012. SULCN provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between law clinics on subjects such as ethics, public legal education and clinical legal education.

In June 2015, Law Clinic staff and students attended the fourth annual roundtable event at the University of Aberdeen which consisted of a day of workshops, seminars, debates and discussions. The main theme of the conference was 'Pushing the Boundaries of Law Clinic Activity'. Throughout the day, sessions were delivered on public interest litigation and integrating impact work into law clinics. Other workshops looked at pushing boundaries through work in the areas of equality and human rights, mediation, innocence projects and

education. The Law Clinic intends to draw on learnings from the event to influence and develop its own work throughout the next year.

## **Mediation**

The Law Clinic continues to refer a small number of cases to the University of Strathclyde's Mediation Clinic. During the reporting period, three cases were referred.

Mediation is useful in the Law Clinic context for a number of reasons. First, the majority of our cases involve employment or landlord/tenant disputes where the parties may wish to continue their existing relationship and therefore wish to avoid potentially hostile litigation. Secondly, we act for many individuals who are either marginalised or for whom English is a second language, and therefore may feel more at ease having matters resolved without resort to formal litigation. Finally, the Law Clinic is the last resort for many of our clients and thus their disputes may already be quite protracted, making a speedier process attractive.

## **The Clinical LLB**

This unique degree path has been available from September 2011. It allows students who have been admitted into the Law Clinic to integrate their Law Clinic activities with their academic learning. Clinical LLB students follow the standard LLB curriculum, but in addition, 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 voluntary nature of the Clinic being substantially diluted, numbers allowed onto the Clinical LLB are limited to no more than the equivalent number of volunteers and no priority is given to Clinical LLB students in the taking on of cases or in any other way. The only differences are 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.

As Clinic membership now acts as a gateway to entry onto the Clinical LLB, all applicants have to be interviewed by academic staff. In 2014/15 the Clinic recruited 24 new students to the Clinical LLB (two more than the previous year).

The Clinical LLB offers considerable advantages to clients in terms of the increased level of skill and ethical awareness of advisors. Thus, while additional classes on ethics, negotiation, mediation and advocacy have been developed for the Clinical LLB, these can now be taken by all in-coming advisors. Moreover, sessions teaching other skills such as Employment Tribunal procedure, which are compulsory for Clinical LLB students, have been made available for all volunteers thus increasing the overall level of training undertaken in the Clinic.

## **Awards and Highlights**

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

This year's LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards took place at the Palace of Westminster in March 2015. The University of Strathclyde Law Clinic was shortlisted in all four award categories - a first for any law clinic - and was the only Scottish university to be represented at the awards ceremony.

The Law Clinic was delighted to be awarded (for the second time in six years) the prize for Best Contribution by a Law School. In addition, our Deputy Student Director, Jacob Hay, was the runner-up for Best Contribution by an Individual Student and our recently launched Online Project was highly commended by the judging panel in the Best New Student Pro Bono Activity category. With these latest awards we continue to be both the most nominated and awarded UK law clinic since the awards were opened up to Scottish universities six years ago.

## **Scott and Co Scottish Legal Awards**

In March 2015, the Law Clinic was highly commended for the Pro Bono Award at the Scott and Co Scottish Legal Awards in Edinburgh.

## **AGM**

The Law Clinic's AGM took place on 28th October 2015. Law Clinic activities over the past year and planned developments were reported to attendees and awards were made to those members of the Law Clinic chosen by their fellow advisors for recognition on account of their efforts during the year. The winners were as follows:

Best Newcomer: Scott O'Connor

Best Project Work: Daryl Gault

Best Case(s): (DP) Jennifer Keane and Sheeba Kiran; (GA) Alex Brock, George McLaughlin and Delanie Clarke

Best Court/Tribunal Advocate: Jennifer Rowlinson

Best Advisor: Lyndsay Monaghan

The Amanda Benstock Award for Compassion: Kate Connelly

The Effie Shaw Award for Dedication: Roisin Donnelly

Best Overall Contribution: Fergus Lawrie

## **Finances – Funding & Expenditure**

As in previous years, the Law Clinic has been funded in 2014/2015 by a variety of sources. We are most grateful to continue to receive donations from our regular supporters the Alumni Fund, who paid for the employment of three part-time students to develop the reach of our services to those most in need, and, for the seventh year in a row we received a donation from DLA Piper, this year for £3,000 and to Irwin Mitchell which made a donation of £1000.

However, in the reporting year there were three major improvements to Clinic funding. First, the launch of the Scottish Women's Right Centre brought with it funding to support this new venture allowing us to employ students over the summer to ensure continuity of service and to cover the costs of training additional students. Secondly, the Refugee Survival Trust has

funded the running of the Immigration Unit, including the employment of an Immigration Supervisor and the employment of students to help prepare the Clinic for its new role and take on the first few cases. However, the third development is far more extensive in providing medium-term funding for a major expansion of general Clinic activities. In October 2014 a legacy left to the University by Robert Fenan Smith was made over to the Clinic to fund the expansion of student numbers and hence general Clinic activities. To obtain the legacy, the Clinic had to provide a plan for its expenditure in terms of which the vast majority of the £174,959.77 legacy will be spent on employing a part-time supervisor or supervisors over a six year period starting from 2014/15. This will allow the number of students working on cases to steadily grow from around 180 to a maximum of 230 in 2016/17 and 2017/18, and then, unless further funding is obtained, drop steadily down to 180 again in 2020/21. In addition, the Clinic has committed itself to taking on a new group of Associate Members who would be involved in all Clinic activities other than those involving face to face client interactions. Here, the plan commits the Clinic to making available 40 such places in 2013/14, rising to 90 in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and then again dropping down to 40 in 2020/21.

Despite this substantial influx of funds, on paper the Law Clinic continues to run a deficit, but this remains entirely due to Faculty accounting changes that no longer allow the Law School to pay directly staff salaries. If permanent salaries are excluded from expenditure, it can be seen that the Law Clinic income actually exceeded expenditure by £33,736.70 and, in fact, the picture will look even better when money owed to us (in the region of over £5000) is paid to us. Admittedly, a large portion of this excess is represented by the fact we only used around £3,290.58 of the notional one seventh of the total legacy amount to be spent over seven years – ie £24,994.25) to employ additional supervision. In future years, we will spend all of this amount as well as using the difference to bring in even further supervision for the two years in which students numbers will reach 300 (2016/17 and 2017/18).

**Financial Details: 1 August 2014 – 31 July 2015**

<b>Deficit carried forward from 2013-2014</b>		<b>-£227,191.16</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>£60,288.67</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>£97,844.84</b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>-£264,747.33</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations:		
General Donations	£5,549.14	
Legacy Fund (1/7th of £174,959.77)	£24,994.25	
Refugee Survival Trust	£18,007.80	
DLA	£3,000.00	
Irwin Mitchell	£1,000.00	
Tax(Gift Aid)	£676.61	
Alumni Fund Award	£5,643.20	
SWRC Funding	£879.00	
Fundraising	£538.67	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£60,288.67</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Staff:</b>		
Permanent Staff	£64,108.14	
Temporary Staff	£9,317.17	
Seasonal Staff	£15,676.83	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£89,102.14</b>
<b>Other:</b>		
Travel and Accommodation	£1,446.36	
Stationery/Web Site	£291.46	
Prizes/Gifts	£80.00	
Training	£130.00	
Insurance (AdviceUK)	£3,937.00	
Photocopier costs and printing	£1,845.74	
Mail costs	£433.90	
Events	£348.96	
Petty Cash	£180.28	
LSA Membership	£50.00	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£8,742.70</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£97,844.84</b>

## **Future developments**

### **Small Business Law Unit**

Following a visit to the Clinic by David Stirling, an entrepreneur who is supporting the establishment of an entrepreneurial centre in the University, two students were employed by money he generously donated to investigate whether and how the Clinic could help with business start-ups. Following extensive research and an offer of help from DLA Piper, a plan has been approved to pilot the provision of legal advice to those who cannot afford legal help for the establishment of a small business, as well as running workshops on various topics enabling others to gain the legal knowledge needed to do their own legal work. If the pilot is successful, the Unit's activities will be extended to running workshops on relevant areas of law and to help businesses and charities with completing legal formalities. It will also provide advice and assistance to a very small number of charities and a slightly bigger number of social enterprises, but primarily to those who cannot afford lawyers to help with starting a business or with dealing with legal disputes.

### **Social Security Benefits**

As part of the Clinic's new campaign to ensure that its help goes to those who most need it rather than just those fortunate enough to learn about its services and with the support of the Alumni Fund, the Law Clinic employed two students to research ways which we can help those most in need. Given the reported problems caused by social welfare benefits sanctions and other restrictions on the award of social welfare benefits, it was felt that this (along with assistance to destitute asylum seekers) should be the prime area for assistance. Consequently the students undertook research into the relevant law so that the Clinic would be equipped to deal with benefit cases. They also investigated how best to target those in need of assistance and made contacts with the Lodging Mission Pilot, a day centre and soup kitchen, which has agreed to host a drop-in advice centre to be staffed by students and a Supervisor who will attend advice sessions to check advice before it is given to clients. A pilot will be run, after which it is hoped to extend this model to other localities.

## **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, DLA Piper and Irwin Mitchell for their continued financial support and Thorntons LLP for providing a generous donation this year.

The Law Clinic is very fortunate to receive a large amount of assistance by way of training. Here we would like to thank Professor David McQuoid-Mason, Professor Charles Hennessy, David Hoey, Walker Love Sheriff Officers (and Chris Bell), Charlie Irvine, Bridget McCann, Dr Carole Allan, Jacqueline Fox, Margaret Gilroy, Judge Ian MacPherson, Kenneth Campbell QC and John Hamilton QC, as well as the Legal Services Agency who make available their own training sessions for Law Clinic members at 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, and solicitors for our IACs and work on cases. Backup advice was also provided by

McGrade's, Charles Hennessy, David Martyn, Innes Clark and David Hoey. 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. We would also like to extend a thank you to Alasdair Stewart for the provision of, and continuing assistance with, our Case Management System.

Finally, we would like to thank the Supervisory Committee for giving up their time and the benefit of their experience, the Dean, Professor Douglas Brodie, and Professors Bryan Clark 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 2014-2015, in addition to the Director, the Law Clinic had seven staff members:

Supervisor	Annabell Fowles	19.5 hours per week (up to 8 October 2014)
Supervisor	Kathleen Lavery	22.5 hours per week
Supervisor	Rachel Blair	17.5 hours per week (1 December 2014 – 6 February 2015)
Supervisor	Heather Kemmett	17.5 hours per week (1 June 2015 onwards)
Supervisor	Gillian Melville	17.5 hours per week (1 June 2015 onwards)
Supervisor	Barbara Coll	7 hours per week (1 November 2014 – 30 June 2015) and 17.5 hours per week (1 July 2015 onwards)
Administrator	Diane Inglis	35 hours per week

## Appendix 2 - Committee Membership

### Supervisory Committee

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

Professor Alan Paterson (chair)	Law School
Professor Bryan Clark	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 McMenamin QC	Advocate
Richard Young	In-Court Advice Service
Jean McFadden	Glasgow City Councillor
Dame Elish Angiolini QC	Visiting Professor
Alasdair Stewart	Age UK

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Law Clinic. It comprises the Clinic Director, Supervisors, Student Director(s) and Deputy Student Director, the six firm managers, project managers along with students appointed to take responsibility for different areas aspects of Clinic management and members elected at the AGM in October each year.

### Until May 2015

Student Director	Jacky Wall	
Deputy Student Director	Jacob Hay	
Case Manager	Kirsten Holmes	(Firm A)
Case Manager	Craig Leslie	(Firm B)
Case Manager	Drew Long	(Firm C)
Case Manager	Clara Smeaton	(Firm D)
Case Manager	George McLaughlin	(Firm E)
Case Manager	Roisin Donnelly	(Firm F)
Training Officer	Ewan Wilson	
Communications Officer	Tom Jamieson	
Fundraising Officer	Hajira Nisa	
IT Officer	Alex Brock	
IAC Project Manager	Victoria Robinson	
Public Legal Education Project Manager	John Stringer	
Online Project Manger	Grant Storrar	
Criminal Convictions Unit Manager	Laurin Campbell	
Elected Members	Lorelle Doyle	Kelly McBurnie
	Martin Lennon	Monika Koczwarra
	Naomi Duffy-Welsh	Nicole Lochhead
	Ben Brown	

### From June 2015

Student Directors	Laurin Campbell	Clara Smeaton
Deputy Student Director	Lyndsay Monaghan	
Firm Coordinator	Hannah Grace	(Firm A)
Firm Coordinator	Nicole Lochhead	(Firm B)
Firm Coordinator	Stacey Martin	(Firm C)
Firm Coordinator	Fergus Lawrie	(Firm D)
Firm Coordinator	George McLaughlin	(Firm E)
Firm Coordinator	Roisin Donnelly	(Firm F)
Training Officer	Naomi Duffy-Welsh	
Communications Officer	Robbie McElroy	
Fundraising Officer	Delanie Clarke	
IT Officer	Alex Brock	
IAC Project Manager	Lorelle Doyle	
Public Legal Education Coordinator	John Stringer	
Schools Project Manager	Jennifer Rowlinson	

Prisons Project Manager  
Housing Project Manager  
Online Project Manger  
Criminal Convictions Unit Manager  
Elected Members

Rebecca Menzies  
Courtney McQuiston  
Laura Russell  
Daryl Gault  
William Jordan Bird  
Katrina Durie  
Steven McLaughlin  
Scott O'Connor

Ben Brown  
Jenna McKinley  
Lauren Miller  
Colleen Rodger