

Strathclyde Law Clinic

PROVIDING ACCESS TO
JUSTICE IN GLASGOW
AND THE SURROUNDING
AREAS.

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

www.lawclinic.org.uk



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141 St James Road,
Glasgow,
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 University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

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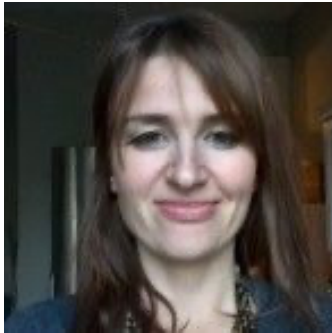
 University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

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OUR PEOPLE

Session 2024-2025



Gillian Melville
Supervising
Solicitor



Kathleen Bolt
Supervising
Solicitor



Claudia Hoey
Supervising
Solicitor



Diane Inglis
Administrator



Alison Duncan
Housing Administrator



Corey Beaton
Student Director



Natalie Marshall
Student Director



Gordon Gow
Student Director

OUR ROOTS

Est. 2003



HISTORY

The University of Strathclyde Law Clinic was established in 2003 by Professor Donald Nicolson OBE. Strathclyde Law Clinic was the first of its kind. We have now been in operation for over 20 years, providing free legal advice and representation to people in Glasgow and the surrounding areas who cannot access this through other means.

We built upon the traditions of law clinics in the United States, the rest of the United Kingdom, and the Commonwealth, where clinics are recognised for their value to the community and to each new generation of lawyers. In creating the Clinic, Donald drew on his experience in similar clinics in South Africa and Bristol. The Clinic aims to complement services such as Citizens Advice Bureau and it works in partnership with various other organisations to assist vulnerable groups within society and tackle the societal issue of access to justice.

ETHOS

The Law Clinic aims to improve access to justice; address the local community's need for legal services; and place our clients' interests at the forefront.

Our students gain invaluable experience through their involvement in clinic work. As student advisers, they develop legal skills and knowledge, alongside gaining practical experience, whilst reflecting on the ethics and justice of legal practice. The Clinic creates a space of useful learning, which is the central tenet upon which the University of Strathclyde is built.

The Clinic offers students a better understanding of both the legal and other needs of the local community and the impact that good quality advice and representation can have on the outcomes of disputes. It also encourages young lawyers to be more trauma informed, empathetic and altruistic in their future careers and to be aware of the barriers that exist for those struggling to access justice.



SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Gillian Melville, Kathleen Bolt, and Claudia Hoey

We are delighted to introduce our annual report where you will find details of what we have been doing this past year. Thanks as ever to our student volunteers and student executive committee including our student directors. None of the work we do would be possible without the strong collaboration between our students and the staff team. This has been a year of transition with the retirement of our Director and our move to the Lord Hope which brings us into the heart of the law school.

The work of the student executive has remained strategic and forward looking through this transitional period and we are grateful to the student directors for creating a comprehensive strategic plan to assist us to build on the base that we have. Equally they remain the face of the law clinic representing us at a number of important events this year, including Lord Reed's "Why Does the Supreme Court Matter for Scotland?" lecture, and Professor Donald Nicholson OBE's book launch.

We have continued to advise and represent as many people as possible, who would otherwise have no access to legal help, and take part in various events and activities, all of which aim to play a part in improving access to justice. We reached a significant milestone this year reaching the incredible figure of over £2,373,208.97 won or saved for our clients since our inception.

As you will see from our report, the demand for our service has been higher than ever and we have taken on a significantly higher number of cases, through advice and assistance, online, and initial advice clinics than in the previous reporting period. We still have to turn many cases away. This unmet legal need was highlighted in the student executive's response to the Law Society's Legal Aid Matters campaign and Scottish Government consultation on legal aid. Our work for clients who are being investigated by the SSSC and require to appear before their fitness to practice panels is one key example of an area of the law where there is no civil legal aid or ABWOR for registrants to be represented and where we try to fill that gap.

We remain indebted to the work of our volunteer solicitors at our Initial Advice clinics and hope to take forward a number of new partnerships over the coming year with firms who wish to contribute to the work of the law clinic as part of their commitment to corporate social responsibility.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing commitment of our students who take on these cases which are often difficult, involving vulnerable clients or clients who find themselves in a vulnerable position when they seek our assistance. The students have to deal with the sensitivities of these cases and our clients as well the complexities of the law. They work hard to achieve the best outcome for their clients even where this takes them out of their comfort zone.

SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Gillian Melville, Kathleen Bolt, and Claudia Hoey

Access to justice can mean achieving a positive outcome for a client within a court or tribunal or it might mean helping a client to understand their case and the options better. It can be about protecting someone's livelihood or helping to resolve a case through settlement. Sometimes it can be delivering bad news. However, clients generally appreciate the work that students put into advising and supporting them and often refer to the fact that someone has just listened to them.

We continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Women's Rights Centre and the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation which gives unique opportunities for students to work from within these organisations at the forefront of tackling access to justice. We have continued our valuable partnership with Refugee Survival Trust. The Alumni Fund continues to support our work and this year we have been fortunate to obtain funding to enable students to set out a new strategy for the provision of public legal education across a number of areas including criminal justice, housing, schools, our asylum project and migrant workers. This overarching project will now assist teams of students to provide access to legal education through a variety of mediums including face to face and online sessions, videos and written materials. We hope this is another means to reach more people and raise awareness of legal rights and responsibilities.

We were delighted to be able to recruit a new part time legal advisor with expertise in housing law further to the award of funding for advice, representation and public legal education around the private rented sector and further information about the development of this work is set out below.

Over the last 10 months of the Housing Project, we have had over 110 housing enquiries in total. We have taken on 50 cases for representation and other enquiries have been resolved through our online project. Some matters have been referred to our Initial Advice Clinic.

Our housing enquiries cover a wide range of housing issues in Scotland such as:

- Unlawful eviction
- Wrongful eviction
- Rent arrears
- Unprotected deposits
- Mould and dampness issues
- Repairing standard issues
- Understanding specific tenancy agreements
- Representation at Housing and Property Chamber
- Upper Tribunal Appeals
- Rent increases
- General Housing advice.

SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Gillian Melville, Kathleen Bolt, and Claudia Hoey

Housing matters are incredibly sensitive to clients as housing is crucial for providing shelter, safety, and stability for individuals. The student advisors have worked fantastically with the clients on their cases and approached every matter with compassion and understanding.

We have resolved over 30 of the 50 cases to date including cases that required representation at the Housing and Property Chamber and pre-litigated cases thanks to the hard work of our student advisors. We have secured monetary awards and compensation awards in many of the housing cases and our clients are thankful and appreciative of the service they have received.

The student advisors working on the Housing Project have gained fantastic advocacy experience in both the First-Tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber and the Upper Tribunal for Scotland. The advisors have also gained experience in negotiations and resolving disputes on sensitive matters between landlords and tenants.

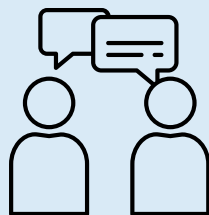
It has been another very busy year for the clinic with a demand for access to justice that we just cannot meet. Therefore, there is much to be done in the coming year as we continue to take our work forward. We would like to thank all the students who have left the clinic in the outgoing year for the significant contribution they have made and to welcome our new intake as they join our current members for the coming year.

We also look forward to working in partnership with the new Business Law Clinic and their new members as they join us in our clinic hub.

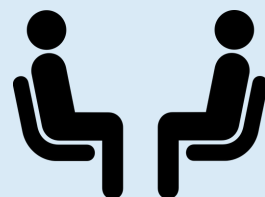
2024-25 AT A GLANCE



**ENQUIRIES:
778**



**ADVICE AND
ASSISTANCE
CASES:
104**



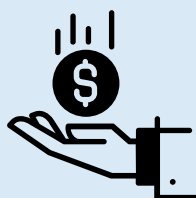
**IAC USERS:
467**



**ONLINE
ENQUIRIES
ANSWERED:
182**



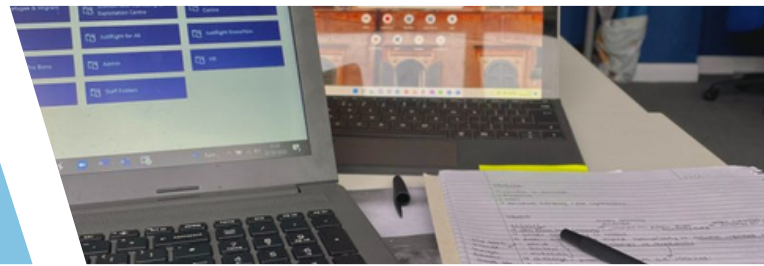
**TAP CASES:
14**



**MONEY
WON/SAVED FOR
OUR CLIENTS:
£171,482.41**



**MONEY
WON/SAVED FOR
OUR CLIENTS
SINCE
INCEPTION:
£2,373,208.97**



MODE OF OPERATION

The Clinic is a student-led, voluntary organisation based in the Law School at the University of Strathclyde. The legal work is carried out by volunteer law students supervised by qualified solicitors who have considerable experience as practicing solicitors and supervising students in the Law Clinic.

Our Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Clinic. Our Executive Committee is made up of a majority of student volunteers alongside Clinic staff. Some of these volunteers are appointed to a role (e.g. Training Officer), whilst others are elected to represent the views of our entire student membership. Our Supervisory Committee is made up of non-members from the University, legal profession and local community and provides advice on the Law Clinic's strategy and direction.

We have five "Firms" of student advisors, each led by a student Firm Coordinator. Firm Coordinators act as a mentor and line manager, assisting firm members with their cases and any problems arising. Students primarily work in pairs on their casework, unless the case requires a larger team.

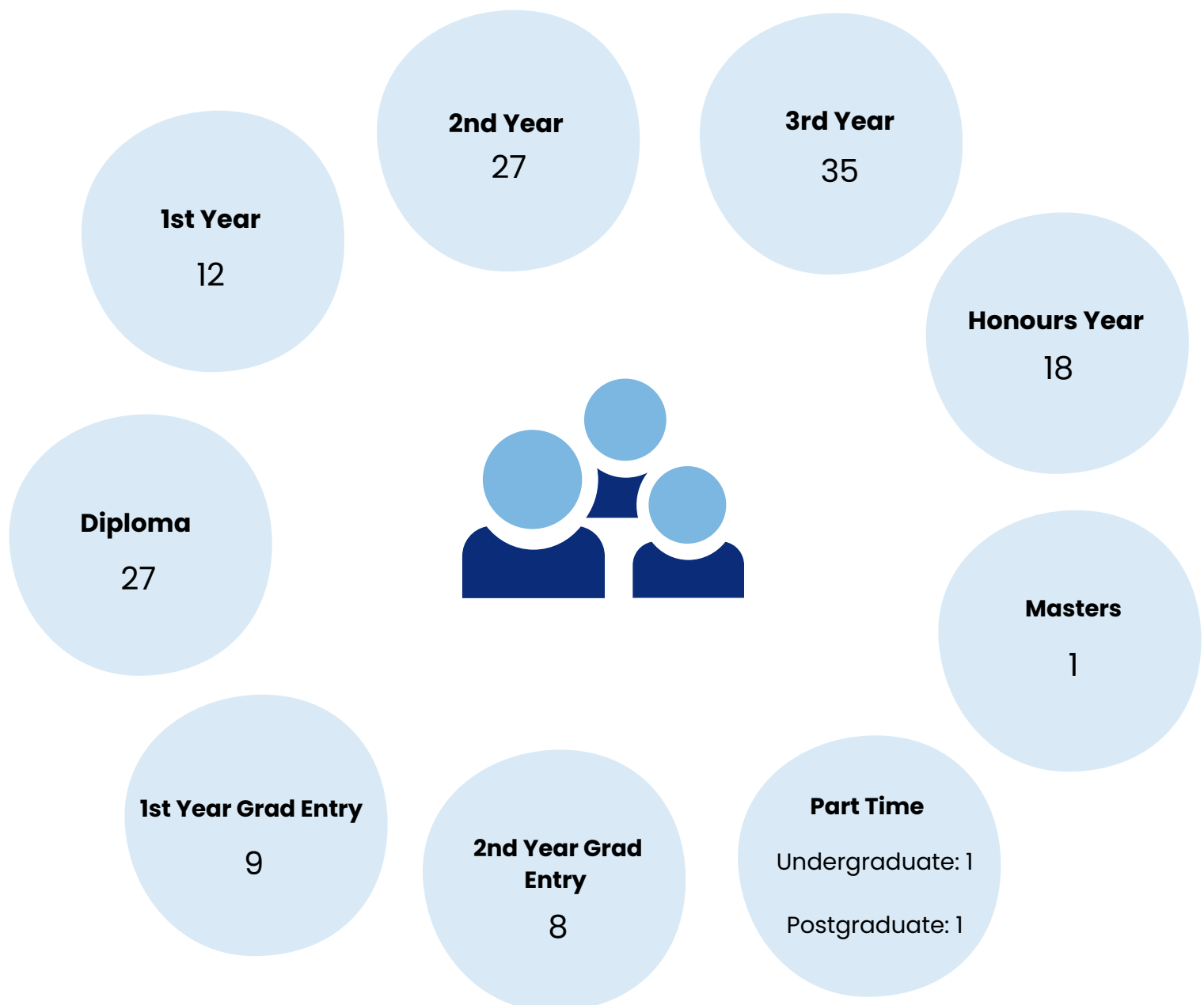
We never give any advice to a client without it first being checked by one of our legally qualified supervisors. We have an insurance policy in place and all clients sign a disclaimer which highlights that the advice and assistance we offer is delivered by students who are not professionally qualified. We operate a strict policy of confidentiality, and all client files are securely stored in line with current GDPR standards. We apply, at a minimum, the same standards of ethics and professional conduct that apply to Scottish solicitors.



OUR MEMBERS

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The Law Clinic operated with a total of 139 student volunteer members over this reporting period. The statistics below represent the number of students across each stage of their degree. These statistics were recorded prior to the recruitment of new student volunteers for each reporting period.





contd...

STAFF

The Law Clinic could not operate without our team of dedicated staff members who work with our students to ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the Clinic and provision of a high-quality service.

All work carried out by our student volunteers is first checked by one of our three Supervisors and an Administrator prior to distribution. This ensures that the Law Clinic provides our clients with a consistent, high-quality service. Our team of staff is made up of: Gillian Melville (Supervisor), Kathleen Bolt (Supervisor), Claudia Hoey (Supervisor), Diane Inglis (Administrator), and Alison Duncan (Housing Administrator).

SUMMER WORK

We employ Student Advisors on a part-time basis over summer to ensure that our casework can continue. Students also provide administrative support and develop new projects. Without these students, we would have significantly lower capacity over summer, and would struggle to take on cases and continue to provide access to justice or develop our activities and projects effectively.

This year, our summer students worked from the new Clinic offices, which has once again contributed to building a team spirit within the Clinic and encouraged overall engagement amongst student advisors. In summer 2025, we employed 11 summer students on a 15-hour per week basis for a period of 12 weeks. We were able to maintain this crucial resource thanks to the Safe Deposit Scotland, Scottish Women's rights Centre, Refugee Survival Trust, the Alumni fund and other donors.

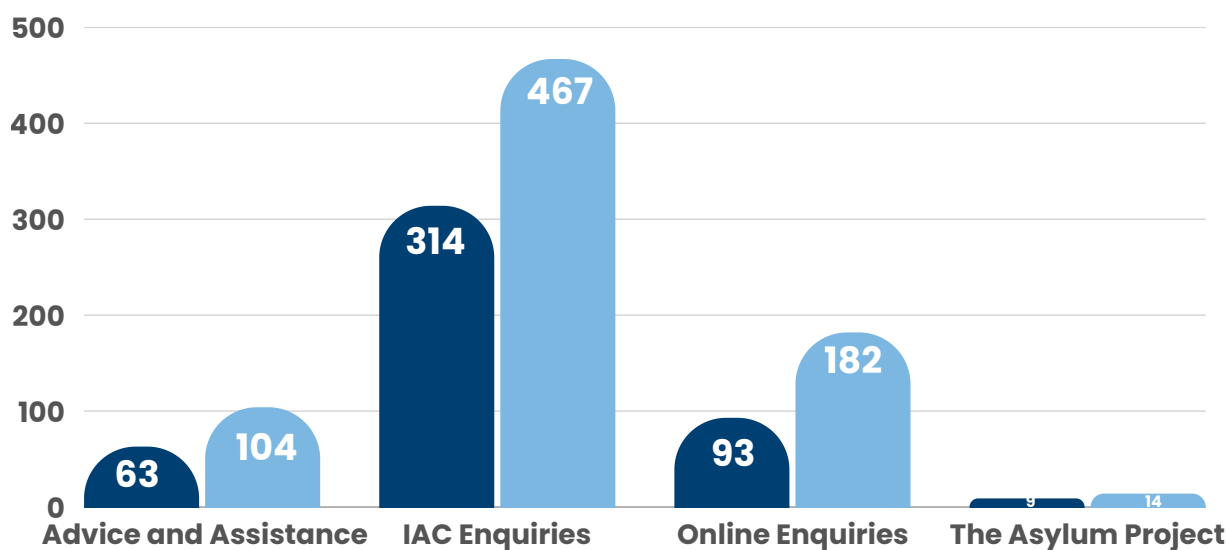
The Clinic has developed an innovative approach to offering our clients the services they need. The Clinic divides its enquiries into three separate casework 'streams', to cater to all clients' needs. We resolve non urgent and simple enquiries through our award-winning Online Advice service. We also provide our clients with the opportunity to seek immediate and more detailed advice from volunteer solicitors, at our fortnightly Initial Advice Clinics. Finally, our traditional Advice and Assistance service continues to offer the most complete service, over a longer time period than that of the Online Advice service and Initial Advice Clinics.

2024-25

● 2023-24

● 2024-25

CASE STREAM
STATISTICS

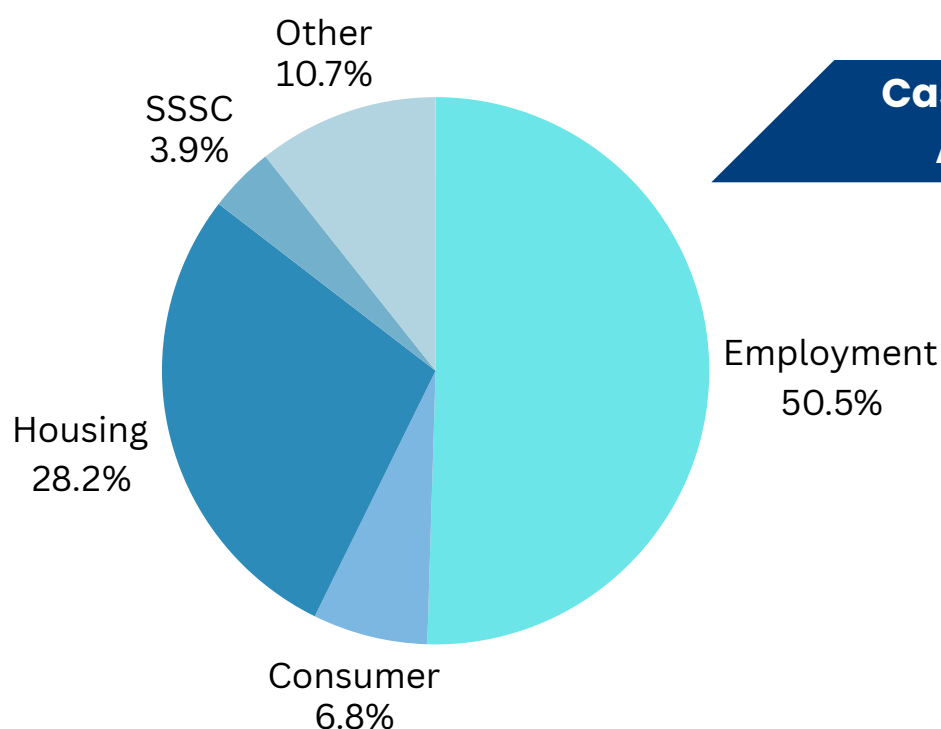


OUR CLIENTS

LOOKING AT THE FIGURES

Over the reporting period, there has been an increase in the number of Advice and Assistance cases taken on. We find we are representing in more complex cases, such as discrimination claims in the Employment Tribunal and SSSC Fitness To Practice hearings, which are more resource-intensive and take longer to complete. Where we cannot represent, we try to ensure people receive initial advice and guidance on their case through our Initial Advice Clinic service, which has also managed to help more people this year. The number of online enquiries has also increased.

The number of Asylum Project enquiries has also increased; through our collaboration with the Refugee Survival Trust, we continue to help asylum seekers explore fresh asylum claims despite less funding.



Case Type for Advice & Assistance Cases

EMPLOYMENT

Over the reporting period, the majority of our cases were employment cases, as in previous years. Employment cases are often very complex and tend to involve tight deadlines. These cases require a substantially greater number of hours per case, meaning students are required to dedicate significant time and energy to them, alongside their studies. However, the benefit that students get from doing so is also often greater in terms of confidence building and skill development compared with other types of cases.

HOUSING

We have taken on more housing cases than in previous years, with the addition of a dedicated Legal Supervisor post in this area. We have seen a notable increase in the number of cases before the First-tier Tribunal (Housing & Property Chamber) and in housing enquiries generally. This correlates to the housing crisis we face here in Glasgow. Glasgow declared a housing emergency in November 2023 due to rising homelessness, and the Scottish Government subsequently declared a national emergency. Successfully securing funding to employ a 0.5 housing solicitor, we believe, addresses this need within the limited resources the Law Clinic has access to and we are developing our expertise in this critical area. Students can really make a difference to the very basic right to housing that we should all enjoy.

CONSUMER

The majority of our clients' consumer issues continue to be resolved more readily through our IAC and Online services, leaving us more time to dedicate to more complex cases. With that said, we have seen a slight increase in the number of cases for the same period last year and this work takes our students into the Sheriff Court simple procedure representing clients.

SSSC

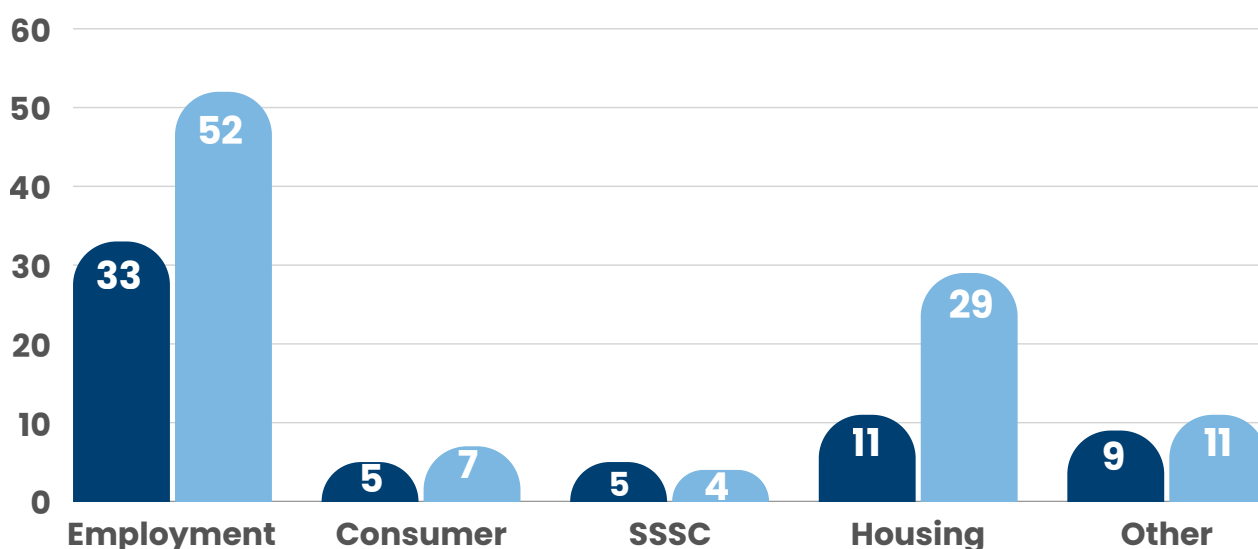
There has been a marginal decrease in the number of SSSC (Scottish Social Services Council) cases. Whilst we recognise there is still a demand for our service for cases of this nature, their complexity and, in particular, the time required to take on a full hearing (often over 5 days) is a demanding commitment for student advisers. In an effort to provide more assistance to those involved in SSSC proceedings, and with the help of funding from the Alumni Fund, we have produced and published a series of user-friendly guides which are accessible on our website.

2024-25

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE: CASE TYPES BASED ON THOSE OPENED

● 2023-24

● 2024-25



The outcomes of the cases in which we advised and assisted varied. For Clinic cases, the measure of success is subjective. For some of our clients, success takes the form of an acknowledgement of unfair treatment/acceptance of liability from the Respondent, a good character reference, or payment of money owed to the client. For others, success takes the form of a well negotiated financial settlement or a legal judgment, in their favour, following a successful hearing.

The Clinic exists to provide access to justice to those who need it most. Many of our clients are vulnerable and find themselves in particularly difficult situations. Consequently, many of our clients were satisfied with simply being able to have someone to advise and support them through their dispute. Even clients whose hearing did not go in their favour, felt a measure of success as our assistance and representation allowed their narrative to be heard.

In terms of financial success alone, our cases resulted in a total of **£171,482.41** being won/saved for our clients over the reporting period. This brings the total amount of money won/saved for our clients since our inception over 22 years ago to **£2,373,208.97**.

INITIAL ADVICE CLINICS



**Lauren Weetman, Scott Gillanders, and
Harbani Kohli**
IAC Coordinating Team

The Initial Advice Clinic offers a wealth of support for members of the public – this is supported by a dedicated pool of solicitors that provide their assistance on a voluntary basis. Student advisor involvement is one of the key elements that make continuing this project possible.

Within the last year the project has faced some challenges. One key issue that arose time and time again was lack of engagement from clients, specifically a failure to attend arranged appointments. This had an impact on those volunteering, both solicitors and student advisors alike, as well as taking up valuable appointment slots needed by other clients. Some of these challenges have in fact arisen because of demand for our service and so those offered the opportunity to attend an IAC may have to wait several weeks.

To address this, we brought forward a number of communications time frames. From an internal perspective, this included ascertaining solicitor and student advisor availability much sooner, ensuring that both solicitors and student advisors have access to enquiry forms and dissemination of meeting details at an earlier stage. This then supported the changes we implemented for clients, namely the introduction of a confirmation email and waitlist clients.

These changes have ensured that clients are attending their appointments, that they have been provided with the appointment information at a much earlier stage to make suitable arrangements. In the event we have not received confirmation, we are able to reallocate those appointments to others. This has in turn maximised the number of clients we are able to assist and has made the best use of the solicitor and student advisor volunteers' time.

In addition to this, there have been a number of developments in engaging with large law firms to bolster the number of solicitors we work with. This has opened discussions with a number of firms that are keen to be involved. Whilst there is still progress to be made to finalise arrangements, the interest in partnering with the clinic has been positive and going forwards this offers a chance for the further development of the project.

THE ONLINE PROJECT



Hannah Stewart (Coordinator)
Megan Buggy (Depute Coordinator)

Another one of our case streams, the Online Project deals with non-urgent legal queries from clients, without the need for them to physically come to the clinic or participate in meetings. The project contributes hugely to the clinic's goal of achieving access by providing a more convenient service for clients, particularly for those with work or health restrictions. and by removing the need for an interview. It also allows clients to receive advice where the clinic is otherwise at capacity.

Over the past year, the Project Coordinator team, consisting of Hannah Stewart and Megan Buggy, has been curating and finalising a new handbook specifically for the Online Project. It details the process behind an online case, and includes style tips, various resources, and sample responses. The aim of this new handbook has been to assist advisors, new and old, with how to best tackle online cases, and furnish them with the confidence to pursue them.

An Online Project Advisor of the Month award has been put in place, following in the footsteps of the IACs. With more and more advisors signing up for online cases, the Coordinator team sought to recognise their hard work and dedication to increasing access to justice through the Project.

The team has also placed a focus on streamlining the administrative processes that keep the Project running. This work, alongside the introduction of the handbook and Advisor of the Month award, has exponentially increased advisor involvement. This year has also seen a significant increase in the number of clients the Online Project has been able to assist, on a wide variety of matters.

CLINICAL LLB: AN OVERVIEW



Dr Rhonda Wheate
CLLB Director

September 2024 marked the beginning of another strong year for the Clinical LLB (CLLB) programmes at Strathclyde, with our student advisors continuing to demonstrate their commitment to legal excellence, public service, and deep ethical engagement. The Clinical LLB, now in its 14th year, remains a cornerstone of Strathclyde's reputation for innovation in legal education and access to justice.

At its heart, the CLLB enables students to gain academic credit for their work in the Law Clinic while remaining firmly grounded in the Clinic's foundational volunteer ethos. The CLLB enhances and deepens the student experience by embedding ethics into academic activity, focusing on deep and sustained reflection, and by recognising advanced legal skills as an essential part of professional education.

In 2024–2025, we welcomed 18 new students to the Clinical LLB, drawn from across the undergraduate and graduate-entry programmes. As always, selection into the Law Clinic and CLLB was competitive, with each applicant undergoing a rigorous interview process involving Clinic supervisors and academic staff. This year's incoming cohort joins a community of approximately 30 CLLB students enrolled across all years of the programme. At the other end of the CLLB journey, we proudly graduated ten students in summer 2025, including several with First Class Honours, and the last of our 'dual qualifying' (Scots and English Law) CLLB students, as this programme has been concluded across the Law School.

The continued success of the Clinical LLB would not be possible without the dedication of many individuals and teams. Special thanks go to our Clinic Case Supervisors, Gillian Melville, Kathleen Bolt, and Claudia Hoey, whose guidance and support underpins so much of our students' work. We also thank Diane Inglis and Alison Duncan, our Clinic Administrators, for their many efforts, and the Law Clinic Executive Committee, whose student leadership is critical to the Clinic's operation. We remain grateful for the support of the wider Law School, Alumni Office, and our

colleagues across the legal profession who contribute to training, supervision, and ongoing development opportunities for our CLLB students.

Finally, we reaffirm our commitment to the Law Clinic's founding principles: free legal advice for those who cannot otherwise access it, delivered by student volunteers who are trained, supported, and held to the highest ethical standards. The Clinical LLB remains a small but essential part of this broader mission — amplifying our impact while upholding the values of service, justice, and education. We look forward to continuing to build on this success in the years ahead.



MAINTAINING A VOLUNTARY CLINIC

Students on the CLLB programme represent a very small proportion of the total number of students who work in the Law Clinic, because the overarching ethos of the Clinic remains one of 'volunteerism'. That is, our students provide legal advice to many of the most vulnerable members of our community, free of charge, without gaining any formal academic or other credit for their service.

The Law Clinic and Law School remain committed to this principle and, for that reason, much of the training and work in the Clinical law programmes is available to all Clinic members. Clinical students are not given priority of access to casework in the Clinic.

This system continues to reflect the principles of the Law Clinic founder, Professor Donald Nicolson OBE, whose main concern was always the welfare of the members of the community who, without the Law Clinic, would not be able to afford legal advice or access justice.



OUR COLLABORATIONS

Both on our own, and in partnership with other bodies, the Law Clinic strives to provide the most comprehensive suite of services possible.

The Law Clinic works with partner agencies to ensure that the local community's full range of needs is met.

We are currently collaborating with the following organisations/agencies:

- Scottish Women's Rights Centre (SWRC)
- Refugee Sanctuary Scotland (The Asylum Project)
- Miscarriages of Justice Organisation (Criminal Justice Project)
- Scottish University Law Clinic Network (SULCN)
- Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI)



CRIMINAL APPEALS UNIT



Jamie Winterbottom
Coordinator

The Criminal Appeals Unit is an essential project for widening the scope for access to justice. In order to take on this work, the unit sends interested student advisers to the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation. There, volunteers assist clients who have been convicted of an offence and sentenced to four or more years. Clients often feel as though they have suffered from an injustice at the hands of the criminal justice system; students volunteers ensure their voices are heard. To carry out this work, a two-stage approach is used: students first assess the factual innocence of a client, examining defence and crown productions and even visiting clients and questioning them in prison; fulfilling factual innocence, clients then move to stage two - identifying appeal grounds to appeal sentence and conviction through the Scottish Criminal Case Review Commission (SCCRC).

There are various grounds for appealing a sentence and conviction, the most common grounds the unit sees are defective representation (*Anderson v. HMA* 1996 JC 29), fresh evidence appeals (s.106(3)(a)(b) Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995), material jury misdirection (*Larkin v. HMA* 2005), non-disclosure by the crown (*McInnes v. HMA* 2010 UKSC 7) and verdicts inconsistent with evidence (*King v. HMA* 1999 JC 226). The legal tests for the above grounds are applied very strictly. Part of the issue is that these grounds are hard to access as they are buried within legal jargon in amongst case law.

Over the past year, the unit and the Miscarriages of Justice Organisation have been working tirelessly to spread the word of injustice within our criminal justice system. In March of 2025, the organisation attended an event held in the Houses of Parliament by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Miscarriages of Justice. The purpose of this event was to identify cross-border judicial flaws, and how these can be identified and deterred so as to prevent miscarriages of justice. Again, in March 2025, the unit received a visit from Swedish Academics who were interested in the work the project does. Student advisers from the unit met with the guests and shared our insights with them.

The unit's work is of the utmost important for understanding miscarriages of justice and identifying why it is important that accountability prevails.



ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT



Dylan Wright (Coordinator)
Natalie Houston (Depute Coordinator)

The 2024–25 academic year marked the foundational stage of the Environmental Justice Project (EJP), one of the newest initiatives within the Clinic. Established in Summer 2024, the Project began with collaborative work alongside the Climate Change Litigation Initiative (C2LI). Student advisors contributed research and transcription support for the development of C2LI's global climate litigation database, which aims to provide an accessible map of ongoing litigation and concise case summaries.

During this period, the EJP also partnered with Professor Elisa Morgera, then United Nations Special Rapporteur on Climate Change. This collaboration involved preparing a literature review on a proposed fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, reinforcing the Project's role in supporting international climate governance.

By September 2024, the Project shifted focus to the Global Day of Action (GDoA). The team led a social media campaign through the Clinic's channels, raising awareness and sharing educational materials. October proved a significant milestone, as the EJP and the Clinic took on their first environmental case. This involved supporting a community group seeking judicial review against a local authority, with the EJP facilitating advocacy through the Free Legal Services Unit (FLSU). Work on this case remains ongoing as of August 2025.

Further collaboration with Professor Morgera followed in January 2025, with students again assisting in research and transcription tasks.

In summary, the EJP has established itself as a dynamic and impactful initiative. Through partnerships, research, and casework, the Project has laid a strong foundation for growth, with significant opportunities for expansion in the forthcoming academic year.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY LAW CLINIC NETWORK



Holly Cherry
SULCN Representative

The Law Clinic has continued to engage with the Scottish Universities Law Clinic Network (SULCN) through an appointed representative. This year, our SULCN representative, Holly Cherry, has participated in SULCN meetings, ensuring that the Clinic remained informed of developments across the network and contributed to discussions on best practice and collaborative opportunities. These meetings provided a valuable platform to share experiences, learn from other clinics, and strengthen relationships within the wider clinical legal education community in Scotland.

Unfortunately, one of the key events in the SULCN calendar, the annual conference, was postponed this year. This was disappointing, as the conference typically serves as an important opportunity for clinics to come together, exchange ideas, and showcase the work being carried out by students across the country. Nevertheless, the Clinic's involvement in ongoing SULCN discussions ensured that it remained connected to the network and well-placed to contribute when the conference is rescheduled.

Through its representation, the Law Clinic has reaffirmed its commitment to the values of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the strengthening of access to justice across Scotland.



SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTRE



Heather Dickson
SWRC Coordinator

The Scottish Women's Rights Centre is a collaboration between the Law Clinic, JustRight Scotland and Rape Crisis Scotland. The aim of the organisation is to improve access to justice for women who have experienced gender-based violence. This is done through providing free legal information, advice, representation and advocacy support to survivors. The SWRC also strives to influence national policies and research in order to improve the experiences of women in the justice system as a whole.

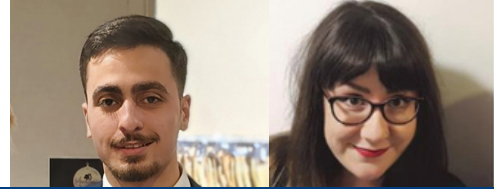
In 2024/25, 8 student advisors from the Clinic volunteered with the SWRC. Weekly sessions were held to primarily support the SWRC legal team at JustRight Scotland. Advisors were given the opportunity to research case-law and various issues of legal reform that would greatly impact victims of gender-based violence. Much of this research directly contributed to live client cases and to the SWRC's published responses to issues such as the Legal Aid Crisis. It has also formed the basis of training resources for professionals and accessible legal guides/blogs for service users. Volunteers were also able to attend various training sessions facilitated by the SWRC legal team where they developed their knowledge of domestic abuse and trauma and the various civil remedies available to survivors of abuse, such as protective orders.

In April this year, our volunteers also helped to organise the SWRC's 10-year anniversary event, hosted within the university. The event celebrated the work of the SWRC over the last decade in furthering access to justice for women through landmark judicial decisions and inspiring campaigns for legal reform. Attendees heard from the Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown and Solicitor and SWRC board member, Helen Hughes, both touching on the vital role that projects such as the SWRC play in ensuring that women can access the legal protections they so desperately require. In addition to this, student volunteers also led and organised an online event to mark International Women's day 2025, where volunteers spoke on their eye-opening experiences with the project. Lyndsay Fleming, SWRC Senior Associate, also facilitated discussions on issues affecting women in Scotland currently such as; Intimate Image Abuse, and the rise in Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) as a form of gendered abuse.

In the new academic year, we hope to recruit new volunteers and continue to expand the opportunities available for students to support the legal and advocacy work carried out by the SWRC.



THE ASYLUM PROJECT



Saeed Azod Azad (Coordinator)
Ailsa Clark (Depute Coordinator)

The Asylum Project (TAP) focuses on immigration and asylum legal issues, with the primary aim of supporting individuals throughout their asylum process from the point of arrival in the UK. TAP provides targeted services to assist those navigating complex legal systems, ensuring they have the resources and guidance they need at each stage of their journey.

Fresh Claims and Evidence Gathering

Many asylum seekers have legal representation but face significant challenges in identifying and obtaining the types of new evidence that could strengthen their case. TAP addresses this gap by assisting with the process of evidence gathering. The project helps clients approach witnesses, take statements, liaise with organisations such as GPs, make enquiries, conduct research, and instruct expert reports.

In addition, TAP provides support with legal issues that are linked to migration, which often require evidence from the Home Office and other agencies. Clients may also encounter legal difficulties in everyday matters, such as consumer issues, where clear evidence is essential. TAP assists clients in navigating these challenges, ensuring they are better equipped to present accurate and complete documentation in support of their claims and related legal matters.

A diverse group of bilingual student advisers supports this work by assisting with interpretation, ensuring clients can communicate effectively and that their evidence is accurately presented. TAP also works closely with the Breathing Space Project to support asylum seekers who have exhausted their rights of appeal. Together, the teams help clients prepare fresh claims and review case paperwork to ensure all possible avenues are explored.

Immigration/TAP Initial Advice Clinic

TAP continues to run fortnightly Immigration Initial Advice Clinics (IACs), which provide crucial legal support to individuals who cannot afford a lawyer and need additional guidance. These sessions are supervised by a qualified solicitor, who offers legal advice to clients while student advisers take notes and gain valuable insight into the issues surrounding asylum and immigration law.

Through these clinics, TAP not only provides direct legal assistance but also equips student advisers with practical learning opportunities that deepen their understanding of immigration law and its impact on people's lives.

COMMUNICATIONS



Abbie Clark (Coordinator)
Allana Williams and Emma Campbell
(Depute Coordinators)

Our goals in the Communications team are two-fold: to make our services more accessible to potential clients, and to foster a sense of community amongst advisors and alumni. We do this by maintaining a regular stream of content on our social media platforms, and articles on our 'News' stream on the Clinic website. We have a body of regular work, which includes our monthly newsletter (which started in November 2023), advisor of the month initiative, regular case updates and advisor/alumni news. As well as temporary projects, which focus on an event/theme relevant to that period.

Some highlights from this year have been Pro Bono week (November 2024), 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (December 2024) and International Women's Day (February to March 2025) which featured articles and interviews from many of our student advisors, alongside coverage of events. We have also been working on developing video content for the clinic's socials, from directions to the clinic, testimonials from students and Law School colleagues and Guides to the Online Project for both clients and students.

Across the board we have successfully increased our total follower count. We can see a steady growth of our platforms, with the exception of X. This decrease reflects a decrease in the popularity of the platform. Tiktok, our newest social media account, has had a slow uptake as we consider how we can use this platform to our advantage and in line with our organisations aims and identity.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION



Abby Mackay
EDI Officer

Over the past year, Abby Mackay has managed the EDI Project throughout the Law Clinic, attempting to expand the reach of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion from within the existing working groups and committee members to the wider group of student advisors.

Through a large group survey, the Clinic has produced an EDI Report, outlining how equality operates in the clinic, and has used these findings to create 2 documents: a Values Charter and a Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct sets out the 9 protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, as well as 2 additional characteristics recognised by the Law Clinic. It outlines our expectations in relation to conduct for student advisors and supervisors operating within the Clinic. The Values Charter sets out the 12 values recognised by the members of the Clinic, and how they apply to our dealings with co-advisors and third parties. These values give us a shared sense of purpose and we discussed this in team work training amongst our firms at the very start of the year.

Moving forward, Allana Williams will be taking over the role of EDI Officer and hopes to further improve Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion through the creation of new resources, such as an updated student handbook, and the addition of new equality and support training for Clinic members.

TRAINING: AN OVERVIEW



Callum Butterworth and Jessica Jayan
Training Coordinators

Training continues to be a cornerstone of the Law Clinic's work, ensuring that Advisors are well-equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to provide high-quality services to clients. This year's programme was particularly successful, with record numbers of new Advisors participating in Initial Advisor Training and a broad range of continuing professional development opportunities delivered throughout the academic year.

Training commenced with Initial Advisor Training (IAT), where the Clinic welcomed a record intake of new Advisors. The programme was designed to provide students with the practical skills required for Clinic work, covering tasks such as drafting Statements of Facts, case management, and use of the Clinic's systems. A forum theatre exercise allowed Advisors to practise client interaction in a supportive environment while also encouraging reflection on professional conduct. It was particularly encouraging to see members of the new intake stand for Committee positions, demonstrating strong commitment to the Clinic from the outset.

Following IATs, the Clinic delivered Teamwork Training for both new and returning Advisors. This session, supported by the Student Directors, Firm Coordinators, and facilitated by Kathleen Bolt, enabled Advisors to re-engage with their firms and prepare for the academic year ahead. The training included interactive activities and group discussions, as well as the opportunity to reflect on and articulate the values considered central to the Clinic's work.

Alumni played a key role in the training programme. John Stringer and colleagues from Keoghs delivered a well-received session on Imposter Syndrome at the beginning of 2025. This interactive session provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by lawyers at all stages of their careers and offered practical strategies for addressing self-doubt. Advisors particularly appreciated the openness with which the speakers shared their professional experiences.

We were also pleased to welcome back alumna Kirsty Fyfe, who delivered an Introduction to Conveyancing. This specialist training was run in collaboration with the Strathclyde Law Society, providing Advisors with an opportunity to gain insights into an area of practice often under-represented in the LLB curriculum. In addition to covering technical aspects of conveyancing law, Kirsty also shared her own journey from Law Clinic Advisor to practising solicitor.

Unfortunately, the planned training on Advocacy at the Employment Tribunal, due to be delivered by long-standing Clinic supporter Paman Singh and colleagues from Weightmans, was postponed due to scheduling difficulties during the examination period. This session, which was highly successful in the previous year, will be rescheduled for the next semester!

The training programme concluded with a one-day workshop delivered by Antonia Edwards and Jed Brady of REACH Advocacy. This interactive session focused on human rights-based approaches and their relevance to casework within the Clinic. Advisors engaged in scenario-based activities and group discussions that encouraged holistic thinking about the application of legal principles, considering both social context and client experience. The session equipped participants with practical tools to integrate human rights frameworks into their practice and reinforced the Clinic's commitment to providing client-centred, justice-focused services.

Overall, this year's training programme has been both diverse and impactful. Advisors benefitted from a combination of foundational skills, specialist legal training, and professional development sessions, delivered by a range of internal and external contributors. The engagement of alumni, practitioners, and partner organisations has been particularly valuable, ensuring that Advisors are continually exposed to both the realities of practice and the values that underpin the profession. The Clinic looks forward to building on this success in the coming year, with a continued focus on equipping Advisors to deliver an exceptional standard of service to our clients.

THANK YOU...



We are extremely grateful to a broad variety of people whose have supported and contributed to the Clinic throughout 2024-25. As a voluntary organisation, their continuous support is crucial to our success and development.

We would first like to thank the Alumni Fund and our regular monthly donors for their continued financial support. During the reporting period, the Alumni Fund funded a new project over the summer of 2024 and beyond to allow us to research and create much needed resources via our Environmental Justice Project. Students collaborated with the Climate Change Litigation Initiative to expand their global climate litigation database, with the goal of increasing public understanding and knowledge of current litigation. Students also worked with Professor Elisa Morgera on a literature review for a proposed fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty under the UN. This work would not have been possible without the support of the alumni fund and special thanks must go to our summer students, particularly Dylan Wright, who worked on this project.

We also received funding from the David Sterling Trust and Alan Stirling, and we were delighted to be awarded a grant from Safe Deposits Scotland Charitable Trust for the coming year. We would equally like to extend our thanks to the Blue Moon Trust, SWRC, RSS, and the Alumni Fund, for all of their incredible donations, without which we would not have achieved so much this past year.

We are extremely grateful to all those who took the time to assist with our training. We must thank Antonia Edwards and Jed Brady of REACH Advocacy for leading their one-day workshop on human rights-based approaches to Clinic work and prioritising justice-forward services. We would particularly like to thank our alumni John Stringer and colleagues from Keoghs for their session on Imposter Syndrome, and Kirsty Fyfe for her session on Conveyancing, and Kathleen Bolt for her sessions on teamwork skills.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the dedicated volunteer solicitors who regularly attend our bi-weekly initial advice clinic sessions. Without their support, we would be unable to provide this crucial service to our clients, particularly those whose access to our services is limited by geography or disability.

We would also like to thank the Supervisory Committee, in particular its chair, Professor Alan Paterson, for dedicating their time and enabling us to benefit from their experience and expertise. Thank you also to our Head of School, Professor Adelyn Wilson, for her continued support and encouragement of the Clinic, as well as Dr. Rhonda Wheate for continuing to coordinate our pioneering Clinical LLB programme.

Finally, thank you to the many law school academics and support staff who have given advice, assisted with interviews, and provided administrative help to the Law Clinic.

COMMENDATIONS



As a voluntary organisation, we rely on the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Our team of staff and student advisors are continuously striving to improve our service. To do so, we rely on feedback from a variety of individuals who engage with our service. Over the reporting period, we are heartened to have received such meaningful and uplifting feedback from our clients and fellow professionals.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE CLIENT

"I honestly cannot fault the work and effort of the student advisors on my case. They were superb from start to finish. The Clinic's work is tremendous."

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE CLIENT – EMPLOYMENT

"I cannot thank you both enough for all of your help and support over the last six months, it is genuinely appreciated."

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE CLIENT – HOUSING

"Thanks for your invaluable help and support and time this year. You've both been such a lifeline – thank you"

ONLINE PROJECT CLIENT

"Please give my heartfelt thanks to the Online Advice team. The document they sent today is very helpful and I will be following their advice."

AWARDEES



Every year our students are given the chance to nominate their peers for a series of awards in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their clinic work.

Best Newcomer

Alison Duncan

Best Project Worker

Saeed Azod Azad

Best Case

Allana Williams, Palema Isufaj, Eva Ronnie, Jess Jayan, Rahman Aslan, Natalie Houston, and Amy Vickers

Best Caseworker

Hannah Stewart and Callum Butterworth

Amanda Benstock Award for Compassion

Ava Ferguson

Effie Shaw Award for Dedication

Abbie Clark

Best Overall Contribution

Lauren Weetman

(Highly Commended: Adam Crainie and Laura Nicol)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Diane Inglis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Until May 2025

Student Directors

Corey Beaton, Natalie Marshall, and Gordon Gow

Firm A Coordinator

Adam Crainie

Firm B Coordinator

Ava Ferguson

Firm C Coordinator

Afton Cook

Firm D Coordinator

Nikki Munro

Firm E Coordinator

Anna Gren

IAC Coordinators

Lauren Weetman and Scott Gillanders

Depute IAC Coordinator

Harbani Kohli

Online Project Coordinator

Hannah Stewart

Depute Online Project Coordinator

Megan Buggie

Criminal Appeals Unit Coordinator

Jamie Winterbottom

Environmental Justice Project Coordinator

Dylan Wright

Depute Environmental Justice Project Coordinator

Natalie Houston

SULCN Representative

Holly Cherry

Scottish Women's Rights Centre Coordinator

Heather Dickson

The Asylum Project Coordinator

Saeed Azod Azad

The Asylum Project Depute Coordinator

Ailsa Clark

Communications Officer

Abbie Clark

Depute Communications Officers

Allana Williams and Emma Campbell

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer

Abby MacKay

Training Officers

Callum Butterworth and Jessica Jayan

Elected Members

Appointed at the annual general meeting



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From June 2025

Student Directors

Hannah Stewart and Gordon Gow

Firm Coordinators

Firm A – Saeed Azod Azad

Firm B – Jessica Jayan

Firm C – Afton Cook

Firm D – Stephanie Cullen

Firm E – Hamaad Anwar

IAC Coordinator

Harbani Kohli

Depute IAC Coordinators

Ryan Gray and Murron McManus

Online Project Coordinator

Megan Buggy

Depute Online Project Coordinator

Emira Attia

Criminal Appeals Unit Coordinator

Rowan Brockie

Environmental Justice Project Coordinator

Dylan Wright

Depute Environmental Justice Project Coordinators

Emma Campbell and Callum Robertson

Public Legal Education Coordinator

Abbie Clark

Depute Public Legal Education Coordinator

Freya Sneddon

SULCN Representative

Ailsa McAleavey

Scottish Women's Rights Centre Coordinator

Sophie Christie

The Asylum Project Coordinator

Anna Ciliento

The Asylum Project Depute Coordinator

Godwin Kangni-Soukpe

Communications Officers

Ailie Wright, Basmah Hussain, and Lily Colquhoun

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer

Allana Williams

Fundraising Officer

Daniel Johnson Faustino

Training Officer

Abby MacKay

Depute Training Officer

Daniel Lee

Elected Members

Appointed at the annual general meeting



SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

2024-25

Professor Alan Paterson OBE, KC (Hon), Chair

Professor Adelyn Wilson

Sheriff Patricia Pryce

Richard Farquhar

Dr Rose Mary Harley

Gwyneth James

Professor Donald Nicolson

Heather Maclean

2025-26

Professor Alan Paterson OBE, KC (Hon), Chair

Professor Adelyn Wilson

Sheriff Patricia Pryce

Richard Farquhar

Dr Rose Mary Harley

Gwyneth James

Professor Donald Nicolson

Heather Maclean



