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## Environmental Regulation vs. Market Instruments and Voluntary Initiatives

A Panel Debate chaired by Lord Justice Carnwath on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at BPP Waterloo 137 Stamford Street 6-7.30pm followed by a wine reception. For further details please email [enviro@bpplaw.co.uk](mailto:enviro@bpplaw.co.uk)



## The BPP Pro Bono Centre Grows

**By Kara Irwin,  
Director,  
BPP Pro Bono Centre**

Happy 2006 from the BPP Pro Bono Centre! Since our last newsletter, the Centre has continued to grow, with staff changes and several new developments, including an audacious dive into 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology and a new site in Manchester.

In the early summer, Kirsty Waterhouse, the Centre's previous Administrator, left and was replaced by Antonia Rickenback. Antonia has proved to be an invaluable new member of the team, bringing humour and eminent capability to a position that endures innumerable queries from the Centre's student volunteers, supervisors and clients. Antonia provides logistical and technical support to all of the Centre's projects and is particularly active in our Legal Translation Service. She came to us having just finished a masters degree at SOAS, and we recently learned that her dissertation was accepted and she passed – congratulations Antonia!

As the BPP Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC) grew, with particularly steady supplies of housing and leasehold clients and prospects for more employment work (see article on BLAC below), we took the decision that we needed a full time Supervising Solicitor. David Roberts, the former part time solicitor, had too many other commitments, but we were very lucky to find a replacement for him in Anna Jennings, who joined us in August. Having worked as a

solicitor at Islington Law Centre, Anna brings to the Clinic a wealth of legal advice experience and a specialism in housing law (in addition to delicious homemade banana bread!). In just a few months, she has been able to increase the number of students involved in BLAC and the number of clients we are able to assist. Anna is also overseeing the expansion of the Clinic to take on more employment work with the London East Employment Tribunal.

The big initiative over the summer and autumn was to create an online registration system for the Pro Bono Centre's projects, allowing a technological jump from the paper-and-pen method we'd used in the past. This turned out to be a daunting project requiring the innovation and hard work of a number of people including Christian Spletter (LPC, Student Director, IP Pro Bono Group) and Hugh Rosenvinge (LPC, Student Director, Streetlaw), who designed the system; Jason Goodman (BVC), who volunteered his programming expertise; Antonia Rickenback, who committed to a 12 week Dreamweaver course to be able to appropriately manipulate the system; and Andrew Taylor in BPP's IT department. We are very grateful to all of them for their hard work and persistence in fixing recurring problems at the start of term.

While this issue contains mostly information from our London site in Holborn, the

Centre has also expanded with the addition of another BPP location – we are now up and running in Manchester, with Joanne Bell (LPC lecturer) as Manchester Pro Bono Coordinator and a team of volunteer staff supervisors and students. The Centre's Leeds site, now in its second year, has also grown, with increasing numbers of both volunteers and clients. Please see the article later in this issue by Claire Daniel (LPC lecturer) as Leeds Pro Bono Coordinator, on the Streetlaw project in Leeds.

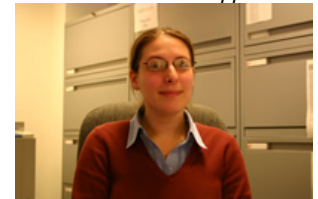
We all wish you a Happy New Year and hope you'll volunteer with us in 2006!

*Kara sits in the Pro Bono Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Holborn, and is available on 0207 430 5677 or at [karairwin@bppls.com](mailto:karairwin@bppls.com)*



*Anna sits in the Pro Bono Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Holborn, and is available on 020 7430 5668 or at [annajennings@bppls.com](mailto:annajennings@bppls.com)*

*Antonia sits in the Pro Bono Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Holborn, and is available on 0207 430 5306 or at [antoniarickenback@bppls.com](mailto:antoniarickenback@bppls.com)*



**BLAC advice sessions run every Wednesday evening until April 2006. They will run on a smaller scale in a summer session with the same Student Advisers. BLAC will next be recruiting Student Advisers in September 2006.**



## BPP Legal Advice Clinic Update

**By Anna Jennings,  
Supervising Solicitor,  
Legal Advice Clinic**

The Legal Advice Clinic in Holborn Law School recruited 107 student advisers in September 2005, who completed their training by October. The Wednesday evening advice sessions started on 5<sup>th</sup> October, and have been well attended both by clients and students. By the end of 2005 we had seen and advised 53 clients in the clinic. The feedback we have had from clients so far has been very positive, with most clients stating that they were very satisfied with the service they received and with comments such as “a very professional service”; “I was very impressed in every way - courtesy, efficiency, professionalism..”; “I

personally feel more secure, safe, and confident after receiving the advice. I really appreciate the help given”.

Due to the high level of demand for advice in housing and leaseholders’ rights, we decided to recruit more student advisers specifically to advise in these areas of law. In December we recruited and trained a further 76 student advisers, 43 of them GDL students, in order to offer more representation to clients with hearings in the Residential Property Tribunals. Students have so far represented clients at 3 hearings before the Rent Assessment Committee and the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, and it is hoped that the New Year will see much more of this, which is not only a valuable service for

clients but also excellent legal experience for students.

We are also working together with London East Employment Tribunals on a pilot project in which our Student Advisers may represent otherwise unrepresented applicants in the Tribunal in appropriate cases. Twenty students are participating in this project.

We have also recruited a number of additional supervisors for the clinic, both from the lecturing staff, and from private practice. All the supervisors provide essential support to the Clinic, and the students benefit from their wealth of experience. We are particularly grateful to 29 Bedford Row Chambers for supporting our family practice, which we have significantly expanded with their help.

## Pro Bono at Leeds: Focus on Streetlaw

**By Claire Daniel, LPC  
lecturer and Leeds Pro  
Bono Coordinator**

Streetlaw has begun this academic year very successfully with numbers doubling from last year to 40 members including both LPC and GDL.

### *Streetlaw*

We have renewed our contact with City of Leeds School and are booked in to facilitate 36 sessions in the spring term for Years 9 and 10. We are in the process of developing a new program of presentations for Year 10, which will focus on developing their understanding of the fundamental principles of law, constitutions, EU, immigration, and human rights. Our contact Patricia Santin has expressed how pleased she has been with our presentations and the professional approach of Streetlaw members. She is “really looking forward” to BPP returning this term.

We have built links with a new school, Lawnswood, where we are facilitating sessions for Years 9 and 10. We are also in the process of organising presentations in another school in Leeds.

We pride ourselves on delivering presentations that are extremely interactive and that use music, props, role-play and group work to ensure the pupils both learn from and enjoy the time we spend with them.

### *Leeds Cares – “Culture Kids”*

Streetlaw has taken on a new project this academic year working with Leeds Cares and the West Yorkshire Police to deliver half day sessions to primary school children, with the aim of combating the growing number of race-related incidents in the East Leeds region.

### *Speak Up*

This stand-alone project comes under the umbrella of Streetlaw this year, and our students work with the organisation Speak Up to give presentations on the law to adults with learning disabilities. This offers Streetlaw members the chance to develop their research skills and deliver technical legal information to members of the community who will really value the information they receive.

*To sign up for Streetlaw at Leeds, please email [streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk](mailto:streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk)*

In Volume 3, Issue 2 of the BPP Pro Bono Centre Newsletter, look forward to:

National Pro Bono Week information

BPP Pro Bono in Gambia!

A report on the Environmental Regulation vs. Market Instruments and Voluntary Initiatives panel debate

Intellectual Property Pro Bono Group update

## Pro Bono Fact Box

***Did you know that the American Bar Association found that 66% of US lawyers do pro bono work?***

***We're wondering how British lawyers compare and are looking forward to the first national survey.***

# Human Rights Unit: 2005 Autumn Term

**By Hamza Drabu (LPC), Human Rights Unit Student Director**



"Why spend 10% of your time working for the public good when you could spend 100% of your time doing it?"

These are the words of Clive Stafford Smith, the inimitable defence lawyer for many Guantanamo Bay inmates, and Legal Director of Reprieve. He visited BPP Law School to talk about his recent experiences in Guantanamo Bay to a receptive HRU audience on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

There are around 600 inmates in Guantanamo Bay, most of whom have been collected since the "War on Terror" began in Afghanistan in 2002. The prisoners have neither been charged, nor afforded the protection of the Geneva Convention, as the U.S Government has labelled them as "unlawful combatants" rather than "prisoners of war".

Having recently returned from Guantanamo Bay, Mr Stafford Smith was full of insightful stories. He told us of the bounties offered by the U.S. Government to Afghanis in rounding up suspected "unlawful combatants". He illustrated the guards' unwavering conviction when saluting each other and repeating the prison's ironic motto. "Honour bound, Sir", "To defend freedom, Sir". He also told us of his new initiative - teaching the prisoners quotes from Shakespeare to recite to the

guards - in an attempt to irritate them in a passive and intellectual manner.

He also warned us about the dubious credibility of the U.S. Government's statistics from the prison, citing the reclassification of torturous methods. For example, sleep deprivation of the prisoners does not occur, it is simply "sleep adjustment"; force - feeding is described as "nutritional assistance" and attempting suicide has been reclassified as "manipulative self - injurious behaviour".

Mr Stafford Smith's talk was enlightening, depressing, and most certainly provocative. His dedication and enthusiasm for public interest work will hopefully have inspired more people to get involved with the Human Rights Unit, which has enjoyed a busy first term. We have hosted speakers from Liberty, Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP) and Interights. Our award-winning Liberty Letters Clinic continues to provide answers to citizens' queries, and now spans both Manchester and Leeds campuses in addition to London. Projects with both KHRP and Interights are to begin this term, conducting legal research and summarising Commonwealth human rights cases, respectively. We have also worked with the Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG), who have

agreed to move their headquarters to BPP Law School. Students from the GDL, LPC and BVC will take on the responsibility of the day-to-day running of SIHRG. They are Juliet McDermott, Sunyana Sharma, Gordon Hodgson, Saba Tahzib and Grace Yuen. All of these projects give students the opportunity to use their legal skills practically, while providing a meaningful contribution to human rights NGOs or charities.

Our students have also been involved in the public discussion on the Terrorism Bill and featured on the national news outside the House of Lords in the recent decision against the use of evidence procured via torture. Along with the projects mentioned above, this term promises a talk from Shami Chakrabati, Director of Liberty and the annual Human Rights Charity Ball, which raised over £4000 last year. This is always a lot of fun, and we hope for a similar degree of success, raising money for Liberty and Reprieve.

*To join the HRU email distribution list:*

*If you are a BPP student*

*please register via the student intranet. Otherwise please email*

[humanrights@bpplaw.co.uk](mailto:humanrights@bpplaw.co.uk)

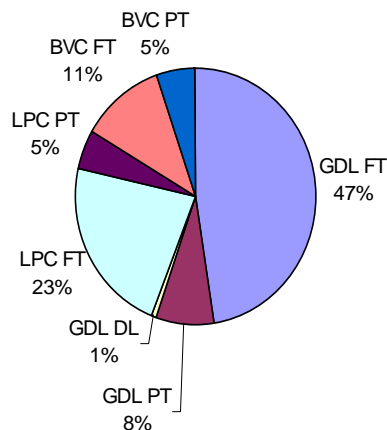
## London Pro Bono Volunteers

Pro Bono Project	Total Volunteers	Project Email	Student Directors
BLAC	183	BLAC@bppls.com	
Citizenship Foundation	105	mocktrials@bpplaw.co.uk	Ian Jacobs (BVC)
Environmental Law	195	enviro@bpplaw.co.uk	Julian Balson (LPC), Kelly Brinkler (LPC) & Magaret Walker (LPC)
Human Rights (General)	445	humanrights@bpplaw.co.uk	Hamza Drabu (LPC), Nicky McCann (LPC) & Anna Terrizzi (LPC)
Human Rights (Liberty Letters)	298	liberty@bpplaw.co.uk	Dee Keys (LPC PT)
Intellectual Property	460	ipprobono@bpplaw.co.uk	Christian Spletter (LPC) & Natasha Juma (LPC)
Law Firm Shadowing	420		
LTS	189	translation@bpplaw.co.uk	Inderjeet Gill (BVC)
Mediation Friends	331	mediation@bpplaw.co.uk	Elena Ourris (GDL PT Yr2)
Personal Support Unit	46	psu@bpplaw.co.uk	Debbie Scales (BVC PT Yr 1)
Streetlaw Primary Schools	230	streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk	Nicole Gold (LPC) and Carrie Skinner (LPC)
Streetlaw Secondary Schools	248	streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk	Claire Richards (LPC) & Hugh Rosenvinge (LPC)
Streetlaw Excluded Pupils	196	streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk	Michelle McGuirk (GDL) & Tamsin Coulthard (LPC)
Streetlaw Prisons	241	streetlawprisons@bpplaw.co.uk	Joanne Sutherland (BVC PT Yr1)
Streetlaw Homeless	189	streetlawhomeless@bpplaw.co.uk	Gaurav Sharma (BVC), Nicola Strachan (BVC), Georgina Closs (BVC PT)
Streetlaw Total	1,104	streetlaw@bpplaw.co.uk	

## BPP London Pro Bono Statistics: Volunteers by Course

GDL FT	GDL PT	GDL DL	LPC FT	LPC PT	BVC FT	BVC PT
475	78	5	226	50	113	53

London Pro Bono Volunteers 2005 - 2006



Please note that students volunteering for multiple projects explains the difference in figures between the total number of volunteers per project and the breakdown of volunteers by course. If you are a student and wish to register with a pro bono project, please sign up via the student intranet. For all other queries, please email the project at the addresses above.