

## King's Legal Clinic Annual Report 2020







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Muthusamy

*Engineering student*



usey

*ography graduate*



Okereke

*Musician*



Bashir

*Journalist*



Kureishi

*Novelist*



Rothwell

*Actress*



# Mission statement

**King's Legal Clinic ('the Clinic') has two key aims; enhancing the education of our students and promoting social and economic justice.**

## **Our aims are achieved through five objectives:**

- Providing our students with the opportunity to work on live cases thereby developing their skills and understanding of law in context.
- Developing innovative experiential learning and teaching methods.
- Developing students' professional and ethical awareness and instil a lifelong commitment to access to justice for all.
- Providing free high-quality legal advice to members of the public, in particular those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice.
- Engaging in legal activism and research initiatives relating to access to justice and social justice issues.\*

## **We aim to achieve our objectives by developing projects and initiatives which focus on:**

- The provision of free legal advice.
- Research on access to justice and social justice issues.
- Partnerships with external organisations.
- Widening participation.
- Community engagement and outreach.

\*The Clinic recognises that climate change is one of the most significant social justice issues we face. Its impacts will be felt most by the poorest and most vulnerable. As a student law clinic with a commitment to social justice, we commit to raising awareness of the issue of climate change in our teaching, research and activism; and to finding ways to support law students to contribute to the struggle for climate justice.



Client, **Duncan Lewis Immigration & Asylum Clinic**

# WELCOME

# Foreword

**We began the year by launching the** Family Law Clinic in our new offices in the King's Building. The new and promising beginnings were a positive indication of the significant growth and change the Clinic would undergo.

The Family Law Clinic, a partnership with Stowe LLP and Wilsons Solicitors LLP, is a vital service that has provided much-needed support and advice to people in what can be the most challenging time of their life. The gratitude expressed by clients has been humbling and our students have had an incredibly positive educational experience. Our students have been enriched by their supervisors' knowledge and expertise, and also inspired by their kindness and commitment to access to justice. Another new addition has been the Protea Clinic, which is part of a drive to provide support to a diverse group of clients, in particular marginalised groups. The Protea Clinic provides essential specialist immigration advice to vulnerable foreign national women and prisoners and is a collaboration with Hammersmith and Fulham Community Law Centre and Hibiscus Initiatives.

We have also continued to see growth in our existing Clinics: the King's & PricewaterhouseCoopers ('PwC') Legal Clinic, which provides advice on a range of issues for individuals and small businesses, is thriving and providing advice to a diverse group. Client numbers have also increased markedly for the Immigration and Asylum Clinic with Duncan Lewis LLP.

There have been many positive achievements over the year. Highlights include: the Clinic's Z2K project which was shortlisted for the best contribution by a team of students at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards. We were particularly proud of our team of students as they showed great sensitivity and professionalism when assisting clients in their disability benefits appeals.

Our students' work on the Article 8 project (a partnership with Islington Law Centre and two law firms) has also had a significant impact. Following applications prepared by the project, six of our clients were granted permission to stay in the UK. For these clients, four of whom were children, this is a life-changing outcome.

We were also delighted to welcome a number of new members to the Clinic team who have already contributed greatly to the development of the Clinic. Veronica Barresi has established an Intellectual Property Law Clinic ('IP Clinic') which will work in partnership with two leading city law firms, Briffa and Bird & Bird. The IP Clinic aims to foster creativity, innovation, and social and economic justice. Sue Willman has established the Human Rights and Environment Legal Clinic ('HRE Clinic') partnering with Landmark Chambers, with additional support from others, including counsel from Doughty Street Chambers, 20 Essex Street and Garden Court Chambers. The HRE Clinic is the first of its kind in the UK and aims to target the crossover between human rights and the environment and social justice. The HRE will be working with a range of clients, including UK and international non-profit organisations. Hayley Blundell has joined as the Clinic Coordinator and has already done a great deal of work to take the Clinic's processes and systems online, which will enable us to operate in the new Covid19 environment.

The Clinic hosted a number of events this year to highlight pressing social justice issues, ranging from Inquests and the role of pro bono, to a series of events on Covid 19 and the impact on access to justice. We also took part in the first global day of action in respect of the Climate Justice pledge, with a packed and informative debate on Air Pollution with a distinguished panel of experts including Martin Williams, a Professor of air quality at King's College, and Jenny Bates, an air pollution campaigner from Friends of the Earth.

The pandemic, along with the brutal killing of George Floyd has led the Clinic to reflect more deeply on what our social justice mission means, how we work and how we could improve. As a Clinic we are committed to combatting racism and inequality in a real and practical way. The Clinic recognises the link between the hostile immigration environment and racism; we have focused our efforts on developing a range of immigration advice services to counter this. We have an active strategy to work with marginalised local communities, we are hoping to develop a Police Complaints Clinic with StopWatch to advise young black people about their rights. The Clinic is conscious of the scale of the issue and that an active and self-critical approach is necessary.

The period of the pandemic has been a challenging time for all of us and the Clinic was no exception. The response from the Clinic team, our students and our partners has been exceptional. We quickly

adapted to the remote working environment, we were particularly proud of the resilience shown by our students who were patient and helped us through this difficult time. There are likely to be challenges in the future, but we have worked with our partners and students to develop safe and accessible systems. We are committed to serving our community across the spectrum of need and will strive to do so.

We have seen the number of students involved in the Clinic, client enquiries, and clients advised all rise this year. This is all possible due to the hard work and dedication of the Clinic team, our students, and our partners, and I would like to thank them all.

**Shaila Pal**  
**Director of Clinical Legal Education**  
**and Supervising Solicitor**  
**King's Legal Clinic**

## The Team



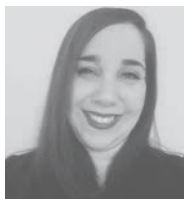
**Shaila Pal**  
**Director of Clinical Legal**  
**Education, Senior Lecturer**  
**and Supervising Solicitor**



**Veronica Barresi**  
**Assistant Director,**  
**Lecturer in Law and**  
**Supervising Solicitor**



**Sue Willman**  
**Assistant Director,**  
**Lecturer in Law and**  
**Supervising Solicitor**



**Hayley Blundell**  
**Legal Clinic Coordinator**





'I found the students supportive, informative and professional. The service was brilliant for people like me. I would definitely recommend your service to others in a similar situation. Long may your service continue.'

Client, **Family Law Clinic**

'Overall, for anyone who's looking to gain exposure to the legal sector, this role is perfect in doing so.'

Pasha Mirpuri, **LLB Student, Student Administrator 2019 – 20**

# Introduction to King's Legal Clinic

**The Clinic has two central aims**, which are to provide our students with the opportunity to work on live cases, thereby developing their skills and understanding of law in context; and to enable our students to serve their community and promote social and economic justice.

The Clinic was set up in April 2017 and is part of the ongoing development of the Professional Law Institute ('PLI'). The PLI is a new component of The Dickson Poon School of Law, bringing together several initiatives focusing on legal education and training in the context of professional practice.

The Clinic has four main strands of activity:

- The Legal Advice Clinic (LAC) providing free legal advice to members of the community
- Collaborative community projects
- Research and legal activism
- Supporting our Streetlaw and Mediation student societies.

## The Legal Advice Clinic

**The LAC is a free first tier advice service** based in The Dickson Poon School of Law on the Strand Campus. Students working under the supervision of qualified lawyers interview clients, analyse their problem, research the key points and send them a letter of advice. The purpose of the advice letter is to provide the client with an understanding of the legal issues in their case, details on any relevant processes and practical advice on the available options. Where the LAC is unable to provide advice, we aim to signpost clients to organisations that may be able to assist.

We offer advice on a wide range of legal issues including housing, family, commercial, intellectual property, immigration and employment with the support of a number of law firms:

## PwC Legal Clinic

**Launched in 2019 in partnership with**

PricewaterhouseCoopers ('PwC'), the PwC Legal Clinic offers free legal advice to individuals, sole traders, small business owners and social enterprises from the local community. Under the supervision of PwC lawyers, our students advise members of the public on a range of legal issues including commercial, contractual, employment, and housing.



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**'I needed urgent legal help and I found the students very professional giving excellent advice and producing a very thorough report. I am grateful to the person from the company who gave up his time to supervise, it allowed me to gain legal advice I could never have afforded.'**

### Client

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**'King's Legal Clinic has enhanced my time at King's in an unmeasurable manner. Being from a civil law background, I have had the invaluable opportunity to advise clients on English law. I have learned to adopt a responsive critical mind to react to client's statements in the light of evidence.'**

**I enjoyed the direct contact with the clients and providing them with a response to their needs. I am extremely grateful to the clinic coordinator and supervising solicitors for their responsive support in the management of cases, in particular in March and April when we smoothly started to work remotely. I would definitely recommend the Legal Clinic**

to anyone who wishes to adjust and tailor his/her knowledge to the legal practice within a collaborative atmosphere.'

Lucile Foucault, **LLM, International Business Law pathway**

'We have been very impressed by King's Legal Clinic, from the management of the services to the delivery of legal advice. The team – led by Shaila Pal – is passionate about, and highly effective at, expanding access to legal services to members of the public who would otherwise struggle to access and afford high quality legal advice. We have also been extremely impressed by the students, who display strong legal analytical skills and significant potential for practice. We have a very collaborative relationship with the Clinic and are looking forward to developing our partnership in light of the evolving models for delivering legal advice. It has been a pleasure to work with the Clinic, which has made an excellent contribution to the pro bono space during the 2019–20 academic year.'

Gaurav Srivastava, **PwC, Solicitor**



## Family Law Clinic

**The Family Law Clinic was launched** in October 2019 and is a partnership with Stowe Family Law LLP and Wilsons Solicitors LLP. It offers specialist advice on issues like divorce and separation, financial disputes and cohabitation.

'I wanted to say a huge heartfelt thank you... I found the team very professional and took the time to listen and really try and understand the complexities around my case. The team provided some great insights and useful information for me to understand and digest in the next steps of the case. Please keep going as there are lots of people that are in similar situations to me or financially worse off who would really benefit from the service. The service is invaluable and really helpful especially in today's climate where more and more families are having to represent themselves in court often due to continued abuse through our court systems by perpetrators.'

Client







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**'The Clinic provides an invaluable service to those in our Community who cannot otherwise obtain access to legal advice and legal representation, largely as a result of the virtual abolition of what used to be called "legal aid". At the same time the Clinic provides wonderful opportunities for students to exercise their legal, analytical and communication skills.**

The role which Alice Wightman (Solicitor at Stowe Family Law LLP) and I undertake is to help supervise the students, firstly preparing for their meetings and analysing what the issues might be and how they might be able to deal with them, attending meetings with clients and drafting letters of advice afterwards. The level of commitment shown by all the students we have met has been very impressive.

On occasions the clients have presented problems of considerable complexity which have required incredibly careful thought and analysis as well as challenges of various sorts for everyone concerned. The students have been prompt in drafting the letters of advice and have responded well to constructive observations and suggestions.'

**Graham Coy, Partner, Wilsons Solicitors LLP**

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**'When I think back to my experience at the King's Legal Clinic, the first thing that comes to mind is how enriching my time there was. I learnt many important skills which made my legal education more wholesome and complete. My first case was with the Family Law Clinic. The supervisor was extremely kind and understanding. He helped us at every step**

**of the way since we were complete amateurs. I was faced with a complicated situation, a difficult client and had no previous knowledge of family law. Mistakes were inevitable but the KLC team helped me learn from them and improve myself, teaching me invaluable transferable skills in the process. This wonderful experience will stay with me for a long time!'**

**Sera Singh, LLB Student**

## **Duncan Lewis Immigration & Asylum Clinic**

The clinic is supervised by solicitors from Duncan Lewis who interview clients with the support of our student advisers; they offer advice on issues like asylum, indefinite leave to remain, and family visas.



**Duncan Lewis  
Solicitors**

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**'We have much enjoyed our continued collaboration with the Clinic. As always, the organisation and structure of the clinics has been excellent and its growing reputation in being able to provide pro services to the community has attracting a wide range of clients with diverse and challenging issues.**

**What has never failed to impress us has been the calibre and enthusiasm of the student volunteers who fully engage with the legal issues at hand combined with the ability to maintain high standards of work.'**

**Vicash Ramkissoon, Solicitor & Director,  
Duncan Lewis**

# Collaborative community projects

## Article 8

**Article 8 is an immigration and human rights** law project run in collaboration with the Clinic, Islington Law Centre (ILC), Hackney Migrant Centre (HMC), Reed Smith LLP and Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld LLP. HMC refers clients to ILC, ILC will represent a family in an application for permission to stay in the UK on human rights grounds. The Clinic provides legal training and arranges a team of lawyers and students to help ILC in the preparation of the case. King's students have worked on cases involving two families and a total of six clients. All our clients were granted permission to remain in the UK! This is a considerable achievement in view of the high refusal rate for this kind of application. Students and lawyers have dedicated a great deal of time to the cases, around 350 hours.

One of the cases highlights the significant access to justice issues migrants face. When the client arrived in the UK at the age of 14, she lived with a relative who neglected her and treated her poorly. From an early age the client was exposed to several abusive relationships and remained undetected by the authorities. The client had two children who were both born in London but received little support from the children's fathers, who were largely absent. She tried to regularise her, and her children's stay, seven years ago. Her application was refused by the Home Office and the decision appeared to misapply a Home Office policy. The client was unaware of this as she could not access legal advice due to her limited means. The client was able to access effective legal advice and representation through the Article 8 project and after having lived in the UK for 19 years, both she and her children were granted permission to remain in the UK in November 2019.

**'I cannot describe how happy I am after so many years my immigration situation has been fixed. Some days I never thought this would happen, I have been looking for someone to help me for so many years. I know it won't be easy, but I feel positive and I want to get things in place so that I can go and work and be a good mother to my children. I want to give them a different and better life to the one I had.'**

Client, **Article 8**

**'Working on the Article 8 Project to support the client's case was a truly unique experience to make a tangible difference to the life of a family in need. The facts of the client's case were especially saddening as she had experienced many years of misfortune. It was a really incredible moment when we discovered that a deserving family had been granted leave and that we had played a small role in helping to make this happen. This experience has given us the motivation to continue with our pro bono support for immigration and asylum cases as we appreciate that our support can actually help change a family's life.'**

Sahar Abbas, **Trainee Solicitor, Akin Gump  
Straus Hauer & Feld LLP**



HACKNEY MIGRANT CENTRE

ReedSmith

**Akin Gump**  
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD



## The Zacchaeus 2000 Trust ('Z2K')

**Z2K is an advice and campaigning charity** set up in the 1990s to fight for justice for those most at risk of poverty. Z2K campaigns to raise awareness of problems in the welfare benefits system. Z2K represents Claimants on a pro bono basis in London on very low incomes to appeal against refusals of their disability benefits.

The King's Z2K project was launched in September 2019. A dedicated team of six King's students has been working on the project and have worked on nine appeals to date, after an intensive training programme. Students interview the client, conduct legal research, draft submissions in support of their appeal; and then accompany the client to the appeal hearing. This work is all under the supervision of Z2K caseworkers with support from a Clinic solicitor. Of the nine appeals heard, five have been won, one is subject to onward appeal and decisions are awaited on the other cases.



**'It is a privilege for any law student to have these real-life experiences whereby we are able to add value to our local community... I felt the impact when we won our case and the client was filled with relief, as it made me realise how their life will be changed for the better. Having the support of the Z2K Trust and the King's Legal Clinic also gave me the confidence to work on this project independently...'**

**Zishu (Rebecca) Ding, Politics, Philosophy and Law LLB**

**'After the help I got at tribunal... I got my PIP and now I can manage my bills. I need no longer to sell my belongings to survive.'**

**Client, Z2K**



# Collaborative community projects

## The Protea Clinic

**The Protea Clinic is a collaborative project** set up in October 2019 by the Clinic, Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre ('HFLC'), and Hibiscus Initiatives ('HI'). It aims to address the pressing need for legal advice, support and education for vulnerable women who are facing deportation (some of whom are female foreign national prisoners ('FNPs')) and to help identify and assist victims of modern slavery.

HI is a charity that provides advocacy, support and specialist services to marginalised vulnerable foreign national and Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee people. King's students, working with a HI support worker, conduct a detailed fact-finding exercise and provide a detailed case brief to the solicitor at HFLC. A HFLC solicitor delivers immigration advice in person at the Women's Centre at HI office and provides a written letter of advice, a King's student will observe this advice session and help draft the letter of advice.

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**'Students have been absolutely brilliant – very curious and excellent in carrying out work on time.'**

Juste Marcinkeviciute, **Women's Centre & Mentoring Coordinator, Hibiscus Initiative**

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**'We consider this project to be unique and vital. We have observed that FNP's have received poor advice or no advice in the past and have unrealistic expectations, which affect their ability to make rational decisions about their future. They are more prone to being detained under immigration powers following the completion of their custodial sentence.'**

**We are truly grateful for the commitment displayed by students from the King's Legal Clinic. They are an invaluable component in the fact-finding process. Our collaborative model is based on the students' preparation of detailed information notes following perusal of complex and voluminous Home Office documentation and Tribunal determinations. This enables us to develop solutions and explore all legal avenues in advance of the advice session and to present these to clients in a safe environment. This serves our aim of delivering both prompt advice and access to justice for those marginalised individuals.'**

Raj Sahota, **Solicitor, Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre**

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**'Being part of the Protea clinic has been a very positive experience. When I first visited Hibiscus, I really felt the human aspect of the whole project. The Women's Centre is very welcoming and offers a safe haven to women and their families at a stressful time. Whether just coming back to the community or thriving in it for years, it seems the pastoral support Hibiscus give them and the practical legal advice of HFLC really guides them in their journeys. I found the solicitor inspiring in her mastery of the ins and outs of immigration law and felt like the client was really being heard. The solicitor guided me through the technical aspects of procedures and the law. I am sure this experience will stay with me, and it has reinforced my interest in immigration law and social work!'**

Caterina Cedolini, **Politics Philosophy and Law, LLB**

## Support Through Court

### **Support Through Court is a vital service**

and national charity supporting people of all backgrounds as they battle through the complexities of the court process without legal representation. King's students are trained by Support Through Court to provide a minimum commitment of 20 days over the calendar year. The training includes five days of shadowing experienced volunteers and specialist training in supporting survivors of domestic abuse, court processes and forms.

King's students have attended court with clients to explain court etiquette and process. Often, they will have provided emotional support for clients, just by being present and having a listening ear, when they feel isolated and alone in an often unfriendly and complex system.

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**'During their volunteering experience, King's students have unequivocally demonstrated a great deal of confidence and empathy while dealing with vulnerable clients. They have proven to be proactive in quickly resolving important issues, such as liaising with the court staff to ensure Special Arrangements are in place in cases featuring Domestic Abuse. They have also shown an incredible growth in both interpersonal and professional skills thanks to first-hand court experience and challenging client interactions.'**

**Jovana Ugrinic, Service Manager, London Family Courts (Support Through Court)**

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**'This was a good reminder that emotional intelligence is an asset in the legal world and that it is possible to improve on rapport-building skills through practice. I have a newfound appreciation for listening actively and taking tasks a bit slower to really understand when helping someone.'**

**Caterina Cedolini, Politics Philosophy and Law, LLB**

## The Freedom Law Clinic

**The Freedom Law Clinic (FLC)** is a pro bono project which investigates potential miscarriages of justice and examines whether there are grounds for referring cases to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). Working alongside solicitors and barristers, students participated in a six-week training programme to gain a thorough grounding in the criminal justice and appeals system. As part of the training, students worked on a live case, helping to review the evidence and contacting expert witnesses to determine whether there are any grounds for the conviction to be deemed unsafe. At the end of the training programme, students were able to apply to become full caseworkers with FLC for a period of 12 months.

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**'Working with King's is always a huge privilege for our clinic. Their students are passionate and committed. They always bring real focus and diligence to their work. King's students have made a real difference to our work over the last 12 months.'**

**Luke Gittos, Solicitor and Director, the Freedom Law Clinic**





# W&H WESTMINSTER & HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY



wnls.org



is on LinkedIn

Follow us on



*King*

**Leg**

At The Dickson

Free &  
naviga

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# Research and legal activism

**The Clinic is keen to increase its research impact on matters that affect our local community and access to justice issues by working alongside academics and community organisations.**



## Youth Justice Legal Centre

**The Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC)**, part of Just for Kids Law, is a centre of legal excellence in youth justice law in England and Wales. It aims to improve knowledge and understanding of the law

by providing specialist training and advice. Two of our students have been providing research support to YJLC by updating relevant legal topics and preparing content for YJLC website and practitioner guides. YJLC aims to use their knowledge and expertise to influence policy.

**‘YJLC’s student researchers from the King’s Legal Clinic have been an invaluable resource for us... The work is skilled and it is fantastic for us to have access to bright young legal minds. The researchers find the work interesting and ultimately the kids we represent really benefit.’**

**Katya Moran, Co-Head of the Youth Justice Legal Centre and Policy and Public Affairs Manager**

**‘I worked as a research volunteer and the work was very interesting, because I had not studied any youth justice law before. I therefore got to learn it in a very practical way and it gave me a very good insight into what practitioners in this field do day-to-day.’**

**Emilia Pearson, Politics Philosophy and Law LLB**



## Human rights and environment research

**During 2020, students have conducted** detailed legal research in English and Spanish for two cases involving the rights of indigenous people in Colombia whose traditional way of life is threatened by the development of large infrastructure projects,



particularly coal mining. This research has informed innovative legal interventions ('amicus curiae') drafted by barristers to defend the communities' fundamental rights to participation/consultation and to a healthy environment.

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**'It was encouraging to see how the illegal diversion of a river by a powerful multinational enterprise in northern Colombia brought together an international team of lawyers, activists and researchers. Our research revealed the many promising answers which international environmental, human rights and indigenous law can provide to the question of corporate responsibility of multinational enterprises.'**

**Laura Knöpfel (PhD candidate), Transnational Law Institute**

## Southwark Law Centre Housing Duty Scheme

**Two of our students are working with** Southwark Law Centre to produce a report on the work of the Housing Possession County Court Duty Scheme ('Housing Duty Scheme'). The Housing Duty Scheme provides a duty solicitor at the court to assist unrepresented tenants at risk of eviction or repossession. The government are consulting on the future of the Housing Duty scheme. Our students are assisting with research which will: identify if disadvantaged groups are being disproportionately impacted; recommend early interventions which may prevent cases going to court; and contribute to policy discussions around reasons for rent indebtedness. Our students began their research in March 2020 and showed real dedication and resilience to work through the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic. The research is ongoing, and it is hoped it will be completed in early 2021.

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**'Southwark Law Centre is pleased to be working with King's on a research project to investigate the causes of rent arrears for low income tenants and the extent to which problems with welfare benefits contribute to possession action. Despite the difficulties of remote working, during the pandemic, the students' diligent input has been invaluable in producing important evidence to assist the Law Centre in developing our services. We are looking forward to the time we can see them face to face and thank them for their work.'**

**Sally Causer, Director of Southwark Law Centre**

# Research and legal activism

## Streetlaw Society

**Street Law is a global program** of legal and civic education geared at empowering the public. The aim is for King's students to educate members of the local community about the law using interactive teaching methods. The Clinic has been working closely with local community organisations to develop bespoke presentations on legal issues which impact the community. For example, the Cardinal Hume Centre, which helps young people and families overcome poverty, had identified recurring issues for their users in relation to a range of employment law issues, including zero-hours contracts, disability discrimination, and maternity and paternity rights. The Abbey Centre, a community organisation which supports deprived communities in Westminster had identified a need for vulnerable women to have information about the EU settlement scheme. King's students, supervised by Jo Bingham (Senior Lecturer, Professional Law Institute), lawyers at PwC and the Clinic team, drafted a number of presentations in response to this need on a range of employment law issues and the EU settlement scheme. King's students were due to deliver these presentations in March and April 2020, but due to Covid 19 this was not possible. We hope to deliver these presentations in the 2020–21 academic year.

King's Streetlaw students also delivered presentations to pupils from state schools in London, as part of King's K+ programme. The K+ programme is part of King's widening participation scheme which aims to open King's to under-represented groups. King's students, alongside the Clinic team, delivered a presentation on the opportunities available in the Clinic, the inclusive nature of experiential learning and an employment law presentation with a focus on zero hours contract and young peoples' rights.

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**'I greatly enjoyed working on the Streetlaw initiative, the practical experience I gained through independent research as well as the feedback that was given by the Clinic and Jo Bingham at all stages of the drafting and presenting process has been more than valuable to my own education. Above all else, the experience of providing genuinely helpful information to students as part of the K+ programme who are eager to learn was incredibly rewarding.'**

**Fiona Koerber, English and German Law LLB**

## Mediation Project

**As part of the KCL Pro Bono Society**, the Mediation Project aims to promote and encourage mediation within King's. This year, the Project continued its collaboration with King's alumnus Jonathan Dingle FRSA, the Society of Mediators, and Normanton Chambers. During the first term, 20 students trained as civil and commercial mediators; two representatives were given the opportunity to further their existing mediator qualifications by training as workplace and employment mediators. Student mediators also collaborated with the Legal Outreach Project (also part of the KCL Pro Bono Society) to teach mediation principles to secondary school students. The Project collaborated with the King's Business School's marketing department to develop a marketing strategy for its mediation services; a newly consolidated referral system is also currently in the works. Since training in the second term was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project very much looks forward to training budding student mediators as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Jerome Chan, Co-President (Mediation Project, Pro Bono Society)**

# The Law Clinic module

**Students taking the Law Clinic module**, as in previous years, have continued to thrive and display a high level of compassion and dedication towards their clients. The Clinic is proud of the quality of work produced which is reflected in students' performance in the module.

The Law Clinic module is a 30 credit optional module available in the final year of the LLB programme. Students are placed in firms of four and work on up to four cases under the supervision of qualified lawyers. Working in small groups gives students the opportunity to reflect on their experience, the development of their skills and develops their understanding of the law in context. Students also explore the effectiveness of the law and legal procedures and consider what if any changes could be made.



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**'The Student Law Clinic module is very different from the experience of more "traditional" modules. This is because it also focuses on developing your practical skills such as research, teamwork and adaptability. My clinic experience has been extremely rewarding. Career-wise, it has boldened my interest in the legal aid sectors of the law and has provided me with invaluable experiences and skills to explore this interest further. Personally, it also granted me the ability to work closely with three great team-members who, while on my course, I would not have had the opportunity to get to know otherwise.'**

**Finally, and most importantly, Clinic is a great opportunity to use legal knowledge and skills to help the community. Cuts and restrictions to Legal Aid have made it more difficult for people to navigate the law and identify what line of action they ought to take for their legal issues. Working in the Clinic is extremely rewarding because you get to know that your work is part of the broader attempt to fill the gap left by a depleted Legal Aid system. It allows you to provide legal advice under supervision to people who might not otherwise be able to afford it or do not know what their first step ought to be. For these reasons, the Clinic module has been my most enjoyable module.'**

**Blessing Odunyemi, LLB Student**



# Facts, figures and feedback

## Students

**Students can get involved with the Clinic** by participating in the Law Clinic module, or on an extracurricular bases. The extracurricular activities include; being a student advisor or administrator; volunteering on a community collaborative project or research initiative; and getting involved in the Streetlaw and Mediation Society.

203

students

26

module students

64

Student advisors  
and administrators

58

Community collaborative projects  
and research initiatives



55

Streetlaw and  
Mediation Society



## Client feedback

**One of our main aims** is to serve our community and help our clients resolve their problems. We aim to provide a high quality and professional service and endeavour to instil these values in our students. We greatly value our client feedback and are pleased that it continues to be highly positive.

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**‘The service is invaluable. The students were helpful, polite and thorough. The advice was clear and to the point.’**

Client

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**613+**

client enquiries received

**265**

clients signposted

**80**

clients advised

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**‘The whole King’s Legal Clinic experience was absolutely invaluable to us. It alleviated a huge amount of pressure, both mentally and financially. Being able to talk to someone personally about our situation made it feel more human and much less daunting – we had no other alternative. We will be forever grateful.’**

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**94%**

of clients would recommend the Clinic to someone else

**97%**

of clients would describe the service received at the Clinic as very good to good

**97%**

of clients would use the Clinic again

# Awards and events

## LawWorks and Attorney-General Student Awards 2020

**The King's Legal Clinic and Z2K** project were shortlisted for the best contribution by a team of students, recognising an outstanding contribution to pro bono work. The shortlist is based on the personal commitment of the nominated team members, the social impact of the project, and the extent to which the work was particularly innovative or is especially deserving of recognition. The Clinic was particularly proud of the team of six dedicated law students, who assisted in providing advice and representation to vulnerable clients who are challenging negative decisions made about their welfare benefits at First-tier Tribunals.

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**'The work undertaken by the King's students empowers clients to take the lead in tribunal hearings and [they] work in depth to ensure our clients understand their rights and access vital social security benefits. Each student has truly committed to their case, maintaining regular contact with the clients to keep them informed throughout what is a very stressful experience for them. The students have shown great care and consideration in the handling of our clients and their cases.'**

**Lucy Isaac, Z2K Tribunals Coordinator**



## Climate justice event: Air Pollution, November 2019

**As part of the Climate Justice pledge**, contained in our mission statement, University Clinics across the world pledged to hold an annual day of action in November 2019. This year the focus was on air pollution. We were privileged to hear from Martin Williams, a Professor of air quality at King's and distinguished expert in the field who is the UK Research Councils Clean Air co-Champion chair; and Jenny Bates, an air pollution campaigner from Friends of the Earth, with Shaila Pal as chair. The aim of the event was to provide our students with scientific information about the issues and hopefully inspire them to get involved. Both Martin and Jenny were inspirational, highlighting the alarming evidence that exists of the growing problems of air pollution, the deficiencies in the actions being taken by the authorities and inspiring students to get involved in environmental activism.

## Covid-19: Access to justice webinar event series

**During the height of the pandemic**, it became clear that access to justice was being severely affected by the impact of Covid-19. The Clinic responded by launching a series of on-line events to explore these issues.

### Defending prisoners' rights during the Covid-19 pandemic

Organised jointly with the Transnational Law Institute and Professor Octavio Ferraz, this event brought together academics and practising lawyers from Brazil, Colombia and the UK to compare the experience of prisoners, and their access (or lack of access) to justice. Prisoners are one of the most vulnerable groups in society in normal times. With

little or no access to lawyers, safeguarding their rights and health during pandemics such as the COVID-19 represents an even greater challenge. The panel members debated these issues and proposals for reform.

### Stories from the frontline

The first event provided a platform to frontline legal support and advice agency staff, volunteers, and

legal professionals, to share their stories and those of their clients. It was clear a considerable barrier to accessing justice for clients and those supporting them was lack of resource. The justice system was not prepared having been stripped of its resources through government funding cuts. Lawyers also highlighted how many cases had come to a standstill during lockdown, bringing uncertainty for clients and lawyers alike.



## Inquests: Access to Justice and the Role of Pro Bono

**As part of the Law Society's Pro Bono Week** in November 2019, the Clinic, in collaboration with Westminister & Holborn Law Society ('WHLS'), hosted a thought-provoking seminar on Inquests and the issues around access to justice. The distinguished panel was comprised of: Yasmin Waljee OBE, (International Pro Bono Director at Hogan Lovells) who had provided pro bono services to

crime and terrorism victims of the July 7 bombings and March 2017 Westminster attacks; Sir Peter Thornton QC, the first Chief Coroner of England and Wales and visiting professor at King's; and Rebecca Wilkinson Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Programmes at LawWorks. The panellists explored the issues around representation and legal aid for inquest victims and their families. The seminar highlighted to students the deficiencies in our current Inquest and legal aid system and how families were being severely let down.



# The future

**We are committed to providing more and varied learning opportunities for our students and responding to unmet legal need in our local community. We are looking forward to developing the following initiatives in the 2020–21 academic year:**

## Human Rights and Environment Legal (HRE) Clinic

**Since January 2020 we have been piloting** the King's HRE Clinic, the first of its kind in the UK for an autumn term launch. Partners to date include barristers Doughty Street, 20 Essex Street and Garden Court Chambers and we have initiated a longer-term partnership with Landmark Chambers. In-house the work will be supervised by Sue Willman, also a partner at Deighton Pierce Glynn solicitors.

The clinic works with UK and international non-profit organisations including Amnesty, London Mining Network, the Environmental Law Foundation, the London Waterkeeper, and ABColombia.

Sue Willman, who leads the HRE clinic explained:

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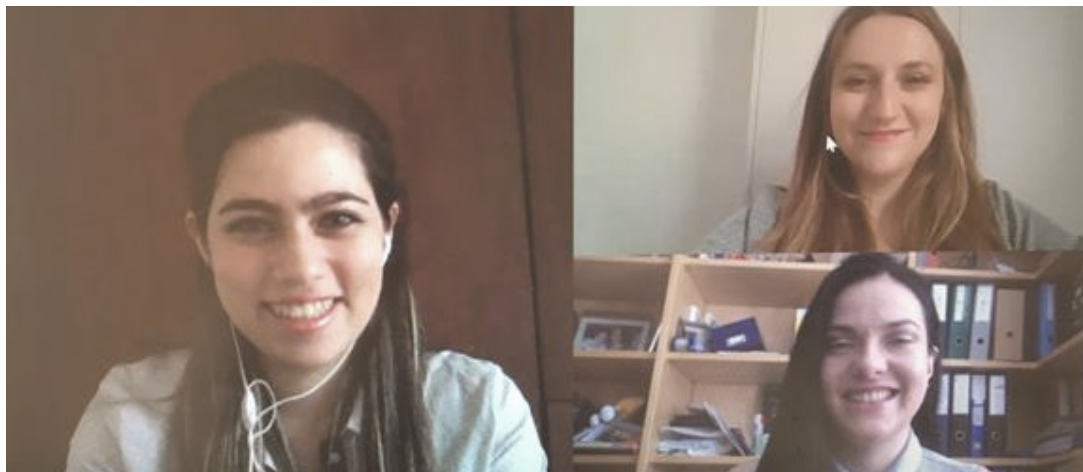
**'The new clinic aims to target the crossover between human rights and the environment and social justice. There is a massive gap in access to climate justice whether for London residents with chronic illnesses caused by air pollution or for indigenous peoples facing rising sea levels or devastation of their surroundings by fossil fuel companies. Students have an opportunity to work on challenging cases and make a real difference.'**

## Police Complaints Clinic

**StopWatch, co-founded by** Professor Ben Bowling, is a coalition of academics, lawyers, citizens and campaigners that has developed to raise awareness about the disproportionate use of stop and search powers; advocating for better police practices and stronger accountability mechanisms. In support of StopWatch, and in the context of BlackLivesMatter, we are hoping to develop a Police Complaints Clinic where individuals who have suffered from unlawful police conduct can seek legal advice about bringing a formal complaint. In line with their research, policy and campaign work, we are also hoping to explore a Streetlaw collaboration to better inform the local community about these issues and equip them with knowledge about their rights.

## University of London – Refugee Law Clinic

**The University of London (UoL)** is launching the Refugee Law Clinic in October 2020 which will provide pro bono legal advice for refugee clients, delivered in partnership with two law firms. The Refugee Law Clinic will be based in the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) building in Russell Square, London. UoL students, including King's students, will be given the opportunity to help prepare and litigate fresh claims for asylum, an area identified as underserved in the current legal landscape.



## Intellectual Property (IP) Law Clinic

**Our new Intellectual Property (IP) Clinic** opened its doors in the summer with few IP Pilot cases. The IP Clinic, led by Veronica Barresi, will officially be launched in autumn 2020 and aims to foster creativity, innovation, social and economic justice.

The IP Clinic provides free legal advice on IP matters to small businesses, traders and entrepreneurs from a variety of industries, creative hubs and diverse backgrounds. Students advising IP clients can expect to work on a range of fascinating and cutting-edge IP issues such as whether a piece of art or music can be protected by copyright, whether a brand can be registered as a trade mark or fashion clothing by designs. Other students might work on even more challenging cases such as advising a start-up business on a venture involving technology and many other overlapping IP rights.

The IP Clinic will work in partnership with two leading city law firms, Briffa and Bird & Bird. Students will thus work collaboratively with leading IP law firms, IP academics at King's and the wider college community including the Entrepreneurship Institute at King's and the Business School.

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**'My experience in the IP Legal Clinic at King's has been invaluable. The Clinic has provided me with an amazing opportunity to not only nurture my knowledge in IP but also advise start-ups on their intellectual property rights, all while gaining extremely beneficial skills that are crucial for a career in law. These include communication skills, both written and oral, legal research and legal drafting, to name a few!'**

**Dalia Saffideen, LLB Law**

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**'Extreme professionalism and understanding of an area that is rapidly evolving. I was impressed by the swift digestion of our complex case and speed with which we received feedback for future action. I am deeply impressed by the quality of support.'**

**Client**

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