

King's Legal Clinic Annual Report 2022



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The Clinic team



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



Sue Willman
Assistant Director,
Lecturer & Supervising
Solicitor



Anna Steiner
Supervising Solicitor
& Lecturer



Corinna Bramble-Gallazzi
Legal Clinic Coordinator

Mission statement

King's Legal Clinic ('the Clinic') has two key aims:

1. enhancing the education of our students
2. promoting social justice

Our aims are achieved through five objectives:

1. to provide our students with the opportunity to work on live cases, thereby developing their skills and understanding of law in context
2. to develop innovative experiential learning and teaching methods
3. to develop students professional and ethical awareness and instil a lifelong commitment to access to justice for all
4. to provide free high-quality legal advice to members of the public, in particular those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice
5. to engage 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.

“

This was an amazing skill building opportunity. Developing client care skills, an understanding of case management, and advocacy skills in real-life matters has made a huge difference in my pupillage applications. Above all, I will always remember my first client! Helping her has been incredibly rewarding, and the support from supervisors made this experience truly enjoyable.

Lisa Nasselevitch, Medical Ethics & Law MA

Clinic update

The Legal Advice Clinic

The Legal Advice Clinic is a free first-tier advice service based in The Dickson Poon School of Law. We offer advice on a wide range of legal issues including family, immigration and asylum, property, employment, intellectual property, contract, human rights, and environmental law. King’s students work under the supervision of in-house and external lawyers to provide vital pro bono advice to the public.

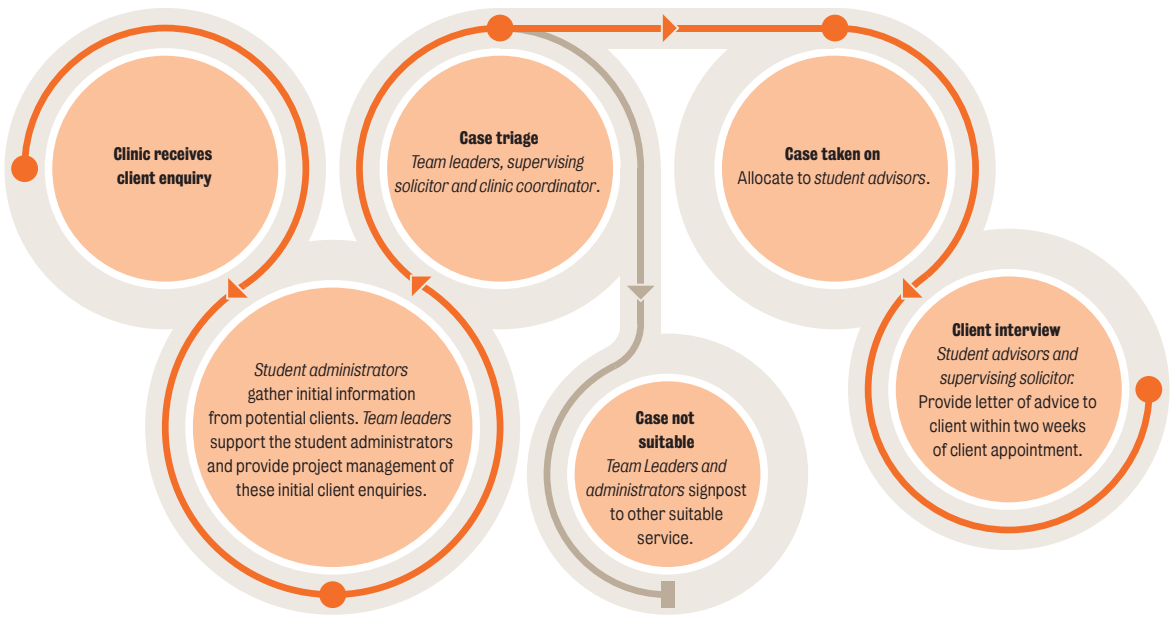
Our law firm and chambers partners are essential to the running of the Legal Advice Clinic, and we are immensely grateful for the continuing support and contributions of Bird & Bird, Briffa, Duncan Lewis, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Stowe LLP, Wilson LLP, Landmark Chambers, and the barristers at Doughty Street Chambers and No 5 Chambers. With the supervision of these firms our students have played a vital role in assisting clients. The student team comprises team leaders, student administrators and student advisors, who are supervised by the Clinic Coordinator and Clinic supervising solicitors.

The different nature of the student roles within the LAC enables students to develop their legal knowledge and a variety of important legal and non-legal skills in an incremental way. Less experienced students can begin their King’s Legal Clinic journey as Student Administrators and then progress to other Clinic roles.



Shaila Pal, Legal Clinic Director; with Ciara Pugh and Jennifer Gray our partners at Stowe LLP

How the LAC works





Clinic update

The Legal Advice Clinic team leaders

The team leaders work at the front line of our Legal Advice Clinic services and provide high quality support to our clients, the Clinic team, and to our student administrators. Each team leader has primary responsibility for one sub clinic within the Clinic and the team leaders work collaboratively to improve efficiency.

This year the Clinic team leaders were Rachel Tong (PwC Clinic), Alberto Chiesa (Family), Angeles Ribeiro Perez (Immigration & Asylum), Carolina Neves Do Vale (IP Clinic). All were previously Student Administrators.

The team leaders oversaw the processing of approximately 400 service users, resulting in 81 clients being advised and 317 referrals.

The quality of work and support the team leaders provide to the Clinic and in particular to our supervising lawyers is considerable.

“

The team leaders provide an enormous amount of help to family lawyers such as me and without the time they spend obtaining information from clients about their particular circumstances, the work of supervisors and the students would be much more difficult and time consuming. I have been impressed with the dedication of King's students, their interest in the issues raised and the way they are able to relate to clients who are going through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Graham Coy, Partner, Wilsons Solicitors

“

I have spent two years working with the legal clinic, as a student administrator, and subsequently as a student team leader. After the experience I had in my first year as a student administrator I desperately wanted to continue working with the clinic, pursuing its values of helping the community whilst simultaneously allowing students to learn and expand their legal capabilities outside of the classroom. I therefore applied and was accepted as a student team leader for the Clinic.

As a team leader I learned that punctual, precise, and clear communication is at the heart of being a good leader and teammate. The clinic prides itself in helping the community and those who cannot afford it and instills its values on all its students. I firmly believe that it helped my passion for volunteering grow and that is something I am extremely proud of.

Alberto Chiesa, Law LLB



Alberto Chiesa,
Family Law Team Leader

Clinic update

Awards

The work of the Clinic was recognised at the 2022 LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards. The Human Rights and Environmental Law Clinic was shortlisted in the Best New Pro Bono Activity and the Windrush Justice Clinic won Best New Pro Bono Activity.

The Windrush Justice Clinic was launched in October 2020. It is a collaborative partnership made up of community organisations, law centres and university legal advice clinics striving to help victims of the Windrush scandal receive the compensation they deserve. The Clinic provides several layers of support utilising the strengths of the various partners.

Staff and volunteers engage in advocacy and feed into ongoing discussions in respect of the Windrush schemes and help identify gaps in legal provision.

Working from start to completion on claims with clients who are often vulnerable, the scheme can offer additional employment, immigration and housing advice. The innovative and collaborative nature of the scheme has had a direct beneficial impact on the community affected with over 100 clients being assisted to claim Home Office compensation with 20 being awarded a total of £1,151,000.



2022 LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards

Clinic update

Collaborative community projects and research

The Clinic continued to work with frontline organisations working to provide access to justice to local communities.

The Protea Clinic

This Clinic is a collaborative project between King's Legal Clinic, Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre (HFLC) and Hibiscus Initiatives (HI), providing high-quality legal advice to migrant women and victims of modern slavery. The Protea Clinic assisted clients from diverse backgrounds, with complex needs including mental health difficulties, language and cultural barriers, poverty, gender-based abuse, and involvement with the criminal justice system. Six King's students worked with HFLC and HI to investigate complex immigration cases and support vulnerable and disenfranchised clients.

Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)

Through the King's Legal Clinic, students worked in collaboration with Z2K to assist their clients in appealing against refusals of state benefits where there is a disability element, drafting legal pleadings and accompanying them at remote or in-person tribunal hearings. This year Z2K worked on 1070 cases. Although the Clinic only assisted on three appeals due to the pandemic, our clients had a 100 per cent success rate.

Kevin Qu, a second-year Law LLB student called his work with Z2K 'undoubtedly one of the most rewarding experiences I've had so far in law school.' He drafted legal submissions and supported a client unable to work due to physical and mental health needs at two appeal hearings, resulting in a successful appeal and an award of thousands of pounds of backdated benefits.

Environmental Rights Recognition Project

In a partnership with postgraduate law students at New York University, King's Human Rights and Environment Legal Clinic (HRE Clinic) launched the Environmental Rights Recognition Project (ERRP) to promote recognition of the right to a healthy environment in the UK and across Europe. This project began in response to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's proposal for a new Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The joint team of students from both universities produced a detailed briefing which was distributed amongst parliamentarians and environmental groups in the UK and in Ireland and has led to a pending proposal for law reform in the UK.

Streetlaw

We continued our public legal education work with the Streetlaw Society, a King's society which seeks to educate members of the local community about the law using interactive teaching methods. Students delivered Streetlaw presentations on a range of topics including:

- immigration and employment rights – in a talk with Shpresa, a charity that promotes the participation and contribution of Albanian-speaking refugees and migrants in the UK
- environmental issues and race - working with the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) and King's Human Rights and Environmental Law Clinic. A Streetlaw workshop was developed for young Black people in Hackney as part of a community leadership programme.



Working in partnership with Voyage Youth to produce and deliver a workshop at a youth club in Hackney has been a highly enjoyable, enlightening and rewarding experience. We were able to explore the issue of air pollution, and the disproportional negative impact on people from marginalised backgrounds, with the young people attending and the youth club staff. In this way, we illuminated this issue to members of the community and encouraged a broader interest in environmental issues in the context of race.

Valeza Ibrahim, Politics Philosophy and Law LLB



University of London Refugee Law Clinic

The Refugee Law Clinic is an inter-collegiate project of the University of London. King's is a member institution which advises and prepares fresh claims for asylum. Since 2020, 15 King's students have helped prepare fresh claims for asylum for vulnerable refugees, dedicating an entire academic year to the Clinic. The Clinic has worked on 60 cases, with 18 fresh claims submitted. Six have been granted refugee protection, three have been granted other types of leave, and decision are pending on the remainder.

CASE STUDY:

Kamal, an Afghani national, came to the UK in 2010 and made an application for asylum, based on the risk that the Taliban might target him – due to his having worked unofficially with an international organisation in Afghanistan. His claim for asylum and subsequent appeal were refused. When he approached the Refugee Law Clinic (RLC) in June 2021, Kamal was suffering from depression and anxiety – which he had been struggling with for a long time. The RLC was able to successfully argue Kamal's case and legitimacy to the Home Office in September 2021 and Kamal was formally recognised as a refugee in February 2022.

Clinic update

External engagement

Welcoming international guests to the Clinic

We were delighted to be able to return to campus in September 2021 and host two educational visits in May 2022.

At the start of the month, over 20 lawyers and students from JURK, a Legal Clinic in Norway which provides free advice to women survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, visited our offices. The JURK team met King's Legal Clinic staff and students to discuss our experiences.

In the second half of May 2022, an eight-person delegation from the Faculty of Law at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, visited the Clinic for a valuable knowledge exchange session on Clinical Legal Education (CLE) practices in our respective Clinics. A number of King's students provided valuable support to Clinic staff in delivering a presentation on our model of CLE.

International action on Climate Change

In November 2021, as politicians and climate activists were gathering in Glasgow for the COP26 conference, the Legal Clinic organised a series of climate-related activities, publicised via social media with support from The Dickson Poon School of Law's Communications team.

The Student Law Clinics' Global Day of Action for Climate Change is an annual event led by law students from clinics around the world. To coincide with COP26, we collaborated

on organising a remote event, together with law students from the University of York and the University of Strathclyde. Student speakers were invited to discuss practical actions that law students can take to tackle climate change. HRE Clinic Student Director Isabelle Standen spoke about her work on an amicus related to a deforestation case in Uganda and Indian law student Sanjula Chakraborty spoke about the Sundarbans Climate Justice Project, a collaboration between King's Legal Clinic, Jadavpur University and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences. The event was attended by students and academics across three continents.

Working with the Communications Team

Over the past year, the Legal Clinic has considerably raised its online profile through news stories, features and videos. Students have actively participated and learned the importance of media as part of a legal strategy. With expert support from The Dickson Poon School of Law's Communications team, we have highlighted access to justice issues and students' work in the Clinic, reaching an international audience.

Clinic posts have connected with a large audience on social media, with just under 150,000 Impressions on Twitter and over 37,000 Impressions on LinkedIn over the past year.



JURK Legal Counsel for Women visiting King's Legal Clinic

Highlights include:

In Climate Justice week, HRE Clinic Student Director Amanda Ignatia, produced two videos, which were shared on YouTube and promoted via social media.

For Windrush Justice Day, the King's Inclusion and Diversity team published a Q&A with Clinic Director Shaila Pal and the School launched a video featuring Student volunteer adviser, Maria Rădulescu.

News stories which highlighted the importance of fair trial rights in the Guantanamo case attracted over 1150 views.



Spotlight

Windrush Justice Clinic



The profound injustice and ongoing failure to adequately provide redress for the victims of the Windrush scandal has been widely reported.

In November 2021, the Home Affairs Committee on the Windrush Compensation Scheme found:

‘Instead of providing a remedy, for many people the Windrush Compensation Scheme has actually compounded the injustices faced as a result of the Windrush Scandal.’

King’s Legal Clinic joined the Windrush Justice Clinic (WJC) collaboration in October 2021 as part of the Clinic’s aim to proactively engage students in equality and racial justice through experiential learning. The WJC is a partnership made up of community organisations, law centres and university legal advice clinics striving to:

- help victims of the Windrush scandal receive the compensation they deserve
- support research on the accessibility and fairness of the compensations scheme
- share and disseminate the WJC clinical legal education model of collaboration.

King’s has a specific partnership with Southwark Law Centre (SLC) and in-part funds their WJC solicitor, Van Fergusson. This year, 20 King’s students were involved in supporting community outreach sessions to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS) and build trust with the elderly Windrush community in Southwark. King’s students also provided casework support to the SLC WJC solicitor in complex cases involving vulnerable clients.

King’s students have worked on seven cases with SLC. So far, three clients have been granted British citizenship under the Windrush Scheme and a number of compensation claims have been submitted.



“

Funding from King's College has increased Southwark Law Centre's capacity to provide specialist casework for Windrush victims. As part of our project, Van supervises a team of law students from King's. They have shown real enthusiasm and commitment... It is exciting to harness this enthusiasm and for SLC to play a role in the students' future legal careers.

Sally Causen, Executive Director, Southwark Law Centre

“

KLC and SLC have been incredibly supportive throughout the process and ensure that every single student feels supported in their role. Not only does the project help to spread awareness about access to justice, but it has educated me personally about the true scale and extent of the hardships suffered as a result of the Windrush scandal. Supporting our client has been a really inspiring experience, and I would like to continue working on this project, or on a similar one, in the future.

Aaliyah Lindo, Law LLB, WJC student volunteer



Windrush Justice Clinic Students at the Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards

CASE STUDY: WINDRUSH JUSTICE CLINIC

A, an Indian national, arrived in the UK with his mother in 1965, when he was two years old. They joined his father, who had been offered a job in UK. A has not left the UK since 1965. In approximately 1982, A's family were told they were eligible for British Citizenship and to apply. They did so and were granted citizenship. A did not apply as he was estranged from his family.

A worked in London from the 1980s until 2013, when he started experiencing problems getting work as he was not able to evidence his status in the UK. A was in Southwark Council accommodation from 1990–2011 but was evicted due to rent arrears.

After being admitted to hospital in 2021, A contracted COVID-19 and nearly died. He was in hospital for approximately five months, and now has mobility problems. The hospital team applied for homelessness assistance to Southwark Council in November 2021, but this was refused on grounds of ineligibility in December 2021; A could not provide evidence of lawful status in the UK.

SLC have been able to provide A with the holistic legal support he requires through the provision of housing, welfare benefits, and Windrush Scheme advice and representation. A has been provided with accommodation and support by Southwark Council and was granted British citizenship through the Windrush Scheme in July 2022.

“

Thoroughly satisfied, they handled my case diligently and were very accommodating at every stage of the process. I have no issues, it was an excellent service all round which helped me solve a major issue.

Client A

Spotlight

Human Rights and Environment (HRE) Clinic

The Human Rights and Environment (HRE) Legal Clinic, established in 2020, is the only clinic of its kind in the UK. Under the supervision of Sue Willman, a senior consultant at a public interest law firm, it has continued to work on innovative and emblematic cases in the UK and internationally.



Student Director Amanda Ignatia (right) with student volunteers for EarthThrive Case

The HRE Clinic is grateful to King's student directors, Isabelle Standen, Amanda Ignatia, Raibat Sinha and Sarina Yamahata, who have gained valuable experience and made a major contribution to access to justice.

Much of the HRE Clinic's work is the result of referrals from NGOs and activists. We work closely with the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) who have referred clients in London affected by different environmental issues. The students' advice is reviewed by Landmark Chambers barristers. The HRE Clinic provides advice to a wide range of organisations, including:

- the Roma Support Group on the alleged failure of Netflix to tackle a comedian's hate speech
- the London Waterkeeper on river pollution in East London
- the London Mining Network on a community affected by tin mining in Cornwall.

The HRE Clinic is keen to pursue novel 'Rights of Nature' (RoN) legal arguments. We supported the NGO Earth Thrive and Serbian communities in a soft law complaint under

the European Bern Convention for environmental harm in Serbia caused by a British mining company.

Harj Narulla, a climate law barrister, is assisting. The aim is to prevent harm to 'at risk' species in the Balkans, whilst promoting a RoN approach. Inspired by Earth Thrive, we are developing a RoN legal toolkit for use by legal clinics, with two law students funded by a KURF fellowship.

Internationally, HRE students played a significant role in research for an *amicus curiae* which provided a re-statement of the principles of international law regarding evidence obtained through torture. At the request of US lawyers acting in an appeal for a Guantanamo Bay torture survivor, students conducted research on the inadmissibility of torture evidence in procedural hearings. The *amicus* was drafted by Professor Philippa Webb and Dr Rosana Garciandia, from The Dickson Poon School of Law, who guided the research. In February 2022, the New York Times reported that the case had had the desired effect of the US government coming back into compliance with international law.

Spotlight

Sundarbans Climate Justice Project

The Sundarbans Climate Justice Project is a unique, transnational collaboration with the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Jadavpur University in India and Doughty Street Chambers, London.



Day one of the 'Against the Hungry Tide' Conference in Kolkata

The project aims to develop a clinical model to address the lack of access to justice for communities most affected by rising sea levels and climate change, such as those living on islands around the Sundarbans River Delta.

The Sundarbans, straddling the India-Bangladesh border, is home to the Bengal tiger and the world's largest mangrove forests. In addition to exploring transnational soft law remedies to hold corporations to account for financing fossil fuels, the work of our students aims to shine a light on the impacts of climate change in the region, with a focus on a decolonised approach to research and redress for coastal communities.

In November 2021, Lord Carnwath, a retired Judge of the UK Supreme Court, and Justice Lokur, a Supreme Court judge formerly of India and now Fiji, helped launch the project. Community members, academics, students and legal experts from India and the UK joined an online event to discuss how law students can help in delivering access to climate justice.

The ongoing research and work of the project, including the development of a new postgraduate module, is ably assisted by Research Assistant Aparna Mehrotra with pro bono support from counsel Krishnendu Mukherjee.

“

This project has been an incredible journey of collaboration, cooperation and resilience. The NUJS students have thoroughly enjoyed the brainstorming sessions and interactions with their peers from King's. The cross-cultural exchanges as well as the establishment of bonds across students from extremely diverse backgrounds is just one of the many great outcomes of this project.

Ankita Chakravarty, Assistant Professor/Coordinator NUJS Legal Aid Society, Kolkata.

The Law Clinic Module

The Law Clinic module is a 30-credit optional module available in the final year of the LLB programme.



King's Legal Clinic Module Students

This module provides a unique opportunity to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the law and their critical non-legal skills, including reflective practice. Students attend seminars and practitioner masterclasses, and work on real-life cases.

They are organised in 'firms', and work on up to four cases under the supervision of qualified lawyers. Students reflect on their experiences and analyse the effectiveness of the law and legal procedures with a particular focus on access to justice.

This year, one of the topics explored was whether the Windrush Compensation Scheme provided access to justice to the victims of the scandal and was compatible with the UK's human rights obligations.



The class of 2021–22 continued the tradition of providing clients with high-quality legal advice with empathy and compassion. The academic performance of the cohort was also very good and the best to date.

Shaila Pal, Director of Clinical Legal Education



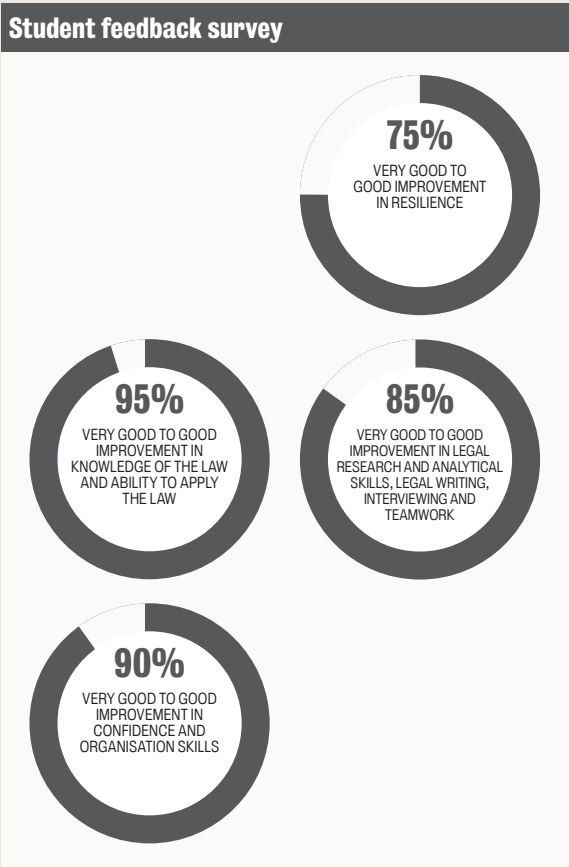
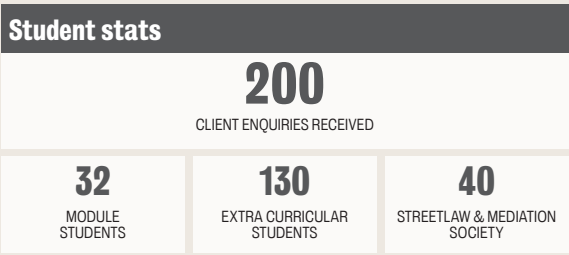
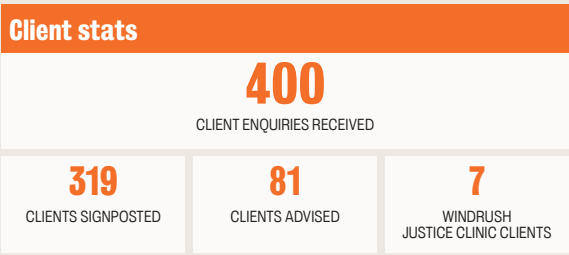
The law clinic module was an imperative experience for my academic and professional life, offering practical learning and the opportunity for intensive independent research. These skills not only enabled me to have a better understanding of the law in practice but also encouraged personal development.

Through communicating with and taking on different types of clients, I have developed a better rapport with clients and colleagues and learnt the importance of confidence and directness in my work.

The Legal Clinic was an educational and enlightening experience, highlighting the importance of the role of university law clinics in delivering access to justice following the cuts to legal aid. Our work at the King's Legal clinic not only benefits the community but also prepares a new generation of lawyers for the realities and injustices of the legal system.

Sara Al Khashlok, Law LLB

Fact, figures and feedback



“
I felt the complex details of my case were very well considered and well explained to me... Really covered the intricacies of the case. Now I know much better what my options are. Very wonderful to work with such a dedicated team.
Client

“
King's Legal Clinic provided appropriate advice relevant to my application and situation. My advisor was extremely knowledgeable about the process and was able to confirm my understanding and appraise the merits of my application during the consultation.
Client

“
With the help from King's legal clinic, I was able to get the desired outcome for my application at a very reasonable timescale.
Client

The future



Housing Law Clinic

The Housing Law Clinic will open its doors in September 2022 to provide advice on a range of housing law issues. Students will be supervised by Anna Steiner, an experienced housing solicitor and lecturer. The clinic will work closely with the local community to develop its service and prioritise those clients who do not qualify for legal aid but cannot afford to pay for legal advice.

Over recent years there has been a worrying increase in the number of landlords in the private sector who fail to comply with their legal obligations and the number of homes in poor condition. The Housing Law Clinic will advise tenants and those seeking accommodation from the local authority on issues such as disrepair, end of tenancy matters including deposits and access to social housing.



I thank King's Legal Clinic for providing such an effective service.

Client testimony

New Postgraduate Clinical Legal Education Module

In January 2022, the British Council awarded King's College London, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences and O.P. Jindal Global Law School the Going Global Partnerships Award to develop a clinical LLM module, *Transnational Remedies for Environmental Harm with Clinical Legal Education*. This module will be taught from January 2023, as part of the Transnational Law LLM pathway. This innovative module draws upon the learnings from the Sundarbans Climate Justice Project to bring forth a unique transnational clinical learning experience for graduate students interested in environmental law and practice. Dr Emily Barritt will be teaching the academic component for King's.

The course was announced at an international conference titled *Against the Hungry Tide: Legal and Extra-Legal Remedies for Climate Justice in the Sundarbans* held in Kolkata, India in July 2022. The event was covered by the Times of India. The HRE Clinic helped organise the NUJS student-led conference, which brought together academics, lawyers, activists and, most importantly, community members from the Sundarbans to discuss strategies for tackling climate change in the Sundarbans including clinical activities for the course.



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