

King's Legal Clinic Annual Report 2024



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The Clinic team



Shaila Pal (centre)

Director of Clinical Legal Education, Senior Lecturer & Supervising Solicitor

Sue Willman (front)

Assistant Director, Senior Lecturer & Supervising Solicitor

Hannah Camplin (inset)

Senior Lecturer & Supervising Solicitor

Jo Underwood (second from right)

Lecturer & Supervising Solicitor

Rebecca Howell (far right)

Legal Clinic Manager

Corinna Bramble-Callazzi (far left)

Legal Clinic Coordinator

Sneha Bhardwaj (second from left)

Legal Clinic Administrator

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:

To provide our students with the opportunity to work on live cases, thereby developing their skills and understanding of law in context.

1. To develop innovative experiential learning and teaching methods.
2. To develop students professional and ethical awareness and instil a lifelong commitment to access to justice for all.
3. To provide free high-quality legal advice to members of the public, in particular those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice.
4. To engage in legal activism and research initiatives relating to access to justice and social justice issues.*

*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.

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 advisors are professional and accommodating. My letter of advice was informative and clear on what options and procedures I can take – the information I wanted – therefore very encouraging to take actions.

Client

“

I am extremely grateful for the advice given by [the Student Advisors]. They showed professionalism and care from the start right to the end. The case I presented to the student advisors regarding the disrepair issues with [a London Council and] following on from our meeting and the advice I have been given, I have now been able to manoeuvre the complexities of the council system with confidence.

Client

Clinic update

The Legal Advice Clinic

The Legal Advice Clinic (LAC) is a free initial advice service based in the Dickson Poon School of Law. The Clinic provides advice in the following specialist areas: family, immigration and asylum, housing, employment, intellectual property and 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.

In 2023-24 the Clinic received over 500 enquiries from the public. Our new in-house family law solicitor, Hannah Camplin, with support from solicitors at Stowe Family Law and Wilsons LLP enabled the family clinic to advise 24 clients on issues including child contact arrangements, divorce, and financial disputes. Our housing clinic advised 36 clients, the immigration and asylum clinic advised 32 clients, the employment clinic advised 23 clients and the Intellectual Property Clinic advised four clients.

Under the supervision of the Clinic's Assistant Director, Sue Willman, Student Directors Jai Gupta, Savannah Sottack, Nousha Nematzadeh-Afrozi and (Andrea) Yuen Lok Yee and a team of students worked in our Human Rights and Environment (HRE) Clinic with activists and non-profit organisations on eight larger projects aimed at having long-term impact for the benefit of communities, in particular to tackle climate change. For example, in collaboration with NGOs and Landmark Chambers in London, the HRE clinic worked on a claim challenging deforestation in Uganda.

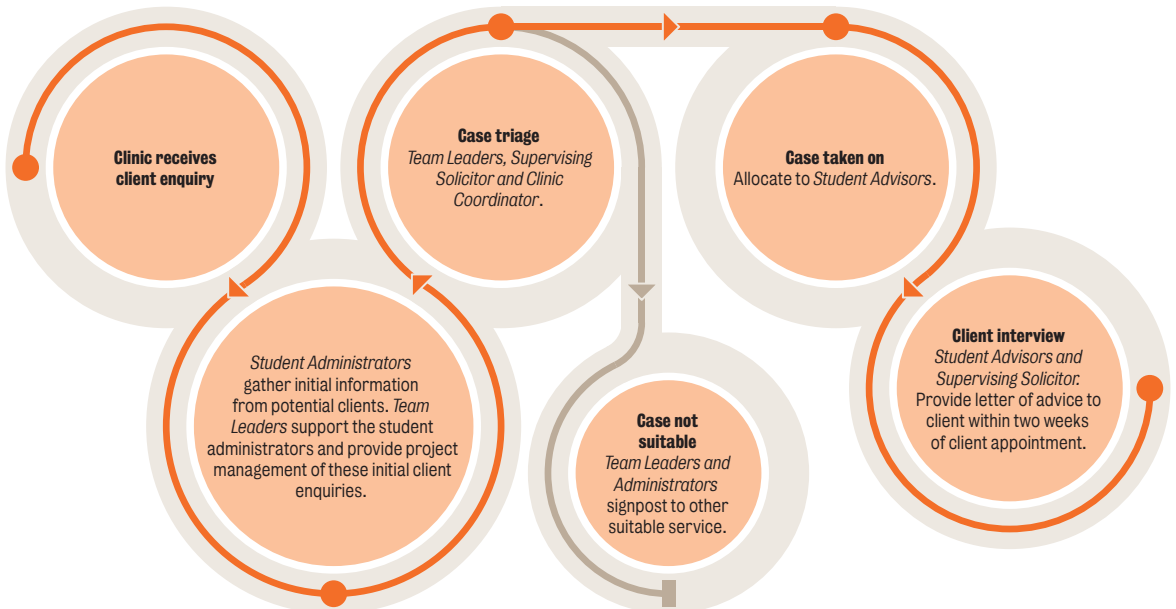
In June 2024, the Ugandan High Court agreed to allow our client NAPE's application to intervene.

The student clinic team is made up of Student Advisors, Student Administrators and Team Leaders.

Our Student Advisors interview clients, review evidence, conduct research, and draft letters for clients under the supervision of our in-house clinic solicitors, external law firm partners and freelance specialist solicitors.

Student Administrators log and respond to initial client enquiries and draft case summaries for review at triage meetings. Team Leaders oversee the work of the Student Administrators and attend weekly triage meetings with in-house solicitors to discuss the suitability of new client enquiries. Each Team Leader has primary responsibility for one clinic. This year the Clinic Team Leaders were Nandini Mehta (IP), Felix Langrock (Employment), Julien Jeagal (Family), Sydney Kagetsu (Housing) and Gabriela Escarduca Da Rocha O'Neill (Immigration & Asylum).

How the LAC works





“

In the Team Leader role, I developed my leadership and communication skills by assisting Student Administrators as they learned how to summarise enquiries and interact with clients. Additionally, the weekly Triage meetings with the supervising solicitors were immensely interesting and I gained valuable knowledge of the law and its implications on individuals.

Sydney Kagetsu, Law LLB

“

The scope and reach of the immigration clinic over the last year has led to a marked increase in the variety of cases, sometime complex, which the students have been presented with. What has been a constant is the students' enthusiasm, determination and a genuine commitment to helping clients. The level of research undertaken, ability to pin-point the key legal issues and present the advice in an accessible way, is nothing short of impressive and has led to many enjoyable discussions at the clinic.

Vicash Ramkissoon, Director of Business and Private Immigration, Duncan Lewis Solicitors

“

Working as a Student Advisor allowed me to make a significant contribution to the clinic, particularly by offering interpretation assistance for a Farsi-speaking client, which was a unique and fulfilling aspect of my role. Through these experiences, I gained invaluable practical legal skills, improved my problem-solving abilities, and enhanced my cultural competence. The role was not just about legal advice; it was about making a real difference in the lives of those seeking our help, which has been profoundly rewarding.

Behnia Naemi, LLM

“

My experience as a Student Administrator was enriching academically and, especially, personally. It provided me with the opportunity to witness the practical application of law in assisting those in need. I found myself becoming more confident in speaking on the phone and drafting formal emails, and the supportive environment in the clinic and the closeness of the team leaders played a key role in this. The direct interaction with clients dealing with real-life issues provided valuable insight into the human side of legal work.

Irati Elzo Arrizabalaga, Law LLB

“

As an HRE Director, my focus has been on leading a project concerning a complaint to the OECD about British banks funding a power plant in Bangladesh which not only threatens the environment, but also jeopardises the locals' livelihoods. The autonomy of directing projects and guiding the research team has enhanced my leadership abilities and communication skills through communicating with clients and attorneys. I would highly recommend the opportunity for someone who is passionate about environmental issues that impact the livelihood of people.

Jai Gupta, Law LLB

Modules



Undergraduate LLB

The Legal Clinic module is a 30-credit optional module available to final year LLB students.

The Legal Clinic Module provides students with the opportunity to gain module credits whilst carrying out Legal Clinic work. It is a unique opportunity to build legal knowledge, develop practical skills and reflect on the provision of justice in England & Wales.

Module students attend seminars and practitioner masterclasses to understand more about legal issues relevant to current legal practice. They will also work on up to three real-life cases in the year, working in teams and supervised by qualified lawyers. These cases introduce students to legal problems, processes and professional skills in a practical

context, providing the opportunity to gain valuable experience before starting paid work, and so increasing their employability. Students also reflect on their experiences for the purposes of developing their skills. They analyse how the law works and where it may need to change to ensure access to justice.

This year, in addition to learning about law in our specialised areas, module students learnt about the legal aid system in the UK, the Human Rights Act, immigration law and how housing law can assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

“

Participating in the Legal Clinic module was a game-changer for me. It was like stepping into the real legal world ahead of schedule. I gained invaluable skills like time management, teamwork, and effective communication—all of which have profoundly shaped my approach to both academics and life beyond the classroom. It challenged me, pushed me out of my comfort zone, and made me realize my potential as a future legal professional. I'd encourage any student to seize the opportunity – it's a practical, enriching experience that you won't find in any textbook

Hajra Taufiq, Law LLB

“

Participating in the Legal Clinic module has provided me with invaluable insights into how the law functions in practicality and shown me the extent of how it can impact people's lives. I have gained a more rounded perspective of the legal system by being able to study it outside a purely theoretical backdrop. The module has also allowed me to develop vital skills, such as research, case management, and interview technique, and ensured that I will feel confident in future professional environments.

Kristin Poole, Law LLB

MSc Law & Professional Practice

This new module is available to students undertaking the postgraduate Law and Professional Practice course and offers the opportunity to interview and advise clients in a fully supported, reflective and supervised environment.

This new module, led by Hannah Camplin, aims to enhance professional and legal skills before students take the next step in their legal career. Students receive in-depth training on professional skills, ethical awareness, and theories of reflective practice before they work in the Clinic.

After the training element of the module, students work in King's Legal Clinic for the remainder of the term. Working in pairs or threes, under the supervision of an experienced solicitor, they interview members of the public about a legal problem, and then research and write an advice letter. This year, each student participated in two cases covering housing, employment and family law. Students reflect on their experiences in reflective sessions with the module leader held after each case has finished, which helps inform their future development as lawyers. Students receive feedback both from their supervisor and the module leader. The module then offers a comprehensive overview of the assessments in two assessment workshop seminars before the term finishes.

We look forward to welcoming next year's cohort in January 2025.

“

Participating in the Legal Clinic module has refined my legal education, offering direct client engagement and practical application of theoretical concepts. This practical experience honed my skills in time management and tailored client service and made me realise the importance of empathy and diligence. It taught me to navigate real-life legal issues, fulfil tasks under tight deadlines, and maintain research and document review standards. Beyond merely bolstering my legal knowledge, the module has given me insight into legal practice's practical challenges and rewards, preparing me for a dynamic legal career.

Harsha Balakrishnan, MSc Law & Professional Practice





Transnational Remedies for Environmental Harm

In 2022, the innovative TREH module emerged through consultation and collaboration with Law Schools from India as a response to combat climate change.

The primary goal of this module, led by Sue Willman and Emily Barritt, is to unite students, academics, and legal professionals from both the global north and south to foster knowledge exchange and awareness of the impact of climate change and explore remedies from a decolonial perspective. The module was established to enhance transnational legal education, linked to the Legal Clinic's Sundarbans Climate Justice Project. This initiative aims to help communities displaced by climate change in the Sundarbans region, situated on the India-Bangladesh border.

The module starts with an academic segment taught from India by Dr Chengappa and from the UK by Dr Emily Barritt to introduce students to the theoretical foundations of transnational environmental law. There is then a clinical aspect taught by Ritwick Dutta of Indian NGO, LIFE and Sue Willman, aiming to equip students with practical skills in case management, client relations, and strategic litigation. We are grateful to visiting lecturers Megnaa Mehta (UCL) and practitioners Alex Goodman KC (Landmark) Harj Narulla and Krishnendu Mukherjee (Doughty Street Chambers), whose input has enhanced the teaching.

This innovative module operates using the Hyflex method, which involves simultaneous teaching with students being present in respective classrooms. Initially the three partners were Jindal Global Law School, King's College and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS). Students collaborated in transnational teams to discuss transnational environmental law and advise fictional clients about plastic pollution. In group discussions, they gained first-hand experience through interviews with lawyers in India Mukut Biswas and Atin Chakrabarty and community leader Subimal Da in India and received feedback.



Participating in the TREH module gave me the opportunity to discover a completely new way of learning that combines theory and practice. The opportunity to work directly with NUJS University in India was an extremely enriching, relevant and challenging experience. I learnt a lot during the clinical classes of the module, whether it was interviewing clients and developing emotional intelligence, or learning more about ethical approaches and writing advice letters and litigation strategies.

Jeanne Kaiser, LLM

Facts, figures and feedback

Client data

522

CLIENT ENQUIRIES RECEIVED

371

CLIENTS SIGNPOSTED

151

CLIENTS ADVISED

7

WINDRUSH
JUSTICE CLINIC CLIENTS

Client feedback survey

88%

OF RESPONDING CLIENTS SAID THAT OVERALL THE SERVICE FROM KING'S LEGAL CLINIC WAS VERY GOOD

84%

CLIENTS SAID THEY WERE KEPT WELL INFORMED BY KING'S LEGAL CLINIC ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THEIR CASE

84%

OF CLIENTS SAID THE LAW AND LEGAL PROCEDURES WERE EXPLAINED TO THEM VERY CLEARLY

84%

OF CLIENTS SAID THEY WERE VERY HAPPY WITH THE SPEED WITH WHICH KING'S LEGAL CLINIC DEALT WITH THEIR CASE

84%

OF CLIENTS SAID THEY FOUND THE ADVICE RECEIVED FROM KING'S LEGAL CLINIC VERY HELPFUL

92%

OF CLIENTS SAID THEY WOULD RECOMMEND KING'S LEGAL CLINIC TO SOMEONE ELSE

Student data

299

STUDENTS

58

MODULE STUDENTS

181

EXTRA CURRICULAR STUDENTS

60

STREETLAW

Student feedback survey

90%

GOOD TO EXCELLENT IMPROVEMENT IN ABILITY TO APPLY THE LAW TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS

90%

GOOD TO EXCELLENT IMPROVEMENT IN WRITING SKILLS

90%

GOOD TO EXCELLENT IMPROVEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

85%

GOOD TO EXCELLENT IMPROVEMENT IN LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS

89%

VERY GOOD TO GOOD IMPROVEMENT IN INTERVIEWING SKILLS

89%

OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WOULD RECOMMEND OR STRONGLY RECOMMEND KING'S LEGAL CLINIC TO ANOTHER STUDENT.



I found the advice to be comprehensively clear, well-structured, and credible.

Student



Very professional and clear meeting, and I felt very listened to including frequent checking that they had clearly heard and understood what I was reporting.

Client



They clearly explained the legalities surrounding my contract, and I am now in a better position to negotiate with my employer.

Client



I found the advice I received to be well thought through, considered and accurate.

Client

Awards



LawWorks and Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards 2024

One of the highlights of the Legal Clinic year (apart from the summer party) was a ceremony at the House of Lords at which then Attorney General, Penny Mordaunt MP presented us with an award for the Best Contribution by a Team of Students for the Rights of Nature Toolkit on Rivers in England and Wales (see below).

Learning about teamwork and collaborating with partners is at the heart of the Clinic's mission. We were delighted by this recognition of the team of students who researched the toolkit: Aparna Mehrotra, Isabelle Standen, Guillermo Gari Ruibaldeflores, Sanja Katic, Saira Munir, Marcus Chan, and Addison Luck, led by Maya Pardo and supervised by

Sue Willman. It was also another chance to raise awareness of the state of our rivers, whilst on the bank of the River Thames.

There was also recognition for Laurent Sammouri, Highly Commended Best Pro Bono Student Contribution reflecting his achievements as HRE Student Clinic director and formerly as a Windrush Student Advisor.

Impact

Windrush Compensation Scheme: Research report and Judicial Review hearing

Comparative Research carried out by Shaila Pal and Elly Nowell, highlighted the continued failure by the Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS) to deliver fair and accessible compensation to victims of the Windrush scandal.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme: A Comparative analysis (February 2024) evaluated the structure and performance of the WCS compared to the Lambeth Children’s Home Redress Scheme, the Horizon Shortfall Scheme (HSS) and the proposed Infected Blood Compensation Scheme. Whilst the report found weaknesses in all compensation schemes, there were particularly significant structural failings present in the WCS which require urgent reform. Some key findings included, the WCS had the lowest success rate and highest refusal rate for applicants, with only 22 per cent of those applying receiving compensation and 53 per cent of initial applications being refused. A range of factors were identified as potentially contributing to the low success rate of the WCS. These included that the WCS was the only scheme where the perpetrator of the original harm, the Home Office, is solely responsible for the initial decision making and subsequent first level review decision. Significantly, all compensation schemes other than the WCS made provision for legal advice and representation for victims.

Legal aid is presently not available and is the subject of an on-going legal challenge by Southwark Law Centre. As part of the Windrush Justice Clinic, King’s students Laurent Sammour, Aaliyah Lindo and Aaron Rajesh carried out preliminary legal research to assist with the challenge which was heard in February 2024. A number of King’s students attended the hearing at the High Court to support the Claimant’s legal team, which included Chris Buttler KC (Matrix Chambers), Grace Brown and Alex Schymyck (Garden Court Chambers) and Van Fergusson (Southwark Law Centre). In a disappointing decision in *R (Joyce Oji) v Director of Legal Aid Casework* [2024] EWHC 1281 (Admin) the court accepted that the process for applying for compensation is ‘complex’, the non-legal support provided by the government had ‘not ... served the Claimant well’ and that the Claimant would likely ‘find the process emotionally difficult’ as the WCS is administered by the Home Office ‘the perpetrator of the acts she has just cause to complain about’. Despite these findings, the Court ruled that the Claimant’s WCS claim did not engage Article 6 of the European Convention of Human rights (ECHR) (Right to a Fair Trial) or Article 8 ECHR (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life). In essence, the ruling finds that victims of the Windrush scandal do not need legal assistance to prepare a WCS claim or engage in the process. Southwark Law Centre is seeking permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Aaliyah Lindo and Aaron Rajesh carried out preliminary legal research to assist with the challenge which was heard in February 2024. A number of King’s students attended the hearing at the High Court to support the Claimant’s legal team, which included Chris Buttler KC (Matrix Chambers), Grace Brown and Alex Schymyck (Garden Court Chambers) and Van Fergusson (Southwark Law Centre). In a disappointing decision in *R (Joyce Oji) v Director of Legal Aid Casework* [2024] EWHC 1281 (Admin) the court accepted that the process for applying for compensation is ‘complex’, the non-legal support provided by the government had ‘not ... served the Claimant well’ and that the Claimant would likely ‘find the process emotionally difficult’ as the WCS is administered by the Home Office ‘the perpetrator of the acts she has just cause to complain about’. Despite these findings, the Court ruled that the Claimant’s WCS claim did not engage Article 6 of the European Convention of Human rights (ECHR) (Right to a Fair Trial) or Article 8 ECHR (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life). In essence, the ruling finds that victims of the Windrush scandal do not need legal assistance to prepare a WCS claim or engage in the process. Southwark Law Centre is seeking permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.



Chris Buttler KC



Grace Brown



Alex Schymyck



KLC, Southwark Law Centre and Counsel Team outside RCJ on day of hearing



Impact



Rights of Nature Toolkit launch



Can Lawyers Tackle Homelessness?



Global Day of Action on Climate Change

Reforming Redress Schemes Expert Roundtable

On the 20 June 2024 King's Legal Clinic convened a Roundtable made up of a range of stakeholders, including victim advocates, experienced lawyers and researchers primarily with expertise relating to the WCS and other Redress Schemes. Chaired by Shaila Pal, the aim of the roundtable was to identify what reform was needed to the operation of Redress Schemes relating to harm perpetrated by the state. Overall, the resounding message from many of the stakeholders was immense dissatisfaction, a feeling of being let down and that the schemes exacerbated the harm already suffered. In light of the Roundtable discussions, King's published a briefing setting out its two key recommendations for reform, firstly the creation of compulsory guidance with common principles for the setting up and operation of Redress schemes and secondly the establishment of new standing public body to act as a compensating authority to enable fair and independent outcomes. King's students, Wendy Agutu, Brightney Opara, and Hanane Zidani attended the roundtable and assisted in writing up the Roundtable report.

Global Day of Action on Climate Change

We attracted leading King's Counsel to speak in a panel debate at King's on the right to a healthy climate in November 2023 with David Wolf KC (Matrix Chambers) and Estelle Dehon KC (Cornerstone Chambers) and Clientearth. Students got involved in firing questions at the lawyers, chaired by Sue Willman. This was part of the worldwide annual Global Day of Action on Climate Change by Legal Clinic. We linked our event to the publication of a further report by our ERRP project which offers a roadmap to the right to a healthy environment. The report led by solicitor Mark Thornton, was circulated to MPs and policy-makers in the run-up to the general election. HRE Clinic students will continue to engage with law makers to argue for the right as part of UK law and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Rights of Nature Toolkit

The Rights of Nature Toolkit: *How to Protect Rivers in England and Wales* was launched to a warm welcome on 24 January 2024, at a packed event at which Maya Pardo who researched the toolkit, Theo Thomas of London Waterkeeper and Sue Willman spoke about how to tackle the appalling state of UK rivers. Nature writer Robert Macfarlane attended and posted about the Toolkit on X, encouraging communities and activists to use it, which has now been seen over 95,000 times. A small King's Impact grant has enabled the Clinic and students to deliver in-person/online talks and workshops on using the toolkit to protect rivers to the Chalk Aquifer Alliance, the Woodland Trust and a group of activists from across the south-east. The toolkit has also been used in local government by a councillor in East Herts to take steps to hold water companies accountable. Maya delivered a workshop on the toolkit at the UK Centre for Animal Law Conference in May. Legal Clinics from around Europe learned about it at the European Network for Clinical Legal Education in Amsterdam in July – it is hoped that they will create similar toolkits in relation to other themes in their own jurisdictions.

Can lawyers tackle homelessness?

Women, homelessness and the law

On International Women's Day in March 2024, Jo Underwood chaired a panel discussion featuring legal and charity sector experts, to discuss women's experiences of being homeless or living in unfit housing. We heard about the barriers women face to finding safe and secure housing and the innovative and tenacious work that lawyers, campaigners and charities are taking forward to shape better law, policies and practice. Speaking about their legal and campaigning work to challenge the UK's flawed homelessness system were barrister Tessa Buchanan from Garden Court Chambers, solicitor Siobhan Taylor-Ward from Vauxhall Law Centre in Liverpool and Jane Williams, CEO of the Magpie Project in Newham.

Collaborative projects



Streetlaw

The Legal Clinic continued its support of King's Streetlaw Society, a student-led society which seeks to educate members of the local community about the law and their rights.

This year the Streetlaw Society, led by Lexi Whitehead, produced presentations for several NGOs and community groups on employment law, housing law and family law.

They also gave engaging and creative presentations to a number of sixth form groups in local schools, explaining what it is like to undertake a law degree.

“

It has been an honour to be the President of the Streetlaw Society. The support and expertise of the Legal Clinic helps us to run projects which are both a beneficial learning experience for students and promotes the accessibility of legal knowledge. Our volunteers are both postgraduates and undergraduates from any degree subject, creating an environment for students to interact where they otherwise would not. The range of organisations and areas of law we present on presents a unique challenge to ensure both the accuracy of the content and also to engage with the relevant audience.

Lexi Whitehead, Streetlaw Society President

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Streetlaw is a fantastic opportunity for any student who wants to develop a client-centric approach to legal advocacy. For two months, I worked alongside the King's Legal Clinic and talented students (from multiple departments) to create a refugee housing briefing for a West London charity. It is a lot of responsibility – but knowing that our work is being used in underserved communities is highly rewarding. Through this experience, I've gained a deeper appreciation of the connection between legal literacy and social justice.

Aliana Lim, Streetlaw Society Team Leader



Collaborative projects

Windrush Justice Clinic

King's Legal Clinic continued its successful partnership with Southwark Law Centre where students assist victims of the Windrush Scandal with compensation claims, strategic litigation and wider research. This year 24 King's Law students provided casework support in complex cases involving vulnerable clients. King's students worked on six cases this year, with four grants of British citizenship and awards made totalling £281,000.



As a Student Advisor in the Windrush Justice Clinic, I had the invaluable opportunity to broaden my understanding of the legal field through direct involvement in my assigned case, and through a judicial review hearing. This immersive learning process has made me gain appreciation for the importance of good case strategy, evidence presentation, and argument formulation. I learned how to quickly shift gears in response to new developments and adapt my approach to help the client.



Chloe Lo, Law LLB



Every year I am in awe of the inquisitive nature of some of the King's students that work on our Windrush cases. They are a much-needed breath of fresh ideas who will potentially be the advocates for the next generation of Windrush claimants. It gives me hope for the next cohorts of generational social justice and equality advocates.

Sharon Anthony-Tewkesbury, Windrush Justice Clinic Project Coordinator, Southwark Law Centre

Protea Clinic



The Protea Clinic is a collaboration between King's Legal Clinic, Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre (HFLC), Sutovic & Hartigan Solicitors (S&H) and Hibiscus Initiatives (HI), providing high-quality immigration and asylum advice to migrant women and victims of modern slavery. In 2023-24 King's students worked with HFLC, S&H and HI on six cases advising clients on their complex immigration and asylum issues. The clients assisted were from diverse backgrounds, with a range of complex needs including mental and physical health difficulties, language barriers and experiences of domestic violence.



Engaging with our client, learning about her life experiences and the challenges she faced opened my eyes to issues I had not previously considered. Observing the solicitor's strategies before, during and after our client meeting, as well as collaborating on the advice letter, was also incredibly instructive.

Tale Tvedt, LLM

Z2K Pro Bono Project

King's Legal Clinic students work in collaboration with advice and campaigning charity Z2K (Zacchaeus 2000 Trust) to represent clients in appeals against refusals of disability benefits. King's students are assigned to a client's case and arrange to interview the client, draft legal arguments and accompany the client to the appeal hearing. In 2023, Z2K worked on 106 appeals with a 92 per cent success rate resulting in £2,203,798.61 financial benefit for their clients. This work has continued in 2024 with 15 students assisting on 11 appeals, most of which are still ongoing.

Refugee Law Clinic

The Refugee Law Clinic is an inter-collegiate project of the University of London, which advises and prepares fresh claims for asylum seekers. During the 2023-24 academic year, six King's students worked on one case each for clients from Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Morocco. All the cases were exploring grounds for fresh claims for asylum, but some also had other live issues such as trafficking and statelessness.



Volunteering for the Refugee Law Clinic has meant I have been able to gain hands-on experience working on fresh asylum claim cases. My work consisted of doing research to find documents that might support our client's case, interviewing witnesses and drafting witness statements. Additionally, I have attended client meetings and proofread documents. It has been especially rewarding to meet the client and to know that you are making a real impact on their case.

Karla Haselhorst, LLM



The students from King's College who participated in the clinic this year have been eager to learn and to apply skills while working on real cases preparing fresh claims for asylum for our clients. They have engaged well with the training and their cases and have worked effectively in their groups with other volunteers to ensure that their cases progress.

Susan Reardon-Smith, Manager and Academic Outreach Facilitator, Refugee Law Clinic, University of London

Westway Trust Cost of Living Crisis Clinic

Westway Trust operates a busy advice service assisting some of the most vulnerable members of the community to make initial applications for public funds, for example, applications for welfare benefits and social housing. During 2023-24, one King's Law student was successfully selected by Westway Trust to join them as a Volunteer Trainee Advisor assisting with tasks such as interviewing and taking instructions from clients, drafting and research.



As a volunteer advisor at Westway Trust, I have gained an array of legal experiences from applying for disability benefits such as Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA), to council tax reduction schemes and freedom of information requests. These opportunities have extended to collaborating with experienced lawyers from Hogan Lovells and Bank of New York. I honed my interpersonal skills through conducting client interviews. I also vastly improved my legal drafting skills by writing documents in a clear and concise manner under the solicitor's expert guidance.

Benedict Sutedja, Law LLB

Housing Clinic

Demand for the housing clinic continues to be high. Students interviewed and advised clients under the supervision of two qualified lawyers and experts in housing law – Jo Underwood, who is a Legal Clinic lecturer and supervising solicitor and Nic Madge, who is a well-respected retired Circuit Judge.

We have seen clients with a wide variety of housing problems, including unlawful evictions, tenancy deposit disputes, problems between joint tenants, anti-social behaviour from neighbours and homelessness. A significant proportion of our clients have

needed advice in relation to disrepair issues in their rented homes, which have included serious water leaks, gas and carbon monoxide leaks and very bad damp and mould that have caused health problems.

CASE STUDY

One of our clients and her young children were moved into a home by a social landlord who we now know must have been aware of the serious damp and mould issues and had just painted over it before the family moved in. The family were unaware of the problems until a few months into their tenancy, when the damp and mould started appearing in every room. After a while the walls were black with mould and slime, which then started growing on their furniture, clothes, carpets and the children's toys, all of which had to be destroyed. The client had been trying for two years, to no avail, to get the problems rectified by her landlord, before she visited the clinic for legal

advice. By that time, one of her children had a persistent cough and one had been hospitalised for respiratory issues. The damp and mould were likely to be a significant cause of these health issues. Students at the clinic we advised the client about her rights and her landlord's responsibilities in relation to the damp and mould. They set out some steps she could take herself to hold her landlords accountable and get moved to more suitable accommodation. The clinic was then able to refer this client to an expert legal aid solicitor for ongoing representation to resolve her issues.



Court Runner Scheme

This year saw the start of our new court runner scheme, within the housing clinic.

A group of students worked alongside a specialist legal aid housing solicitor from Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre, Simon Mullings who is part of the housing possession duty scheme in the London County Courts. Solicitors who are part of the scheme represent tenants who are attending court without other legal representation and are facing imminent eviction

“

I have long said that in my view every person wishing to consider a career in advocacy should witness a duty adviser at work in a busy possession list. While the requirements of a duty adviser are not exactly the same as a trial advocate, there is much cross-over and observing how a duty adviser must interact quickly and lucidly with clients, opponents, ushers and judges is instructive for prospective advocates.

It has therefore been wonderfully affirming to be shadowed by students through King's Legal Clinic. All participants have been thoroughly engaged and had incredibly insightful questions and observations. They have also been of invaluable assistance in managing some busy, some not so busy duty days, liaising with ushers and helping with obtaining information from opponents.

I feel confident that they will have found the experience useful, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with these excellent students. I hope that we can continue the scheme and provide future students with opportunities to see 'coalface' lawyering being done.

Simon Mullings, Housing Team Leader, Hammersmith and Fulham Law Centre*

**Since this report was written we are saddened to report that Simon Mulling's passed away in September 2024. Simon was a respected and inspiring lawyer as well as a kind and supportive colleague and mentor to our students. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Simon's family and friends.*

from their homes. Clinic students assisted Simon in Wandsworth County Court with interviewing tenants and supporting them during their court hearing. They were able to observe the court possession and eviction process first hand and learned more about key legal skills such as interviewing, negotiation and advocacy.

“

[The solicitor] was so kind and helpful. He let me speak with opposing counsel for a couple of cases and lead a client interview. It really was an invaluable experience. Every case was different and equally interesting. As you can tell I enjoyed it a lot.

Alix Pissaloux, Law LLB

“

It was a great experience being the housing court runner at the Wandsworth County Court. I had the chance of assisting [the solicitor] on a variety of possession cases including trespass and a suspension of eviction order. I was allowed to witness client interviews as well as court proceedings.

Siddhartha Bavle, LL.M

The future

Expanding Family Law services

Hannah Camplin, our new supervising solicitor, has worked with our professional support team this academic year to increase the number of family clients we see and expand the areas of family law we can help with. Alongside this, Hannah is collaborating with the Royal Courts of Justice Citizens Advice office to offer support for those who have experienced domestic abuse and wish to apply online for legal protections through the CourtNav portal. It is envisaged that from October 2024, King's law students will assist with the completion of application forms for non-molestation and occupation orders for those who do not feel confident enough or are unable to submit applications online themselves. This will be a project new to King's and will enable more law students to get involved in Clinic activities.

Developing our Housing Justice Policy Work

In the next year, Jo Underwood will be working to develop a housing justice policy clinic with students. Policy clinic work provides students with opportunities to engage in research and work to influence public policies that are relevant to the legal issues that clinic clients collectively face.

The housing justice policy work will begin with research into the impact on the NHS when local councils refuse to provide residents facing homelessness with 'in person' services, instead insisting on phone queries or online forms. We know from initial research across various London hospitals, that homeless people are presenting at A&E because they know their staff team can make a homeless application referral for them, which circumvents their difficulties with online/phone applications. The main reason for their presentation at A&E is homelessness, rather than urgent medical need. This is having a knock-on impact on other public services. King's Legal Clinic, in collaboration with the King's Policy Institute, will research the extent of the problem to develop a policy report to be sent to central and local government, with a view to improving best practice on homeless applications.

Expanding Safe Pathways to Sanctuary: Refugee Family Reunion

With more countries engaged in conflict than at any time since WW2 and over 100 million people forcibly displaced in the world, safe routes to sanctuary are of critical importance. Due to the UK's highly restrictive legal and policy framework, many are unable to access safe and legal pathways such as family reunion. King's Legal Clinic is leading a network of multidisciplinary partners from across and beyond King's to develop an innovative Refugee Family Reunion Project. The partners include DNA analysis at King's, King's Sanctuary Programme, King's Sanctuary Scholars and Refugee Legal Support. Supported by the One King's Impact Fund, the project will pilot a Clinic which provides legal and DNA testing assistance to refugees in the UK, and carries out research which will critique legal measures and improve the use of DNA evidence with the aim of making the system fairer and more compassionate. We hope to develop a sustainable and innovative model of interdisciplinary experiential learning, which will enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills amongst King's students.

Developing Climate and Sustainability Education

As part of the Legal Clinic's climate pledge we are continuously looking for ways to incorporate climate teaching across our activities. From December 2024, as part of her sabbatical, Sue Willman is visiting India with the aim of supporting the development of environmental legal clinics there, through collaboration with Indian colleagues.

Meanwhile King's is exploring how to better integrate Education for Sustainability (EfS) into its teaching. This year Sue has taken part in two workshops to advance this initiative. Firstly, the Law School's Centre for Climate Law and Governance roundtable on Acclimatising the Curriculum: Exploring How to integrate Education for Sustainability in Law, considering incorporating EfS into every module. Secondly, a cross disciplinary workshop on EfS and Cultural competence. The Clinic hopes to continue to be at the forefront of exchanging ideas about tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis with our students in the coming year.

Acknowledgements

King's Legal Clinic is extremely grateful for the continued support and assistance of our partners and King's colleagues which has remained vital to the success of our Legal Clinics and collaborative projects.

Intellectual Property Clinic

Briffa

Ramsay Monime
Laura Gathercole
Saad Khan
Cassine Bering
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Immigration & Asylum Clinic

Duncan Lewis Solicitors

Vicash Ramkissoon
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Family Law Clinic

Stowe Family Law

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Wilson's LLP

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Freelance Lawyers

Kehinde Adeogun and Yin-Wai Wong, Employment Clinic
Nic Madge, Housing Clinic

Collaborative Projects

Z2K

Liam Casey, Pro Bono Project Manager
Sharon Bawa, Pro Bono Project Coordinator

Windrush Justice Clinic

Sally Causer, Van Fergusson, Sharon Anthony-Tewkesbury, Southwark Law Centre
Grace Brown, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers
Glenda Caesar, Windrush Lives
Nicola Burgess, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
Dr Colm McGrath, Senior Lecturer in Tort Law, King's College London

Protea Clinic

Hazel Alcraft, Head of Community and Criminal Justice Services, Hibiscus Initiatives
Farah Palekar, Supervising Solicitor, Immigration, Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre
Nafsika Vasileiadou, Solicitor & Supervising Senior Caseworker, Sutovic & Hartigan Solicitors

Housing Court Runner Scheme

Simon Mullings, Housing Team Leader, Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre

Human Rights & Environment Clinic

Environmental Law Foundation

Sundarbans Project

Krishnendu Mukherjee and Harj Narulla, Doughty Street Chambers
Santanu Chakraborty, Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA), India
Mukut Biswas, Prameya Foundation
Subimal Da, Chetana Sangha
Megnaa Mehta, anthropologist, UCL

Rights of Nature Toolkit

Matthew Dale-Harris, Edward Arash Abedian and Alex Shattock, Landmark Chambers
Alex May, Lawyers for Nature
Brendon Moorhouse, 6 Pump Court
Theo Thomas, The London Waterkeeper

Greenwatch

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ICSID case

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London Mining Network

Environmental Rights & Recognition Project

Harry Balfour-Lynn, Brick Court Chambers
Alastair Holder-Ross, Mark Thornton solicitors

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Michael Chadwick, Department of Geography, King's College London

Transnational Remedies for Environmental Harm (TREN) module

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Dr Megnaa Mehta, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, UCL
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