2018

Editorial: 24th Pilgrim Father's Lecture:
The Right Hon Lady Black of Derwent DBE, Justice of the Supreme Court

Stevenson, Kim


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This year is the 10th anniversary of the Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review and we are delighted that it is headlined with Lady Black’s Pilgrim Father’s Lecture – her first public talk following her elevation to the Supreme Court and an event reflected on by our first year students who are just starting out on their legal careers. In the ten years that the Journal has been operating we have published in excess of 50 undergraduate articles showcasing our talented students’ excellent outputs. We have brought you the perspectives of 10 Senior Judicial figures and provided a platform for disseminating the thoughts and practices of postgraduates, alumni, teaching staff and practitioners. We are looking forward to the next 10 years of growing the Journal and maintaining its relevance as both supporter good pedagogic practice, research informed teaching and enlightened discussion.

This year’s law students have delivered a selection of a characteristically diverse range of legal topics. What has impressed is the depth of thought and the creativity in manipulating legal materials to enable effective synthesis. Each of the articles published provides effective analysis and critique within the subject area which those aspiring to feature next year would do well to follow. A defining quality has been the willingness and ability to make reasoned and confident challenges to the legal status quo with contributors taking on Supreme Court opinions, international norms and density of legislation. The submissions from Criminology and Criminal Justice students this year provide interesting and cutting-edge research on the developing areas of criminality and crypto markets, and an ethnography of crime ‘on the buses’. Adding to this, the Public Services Policing submission on police use of tasers provides strong insights into policing and public protection equipment. Collectively, these submissions demonstrate engagement in methodological innovation and dealings with ‘real-world’ issues.

Our students continue to inspire us and do amazing things as you will see from their personal contributions including making it to the international final of the Client Interviewing Competition, securing an international legal internship and offering personal reflections on legal related exhibitions, talks and presentations. With clinical legal education becoming even more important as part of the new SQE training route we are at the forefront, and once more ahead of the curve, in delivering pro bono legal service, embedded clinical legal education and with sustainability at the core of our curriculum as evidenced in the summaries of the development of our new Med Law and Family Law Clinics.

Kim Stevenson, Editor-in-Chief; Gareth Addiddle and Jason Lowther, General Editors
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