



Legal Advice Centre
Annual Report
2018-2019

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Welcome to the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre



Our Legal Advice Centre embodies what our community, and social justice means to us as a Department. It was a moment of great pride for the Law Department when we won a national award for the best contribution to pro bono by a law school at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards earlier this year at the House of Commons.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, partners, students and clients who helped make this possible. The Legal Advice Centre has gone from strength to strength this year hosting its first alumni event, creating an external advisory board, and being recognised through two Queen Mary awards; one in respect of its teaching work and another as a leader in the field of public engagement. We look forward to moving into the next academic year and welcoming a new cohort of students to work in the field of pro bono and public legal education”.

Penny Green
Head of Law Department

This year the clinic received national recognition, winning the award for Best Contribution by a Law School in the Law Works and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards.

We started two new clinics for 1-2-1 client advice, on Lasting Power of Attorney (The CHOICE Project) and providing Special Educational Needs advice, and saw a



big increase in our community projects. These projects included the first advocacy project undertaken by Queen Mary Undergraduate Students in conjunction with the charity Zacchaeus 2000 (Z2K). The student team have already successfully won £52,000 worth of backdated benefits for clients in the Social Security Tribunal. A new LAC run optional module for students;

Street Law, was also introduced to the LLB curriculum.

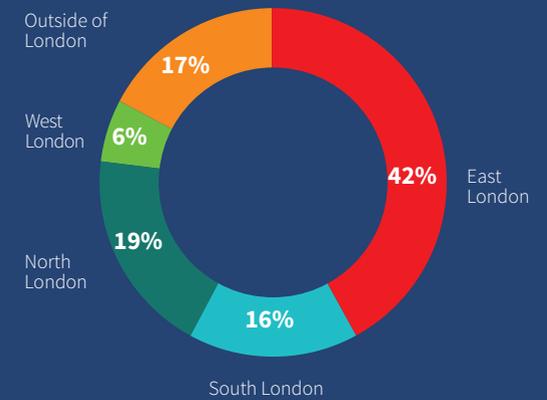
As we prepare for the upcoming academic year we look forward to welcoming a new wave of students, as well as undertaking a clinical exchange with the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago. Most importantly, we anticipate reaching the milestone of advising out 3000th client!



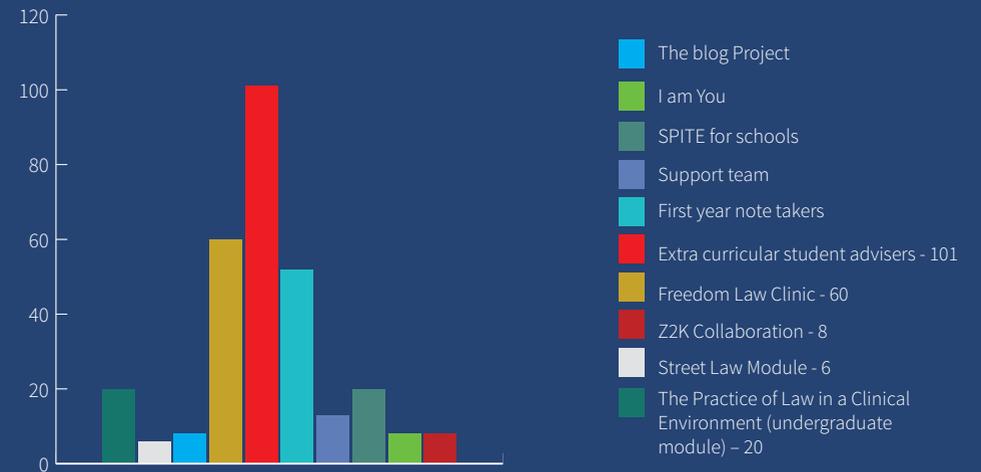
Statistics

Total Number of Client Appointments this year	354
Total number of client appointments at the Legal Advice Centre since 2006	2873
Social Welfare Benefits Secured	51,891.20

Client Postcodes:



Student Opportunities:



Achievements

Queen Mary Law School were delighted to win the best contribution to pro bono by a law school at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards this year.

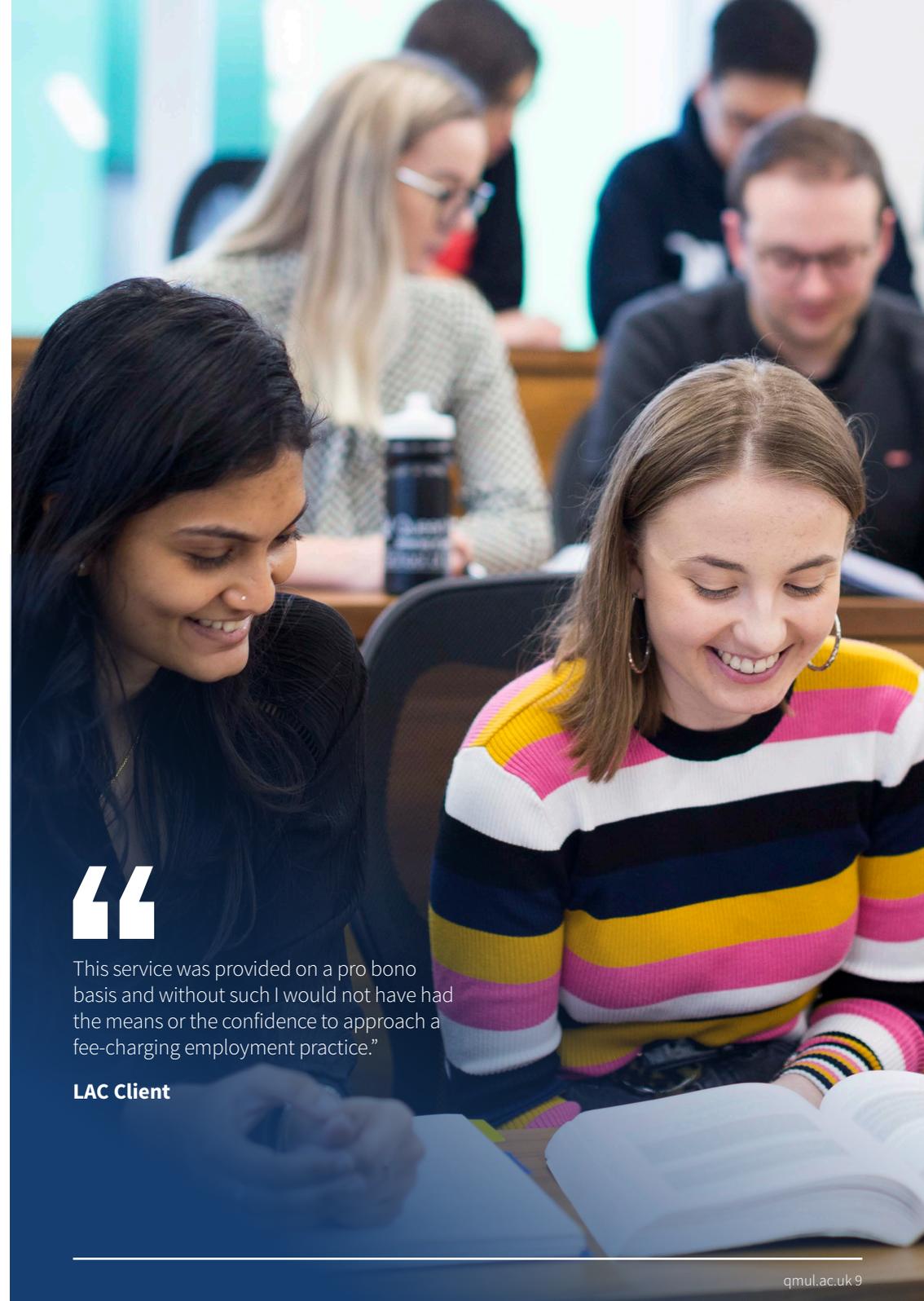


The ceremony was led by Sir Robin Knowles and the Solicitor General. A special thank you to all our volunteer lawyers, students and clients.

The Legal Advice Centre were the Universities nomination for the 2019 Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence this year. Even though we were not a winner, we were absolutely delighted to be selected by the Principal and President Prof. Colin Bailey to represent Queen Mary.

The Centre was also recognised for its outstanding contribution to teaching, winning a Principles Prize at the Queen Mary Teaching and Excellence Awards.

Queen Mary has a long history of public engagement dating back to our origins as the People's Palace in 1887. The Centre was therefore delighted to win the Richard Garriott Award at the Queen Mary Public Engagement Awards 2019



“

This service was provided on a pro bono basis and without such I would not have had the means or the confidence to approach a fee-charging employment practice.”

LAC Client

News

Clinic News

In 2018-19 the LAC launched two new projects:



- The CHOICE Project offers free legal advice to clients on matters relating to lasting power of attorney and deputies. This is in addition to our long standing Wills and Probate advice service.

- The Special Education Needs and Exclusions Project provides families and/or carers with advice on their children's Special Educational Needs (SEN). This ranges from advice on appeals, SEN school support and issues relating to funding or travel. The LAC is very grateful to all the new student volunteers who have worked on these projects over the last year.



News

Community Project News

We were also delighted to start two new community projects this year;



Our collaboration with Z2K enables undergraduate law students to attend social



I am You project is a ground breaking public legal education project which sees Queen

welfare tribunals and represent clients. We are expanding this work from next year to include a drop in clinic for clients to receive assistance completing ESA and PIP application forms, and to fix appointments in order to request a Mandatory Reconsideration where clients have been refused these benefits - <http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/community-projects/z2k/>.

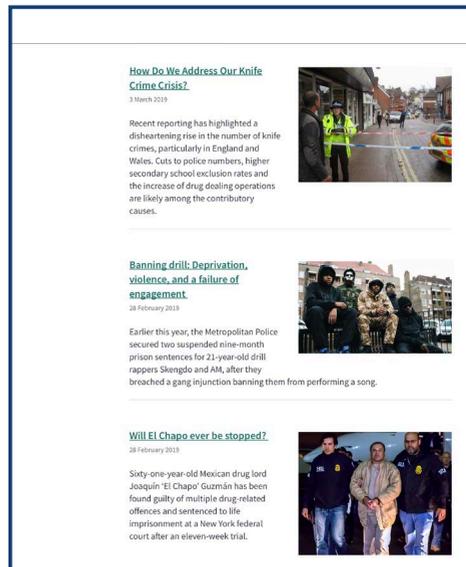
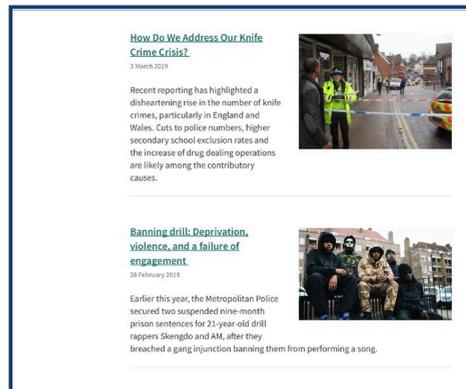
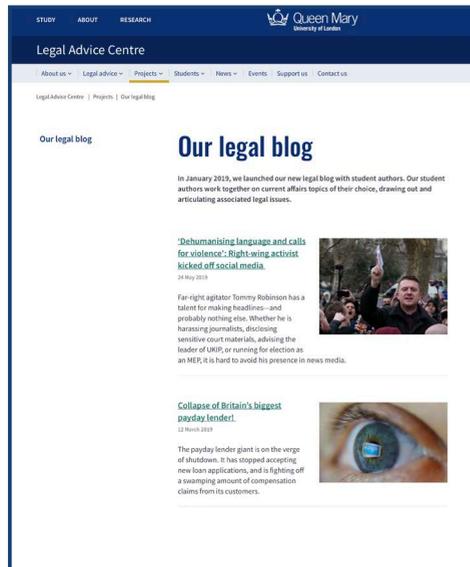
Mary undergraduate students go into a local primary school to deliver a Street Law programme. They work with 10 and 11 year olds to talk about diversity, inclusion and celebrating difference, using fun and interactive teaching techniques to convey the principles of the Equality Act. <http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/community-projects/i-am-u/>

If you are a local primary school who would like to discuss being a part of this project, get in touch at lac@qmul.ac.uk.

News

Other new activities in 2019 included

Our first year students took the opportunity to work with the Law Department team and produce accessible blogs on current legal news issues. Do take a look on our website – <http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/community-projects/our-legal-blog/>



A team from the Legal Advice Centre proudly joined with our friends from the North Kensington Law Centre to act as Legal Observers at the Notting Hill Carnival. There was an order in place under s. 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 meaning that usual stop and search criteria

did not need to be applied. The LAC team watched and filmed police undertaking stop and searches. The footage was then made available to those who had been stopped as well as feeding into a wider strategy plan for event organisers about policing and safety at the carnival.

Student Engagement



Every time I help a client in a case, I feel incentivised knowing the advice letter will assist them making the right decision to improve their situations.”

LAC student

Dominie Patel won this year’s Queen Mary Plea in Mitigation Competition, kindly judged by HHJ Freeland QC and HHJ Baucher.

Zara Mahmood, an LAC student adviser, was chosen to speak at the Queen Mary 2030 Strategy Launch held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the spring. She talked passionately about the opportunities the LAC had given her and about the work that she, and the rest of the student team, had done in local schools with the I am You project.

The LAC held its first alumni event in May. It allowed us to recognise, through the award of an LAC fellowships, the outstanding contribution of William Wilson, Vitoria Nabas and Philip Ogden in the setting up and continued work of the Legal Advice Centre.

Former Queen Mary Professor of Geography, Philip, and former head of the QM School of Law, William, both played crucial roles in paving the way for the establishment of the LAC. Vitoria received her fellowship in recognition of having provided a decade of supervision and support to student legal advisors in the area of immigration.

It also provided a great opportunity to re-engage with our fantastic alumni as well as thanking our current crop of student advisers. We hope that the event will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Our Centre and Students proudly took part in the most successful ever Great Legal Walk and the Great Legal Bake this year, which raises valuable funds for the London Legal Support Trust. Thank you to everyone who walked, baked and ate!



I enjoyed learning about how the law works in practice. Studying law at university and actually applying it in practice is very different, and without the LAC I maybe would not have learned this until I graduated. The LAC provides unique opportunities to students to develop skills that cannot be learned in lecture halls”.

James Lowe

LAC student



I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in helping me with this legal advice. Feeling shocked, distressed and confused, the team were extremely understanding and helpful in every way. When I wasn’t sure I understood something they made sure to go through everything until I understood clearly. They made me feel comfortable and at ease with the tricky situation I was in.”

LAC Client



Student Engagement

The Queen Mary Festival of Communities welcomed hundreds of local families to showcase the work we do. The Legal Advice Centre was delighted to take part.



On day one of the festival the team were situated in Stepney Green Park. Armed with canvassing materials and games we engaged with the members of the local community, promoting our Legal Advice Centre, raising awareness about image-based sexual abuse, and demonstrating how we teach the principles of the Equality

Act 2010 in local primary schools. On day two of the festival, the team engaged children and adults alike to create a mural that represents the community. All attendees were invited to make a handprint and write their name and age, symbolising that we are all different but all belong to one community, Tower Hamlets.

Thank You

HHJ Simon Freeland QC	Anne-Marie Trachmann	Dan Mutton	Emma Rehal-Wilde
HHJ Heather Baucher	Becca Hird	Daryl Cue	Farhan Nathwani
Ahmed Razzaq	Becca Naylor	David Josiah Lake	Fiona Bareli
Akshay Sevak	Brooke Glover	David Nezi	Gautam Lamba
Prof. Alan Dignan	Caroline Croft	Diane Sechi	Giles Bain
Alan Schweber	Catherine Nicholes	Dinali Nanyakkara	Gregg Burrough
Alex Beresford	Catriona Casha	Dirghayu Patel	Hannah Barton
Alex Bromley-Martin	Charley Guile	Dominic Bullen	Hannah Bignell
Alex Sussman	Chenelle Olaiya	Dominic Tyler	Hannah Kemp
Alexander Laing	Chloe O'Brien	Ed Adase	Hannah Redwood
Alexander Whiston-Dew	Chris Breaks	Edel Eustace	Harkiran Hothi
Alexandra Hague	Chris Dykes	Elissa Da Costa Waldman	Harry Eccles-Williams
Alice Boydell	Chris Eykel	Elsa Glauert	Harun Matin
Amelia Evans	Chris Parrott	Emily Balment	Hayley Davies
Ami Patterson	Christina Chambers	Emily Daniels	Heidi Paget Brown
Amy Palmer	Christopher James	Emily Elliott	Helen Dawson
Anarkali Musgrave	Christopher Poole	Emily Elvin Poole	Humam Al-Jibouri
Anna Metadger	Chrystel Marincich	Emily Greig	Hunter Thomson
Anna Walsh	Claire Don	Emily McMahan	Jack Palmer-Coole
Anne Spratling	Connor Shevlin	Emma Bell	Jade Fawcett
	Dan Bryan		James Stammers

Thank You

James Stochman	Katy Walsh	Martha Averley	Neha Vyas
Jemimah Hendrick	Keiichi Shinozuka	Martina Antsova	Nick O'Brien
Jenny Hindley	Kerri Bridges	Matthew Shaw	Nigel Spencer
Jessica Bridgett	Kyri Lefteri	Matthew Worby	Niloufar Yektu
Jessica Good	Laura Harrington	Megan Reardan	Odette Choufani
Jo Henley	Laura Phillips	Melissa Layton	Olivia Rogers
Jocelyn Contato	Lauren Dickinson	Mellissa Curzon-Berners	Paige Franks
Jodie Playle	Lewis Powers	Michael Skrein	Paul Maalo
Jodie Woodward	Leyla Linton	Michael Walker	Parisa Faridi
Joel Gory	Linzi McDonald	Millicent Freeman	Rachel Coyle
Johanna Hess	Liz Watson	Moishe Kritzler	Rachelle Schierer
Jonathan Andrews	Louis Muncey	Monique Marino	Raisa Saley
Justyna Ostrowka	Lucy Grant	Nadia Aumeer	Ralitsa Peykova
Karen Watton	Lucy Isaac	Nasima Ahmed	Rebecca Ryan
Kate Clark	Luke Gittos	Natasha Brown	Rebecca Wingrad
Kate Hughes	Luke Gregory	Natasha Grande	Prof. Richard Ashcroft
Katherine Galza	Maeve Keenan	Natasha Hattab	Rosemary Rollason
Katherine Goatly	Malvika Jaganmo	Nath Gbikpi	Ruth Fletcher
Katie Allard	Maria Patsalos	Nathalie El-Korashy	Ryan Borley
Katie Mehew	Marissa Beatty	Nathan Stacey	Sabrina Polak
Katy Rensten	Mark Pring		



Salma Butt	Serena Fasso	Vanessa Sharman	Yuki Pei
Sam Alambeigi	Shalina Rahman	Victoria Haberfield	Yvonne Kramo
Samita Ali-Khan	Shivani Varma	Vikki Leitch	St Agnes Primary School
Samuel Prout	Shulamit Aberbach	Vitoria Nabas	The AIRE Centre
Sarah Bird	Sian Harding	Vivien Cochrane	The LAC Student Support Team
Sarah Branson	Simon Lim	Will Hayes	
Sarah Tyler	Stacey De Souza	William Dunning	
Saskia Neuberger	Suzi Sendama	William Young	
Sebastian Georgescu	Suzanne Loding	Yesha Agrawal	
	Valentina Carloni	Yousef Hatem	



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