



Queen Mary
University of London



Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre

Annual Report
2022-2023

qmul.ac.uk



Contents

Welcome	4
Statistics	6
News	8
Events	12
Thank you	16

Welcome

The academic year 2022–2023 was a prosperous and productive year for the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre (QMLAC).



It saw a record number of client appointments, new collaborations to deliver Street Law programmes, and the fantastic news that the QMLAC will be moving to a new location on our Mile End campus (having been granted planning permission to renovate 357 Mile End Road).

We were delighted to participate in a pilot project called *School Tasking*, based on the popular TV series *Taskmaster*, and we look forward to developing this further in the year ahead.

Summer 2023 will also see QMLAC run its first summer school programme, where students can work intensively for three weeks on clinical legal education for credit towards their own degree programme.

In this academic year we have been joined by a number of new staff to our team. We welcomed Shubha Banerjee, Patrick Cahill, Mary Abidakun and Richard Lee who supported with two maternity posts. We are also delighted to welcome Helen Cord as the new QMLAC Operations Manager.

As we look to the next academic year we want to take this opportunity to thank all those who so generously support the work of the Centre in a variety of ways. We are enormously indebted to our volunteer lawyers, students, clients and community partners.

Frances Ridout
Director of the QMLAC
(Clinical Legal Education)

“

My time at the QMLAC was unbelievably rewarding, I was able to interact with clients and impact their lives in a real and tangible way. It was so fun planning and participating in activities with younger students. It is a privilege to help them understand the core values which underpin our community in East London.

QMLAC Student



Statistics



After reflecting on my involvement with the QMLAC these past two years, the experience has not only been invaluable in aiding my own self-development as a future lawyer someday, but has also been such a rewarding experience in being able to give back to the community. This has definitely inspired me to continue pro bono work even after I graduate, so thank you once again.

**Sanah Arshad,
QMLAC Student**

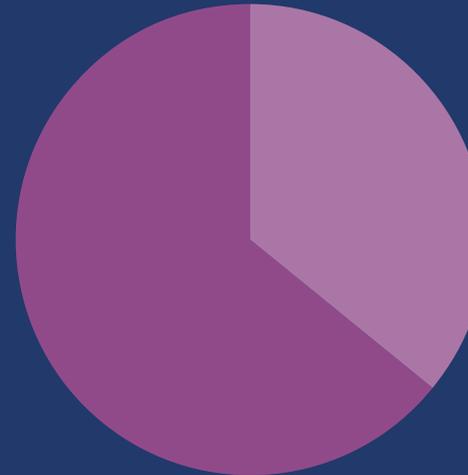


Wonderfully generous and supportive service!

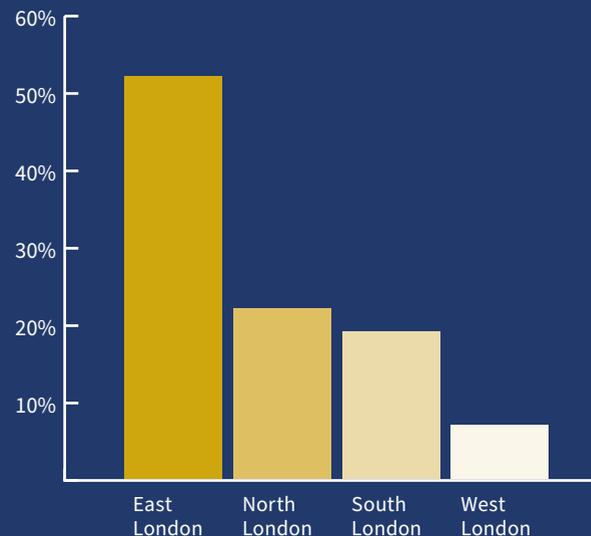
QMLAC Client



Do our clients live in London?



● London ● Outside London



The Social Welfare Benefits Form Filling clinic was a great opportunity to work with real clients in helping them with the legal process of obtaining disability benefits. It was an eye-opening experience to meet people from so many different walks of life.

**Amirah Wells,
QMLAC Student**



The service of the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre provided me was exceptional. They are very skilled and I am so grateful for the advice they have given me.

QMLAC Client

Rosewood House Care Home

On the 29th March 2023 QMLAC students led a workshop for eight nurses at the Rosewood House Care Home on fitness to practice issues.

The event was well-attended and helpful. We look forward to working with the Care Home again in the future.



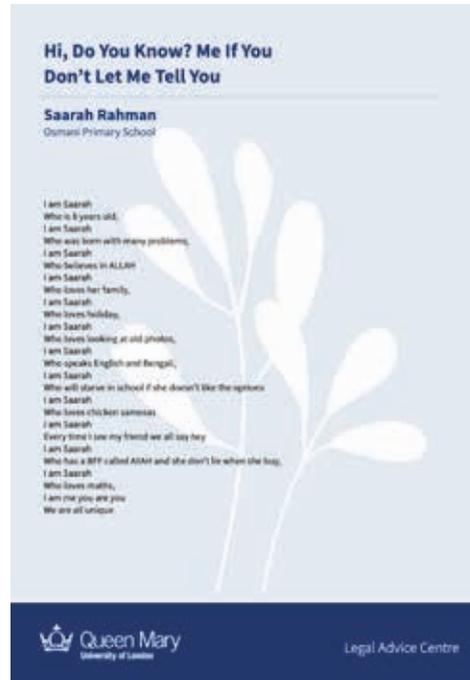
Poetry Anthology

In December 2022 we launched a poetry competition inspired by our I Am You Project which helps raise awareness of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. We were delighted to receive such an interesting and diverse range of entries. All the entries were considered by our student judging panel made up of Queen Mary students studying different subjects. Well done to our winners listed below:

- Ayah Chaibi, *We are all Unique*
- David Owolabi, *Boldness is Key*
- Nafisa Sultana Oni, *Is there a reason?*
- Praise Owolabi, *No Discrimination*
- Safa Islam, *I Am Me*



Read all the entries online. These have also been created into an anthology.



Public Legal Education and Community Street Law Module

This academic year saw a re-modelled version of one of our two QMLAC optional modules that students can take on the LLB programme.

The previously named Street Law module was re-vamped to be a 30 credit module and renamed Public Legal Education and Community Street Law.

Eleven students completed the module which involved weekly seminars and undertaking three Street Law activities in the local community.



I'd like to begin by thanking you for offering such a helpful and fascinating module! I've gained so much confidence and I'm delighted to share that I've been offered a position to teach English to disadvantaged children in September. With this position, I hope to progress to a senior position where I can help a larger number of students and collaborate with other schools to create solutions to ensure that all children have access to opportunities and education.

Nabila Kabir, QMLAC Student

Katherine Low Settlement



Students from the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre led three workshops at the Katherine Low Settlement in Battersea (a charity which works to reduce poverty and isolation and bring the community together).

Students ran workshops on civic rights and responsibilities for parents and children at the Centre. We look forward to working with Katherine Low in the academic year to follow.

Three of our students later returned to the organisation to help in a careers day – inspiring service users to consider a role in Law and / or university.

Summer School

July 2023 saw the QMLAC host its first ever summer school. The Centre welcomed students from across the globe to participate in a three week programme of education and assessment which awarded credits that could be used in their usual degree programmes.

During the course students learnt about access to justice, clinical legal education and pro bono, and also visited the Supreme Court and undertook a mock trial at the Royal Courts of Justice.

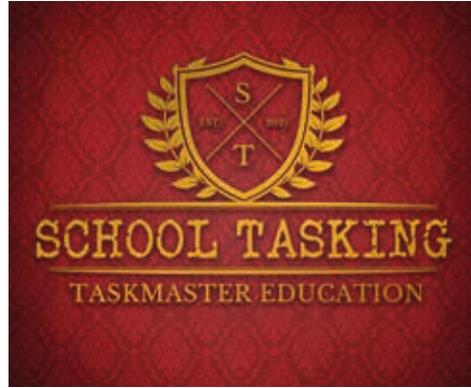


School Tasking Pilot

The QMLAC were delighted to take part in the pilot year for *School Tasking* (initiated and overseen by Warwick University).

The national initiative enables Law students to run interactive sessions on a range of legal topics for Year 5 primary school students using the style of the popular TV series *Taskmaster*.

After a successful pilot we look forward to taking part in a larger national programme in the next academic year.



The Street Law Academy



Our Director, Frances Ridout, travelled to Tashkent, Uzbekistan to co-lead a Street Law Academy for Legal Technical Colleges from all regions of the country.

Hosted by Tashkent State University of Law and Street Law Inc., the four day academy enabled the sharing of best practice to increase and develop the nationwide Street Law programme.



The entire QMLAC has provided us with many opportunities to grow and develop our skills, which will stay with us for life. I am looking forward to contributing further to this department in the next academic year.

QMLAC Student



Events

Insight Day

On Saturday 18th March 2023 we hosted the Future Leaders UK for a fun filled day on our campus. QMLAC and Future Leaders UK have been working together since 2021 on the Community Mentoring Scheme.

Undergraduate Student Mentors from different departments across the university have one or two mentees who are sixth form students from the Future Leaders UK programme. They meet up monthly to discuss careers, university life and personal statements.

Professor Alan Dignam KC hosted an informative talk on admissions, personal statements, and national pay gaps. Senior lecturer John Adenitire spoke about his personal career



journey and taught a fantastic introduction to salsa dancing to highlight the importance of personal wellbeing when considering careers. Our Director, Frances Ridout, and our Client and Student Administrator, Gbemiso Obobo, hosted interactive Street Law workshops called 'Should it be a crime?'

“ The students got a huge amount from the day and for many of them, it will have been the first time university felt like a real possibility for them. The range of activities you organised meant our students got to develop key skills whilst learning about life at university, not to mention having a lot of fun! Our students loved hearing from university students about their experiences. The ongoing support of the QMLAC has significantly and consistently added value to the work we do with young people from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Faheem Khan

Roundtable debate

On the 18th May Sir Robin Knowles (Chair), Professor David Whyte, Sir William Blair, Ida Levine, Jodie Blackstock, Alexander Rhodes, and Monika Sobiecki held a thought-provoking discussion looking at how climate change challenges companies, corporations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), communities, and citizens to redefine current views on corporate social responsibility (CSR) from being a voluntary luxury to now becoming an absolute necessity.



Reproductive Justice Panel Event



On the 22nd May, QMLAC held a roundtable discussion on reproductive rights. Dr Ruth Fletcher (Chair), Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Emma Campbell, Professor Máiréad Enright, Dr Sabrina Germain, Dr Sandra Duffy discussed the overturning of Roe v Wade's constitutional right to abortion in Dobbs, and how public legal education – including university classrooms, law clinics, social justice lawyering, and community organising – can best respond to the challenges and creativities of our reproductive times, and in a situation in which current legal protections for pregnant people can seem quite fragile.

Global Day of Action

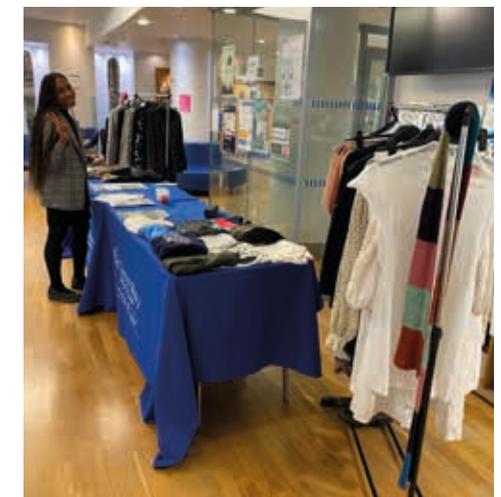
This year the QMLAC participated in the fourth Global Annual Day of Action for Climate Justice on Thursday 17th November 2022. The Law Clinics Global Day of Action is an opportunity for student law clinics around the world to unite for one day and help raise awareness of a specific issue arising from climate change.

The theme this year was Fast Fashion. QMLAC students and staff marked the day by hosting a Closet Swap Drive in the Laws foyer. Students and staff exchanged their pre-loved items for tokens and used these tokens to purchase other pre-loved items that caught their eye.

The event sparked conversations around the mass failings of fast fashion and the importance of promoting circular fashion within our community.

Concurrently, a quiz treasure hunt took place. Participants had to scan QR codes across the campus and answer questions about current environmental and labour laws.

Those who answered most questions correctly got to take part in a lucky draw with a prize. The main purpose of the treasure hunt was to highlight laws that address or fail to tackle fast fashion.



London Legal Bake

As part of this year's Pro Bono week, on Thursday 1st December 2022, the QMLAC took part in the annual Great Legal Bake.

With generous bakes and treats donated by both staff and students, to plank and squat competitions, as a collective we were able to exceed our fundraising target and raised £640.02. A big thank you to everyone involved and those that contributed in bakes or donations.

A shout out to Rinkoff Bakery who made a donation loaf bread which went to the Overall Bake winner – Nikol Konstantropoulou (Law Student and Student Adviser).



Student Exchange



In October 2022 we hosted the much-anticipated (post-covid) return leg of our clinical legal education student exchange with the Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago.

Chelsea Nandlal and Sandhya Ramberran joined our clinic team for the week helping with client appointments and enquiries. It was a wonderful opportunity for students

from different jurisdictions to get to know each other and share the experiences that clinical legal education can offer.

From all at the QMLAC, we want to wish Rhonda De Freitas from the Legal Aid Clinic a happy retirement and thank her for her work establishing this wonderful exchange programme.

Student Placements

Thirty students were involved in visits to Snaresbrook and Southwark Crown Courts, and court marshalling opportunities.

A big thank you to Judge Bruce for arranging these incredible placements.

“ I just wanted to send a quick thank you again for the opportunities you've facilitated by helping connect us students with such inspiring figures in the legal sector. I had the pleasure of marshalling yesterday in Croydon and it was truly a valuable and insightful experience. I gained insight not only into Family law and how the Family Court operates, but also into many other areas; just being able to talk with the Judge was very encouraging, and has definitely consolidated my desire to pursue law as a career.

QMLAC Student

QMLAC Annual Celebration

On the 29th June the QMLAC held its annual celebration. This event welcomes our volunteers, students and alumni to celebrate the work of the Centre.

This year the QMLAC awarded four individuals with QMLAC Fellowship Awards in recognition of their outstanding and sustained contribution. We were delighted to honour: HHJ Simon Freeland KC, HHJ Heather Baucher, Mark Pring and Gregg Burrough.



The Festival of Communities

The 10th June 2023 saw another year of the ever-popular Queen Mary University of London Festival of Communities. This is an opportunity for our local community to learn about the work of the university. The QMLAC proudly hosted an interactive stall where young people could use art and craft to think about staying safe online, and adults could consider what they hoped would be achieved by the current and much-discussed Online Safety Bill.



Thank you

Aadil Master	Andrew Jones	Celine Winham	Elissa Da Costa Waldman	Genevieve Liston-Oakden	HHJ Simon Freeland KC	Jessica Good	Laura Blenheim
Aadya Kumar	Anil Iltas	Charles Hancock	Elizabeth Heighway	George Viopoulos	Hunter Thomson	Jigyasa Pahwa	Laura Phillips
Al Agnew	Anish Patel	Charlie Smith	Ellen Allde	Georgia Dalton Stone	Ida Levine	Jo Henley	Lavanya Loganathan
Alex Lowry	Anna Metadjer	Charlotte Jeanroy	Ellie Houston	Georgina Woodward	Ifeoma Nwabude	Jodie Blackstock	Leah Mereb
Alex Roy	Anna Roe	Charlotte Sandberg	Ellie Taylor	Geraint Biggs	Imogen Ali	Jonathan Kohler	Liam Casey
Alex Shattock	Anna Timoshina	Charlotte Stringer	Elliott Couper	Grace Robertson	Isabelle Higgins	Josephine Martin	Liam Petch
Alex Tivey	Annalisa Gardner	Chris Dias	Elysia Stellakis	Gregg Burrough	Jack Davies	Judge Gaenor Bruce	Lily Davies
Alexander Rhodes	Antonio Suarez Martinez	Chris Parsons	Emily Halcrow	Haleema Punnu	Jacky Khoueiry	Kate Clark	Lily Pope
Alexandra Agnew	Aoife McCauley	Christian Ayerst	Emily Hobhouse	Halima Shakoor	Jai Patel	Kate Marsh	Linzi McDonald
Alexandra Basford	Ashleigh Carr	Christopher Poole	Emily McFadden	Halima Shakoor	Jake Walker	Kate Salter	Lisa Meller
Alexandra Whiston-Dew	Avi Virdee	Connor Underwood	Emily Wright	Hannah El-Gazzar	James Alao	Katherine Goatly	Louis Muncey
Alfie Cranmer	Barry O'Leary	Cristina Caggiano	Emma Armitage	Hannah Gomersall	James Russel	Katherine Pymonth	Luke Bancroft
Ali Fazeli-Nia	Benjamin Burrows	Dami Ewedemi	Emma Campbell	Hannah Mahoney	James Stammers	Katia Vandenbroucke	Lydia Holland
Ali Queisi	Besa Mataj	Daniel Taylor	Emma Sydenham	Hannah Mantle	James Stockman	Katie Mehew	Madni Chaudry
Alice McCarthy	Billy Sin	Danister de Silva	Erin Vandzura	Hannah Ring	Jamie Brazier	Katie Munro	Magdalena Zima
Alice Rudge	Brian Durcan	David Greenhalgh	Faheem Khan	Hannah Ring	Jamie Fryer	Kendal Watkinson	Marette Akibo-Betts
Alice Trotter	Cally Bosnan	Dirghayu Patel	Faye Woolard	Harkiran Hathi	Jasmine Coyle	Kiran Channa	Mark Greaves
Alicia Kaupp-Roberts	Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC	Douglas Hamer	Fazle Elahi	Harry Eccles Williams	Jason Nathu	Kirsty Imber	Mark Linnane
Amelia Culverwell	Carolina Lung	Dr Ruth Fletcher	Fiona Sellers	Harun Matin	Jemimah Hendrick	Kirsty McKinty	Mark Pring
Andre Demetriou	Caroline Croft	Dr Sabrina Germain	Frances lee	Heidi Paget-Brown	Jenny Hindley	Krishma Sangani	Mark Twomey KC
Andrea Carrera	Caspian Heeler	Dr Sandra Duffy	Francois Feuillat	Helen Foot	Jeremy Tobias Tarsh	Kristin Hoo	Mary Abidakun
Andrea Di Biase	Celia Marr	Ed Adase	Gaenor Bruce	Helen Scambler	Jerome Herrera	Kurt Shead	Masuma Khaliq
Andrew Barton		Eilidh Brown	Gareth Rhys	HHJ Heather Baucher	Jessica Bridgett	Laetitia Saad	Mattey Avgustinov

Matthew Shaw	Patrick Cahill	Sameera Abdulrehman	The Revenge Porn Helpline Team
Matthew Sinclair-Thomson	Paul Grelon	Sandeep Ravikumar	The Trustees of the Claire King Charitable Trust
Maya Grantham	Perrine Meyer	Sarah Branson	Thomas Caldecott
Megan Ford	Phoebe Alexander	Sarah Sauvat	Thomas Giles
Megan Judd	Phoebe Jackson	Sarah Tyler	Thushara Collins
Melissa Joseph	Polina Maloshchinskaia	Scott Wallace	Tin Hei
Michael Connor	Polly Furness	Sean Jamieson	Tom Surr
Michaela Hanzelova	Prof. Alan Dignam KC	Shafagh Daneshfar	Tom Watling
Milly Van Beyere	Prof. David Whyte	Shannen Archer	Vicky Lancaster
Molly Javangwe	Professor Máiréad Enright	Sharon Bawa	Victoria Hirst
Monika Sobiecki	Rachel Cooper	Sherina Kabir	Vitoria Nabas
Morgan Reardon	Rebecca Anstey	Shreya Chakraborty	Wan Fan
Nadia Macci	Rebecca Smart	Shubha Banerjee	Wil Kim
Nasima Ahmed	Rhonda De Freitas	Simon Lim	Yvonne Kramo
Natalie Loader	Richard Claughton	Sir Robin Knowles KC	Zoe deRijk
Natalie Matranga	Richard Grimes	Sir William Blair	
Natalie Siemens	Richard Lee	Sohini Saujani	
Natasha Grande	Rob Marsh	Sophia Steiger	
Natasha Parkes	Rob Wilkinson	Sophie Hill,	
Nath Gbpiki	Robert de Souza	Sophie Kilminster	
Nathan Lambrinos	Robert de Souza	Sophie Mass	
Nicholas Owen	Rosa Alexander	Steve Wiener	
Nick O'Brien	Roxana Burghel	Susan Gallagher	
Olie Tilbrook	Sairah Javed	Ted Meddick-Dyson	
Olivia Mcgonigle	Salise Dourmush	The Hon. Mr Justice Robin Knowles CBE	
Olivia Wynne Thomas	Salma Butt	The QMUL Portering Team	
Ollie Tilbrook	Sam Prout		
Patricia Dudley			

“

It was a great relief to know that I could receive such high-level, free support. The team were a great help and are clearly passionate about what they do.

QMLAC Client





Queen Mary
University of London

Legal Advice Centre
Queen Mary University of London
327 Mile end Road
London E1 4NS
Tel: +44 (0)20 7882 3931
email: lac@qmul.ac.uk

lac.qmul.ac.uk
