

## **EDITORIAL**

We are delighted to publish the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plymouth Law Review, headlined by the Mayflower (formerly Pilgrim Fathers) lecture delivered by Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE. Baroness Hale is the only woman to be appointed to the House of Lords as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and later became President of the Supreme Court. Her lecture, organised by the Plymouth Law Society, was originally due to be delivered in 2020 to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower from Plymouth to New England. However, due to Covid it had to be postponed until November 2022, when Baroness Hale presented a wonderfully topical and enlightening review of the pros and cons of a written constitution.

This edition also includes an unprecedented number of undergraduate and postgraduate articles and reports, covering a wide range of topics.

The graduate articles examine a range of pressing issues. Katie Hawkins analyses the legality of corporate greenwashing (false green claims about a company's environmental performance) in the UK and evaluates the need for reform. Francis Pascoe investigates the growth in business of automated decision-making (the use of computer algorithms to make decisions based on data, such as assessing an individual's credit risk), and whether the current law is sufficient to protect us from potential discrimination. Hetty Summerhayes evaluates the effectiveness of English environmental law (in light of the declining marine environment, industrial pollution and endangered wildlife) and the developing Earth Law movement, which argues that the Earth should have legal rights and personality, so that nature and our environment can be better protected.

For the first time this year, we are pleased to include an undergraduate article that was developed from an excellent essay on human rights law. Jake Aston examines the imposition of life sentences for murder, without the opportunity for parole, and argues that under Article 3 of the ECHR, dignity and rehabilitation should be placed centre stage in the UK's sentencing regime.

With special thanks to Hannah Stones, we are also very happy to include two reports from postgraduate students who enrolled on the new LLM Law course at Plymouth University. Luke Dawson reflects upon a challenging 'roller coaster' of severe medical conditions, whilst successfully pursuing his legal studies to Masters level. Robert Nutkins considers his transition from the scientific study of environmental management at undergraduate and postgraduate level, towards advanced legal studies as a tool to help him save the world from

apocalypse.

In addition, three undergraduate student reports reflect upon: a gender-diverse student's experience of the legal world and when to break the glass ceiling (Sami Fison); leaving a successful career in order to study law as a mature student with a young family, whilst dealing with age stereotypes (Emma Jackson); and finally, how varied experience and the vagaries of fate can change one's life and disposition towards law (Claire von Hoesslin).

Hugo de Rijke, Editor-in Chief

January 2023