

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY 2008–2009

Fiona Bee

The University of Plymouth's Student Law and Criminal Justice Society has been growing from strength to strength each year, it is now one of the largest student societies within the University holding around 250 members in this academic year and is the only society at the University at Plymouth that caters to students who wish to pursue a career in the legal sector. Our aim for this academic year was to help students make an informed choice on which career path they wish to follow and supply them with opportunities to start that career.

Our Committee consisted of the following people:

President: Fiona Bee
Treasurer: Sarah Butcher
Secretary: Richard Hughes
Mooting Officer: Mark O'loughlin
Assistant Mooting Officer: Laretta Nwadiogwu
Careers Officer: Alistair Brown
Careers Secretary: Jamie Stevens
Special Events Officer: Joy Ety
Social Officer: Peter Stickland
Negotiation Officer: Matthew Barker

We achieved our aim by organising a variety of events these included Freshers welcome, Cheese and Wine night, Students Forum, Dinner at Lincoln's Inn, Mooting Competitions and Negotiation Competitions.

Freshers Welcome

With great success Peter Stickland and Joy Ety organised socials from the very start of the academic year right to the end. These consisted of themed parties and gatherings at our sponsors' pub and club venues. So I would like to thank Varsity, Vodka Revolutions and Rileys (all in Plymouth) for their support and all the students that made these nights ones to remember.

Cheese and Wine Evening

The Cheese and Wine night for the Law and Criminal Justice society is one of the most important events of the year as it gives students a chance to socially engage with many in the legal profession in a relaxed atmosphere. This year we decided to hold the Cheese and Wine evening at the HA HA Bar upon The Hoe, with great interest in this event we managed to sell out of tickets just weeks after coming on sale. The night itself consisted of lots of wine and cheese and a 3 to 1 ratio of students to professionals which gave many students an opportunity to secure work experience and training contracts. The event was also reported in The Knowledge (The University of Plymouth's Newspaper) as being 'an innovative idea and a great success.' Judge Taylor also commented in his speech that 'The University of Plymouth's Law School is the best in

the south west.' On that note I would like to give a big thank you to all the students and legal professionals that attended and especially to everyone on the Law and Criminal Justice Society Committee who worked very hard to ensure its success.

Students Forum

The Students Forum this year was held at the University. The panel consisted of Judge Taylor, Piers Northworthy, Ali Rafati, a member of the Criminal Prosecution Service and our very own second year student, Matthew Barker.

This evening consisted of three parts. Firstly we organised a debate on the effects of knife crime and whether the government is really doing enough to tackle the issue. Each person on the panel would submit an argument either for or against the proposition after which the audience could ask questions and put their own ideas to the panel. Secondly, each member of the panel would talk about themselves and explain how they arrived at where they are today, what their day to day life is like and would then answer questions from the audience about their career. Lastly, after the professional part of the evening had finished we gave everyone the chance of networking and talking to others in a relaxed atmosphere where we provided refreshments. This event was organised by Alistair Brown and Jamie Stevens who as well as putting on an excellent event, which sold out also managed to increase the Society's contacts within the legal profession.

Lincoln's Inn

Every year Lincoln's Inn kindly invites selected members of the Law and Criminal Justice Society for a student dinner. This event is not catered for everyone as it is aimed at those who wish to join the Bar. After great teamwork from all in the committee this event turned out to be another great success with many students securing mini-pupillages and marshalling experience.

Mooting Competitions

First of all I would like to say that mooting this year has been an all round success due to the talents of students like Mark Harris and David Murray and the commitment from committee members Mark O'loughlin and Lauretta Nwadiogwu. This year was the first time in 5 years that The University of Plymouth's Law and Criminal Justice Society beat Exeter's University Law Society in the Ashford's moot, and by a landslide 60 points may I add. There was also strong competition in the internal mooting, which made judging hard work for our professional guests, such as Ann Lyon, Judge Taylor, Paul Todd, Piers Northworthy and Ali Rafati.

Negotiation Competitions

This year sadly to say The Negotiation Competitions did not start of well, due to unforeseen circumstances. However with help from law lecturer Ann Lyon and committee members Adam Webb and Lauretta Nwadiogwu we managed to fulfil our targets of having a competitive, fair and educational competition. Also the Society would not have been as successful if it wasn't for Richard Hughes and Sarah Butcher both of whom managed the society by keeping up to date records and accounts to make sure all of our events and activities were fully supported and ran smoothly.

I wish to end on the note that it was an honour to be President of The University of Plymouth's Law and Criminal Justice society, working with the gifted individuals on the committee and being part of the Law School. I wish all the best to the new committee and I intend to keep an active role in The Society.