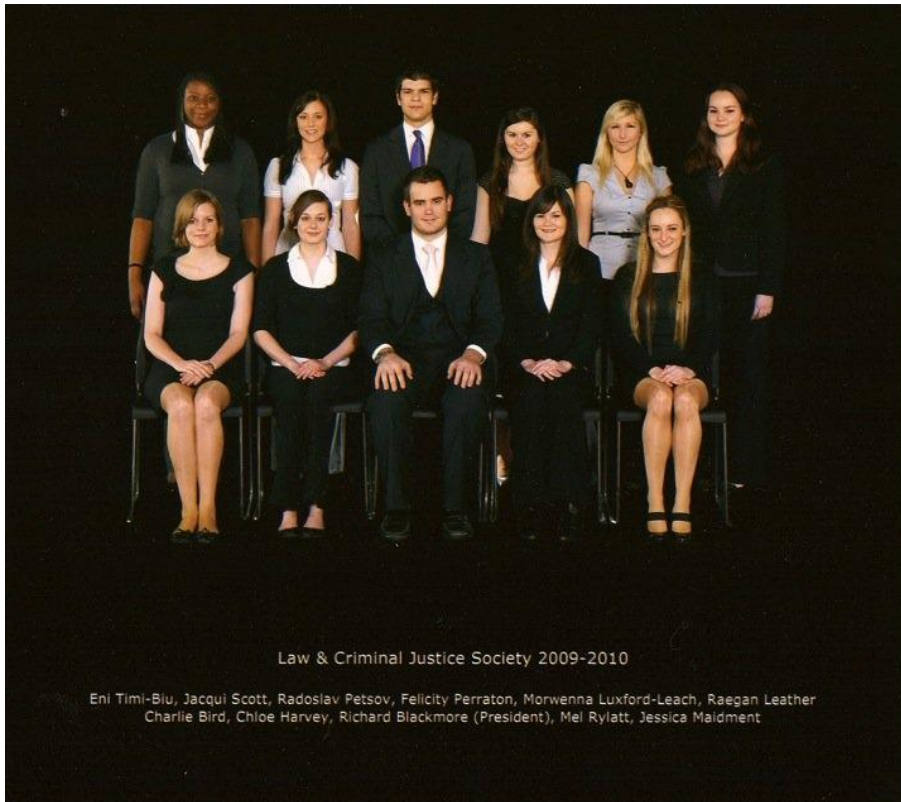


REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY 2009–2010

Richard Blackmore

2009-10 Committee:

Vice President:	Olivia Slade
Secretary:	Chloë Harvey
Treasurer:	Melanie Rylatt
Health and Safety Officer:	Felicity Perraton
Mooting Officer:	Charlotte Bird
Deputy Mooting Officer:	Raegan Leather
Negotiations Officer:	Jacqui Scott
Careers Officer:	Jessica Maidment:
Deputy Careers Officer:	Radoslav Petsov
Special Events Officer:	Eni Timi-Biu
Social Secretary:	Morwenna Luxford-Leach



The Year of Change

At the beginning of the year, when I took over the post from the previous President, Fiona Bee, the Society was very strong but mainly on an internal basis. I knew the Society needed to move forward and wasted no time getting stuck in and so began the Year of Change. We knew behind every good committee is an even better society cohort so Membership was the key to a very successful year. We put together a package that would identify the Society to more people, especially with more precise targeting towards Criminal Justice Studies students. The increasing membership period proved to be a very successful time and gave all of us on the committee a huge boost of enthusiasm.

We began the year competitively with the Beginners Cup Mooting competition, formerly the Ashford's Mooting competition, where we had a first placed team and a third placed team, an outstanding result! Fresh from this success the internal competition began promptly and we also began to apply for new competitions including the Jessop International Mooting competition and the National Mooting Competition. Unfortunately in these more prestigious competitions we were not able to progress through to the next round, although, we did finish with a very respectable result in both [see Charlie Bird's Mooting Report in this edition of the PLR].

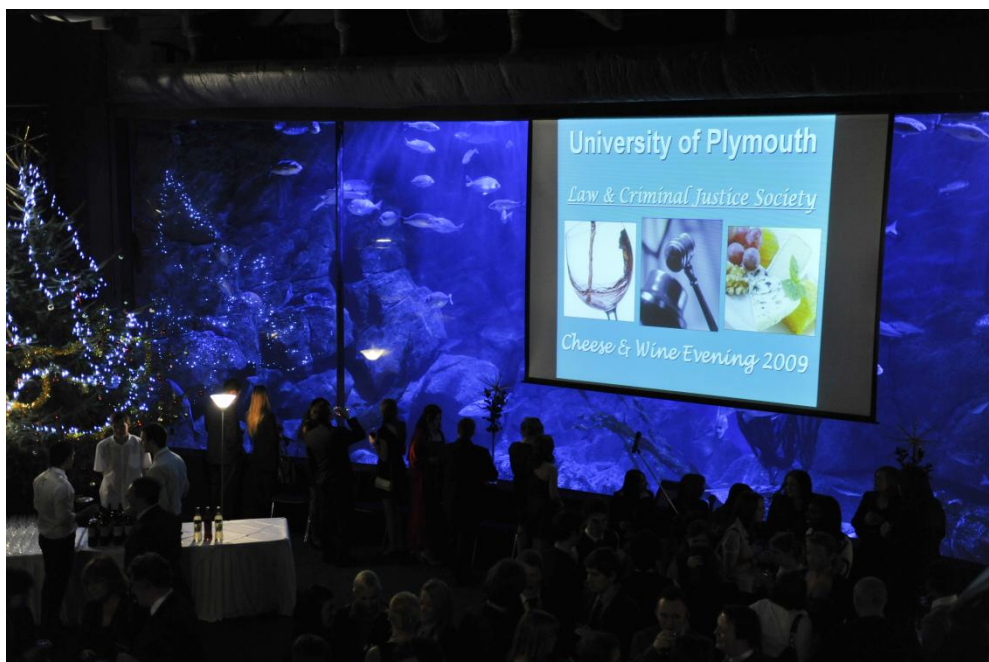
The Negotiations run by the Society have, in previous years, taken more of a back seat and we believed that this needed to change. With the 2009 Internal Moot winner, Jacqui Scott, in the Negotiations Officer position we all had high hopes and rightly so. The Internal competition started well and there was a record interest of 32 teams in total. For negotiations to be as successful as possible we felt that we needed to expand the competition's boundaries so Jacqui was keen to discover further external events. She did so with the discovery of the National Negotiations Competition and we proceeded to put two teams forward for it. After travelling to Birmingham College of Law to take part in the competition we came away with two teams respectfully placed for their first time within such a competition; one to watch in the future for some promising results.

Mooting and negotiations, based more behind closed doors, are events that I believe needed to be more recognised in order for their success to be guaranteed and to grow. This year we have ensured maximum publicity of such events resulting in one of the biggest groups of participants seen in the society in a very long time.

With huge successes through our more competitive activities we were determined as a committee to follow on such a theme throughout the year. This began with our social calendar in Fresher's Week with an introductory social in the form of a Mini Cruise. This was put on to help new students find new friends and get to know their fellow students on the course. This was followed by several general social nights out for all members of the society; some including themes such as twins night. It must be said that if it were not for our strong relationship with the Oceana Complex such social events would not be possible with such high quality facilities.

Developing Closer Professional Links

In late October we started to consider the planning for our annual Cheese and Wine Evening to be held during the first couple of weeks in December and were determined to ensure it was the biggest success of our year, we wanted it to be bigger and better than ever. The venue, the National Marine Aquarium was a unique and spectacular backdrop for the event and one that had never been used before. The Society had started in a year of change for the better and this was one stepping stone along the path to a hugely successful year. More professionals than ever attended the event and over 200 people were in attendance on the night. This enabled networking between students, professionals and lecturers: professionals from not only the typical backgrounds such as Barristers and Solicitors but also members of the Police force, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams, Probation Service, Prison Service, the Judiciary and even members from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, truly the widest range of individuals possible. The event saw business cards being exchanged, work experience being gained and also much food and drink being consumed.



The feedback from students, professionals and lecturers was extremely positive and very significant in the Society's ongoing development, the event ran very smoothly. Relations were created with the National Marine Aquarium that will now continue to build for many years to come. A truly spectacular and successful evening put together by a very strong committee. We had a photographer from the Plymouth Herald at the event but unfortunately it did not make the paper.

Our final event of the year was to be a celebration of all the changes that had occurred and for all the hard work and effort put in by the committee and every member of the society. We booked an evening at the Duke of Cornwall hotel including disco, photographer, food and a raffle organised by the Programme Leader, Joanne Sellick with some amazing prizes sponsored by the main legal publishers including Cavendish, Hodder, Oxford University Press, Routledge, and Sweet and Maxwell! The evening was a tremendous success after a somewhat challenging planning and preparation period that gave us the final boost of confidence and confirmed that the year had been a huge success.

Special Thanks

Throughout the year we have been lucky enough to receive professional and financial contributions from several different individuals and organisations.

Firstly I would like to thank Kings Bench Chambers for their generosity with financial contributions and professional contributions. In particular, Mr Ali Rafati and Mr William Higginson who both gave up their time to help with Judging throughout the Mooting Competition.

Further thanks must go to Devon Chambers also for their generosity with financial and professional contributions. Particular thanks must go to Mr Piers Nosworthy for his help in Judging in the Mooting Competition and also to Head of Chambers, Mr Robert Linford for his help with financial contributions.

Mr Tim Seal and Ms Samantha Lee from Bond Pearce must also be thanked for their ongoing support for our Negotiations competition. They have both aided in the creation of problem questions and also judged the final of the Internal competition.

A general vote of thanks must go to all the professionals who have attended our events to give guidance and support to those students attending such events. I have

received a large amount of positive feedback and am sure this will be something that will be continued for many years to come.

The School of Law has been an indispensable resource for the Society throughout this Year of Change. Without such a supportive group of professionals we would not have been able to run as smoothly and successfully as we have. Specific thanks must go to Ms Joanne Sellick for all her help with advice and also the best raffle prizes I have ever seen, Dr Andrew Clark for his help with financial backing, Dr Kim Stevenson for her attendance and guidance for many of our events and Miss Ann Lyon for her help in improving and Judging the Negotiations competition.

I would finally like to thank an essential resource, friend and member of the Society, without whom many of our legal connections would not be possible to obtain. His Honour Judge William Taylor will always be an imperative part of the Society and not enough thanks can be passed to him for all the effort and contributions for which he gives not only to the Law and Criminal Justice society and School of Law but also to the University.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President of the Law and Criminal Justice Society and have seen it always as an honour. Not only an honour to be in the position of President but also an honour to work with an amazing group of friends and colleagues all striving towards the same goal, to make the society bigger and better than ever.

For the majority of the 2009/2010 Committee it is Graduation time, and time to grow into professional lawyers rather than legal sharks!!!

