



Pathways to Law News

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The Sutton Trust was founded in 1997 by Sir Peter Lampl to improve social mobility through education. As well as being a think-tank, the Sutton Trust is a 'do-tank,' having funded over 200 programmes, commissioned over 140 research studies and influenced Government education policy by pushing social mobility to the top of the political agenda.

The Trust works to combat educational inequality and prevent the subsequent waste of talent, and is particularly concerned with breaking the link between educational opportunities and family background.



Welcome to the first issue of the new quarterly newsletter from Southampton Law School's Pathways to Law programme.

What is Pathways to Law?

The Pathways to Law programme was set up in 2006 by The Sutton Trust and The Legal Education Foundation, with support from major law firms, to inspire and support academically-able students in year 12 and 13 from non-privileged backgrounds interested in a career in law.

Pathways to Law was established to widen access to the legal profession. It followed on from research by The Sutton Trust which showed that the top echelons of the profession were drawn from a narrow range of social backgrounds – and law firms were not making full use of the talents of students from non-privileged homes.

The University of Southampton is one of the five original Pathways to Law Universities. The Programme now has twelve partner Universities in England.

Students join the programme in Year 12 and participate for the full two years of their A Level studies. Students receive advice and opportunities to help them gain access to law degrees and the legal profession through a series of events, lectures and seminars, work placements and a 4-day Pathways to Law National conference at the University of Warwick.

Each Pathways to Law student is assigned an E-Mentor, who is a current Southampton Law School student.

The University of Southampton have 35 places available on the programme each year. There is no cost for students taking part in the programme as all events and travel expenses are covered.

For further information, please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/law



The Legal Education Foundation (formerly the College of Law) aims to advance legal education and the study of the law. The Foundation does this by making grants to a wide variety of organisations working in different social, professional and academic settings, by commissioning research and by bringing people together.

Cohort 8 Work Placements February 2015

Students given a taste of legal life at Blake Morgan



Promising young students were given a taste of life in the legal profession when they took part in a work experience scheme run by Southampton law firm Blake Morgan.

Ten students from Hampshire sixth forms and colleges spent three days of the February half term break at Blake Morgan's offices at New Kings Court, Chandler's Ford, taking part in the firm's Pathways to Law programme.

The programme gives promising young students a clear idea of what it takes to follow a career in law – and the opportunity spend some time in a work environment.

This year's scheme involved students aged 16 and 17 from Portsmouth, Waterlooville, Christchurch, Ringwood, Southampton and the Isle of Wight who were chosen after demonstrating their academic potential and ability in the application process.

The programme, run with Southampton Law School, is particularly aimed at students who have the potential to be the first generation of their family to go to university.

Students were welcomed at the start of the sessions with a speech from Bruce Potter, senior partner and co-chairman of Blake Morgan.

They then took part in two seminar days when they learned about various aspects of a law firm's work and the skills required for a law career, and one work experience day during which they shadowed a trainee solicitor.

Cathy Pearce, training officer at Blake Morgan, said: "Pathways to Law gives the young people a real feel for what life is like in a law firm and in the world of work.

"For some of them it's quite an eye-opener – they go away with a realisation that to be a lawyer, you don't just need to know the law – you need to have a host of other skill sets too.

"This year, as ever, the young people showed enormous potential and maturity. We keep in touch with them – in the past, some have gone on to apply for trainee positions within the firm. We have one former participant who now works at Blake Morgan as a paralegal."

www.blakemorgan.co.uk/news-events/press-releases/2015/02/25/sixth-form-students-taste-legal-life

During the first year of the programme Pathways to Law students have the opportunity to gain legal sector work experience.

Thank You to this year's placement providers for your continuing support:



Cohort 7: Visit to Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf, London

On Thursday 9th April 2015 a group of Year 13 students and two Southampton Law School Mentors had the exciting opportunity to spend the day at the impressive Clifford Chance offices in Canary Wharf.

Graduate Recruitment Specialist, Rochelle Parker, led the day and had lots of interesting information to present. The students existing knowledge about Clifford Chance was tested.

The morning session covered the competencies Clifford Chance look for in applications made to internships and vacation schemes. We also looked at examples of strong and weak CVs.

The students found the networking lunch with the First seat Trainees interesting as they had many questions to ask. The Trainees were extremely enthusiastic, friendly and helpful.

After lunch we toured the building and got to see everything from the stunning views from the 30th floor to the gym, games room & dry cleaners!

The afternoon finished with a Commercial Awareness session.

For most of the students it was their first visit to one of the Magic Circle law firms. The eye-opening day gave them lots to think about for their future legal careers.



'Pathways to Law' at Clyde & Co, London **Keren Austria, Year 12**

As part of the 'Pathways to Law' program initiated by the Sutton Trust, I was very privileged to be given the opportunity to spend February half term with international law firm, Clyde & Co, in their offices in London.

I was first invited to attend a pre-placement lunch on the 11th February where I was acquainted with the 10 other students participating in the work experience program; my mentor (trainee solicitor), my supervisor (associate), and the incredibly modern (and very blue) St Botolph Building. I was informed on the day that I would be spending the week with the marine department, which is a sector within the firm who are renowned for their highly impressive global presence and expertise.

Commuting around London as an 'employee' and not a tourist was a complete contrast to what I was used to. However, this was a fantastic opportunity to expose myself to the working environment I would like to enter in the future – even if it did mean having to encounter a stranger's armpit on the tube on a daily basis.

The best thing about my work placement was that nothing was sugar coated: all the cases I got to work with were real, and the work I was assigned truly proved to be challenging. Admittedly, I did finish my first day feeling like my brain had turned into jelly because of all the documents I had to assimilate. However, it was evident within the week that my understanding of the terminology, and what the law states on the shipping industry had vastly developed. This goes to show how the program was well designed in giving students, like myself, a flavour of the work solicitors have to face every day.

Within the week, we were also set the task of compiling a presentation, which we were to give at the end of the week to the graduate officer of Clyde & Co. This was a very important aspect of the program as it tested our ability to balance our work in the office and communicate with the members of our group, who were situated in different departments of the office. Ultimately our presentation was very successful, and through the task I was able to establish friendships with students from different areas of the country.

The most memorable aspect of my experience with Clyde & Co was being able to discuss with my mentor about his A level and university experience. Throughout the week the main focus was the legal profession; however as a current A level student, I wanted to know more about life as a law student in university. As a result I took the initiative and arranged a time with my mentor to discuss his experiences, which was extremely useful as I was able to receive valuable advice on how to be successful both at A levels and university.

There was a mutual feeling of sadness between all the students who participated in the program, as the experience had stretched us in a way that was challenging yet enjoyable. I am very grateful to Southampton University and Clyde & Co for giving me an excellent experience that has provided me with a wealth of knowledge, which I know will benefit me in the coming years.



Cohort 7: Visit to the Inner Temple, London

On Wednesday 1st April 2015 a group of Year 13 students joined with other Pathways to Law students from Warwick, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol and Exeter to visit The Inner Temple.

The visit began in the Parliament Chamber with a presentation given by District Judge Tanweer Ikram – an 'Introduction to the Bar'. He talked about life as a Barrister and the route he took in his education and career to become a District Judge. He suggested that students should join a drama group or debating society to help enhance their public

speaking skills and confidence. He also highlighted the importance of keeping up-to-date with the current news affairs.

Following a short Q&A session, the students had the opportunity to network and catch up with friends from other Universities that they had met at the National Pathways to Law Conference last summer.

The students returned to the Parliament Chamber for a panel discussion on 'Life as a Barrister' with a Q&A session. Students had the opportunity to put their questions to the panel of barristers and hear further stories about what it is really like to work as a barrister.

Finally, the students split into smaller groups and took part in role-play Plea in Mitigation & Legal case exercises. There was even an opportunity to try on a barrister's wig & robes.

'Othello on Trial'

11 Pathways to Law students participated in a workshop with Globe Education and the Royal Courts of Justice

In a new collaboration project between the Royal Courts of Justice and the Education team at the Globe Theatre, the two-day workshop allows students to explore the legal themes in Shakespeare's Othello. This project was suitable for Pathways to Law students with an interest in a career at the Bar, as it focused on performance and the development of speaking and debating skills.

The first day saw the students participating in a Lecture & Practical Drama Workshop with Mary McNulty, Globe Education Learning Consultant, at The Globe Theatre in London. The informative lecture explored the similarities between actors and lawyers. The law features in many of Shakespeare's plays.

The workshop began with the students fighting a 'duel'. The aim of the duel being to strike the opponents hand placed behind their back.

Through a series of exercises, the students explored and discussed the emotive language Shakespeare uses in Othello.

With the discussions from the morning's lecture & workshop fresh in our minds, we took our seats in the Upper Gallery to watch a performance of Othello, set during the First World War.



The second day involved the preparation for the mock trial of 'Othello' at the Royal Courts of Justice. Each student was assigned a role as a character from Othello, as defence or prosecution barristers.



In the afternoon, the workshop moved to Court 9 in the Royal Courts of Justice. The courtroom was explained in detail and the mock trial set up – Judge, Clerk and Barristers donning their wigs & robes.

The students' performance of the mock trial was extremely impressive given that they had only an hour and a half to prepare. For most of the students it was their first experience of a court and a mock trial. Each student took his or her role seriously and the court was captivated by the drama of the trial. The students were all buzzing with excitement once the trial had finished and wanted to perform the trial again.

Upcoming Events

July 2015

Cohort 7 National Graduation at The Law Society, London

20th-23rd July 2015

Cohort 8 Pathways to Law National Conference at the University of Warwick

Save the Date

Early September

Applications for Pathways to Law programme 2015 open

30th October 2015

Cohort 8 Debate Day at The Supreme Court, London

Keep in Touch

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The Sutton Trust website:

<http://www.suttontrust.com/programmes/pathways-to-law/>