

# University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic

**Annual Report 24/25**



# WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I present the inaugural annual report of the Global Legal Clinic, which highlights the exemplary contributions our students have made in supporting some of the most vulnerable communities at the local, national, and international levels.

In a remarkably short period, our students' dedication to client care, access to justice, and the rule of law not only laid the foundation for the Clinic's launch but also played a pivotal role in its transformation into a community for students and a vehicle for promoting access to justice. The Clinic has played a key role in transforming students into global reflective practitioners who have the key skills to address local, national, and global challenges and to transform the world around them.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our sponsor, Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors, and in particular to their Personal Injury Partner, Daniel Denton, for their continued and generous support. I also extend my thanks to the Global Pro Bono Bar Association, Citizens Advice Southampton, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Pro Bono Committee, SARC, and the UK Centre for Animal Law. These valued collaborations and partnerships have enabled us to provide our students with meaningful transnational legal experience, as well as opportunities to engage with legal professionals both within the UK and internationally.

**Dr Omar Madhloom, Director of the Legal Clinic and Pro Bono**



School Year 23/24



110

active student  
case workers

School Year 24/25



141

active student  
case workers

## A few words from our sponsors Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors:

*"Hodge, Jones & Allen are very proud to be sponsoring the Southampton Global Legal Clinic. The clinic is expertly led by Omar, Claire and the team and this shines through in the professionalism displayed by the students. It has been truly inspiring to witness the commitment, determination, enthusiasm and personal development of the students. They are an absolute credit to the University. It is obvious to me that the future of the legal profession is in good hands."*

**Daniel Denton, Partner at Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors**

**HODGE JONES & ALLEN**

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## LAUNCH

On the 26th of February 2024, the Launch Event commemorating the official kick-off of the Legal Clinic took place. The event featured a speech and ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Solicitor General, Robert Courts KC MP. Also in attendance were the Dean, Professor Jo Swaffield, Professor Jane Falkingham from the VC office, and our Head of School, Professor Werner Scholtz. After the ceremony, the Legal Clinic Committee and advisors in attendance had the opportunity to attend a networking session and a panel promoting government legal careers.



Global Legal Clinic Student Committee President Sophia Hamdam said the Clinic will help people hit hardest by legal aid cutbacks and the cost-of-living crisis. She stated: “Anyone can come to us for free legal advice, and we will even go to court to support our clients. It will be an invaluable experience for us all on the degree.”

# HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT PRO BONO COMMITTEE

On Thursday the 23rd of November 2023, the Law School hosted a hybrid event aimed at inviting stakeholders to decide whether they wished to form a regional pro bono committee. The Law School's Legal Clinic Director, Dr Omar Madhloom, organised this event with support from Toby Brown, a barrister at South Square Chambers and Chair of the steering group of the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee of England & Wales, and Chair of the UK Pro Bono Week organising committee, and Charlotte Mallin-Martin, a barrister at Guildhall Chambers, and the Western Circuit's pro bono officer.

Those in attendance unanimously voted in favour of establishing a regional pro bono committee and elected Mo Aldridge, solicitor and partner at Jasper Vincent Solicitors (and current President of the Hampshire Law Society) and Dr Madhloom as Co-Chairs of the Committee. HHJ Glen and HHJ Levey kindly agreed to act as honorary presidents. The Committee's membership comprises barristers, solicitors, university law clinics, and third sector organisations, and aimed to promote access to justice in the community.

Quote from Danica Custance, Student Committee Liaison: "This is an incredible experience that I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of this community as it strives to bring greater access to justice to our area."

Quote from Jake Dolendo Hernandez, Student Committee Liaison: "The Committee has been such a supportive network offering advice and guidance during my time at the University of Southampton, whether it's CV support or with personal studies!"

*This is an incredible experience that I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of this community as it strives to bring greater access to justice to our area."*

**Danica Custance, Student Committee Liaison**

*The Committee has been such a supportive network offering advice and guidance during my time at the University of Southampton, whether it's CV support or with personal studies!"*

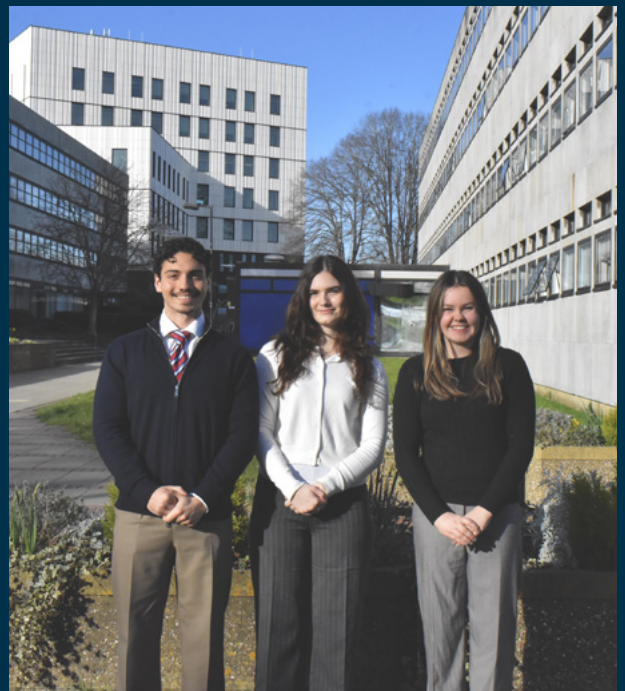
**Quote from Jake Dolendo Hernandez, Student Committee Liaison**

# GLOBAL LEGAL CLINIC STUDENT COMMITTEE

An integral part of the Global Legal Clinic is our student committee. The committee not only support the clinic in their varying roles, they also independently organise social events, promote the clinic, organise recruitment and so much more. From coordinating projects to managing the social media accounts, their dedication to promoting pro bono activities is unparalleled.

*"As President of the Legal Clinic, I have helped grow the Clinic from an idea into an award-winning, nationally recognised practice. Without a doubt, my two-year tenure has been the best part of my university experience. It's been a pleasure working with Clinic Director Omar Madhloom, the advisors, the committee and our brilliant admin team. As student advisor and President, the experience I have gained will stay with me throughout my future career and beyond. Above all, I am proud of the Clinic's impact on people, making a real difference to our community, and ensuring access to legal aid. I am so excited to see how the Clinic continues to grow, and even though my time has ended, I am proud to be a part of its alumni community."*

**Quote from Sophia Hamdan, Committee President**







*“One of the most rewarding aspects of my time at the University of Southampton has been volunteering at the Legal Clinic. Applying legal theory to real-world scenarios through pro bono work has been an invaluable experience, both in shaping my own professional development and in making a real impact on the local community.”*

**Quote from Maddy Nicholl, Committee Co-Vice President**

## LIVE CLIENT CASES

One of the main components of the Global Legal Clinic is our live client clinic. Launched in February of 2024, this exciting experience has allowed student case workers to assist members of the public with their legal issues spanning several areas of law including Housing, Employment and Contract disputes. Giving our students hands on experience combating legal issues and developing both their soft and hard skills like interviewing skills, legal writing. Over the past year we have helped over 100 clients successfully supporting them through their legal issues or signposting them to onto available support in the area. This will continue to be a staple of the clinic going forward and we will continue to support as many clients as possible.

*“The Live Client Clinic gives the student invaluable experience and allows them to start developing the skill needed to become successful lawyers early on in their legal careers. While also ensuring members of the community are receiving much needed legal help. It is an initiative that I wish I could have been involved with as a student.”*

**Quote from Keagan Smith, Clinic Supervisory Solicitor**



*“I appreciate the time taken by the two students at the meeting and the follow up letter. The letter picked up on all of the questions I had put at the meeting and so was very helpful.”*



*“Very pleased with the services received, communicated extremely well and feel very well informed. They helped me understand where I stand with the legal matter, they supported and navigated me to the next step.”*



*“The advice I received was clear, concise and very helpful. I would recommend this service as an excellent alternative to paid legal advice.”*



*“I wanted to thank you for your support and the meeting we had. It was very reassuring to know that there would be further venues I can pursue if the management company does not live up to its obligations! I very much appreciate your time and expertise.”*



## Client Feedback data:



**18 client responses**  
from Feb 24 to Feb 25

### How satisfied are you with the advice you received from the Student Case Workers?

Very Satisfied = 11

Satisfied = 7



### Did the advice you received help you understand the legal issues?

Yes = 18

No = 0



### Did the advice or help you received reduce your level of stress?

Yes = 17

No = 1



### How would you rate the Student Advisors' overall performance?

Excellent = 13

Good = 5



### How likely are you to recommend this course to a friend or colleague?

Extremely likely = 12

Likely = 6



**Client case data:** From Feb 24 to Feb 25 accepted

**217**

client cases



**120**

clients  
interviewed

## JLAP

Junior Lawyers Against Poverty (JLAP) is a network of students and early-career legal professionals committed to tackling one of the world's most pressing challenges—the eradication of poverty—by promoting global access to justice and advancing legal education.

*"I have loved getting to work with the other JLAP leads on the development of our invaluable student guide handbook, and collaborating with other JLAP university members such as Cambridge and Bristol, by supporting them in developing their own handbooks."*

**Mariam El Masmoudi Garcia, Student Committee JLAP Co-Lead**

*"A huge highlight of my time as one of the JLAP leads, is the student handbook we worked on. It feels good to be able to create something that is accessible to a range of people, not just one group."* **Saleema Flynn, Student Committee JLAP Co-Lead**

*"As a co-lead I played a key role in promoting access to justice and legal education. Collaborating with professionals and universities in other jurisdictions, I developed key skills in legal research, teamwork and project management."* **Malachi Eboda Quote, Student Committee JLAP Co-Lead**





# OTHER CLINICS

## 1. A-Law

The UK Centre for Animal Law (A-Law) is a charity that brings together lawyers and other professionals interested in animal protection law to share experience and to harness that expertise for the benefit of animals. Our clinic students have had the opportunity to assist with research for the A-Law podcasts and to create posts for A-Laws social media platforms. Two students assisted with social media marketing for the A-Law 'Talking Animal Law' podcast and 'Cats Protection'. You can view the podcasts here: <https://www.alaw.org.uk/podcast/>

## 2. ELF

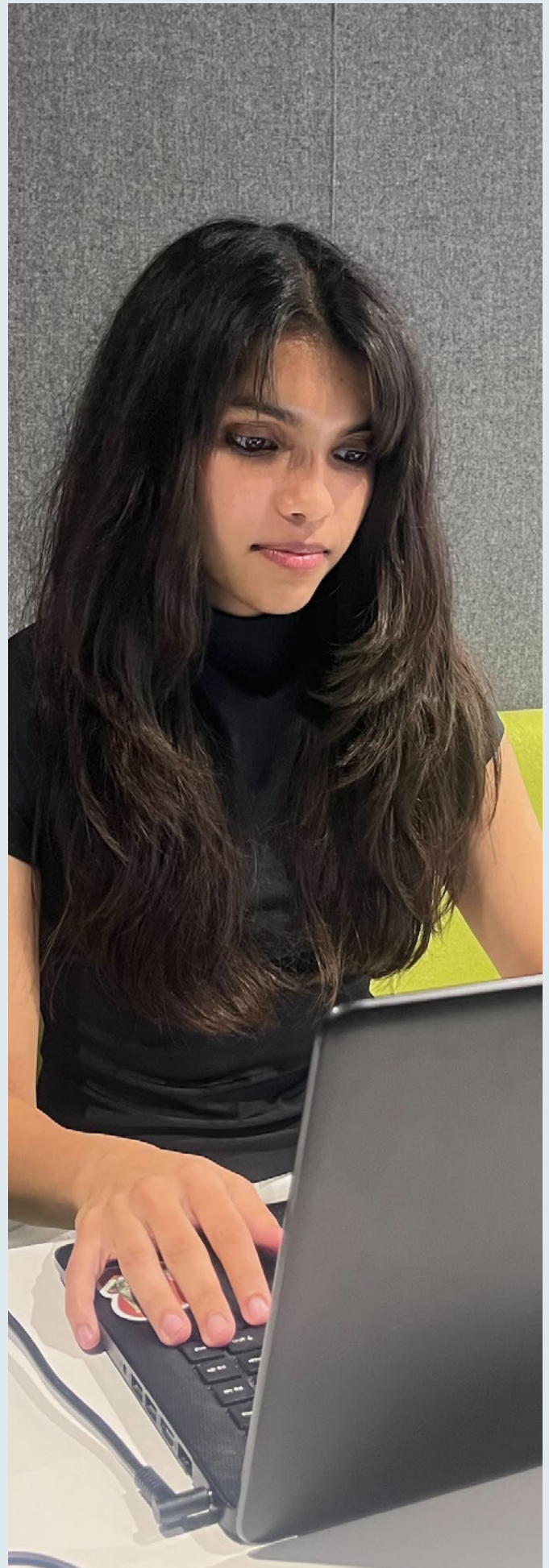
The clinic has proudly collaborated with The Environmental Law Foundation to provide research support for their varying pieces. This included research on the rights of rivers. The Rights of rivers project involved researching pollution in the River Uck.

*"This was an incredibly informative and research-based project involving carrying out empirical research on the rights of rivers and researching the sources and protection in place against pollution in the River Uck. This was an enlightening experience contributing to the rights of nature and researching in-depth an area of environmental law."* **Amelia Tate, Environmental Law Clinic Student Committee Lead**

## 3. Enterprise

The Legal Clinic held its first pop-up at the Sir James Matthews Building, with the Student Enterprise Junction, on the 15th of July 2024. The initiative was organized in the form of a drop-in clinic, where student entrepreneurs could consult with clinic advisers and discuss commercial issues that are affecting their business ventures. A group of five advisers participated in the pop-up, under the supervision of Dr Omar Madhloom, and with the support of Mr Tom Simmonds, the Head of Student Enterprise and Events.

The advisers took turns to meet with clients, interview them and understand their expectations from the drop-in service. The clients' concerns focused on the needs of upcoming businesses, such as the process of registering with Companies House, formulating shareholders' agreement and seeking intellectual property protection for their products. Each meeting would be followed by a brief consultation with the supervisor, who directed the advisers towards relevant resources, before they drafted the letter of advice. Differing from the traditional live-client route, the drop-in clinic provided a speedier route for clients to meet with advisers and obtain directions to helpful resources to resolve their concerns. The initiative also allowed advisers to develop a distinct set of interviewing skills and learn to formulate questions with speed and sharpness.



# INTERNSHIPS

## SARC:

In February of 2024, the Clinic interviewed 20 student caseworkers and selected 6 to volunteer with the Southampton Advice and Representation Centre (SARC).

SARC specialise in welfare benefits and employment law advice, and our students stand to gain a wealth of hands-on experience.

For more information, visit [SARC](#).

SARC Student participant quote: "SARC has been so enjoyable and a really beneficial and interesting experience" (anon)

## Summer of 2024 Paid Internships:

In June of 2024, the Legal Clinic opened its first 6-week paid internship to all current Southampton University students. Out of the 27 applications received, 4 students were selected.



*"The diverse experiences allowed me to broaden my substantive and procedural legal knowledge, under the encouraging support of the Clinic Supervisor, Administrator, and my co-interns."*  
**Nupur Paliwal, Summer Intern**



*"I have really enjoyed working with the Legal Director on commercial cases and reviewing contracts. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as an intern and I have noticed substantial development in myself."*  
**Charlie Squibb, Summer Intern**



*"Having served as a legal adviser and on the committee of the Global Legal Clinic, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such meaningful work and look forward to applying these invaluable experiences to my future endeavours in law."*  
**Areesha Hassan, Summer Intern**



*"I managed clients, including, personal injury and family law cases, gaining practical insights and developing my legal acumen."*  
**Saleema Flynn, Summer Intern**



## HODGE JONES & ALLEN SOLICITORS

Following the successful launch of the Clinic, we have launched in partnership with Daniel Denton from Hodge Jones and Allen Solicitors, a dedicated Personal Injury Clinic. Students received training from Mr Denton on how to conduct a personal injury case

*"This has been an excellent opportunity to learn about how Personal Injury law works."*  
**Maria McRobb-Roldan, HJA PIC Student**



## CITIZENS ADVICE

Following a competitive application process, six students have commenced their training to become Gateway Assessors with Citizens Advice Southampton. Upon completion of the required training materials, each student is paired with an experienced mentor to observe and learn from in practice. Their responsibilities are gradually expanded on a weekly basis, enabling them to take on an increasingly active role in supporting client cases. This placement offers valuable, hands-on experience with issues typically beyond the scope of the Clinic—such as immigration and debt—thereby enhancing and complementing the skills they develop through their clinical work.

*“When you join Citizens Advice, you become part of the family. Everyone is happy to help you and show you what to do. You can learn from different people who have extensive experience and knowledge on different areas of the law you would not normally cover at university. Each case you help with, creates this amazing feeling of joy in you, as you know you have been able to help someone in the local community with what could be the most difficult situation they have ever been in. It creates a personal connection, and you truly understand what it means to be part of a community.”*

**Maria McRobb-Roldan, Citizens Advice Volunteer**

## FULKRUM CONTRACT REVIEW

With the clinic’s connections to many organisations, we were able to offer our students the opportunity to review legal contracts for an energy company. The clinic ran a series of workshops where students worked in groups to discuss and review, to write up their findings, and then discuss during a final workshop. In December we received a kind donation to fund student internships, reviewing real life legal contracts and reporting their findings directly to their inhouse legal team.

*“The Clinic has equipped me with a wide range of skills which helped me to secure this role. From understanding professional conduct rules and client care to legal drafting and interviewing. These essential legal skills will enable me to effectively represent the Clinic in interactions with external organisations.”*

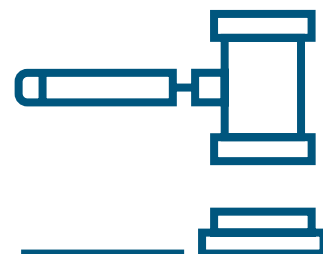
**Maddy Nicholl – Committee Co-Vice President and Inter**

## GPBB EXTERNSHIP

Our students were selected to complete an internship with the Global Pro Bono Bar Association (incorporated as a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States) as part of their Global Public Interest Lawyering Program. The Global Pro Bono Bar Association is a non-profit organisation, with members on five (5) continents, which focuses on public interest lawyering on a global scale, and like the Global Legal Clinic, is committed to pro bono work. Students assisted in the program’s development and benefitted from a very similar standard of training that will be offered to qualified lawyers.

*“This was undoubtedly a unique and valuable opportunity, there is little information available about beginning a pro bono legal practice in this field which is what makes this internship stand out. Through our virtual meetings with practising lawyers, we have had the chance to meet other like-minded law students with a similar interest in pro bono work, not only from other universities but from other countries which has provided us with unique perspectives on various topics which we may have been unaware of.”*

**Shann Jalaly, GPBB Intern**



# ACHIEVEMENTS



**LawWorks Pro Bono Awards**  
**2024: Best Contribution by an In-house Team or an In-house Solicitor**

**WINNER:**  
Dr Omar Madhloom, Clinic Director  
.....

**2024: Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic**

**SHORTLISTED:**  
University of Southampton  
Global Legal Clinic



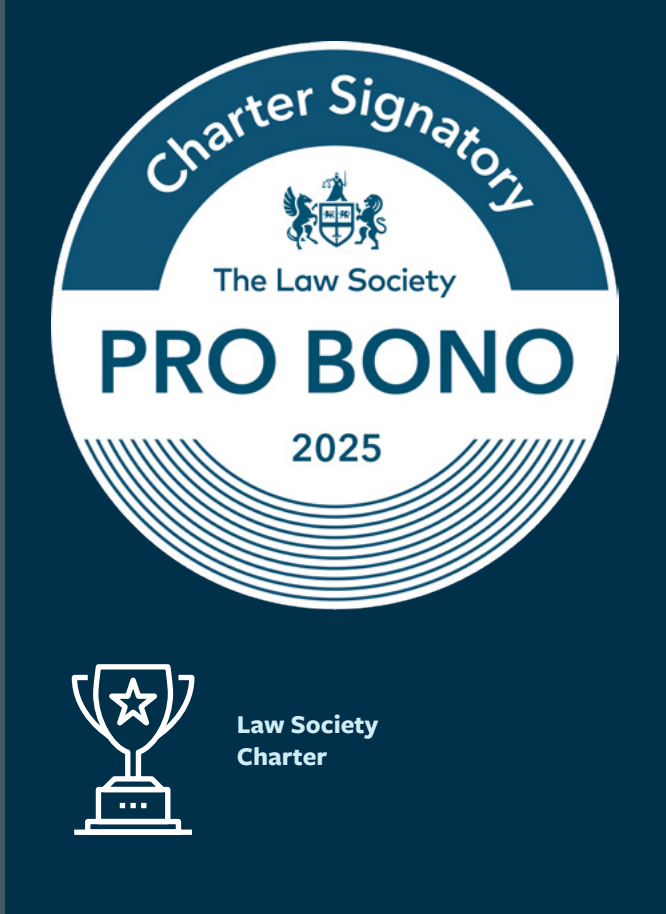
**LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards**

**2024: Best Contribution by an Individual Student**

**SHORTLISTED:** Sophia-Ada Hamdan,  
Student Committee President



**Pro Bono Recognition List 2025**  
**Dr Omar Madhloom and Mr Keagan Smith**



**Law Society Charter**

# INTERNATIONALISATION

## Clinique de Montpellier

Our collaboration with Clinique de Montpellier consisted of a student exchange whereby three UoS students worked on Montpellier client cases and 3 Montpellier students worked on Southampton client cases. In addition to this, we included the same Montpellier students in other ongoing projects with overseas clinics.

**Quote from Shann Jalaly:** *'This case taught me a great deal about French law, legal drafting in another language, and most importantly allowed me to develop cross-cultural skills which are necessary for any lawyer in the 21st century.'*

## GPBBA Projects

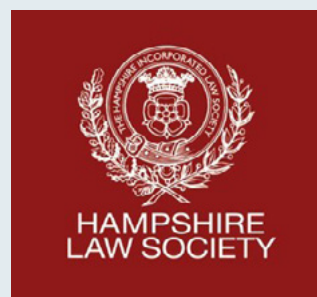
Our partnership with the Global pro bono bar (GPBB) has seen our students' researching topics such as environmental law and public international law. Several of our students took part and dedicated time for weekly virtual meetings with international lawyers and other University Clinics to share ideas and gain valuable international work experience.

## de la Clínica Legal Universidad de Alcalá (HIV Clinic)

As part of the Clinic's global legal work, our students collaborate with students from other clinics. One of these collaborations involved students from Universidad de Alcalá, where students from both clinics discussed the impact the law and policies on vulnerable clients.

# PARTNERSHIPS

**advocate**



# FUTURE PLANS

**Support  
for LiPs**



**(Formfilling)  
SQE 2 skills**



**Inquest  
Clinic**



**International  
collaborations  
with clinics in  
other countries**



**Commercial  
internships**



**Increasing support**  
means increased  
capacity, looking to  
accept more students.







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