

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

What is included:

- Welcome new Advisors [1]
- Inspirational Women in Law Awards evening at DLA Piper [2-3]
- Law Student of the Year - National Junior Lawyers Division [4-5]
- Mazur & Anor v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP [2025] EWHC 2341 (KB) [6-12]
- Legal Bake [13]
- McKenzie Friend Project [14-15]
- Pro Bono Week- Getting Involved panel talk [16-17]
- Hague Explained Fundraiser [18-20]
- Student advisor of the autumn quarter - year 1 winner [21]
- Student advisor of the autumn quarter - year 2 winner [22]
- Student advisor of the autumn quarter - year 3 winner [23]

Reminders

- Legal Walk- £670.13 was raised!
- Legal Bake- £150 raised for the Access to Justice Foundation!
- McKenzie Friend and Court Form Filling dates in your inboxes!
- Keep an eye on your inbox for upcoming talks/panel events!

Upcoming Events

- Please look out for event coming up in the new year

Contact Info

Instagram: @uoslegalclinic

LinkedIn: University of Southampton Legal Clinics

Created by Lizzie Brooke and Izzy Casey



WELCOME NEW ADVISORS

On behalf of the Legal Clinic Team and Legal Clinic Committee, we would like to extend a very warm welcome and a huge congratulations to all the new student advisors!

We look forward to working alongside you all and cannot wait to see the things you help us achieve.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us!

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN LAW AWARDS EVENING AT DLA PIPER

Written by Kafui Toffah



"Don't limit your ambition." – HHJ Khatun Sapnara

Attending the 10th Annual Inspirational Women in Law Awards, at DLA Piper, as a member of the Global Legal Clinic left me with wise words to reflect on and a new perspective on how being a woman of colour in law can shape the way the law itself progresses.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Kafui Toffah

"HHJ Sapnara's speech particularly resonated with me as she shared how she persevered despite those who doubted her ability to pursue a legal career. Her emphasis on equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) stood out as a reminder of how representation within the legal system is vital to promoting fairness and access to justice. This aligns with my current studies in Public Law: the importance of diversity in the judiciary and how it creates democratic legitimacy and equality of opportunity. Hearing everyone's stories, contributions, and advice in both legal and social spheres truly exemplified excellence and inspired me to never limit my ambition.

LAW STUDENT OF THE YER 2025- NATIONAL JUNIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

Written by Maddy Nicholl

On the 25th of September 2025, I was delighted to sail down the Thames at the National Junior Lawyers Division Awards. I was very grateful to have been awarded 'Law Student of the Year 2025' by the judges for my contributions at the Legal Clinic which have been recognised as having regional and national impact.

The judges shared generous feedback about the pro bono work I have been involved in, from the launch of the University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic ('the Clinic'), to helping to develop the launching McKenzie Friend support for litigants in person and collaborating with Citizens Advice Southampton to assist vulnerable clients. The judges noted that these initiatives aim to create structures that can continue supporting others well into the future.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Maddy Nicholl

Across the country, regional Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) offer great opportunities to meet peers, learn about different practice areas and build confidence in the profession. I have been fortunate to engage with the Surrey JLD, whose insight events and informal networking sessions have been genuinely helpful and enjoyable!

My awards are attributed to simply getting involved with the Clinic. I would encourage student advisors to just give things a go where you can! You will be surprised what you end up enjoying and achieving!

MAZUR & ANOR V CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS LLP [2025] EWHC 2341 (KB).

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

Julia Mazur & Ors v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP [2025] EWHC 2341 KB

The High Court's decision in *Julia Mazur & Ors v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP* reaffirmed the principle set out under the Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA): only *authorised persons* may conduct *reserved legal activities*, including the conduct of litigation.

Material Facts of the Case:

The dispute arose when Charles Russell Speechlys LLP instructed Goldsmith Bowers Solicitors (GBS) to recover unpaid fees from the appellants. The particulars of the claim were drafted and signed by Mr Middleton, GBS's "Head of Commercial Litigation," who did not hold a practising certificate.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

The appellants challenged the proceedings, arguing that Mr Middleton was not authorised to conduct litigation and sought his replacement with a qualified solicitor.

Deputy District Judge Campbell stayed the proceedings, finding evidence that Mr Middleton has undertaken the reserved legal activity of conducting litigation under the LSA. The respondent applied to lift the stay, claiming that under section 21(3) LSA employees of authorised firms could perform reserved activities under supervision. In the Court of Appeal His Honour Judge Simpkiss accepted this interpretation, lifted the stay, and ordered the appellants to pay the costs of the application. The appellants appealed this ruling.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

Held:

In the High Court, Mr Justice Sheldon overturned the decision made by His Honour Judge Simpkins. He held that section 21(3) defines *regulated persons* – those who fall within the supervisory remit of a regulator such as the Solicitors Regulation Authority - and does not confer authorisation.

Section 18 LSA specifies that only *authorised persons* – those individually certified by an approved regulator - may carry out these reserved legal activities, such as conducting litigation. Under section 12 LSA this covers issuing proceedings, commencing, prosecuting or defending and performing any ancillary functions in relation to these.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

The Court therefore confirms that unqualified employees, including paralegals and non-authorised fee earners, may assist but not undertake reserved legal activities.

Commentary:

The Court's ruling highlights that employment by an authorised firm and supervision by a qualified solicitor do not automatically authorise non-qualified staff to conduct litigation. The decision draws a clear line between conducting litigation, which is a reserved legal activity under the Legal Services Act 2007, and assisting in it.

The SRA also put out a statement which reinforces this position.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

It highlights that being engaged by an authorised person does not confer the right to conduct litigation

(<https://www.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/>).

A section from the November 2022 guidance is highlighted, which states that: ‘people who are not themselves authorised to conduct litigation can only support authorised individuals to conduct litigation, rather than conducting litigation themselves under the supervision of an authorised individual.’

(<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/effective-supervision-guidance/>)

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

Supervision is not sufficient to abide by the Legal Services Act, and law firms must ensure that litigation is handled by individuals who hold a practising certificate or are individually authorised, not individuals acting under supervision.

For aspiring solicitors, *Mazur* exposes the tension between the law and SRA's SQE guidance around Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). (<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/contact-or-visit-us/press-office/press-releases/mazur-law-society-publishes-new-guidance-for-profession>).

Legally, non-qualified staff can only support authorised fee earners and cannot conduct litigation.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Sadhana Lingeswaran and Elizabeth King

However, the SRA's guidance appears to include reserved activities as QWE, (<https://www.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/>). which suggests that individuals who are not qualified can still carry these tasks out but not litigation, as per *Mazur*. It will be important to look for future guidance from the SRA whether this is the case.

LEGAL BAKE

Written by Saleema Flynn

After much planning and help from our amazing Legal Clinic Student Committee, Nilana and I were able to successfully run “The Great Legal Bake Southampton.” raised £150 for the Access to Justice Foundation and the London Legal Support Trust. These are amazing foundations which fund legal services for those who otherwise struggle to access. Thank you to everyone who brought something to sell and those of you who purchased something!

MCKENZIE FRIEND

Written by Izzy Casey and Maddy Nicholl

Recently, Maddy and I had the opportunity to visit the Magistrates Court to support an individual as McKenzie Friends.

During the hearing, we were able to listen to the Magistrate's fact-finding process, listening to their questions and understanding the options available to them. It was then particularly interesting to witness how means testing and individual circumstances are incorporated into decisions within the criminal justice system. Witnessing how the introduction of modern technology to the courts was also interesting, with a video link allowing the interpreter to attend remotely.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Izzy Casey and Maddy Nicholl

This experience demonstrated to us that many of those who are required to attend court, lack sufficient understanding of court processes and what is expected of them, perpetuating barriers to justice. It highlighted the importance of some of the other Clinic projects in public legal education, ensuring that complex legal jargon can be translated into practical, layperson's terms.

Seeing the client visibly relax after the we explained the process to them was very rewarding, despite the fact that the hearing did not necessarily go in our client's favour. As students, having this kind of impact and real-life emotional understanding has made our chosen career seem much more tangible and meaningful.

PRO BONO WEEK- GETTING INVOLVED

PANEL TALK

Written by Nusaba Kazi

I was very glad to have the opportunity to attend the Pro Bono Week panel event as a student advisor from the Southampton Global Legal Clinic. The panellists were all incredibly inspiring, and I found the entire discussion highly insightful, offering valuable perspectives on the landscape of pro bono work across the legal sector.

Before this event, I was not familiar with organisations such as LawWorks and Advocate. Hearing Rebecca Howell speak about the mission of LawWorks and Louis Austin explain the vital role Advocate plays in connecting individuals with pro bono barristers opened my eyes to the scale and structure of support available. Their commitment to increasing access to justice is truly outstanding.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Nusaba Kazi

Denise Bentley from the First Love Foundation also provided a powerful reminder of the realities faced by individuals who cannot afford legal advice. Her perspective highlighted just how significant the contributions of legal clinics, LawWorks, and Advocate are in addressing this unmet need. It reinforced my belief that pro bono work is not simply an optional extra; it is a crucial part of achieving fairness within the legal system.

After the panel, I had the chance to speak with each of the speakers during an informal networking session. These conversations were incredibly encouraging and insightful, giving me a clearer sense of the opportunities available to me as a final-year law student.

Overall, attending the event strengthened my motivation to remain involved in this work and reminded me of the meaningful impact that even student advisors can make.

HAGUE EXPLAINED FUNDRAISER

Written by Jessica Walters



Lizzie Brooke, Anita Gera, Shann Jalaly, Jessica Walters, Isabelle Casey

Hague Explained CIC, H-Ex is a non-profit organisation which aims to educate employers, corporations and families of the importance of the 1980 Hague Abduction Convention to international families and those planning to relocate.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Jessica Walters

The Hague Abduction Convention is usually triggered when a family unit has broken down, and a parent decides to return to their home country with their child/ren without the other parents' consent. The 'left behind' parent can trigger Hague Litigation which will, unless an exception applies, which is rare, return the child back to their country of habitation within 6 weeks.

Legal Clinic members have been volunteering for H-Ex since April, following a workshop presented by Co-Founder Anita Gera, organised by Dr Madhloom. We have spent the past 8 months creating FAQ's, running H-Ex's social media and helping with the website.

...CONTINUED...

Written by Jessica Walters

The H-Ex fundraiser has been in the works since August, and the Law School President Isabelle Casey has been organising the admin behind it. On the day, we were joined with Anita Gera, the volunteers from Hague Explained CIC, and the Legal Clinic committee members who kindly volunteered to help. The aim of the fundraiser was to begin funding to help H-Ex be able to make more resources, travel around England to provide educational workshops and hopefully to be able to make online workshops free or subsidised in the future. We spent the day handing out leaflets, informing people on what H-Ex do, and selling baked goods.

We managed to raise £220.50, which was amazing for our first fundraiser. Hopefully over the next year we will be able to host a few more and help get H-Ex on the map.

STUDENT ADVISOR OF THE AUTUMN QUARTER - YEAR 1 WINNER

Kafui Toffah

The Student Advisor of the Autumn Quarter Year 1 winner is Kafui Toffah!



Kafui has been nominated by her peers for this award for “Being very proactive in getting involved with Clinic opportunities since joining at the beginning of this year. She has represented the Clinic at external events very professionally and presented all of the traits of a strong student advisor.”

A huge congratulations to Kafui for this incredible achievement!

STUDENT ADVISOR OF THE AUTUMN QUARTER - YEAR 2 WINNER

Neelufar Karimian

The Student Advisor of the Autumn Quarter Year 2 winner is Neelufar Karimian!



Neelu has been nominated by her peers for this award for “Her amazing work through the recruitment period. She was incredibly organised and made the process as easy and as seamless as possible.”

A huge congratulations to Neelu for this incredible achievement!

STUDENT ADVISOR OF THE AUTUMN QUARTER - YEAR 3 WINNER

Saleema Flynn

The Student Advisor of the Autumn Quarter Year 3 winner is Saleema Flynn!



Saleema has been nominated by her peers for this award for “Organising a number of events this quarter, Saleema has gone above and beyond to ensure that all processes were completed dealing with delays, multiple issues and general confusion surrounding the event. Saleema has put a lot of work into these events and dealt with all issues with kindness, patience and has put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that these events can go ahead for the benefit of the Clinic and the charities that will receive support from these fundraisers.”

A huge congratulations to Saleema for this incredible achievement!