

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER



September 2025

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## Reminders

- Applications to join the Legal Clinic- open 22/09/25 and close 05/10/25
- Voting for Student Advisor of the Quarter will open soon.

## Upcoming Events

- Applications to join the Legal Clinic- now closed, you will be notified by 10/10/2025
- 13<sup>th</sup> October Legal Clinic Welcome Event
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November Probono week

## Contact Info

Instagram: @uoslegalclinic

LinkedIn: University of Southampton Legal Clinics

Created by Lizzie Brooke and Izzy Casey



# INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

*Maddy Nicholl*

Welcome to the third year of the University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic! If I haven't had the chance to meet you yet, my name is Maddy, and I've been involved with the Clinic since its launch in February 2024. My clinic journey began as a Student Advisor in my first year and have since taken on roles as General Secretary, Vice President and I'm very excited to be President in my final year.

Earlier this year, I was honoured to receive 'Best Contribution by an Individual' award at the National LawWorks and Attorney General's Pro Bono Awards 2025. This recognition is reflective the success, guidance and opportunities provided by the Clinic. When I began university, I had no legal experience, no professional connections and very little idea of what to expect. Through the Clinic, I've been able to work on commercial contracts, contribute to public legal education projects, support clients in court as a McKenzie Friend, research environmental and human rights issues and gain practical skills that I never could have imagined at the start of my degree.

The Clinic is a place where you can learn by doing, grow in confidence and explore many areas of law. All we ask is that you show up with curiosity and give your best effort. The more you put into the experience, the more you'll get out of it.

As a student committee, we're really looking forward to seeing all of you getting stuck in this year, bringing new ideas and enthusiasm whilst beginning or continuing your legal journey with the Global Legal Clinic.

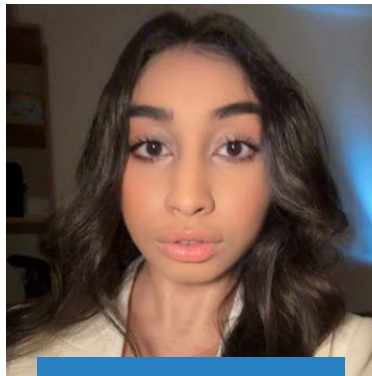


UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

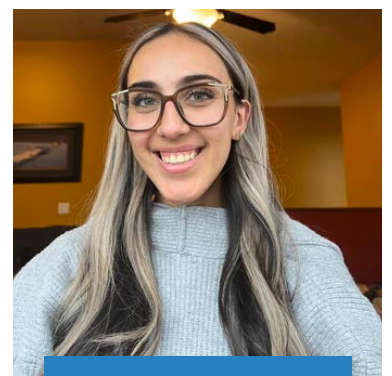
# MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



MADDY NICHOLL -  
PRESIDENT



TVISHA FAIR -  
VICE PRESIDENT



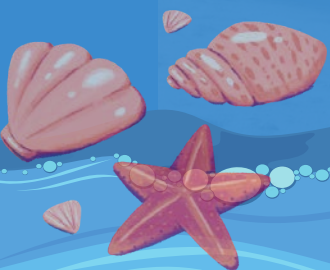
NEELUFAR  
KARIMIAN -  
TRAINING AND  
RECRUITMENT  
MANAGER



JAKE DOLENDO  
HERNANDEZ -  
SOCIAL SECRETARY



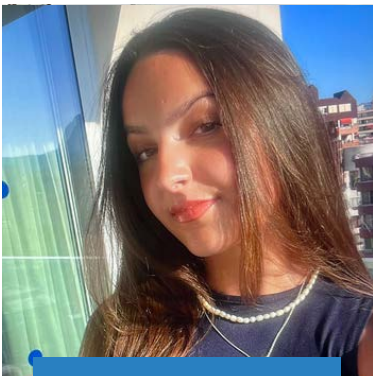
MUAZ GULL -  
WELFARE OFFICER





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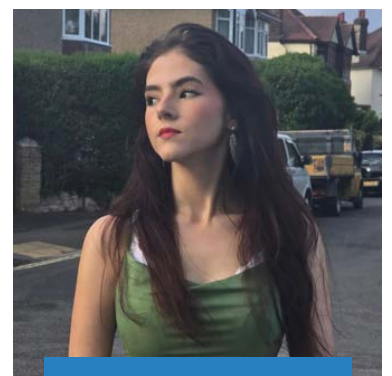
# MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



SALEEMA FLYNN -  
JLAP LEAD



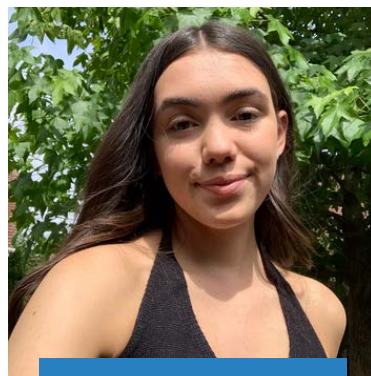
NILANA  
MANIMARAN - JLAP  
LEAD



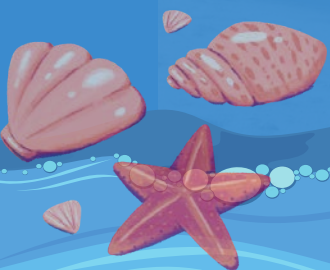
MARIA MCROBB-  
ROLDAN -  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEAD



AIDAN KEOGH -  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW LEAD



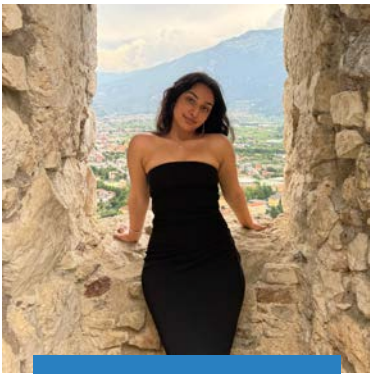
JESSICA  
BOSWORTH -  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW LEAD





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# MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



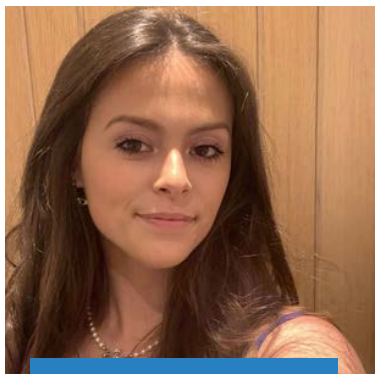
SERENA SHAH -  
ANIMAL LAW LEAD



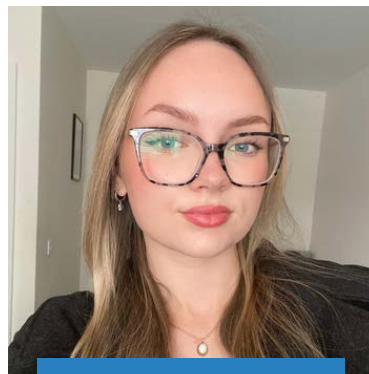
CECILY LUTHER -  
ANIMAL LAW LEAD



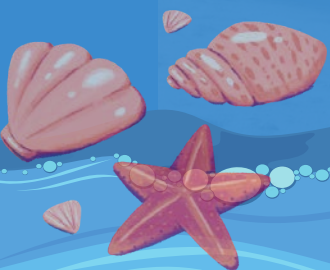
DANICA CUSTANCE  
- GENERAL  
SECRETARY



LIZZIE BROOKE -  
MEDIA AND  
PUBLICITY LEAD



ISABELLE CASEY -  
MEDIA AND  
PUBLICITY LEAD



# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GRADUATES

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**Sophia Ada-Hamdan** ”

Now a SQE Candidate and Future  
Trainee Solicitor at Clifford Chance

*“My graduation has also marked the end of my two years as President of the University of Southampton Legal Clinics. I am honoured to have contributed to the Clinic’s start and award-winning growth.”*



**Hanan Mansoor** ”

Now an NCA Candidate

*“The Legal Clinic provided me with the ability to gain valuable knowledge and experience through working with real clients, conducting research and providing valuable advice based on clients’ individual needs. The skills I learned through working with the Legal Clinic will aid me in my future legal career, which I am extremely grateful for.”*



# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GRADUATES

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**Martha Fiske**  
LLB Graduate



*"I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked as a Student Advisor for the University of Southampton Legal Clinics. To get a glimpse of what the law looks like in practice was an experience I will always value, wherever I take this degree."*



**Zachary Zolis**  
Now an NCA Candidate



*"The Legal Clinic provided me with the ability to gain valuable knowledge and experience through working and communicating with real clients, conducting research and providing insightful advice based on the clients' individual needs. The skills I learned through working with the Legal Clinic will aid me in my future legal career, which I am forever grateful for."*

# A FEW WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GRADUATES



**Riley Lamb**

LLB Graduate



*"Providing legal advice to those who may not otherwise have access to it has been the most rewarding experience of my academic journey. It's been a privilege to support the community and be part of a team committed to making a real difference."*



**Molly Clark**

Now a Clinical Negligence and Personal  
Injury Paralegal with CL Medilaw at  
Knights



*"The opportunity to give back to the community and work directly with clients as a student has been invaluable, not only in developing my practical legal skills but in deepening my understanding of the law's human impact. It has shaped me into a more empathetic, confident, and socially conscious aspiring lawyer."*



# MADDY NICHOLL'S GROW AWARD NOMINATIONS



*By Lizzie Brooke*

She's done it again! Our own Legal Clinic President, Maddy Nicholl, has been shortlisted for another two awards!

Maddy has been shortlisted for two of the GROW Mentoring Awards 2025. She has been shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to Pro Bono and Volunteering award which recognises an individual who has dedicated their time to support others in the community and our wider society. Maddy has dedicated over 400 hours to the University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic since its launch in February 2024. During her time at the Legal Clinic, Maddy has been our General Secretary, Vice President, and now President. She has overseen and assisted in launching many successful projects and initiatives within the Legal Clinic including the McKenzie Friend Project and Court Form Filling Project with Citizens Advice Bureau. Maddy has also been involved with supporting Junior Lawyers Against Poverty and the Environmental Law Foundation as well as volunteering for the Global Pro Bono Bar Association on various projects through the Legal Clinic.

Maddy has also been shortlisted for the Social Mobility Advocate of the Year award which recognises individuals who drive for change and accessibility for social mobility. Maddy has been nominated this award as, since beginning university a first-generation aspiring solicitor and having no legal connections, she has committed to breaking down barriers into the legal profession for other students. Maddy is Secretary for the 93% Club Southampton, which is a network of state-school educated and lower socioeconomic students to increase their representation.

A huge congratulations to Maddy for her ongoing commitment to the Legal Clinic, Pro Bono work, and supporting her peers!

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# IRWIN MITCHELL SOLICITORS POPCORN AND PIMMS EVENT



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*By Esha Gill*

## **Popcorn, Pimms, and Poirot!**

On Thursday 3rd July, Irwin Mitchell hosted its Popcorn and Pimms Event at the Harbour Lights Cinema. A group of us from the Legal Clinic were kindly invited to attend accompanied by Dr Madhloom and Mr Smith.

The event began with a networking session, where we had the opportunity to speak informally with the Irwin Mitchell solicitors and trainees. This proved a wonderful chance to gain insight into their specialisms, routes into the legal field and hear first-hand what their days consist of. It was especially useful to get advice about the next stages of our legal careers and the opportunities that will surely come our way during and beyond university. We chatted about what the day-to-day life of a trainee is like and had a great discussion about potential dissertation topics for us upcoming third years.

After networking by the harbour (with Pimms in hand!) we were invited to sit down and enjoy a screening of *Murder on the Orient Express*, an Agatha Christie classic, which sparked plenty of discussion over who has played Poirot the best over the years (David Suchet wins by a mile!). It was a lovely way to round off the summer evening.





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# IRWIN MITCHELL SOLICITORS POPCORN AND PIMMS EVENT

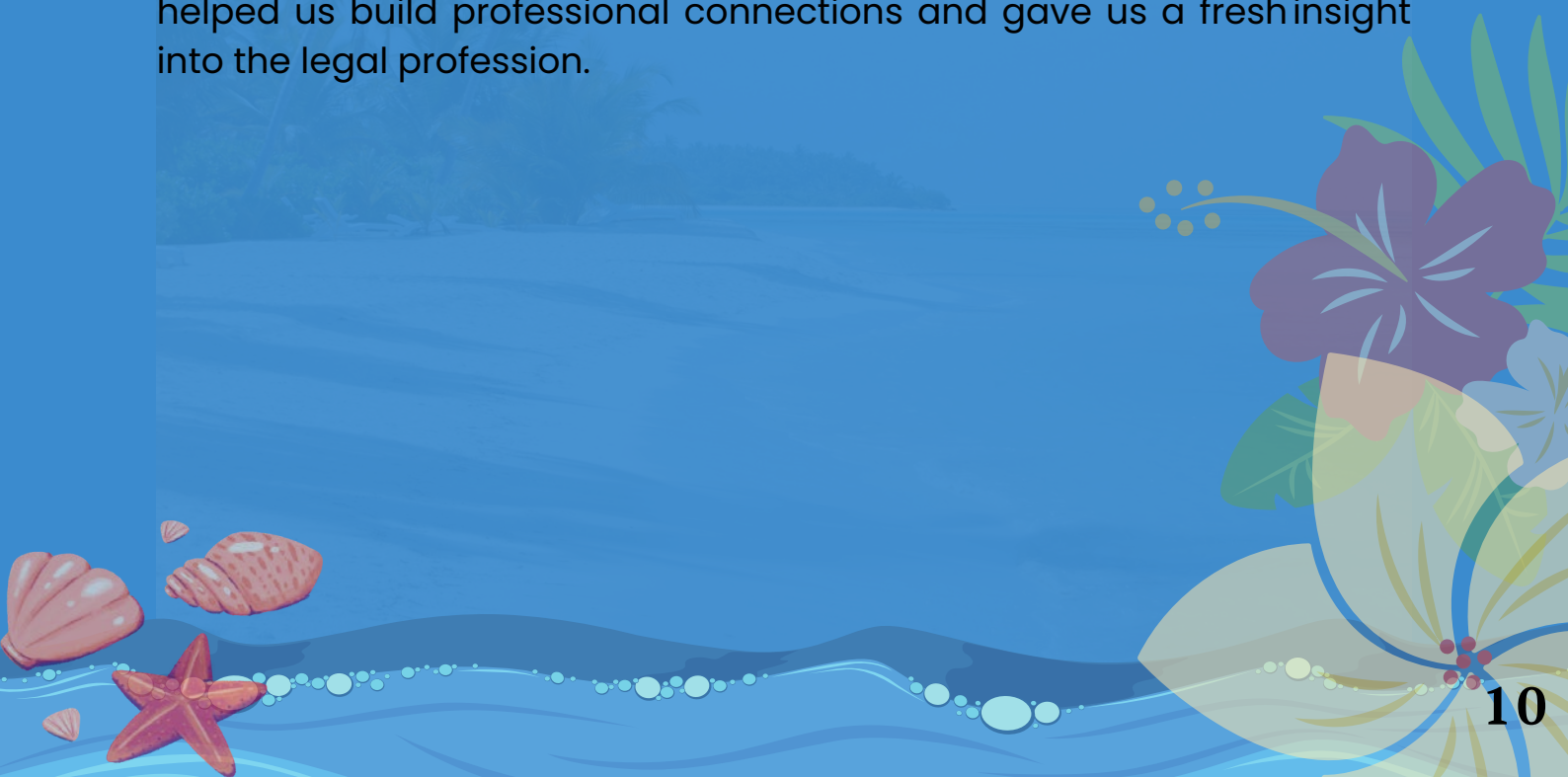


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*By Esha Gill*

After the film had ended, we had a brief discussion, reflecting on the value of the evening and the collaboration between Irwin Mitchell and the clinic. Events such as these help to bridge the gap between students and those in practice, giving us the chance to ask questions, develop confidence and build professional connections in an informal environment.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and we are grateful to Irwin Mitchell for extending the invitation to us. A special thank you to Lucy Clement for the invite and taking the time to chat with us. The event helped us build professional connections and gave us a fresh insight into the legal profession.



# PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY VISIT

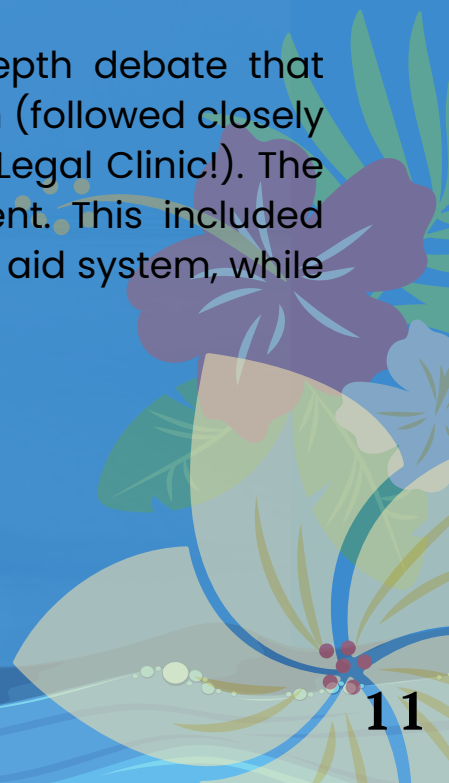
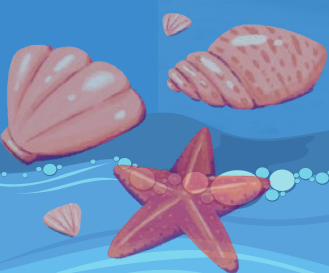


*By Christian Badcock*

It's not every day that you get to debate the future of justice with the President of the Law Society of England and Wales. Yet, that was the incredible opportunity we had at the University of Southampton this summer, which was the privileged final stop on current President Richard Atkinson's tour to mark the Law Society's 200th (bicentenary) year.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr Omar Madhloom, our Legal Clinic Director, who highlighted the work and achievements of the Legal Clinic. Following this, Mr Atkinson delivered the keynote speech. The programme concluded with a question-and-answer session, followed by a networking reception.

My personal highlight from the event was the in-depth debate that sprung up during the time for questions for Mr Atkinson (followed closely by the excellent selection of pastries provided by the Legal Clinic!). The discussion on access to justice felt particularly urgent. This included acknowledging the current challenges facing the legal aid system, while recognising the importance of public legal education.





# PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY VISIT CONTINUED



*By Christian Badcock*

The conversation then shifted to legal technology. Mr Atkinson stood out for his open mindedness towards the use of developments such as generative AI in the legal profession. He presented a compelling vision where technology is not a replacement for lawyers, but a tool to augment them by handling routine tasks to allow professionals to focus on providing the essential human judgment and empathy that clients deserve. This sparked a consensus in the room: technology can enhance efficiency, but the solicitor's role as a trusted human advisor is irreplaceable.

The networking reception was an especially valuable opportunity, not only to meet Mr Atkinson, but to connect with members of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Pro Bono Committee and our Head of School Professor Scholtz among others. The value of this session was in enabling people from all levels and career fields of the legal profession to mix and learn from each other. As a result of networking, I was invited to do a tour of the Law Society building in London, as well as arranging a follow up call to discuss the realities of working as a solicitor with a practicing member of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Pro Bono Committee. Ultimately, Mr Atkinson's visit was not just a reflection on the past 200 years, but a direct challenge for the next. It was a clear invitation for the next generation of lawyers to become the architects of a more just system by dismantling barriers to justice, commanding the ethics of AI, and above all, defending the human core of our profession in a world transformed by technology.

# STELLENBOSCH PROJECT



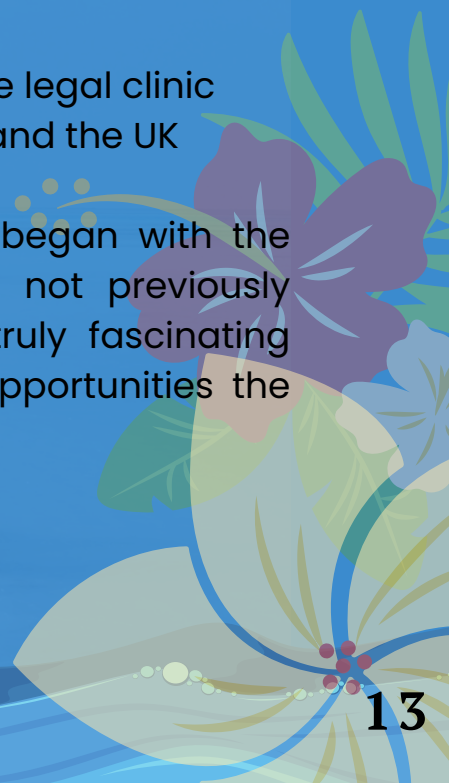
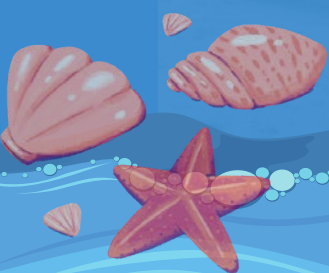
*By Christel Menezes  
Botelho*

During the summer, I've had the opportunity to be part of the student group that represents the Southampton Legal Clinic in its collaboration with the Stellenbosch Legal Clinic (South Africa). The students were divided into groups of seven, comprising of two advisors from the Southampton Legal Clinic and four advisors from the Stellenbosch Clinic.

The primary objective of the collaboration was to explore cross-border experiences related to access to justice and the legal profession in each country. This was done by examining two key questions

- 1. Barriers to access to justice which may impact the legal clinic
- 2. Comparing the Legal Aid System in South Africa and the UK

My understanding of the UK's legal aid challenges began with the Legal Systems and Reasoning module. While I had not previously studied another legal system in depth, I found it truly fascinating to explore the South African legal system and the opportunities the Stellenbosch clinic offers its clients.







# STELLENBOSCH PROJECT CONTINUED

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*By Christel Menezes  
Botelho*

A part of the project involved analysing how the individual legal clinics promoted access to justice and the challenges they encounter on a day-to-day basis. This collaboration highlighted the crucial importance of situating legal systems within their local contexts when addressing issues of access to justice. The Stellenbosch legal clinic primarily focuses on civil litigation, addressing matters such as evictions, wills, and contracts. In contrast, the Southampton legal clinic adopts a broader approach, offering advice in multiple areas of law. Nevertheless, both clinics face similar financial challenges, including the implications of LASPO cuts to legal aid funding and strict means tests.

This experience has also emphasised the fact that each country possesses unique strengths and weaknesses in its legal framework, and that sharing these insights can contribute to fostering a more equitable legal structure on a global scale.

This collaboration also highlighted the importance of teamwork and adaptability. Coordinating meetings across different time zones and academic calendars proved to be challenging, but through constant and clear communication, we ensured that all group members remained informed and engaged.

I'm very grateful to the legal clinic for giving me this opportunity. Our final presentation is due in October, and I'm excited to continue working with colleagues at Stellenbosch.

# STELLENBOSCH PROJECT

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*By Mark Keane*



The Stellenbosch/Southampton University project is a research project among legal clinic students from both universities aimed at investigating two common issues faced by legal clinics in South Africa and the United Kingdom; the barriers to access to justice, and the legal aid system in both countries.

Students have been split up into four teams which each focus on a slightly different topic within the above two themes. For instance, I'm on a team investigating the legal barriers to access to justice that affect clinics, while another team might be comparing the legal aid systems in the UK and South Africa.

The aim of this research is to produce presentations for a conference that will be held for academics, students, and other staff from both universities in mid-October.

Working on the project in large teams across different time zones and juggling this alongside other outside responsibilities has been incredibly beneficial to me not only in developing better professional skills to deal with the workload, but also academically as hearing other student's experiences studying a legal system so different from the UK's has expanded my comparative law skills and allowed me to put my experience studying UK law into perspective.





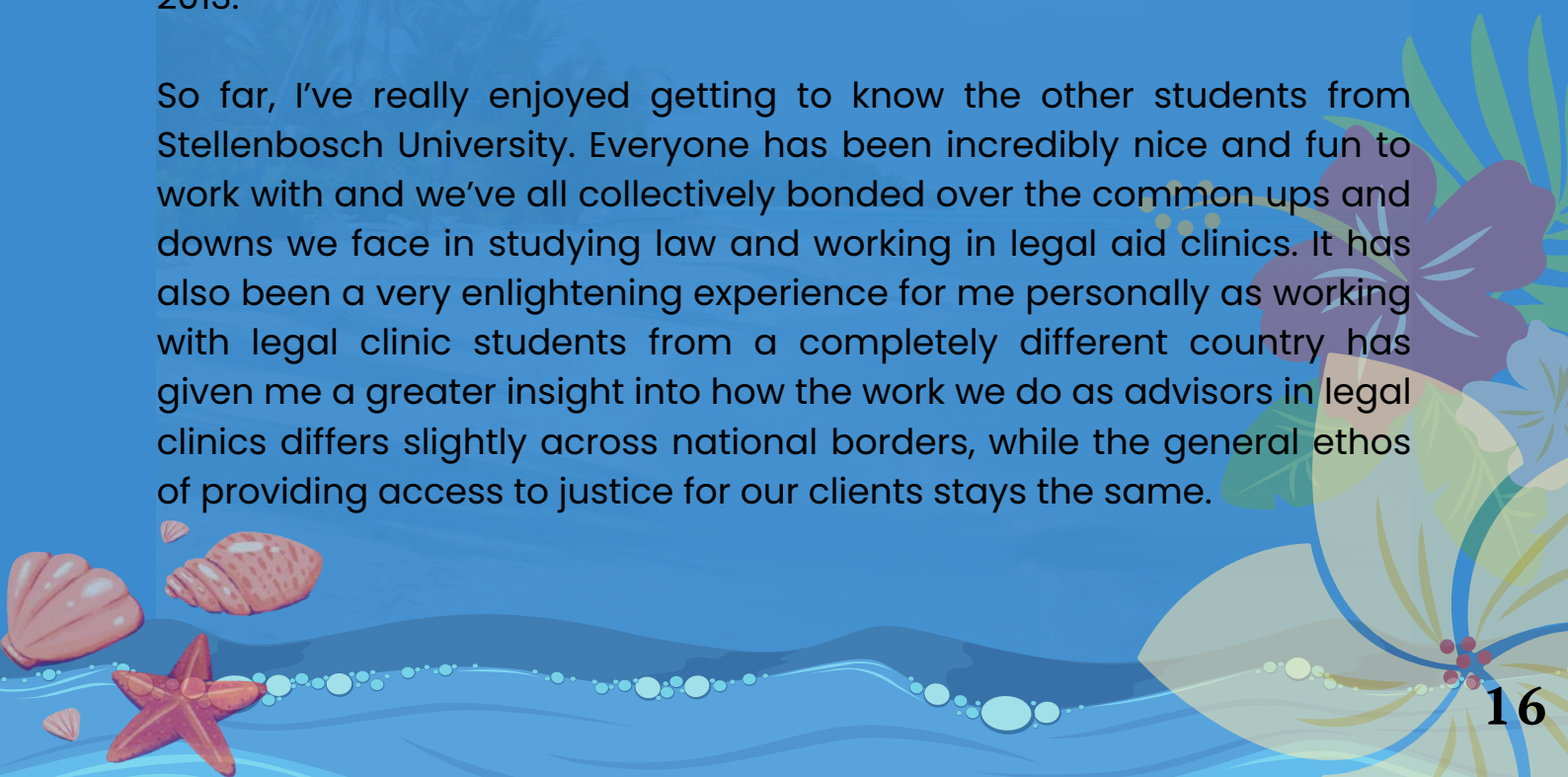
# STELLENBOSCH PROJECT CONTINUED

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*By Mark Keane*

Throughout this project I've learned just how different the South African legal system is from the UK's and how this affects clinics over there. For instance, South Africa's legal system because of its complex history is a blend of English common law, Roman-Dutch law, and customary indigenous law which is all upheld in a rights based written constitution. Something that seems alien to me after studying the unwritten British constitution. With this, legal aid clinics in South Africa have a greater social justice mission in empowering marginalised communities to engage with the legal system, whereas comparatively most clinics in the UK focus on providing access to the legal system to people who find themselves in legal aid funding "gaps" left by LASPO 2013.

So far, I've really enjoyed getting to know the other students from Stellenbosch University. Everyone has been incredibly nice and fun to work with and we've all collectively bonded over the common ups and downs we face in studying law and working in legal aid clinics. It has also been a very enlightening experience for me personally as working with legal clinic students from a completely different country has given me a greater insight into how the work we do as advisors in legal clinics differs slightly across national borders, while the general ethos of providing access to justice for our clients stays the same.







# CASECRAFT AI PROJECT

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*By Jessica Bosworth*

For many, thinking about the civil claims process can be overwhelming. Questions about whether it is necessary to contact a legal professional, concerns about costs and uncertainty on legal procedures can make the process seem a lot more complicated than it really is. This is where CaseCraft.ai aims to help bridge the gap between access and affordability, making pursuing a small claim more achievable and ultimately increasing access to justice. CaseCraft.ai is a platform that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to guide individuals through the small claims process in England and Wales, acting as a partial substitute for traditional interaction with a lawyer and reducing costs without compromising the standard of work. The platform presents a unique solution to reduce barriers for individuals contemplating pursuing a small claim by providing an online option of obtaining guidance and practical support that simplifies the process and reduces reliance on costly legal advice.

Over summer, I had the opportunity to work alongside CaseCraft.ai in the development of this site. My role has been to test the legal accuracy of the program through completing mock testing scenarios for a wide range of claims, including, personal injury, representations, property damage, and consumer and contractual disputes. We have also tested both business-to-consumer (b2c) claims and business-to-business (b2b) claims to help ensure that the platform is workable for the greatest number of claimant types. This experience broadened my knowledge of the small claims process and helped to refine my legal research skills, particularly in identifying nuances in claim types. In addition to testing, I have contributed to research projects into how claims can be maximised. The purpose of this work was to ensure that users of the platform are effectively supported and can achieve the best possible outcome in their cases.



# CASECRAFT AI PROJECT CONTINUED

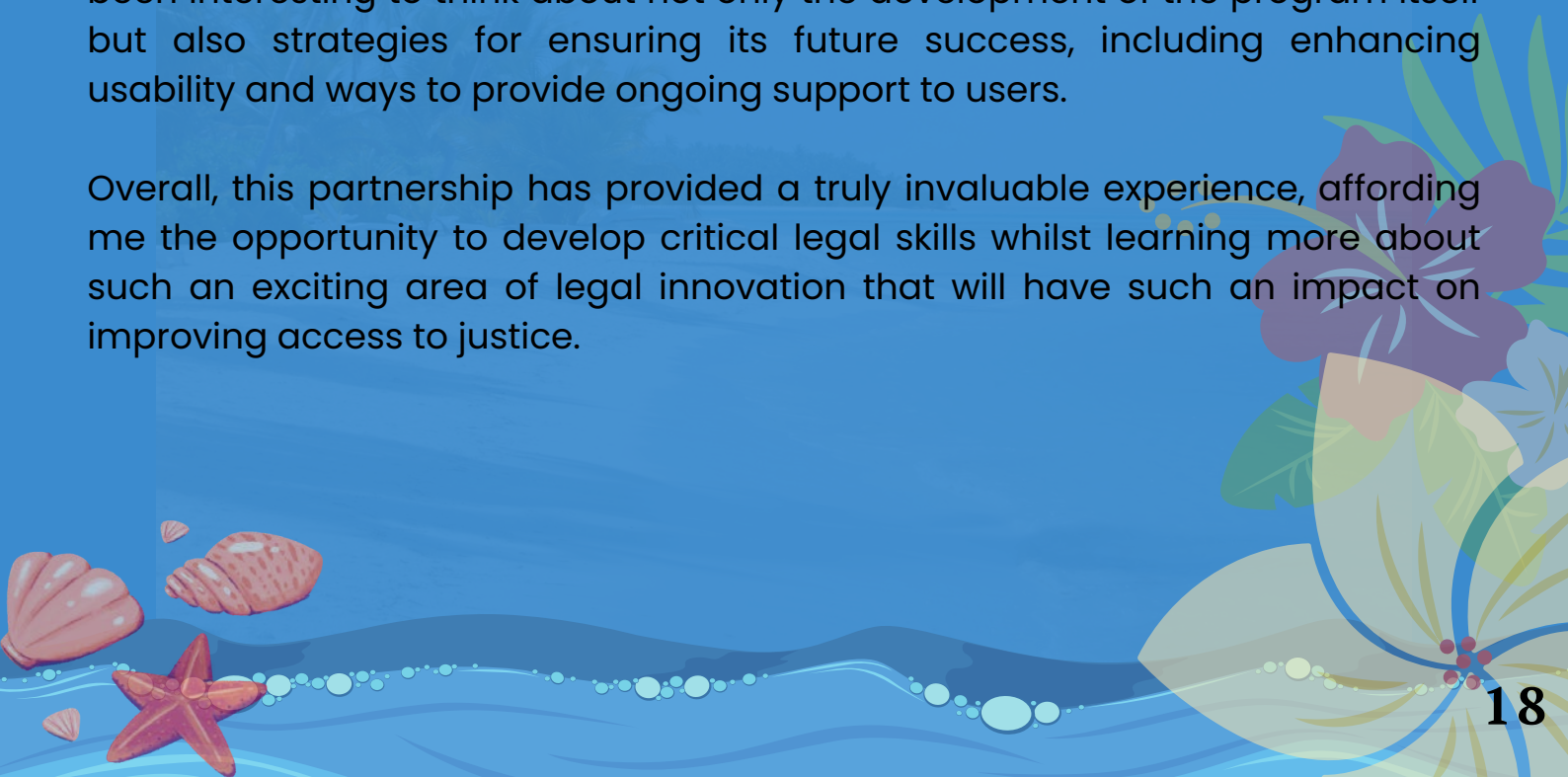
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*By Jessica Bosworth*

My experience working with CaseCraft.ai highlighted the significant potential of AI to enhance legal accessibility, but it also raised questions about the limits of automation in law. When we started with the team, we were all asked our opinion on AI, and, unsurprisingly as law students, most of us admitted we were both sceptical and intrigued; naturally wary of the risks involved with AI, but excited by its possibilities. It has been rewarding to see how our testing reports were being utilised to contribute towards the platform's development. Moreover, it has been so interesting to see how quickly the platform has evolved in response to our feedback, which has prompted me to take a more optimistic view of how AI can complement legal procedures.

In addition to working on such an innovative project, it has been such a unique experience to gain exposure to the dynamics of a startup company. It has been interesting to think about not only the development of the program itself but also strategies for ensuring its future success, including enhancing usability and ways to provide ongoing support to users.

Overall, this partnership has provided a truly invaluable experience, affording me the opportunity to develop critical legal skills whilst learning more about such an exciting area of legal innovation that will have such an impact on improving access to justice.





UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

# SOUTHAMPTON LEGAL WALK

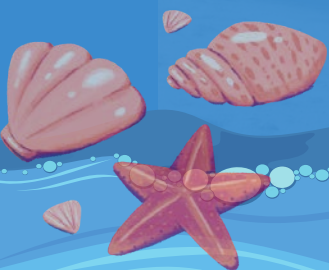


*By Sana Haj Mohamed and Lizzie Brooke.*



On the 17th of September 2025, Sana and I participated in the annual 10k Southampton Legal Walk. The aim of the Legal Walk is to raise money for important local charities that aid access to justice. This year, the organisations chosen were Citizens Advice Southampton and Advice Portsmouth.

As the Legal Clinic works very closely with Citizens Advice Southampton, this was such an incredible opportunity to raise funds to help them and similar organisations in their efforts in our community.





UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

# SOUTHAMPTON LEGAL WALK CONTINUED



*By Sana Haj Mohamed and Lizzie Brooke.*



View the link here- <https://londonlegalsupporttrust.org.uk/our-events/walks-in-the-south-east/southampton-legal-walk-2025/>

Sana and I both really enjoyed the Legal Walk. It was lovely to walk alongside and network with other Legal Clinic students as well as like-minded people in the community from many other organisations and law firms.

It was inspiring to see that over 150 people participated in the walk, and we all came together to raise an astonishing £4,000 (and counting).

We are so proud that the Legal Clinic exceeded our target of £500, hopefully we can exceed this next year and have even more students participating!

# ANNOUNCEMENT- STUDENT ADVISOR AWARDS

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## EXCITING NEWS: WE WILL BE INTRODUCING A NEW 'STUDENT ADVISOR OF THE QUARTER' AWARD

The award will be voted for by Legal Clinic Students and will contain three categories:

- Year 1 Winner,
- Year 2 Winner,
- Year 3 Winner, and
- Post-Graduate Winner.

Voting will open two weeks before the quarterly newsletter is set to publish and will be open to existing or former Legal Clinic Student's only. The voting link will be available on our social media.

The winners will be announced via Instagram and the quarterly newsletters.