

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



September 2026

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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
- 13th October Legal Clinic Welcome Event
- 3rd November Probono week

Contact Info

Instagram: @uoslegalclinic

LinkedIn: University of Southampton Legal Clinics

Edited by **Aidan Keogh**, **Anna Whitmarsh** and **Sophie Lunnnon**



INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Cecily Luther

Welcome to the University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic! My name is Cecily, and I joined the Clinic in my first year back in 2024. Since then, I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of some of the Clinic's initiatives such as the McKenzie Friend Programme, Digital Justice Clinic and Enterprise Clinic as well as the live client work which helped me develop many transferrable skills.

During my second year I took on the role as one of the Animal-Law Leads and loved building and maintaining partnerships with Animal Rights organisations. It was this role where I felt I made a tangible difference in an area of law I am passionate about, which is what I hope many of you will experience during your time in the Clinic. I am now excited to be the President of the Clinic for my final year alongside the rest of the outstanding student committee.

When I initially joined the Clinic, I had no legal experience or knowledge of the sector and this year I was awarded the 'Future Lawyer of the Year' award at the Targetjobs Undergraduate of the Year Awards. I attribute this achievement as well as the growth in my practical legal skills to the opportunities and guidance I have received during my time in the Clinic.

My goal as President is to foster a sense of community amongst Student Advisors and ensure everyone understands the Clinic is a platform where new ideas are welcomed, enthusiasm and willingness to learn are valued and all contributions are important as we work towards the shared goal of increasing access to justice as well as developing personal skillsets. I hope you find this year rewarding, engaging and most importantly that you enjoy it and take advantage of all the opportunities the Clinic has to give!

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

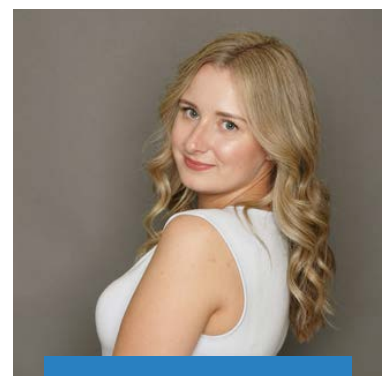
MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



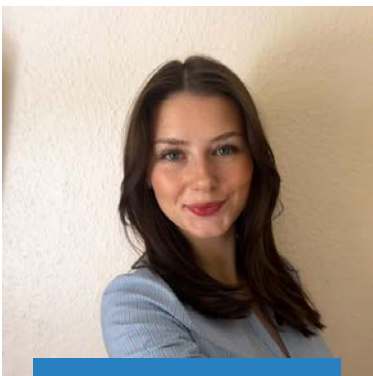
CECILY LUTHER -
PRESIDENT



IZZY CASEY - VICE
PRESIDENT



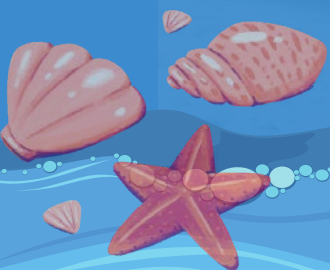
RILEY SCHLACKL -
TRAINING AND
RECRUITMENT
MANAGER



LOIS WILLIAMS =
SECRETARY



AIDAN KEOGH -
MEDIA AND
PUBLICITY LEAD



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



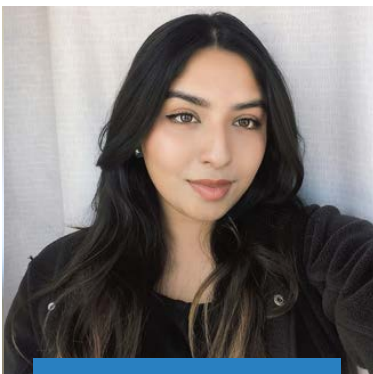
ANNA WHITMARSH
- MEDIA AND
PUBLICITY LEAD



SOPHIE LUNNON -
MEDIA AND
PUBLICITY LEAD



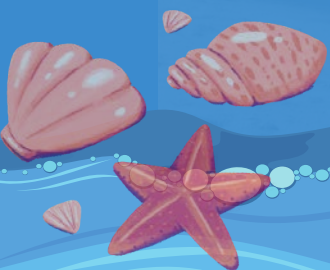
JACOB GRAY -
COURT LIAISON



AZKA AFZAL -
ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW LEAD



SAM WINKWORTH -
ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW LEAD

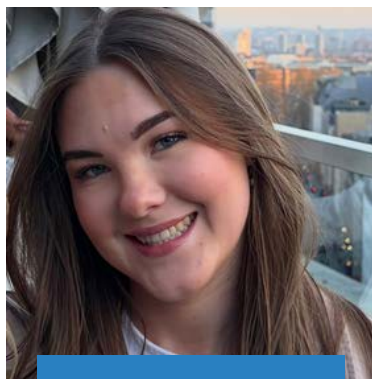


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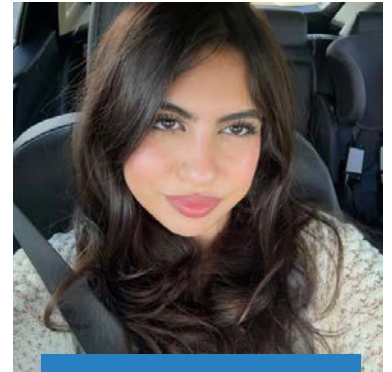
MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



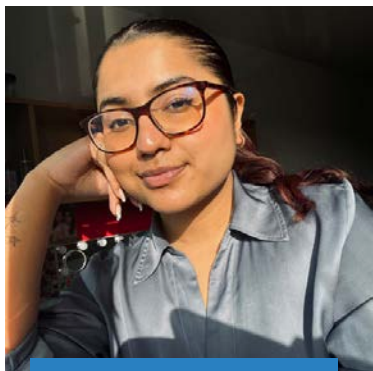
ROSIE BERRY -
ANIMAL LAW LEAD



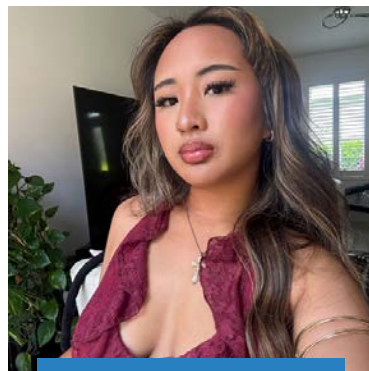
RUBY EDWARDS -
ANIMAL LAW LEAD



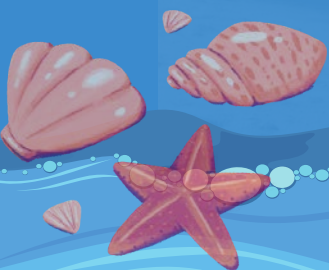
SANA HAJ
MOHAMED -
PUBLIC LEGAL
EDUCATION LEAD



ANIKA GARG -
PUBLIC LEGAL
EDUCATION LEAD

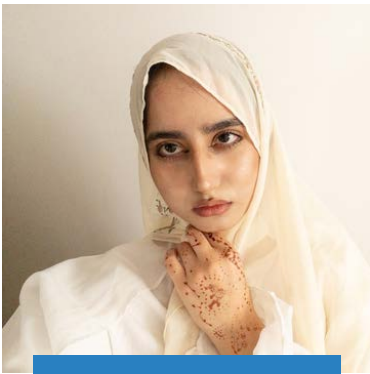


GIGI GARDOSE -
PUBLIC LEGAL
EDUCATION LEAD

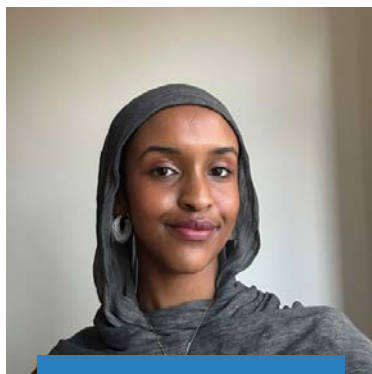


UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



MARIAM GHAFOOR
- INTERNATIONAL
LEAD



NAGAD MOHAMED
= INTERNATIONAL
LEAD

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GRADUATES

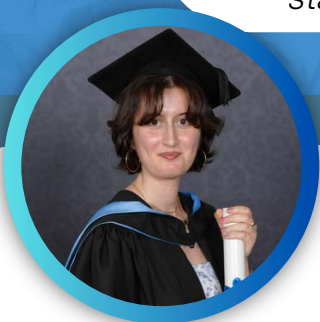


Maddy Nicholl

Legal Assistant at Hodge Jones and Allen



"As last year's Global Legal Clinic President, the clinic was an integral part of mine and many other's time at university. Not only does it offer the chance to actively engage in real legal work, it also offers a range of diverse and interesting areas of law, some of which are on an international scale. If I had to give one piece of advice, take on everything that comes your way, these are all unique opportunities that will stay with you for your entire career."



Shann Jalaly

Legal Assistant at Hodge Jones and Allen



"Clinic work really does prepare you for real-world legal work, because that's exactly what clinic work is. It's a safe introduction to the realities of legal practice, which makes you feel more prepared and confident when you begin your legal career."

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR RECENT GRADUATES



Neelu Karimian

SAF Group Legal Department



“My time with the Global Legal Clinic was pivotal in providing practical application of the law while ensuring that individuals have greater access to justice in the community. The experience allowed me to develop my legal skills, interact with real clients of all different backgrounds and gain experience in advocacy. I am beyond grateful to have been part of the clinic as both a Student Advisor and a member of the Executive Committee.”



Christian Badcock

LLB Graduate



“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



Jessica Bosworth

Paralegal at Simmons & Simmons



"I am so grateful to have had two and a half years with the Legal Clinic. The skills I developed and the experiences I gained there were truly unique and incredibly valuable. It really is true that you get out of the clinic what you put into it, so the advice I would give is to make the most of every opportunity you can and don't be afraid to put yourself forward!"



Saleema Flynn-Abbasi

Legal Assistant at Hodge Jones and Allen



"My university experience would not have been the same without the legal clinic. The skills it provided set me up with the foundation to start my first job at a law firm. It opened up so many doors through networking with external partners and overall was such an amazing experience."

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS



CECILY LUTHER'S FUTURE LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Huge congratulations are in order for our very own Legal Clinic President, Cecily Luther who in May this year, won targetjobs UK's Future Lawyer of the Year award at their annual Undergraduate of the Year awards ceremony. The Future Lawyer of the Year award was sponsored by Freshfields.

Through her pro bono work last year as Animal Law Lead on our committee, student advisor and McKenzie friend, Cecily was noted to have developed an adaptive, collaborative and client-focused approach which the award celebrates.

We are so proud of Cecily for representing us with such prestige!

BANGLADESH PROJECT



By Lilly Maddox

During the early stages of the previous academic year, I was given the opportunity to work alongside nine Student Advisors, including the International Lead of the Global Legal Clinic, on a project focused on the institutionalisation of minority rights through legal reform in Bangladesh.

As part of this international pro bono initiative, the Global Legal Clinic collaborated with the South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), an organisation dedicated to strengthening cooperation and connections between South Asia and the European Union. The project examined the experiences of minority populations in Bangladesh, including religious, ethnic, and sexual minorities, and explored ways in which their rights could be better protected through legal reform.

Our work involved developing legislative proposals aimed at preventing discrimination against minority communities and establishing stronger legal safeguards for their rights. In addition, we contributed to the drafting of an advocacy plan that outlined clear objectives, implementation strategies, and a timeline for achieving the institutionalisation of minority rights within Bangladesh's legal framework.

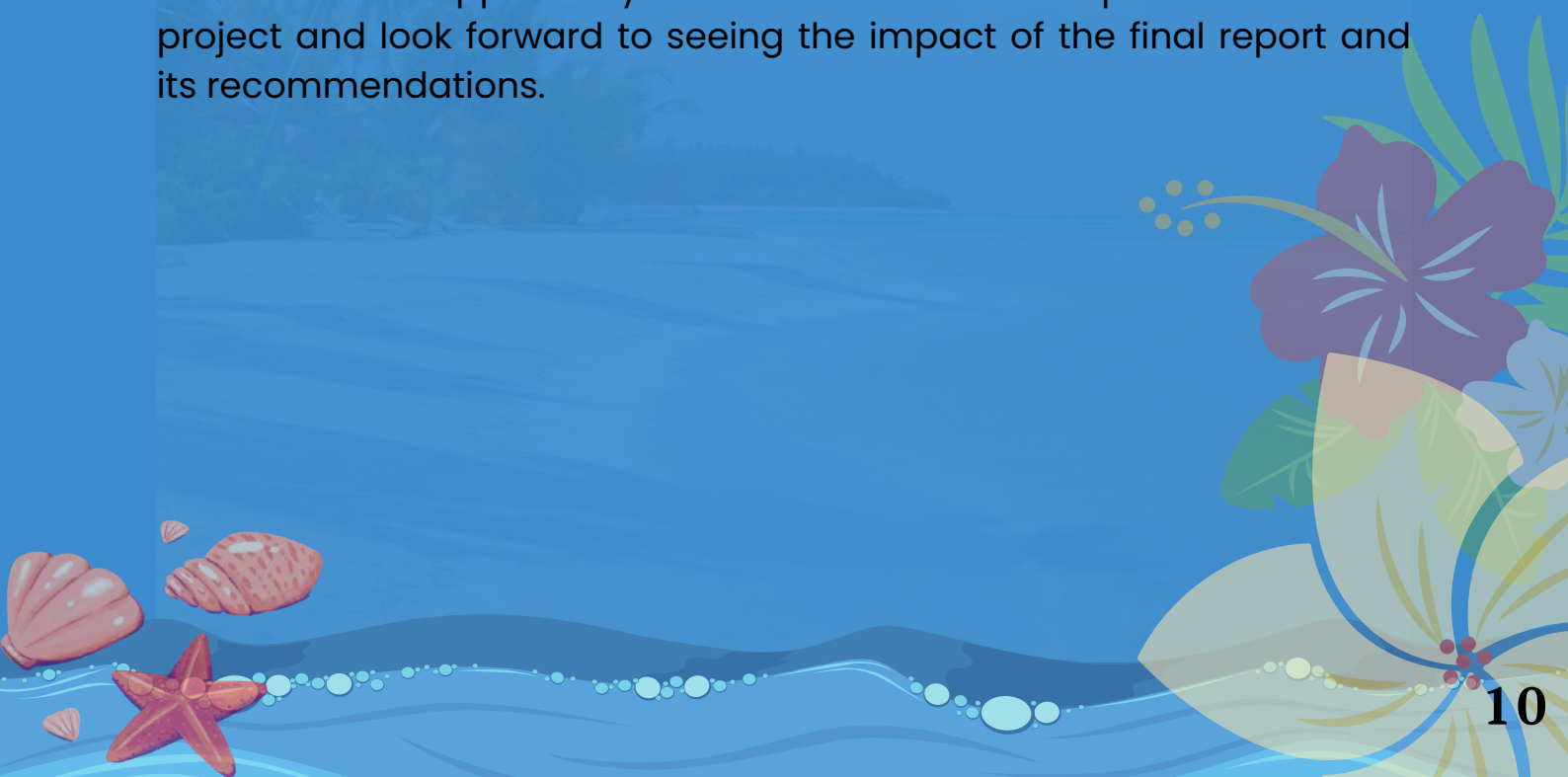
BANGLADESH PROJECT (CONTINUED)



By Lilly Maddox

The impact of this project, and indeed of pro bono work more broadly, lies in promoting access to justice and supporting vulnerable communities whose rights may not be adequately protected. Through this initiative, the Global Legal Clinic sought to provide meaningful legal assistance and practical recommendations that could support future reform efforts in Bangladesh. The proposals developed by the team aim to assist policymakers and stakeholders in progressing the institutionalisation of minority rights through legal reform, including the potential enactment of protective legislation and the creation of a dedicated statutory body to safeguard minority populations.

The project is now being led by two new International Leads within the Global Legal Clinic and is approaching completion. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to this important research project and look forward to seeing the impact of the final report and its recommendations.



RIGHTS OF NATURE CONFERENCE

By Aidan Keogh

You don't need to be a lawyer to be familiar with the term, 'human rights', a concept considered to be a backbone of legal systems across the world and legal evolution over the past 100 years. But what rights are offered to nature and the environment? The answer is significantly less than needed.

On the 10th of July, I had the opportunity to present the Environmental Clinic's research at the Rights of Nature Conference held at Southampton Law School. The Conference was held as a partnership between the Environmental Law Foundation and Professor Jérémie Gilbert from Southampton Law School and invited representatives from environmental agencies and non-profits, as well as local councillors from nearby city, district and county councils.

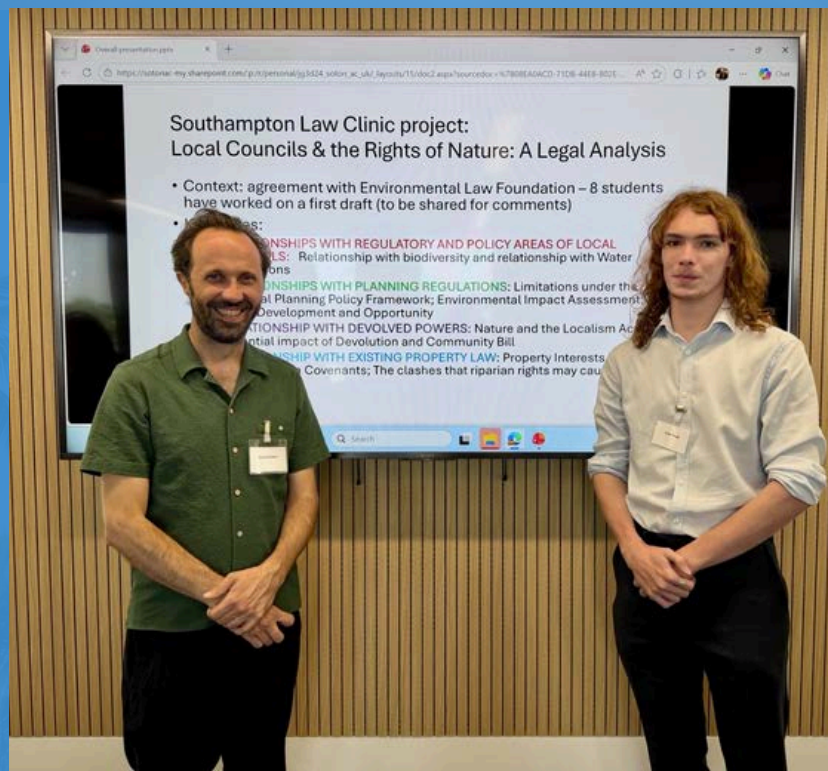
Whilst the Rights of Nature movement is a global movement, the extent of which its effect can be seen is currently limited to a very national and local level. Currently,, many local councils across England and Wales are looking at how to implement Rights of Nature in their local areas.

The conference aimed to be a talking point for councillors to share experiences: both successes and difficulties in implementing Rights of Nature and for legal representatives to present their research and findings to support this.

RIGHTS OF NATURE CONFERENCE CONTINUED



By Aidan Keogh



The conference had two parts: a series of presentations exploring the contextual legal issues local governments face in implementing Rights of Nature, following which was a roundtable unpacking the Rights of Nature between local councillors.

Councils face four main challenges; relations with existing regulations and policy, planning regulations, devolution and property law with regards to riparian rights. But it is important to see these challenges as areas of law to overcome and find inventive solutions. The movement for Nature's Rights is a slow-growing one in the UK but as the conference demonstrated appetite and commitment for development is here!

LEGAL LEGACIES: THE MINDANAO PROJECT

By Azka Afzal

Law, Land and Indigenous Rights

This summer, three GLC students and I had the opportunity to carry out a research project in collaboration with the Law Students for Climate Accountability (LSCA). The project examined how the law has been used both to displace Indigenous Lumad communities in the Philippines and to silence those who defend them.

At its centre was the case of the Talaingod 13, a group of teachers, church workers and human rights advocates who helped evacuate Lumad school children from paramilitary threats in 2018. They were later convicted under the Philippines' child protection law.

Our research highlighted a gap between legal protection and practice. The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act 1997 requires free, prior and informed consent before ancestral land is used, yet logging and mining have continued regardless. When communities resisted, child abuse charges, terrorist designations and cyber libel suits were used against them. As these were brought as criminal rather than environmental cases, prosecutors could avoid the anti-SLAPP protections available in environmental proceedings.

THE MINDANAO PROJECT (CONTINUED)

By Azka Afzal



Although many lawyers have stood alongside Lumad communities, the research exposed an uncomfortable truth about the profession: lawyers who approve extraction agreements without genuine consent can become instruments of the very displacement the law should prevent.

Over four months, the project gave us valuable experience in comparative legal research and working with international sources. It also meant dividing a complex topic into focused components, with students leading sections on Indigenous rights, environmental exploitation, lawfare and community solidarity.

As the GLC continues to expand its global engagement, the Mindanao Project reflects the clinic's commitment to access to justice, environmental accountability and its growing work alongside LSCLA.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

SOUTHAMPTON LEGAL WALK



By Aidan Keogh and Anna Whitmarsh.



On the 16th of September, a team of ten student advisors represented the clinic to walk 10km in the annual Southampton Legal Walk. The charity walk is organised by the London Legal Support Trust and all proceeds go towards the provision of free legal advice in Southampton and Hampshire.

For the Global Legal Clinic, this was an incredible chance to raise funds to support access to justice within the local Southampton community. We are pleased to share we raised £934.50, one of the largest sums raised amongst all participants.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON GLOBAL LEGAL CLINICS

SOUTHAMPTON LEGAL WALK CONTINUED



By Aidan Keogh and Anna Whitmarsh.

We were fortunate enough to have wonderful weather for the 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.

In total, between all the participating non-profits, clinics and firms, over £4,000. was raised.



ANNOUNCEMENT – THE RETURN OF STUDENT ADVISOR AWARDS



WE WILL BE CONTINUING THE 'STUDENT ADVISOR OF THE QUARTER' AWARD THIS YEAR!

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.