

THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH LAW SOCIETY



ISSUE NO 2 | DECEMBER 2020 |

PRESIDENT

Welcome to the second issue of our UPLS Newsletter. We are now coming to the end of Semester 1 and thankfully the year 2020. It has been a difficult year for everybody and I for one am glad to see the end of it. However, before it is over, we on the committee would like to thank every single one of our members who have taken the time to support us by coming to our events, participating in our competitions and socials. We really hope that you will continue to do so into the new year.

As well as this, we owe a great deal of thanks to those who were kind enough to sponsor us this year. It is only with the ongoing support of our generous sponsors that any of our events continue to happen, allowing our society to develop into a meaningful establishment in the local community.

In this issue, we have included some short articles from each role on the committee, giving a brief update on what we have been up to this semester to give you, as our members, the best experience possible.

Stay safe over the winter break, take some time away from your studies and try to relax a little! We cannot wait to be back in action again in January, bringing you even more competitions, events, and various activities.

On behalf on the 2020/21 Committee, we wish you a Happy Holiday and New Year!

VICE PRESIDENT

It has been an incredibly unique experience to function as a society during the current circumstances, but I am proud of the whole committee for showing such great enthusiasm and perseverance throughout the semester. So far, I have had the pleasure of ensuring our social calendar has been relevant and reliable for our members, especially during our second national lockdown. It has been great to see each committee member work hard to make fun and creative events out of their allocated socials - which has been a new structure this year after the dissolution of our sports and socials committee role. From catching up with each person on committee during wellbeing meetings with them, this has made everyone feel more involved in running different aspects of the society with other committee members outside of their partnership roles. It also a good development for the society as a whole to see such a variety of social ideas, as the pandemic has forced us to think outside of the box!

Other than my administrative roles such as supporting Gabriel as well as drafting/proofing emails and ensuring everyone is on track within their roles, I am training to become a wellbeing advocate for the society which will now be incorporated into the VP role. On a confidential basis, unless there are issues that need to be followed up afterward, I will have meetings at the end of each semester with all committee members individually to check up on their mental/physical wellbeing and how they are getting on within their roles. This is extended to any of our members that want to reach out and have a chat, which will be communicated upon completion of my training soon. The thought behind this is to advocate the ideas that our chosen charity, Mind, represents. Therefore, I am available to signpost individuals to further help, or to just be a listening ear when they need it.

I have spent some time reaching out to various establishments in the hopes that they will donate raffle prizes for our major events in semester 2, depending on the restrictions closer to the time. Additionally, I have organised the return of our UPLS merchandise this year as this has been missed by our members according to feedback! After talks with our incredible supplier, Fitness for Sport, we now have a crewneck, t-shirt and hoodie available (as well as some lanyards) on our UPSU page. These are all customisable with our members' initials and are being ordered in bulk batches due to the social restrictions. In the new year we will look into a distribution method that is best to ensure everyone's safety. The most exciting part of these events is that our socials and merchandise profits will all go to Mind at the end of the academic year!

SECRETARY AND CAREERS OFFICER

This semester we've run 3 Careers Events so far: Our CV Workshop; the Alumni discuss LPC & BPC Talk; and our Barristers Talk with members of Devon Chambers. Our CV Workshop broke down the do's and don'ts for CV's and how to put your best foot forward to get that interview. We discussed our experiences with writing CV's and how to show, not tell. We also covered Cover Letters and just how much detail to go into, without getting too personal.

We then held a talk with our Alumni, Deborah Kumar-Benjamin, Casey Chard, and Catherine Adamec, to hear about their experiences after University as they go on to study the LPC and BPC at The University of Law. They ran through what to expect in terms of workload, experiences going through University to post-graduate study, and the reasons why they chose the routes they did. We also covered sponsorship tips and application deadlines, and their experiences going through the applications and interview process.

Lastly, we hosted a talk with Emma Cross, Sophie Johns, and Jennifer Grehan from Devon Chambers to discuss why they joined the Bar and their experiences working there. We covered how the pandemic has impacted their work and how their daily work has changed as the courts have moved online. Their passion for their work and advice for current students was very appreciated, and those who attended this event took away some very helpful tips, whether or not they are looking at applying for the Bar.

For those of you who have attended our events so far, thank you for your support and I hope you've taken something that you'll be able to implement in life to be the best you possible. Also, thank you to everyone who has reached out to us after the events to give their feedback, I'm always excited to hear what you all think and what you'd like us to cover in the future!

Next Semester, I hope to run more talks on Interview Skills and Potential Job Routes after University, but I am open to any ideas you might have! If you want to submit any ideas for events in the future, feel free to drop me an email at uplssecretary@outlook.com and I'll review the idea and see if we can make it possible! It has been amazing to see you all taking part and building this community with us, even in these uncertain times. Our futures are still ahead of us, so while the world is on pause, let's use this time to reflect and build ourselves up for when the world starts up again!

within the society. In addition to this, I have been working hard to ensure that we can still provide you with the best possible experiences whilst ensuring your safety is at the forefront of everything we do. The World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of Covid-19 as a pandemic on the day I was appointed as the newly elected Health, Safety and Communication Officer for the year 2020/21 at our AGM. By September it was clear that I was going to have this new, big responsibility to manage under my role, accompanied by various training and fortnightly reviews of how we are managing the risk of Covid-19. As a result, I have been working closely with the Student Union and the rest of the Committee ever since returning back to University and still continue to do so. I would like to take a moment to thank all of our members for following our Covid-19 guidelines whilst participating in face-to-face activities and familiarising yourself with the Risk Assessment. Your co-operation is appreciated by the entire Committee and has kept you, fellow students and others safe!

Although everything is running a little differently compared to previous years, it has been so rewarding to see us, and our members, still succeeding. I look forward to seeing what Semester 2 brings us. As always, keep an eye out for any updates on social medias, emails and our chat!

TREASURER

Throughout my first semester as Treasurer, my main aim was to secure sponsorships for the society; with the help of other committee members, I have created a sponsorship package and sent it to potential sponsors. This document outlined what it means to partner with us, what we offer, our achievements, why a sponsorship is important, its benefits and the different tiers.

As a result, we were able to secure some sponsorships and strengthen the relationships with some organisations.

I, as a member of the UPLS, have taken part in almost every single competition and event that has been organised by the society and it has helped me to overcome some difficulties with online education. I have enjoyed my time as part of the committee and as a member of the UPLS and I hope you are too!

HEALTH, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

So far this year I have revamped our website, regularly updated our social media accounts and continued to keep you all well informed on what is going

NEGOTIATION OFFICERS

After a summer of hard work setting up the Negotiations Competition, we were ecstatic to start on the 26th October 2020. At this stage of the competition, we were able to safely hold the competition in person with the safety guidelines we had in place. This was a great opportunity to get to know our competitors and the first round showed us how excellent they all are!

The first round included a difficult scenario involving a bride-to-be and a groom-to-be rearranging their proposed wedding with a hotel due to Coronavirus. This was a difficult scenario as each client had very strict directions to be achieved in the negotiation. Although the scenario was hard, it demonstrated great analytical skills of the competitors. As the first round had no knock-outs, all competitors immediately went through into the second round.

The second round was inspired by the recent libel case of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. This was a great scenario to test the competitor's empathetic skills when dealing with a sensitive issue with a client. However, this scenario was hard because it tested how well the teams held the relationship between the client. As the relationship between the actor and the newspaper had broken down, it was imperative that the teams worked together to provide an outcome that could help fix this broken relationship.

The third round was based off an employment scenario between an employee and an employer. The issue revolved around restrictive covenants placed upon an employee once they had left the company. This was an interesting scenario because each client wanted the employee to stay at the company but under new employment contract terms. This required the competitors to use their initiative when reading the information given to them and really think about what is best for their client.

The quarter-finals kicked off at the beginning of December, this involved a land law scenario dealing with boundary disputes and the buying and selling of land. As this was the quarter-finals, there was a lot of confidential information provided to each client, which had the potential to catch out the competitors. This tests the competitor's skills when asked difficult questions on the spot and this was very interesting to watch!

This semester has been very busy but also very fun! We are enjoying every minute of the competition and it is great to know our competitors so well. In the next semester, we have the semi-finals and the finals to look forward to. In addition to this, we are looking forward to picking competitors out for the external competition hosted by CEDR.

MOOTING OFFICERS

Over the course of the first semester as Mooting Officers we have delved straight into the competition!

We began by hosting workshops for potential competitors and subsequently sign-up day for those who enjoyed what they saw. The competition began in October with many competitors new, apprehensive and ready for a challenge.

Over the semester we have watched each pairing grow stronger and stronger and the quality of our competition has been excellent this year. We have enjoyed seeing the improvement and growth of our competitors and look forward to an exciting, successful second semester which will see the semi-finals and ultimately the grand final happens!

We really appreciate the dedication and hard work that is devoted to our competition by the competitors and all of those who make it possible.



DEBATING OFFICERS

The first semester of this year has been challenging for everyone and has impacted on the way in which the UPLS has had to run almost all of its activities. With regulations changing from month to month, this has meant an extra dimension to the planning of the UPLS competitions in particular this year. All of the committee have worked very hard, drafting plans and back-up plans, with the aim of maintaining the presence of the UPLS in student life.

It has been a pleasure to judge the first three rounds of the debating competition so far, all involved have shown so much dedication and adaptability. It has been really interesting to see the different approaches that each team has taken when arguing their position. Even seemingly simple or apparently non-controversial propositions can actually prove to be very fertile grounds for debate, after research has revealed all of the relevant aspects to be argued. Some of the topics so far have been challenging, and the level of preparation by participants has been fantastic.

Personally, we have found that the most rewarding element of the role so far has been to watch participants build upon their existing skills and grow more confident with each round. There are so many ways to try and make a persuasive argument and finding the right approach for a particular audience can be more art than science. One of the most important aspects of competitive debating is that it allows participants to experiment with different approaches and see the comparative success of each one. On several occasions we have noticed participants responding very positively to feedback from earlier rounds.

Hearing one proposition argued by several teams in several different ways has really made us realise how broad the scope of a single argument can be. It is often the case that a proposition will instantly bring to mind a set of fairly obvious points, one way or the other. Whilst these points should never be overlooked in a debate, it has been great to see so many creative and insightful arguments that clearly showed a good deal of research and reflection.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OFFICERS

So far this year, we have hosted a Magistrates Talk with two guest speakers from the local Magistrates Court. They spoke about the role of a magistrate and the structure and processes of the Criminal Justice System, amongst other things.

Additionally, we organised the Annual Criminal Mock Trial, whereby the two guest speakers from the Magistrates Talk judged the participants who were acting as different roles in the trials, ranging from advocates to the witnesses. The two cases that took place were based on dangerous driving and cybercrime offences. Due to the circumstances this year, we held the competition virtually, but we are really happy with the outcome. We had great feedback from both the participants and the guest judges about the professionalism and the structure of the event, so well done to all those that took part! Well done to those that won awards:

Best Magistrate – India Ellis

Runner Up Magistrate – Sipiwe Daka

Best Senior Advocate – Holly Parker

Runner Up Senior Advocate – Shasenem Chakanova

Best Junior Advocate – Daniel Parkinson

Runner Up Junior Advocate – Emily Counter

Best Witness – Sophie Dawe

Runner Up Best Witness – Ruby Forster

Despite the ever-changing challenges that Covid has brought, we are still organising the Annual Cheese and Wine and the Law Ball, in which we are hopeful that they will take place in Semester 2. The Annual Cheese and Wine is a great opportunity for students to network with professionals from different types of jobs in the legal sector, so we are eager for this to still go ahead. The Annual Law Ball is a great way to end the year for all those within the society, to celebrate all the hard work from the Society, and the Official Handover of the new Committee. As mentioned, we are extremely hopeful that these events will take place in person, but if we are not able to, we are looking into alternative arrangements for these events as we want all of our Law Society members to have the best possible end of the year!

We also hosted our Annual Client Interviewing Competition. The three rounds were all very challenging, but despite circumstances meaning the competition was run differently to previous years, the standard of competition was incredible. Those who competed listened to our judge's advice, and both were impressed with the level of competition. Thank you to Ella Thorpe and Sophi Carroll for judging the competition, and to those who acted as clients. We would like to congratulate the winners Mollie Pellowe and Daniel Parkinson and the runners-up, Shasenem Chakanova and Chloe Holman!

MEMBER WRITE UPS ON OUR CAREER EVENTS

CV Workshop

"I found the CV Workshop really fascinating. We had an opportunity to see and learn what makes you stand out of the crowd and as a result, I learned many great tricks and tips to use when writing my CV and Cover Letter. Olivia explained do's and don'ts explicitly and in depth, which I found really helpful and will certainly use in the future. Overall, the event was useful and was done in a professional yet relaxing way!" – Edvinas Brezgys.

Alumni Discuss the LPC and BPC

"Talking about post-graduation has always scared me to an extent as a second-year law student because I know that my chapter here at university will be over before I can even fully make the most out of the opportunities given to me. Stepping into the adult world when all you have ever known is the education system can be a very daunting thing but somehow this alumni event made me realise exactly what route I want to pursue and also how to get there. I loved the honest portrayal of life after graduation and each person had a different life story, with various journeys taken to get to the same destination. From everything such as application processes, to finances, to workload, and to lecturers, every question was answered with both candour and empathy, as well as light-heartedness which made the advice easier to digest. There is now a clear plan for me to follow which makes the prospect of the future a little less scary. I strongly believe that events like these are beneficial and informative to the student body and I look forward to any future events. I think I can speak for everyone who attended when I say that I am greatly appreciative to every single person who took the time out of their day to speak about their journey." – Chloe Holman.

Barristers Talk with Devon Chambers

"I thoroughly enjoyed the event with Emma, Jennifer and Sophie from Devon Chambers, listening to their experiences and advice about becoming a barrister. They all had very different experiences and made me realise that there isn't a common route to the bar. From this talk, it has inspired me to search for work experience and I can't wait to get started. I'm thoroughly looking forward to the next UPLS event where we can talk to some professionals and get some relevant and useful information. Listening to them has only helped confirm to me that becoming a barrister is my goal." – James Bennett.

"The talk given by Devon Chambers provided a valuable insight into the process of becoming a barrister, ranging from the application process to scholarships and pupillage. The barristers were really helpful as they told us about the types of questions that interviewers tend to ask, and skills they look out for. It was reassuring to know that there is not only one route into the profession, and you do not have to start straight after graduation. The information about work experience was especially useful for me because it showed that even if you cannot get to your local courts, or chambers, experience can be accessed virtually. Thank you to the barristers at Devon Chambers for giving up their time to do this and the UPLS for organising it." – Mollie Pellowe.

CHARITY

We are supporting Mind over the academic year.

If you have any thoughts on how the UPLS could fundraise during Semester 2, or would like to make a donation, please get in touch with the Vice President.



AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SOCIALS THIS YEAR

The UPLS is not just about getting you that career in law. We know how important it is to relax while meeting your fellow students at the University of Plymouth. It has been a busy Semester 1 for us, with lots of socials for our members to come along to.

In September, Thomas and Gabriel hosted an Icebreaker Quiz. This was a great opportunity for both new and returning students to meet one another, whilst getting to know the Committee. For one last time, we would like to congratulate the winners: Courtney Pottinger, Georgia Lane and Noah Ball.

At the end of September, Abigail and Gabriel hosted the annual Welcome Party. During this event people were placed into Zoom breakout rooms and given the opportunity to meet people from different years. Congratulations to Joel Morgan, Olivia Moran and Morgan Edgell who were lucky enough to win one of the raffle prizes!

At the end of October, Gabriel and Kimberley hosted an 'Among Us' evening. The thrill of playing as imposter definitely got people's hearts racing as they attempted to murder the entire crew and not get caught. Crewmates tried to remain unharmed whilst keeping an eye out for anyone who seemed suspicious. Meetings were called during which we unmuted on Zoom and discussed who we believed may be the imposter.

Following from this, Olivia and Hannah hosted a 'Games Night' using JackBox Games. We played Lie Swatter, Word Spud, Drawful, You Don't Know Jack and Fibbage!

At the end of November, Ruby and Sipiwe hosted a 'Games Show', where all University of Plymouth students were welcome! We played 2 Truths 1 Lie, Pictionary and ended with a short Quiz!

To end the year, Kimberley and Olivia hosted the 'Big Holiday Quiz'. Students joined us for some festive cheer as they competed for the grand prize. Congratulations to Hannah Dymond who is the Holiday Quiz champion!

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



@PlymUniUPLS



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University of
Plymouth Law
Society



[https://www.
uplawsociety.](https://www.uplawsociety.)



Tag us in your
posts or stories!

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Mooting Officers – uplsmooting@outlook.com

Debating Officers – uplsdebating@outlook.com

Negotiations Officers – uplsnegotiations@outlook.com

Events and Activities Officers - uplsevents@outlook.com

OUR SPONSORS FOR 2020/21

The
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For any queries regarding Sponsorships, please get in touch with the Treasurer, Shasenem Chakanova.

LAWCAREERS.NET STUDENT LAW SOCIETY AWARDS

Do you love the UPLS? Do the UPLS support you on your search for a legal career? Have the UPLS gone above and beyond with virtual events and opportunities?

Submissions are now open for the LawCareers.Net 2021 Student Law Society Awards. If you are a member, please take a moment to complete the survey via <https://awards.lawcareers.net/sls/vote-now/> to nominate us for an award (it should only take 5-10 minutes)! Thank you in advance, we really appreciate your support!

#TEAMPLYMOUTHCHALLENGE SCOREBOARD

LAW SOCIETY
STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
UPSU RIDING AND POLO
TROPICAL ISLAND SOCIETY
CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY

POINTS

28
8
6
3
2

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE TAKEN PART SO
FAR**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND NEW YEAR
FROM THE
UPLS COMMITTEE
2020/21**

TEAMPLYMOUTH CHALLENGE

TeamPlymouth (University of Plymouth Students Union) are putting societies and clubs against each other in the first ever #TeamPlymouthChallenge.

Week 1

Creative Challenge (Draw Smeaton's Tower) – 1st place went to Dylan Singleton-Bray, giving us 3 points.

Active Challenge (How many steps can you walk in one week?) – 2nd place went to Laura Keith with a step entry of 75,995, giving us 2 points.

Week 2

Creative Challenge (Best Animal Photo) – 2nd place went to Olivia Moran's dog, Lucy, giving us 2 points.

Active Challenge (How long can you hold the plank?) – 1st place went to Olivia Moran with her winning plank time of 1.05.32 seconds, giving us 3 points.

Week 3

Creative Challenge (Best Bake) – 1st place was a tie between Kimberley Hurn with her Gingerbread Loaf Cake and Holly Parker with her Kinder Bueno Cake, giving us 3 points.

Active Challenge (Most Keepy-Uppy's with a Toilet Roll) – 1st place went to Thomas Wilson who managed 8, giving us another 3 points.

Week 4

Creative Challenge (Make a Christmas Ornament with Household Items) – 1st place went to Thomas Wilson's Santa, giving us 3 points + 1 bonus point for using so many items!

Active Challenge (Best TikTok Dance) – 1st place went to us thanks to Abigail Russell's cat dancing to the song Space Girl + 1 bonus point for dressing up Christmassy!

We were also awarded a bonus point every week for the most members taking part, so, a big thank you to everyone who got involved!

We are pleased to announce that **we are the winners of the #TeamPlymouthChallenge!** To see all of our entries, check out our Facebook page @PlymuniUPLS.

If you would like to see entries from other societies and clubs, look at the hashtag, #TeamPlymouthChallenge on Facebook and Instagram.