

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH LAW SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

CHEESE AND WINE NETWORKING EVENING

On the 2nd of December we finally held our annual Cheese and Wine Networking Evening in person, and what an amazing event it was!!



A MESSAGE FROM INDIA ELLIS AND MOLLIE PELLOWE

"Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 Cheese and Wine Networking Evening.

Cheese and Wine is a special event for the UPLS as well as the local legal community. At its core, this evening is about coming together to make connections and helping those that are now beginning to embark on their legal journey. A lot of our members buy their membership for the purpose of attending this event, so it was important for us as Events and Activities Officers to make it as special as we could, especially given the fact that events such as these have been restricted in the last few years.

This year we decided to ask our members the types of professionals they would like to meet other than those who are traditionally invited. They replied with cybercrime, child protection and members of the police force. From this we looked into professionals working within these areas and asked our Secretary, Hannah Dymond to invite over 250 professionals. She personalised each and every invite, and we credit the number of professionals who attended to her.

We would also like to thank Chloe Collard for her amazing advertising of the event and design for the poster, and the rest of the committee for their help.



The evening itself was better than imagined, The Box was a fabulous venue and the catering was delicious and wine excellent. We are thankful to the staff at The Box, especially Emma who helped us make the venue such a wonderful setting for our event. Izzy took some incredible photos of the evening which you can find on our social media and hers.

The 2021 Cheese and Wine Networking Evening was the largest the law society had held, with the widest range of professionals and most students and this makes us immensely proud. We know that our students have made some wonderful connections and some have even got work experience out of it! Despite it being a long road to completion with a lot of stress throughout it was worth it when we saw it all come together.



As someone who had never been to a networking event in any capacity before, I was slightly apprehensive about how the Law Society Cheese and Wine evening would play out. To my delight there was such a friendly atmosphere, I felt at ease, and I developed professional communication skills that will be essential in furthering my career. There were many local legal professionals in attendance, including a County Court Judge! Having spoken with them, I feel confident, excited, and much more informed about the reality of a legal career. Plus, the cheese and wine itself was delicious!

- ELLEN DAVIS - FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENT

A MESSAGE FROM THOMAS WILSON - UPLS PRESIDENT

Reflecting on this year's UPLS Cheese and Wine event, we are very glad that we were able to return to hosting the event in person this year. The event took place at a time in which there was considerable uncertainty regarding potential restrictions due to the development of the Omicron Covid variant. This posed some unique challenges for our committee, many of whom really went above and beyond to make the evening the success that it turned out to be. The event was well attended by students and professionals alike, and many of our members have reported that they were able to make meaningful professional connections. This year the event took place at The Box Plymouth, and we could not have asked for a more perfect setting. The space, decorations and lighting were stunning, and the staff were fantastic. Perhaps the only hiccup of the evening was my own decision to purchase several raffle tickets, a suspiciously high number of which ended up being called in the draw (much to my embarrassment).

The UPLS committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the professionals who supported the event and special thanks go to James Walsh for giving such an inspirational speech.



- JAMES WALSH - FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE PLYMOUTH LAW SOCIETY AND PARTNER OF GA SOLICITORS.

As President of Plymouth Law Society and Partner of GA Solicitors it was a pleasure to be invited to the University of Plymouth Law Society Cheese and Wine Evening at the Box. It was clear both students and legal practitioners had a fantastic evening. It was a brilliant opportunity to speak to the next generation of lawyers and help guide them along the path of their legal career.

What really pleased me was the enthusiasm of the students and the commitment many showed to further their legal career in the city of Plymouth. We are lucky we have an excellent Faculty of Law which is producing a high calibre of students. These are people we want to see working in our firms in Plymouth and our firms will certainly provide some great recruitment opportunities to help students meet their aspirations.



UPLS ADVENTURE TO LONDON.

- SUPREME COURT - GRAYS INN

THIS EVENT WAS ORGANISED BY THE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES OFFICERS

ON THE 4TH OF FEBRUARY, WE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE 25 UPLS MEMBERS TO GRAYS INN, TO HAVE SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT TO EXPECT WHILST STUDYING AT THE INN.

WE FIRSTLY HAD A TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT, WHERE WE EXPLORED THE COURT ROOMS AND HEARD ABOUT THE HISTORY OF WHEN THE COURT OPENED.

THEN WE HEADED TO GRAYS INN WHERE WE HAD A TOUR BY 3 GENTLEMEN WHO GAVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN APPLYING FOR THE INN AND ALSO THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. WE ENDED THE TOUR WITH A LOVELY LUNCH WITH TWO STUDENTS OF THE INN.



The trip to Gray's Inn was extremely informative and eye-opening. It was truly an incredible experience to be able to visit one of the honourable Inns of Court, to be able to stand in rooms and halls where prominent barristers of the past and present have walked as a student. This trip opened my eyes to the world of barristers and motivated me to work harder. The tour included the insights of current pupil barristers whom we were able to converse with about their experiences and the admission process at Gray's Inn.

Visiting the Supreme court was perhaps one of the most amazing experiences of my life, to be able to see with my own eyes the place where the final decisions are made in some of the most high-profile cases, to see the portraits of former Justices, the Supreme Court is at the pinnacle of the English Legal System. It is one thing to read about the Supreme Court and to physically see it in person.

As a first-year law student, the trip gave me insight into the legal world and made me fall in love with the English Legal System and appreciate the subject more.

- MARIYAM DHANNIYA, FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENT.





UPLS INTRAMURAL SPORTS NETBALL - FOOTBALL



After not being able to do any of our Intramural sports for over a year. We were finally able to, this year and we could not wait to begin the Intramural games for Netball and also to be able to take part in the Football league. This is where we play the sport against other societies, which is an amazing way to meet new people and make some new memories.



I have thoroughly enjoyed playing for the Law's football team every Sunday in the University's intramural league. It has helped create a real sense of comradery not only between course mates but also between the three different years of the course. The Student Union has been very helpful in supporting our training sessions which usually take part throughout the week. This has allowed our team to grow and develop, further increasing the competitive aspect of this extra-curricular activity. Overall UPFC has shown to be a great aspect of the Law Society as it offers students the possibility to meet new likeminded law students whilst also being great physical activity.

- THOMAS WRIGHT, THIRD YEAR LAW STUDENT



Alongside my UPLS role, I am Co-captain of the Netball and also the organiser of the Football Team. It has been a great pleasure to see members of UPLS having fun in taking part and also having the chance to meet new people from other societies!

- CHLOE COLLARD, THIRD YEAR LAW STUDENT & UPLS HEALTH, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Not only have we been doing the Intramural games, we have also conducted some Charity Fundraiser games. In December, we held a Charity Dodgeball Fundraising Game. The money was raised for our chosen charity 'Inside Justice'. This charity investigates into miscarriage of justice in the country. We have another dodgeball game on the 25th of March, so keep a look out for more updates. We are also in the process of organising a netball and football charity fundraiser game..

THE ROLES OF THE UPLS COMMITTEE:

As the year comes to an end, it is time for our current committee members to start saying goodbye to their roles within the UPLS. Every year between March-May we host an AGM, where any UPLS member can apply to be a candidate for up to 2 roles within the UPLS, which will be decided between the committee and also its members.

CORE COMMITTEE ROLES INCLUDE:

- President
- Secretary & Careers Officer
- Treasurer
- Health, Safety & Communication Officer

COMPETITION OFFICER ROLES INCLUDE:

- Vice President
- Events & Activities Officers
- Mooting Officers
- Debating Officers
- Negotiations Officers

To each Competition Officer, there will be 2 positions available.

WHAT TO EXPECT PRIOR TO THE AGM:

Prior to the AGM there will be a document sent out to each member regarding the roles. If you are interested you will be required to answer some questions explaining why you would be suitable for the role. This will then be sent out to each member and on the day of the AGM you can give up to a 2 minute speech. This will then follow with a vote!

If you have any questions, just email one of our committee members for some help!!

Keep a look out for more information.

THOMAS WILSON

PRESIDENT

UPLSPRESIDENT@OUTLOOK.COM



As president of UPLS, it is my role to generally oversee the running of the society.

A large part of this involves supporting the committee to provide the best possible experience that we can for our members. As such, it typically involves engaging with members, both inside and out of the committee. The UPLS is democratic, and the President does not have the final word regarding significant decisions. Having said that, it is part of the President's role to help orchestrate the decision-making process and to try and avoid or resolve any problem that may be faced by the committee and our members.

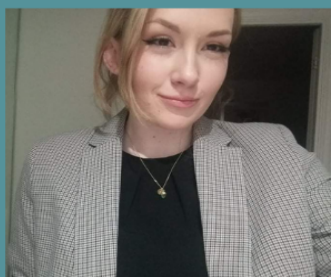
Ideally, any candidates considering the role should be enthusiastic about the UPLS and have some vision for the society's future direction. Depending on a candidate's initial ambitions, this aspect of the role can be challenging, but also very rewarding. Throughout my Presidency, for example, I have aimed to ensure that the experience that we provide remains encouraging and inclusive. Also, that we aim to strike the right balance between formal and friendly: by showing respect for professional standards whilst remaining open and approachable.

The UPLS President acts as a representative for the society in various ways. This sometimes includes talking to the new or prospective students about the UPLS, writing in the newsletter or corresponding with other organisations. Part of this aspect of the role takes place within the society itself and involves engaging with members in a way that is kind, encouraging and professional. The opportunity to engage with other like-minded students in this way has been a personal highlight of my time as President. We are a large society that host a wide range of events, each of which aim to improve our members' University experience or further their career prospects. Contributing to that is immensely rewarding in and of itself. The role is a big commitment but also a fantastic opportunity.

EMILY COUNTER

VICE PRESIDENT

UPLSVP@OUTLOOK.COM



I would encourage anyone passionate about student engagement within the union to run for the role of Vice-President. The Vice-President plays a role in the general administration of the society acknowledging the values established both by the SU and the societies constitution.

Any potential candidate will need to be willing to build a strong relationship with the President and work closely with them to manage the varying workload. Alongside this, the role includes overseeing the societies engagement with its charity organising/ delegating socials and managing the societies sporting activities.

Whilst demanding at times, the role has been an absolute joy to take on and it is a pleasure to be part of such a hardworking and reliable team. I hope that anyone seeking a challenge will apply for the role and continue the success of the society for the foreseeable future.

Will be in charge of:

- Well-being meetings
- Sports (netball & football)
- Organising our chosen charity & charity fundraiser events.
- Organising socials with other committee members.

HANNAH DYMOND

SECRETARY & CAREERS OFFICER

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The role of Secretary and Careers Officer comprises of two overall responsibilities: those that fall under the category of being 'Secretary', and those that fall under the category of being a 'Careers Officer'.

The responsibilities of a Secretary are that which fall under the title of 'core committee'. This means you form part of the central four roles that the SU require each committee to have. Being in such a role requires you to oversee almost everything that happens within the society. Specific responsibilities of the Secretary include:

- Arranging committee meetings
- Communicating with fellow committee members to formulate the agenda for each committee meeting
- Taking the minutes for each committee meeting
- Room bookings, External Speaker Forms, and Trip Registration Forms (in collaboration with the Health, Safety and Communications Officer)
- Organising the AGM alongside the President
- Communicating with the SU - the Secretary is the point of contact between the SU and other Committee members.
- Support the Committee in any way you can
- Other administrative responsibilities e.g. placing products on the UPSU site and emailing members with updates from the society.

The nature of the work of the Secretary means that you rely heavily on other committee members. The SU and the society have strict deadlines, and it is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure these deadlines are met. The role of the Secretary requires an organised individual who has a passion for the society and a drive to get all the jobs done.

The Careers Officer aspect of the role includes:

- Organising careers events - including communicating with professionals to organise these events
- Sending out the 'save the date' invitations, formal invitations, and reminder emails to professionals attending our Annual Cheese and Wine Networking Evening.

The role of Secretary and Careers Officer really is what you make of it. I recommend that any individual who is organised, interested in increasing their IT and networking skills, and has a passion for the UPLS, should apply for this role!



SHASENEM
CHAKANOVA

TREASURER

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Treasurer is one of the 'core' committee roles in the UPLS. Being Treasurer for the UPLS will provide you with such important skills as teams working, time management, organisation and networking that are so important in the legal industry:

During this role you will be responsible for a number of things including:

- Creating a sponsorship package, as a PDF document in the beginning of the academic
- Researching potential sponsors (usually local law firms and other legal organisations)
- Reaching out to them and therefore, networking
- Managing payments
- Keeping track of expenses
- Reviewing and approving budget of the UPLS for the first and second semesters
- Applying for funding from the UPSU twice a year
- Keeping contact with the sponsors
- Organising events with the sponsors if necessary

As part of the committee, you will be expected to attend meetings, and most of the events. I enjoyed my time as part of the committee and member of the UPLS and I hope you enjoy the events and competitions organised by our committee too!

CHLOE COLLARD

HEALTH, SAFETY & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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The role of the Health, Safety and Communication Officer, is divided into two roles. As part of the *health and safety role*, I am in charge in creating risk assessments for any event or activity which the society wishes to conduct. Don't worry if you've never done a risk assessment before, the SU will provide you with a template and also organise a session which helps you to know what to look for when completing the risk assessment. You will have to keep in contact with the other members of the committee constantly to know what events or activities they are planning to do throughout the year so that you can cover as much as possible when you fill out the general risk assessment at the start of the year.

It is also advised for you to be first aid trained. This is because when there is an event there will need to be a first aider on sight just in case! But do not worry, you will be given a chance to complete the course to be qualified! (This will also look good on your CV).

As part of the *communication role*, you will be in charge of all of our social media accounts.

- Facebook – this also entails creating the UPLS Members group chat.
- Instagram
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Law Society Website.

I would advise anyone interested in this role to follow all of the accounts to have an idea of what type of posts are expected of you! And if you enjoy being creative, this is the role for you!!

It is important for you to communicate with the other committee members. This is because you need to know what you need to advertise with enough time for members to check their schedules. Also, if you need any committee member to do anything, put some strict deadlines in place and keep on top of them so that you do not fall behind your own.

Most importantly, you will have to create the UPLS newsletter 3 times during the academic year. I will provide you with the original template which was used last year. But there is no need for you to follow this, because as you may have seen, I have not, and I have created different ones for each newsletter! That is the best part of your role, you have no one controlling on the creativity you can put into a post!

It will be advised for you to be confident in speaking to others, having to message or email anybody that needs to be contacted. You will need to be organised and have good time management skills. You will also improve a lot of other skills as well.



MOLLIE PELLOWE & INDIA ELLIS

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES OFFICERS

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We believe this is the best committee role as it is super fun, but also the hardest!

Our role is really full-on but very rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable.

We are responsible for 3 events that happen over the course of the academic year. The year starts for us with the Cheese and Wine Networking Event, which takes place in December. We started working on this after our handover in May. In June, we began talking and viewing venues, and booked a venue by late July. The event is only for our members, and this year we held the largest event with the widest range of professionals - ranging from judges to police officers and cybercrime.



In February, we ran a trip to one of the 4 inns of court. This year we went to the Supreme Court and Grays inn. It was amazing to see the trip finally come together after 5 months of planning and how many students were/are interested in a career as a Barrister. It was a successful trip over all.

Finally, we have our Law Ball! Which we have been working on since May 2021, and it will be held on the 29th of April 2022!!! It is a celebration of all the wonderful achievements throughout the academic year. This event is very challenging to organise, similarly to Cheese and Wine as there is a wide range of components to consider.

Although this may seem a daunting prospect at first, it is a role that is very rewarding and will give you lots of excellent stuff to pop on your CV!

This role allows for the development of professionalism through the way in which you react with all the professionals and businesses which you will be tasked with dealing with. You will learn how to express yourself and your opinion with others in a confident fashion, whether that be with the committee or with your partner. Organisational skills are key, you will develop them, but you also need to arrive with them. Being an Events Officer is a lot of hard work and commitment and it NEEDS dedication as the events you will host are the big calendar events for the society and also the most treasured ones of the society.



NOAH BALL & CHLOE HOLMAN

DEBATING OFFICERS

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Being a Debating Officer for the UPLS will provide you with skills essential for an impressive CV, such as responsibility, teamwork and organisation, whilst helping you expand your legal networking when collaborating with legal professionals to judge.

During this role, you will be responsible, alongside a fellow Debating Officer, for a number of tasks throughout the academic year including:

- Promoting participation in the Debate Competition at Freshers fairs.
- Preparing a workshop before the rounds begin to help interested parties to understand the nature and structure of the debates.
- Organising and preparing five rounds of debates.
- Setting propositions that are interesting but not too complicated to debate.
- Keeping in contact with the participants to ensure they receive the required information for each round of debate.
- Contacting professionals within the legal sector to judge the semi-final and final rounds.
- Providing feedback forms to the participants after each round.

As part of the committee itself, you will also attend meetings where you will discuss any upcoming rounds and activities that you are interested in running, and as one of two Debating Officers, you will be required to stay in contact with your partner to ensure a balanced workload between the two of you and cooperation about the competition.

For the next academic year, you will also be in charge of the Mock Trial Competition. This is normally part of the Events and Activities Officers role, but after this year, we feel though as it would be better for our Debating Officers to do so. The Events Officers normally run the competition late February/March, with two local magistrates. But do not worry, when the handover happens, the Events Officers will explain a bit more.

BILLY ZOKARIS & DYLAN SINGLETON-BRAY

NEGOTIATIONS OFFICERS

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We must say that being a negotiation officer is a very enjoyable role, and we are both very happy for applying last year for it. The Negotiations

Competition is a very fun and relaxing competition without any law needed. It is a great way to meet new people from all three years, making friends, talking with professionals as we cooperate with Womble Bond Dickinson and GA Solicitors law firms as well as closely with lectures.

The main tasks that a Negotiation Officer has to do is to write some scenarios with their partner on different topics such as tenancy, contract, venues etc and will also judge their participants and schedule the day or days you will hold its rounds.

The number of rounds is left at your discretion and usually, the last two rounds are given to lecturers and professionals to write a scenario and judge them. It is something that you can put on your CV and law firms are generally interested. You can also improve some of your skills, such as communications, critical thinking, organisation, and time management as you have to balance them with your studies. We strongly urge you to apply for this role.

In addition to the Negotiations Competition, the next academic year you will be expected to run and organise the Client Interviewing competition. This is usually conducted by the Events Officers, however we have decided that it would better suited for this role. The competition is done with the help of Wolferstans Solicitors. Running 5 rounds and the talk was logistically challenging, but we have been told by the Events Officers that they felt that people have learnt a lot.



**HETTY SUMMERHAYES
& MOLLY BENNET**

MOOTING OFFICERS

UPLSMOOTING@OUTLOOK.COM

The Mooting Officers run all the moot competitions but their role is varied and extremely interesting. We had never experienced being part of the committee before signing up and are we extremely pleased that we did.

In the beginning it is important to decide what the moots will be on and how you want to run them. We have chosen a variety of practice areas: from crime to contract, family to human rights. We will give you a handover document outlining previous lecturers that have written questions for the competition.

It is all extremely interesting, insightful and you will learn an awful lot. As a judge, it is important for you to give constructive feedback to help the competitors. It is also important to liaise with the competitors about the external moot competitions which run throughout the year. The Mooting Officer role is interesting, fun and challenging.

Next academic year, you will also be in charge of a speed moot. Which we will discuss more in the handover once you are elected.

Anyone who enjoyed mooting should definitely sign up for the next years events or alternatively apply for the Mooting Officer role at the AGM.



11th & 12th March, 2022

UPLS LEGAL TRIATHLON COMPETITION

Client Interview - Negotiation - Mock Trial/Moot

This year we have created and trialing a new competition called, the LEGAL TRIATHLON.

The competition will entail 3 rounds over the space of 2 days. On the first day (Friday 11th of March) you will take part in the Client Interview and also the Negotiations. On the last day (Saturday 12th of March), you will then take part in the Moot/Mock Trial.



LAW BALL

THIS EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES OFFICERS



ON THE 24TH OF JANUARY, WE RELEASED OUR FIRST WAVE OF LAW BALL TICKETS. WHICH SOLD OUT WITHIN LESS THAN 48 HOURS!!

ON THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY, WE THEN RELEASED OUR SECOND WAVE OF LAW BALL TICKETS, WHICH HAVE NOW SOLD OUT!!

THE NEXT AND FINAL WAVE OF THE TICKETS WILL BE RELEASED ON THE 9TH OF MARCH AT MIDDAY!! MEMBERS TICKETS WILL BE £40 AND NON-MEMBERS WILL BE £45...

THE EVENT WILL HAPPEN ON THE 29TH OF APRIL AT THE NEW CONTINENTAL HOTEL FROM 6PM, FOR A 3 COURSE MEAL. THERE WILL ALSO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER, PHOTOBOOTH AND A DJ!!!