

Foreword

As Head of the School of Law at Leeds University, I am delighted and very proud to congratulate the editorial board on the publication of this inaugural volume of the Leeds Journal of Law & Criminology. Getting a new journal to publication requires a huge amount of work and I have a great sense of pride, that I am sure will be shared by all in the School of Law, in knowing that students at Leeds University have been entirely responsible for this.

The range of articles in the first volume offers a fascinating foretaste of what we can come to expect from the journal. The articles range over subjects as diverse as Islamic finance law and fairness in English contract law to the medical law on infants. Most importantly it showcases what law students at Leeds are capable of. The quality of the articles collected here would not disgrace a much more established journal and if, as I am sure will be the case, the quality is maintained, the journal will make a significant contribution to the academic life, culture and community of the School of Law.

This is very much a journal written and produced by students and I hope that future generations will want to take responsibility for developing it over the years ahead. The UK does not, as yet, have the tradition that is well-established in the United States of high quality student produced law reviews. These law reviews offer law students an extraordinary opportunity to showcase their abilities and there are few people who have reached the top of the law profession whether as judges, academics or practitioners who have not written for their Law School's law review. Positions on the editorial boards of reviews like the Harvard Law Review are

prized and there is intense competition for these positions. I would very much like to see a similar attitude developing with respect to this law journal. Writing, or undertaking an editorial role, for the journal are “goods” in themselves, but more instrumentally having some form of participation in the journal will benefit one’s career in manifest ways.

Though the journal is written and edited by Leeds University students and graduates, its intended audience is a wide one. I hope it will be read by students, that other academics will read it but also that it will be read by those in practice. If the law is to develop in ways that will help improve the world in which we live, it is critical that we engage with ideas that challenge the status quo. Each new generation of law and criminology students has its responsibility in this regard. Take up the baton and challenge received wisdoms. You may end up being “wrong” but at the very least you will have forced others to think and that is important. The legal and criminological academic culture in Leeds is already a very strong one but this journal, if we embrace it, can play a significant role in enhancing it.

I wish all success to those who will contribute to this journal whether as authors or editors and I look forward to the benefits that it will bring not only to our academic community but also to the wider legal community.

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