

**Editorial**

**Catching our breath at the end of the year**

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It is that time of the academic year when marking is done, graduations have been celebrated and we are all preparing to go on leave, holidays, or, for our students, new adventures. It has been a very busy year, with many challenges, but also a very rewarding year. This issue demonstrates the hard work students and staff put into every day within a university. I am very proud of the work in this issue and I hope you all enjoy it. It is a diverse body of work, from articles to reflections, and demonstrates the creativity of our students.

The first article in this issue is by a PGR from Keele University, Felicity Adams. Felicity's article, 'From Homophony to Polyphony: Law and Music a Consonant Duet for Future Legal Thinking and Practice?', explores how the law should embed the value of community. In order to do this, Felicity explores work by Ramshaw, supporting his thesis that a reciprocal relationship between law and music should be established to support the operation of community, as according to Derridean. It is a very interesting article and brought music and law together in a way I couldn't have imagined.

Jessica Hurwood produced an article on the Hart-Devlin debate and its application to legalising assisted dying. In "Application of the Hart-Devlin debate to the ideas and arguments raised in 'Legalising assisted dying would be a failure of collective human memory and imagination'", Jessica explores whether Hart's liberal approach has in fact prevailed, or if society prefers Devlin's more conservative approach. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jessica on graduating with the highest undergraduate performance in law this year, winning the Oxford University Press Prize, the Watson Burton Prize and the Northumbria Law School Prize. This article shows the standard of her work and is a testament to her time at Northumbria University.

The last article in this issue is by a second year law student, Jacob Tron. Jacob, in his article, “The law relating to Proscription of terrorist organisations as set out in the Terrorism Act 2000”, explores how the law relating to proscription of terrorist organisations protects the public, but also encroaches on civil liberties and human rights. It is a comprehensive article on terrorism law and discusses some interesting proposals for reform of the law.

This issue introduces our first reflection piece. John Salt, a recent graduate from Northumbria University, explores empathy in the legal profession, based on his experience in our award winning Student Law Office. John discusses how we should not strategise our emotion when working with our clients, but rather put ourselves in the shoes of our clients, to provide them with a humanistic consumer experience. In the age of technology and the development of AI legal services, a reflection on the importance of the human aspect of lawyering is welcomed.

This year saw the introduction of the Policy Clinic into the Student Law Office and Northumbria University. The purpose of the Policy Clinic is to conduct research, mainly empirical, for organisations, with the aim of influencing policy and law reform. We had some amazing projects run this year with some extremely dedicated students. In this issue is just one of many reports produced this year. Some of my own students carried out research for the UK Centre for Animal Law (ALAW), exploring reasons why elderly people with companion animals are unable to access residential care homes or supported accommodation, and whether these legal and/or regulatory factors can be overcome. Paula Sparks, Chairperson of ALAW, came from London to meet with the students working on this project and said the final report “*is a high quality piece of research and a testament to the hard work of students undertaking this project*”. ALAW is paying for these students to attend their conference, Animal Law, Ethics and Policy 2019, to present their findings and discuss their experience of working on the project. I would like to congratulate Amy Millross, Golara Bozorg and Marija Bilerte on their hard work on this project, and all of the other students who carried out work in the Policy Clinic this year. Watch this space, more reports will come in future issues!

Lastly, we have two excellent undergraduate dissertations in this issue. Lucy Dougall, supervised by Professor Tony Ward, produced a dissertation entitled, “Intoxication in Criminal Law – An Analysis of the Practical Implications of the *Ivey v Genting Casinos* case on the Majewski Rule”. This dissertation explores how intoxication works within the criminal law and how the application varies for the category of the crime. Specifically, Lucy analyses the recent Supreme Court decision in *Ivey v Genting Casinos* and how the doctrine of intoxication applies to property offences. Well done to Lucy and Professor Ward for producing such a high quality dissertation.

Last, but not least, Mert Evirgen, under the supervision of Professor Chris Newman, produced a dissertation entitled “An Alternative Approach to Solving the Dilemma of Litigation and Liability Disputes in Outer Space”. This is an brilliant dissertation, and a must read for any who wants an introduction to space law and the issues around litigation of such a hostile environment, which can raise international tensions. Mert argues that the implementation of ADR in space disputes is urgent and can avoid international relationships breaking down. This dissertation highlights the diverse range of topics offered at Northumbria Law School, boldly going where no one has gone before.

I hope you all enjoy reading this issue as much as I have. It has been a hard year, but seeing all of this outstanding work produced brought together always make academia worth it. Well done to all of our students published in this issue and I call on more students, from all universities, to send in their work. It is a pleasure to be able to see what you are all interested in and new ideas being formed and discussed.

Have a lovely summer everyone, breathe, take a break, and we’ll do it all again in September!