Adelaide Law School offers Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) from 2013

The University of Adelaide is delighted to announce it has signed a formal partnership with the Law Society of South Australia to deliver jointly the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) to eligible law students from 2013. Completion of this practical legal training course by law graduates is required before they can be admitted to practice law in South Australia. The agreement will effectively transfer the existing program for the training of legal graduates from the Law Society of South Australia into a joint program with the University of Adelaide. Under the new arrangement, eligible law students and graduates will now be able to undertake the joint GDLP program drawing on Adelaide Law School’s teaching and learning excellence and resources with classes delivered in the Law School premises.

Adelaide Law School Dean Professor John Williams said this exciting development would enable University of Adelaide law students to continue seamlessly their law studies and graduate studies.

The course would also be open to other law graduates, both interstate and international, who wish to train for the legal profession.

“Elements of the GDLP will be delivered outside of normal teaching hours and can be completed in accelerated mode, matching the life, study and work balance needs of students. This partnership with the Law Society will also offer students additional opportunities to develop professional connections.” Professor Williams said.

“University of Adelaide legal staff will work with the Law Society to enhance further the existing GDLP curriculum and learning experience to fit with the expectations of students today and the training requirements for a modern legal profession in South Australia.”

More information about the GDLP offered by Adelaide Law school can be found at www.law.adelaide.edu.au/degrees/gdlp
Celebrating International Law Students in 2012

On Wednesday the 24 October 2012 the Dean of the Law School, Professor John Williams, hosted an end of year dinner for our International Students. In 2012 there were 142 international students enrolled in the Law Degree and the Law School was pleased that students representing ten countries were able to attend the dinner, which was held in Adelaide.

The Honourable Justice Kevin Nicholson of the Supreme Court of South Australia, a former academic at the Law School, was the guest speaker. He told the attendees of his own experiences studying abroad and he explained that local students get a richer educational experience from learning alongside international students. He said to the students: “the Adelaide community as a whole is the greatest beneficiary of having international students like you”.

Photo above: Back Row, L to R: Michael Wong, Dr Laura Grenfell, Director, Internationalisation & International Student Support, Adelaide Law School Dean Professor John Williams, Ngoc Linh Pham, Suef Yoong Leong, Priscilla Phan
Front Row, L to R: Sunny Wu, David Caruso, Director of Advocacy and Justice Unit in the Faculty of the Professions, Wong Yun Wei, Xin Div Lee.

Photo above: Left to Right: Janet Wu, Siti Hussin, Adelaide Law School Academic Kellie Toole, Nasruna Nordien, Ima Mohdyusof, Ruzanna Abd rashid, Shalini Sandra Segaran

Honourable Justice Kevin Nicholson

Dr Laura Grenfell, Kok Wah See, President Chinese Chamber of Commerce SA and Adelaide Law School Academic Kellie Toole.
A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) breakfast seminar on 20 September 2012 drew a range of practising lawyers together to consider the question: what is the relationship between the public interest and government lawyers? Guests included the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, the Hon John Rau MP, former Chief Justice, the Hon John Doyle AC QC, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Professor Warren Bebbington, and South Australian Crown Solicitor, Mr Greg Parker, as well as lawyers from the State and Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Departments and a number of local firms.

The seminar opened with a presentation by Gabrielle Appleby, Senior Lecturer at Adelaide Law School. She considered the role of the government lawyer by exploring the traditional functions and obligations of the Attorney-General, as first Law Officer, and explaining the extent to which these continue to affect the role of the government lawyer today. Ms Appleby’s presentation drew on her recently completed doctoral research exploring the role of the solicitor-general. Mr Martin Hinton QC, the current solicitor-general of South Australia, was the commentator for the session. Mr Hinton used his lengthy experience as a senior government lawyer to inform his examination of the challenges associated with representing the government. Both presenters and the audience then considered a number of hypothetical scenarios exploring the ethical challenges that can arise when providing legal services to government.

The seminar was part of the highly successful CPD programme hosted by Adelaide Law School and held at the National Wine Centre each month in 2012. The programme has drawn on a range of local and interstate experts from both the academy and the profession. Seminars have canvassed a wide variety of topics from ‘Who is an Employee?’ to ‘Significant Trees and Land Use Planning Law’. The seminars have been strongly supported by the profession with many attending the monthly sessions regularly. In addition Adelaide Law School is very grateful to those members of the profession who kindly contributed their expertise throughout the series. These included Celine McInerney, Jonathan Wells QC, Andrew Short, Patrick O’ Sullivan QC, Stuart Henry SC, Arturo Dal Cin and Martin Hinton QC.

The final (Christmas) CPD event was held on 29 November at the National Wine Centre. The presenters were Associate Professor Christopher Symes and Arturo Dal Cin of Murray Chambers and the topic was ‘Why are Unfair Preferences so Difficult?’ The Adelaide Law School looks forward to more CPD events in 2013. Those interested in attending can register at www.law.adelaide.edu.au/professional-development/
International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition Results

During September and October, the Adelaide Law Students’ Society (AULSS) ran an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Competition. This competition dealt with a critical aspect of International Law, namely the rules that apply to armed conflict. Such rules seek to balance military and humanitarian outcomes and furthermore, seek to ameliorate suffering in armed conflict.

The competition attracted a large number of competitors who displayed an impressive grasp of this body of law and demonstrated considerable mooting acumen. The competition was conducted over a couple of months through a ‘knock-out’ process with the final two teams making it to the Grand Final. The topics that were dealt with through the mooting process included issues of classification of conflict, targeting those taking a direct part in hostilities, the principle of distinction, proportionality in attack, command responsibility, international criminal liability and the law relating to the emerging area of autonomous weapons systems.

The four grand finalists, (pictured above) were Mark Giddings and Tomas Macura for the prosecution and Carl Vail and Dominika Skrodzka for the defence. Pictured also (centre) Associate Professor Dale Stephens who, along with Rebecca La Forgia was a Judge in the Grand Final. Congratulations to all four finalists for their very high standards of advocacy and strong submissions in the Grand Final. The winners of the 2012 IHL Moot Competition were Tomas Macura and Mark Giddings.

Associate Professor Dale Stephens and Rebecca La Forgia, both Adelaide Law School academics, and Petra Ball from the Red Cross IHL Committee (SA) adjudicated the rounds of the IHL Moot. Caitlin Hartvigsen-Power, Michael Tsiavlis, Hannah Martin and Sam de Cure from the AULSS were exceptional in their organizing, co-ordination and commitment to running the event.

This competition will be repeated next year where it is hoped that the winning team will represent Adelaide Law School in the national final in Perth and if successful, the Asia-Pacific final for this prestigious event.

New Minor Criminal Advice Service to open from 2013

The Law School has been awarded a grant from the Law Foundation of South Australia to establish a minor criminal advice service to add to the existing 10 year old Magistrates Court Legal Advice Service (MCLAS). To date the MCLAS has dealt with minor civil matters only. That is about to change.

The new minor criminal advice service will commence operation in 2013, and utilise the facilities we have established at the Adelaide Magistrates Court. The service will assist clients charged with minor criminal offences and traffic offences, as long as there is no risk of imprisonment. Assistance will be provided with: bail variations, preparation for pleas, advising regarding Court process, completion of Legal Aid applications and referral to other legal services or practitioners where relevant.

The MCLAS, which was formerly run jointly with Flinders University, is part of the Clinical Legal Education elective program that is offered to students in the final year of their degrees. The program covers the practical and ethical aspects of lawyering, and provides students with a practical placement either at externships or at Law School-run services. The Law School free legal services are not only an important teaching tool in providing our students with practical experience before they graduate, but they also provide significant pro bono legal services to the community of South Australia.

The service will open on Mondays and Tuesdays in summer semester, and Tuesdays during the rest of the year. Appointments may be made by calling the Magistrates Court Call Centre on 8204 2444. Queries can be directed to Jane Moularadellis at jane.moularadellis@adelaide.edu.au
Announcing Personal Property Security Law conference

Conference: Personal Property Security Law: Local and Global Perspectives

Date: 20 - 21 February 2013

Location: Adelaide Festival Centre

Keynote Speaker: Sir Roy Goode CBE, QC, Emeritus Professor, St John’s College, University of Oxford

On 30 January 2012, after several decades of discussion, the Personal Property Securities Act 2009 (PPSA) and its Register, came into operation in Australia, drawing heavily upon legislation in North America and New Zealand, though with local nuances, and a lengthier statute relative to overseas versions.

The PPSA impacts on commercial, finance and insolvency law and practice, and across most sectors of business and consumer activity, and also intersects with other bodies of law. It has been called the most important piece of commercial law reform in Australia for decades. It replaces and challenges long-established legal paradigms and terminology, in the interests of a wider economic or ‘functional’ approach to what is captured as a security interest in personal property.

This one and a half day conference is unique in bringing together Australian and international academics, professionals, judges, government agencies and international bodies to examine the policy and concepts, as well as detailed aspects and impacts, of the PPSA. It will provide an opportunity to hear from, debate and network with academics and practitioners from Canada, New Zealand and the United States who have grappled and settled with similar legislation and its subsequent revisions, and to examine jurisdictional variations and issues for amendment or reform. It is expected that an edited collection of papers at the conference will be published at a later date.

More information: Associate Professor David Brown, Deputy Dean, Co-Director, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law Scholarship Unit (BILS), Adelaide Law School at www.law.adelaide.edu.au/events/ppsa/

Travelling Fellowship won by Adelaide Law PhD Student Vanessa White

Congratulations to Vanessa White, a PhD student from Adelaide Law School, who has won the Dontas Family Travelling Fellowship for 2013. This Fellowship is offered biannually by the Greek/Australian International Legal and Medical Conference to a graduate in Medicine and a graduate in Law who is currently undertaking postgraduate research in either faculty.

Vanessa will be travelling to the 14th Greek Australian International Legal & Medical Conference to be held at Cape Sounion, Greece in June 2013. The theme of the conference is “Medicine and Law – Protecting the Unprotected?”.

Adelaide Law School would like to congratulate Vanessa on winning this Fellowship and wish her the best of luck at the conference.

Adelaide Law School Congratulates student Matt Cowdrey on Paralympian win

Adelaide Law Student, Matt Cowdrey OAM, competed in the London Paralympics in 2012 and won a total of 13 gold medals for swimming. He has now won over 20 medals overall as a Paralympian during his career.

Matt now holds the record for the most gold medals by any Australian Paralympian or Olympian and the most medals in Games competition.

Adelaide Law School congratulates him on his most recent win and wish him every success in the future.
Sandy Pitcher, winner of Telstra Business Women’s Award, an Alumni in Focus

On 12 October 2012 law graduate Sandy Pitcher was awarded the White Pages Community and Government award, in the Telstra Businesswoman of the Year Awards. Sandy found herself accepting the award in front of a few hundred people, including her baby Tess who wanted her mum just as Sandy was called to the stage!

Sandy is one of the most senior public servants in South Australia, and she accepted the award paying tribute to the importance of the public service for our community. As Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet she leads the Cabinet Office, the State Development portfolio and is responsible for South Australia's intergovernmental relations.

Sandy is a University of Adelaide law graduate, and her career path that has led to this award has not been a traditional one. Sandy graduated from Mannum High School and moved to Adelaide when she was only 16 years old.

After completing her Adelaide Law School Law degree, she followed her interest in industrial relations and human rights law, to join the Commonwealth public service in Canberra. At the same time as she put her law degree to good use, Sandy undertook a great deal of community and volunteer work.

In 2002 Sandy left Canberra behind and packed her backpack bound for London. Working at the Commission for Racial Equality, Sandy was head of Government Relations, worked as the in-house lawyer and was the Head of a Formal Investigation into racism in the British Prison Service. She also worked on the racial aftermath of the London bombings.

Sandy returned home to Adelaide in 2006 to head up the Office for Women, and to get some more sun. Her journey through a range of different government agencies, in legal, policy and management roles, has led Sandy to the centre of South Australia's government.

Outstanding Law School Teaching Recognised

Adelaide Law School has continued to be recognised for the outstanding quality of its teaching in 2012, with Dr Matthew Stubbs being awarded two prizes. Matthew received the Executive Dean's Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for his teaching in Principles of Public Law, in which he employed blended learning to teach and assess legal citation using interactive online learning modules, and used mobile phone voting in lectures to increase student engagement and enhance feedback to students. Matthew also received a Commendation for Excellence in Support of the Student Experience in recognition of his work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students.

Professor John Williams observed: ‘Matthew’s win follows the outstanding achievements by colleagues in the Faculty awards for teaching and learning. The Law School now has a fine tradition in this area.’ Indeed, the Faculty of the Professions teaching prize has been won by Adelaide Law School staff in four out of the last five years – other recent recipients include Dr Paul Babie, Dr Peter Burdon and Paul Leadbeter (2011), and Dr Laura Grenfell (2010).

The final-year teaching team of Margaret Castles, Anne Hewitt, Cornelia Koch, Andrew Ligertwood and Matthew Stubbs received the Faculty of the Professions prize in 2008, as well as the Stephen Cole the Elder Prize for Teaching (Team) (2008) and an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (2009).

Dr Matthew Stubbs receiving the award from the Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Professions, Professor Christopher Findlay AM.
Adelaide Students in Final of Kirby Moot Competition

Two teams, comprising students from the Moot Court course, participated in the Hon. Michael Kirby Contract Law Moot Competition hosted by Victoria University. The Adelaide students participating in the competition were Lauren Clark, John Eldridge, Daniel Fawcett, Rebecca McEwen, Molly Snaith, and Alice Wharldall and were supervised by Mark Giancaspro with assistance from Adjunct Professor John Doyle. The competition was held over October 10th – 12th and 22 teams representing a wide cross section of Australian Law Schools were in attendance. The preliminary round of the competition required each team to participate in four qualifying moots from which the Adelaide teams emerged undefeated and easily qualified for the final elimination rounds. In the subsequent top 16 round both Adelaide teams achieved convincing victories and everything was smoothly progressing towards the anticipated all Adelaide final. But then the Machiavellian Victorians struck with the two Adelaide teams being drawn to compete against each other in the quarter finals. Protests about how two undefeated teams, after 5 rounds, could possibly be drawn against each other were dismissed with vague references to secret ‘power rankings’. The Adelaide team surviving this internecine encounter then easily won through to the final of the competition. In the final, adjudicated by an outstanding full court chaired by Michael Kirby, the Adelaide team, consisting of McEwin, Eldridge, and Clark were narrowly defeated by the host team from VU to howls of protests from the vox populi.

The outstanding performance of the Adelaide team was further evidenced in the awards presentation where Adelaide

Congratulations to prize winning Law Student film-makers

Adelaide Law School congratulates students Louis Tang, Suet Yoong Leong, Yun Wei Wong and Ngoc Linh Pham on winning third prize in the ‘Connecting with Law Short Film Competition 2012’. The competition, organized by Oxford University Press, is a competition between all Australian Universities to create a two-to-five minute film based on a legal definition from the Australian Law Dictionary. The short films aim to help students connect with the law.

The film ‘Snow Flake and the Huntsman' follows the story of a law student dreaming about the story of Snow Flake after studying contract law. In the dream, he learns that the Huntsman didn't have to kill Snow Flake because there was no binding contract between him and the Queen. Further information can be found at: http://www.oup.com.au/higher_education/law/connecting_with_law_short_film_competition/
Professor Naffine delivers international lectures

Adelaide Law School Professor Ngaire Naffine was appointed to the Genest Global Faculty of Osgoode Hall Law School, Yorke University, Toronto, from mid September to mid October 2012. During her time at Osgoode Hall, she participated in the general life of the faculty, and gave presentations to both undergraduate and graduate students. She also delivered the Pierre Genest Memorial Lecture, as well as a lecture for the Osgoode Colloquium on Law, Religion and Social Thought and the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies at Osgoode. Ngaire was also invited to Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. At Ottawa Law School she delivered the Shirley E Greenberg Lecture and at Carleton she delivered the Chet Mitchell Lecture.

Professor Naffine’s Genest Global Lecture, the first for the Fall semester, was entitled "The Gorilla in our Midst: Inattentional Blindness to Sanctioned Brutality in Criminal Law". This lecture considered the topic of marital rape and the immunity of husbands from prosecution. In May this year, the Australian High Court revisited the immunity and questioned its very existence in Australia. Professor Naffine used the Harvard experiment of the (unobserved) gorilla in the basketball game to explain the ‘inattentional blindness’ to this sanctioned sexual violence at the heart of criminal law.

Postgraduate study pays off for newest PhD’s

The Law School is proud to celebrate the achievements of its newest research graduates. Anna Chapman and Jeremy Coggins were awarded their PhDs at a graduation ceremony addressed by fellow alumnus Adam Kimber SC, South Australia’s Director of Public Prosecutions. Both academics at other institutions, they join the rapidly growing list of students to have completed their doctoral studies at Adelaide Law School.

Dr Anna Chapman is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Melbourne and an acknowledged expert in the fields of employment and discrimination law. Her thesis, supervised by Professor Rosemary Owens and Professor Andrew Stewart, analyses a range of legal initiatives designed to address the conflict that employees may experience between paid work and responsibilities to care for others. Although welcome, Anna concludes that they do not go far enough in recognising the diversity in work and care practices that can (for example) be found in same sex or indigenous communities.

Dr Jeremy Coggins is a Lecturer in the School of Natural and Built Environments at the University of South Australia. He completed his thesis under the supervision of Professor Andrew Stewart and Kath McEvoy. It explores the statutory regimes introduced around Australia to secure payment for construction work, including through interim adjudication of payment claims. Besides identifying differences in the various schemes, the thesis reviews their performance against a set of criteria drawn from the general literature on dispute resolution. Jeremy concludes by presenting a proposal for a new and nationally uniform approach to security of payment legislation.

Both Anna and Jeremy received official commendations for their excellence of their theses. We wish both these fine scholars well as they further develop both their research and their academic careers.