



Newsletter

A Message from the Director....

September 2016

Inside this issue:

Public Lectures	2
Third Sector Research Group	3
Partnerships, Exchanges, Impact	4
Publications and Presentations	5
News from our Postgraduates	6
Forthcoming Events	7/8
Contact Details	8

Welcome to the new edition of the Charity Law & Policy Unit newsletter, which reports on another active and successful year and provides a list of future events.

I am delighted to report that one of our postgraduate researchers, Tessema Mebratu, has successfully defended his PhD thesis on laws and policies governing charities and their impacts on the democratization process of a country, with Ethiopia as a case study. Tessema graduated in July 2016 and has returned to Ethiopia. I wish him the best of luck with his future endeavours as he continues to work with civil society.

We have a full programme of events planned for this academic year, starting with the Unit’s annual public lecture in October 2016, delivered by Francesca Quint of Radcliffe Chambers and entitled ‘Protection of Charities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016: Too Little or Too Much?’ I look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces at the lecture.

The University-wide Third Sector Research Group, which the Charity Law & Policy Unit has played a key role in developing, has attracted academic interest from a number of disciplines. During the past year, the Group has been very active, starting with a well-attended launch event of the working partnership between Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services (LCVS), the University of Liverpool and third sector groups within the city of Liverpool and beyond. Further details of this and other events held by the group are below. This year we will be making plans to take this partnership forward.

One important event that we are planning for this year is a symposium on the future of charity law in the context of teaching, scholarship and research. The aim of this event is to engage in discussion and then decide upon action in order to stimulate the teaching and study of charity law within academia. Please do contact me if you would have ideas to share in this regard.

In fact, if you would like to contact me about any of our events, or any other activities, please feel free to do so. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

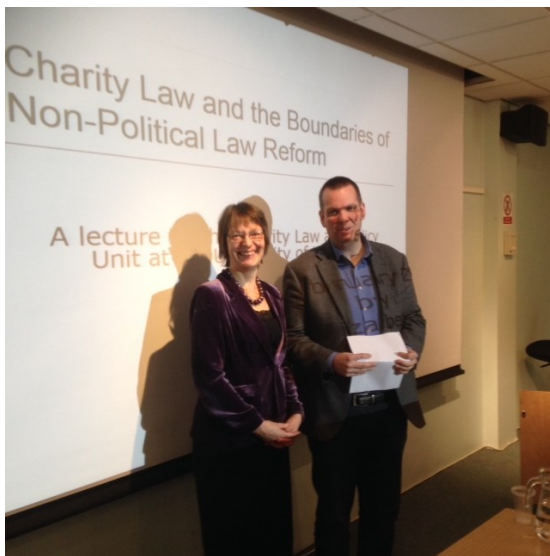
I look forward to seeing you at one of our events.
All the best

Debra Morris

Debra Morris, Professor of Charity Law & Policy
Director, Charity Law & Policy Unit

Public Lectures

In February 2016, Elizabeth Cooke (Principal Judge, Property Chamber, Land Registration Division and former Law Commissioner) delivered the Unit's annual public lecture. In her lecture, entitled 'Charity Law and the Boundaries of Non-Political Law Reform', Judge Cooke described the process of charity law reform and focused on the new power to be given to charity trustees to make social investments. This power is now contained in section 15 of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016, which came into force on 31st July 2016.



Judge Elizabeth Cooke with Professor Warren Barr after her public lecture.

The lecture, attended by students, academics, charity practitioners, trustees and lawyers, was stream-captured and can be viewed [here](#). The full text of Judge Cooke's lecture is available to download [here](#).

Last year saw the Liverpool Law School host the inaugural Property Law lecture, organised jointly with the Liverpool Law School and the Chancery & Commercial Practice Group, Atlantic Chambers Liverpool. Mr Justice Norris, Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine and Chancery Supervising Judge for the North West spoke eloquently on 'The Poetry of Property: Its Commoditisation and Commercialisation'.

Third Sector Research Group

The first event held by the Group, 'Knowledge Exchange and Collaborative Working: The Third Sector and the University of Liverpool' was held at The Women's Organisation in October 2015, in conjunction with Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LCVS). It attracted over 80 delegates. It launched the working partnership between LCVS, the University of Liverpool and third sector groups within the city of Liverpool and beyond with the aim of improving understanding of the research needs of third sector organisations of varying sizes and the research interests and capacity of University researchers.

The keynote speaker was Karl Wilding, Director of Public Policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), who discussed the future research agenda for the sector.

In response to feedback from delegates, some of whom reported a lack of awareness around how to access the University and its significant staff and student resources, the Group held a 'market-place' style event at the University in April 2016, where we showcased various aspects of what the University can do for third sector organisations around the city and beyond. This included representatives from the Guild of Students, initiatives such as Interchange, the University's Business Gateway and other aspects of University life including the Careers and Employability service and Alumni and Philanthropy. During this event, visitors were able to chat with representatives from these key areas of the University to discuss common interests. It also provided an opportunity to network with other third sector groups.

Chair of Interchange, Louise Hardwick (seated) and Interchange student, Jennifer New (at the podium) during the Knowledge Exchange and Collaborative Working Event.



CLPU member Jennifer Sigafos presents study of Liverpool advice charities.



The Group also organised a 'Meet the Researchers' series of early evening events, in which academic colleagues from around the University with research interests in the third sector have briefly and informally presented their ideas and this is followed by group discussion in order to tease out the key issues for the sector around each subject being examined. The series began in May 2016 with 'Perspectives on Social Value' (Dr Jo Meehan and Dr Claire Moxham) and continued through the year with 'Perspectives on Social Housing' (Professor Warren Barr and Dr Jo Meehan) in June, 'Perspectives on Social Health' (Dr Lucy Frith) in July, and 'Perspectives on Social Welfare Law' (Dr James Organ and Dr Jennifer Sigafos) in September. The final event in this series, 'Perspectives on Social Research in End-of-Life Care' (Dr Pippa Hunter-Jones and Dr Lynn Sudbury-Riley) will be held in October 2016.

Partnerships, Exchanges, Impact

In June 2016, Warren Barr and Debra Morris provided a full response to the Law Commission consultation exercise on updating the Land Registration Act 2002 and we are awaiting the Law Commission's forthcoming report and draft bill.

In the same month, Debra Morris was invited to present before a private meeting of the newly established House of Lords Select Committee on Charities, during which invited participants set out key issues for the Committee to consider as part of its inquiry. In September 2016, Unit members submitted a joint response to the wide-ranging consultation issued by the House of Lords Select Committee on Charities. We await the outcome of the consultation.



Debra Morris's work with the Kent Law School regulation of bingo project drew to a close. She has acted as a member of this ESRC funded project's Advisory Board for the last three years. The project culminated with a conference in June 2016, together with a launch of the project's final report. The report can be downloaded [here](#).



Together with James Organ, Jennifer Sigafoos has been partnering with Merseyside advice agencies to continue a research project into the effects of legal aid cuts and austerity measures on local social welfare advice. The project began through the award of a Knowledge Exchange Voucher and this part of the project was led by Debra Morris in 2013. In 2015, Jennifer and James followed up this work. They surveyed local advice workers, interviewed advice agency heads and conducted a focus group. Jennifer is continuing fieldwork to get a national perspective, and additionally Jennifer and James are conducting three further focus groups with advice agency staff on meeting unmet need. The project has been identified as a potential impact case study within the Department for REF2020. Jennifer and James wrote a report of the findings for a policy audience for the agencies to present to the Liverpool City Council in January 2016, in advance of meetings regarding 2016-17 funding. They also submitted written evidence about this project to the Bach Commission Call for Evidence about Legal Aid Cuts.

Publications and Presentations

A full list of Unit publications can be found here:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/publications/>

In addition, a special volume of the *Charity Law & Practice Review* edited by Debra Morris together with colleagues from Melbourne Law School was published around the theme of political campaigning and advocacy by charities.

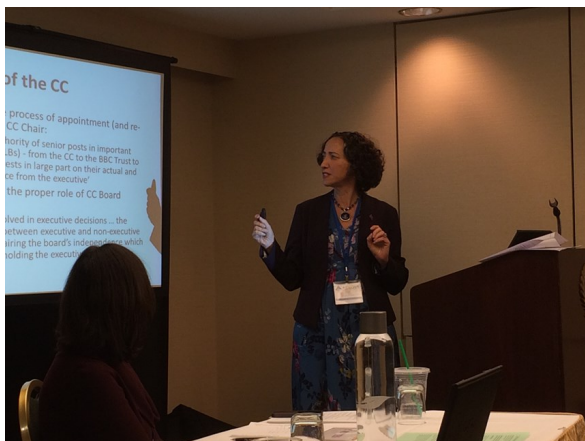


Members of the Unit had another busy year presenting papers at home and abroad. Both John Picton and Debra Morris attended the annual conference of ARNOVA (the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action) in Chicago in November 2015 and enjoyed meeting international collaborators.

The Unit was also well represented at the biannual Modern Studies in Property Law conference, held, in 2016, at Queen's University Belfast. Warren Barr and John Picton presented papers in the main conference and Brett Crumley and Dejian Li participated in the postgraduate conference which took place at the same time.

A full list of papers presented can also be found here:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/conference-papers/>



Debra Morris, presenting at the ARNOVA conference.

News from our Postgraduates

Charlotte Hood-Fredriksen continued her PhD studies, looking at the impacts of changes in social housing allocations.

Dejian Li continued his PhD studies (with funding from the Liverpool China Scholarship Council (CSC)). Dejian is looking at the reform of charity governance in China, based on a comparative study of the UK.

Brett Crumley continued his PhD research on the Charity Tribunal with a view to improving outcomes for parties in dispute with the Charity Commission. Brett is a Graduate Teaching Assistant with the Liverpool Law School.

Potential students interested in pursuing postgraduate research in the area of charity law are invited to contact the CLPU in order to obtain further information or to discuss any research proposals that they might have. Students may register for the postgraduate degrees of LL.M and PhD, either on a full-time or part-time basis.



Forthcoming Events

All events carry non-credit-bearing CPD accreditation. These varied events are designed to encourage participation from all those involved with charities, whatever their discipline. As well as its regular visitors, the Unit hopes to welcome some new faces this year.

Public Lecture:

Francesca Quint, Radcliffe Chambers

'Protection of Charities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016: Too Little or Too Much?'

25th October 2016: 6pm – 7pm

Hearnshaw Theatre, Eleanor Rathbone Building, University of Liverpool

Followed by a reception

[Register here.](#)

Seminar:

Dr John Picton, Charity Law & Policy Unit

'Donor Motivation and its Legal Impact'

15th February 2017: 6pm – 7pm

To be held at the London Campus

[Register here.](#)

Property Law Lecture:

Martin Dixon, Professor of the Law of Real Property, University of Cambridge

The Last in Line: Occupiers and Third Parties. Too Many Steps, Too Far?

Law School event held in conjunction with Chancery & Commercial Practice Group, Atlantic Chambers Liverpool

23rd February 2017: 6pm – 7pm

Hearnshaw Theatre, Eleanor Rathbone Building, University of Liverpool

Followed by a reception

[Register here.](#)

Symposium:

The Future of Charity Law: Teaching, Scholarship and Research

Spring 2017

Further information to follow

Seminar:

Mr Brett Crumley, Charity Law & Policy Unit
'How Can We Reform the Charity Tribunal?'

18th May 2017: 6pm-7pm

LR4 Rendall Building, University of Liverpool

[Register here.](#)

Seminar:

Dr Karen Atkinson and Dr Jennifer Sigafos, Charity Law & Policy Unit
'Trans-Atlantic Controversies in Charitable Lobbying'

15th June 2017: 6pm – 7pm

[Register here.](#)

Contact Details

For More Information

If you would like more information about supporting research by the CLPU or more information about postgraduate study contact:

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For up-to-date details of the Charity Law & Policy Unit's activities, please see its website at: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/charity-law-and-policy/>.

