

Vol.5 February 2021

University of Exeter Law Society

INTER ALIA



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PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Welcome to our fifth edition of Inter Alia!

January has been yet another busy month for UELS. We have already put on a variety of events this term, from our First Year Pizza-Making Social, to a panel event on How to Succeed at Assessment Centres. We have started this term by attempting to address concerns members expressed in our survey from the end of first term. One of the ways we have done this by including more opportunities for members to get to know one another and increasing the ways we publicise events to ensure that you all know what is going on. You can read more about our response to your feedback on page 20.

This month will also be busy, particularly for our Bar Group who will be hosting four different events, including our Inaugural Bar Dinner which we hope will be a fantastic opportunity for aspiring Barristers to network with current Barristers.

In this publication we have highlighted several events which took place this month, and our members' thoughts on them. We hope you enjoy reading about all the events that our Committee have worked so hard to put together!

- Jess and Lucy



UPCOMING EVENTS

February

Monday 1st

Q&A with
Barristers from
Lincolns Inn

Monday 8th

LinkedIn and Legal
Applications with
LawCareers.Net

Monday 15th

Non-Traditional
Routes to the Bar

Tuesday 23rd

Inaugural Bar
Dinner

ESSAY COMPETITION



UNIVERSITY OF EXETER LAW SOCIETY X EXETER LAW REVIEW

**"THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE FOLLOWED".
CRITICALLY DISCUSS.**

Instructions:

- Submit your essay with Arial font, at size 12 and double line spacing.
- We will require the standard OSCOLA Referencing style.
- Word limit is 2000 words. This does not including footnotes, endnotes or bibliography.

Submissions must be emailed to exeterlawreview@gmail.com BEFORE the deadline with the subject 'Essay Competition'.

Deadline: 28th February 2021, 6pm

ESSAY COMPETITION PRIZES!

- **Calls** with a **Partner, Trainee** and **Grad Recruitment** from **White & Case**
- **Meal vouchers provided** by White & Case
- **£50 voucher** from The University of Law
- **Publication** in the Exeter Law Review!

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The
University of
LAW

THE UELS PODCAST

With Rebecca White, Responsible Investment Analyst at Newton Investment Management

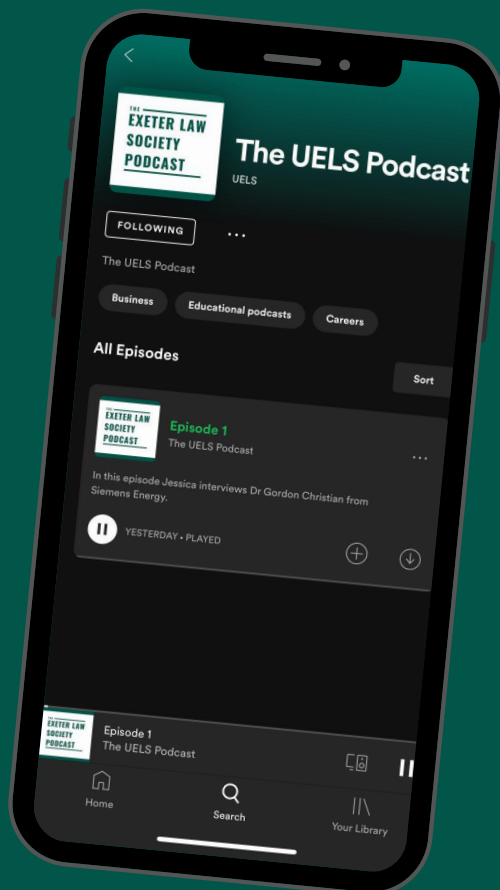
Covering:

- Law degree to non-law career,
- Environmental, social and governance factors in companies,
- Diversity and inclusion; and
- How a law degree can be useful in 'non-traditional' careers.

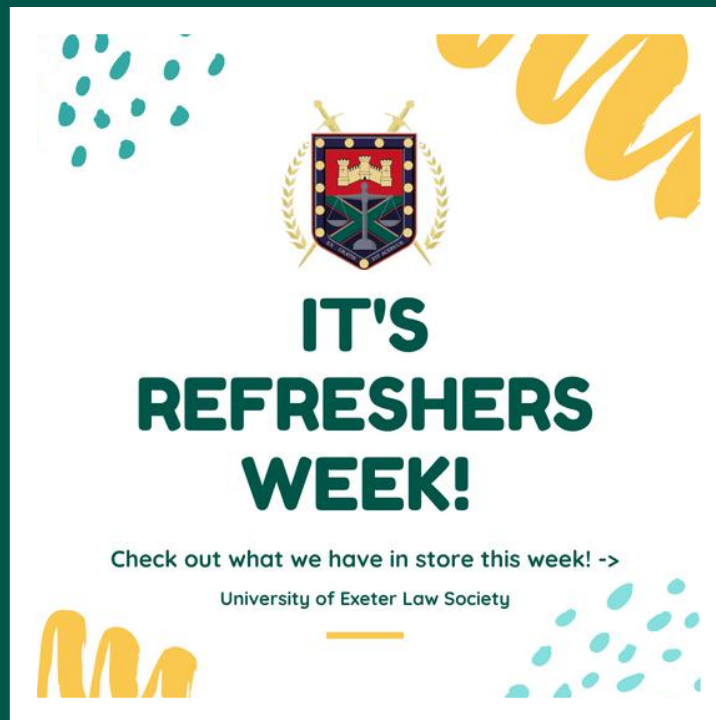
EPISODE

2!

FIND US ON SPOTIFY!



REFRESHERS WEEK



SHERLOCK HOLMES ESCAPE ROOM SOCIAL

Last week, I took part in an interesting escape room event organised by UELS. After a brief introduction by UELS committee members, we were assigned to small teams. My team of 3 members was tasked with solving a crime with a Sherlock Holmes theme. After overcoming numerous hurdles presented by the challenging tasks and after various plot twists, we managed to find the murderer and solve the crime. Contrary to my expectation, I was not a future detective as my team were the last to solve the murder. Considering that we competed against some truly bright individuals, we were content that we at least managed to solve the crime in a reasonable time frame, even though we did not win. The escape room was an enjoyable and memorable experience, and I was able to meet new, interesting people. I invite everyone to participate in future UELS events and I look forward to meeting you there.

- Lenard Vukovic

FIRST YEARS PIZZA MAKING

The first year pizza making social that took place on the 13th of January was our first event that we had organised and run as first year representatives. We both had a brilliant time that evening and it was amazing to meet others from our year and make new friends. Throughout the evening everyone made pizzas together with our pizza kits that had been sent out by pizza pilgrims, and after cooking them we were able to enjoy our pizzas whilst chatting. The social made it possible for us to meet and socialise with others during a time which can be quite difficult, therefore we are grateful to all who came and we hope you had as much fun as we did".

- Zoë Bushby and Ania Hollinshead,
First Year Society Representatives

On Wednesday 13 January 2021, the University of Exeter Law Society held a virtual pizza making social over zoom. Those of us that participated received a pizza making kit in the post the day before which gave us everything that we needed to make some fresh pizzas. Not only was it a delicious dinner, but we also got to be on a zoom call together, just talking about regular day to day stuff, which was really nice provided we don't get normal interactions right now due to the pandemic. I think its safe to say we all struggled with the dough, but once it was rolled out, we all made some spectacular pizzas. This was such a fun social, and great way to meet some new people, Thank you Law Society!

- Manan Shah, First Year

The pizza making night was such a great idea and we all had such a lovely time! As a first year it has been quite difficult to meet other people on the course and so this was a great opportunity to speak with other students in a less formal setting. The first year representatives were great at making us all feel comfortable and integrating us into conversations, so there wasn't any awkwardness! The yummy pizzas were an added bonus to the wonderful evening. Thank you Zoe and Ania!

- Hannah Prew

EMPLOYABILITY

MENTORSHIP SCHEMES AND COACHING

Last week I attended UELS's event on mentoring schemes and coaching program. I very much appreciated the way the event took place, having four different perspectives with every speaker's point of view and feedback on their personal experience. All of it was very informative and helped me to understand how mentoring was working. Several ways to get a mentor or to become one were presented through different organisms. It all seemed absolutely accessible and easy to do. I found this event particularly interesting during those tough times that every students has to deal with. The representative of Grow Mentoring mentioned that they will opening another mentee session on the February 1st and I personally intend to apply to get a mentor, to help me through my Law journey.

- Chiara Mayen

The talk on mentoring schemes was really insightful! It was a great opportunity to hear about all the ways we can benefit from the expertise of practicing solicitors and barristers! The talk also gave us an opportunity to get to know other LLB students, the pandemic makes it hard to mix with peers and activities with Law Society have been a really nice way to engage with others. I would definitely recommend getting involved!

- Grace Dobson



**SUZANNE
REECE**



**ROBERT
HUNTER**



**LUCY
COLE**



**ANYA
BAILEY**

HOW TO SUCCEED AT ASSESSMENT CENTRES

Successfully making it onto a vacation scheme next year is fairly central to my law conversion plans, and any help I can receive regarding assessment centres - the final hurdle of an application - is vital. The UELS virtual assessment centre event on 21 January was incredibly useful, and the three speakers - Simranjeet Mann, Idin Sabahipour and Exeter's own Lucy Cole - have all secured, or are already undertaking, training contracts at big commercial city firms, so their insight was invaluable. They each gave an account of their application experiences, including the numerous rejections that come as a given in the process, and handed out key tips, from the way that you carry yourself in interviews and group exercises to the types of questions you might be asked in both spoken and written exercises. The speakers were incredibly friendly and provided great information, and Idin and Simran have YouTube channels (Idin Sabahipour & Sim's Legal Mentoring) with loads more helpful info.

- Woody Marron

The UELS virtual event on the subject of assessment centers was, as always, an event I am glad I did not miss! Led by three third year Law students, they each provided their own unique and helpful insight into what can be seen as a daunting and strenuous assessment process. The discussion centered around what invigilators are specifically looking for in candidates, as well as in-depth knowledge about their own personal experiences. I found this particularly helpful as it allowed me to gain a greater overall understanding on how different each process can be. Most importantly, they discussed (rather openly) how things can go wrong; the main message being to remain positive and to take all what you can learn from each experience. Not only did I feel that this event was especially impressive in providing an informative and valuable insight into the process, but also by encouraging the attendees to always apply with confidence. Thank you UELS for another inspiring event!

- Alice Rowan

WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

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C H A N C E**

C/M/S
Law . Tax

 **WOMBLE
BOND
DICKINSON**

BAR GROUP

DE-MYSTIFYING THE BAR WITH THE BAR COUNCIL'S SOCIAL MOBILITY ADVOCATES

It was a pleasure to host four of the Bar Council's Social Mobility Advocates who gave us a thorough insight into entering the bar from non-traditional backgrounds. The panellists were presented with some common stereotypes and myths about the bar and barristers in general that had been submitted by first year students. Myths such as what a typical barrister 'looked like' and preconceptions about a poor work/life balance were discussed and debunked. It was encouraging to hear that their backgrounds were in a no way an obstacle to becoming successful in each of their respective areas of practise. The event was certainly inspiring as well as useful because of the amazing hints and tips our members received to ensure that if we aspire to be barristers, we know that we can use our unique experiences to stand out from the other applicants. A massive thank you to William, Charlotte, Nancy and Chloe!

- Gabriella Mula



ACADEMIC

FEEDBACK: COMMON MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Critical Analysis

Descriptive Writing	Critical Writing	Descriptive Writing	Critical Writing
States links between items	Shows the relevance of links between pieces of information	Gives evidence	Argues a case according to the evidence
Provides information for comparison	Makes a reasoned judgement on provided information	Gives information	Draws conclusions

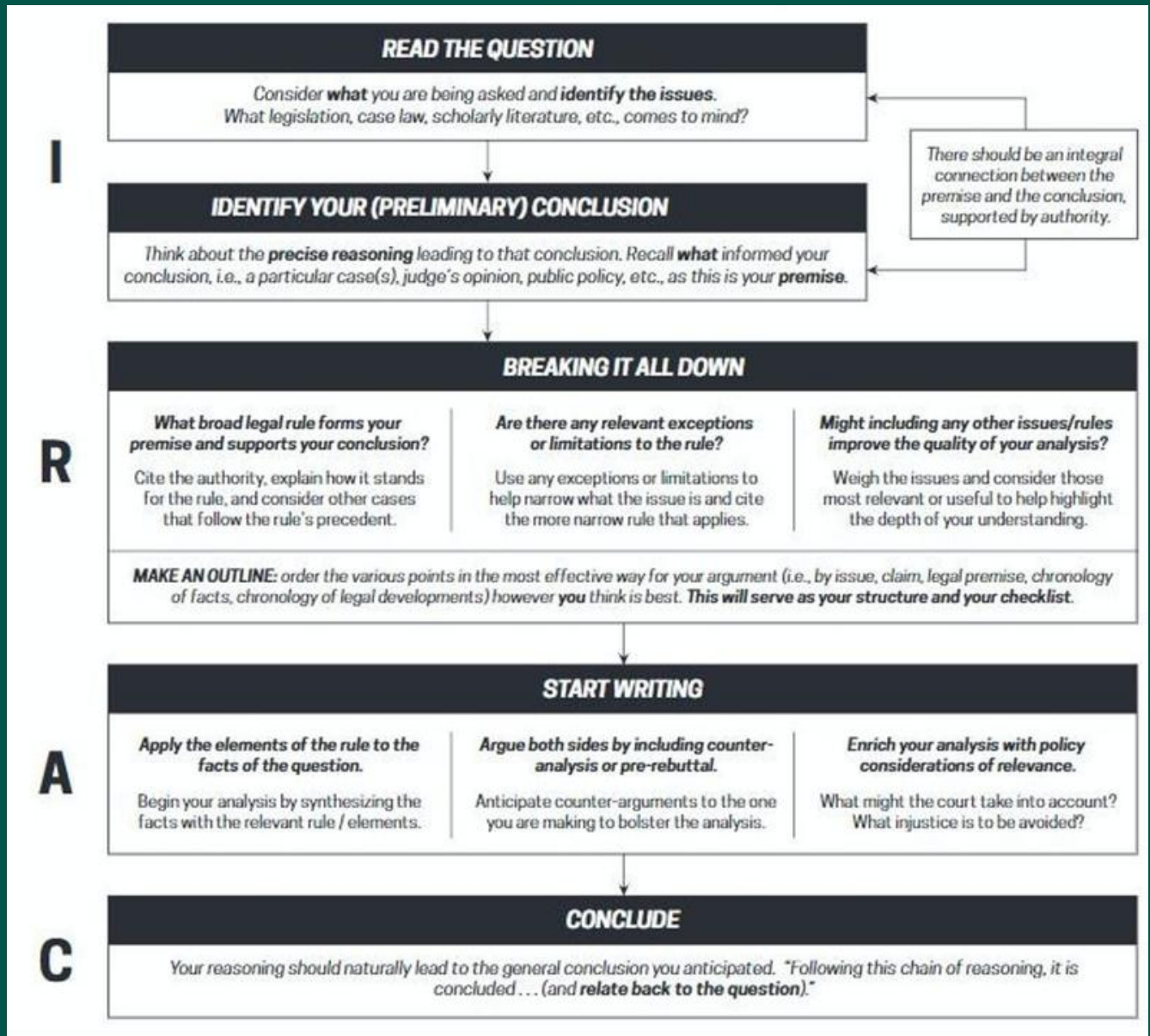
Descriptive Writing	Critical Writing	Descriptive Writing	Critical Writing
State what happened	Identifies the significance of what happened	Explains how something works	Indicates why something will work
State what something is like	Evaluates the strengths and weakness of something	Says when something occurred	Identifies why the timing is of importance
Says how to do something	Analyses why things are done a certain way	States different opinions	Gives reasons for different opinions
Explains what a theory says	Shows why a theory is relevant. Identifies the strengths and weaknesses of a theory	Lists details	Evaluates the relative significance of details

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FEEDBACK: COMMON MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

IRAC Structure for problem questions



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UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DIRECTORY

- **Mesopotamia Food Bazaar**, 35 Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NS: Groceries, Halal, Good range of Halal meats and fresh vegetables.
- **BHL Oriental**, 1-4 King William St, Exeter EX4 6PD: Groceries, Non Halal, Best source for more specific Malaysian food products and ingredients.
- **Somboon**, 153 Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6RT: Food & Bev., Non Halal, BEST CHICKEN RICE IN TOWN HANDS DOWN, also famous for their rice noodles.
- **Ifood Thai taste**, 114 Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6RY: Food & Bev., Halal, Affordable spot for thai food which delivers a bang for your buck!
- **The Ram**, University of Exeter Campus: Food & Bev., Non Halal, The Uni pub, easily accessible to have a drink or some food in between lectures.

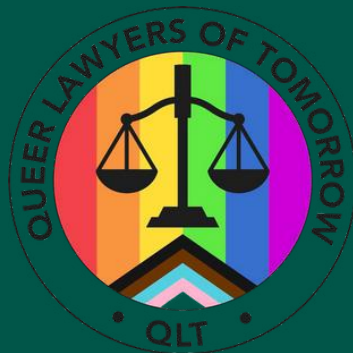
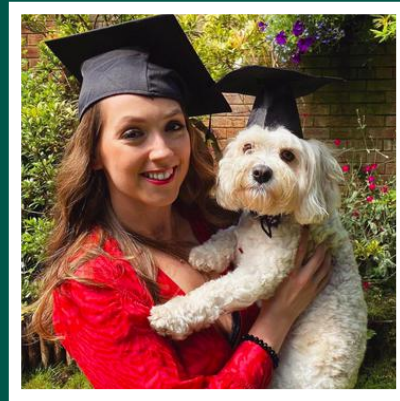
IN COLLABORATION WITH:



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

GET TO KNOW QUEER LAWYERS OF
TOMORROW:

AN INTERVIEW WITH QLT
FOUNDERS OWEN HUSSEY AND LIV
REILLY



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WATKINS** LLP

GET TO KNOW QUEER LAWYERS OF TOMORROW

Liv's journey through Uni:

Liv: When I started at Exeter in 2016, I felt an immediate sense of freedom. For a couple of years prior, my life had been somewhat turbulent. When I was seventeen, I was subjected to intense homophobia that on the large part, I was unable to speak about or find help to defend myself against as I wasn't completely 'out'. From the moment I arrived in Exeter, I was open to my new friends about my sexuality. I started going to gay clubs and events, including a meet up with queer YouTuber, Stevie Boebi, after which I felt empowered to come out to my parents and the rest of the people in my life. While momentarily liberating, from that moment, I felt like I lived in an echo chamber of: 'You'll need to keep that secret if you want to work in law'. I became totally disengaged with my degree and simply stopped turning up.

Things spiralled and by the end of second year, my mental health had collapsed to the point that I'd spent more hours in A&E than hours engaged with my course. I was told that if I carried on the way I was going, I would be lucky to survive. My friends and family held an intervention in May 2018 and while I had little regard for my own life and would have happily continued down the path I was on, the line 'we'll get you a puppy if you come home' was enough for me to agree to take a year out. I picked up my dog, Henley, the same day I got home from Exeter and in that moment, everything changed. He didn't 'heal' me, there was still a year of intensive therapy and challenging introspection needed to get my mental health on track, but when I saw him I made the decision to live. That year was difficult. Untangling years of repressed thoughts and emotions and re-wiring your brain is more exhausting than I can describe. But it was the best thing I ever did. By the end, I was mentally ready to return for final year... and I took Henley with me. It wasn't really until the March that I finally felt that I'd won my battle with my mental health, but it's a process.

It's easy to look back and feel like I wasted those years; I always thought I'd leave university with a transcript of solid grades, a grad job and a wealth of positive experiences. As far as the transcript goes, when I took my year out, my work was getting 2.2s and thirds, but by the end of third year I was hitting 80s. I don't have a grad job, but years of not wanting to be alive made me realise the value of maximising the chance at life we have, so I stopped listening to the 'apply for training contracts' chorus and turned my focus to following my lifelong goal of pursuing a legal career in California. Positive experiences? In truth, there weren't masses... but I acquired life experience that taught me both extraordinary levels of resilience and the importance of introspection at such a young age and I wouldn't trade who I am now for an easier ride to graduation.

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GET TO KNOW QUEER LAWYERS OF TOMORROW

Owen's journey through Uni:

Owen: When I first started law school, it was a daunting experience already and being gay made it even harder. In my personal life, I have always been comfortable with my sexuality but professionally I was scared about being my true self in the legal industry. This was partly due to my insecurities, but it is also because of the lack of diversity that exists in law. There are many amazing LGBTQ+ lawyer role models but I had never heard of them before doing my research. I had no assurances that being gay in law was okay.

LGBTQ+ and Law:

Liv: Within the first month of being on the committee for LGBTQ+ and Law, three people came out to me and shared sentiments that the initiative made them feel as though contrary to what they had believed, they could be who they are and have a career in law. I related to them a lot; I had applied for the position on my year out and knowing that I was going to be a part of something that stood boldly against the rhetoric that had plagued my first two years made me feel much more confident about my return.

In Exeter alone we had over 100 people turn out to some events, with students from other universities reaching out to commend the idea and request advice on how to set up something similar on their campus. It became increasingly clear that there was a demand for increased awareness of the journey LGBTQIA+ lawyers can expect to and that initiatives like this really did have the potential to make a difference for students.

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GET TO KNOW QUEER LAWYERS OF TOMORROW

What made you start QLT?

Liv: At Manchester Pride 2019, Owen and I were talking about the plans we had for LGBTQ+ and Law and the conversation flowed into discussion of how, in actuality, it was something that students beyond Exeter could probably benefit from too. We brainstormed a couple of ideas that could enable us to have further outreach but bookmarked the idea on the basis we hadn't even started LGBTQ+ and Law and were unsure of how it would be received.

In February 2020, having witnessed the success of the initiative, we revisited our ideas for something more nationwide. We decided that a centralized group aimed at supporting LGBTQIA+ aspiring lawyers would be the most sensible way to organize events and produce content that could reach a wide audience. As the platform grew, we realized that we had the opportunity to make change beyond this aim and widened our mission to increase queer representation in law. After all, without queer people creating and implementing the law, how can it be truly representative and protective of us?

Owen: I once asked someone reading my CV whether I should remove things on it that practically revealed my sexuality. I have been lucky in the sense that I haven't faced much discrimination for being gay in my life, but I was afraid of entering such a heteronormative career. I now know that, in most cases, I should be okay but there's a difference between being okay and happy. Being happy in a legal career is about being accepted and being surrounded by people who understand you, support you and help you grow. All queer people shouldn't ever have to worry about being discriminated against. But, in reality, this is, unfortunately, the case. Through Queer Lawyers of Tomorrow, we will create a community that can lessen that worry for some queer people. Even if it's just by a minor fraction. Being queer is amazing but the legal industry is outdated in many areas and all types of diversity must be improved.

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GET TO KNOW QUEER LAWYERS OF TOMORROW

What is QLT doing at the moment/in the future?

Liv: At the moment, QLT has a jam-packed February to celebrate LGBT History Month. You can find all the details of upcoming events on our website, including a talk on s.28 and a delve into some queer legal history. We're also recruiting! Please check out our website for details of the volunteer positions and send in an application if you're interested.

On top of this, there is a lot going on behind the scenes that we're not able to announce just yet... But to drop a hint, we're looking to expand our outreach!

Liv and Owen's Plans for the future

Liv: Growing up, I spent a lot of time in Southern California with my family and always hoped I'd be able to move my life there. Over the past few years, my love of music found itself intertwined with my passion for law and following some experience in the sector and a legal placement at a major record label, my desire to pursue a career in music law began to grow. Since graduating I've been living at home, working as a paralegal at a small firm specialising in Media & Entertainment in Chester. My work primarily focuses on cases of copyright infringement, but the team is incredibly supportive of my goals so I'm involved in any US/music cases that come in.

In September I'll be applying to a number of law schools in Southern California to do a specialised LL.M focussed on Entertainment Law. Following this degree and a Bar Prep course in California, my plan is to sit the State Bar and find my feet in the industry.

Owen: I want to become a criminal law defence barrister.

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FEEDBACK FROM OUR SURVEY

At the end of last term, we asked members to provide feedback to UELS by completing a short survey. Thanks very much to everyone who completed it (we had over 85 responses!) and congratulations to those that won an Amazon gift card.

Here's a snapshot of the feedback and some of our action items:

- 94% of respondents agreed our events provided useful information and skills about law and career goals and 73% found our events provided good opportunities to network with future employers.
- 85% of respondents had the chance to participate in our virtual events so far.
- 72% of respondents found our events fun and enjoyable.
- Only 43% of respondents felt that our events allowed them to connect with other members of the Society and we received some feedback about creating more opportunities for members to meet each other.

We know that virtual events aren't ideal and sometimes it's a challenge to meet others in large zoom events. This term we have organised some smaller, more interactive events. We've already hosted a first-year pizza making event and a virtual escape room and soon will be hosting a doughnut decorating event.

We asked about why you might not have attended some of our events. The biggest response was from first-years who said they felt nervous because they didn't know anyone.

To address this, our first-year reps have already planned and hosted events focused just on first years and keep an eye on for future events geared for first years too. Moreover, the entire UELS committee is committed to making you feel welcome at our events! If you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to get in touch.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR SURVEY

We also asked for general feedback and suggestions, and here are some of the common responses:

- We received some feedback about how we promote upcoming events and activities. We try our best to promote upcoming events in our monthly newsletter and through social media and each week we send out a weekly update email on Monday. Our best advice is to keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for all our latest news.
- We received several inquiries about stash. There were some delays with stash orders due to the pandemic, but stash is now available through the Guild website. We've arranged with our supplier to ship stash orders directly to you. For more info, please check the Guild website.
- Many members appreciated opportunities to hear from firms and future employers. We received lots of feedback about continuing our employability related events in term two. We will continue to host employability related events and invite speakers from law firms and chambers. On February 8, for example, we are partnering with LawCareers.Net to provide an employability workshop about LinkedIn and Legal Applications. We've also launched a new podcast that features Exeter alumni being interviewed by UELS committee members (check it out on Spotify!).
- Some members shared they do not enjoy virtual events. We certainly recognise the limitations of virtual events and agree that they aren't the same campus events. Until we can safely return to hosting in-person events we will continue to try and make virtual events as engaging as possible.

Overall, your feedback was positive but we know there's always room for improvement!

We look forward to continuing to host events and activities this term and hope you continue to find them interesting and relevant. As always, we love to hear your feedback so please don't hesitate to get in touch with any member of the UELS team.

UELS COMMITTEE 2020-2021

Presidents: Jessica Phillips and Lucy Cole

Vice President: Luke Broadway

Treasurer: Toby Whitfield

General Secretary: Mireille Els

Academic Officer: Anya Bailey

Employability Officers: Evan John and Ben Ward

Publicity Officers: Izzie Bond-Mills and Rhea Agarwal

Community Officers: Eva Morris and Thomas Moser

Bar Group Co-ordinators: Jade Lee and Nathaniel Guerrerio

First Year Bar Representative: Lucy Cook

Second Year Bar Representative: Leah Barter

Third Year Bar Representative: Adithi Vendante

Mooting Officers: Alfie Carlisle and Sneha Ramkelawon

Pro Bono Officers: Lauren Hunt and Jasmin Cogin

Welfare Officer: Courtney Jones

Women's Officer: Amelia Bunce

BAME Officer: Rawan Alsamwami

LGBTQ+ Officer: Ben Gardener

International Student's Officer: Cherry Wong

Disabilities Officer: Lucie Jones

Non-Law Officer: Haowei Shi

Grad LLB Officer: Jane Helleman

Social Mobility Officer: Gabriella Mula

First Year Society Representatives: Zoe Bushby and Ania Hollinshead

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