

## EDITORIAL

We are delighted that this year's issue is headlined by not one but two eminent jurists. In association with the Plymouth Law Society Lady Justice Hallett, Vice President of the Court of Criminal Appeal, opens this edition with the 21<sup>st</sup> Pilgrim Fathers lecture on the role of the modern judiciary. This is followed by Sir Louis Blom Cooper's guest lecture to the Law School on 28 October 2014. As might be expected from the founder member of Amnesty International and active supporter of JUSTICE, Sir Louis delivered a thought provoking and challenging lecture on the topical subject of life sentences and the absence of appropriate review.

Coincidentally, a number of similar themes have emerged this year amongst staff and students. A strong historical interest is evident with Ann Lyon's acknowledgement of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the House of Hanover reminding us of its role as a major element in securing the transition to a more stable constitutional monarchy. Khamael Al-Faris' doctoral work reviews the role of immigration policy and immigrant criminality with a particular focus on historical perspectives towards the criminality of the Irish. Our former LLB student Stefano Congui's summary of the principles of international law complements James Kirton's provocative undergraduate article on the legality of American drones when deployed in the current security context (which we publish as a longer than usual piece because of its originality). Greenwich School of Management's Ifeolu Tokimi usefully draws both themes together with his historical survey of the concepts of security and liberty in the light of current terrorism concerns. Environmental law features once again as a theme, with Samantha Loveridge and Annie Martyn respectively providing commentary on the topical, often controversial, sustainability-related issues of offshore renewable energy and reform of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

The two student papers from Criminology and Criminal Justice also address real-life topical issues that have been largely under-researched. Michael Ives investigates the increasing role of the police service in conceptualising and delivering restorative justice and how this relates to academic perspectives, policing policies and wider penological shifts. Ben Coombes tackles the phenomenon of 'legal highs', unknown and untested psychoactive substances that fall outside the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 but which are increasingly becoming the latest craze.

As usual we include a number of student and staff authored reports detailing the various activities undertaken in the School. In particular we are proud of the ESRC approved Festival of

Social Science celebration event, Challenging Perceptions of Law and Criminal Justice, where the staff and student societies produced 20 posters for public display at Plymouth City Library as outlined in Patricia Gray and Kim Stevenson's report. In addition to the regular Plymouth Innocence and Mooting Reports, for the first time, students volunteering in the South West Employment Rights Centre have contributed a survey of their work.

Hugo de Rijke's report of his visit to Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world, highlights that access to the law is a significant problem. His visit on behalf of the Association of Law Teachers was to help raise the standard of law teaching there but he was so moved by the impact of the ebola crisis that he decided to run in the Amsterdam marathon to raise money for Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontiers) and Save the Children, a fantastic effort.

Finally, in last year's issue we featured a report about the Law Review as an example of best practice as presented at the British Undergraduate Research Conference; the BURC has now created a page on their blog promoting the review <http://www.bcur.org/plymouth-law-criminal-justice-review/>

Kim Stevenson, Editor-in Chief; Lesley Simmonds and Jason Lowther, General Editors  
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