



The City Law School
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

In Brief...

Issue 1

September 2009

A WARM WELCOME TO THE CITY LAW SCHOOL ON BEHALF OF ALL THE STAFF

Welcome to the start of BVC 2009-10, and to what we hope will be an enjoyable and rewarding year for you. For all but the select group of second year Part-time BVC students this will be the start of your professional studies for the Bar, with what is likely to be a very different approach to study than your experience to date.

Students often have the idea that the BVC should involve “studying” for the Bar almost as a continuation of their undergraduate studies or their GDL. As was said on registration day, this course is designed primarily to assist you in developing the skills needed for successful professional practice. This is done primarily by a process of learning by doing. At this stage it is almost taken as read that you have a sound grasp of the law. Building on that, the course aims to enable you to put that knowledge to good use in advising and representing clients. The focus is on developing the skills required in order to give a high quality professional service to your future clients. At all times you will be expected to be doing that against a background of sound legal knowledge, but the emphasis is on lawyering skills, not on an unnecessary display of intellectual legal knowledge.

For many of you, in addition to your new course, you will also be finding your way around a new city and meeting a great many people for the first time. All this should be very exciting, and even if it is rather intimidating, you should be able to meet up with lots of friendly fellow students on the course, as well as getting support from your personal tutors and other staff at the School.

One of the advantages of being part of City Law School is that you are also able to take advantage of the facilities and support services available at City University. Details of what is available can be seen from the university’s website. If you go to the “Students” tab on the university’s home page you will see a great range of facilities and support services which you can use.

We hope you find the course exciting and stretching, and that you have an enjoyable year with us.

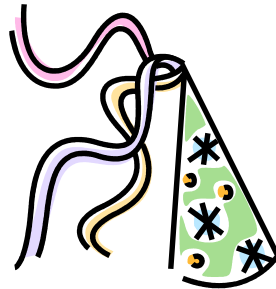
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PART TIME BVC STUDENTS

There will be a party for part time students in the Student Common Room on **Thursday 22nd October** at **19.30** (following the Year 1 class in Opinion Writing).

All part time students are welcome.



PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY

Train to be a McKenzie Friend for:
THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
'NCDV'

The NCDV provides a free service to any victim of domestic abuse, enabling them to obtain emergency protection from the courts.

NCDV training will take place here at City Law School on
Saturday 17th and **Sunday 18th October 2009**.
You need to attend both days' training to qualify.

Also, if you wish to take the DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
OPTION, you **must** do this training.

To register, email: Veronica.Lachkovic.1@city.ac.uk by
Friday 2nd October 2009.

GROUP REPS, TUTORS AND OFFICE HOURS

Welcome to all Bar Vocational students from all of us working here at the Gray's Inn buildings.

Full Time Students - Group Reps

As I mentioned when we first met, I will be asking for each group to elect a Group Representative and a Deputy Rep. I know a few groups have done this already. Feel free also to take a week or two to get to know each other better before doing so.

Once your reps have been identified please email me (copied to your Personal Tutor) with your group number and reps' names, emails (City account only) and telephone numbers. It would be great if you could do this by the end of week 5 (2nd October).

The job is not onerous. I will call a Group Rep meeting for every Lecture Group cohort twice a term. There is also an opportunity (only if you wish to take it) to become more involved in other School committees also. I will send more info later to those elected. My email - c.m.hill@city.ac.uk.

Tutors & Office Hours

Your Personal Tutor and class tutors are available to deal with queries or concerns you may have about particular subjects or pastoral issues. Use our emails and voicemail, and come and see us. In a week or so the School Office will hold a list of tutors' office hours (when no appointment is necessary). At other times we may be around, or you can always make an appointment.

Because four or five of you have asked for it – here is that Confucius quotation which I thought summed up some of what you will be doing on the course:

'I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.'

Catherine Hill
Deputy Course Director
Email: c.m.hill@city.ac.uk

CLS LIBRARY SERVICES: NOTES FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

Library staff members warmly welcome students returning to the 2nd year of their part-time courses.

New for this academic year

Extended Library Opening Hours on Mondays and Tuesdays

From 14 September 2009, the library will open until **9.30pm from Monday to Thursday** during term time.

Reduction in fines

With immediate effect, fines have been reduced to **50p per item per day for week loans** and **75p per item per day for 3 day loans**.

Ask Us

We'd like to remind you that we're here to help. If you are unable to visit us in person, you can also **phone us** or **email us** during opening hours for assistance. For example if you:

- Need a reminder of how to update *case law* online
- Want to know how to cite a case from *The Official Series*
- Are not sure how to access *Clerk & Lindsell* online
- Need help interpreting the *Legislation* screen on *Lexis Library*

Please do ask us - we're here to help. Contact details are in the box below.

As with last academic year, we're providing the **dedicated support of a law librarian** on Wednesday evenings specifically to assist part-time students.

Library tel. number: 0207 400 3605

E-mail address:  clslibrarygip@city.ac.uk.

For queries regarding your IT account, CitySpace, wireless access etc, please call IT support on **020 7400 0261** or email m.eady@city.ac.uk.

Reminder about Lawbore Professional

Lawbore Pro is an essential resource for students studying at The City Law School and for those entering the legal profession.

- Keep up to date with **News**, catch-up with Law School **Events** and stay in touch with the **Course Notice-boards**.
- Find support materials including our **library guides**.
- Access legal **databases** and the **E-library** through the **Study Hub** and see how we can **Support** you through your studies.

Lawbore Pro is available at www.lawborepro.net

If you have problems accessing the databases, please view the Support pages on Lawbore Pro...or seek assistance from the CLS library staff.

HAVE YOU SEEN...?

A selection of entries from the Course Noticeboards on Lawbore Pro
www.lawborepro.net

Legal Launch Pad Programme

The Black Lawyers Directory (BLD) runs the **Legal Launch Pad (LLP) Programme** targeted at students from black and ethnic minority backgrounds (law and non-law students) wishing to enter the legal profession. The programme offers a mix of work placements, mentoring, training, events and networking opportunities.

The Legal Launch Pad programme is primarily targeted at ethnic minorities in their first and second year at university but does not preclude those in later stages of academic and other professional studies.

Information about the LLP 2010 will be available on the BLD website at http://www.onlinebld.com/the_legal_gateway/the_legal_launch_pad_LLIP.html from **late August/ early September 2009** with a closing date of **30 November 2009**. Applications, guidance and other supporting documents will be downloadable from the website. Only 50 places are available.

Find out more information about the scheme
<http://www.lawbore.net/articles/LLPbrochure.pdf>

Middle Temple Library Tours for new pupils and students

Middle Temple will be conducting **library tours** for new pupils and students during **September** and **October** at **11am, 4pm** and **6pm**.

The tours will last around 45 minutes and will provide an introduction to Middle Temple's library and its facilities. By signing up for a tour, there will also be an opportunity to enter a draw to win a bottle of champagne!

To ensure a place or to arrange a more convenient time, please speak to a member of staff at the Middle Temple Library enquiry desk, phone 020 7427 4830, or email library@middletemple.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON...

For further details and how to reserve a place on an event, consult the Events Calendar on **Lawbore Pro** www.lawborepro.net

Young Bar Conference 2009

Saturday, 3rd October 2009

All day

Venue: Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London

The Young Bar Conference is open to BVC students, pupils and barristers under ten years' call. The keynote speaker this year is Baroness Ruth Deech, Chair of the Bar Standards Board, and the conference will offer a choice of workshops and an advocacy masterclass with Michael Beloff QC.

A conference brochure and registration form will be available from mid-August, and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please [contact the Bar Council](#).

Education futures lecture - Legal education, lawyers and political change in China

Tuesday, 6th October 2009

Registration: 6:00 PM, Lecture: 18:30 - 19:30

Venue: Room AG07, College Building, City University London, 280 St John Street, London EC1V 4PB [[map to venue](#)]

As part of the Education Futures lecture series, Andrew Halper of Eversheds will look at the role of the law in the profound social and political changes taking place in China.

Andrew will also discuss legal education and will consider what drives young people to become lawyers in China.

For more information about the lecture, please click [here](#). Places must be booked in advance - please [click here for the booking form](#), or alternatively e-mail eventsrsvp@city.ac.uk.

***In Brief* is a fortnightly newsletter issued on Fridays.**