



City Pro Bono Gazette



The latest society news, views and announcements

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Semester Highlights



Amicus Speaker Event

By Maddison Fisher

At the Amicus speaker event in October, Maroshini Krishna Morgan, who was previously Assistant Director at Amicus ALJ, and is currently a Consultant at Deloitte, shared with us her overview of what Amicus is all about, touching on topics such as the right to due process and equal justice before the law, and raising awareness of potential abuses of defendants right through frontline work. Maroshini spoke about her time in Texas as an intern for Amicus and shared with students how they can get involved through UK & US placements opportunities.

20 Years of Pro Bono

By *Abdirahman Salad*

Pro Bono Week fulfils a variety of key functions, chief among them: to celebrate the work of those undertaking voluntary activities; to give a key insight into what such work entails, and how one may be involved, and; to highlight future issues to be tackled.

The Week

Imposter syndrome is often associated with students entering the legal profession, but it is also an issue surfacing among veterans of the field once they have hung up their boots. In the first event, I shall mention, “Late Career Pro Bono”, our panel delved into the issues lawyers may face once they have retired and hope to engage in pro bono work. The issues ranged from those of a logistical nature to those of adapting to new fields. There was a common theme, however, which our panel highlighted: imposter syndrome. This is a term all too familiar with law students hoping to enter the legal profession. A nagging feeling of incompetence in your desired field can be damaging and, perhaps most importantly, quite frightening. Fortunately, our panel offered reassuring words of support: you will be valuable even if you experience imposter syndrome. If those who have spent decades in the field are susceptible to such feelings, yet have enjoyed successful careers, surely there is nothing to worry about.



Our next event concerns the environment and is directly relevant to the progression of climate change and how world leaders at COP26 seek to address this issue. Attended by LawWorks, the Environmental Law Foundation and A4ID, our panel revealed their work in the environmental legal sphere and the challenges faced at all levels, litigation or groundwork with local communities. One particular topic of interest was judicial review and the restrictive effects of the claimant's cost cap. The current rules cap a claimant's costs liability at £5,000 and double in the case of an NGO. The consequence of potentially paying such a

hefty sum is a hurdle many do not wish to traverse. Our chair criticised the “culture of the judiciary”, which involves a rather disingenuous view of environmental litigants as insincere losers of the political battle. Our chair went on to further call the current COP26 summit a “week of hot air”. It will be interesting to see if future developments justify such a view.

The final event was quite emotional and featured Andrew Malkinson: a man who has spent 17 years in prison in the midst of severe procedural violations. Despite protesting his innocence throughout his imprisonment, Andrew was provided with several incentives to admit his alleged guilt, chief among them being earlier release. The case was primarily headed by Emily Bolton of APPEAL, with crucial support from Mair Williams of Latham & Watkins, Amanda N. Raad of Ropes & Gray and; Max Hard working as a Barrister. This list is not exhaustive, and support was sourced from countless other sources, such as voluntary DNA testing from Swiss scientists. This breakthrough in DNA testing essentially rules out Andrew from the crime, which Andrew and his team hope will exonerate him. The case is pending appeal, and we look on with keen interest.

20 Years of Pro Bono Continued ...

By Abdirahman Salad

Future of Pro Bono

Pro bono work spans almost all conceivable fields. It serves as the charitable backbone of our society, as one of our panellists put it, “extraordinary response” to significant societal events such as the Grenfell Tower tragedy by the volunteering sector. In particular, it will be interesting to note if such a response is possible on a grand scale when confronting climate change. COP26, and its developments, may act as a helm towards the navigation of the future of pro bono work in the environmental sphere. Unfortunately, this means the added caveat that it may also sink if such a summit is followed by governmental lethargy and neglect.

For more information, please visit probonoweb.org.

A Glimpse into COP26

By Hadyeh Baghdarani

The recent COP26 Glasgow conference has led to plenty of mixed emotions if enough has been done to tackle climate change. This article will give a glimpse of the aims, the goals that have been set, why it is important to businesses, and the outcomes of the convention.

The Aims

The UN Climate Change Conference aims to bring together representatives from 190 countries to form agreements tackling climate change. The conference focuses on the following aims, firstly, to secure net-zero by 2050 and achieve 1.5 degrees. This will be done by encouraging countries to create cutting emission targets by 2030 so that it can be achieved and in 2050. Methods to achieve this are phasing out coal, curtailing deforestation and encouraging investments in renewable energy.

Secondly, adapting to protect communities and natural habitats. COP wants countries to consider methods in protecting and restoring ecosystems, constructing resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes and lives.



Thirdly, to mobilise finance so that the two goals above can be met. However, developed countries must commit to mobilising with at least \$100bn in climate change finances. Therefore, International Financial Institutions must release trillions in private and public sector finance to secure global net zero.



Lastly, every country must work together to deliver these goals as the consequences of climate affect all and currently affect many livelihoods worldwide.

A Glimpse into COP26 Continued ...

By Hadyeh Baghbadarani

How COP affects businesses and industries

For all these goals to be met, not only do the governments need to do their part, but businesses need to take accountability for their emissions and find ways to reduce them to improve the sustainability of their business. Businesses have the opportunity to shape society and enable the 'green economy'. Taking a significant interest in ESGs (Environmental, Social and Governance) can open new industries, technology, products, and services. However, what is critical for businesses to know is that consumer behaviour will change due to sustainability awareness. Therefore, if a business cannot adapt, it could affect its reputation and position within its market.

According to Ben Stanfield, Partner at Gowling WLG, in his article 'Why is COP26 Important to Businesses?', businesses should be currently focusing on these key areas: auditing disclosure, the business community, and internal education. Regarding auditing, businesses should focus on the environmental impacts of their supply chains and review their greenhouse emissions through the use of any natural resources used within their operations that can affect their sustainability.

Secondly, communication within the business is critical to highlight to employees, shareholders, and customers how they are currently working and plan to innovate sustainably, increasing the accountability and transparency within the business.

Thirdly, businesses need to understand and research any current approaches their competitors use within their market. This will allow businesses to have the opportunity to widen the approaches of making the market more sustainable, which can benefit them in the long-term by through consumer behaviour and having the insight in shaping the economy.

Lastly, businesses must ensure that ESGs and aims of the company are understood throughout their business. For example, the issue surrounding greenwashing. Although it is important to highlight how as a business, you are improving or showing that you want to be more sustainable, there must be clear communication in all business departments with evidence of how the company is becoming environmentally friendly due to the risk it has can possess.

Industries like fashion have the potential to make a real impact as they have been the industry with one of the largest emissions issues and controversies surrounding greenwashing. Brands need to start considering reforming their production in how they access natural resources, as it is easy to say the aim is to reduce emissions, but they cannot expect their supply chain to comply; the onus must be on them to hold accountable as to how their products are made. Businesses ultimately affect how society is shaped; therefore, brands should interact with policies and governments in manufacturing countries.

Some have achieved this by supporting Vietnam's government in developing renewable energy and giving ultimatums to other locations that they will find a new manufacturer with similar values if their current manufacturer does not improve their sustainability.



A Glimpse into COP26 Continued ...

By Hadyeh Baghbadarani

Apart from involving and holding their supply chain accountable, the fashion industry needs to focus on digital transparency due to greenwashing issues. Companies such as Eon have used digital technology to inform customers of the sustainability credentials of their products. However, for brands to move forwards, they need to change their marketing angles as they tend to focus on the glamorous side to keep the focus on their products, fashion, and trends rather than demonstrate to consumers the changes that are being made internally and externally that is making the brand more sustainable. Although it may look less on brand, it does have the potential to affect consumer behaviour seeing a brand being transparent and accountable with their products which grows a better relationship with their clientele.

The Outcomes

Although the agreements made were not legally binding, there have been targets made to be completed within the next decade to ensure that emissions will be further cut and keep temperature rises within 1.5°C.

The first decision is reducing coal which is responsible for 40% of the annual CO₂ emissions. However, rather than 'phase out' coal, it was decided to be 'phased down' due to a last-minute word change by China and India. Therefore, arguably both countries have not updated their commitments at COP26, which is an issue as they are key sourcing countries for many industries, such as fashion which means that we may see brands not only in the fashion sector step up and take on a role to negotiate with policymakers to ensure they can meet their climate change targets as there will be a lack of progress if industries do not intervene.

The second major division focuses on ensuring that developing countries have access to financial aid to deal with the effects of climate change and invest in clean energy. This will be done through a trillion dollar a year fund from 2025. However, there are strings attached. The money offered is in the form of a loan, demonstrating that despite the financial help received, the poorer countries will be expected to pay for climate change targets too. Dr Averchenkova says that "developing countries cannot rely on loans, so it will be really important that more climate finance is provided in grants". Although COP26 had agreed to give more money in grant form than loans, few details on that commitment show why many representatives from African and Latin American countries felt isolated as arguably they have faced the most damage from the industrial revolution that developed countries have created.



Overall, COP26 was successful in arguably being successful in highlighting the issues that are being faced in the current climate, which has affected many individuals as consumers and employees. However, there has not been enough to change, as we see with countries not wanting to get rid of their manufacturing style and coal until it makes them lose business. Most of those manufacturers are in developing countries. Therefore, the only way to cut emissions is to improve infrastructure and funding into innovative technologies and solutions.





The Pro Bono Gazette is Hiring and we want you to apply!

*Deadline to apply is December 30th
by 11:59pm*

POSITIONS

Editor (2 positions)

Our Editors will be working with the entire team as well as the Editor-in-Chief in creating Bi-monthly newsletters for our members. Editors will delegate roles to the team, brainstorm themes, write articles, and help finalise the newsletter. Editors will oversee the work of all the newspaper staff, allocate space for articles, photographs, advertisements, etc and decide which stories make it into each edition. Editors will help in creating outlines for the newsletters as well as ensuring tasks are being completed. This position will commence January 2022 and end June 2022.

Writers (3 positions)

Ideal for those that want to improve their commercial awareness and work on their writing skills. Writers are expected to write at least one article per issue. As a writer, your duties will include creating stories for the newspaper using facts from data, interviews, public events and records, or other journalists and reporters. This position will commence January 2022 and end June 2022.

Designer (2 positions)

As a Designer, you will focus on the layout and graphic component of the newspaper. Your goal will be to ensure that all content is presented in a visually appealing way and all relevant items are included. Familiarity with Canva is an asset. This position will commence January 2022 and end June 2022.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, email probonosociety@city.ac.uk with your CV and a 150 word Cover Letter detailing why you would be the best fit for the position you are applying for.

Be sure to include what position you are applying for in the subject of the email.

Only those successful will be contacted for an interview by January 3, 2022.

Application Calendar

DECEMBER 2021

Mini Pupilage

31st

- 4 Pump Court Mini Pupilage
- Blackstone Chambers Mini Pupilage
- Serle Court Mini Pupilage

Vacation Schemes

15th

- Allen & Overy LLP: Summer
- Bird & Bird: Summer

22nd

- Mishcon de Reya LLP: Spring and Summer

31st

- DLA Piper UK LLP: Summer
- Hogan Lovells

Training Contracts

15th

- Allen & Overy LLP
- Bird & Bird
- White & Co

31st

- DLA Piper UK LLP
- Kennedys
- Mishcon de Reya LLP

JANUARY 2022

Vacation Schemes

1st

- Baker McKenzie: Summer

2nd

- Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
- Irwin Mitchell LLP
- Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
- Latham & Watkins
- Clyde & Co LLP

3rd

- Macfarlanes LLP
- Dentons

6th

- Addleshaw Goddard

7th

- Jones Day

9th

- Atkin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld: Summer

14th

- DWF Group PLC

15th

- Osborne Clarke LLP
- White & Case LLP: Spring and Summer

16th

- Norton Rose Fulbright: Summer

17th

- Travers Smith LLP

19th

- Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner: Summer

28th

- Sidley Austin LLP: Spring and Summer

Training Contracts

2nd

- Bristows LLP
- Irwin Mitchell LLP

3rd

- Clyde & Co LLP
- Morrison & Foerster (UK) LLP

7th

- Jones Day
- Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

15th

- Osborne Clarke LLP

24th

- Gateley Legal

30th

- Cooley (UK) LLP
- Fieldfisher

31st

- Charles Russell Speechlys LLP
- DAC Beachcroft LLP
- Hogan Lovells
- Ropes & Gray

Application Calendar

FEBRUARY 2022

Pupillages

9th

- 2 Temple Gardens
- 4 New Square
- 4 Pump Court
- 5 Essex Court
- 7BR
- Black Stone Chambers
- Cornerstone Barristers
- Devereux Chambers
- Exchange Chambers
- Francis Taylor Building
- Gatehouse Chambers
- Hailsham Chambers

9th

- Henderson Chambers
- Keating Chambers
- Kings Chambers
- Landmark Chambers
- Littleton Chambers
- Radcliffe Chambers
- Wilberforce Chambers

Mini-Pupillages

28th

- Landmark Chambers
- Radcliffe Chambers

Vacation Schemes

1st

- Browne Jacobson LLP
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher UK LLP

21st

- Russell-Cooke

28th

- Fosters Solicitor LLP
- Shoosmiths
- Womble Bond Dickinson: Spring and Summer

Training Contracts

1st

- Peter Brown & Co Solicitors LLP

15th

- Taylor Vinters LLP

16th

- Reed Smith

21st

- Russell-Cooke

28th

- Leigh Day
- Womble Bond Dickinson

First Year Opportunities

Macfarlanes LLP - First Year Insight Scheme
Deadline: January 31, 2022

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP - Open Day
Deadline: February 13, 2022

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton - Insight Day
Deadline: February 25, 2022

Norton Rose Fulbright - First Step Programme
Deadline: March 6, 2022

Macfarlanes LLP - First Year Development Initiative
Deadline: March 31, 2022

White & Case LLP - Insight Scheme
Deadline: March 31, 2022

To join the Pro Bono Society, please visit our website www.citystudents.co.uk/cityprobono and purchase a Standard Membership (current City students) or an Associate Membership (all other students)

