



CITY PRO BONO GAZETTE

from the heart of City, for the public good





A Note on The Invasion in Ukraine

The Pro Bono Gazette team are saddened to hear the news of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. After months of military build-up on the border, strained bilateral relations led to Russian troops reportedly fighting for territory on Ukrainian soil. It is an incredibly difficult time for all involved, but we would like to use this opportunity to express our support for the people of Ukraine.

Please see the government's advice at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help> to find out how you can support, including safely sending financial donations, donating essential supplies and applying to be a sponsor. Additionally, the Disasters Emergency Committee has set up a fund to support its charities providing food, water, shelter and healthcare to displaced families. If you are interested in donating, please see the link here: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>.

With content being so rapidly shared, it may also be challenging to ascertain whether something is true or false. Do refer to the SHARE Checklist by the government when considering whether to circulate material online.

- City Pro Bono Gazette Team

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Light as a Letter: *a glimpse of humanity in the death row process*

by Vic Duarte

If you got the chance, what would you say to an inmate on death row? Would you dare to trade what you think you know about the world's most "dangerous" criminals for acquaintanceship?

In 1987, 22-year-old Texan, Clifford Boggess was placed on death row after murdering two men in the summer of 1986. He was executed in 1998, 11 years after being told his life would be the consequence of his actions. He was just one of 68 people sentenced to death in America that year. Fast forward to 2022, there are 2,436 inmates awaiting execution across America.



This article is not about the technicalities of Boggess' actions or the adjudication of his guilt. It is not even about whether death row has a place in the twenty-first century (though I'd argue it does not). Rather, it is about a glimpse of humanity in the cells of people on death row. About the work of organisations such as *Human Writes* that ensure sparks of humanity are bridged between inmates and people through 'old-fashioned' pen and paper.

Despite being cut off from the enjoyment of most luxuries in life, death row inmates are eligible to receive letters from anyone who takes the opportunity to send them. This allowance is one which *Human Writes*, a UK not-for-profit organisation, spends each day coordinating in the hopes of bringing fulfilment to inmates who for lack of a better word *live* an average of 15 years in dehumanising conditions.

Human Writes pairs death row inmates with individuals from all walks of life looking to exchange preconceived notions of those with criminal backgrounds for friendship.

"The very essence of the death penalty is to tell people that they are somehow sub-human, not fit to live... those who recognise this by reaching out to the men and women on death row are true heroes, though I suspect they gain as much as they give to the relationship."

- Clive Stafford Smith OBE,
Founder of Reprieve and Patron, *Human Writes*

For many who are for capital punishment, this sentiment sounds worthless, but to many inmates, a letter from a Penfriend is a sign that they are still alive and human.

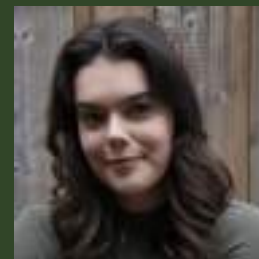
Since 2000, *Human Writes* has ensured letters have been signed, sealed, then delivered from Penfriends who hope their offers of companionship bring their recipients peace as their execution dates arrive. Clifford Boggess was one of the many who found great reconciliation in sharing what his life behind bars looked like through art with the help of this initiative.

In "The Execution" a Frontline documentary on Boggess' life after conviction, Boggess himself shares that though he would never step foot in an art gallery, he aspired to see the work of Vincent Van Gogh in person. Illustrations such as "Conversations with a Friend" were his way of sharing how much art and writing to his Penfriends had changed the end of his life. His defense lawyer and *Human Writes* shared his art with the world and after his execution, it was a Penfriend that fulfilled his wish of ensuring he was resting where Van Gogh had once painted in France. So why is this type of connection vital?

Human Writes and other organisations like it present an opportunity for an intimate level of accountability. It asks most ordinary people to extend their arms and embrace other humans who have been labelled as unfit for society.

What do they get in return? The chance to see eye to eye with someone others can't bear to even make eye contact with. The chance to transform someone in their last few years of life when others have shut them out completely. And most enticing of all, the chance to make a genuine friend.

Imagining that something as light as a letter can make the heavy realities of an inmate's life on death row fade away for even a few minutes seems strange. Yet, inmates across the world are waiting to hear from those willing to share with them. What do you have to share?



Winner of the 2022
City Pro Bono Society
Amicus Writing Competition
Vic Duarte

LL.M. International Human Rights
Student

Climbing Stocks for Defence and Cybersecurity

by Rochelle Inbakumar

Ukraine has accused Russia of cyber-attacks on two banks and its defence ministry has maintained its argument since the 2014 war. Despite the Kremlin denying that this is the case, governments and companies undoubtedly are seeking to armour up to prevent potential attacks coming their way virtually. Subsequently, defence and cybersecurity companies are making significant gains following somewhat panicked defence investments.

Raytheon Technologies, the US defence giant and maker of the Stinger ground-to-air missile that Germany has pledged to supply to Ukrainian forces, has seen its shares price increase more than 10% since the invasion began. Additionally, the Global X Cybersecurity ETF has been reported to be steadily on the rise, with Morgan Stanley writing that the heightened tensions "will continue to provide a strong tailwind for cybersecurity stocks". However, one should be wary when considering how long this might last. Since fear seems to be the driving factor, some analysts believe it may not be sustained and think this rapid gain could tail off when tensions subside. UBS analyst Roger Boyd called the moves "indiscriminate", issuing a stark warning that these gains "could be overdone".

PRO BONO'S FINEST:

Meet Anthony Speaight QC

'Pro bono isn't just good for clients, it's for barristers too'

by Rochelle Inbakumar

When considering who benefits in a pro bono case, many point to the clients receiving the advice. However, not Anthony Speaight QC, winner of the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award in 2021 for lifetime achievement in pro bono! In a recent interview with The Times, Speaight notes that "pro bono is not just good for clients, it's for barristers too". Despite hanging up his wig and gown in September last year, Speaight praises a fulfilling volunteering career alongside his regular law practice.

Speaight grew up around the arts, thanks to his historian and performer father's passion for it. His mother was an art teacher who later worked for the Museum of London, not too far away from our Northampton Square campus. Although the family did not have a television, they did have a radio which they listened to frequently. Through this, Speaight heard programmes about famous trials and decided by the age of 10 that he wanted to be a barrister. However, he must have inherited his father's historian genes as he read History at Lincoln College, Oxford. After completing his pupillage and not being taken on at the Frances Taylor Building, he was finally called to the Bar in 1973 by Middle Temple, gaining tenancy at Six Pump Court.

From then onwards, Speaight tended to focus on civil and commercial work. Thanks to his clerk's connection with the Mary Ward Legal Centre in London, Speaight contributed to the centre's work in the evenings for two decades! Speaight's career continued to grow, and he extended his practice areas, including moving into related property litigation, professional negligence, technology, construction and beyond.

Unfortunately, this meant that he would not be able to contribute to working at the law centre, meaning he needed to find an alternative. Speaight subsequently got into the Bar Pro Bono Unit (or Advocate, its modern name). Speaight only spoke praise of the organisation, highlighting how it was "wonderful from a barrister's point of view". He added how people who came to him for legal advice were "very nice people who just happen to not have money".

Speaight has been credited for the success of numerous pro bono cases, such as a Court of Appeal victory for a man who has been injured in a road accident in Thailand, citing apparent bias of the previous judge. Recently, he defended a law student and single mother against the student loan company who argued that she had been dishonest in her application. The client has now moved on, graduating with the degree that Speaight helped protect and is moving on with her career! In his interview with The Times, he maintained that barristers' work was minimal in these cases, such as writing an opinion or attending short hearings, certainly a perk for all involved.

Although retirement was inevitable for a career of this magnitude, Speaight bows out of the profession as senior silk with a great heart. His story indeed proves how pro bono benefits us all.



Need a Lyft? Profits for food delivery and ride-hailing sector reach Uber high profits in 2021

by Rochelle Inbakumar

The pandemic took a hit on the ride-hailing sector massively, but it was a particular blow for Uber as they had yet to make a profit since the company's launch over a decade ago. However, that changed in early 2022 when it announced its first profitable quarter in its food delivery and ride-hailing segments. Shares had risen, and the company's report showcased a massive \$5.8bn in revenue for the fourth quarter of 2021, beating previous estimates. However, the sector is not entirely out of the woods just yet, with reports from Uber and its rival Lyft in the early months of 2022 showing lower than expected profit, having been dampened by the Omicron variant.



Moreover, while riders continued returning to Lyft compared with 2020 levels, ridership remains 30% below pre-Covid levels. Nevertheless, the companies are putting in the money and effort to lure their drivers and customers back, with Uber themselves spending over \$250 million.

The Battle for Press Freedom

by Rochelle Inbakumar

ZXC v Bloomberg LLP

It is not easy to find a clear-cut definition of privacy in an age where we can go above and beyond invading it. However, this is arguably even more important when it comes down to individuals in a position of power. This was discussed in the case of ZXC, a senior executive at a then-U.K.-listed company with billions of pounds of revenue. Back in 2016, Bloomberg had reported on the undergoing criminal investigation, believing that his investors and the public had a right to know what was going on. The case has a lengthy appellate history, but the most damning judgment came from none other than the Supreme Court, who ruled that the respondent, Z, had a right to privacy, considering aspects such as the presumption of innocence and reputational damage. However, appellants Bloomberg LLP have maintained that they are not the villains in the story. They note how tabloids can peek into celebrities' lives without scrutiny, yet the courts take issue reporting on potential wrongdoing.

The lower courts also noted that Z's ECHR Article 8 rights trumped Bloomberg's Article 10 rights. Was this a case of press freedom being cast aside or the rights of an individual being impeded? Whatever decided, the case will undoubtedly have a significant impact on how our rights and liberties are viewed in the eyes of the court.

What are the top Cybersecurity challenges of 2022?

by Brigesa Ujkaj

Not everyone uses the power of internet for good: here are the top cybersecurity challenges of 2022

1. Zero-day exposure leaves no time for fixes

Even the most dependable software products might have a weak point. Hackers are looking for vulnerabilities known as "zero-day" flaws, such as the case of DNC Hack, because developers will have zero days to repair a flaw if hackers find it before. Some of the most widely used operating systems, online browsers, office software, hardware and firmware, and linked devices have been determined to have zero-day vulnerabilities. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) published an advisory in December 2021 concerning vulnerabilities in Apache Log4j, a widely used open-source Java logging library.

2. Ransomware attacks are still on the rise

Ransomware has been on the rise all around the world, and many cybersecurity experts believe that in 2022, these hostile takeovers will be much more prevalent. Ransomware, as the term implies, involves hackers encrypting data and holding it hostage until the target pays a ransom. Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) assaults and silent ransomware, which can remain dormant and unnoticed until causing havoc, have been on the rise. The possibility of your data being exploited as a bargaining chip for your money has grown so widespread that the NCSC has issued a warning to all targets, from educational institutions to sports teams to ordinary people.

3. AI-enabled cybercrime on auto

AI and machine learning have enabled revolutionary leaps forward for tech — unfortunately, not everyone is using these powerful tools to make a positive change. In the world of cybersecurity, AI has only intensified the race between white hats, which use their capabilities to uncover security failings to help safeguard organizations from dangerous hackers, and black hat criminals who break into computer networks with malicious intent. Each minute, Bitdefender Labs discovers more than 400 new threats and validates around 40 billion threat queries each day. In tackling the toughest challenges facing cyber security since 2001, they have pioneered breakthroughs in anti-malware, Internet of Things security, analytics, and AI.

4. Data breaches chasing even bigger 'phish'

Whether it's whaling (phishing attacks targeting top executives), business email compromise (BEC), or email account breach, cybercriminals appear to be growing sneakier all the time, and 2022 will be no exception. Data breaches give hackers with valuable information such as passwords, addresses, and personal information, which they might use to deceive a target. The more information they have on you, the more likely you are to fall for a well-crafted scam that appears to come from a respectable source, such as your bank. The hackers usually use software to collect your personal data.

CITY LAW MASQUERADE BALL 2022

hosted by the City Law School Events Committee:

Sarah Sahi, Kaila Lusabia, Wafa Saleem, Nisha Devika, Giulia Dipede & Faith Onwuzuruike



THE VENUE *The Great Hall*
The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
 Friday, April 1, 2022



THE ENTERTAINMENT
Slipbeats Professional DJ Services
Booths By Lux - 360 Photo Booth Hire



THE FOOD

Appetizer Beetroot Carpaccio & Goats Curd Salad

Main English Free Range Chicken with Cauliflower, Wild Mushroom, Leeks & a Potato Cake

Dessert Rhubarb, Vanilla Delice with White Chocolate Cream & Shortbread



Putin's War Affects Our Prices

by Rochelle Inbakumar

It is expected that the markets will take a plunge when war arrives, but who will take the biggest hit and who will gain? Following the recent invasion of Ukraine, we have been keeping an eye on what this means for the rest of the world.

European benchmark Brent crude prices have been high for a while, but the current world affairs have helped it reach abnormally high prices (as much as \$119.84 per barrel). Many may pin this down to COVID-19, as demand is returning to previous levels after staying low during the pandemic when used less. However, it is difficult to escape the ever looming problem of Russia. Experts have concluded this comes down to the decision made by major oil producers, including Russia, to resist calls from big consumers of oil. However, as prices continue to surge, many believe this is down to the latest American sanctions on Russia, with the country's oil and gas exports predicted to be hit next. Even more worrying news has come from JPMorgan Chase, which has projected that if most countries continue to shut off Russian oil supply as consistently as it has, it may further raise oil prices by \$150 per barrel. This would be significant enough to knock off 1.6% of global GDP and increase consumer prices by 2%, possibly leading us into a severe energy crisis not seen since the 1970s.

However, Shell and BP seemed to be among the small number of winners, as they propped up the FTSE 100 early this month, with their stocks almost 5% up by the close on 2 March. Combined with rising demand following the easing of lockdown and the current geopolitical tensions, their shares have also risen considerably. BP's shares advanced 11p (2.8%) to £4.035, trailing just behind Shell who saw its own shares rise 65.5p (3.4%). Despite the debate over the temporariness of the situation, it is a particular win for Shell who can add this to their latest gaining streak, following the quadrupled adjusted earnings the company reported last year.



The Environmental Price of the Fashion Industry

by Serie Dyrma



Climate change remains the greatest existential threat we face today, and every industry, including the Fashion Industry, has a responsibility in minimising its long-term consequences.

The fashion industry is the second largest polluter in the world after the oil industry. Fashion production currently makes up 10% of humanity's carbon emissions.

Brands use synthetic fibres like polyester, nylon and acrylic which take hundreds of years to biodegrade. Impacts from the fashion industry include over 92 million tonnes of waste produced per year and 79 trillion litres of water consumed. (Nature Reviews Earth & Environment 2020).

Every year, a staggering 100 billion items of clothing are produced, which corresponds to approximately 14 items for every person on the planet. Because of clothes' low prices, people do not wear at least 50 percent of their wardrobes, according to Marjorie van Elven.

An example of a popular material that has a significant effect on the environment is the production of leather, which requires large amounts of feed, land, water and fossil fuels to raise livestock, while the tanning process is among the most toxic in all of the fashion supply chain because the chemicals used to tan leather - including mineral salts, formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives and various oils and dyes - is not biodegradable and contaminates water sources.

FAST FASHION LEADS TO:



WATER POLLUTION



WASTE



GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS



RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION

- Toxic dyes and microfibres are released in waterways and ingested by land and marine life
- The constant speed and demand of fast fashion means increased stress on environmental areas such as land clearing, biodiversity, and soil quality
- Fast fashion can impact consumers encouraging a "throw-away" culture
- Throw away culture leads to rampant buying and selling with an average of 30 kg of clothing being thrown away every year
- The apparel industry accounts for 10% of the world's global emissions
- The carbon footprint of manufacturing, producing and transporting is very high
- Every year thousands of hectares of forests are cleared to produce wood based fibre such as rayon, viscose and modal
- Many fabrics are derived from plant pulp which wastes 70% of the tree and involves a chemically intensive manufacturing process

SOME STATS:

- Most women wear only 20% to 30% of the clothes in their wardrobes
- An average of 35 kg of textile waste is generated per person each year in the US
- On average, we only wear garments 7 times before getting rid of them
- We produce 400% more clothes than 20 years ago
- 80 billion garments are produced each year
- Now brands release 52 micro-collections per year instead of the usual 2 seasons



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Try to repair them
- Donate clothes to your friends, family, neighbors, or to charity.
- Sell them on second-hand apps like Vinted.
- Swap clothes: these types of initiatives are popping up all over the world. Participants bring clothes that they no longer wear and exchange them for clothes they will use. This is an economic and eco-friendly way to refill your wardrobe.
- Put them in the textile recycling bin. Textiles can be recycled to make new clothing.
- Rent clothes: clothing rentals is also a growing industry. This is a great option, especially for clothes that you will not wear for a long time or often (baby/pregnancy clothes, party dresses...)

The government is aiming to galvanise ambitious industry action through a new voluntary agreement – Textiles 2030 – for the next 10 years, which will aim to reduce the environmental footprint of the textiles sector through science-based targets. The UK textiles industry has already made progress in this, led by the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan, a voluntary agreement coordinated by WRAP.

Signatories – which include major fashion retailers such as Marks & Spencer, ASOS and Next – have collectively reduced their water and carbon footprint (by using less water) per tonne of clothing by 19.5 per cent and 15.9 per cent respectively between 2012 and 2019.

Experts have estimated the fashion industry to account for 4% of annual global carbon emissions, while textiles production leads to greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions of France, Germany, and the UK. By encouraging producers and customers to implement environmental initiatives, we can disappear or at least minimize the pollution caused by the fast fashion industry.

“A change today, is an ‘improvement’ tomorrow”

Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives: how can you benefit?

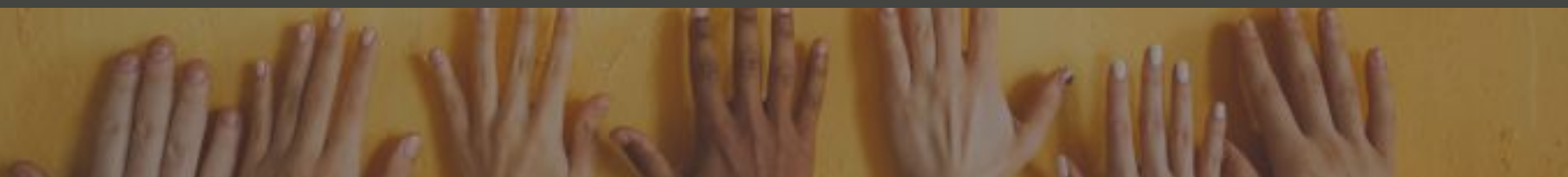
by Abdirahman Salad

Diversity & Inclusion is a significant initiative which serves as a core focus for law firms. Though beneficial in and of itself, D&I is accompanied by a breadth of accolades and awards which firms are looking to add to their repertoire. Such a climate presents many opportunities for aspiring lawyers, and it is important that they take advantage of it. There are a variety of reasons law firms seek to implement D&I initiatives. One reason is the inherent advantages pertaining to such programmes, for example a wider perspective that aids innovation. Other examples range from talent acquisition and robust recruitment, to recognition via honours.

Diversity and inclusion are both complementary, and seek the same outcome. A diverse workforce provides an array of perspectives, allowing a firm to accommodate different circumstances accordingly. This increases employee retention, meaning firms may reduce their recruitment expenses. A workforce that prioritises inclusion ensures that an equal opportunity is provided to all, regardless of background. This too increases employee retention, and eases the employee advancement and promotion process. In short, diversity concerns the makeup of the firm, and inclusion tackles any barriers those in a diverse workforce may face.

Firms have adopted a range of programmes, which are tailored to different groups, in order to foster D&I. These may take the form of careers days, mentor programmes and work experience programmes. An example is Paul Hasting's Mentoring Scheme, in partnership with Aspiring Solicitors. This programme seeks to attract black, asian and minority ethnic ('BAME') recruits. It is clear that firms have chosen to adopt a grassroots approach. Through a diverse and inclusive pool of recruits, followed by a diverse and inclusive workforce, the ideal outcome is for recruits to remain long-term vital assets to firms. If D&I initiatives are implemented effectively, this should be achieved.

Most firms proudly display their D&I programmes, in the hopes of being recognised as leaders in this area. A useful starting point is the Commendation for Diversity Award judged by LawCareers.Net, Aspiring Solicitors and RARE. Both the winners last year, and the judges, are committed to achieving a diverse legal workforce. Doubtless their resources will prove useful. These programmes seek to introduce aspiring solicitors to transactional work which commercial lawyers primarily undertake, as well as enhancing their commercial awareness. Furthermore, by engaging with the programmes firms provide, an interest in that particular firm is displayed. This will aid candidates in attracting the notice of firms.



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A photograph of a protest or demonstration. In the foreground, a person with dark hair tied back is seen from behind, holding a large, rectangular cardboard sign. The sign has the text "IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION" and "IGNORANCE IS A" in black, hand-painted capital letters. The word "CHOICE" is written below in large, bold, red capital letters. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. In the background, other people are visible, some holding signs, and there are dense green trees. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION
IGNORANCE IS A
CHOICE