

INTRODUCTION TO THE EDITION

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Editor-in-Chief

It is my great pleasure and privilege to introduce the 12th Edition of the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal (OUULJ).

One of the more unique elements of the student-published OUULJ is its official affiliation with the Faculty of Law here at Oxford. Indeed, engaging with the Law academically is not something extraneous to a legal education but instead a core component of it. Learning the Law entails more than a mere familiarisation with the positive law. It demands thinking, discussing, and arguing about the law; not merely about what *it is*, but also about what it *should be*. That is, at its core, what the OUULJ is built upon. The Journal now prepares to enter its 13th year. Over the course of more than a decade, the Journal's functions and operations have expanded, but the Journal's mission remains the same - to provide a platform for legal academia written by the brightest undergraduate students at Oxford, and to foster an undergraduate community replete with vibrant and rigorous legal debate.

At the heart of the OUULJ remains the publication of long-form legal articles by undergraduates - the Journal proper. This year, we are fortunate to have the Rt. Hon. Lord Hoffmann—former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary— and the Rt. Hon. Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury—former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom— as judges for the best

Public and Private Law submissions to the Journal. I should not think it an exaggeration for me to say that the Journal is honoured to have the support of two of the foremost judges of recent memory, and indeed the long history of the English legal system. I thank Lord Hoffmann and Lord Neuberger for their adjudication as well as their sincere Forewords. In their Forewords, both Judges remarked on the quality of the articles published in this Edition. The issues discussed in the articles that follow are current and important, and the arguments advanced are considered and powerful. My thanks and congratulations must go to the authors for their contributions to this Edition.

Complementing the Journal is the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Blog (OUULB) and the Oxford Undergraduate Law Podcast (OULP). The Blog is on course for a new high of 10 publications this year. Thanks must be given to the efforts of our Senior Editorial Board, our team of dedicated Blog Editors, and the writers contributing to the Blog. Meanwhile, the OULP, now entering its third year, has cemented its reputation for hosting fascinating discussions from varied perspectives on a broad range of legal issues. My gratitude goes to our outgoing Podcast Editors - Chen Ji and Dorothea Oyetunde. It is their passion and intellectual curiosity for exploring the vast expanse of the law that has allowed the OULP to have a diverse catalogue that ranges from contemporary legal issues - such as the episode with Dr Nicola Palmer on the UK-Rwanda Asylum Partnership; to long-standing jurisprudential problems - as with the episode with Professor Scott Hershovitz on his theory of Law as a Moral Practice. These and more episodes of the OULP are available on Spotify.

In addition to the OUULJ's publishing output, a number of events and initiatives have been held throughout the year to stimulate legal academic writing among undergraduates. In October, we reprised the academic writing workshop, which saw great success in the previous year, with an additional segment inviting potential contributors to the Journal to raise and discuss their submission ideas. This addition proved popular with second and third years who considered it a useful opportunity to propose some early ideas before beginning work on their drafts. In May, the OUULJ Annual Essay Writing Competition was inaugurated - inviting participants to draft a mock address to the Justices of the Supreme Court in relation to a fictional constitutional challenge to the UK Government's blocking of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. It is my hope that the Annual Essay Competition becomes a mainstay of the OUULJ calendar, in the rich tradition of some of our American counterparts across the Pond. Thanks must be given to the Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart and the Associate Dean for Undergraduates, Professor Rachel Taylor for their invaluable support.

None of the above would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Thanks must be extended to our Platinum Sponsors, 3 Verulam Buildings, Maitland Chambers, and South Square Chambers, who have enabled the 12th Edition to hold workshops, host competitions, and publish legal writing. The prizes for the best Public and Private Law submissions have been funded by 3 Verulam Buildings and Serle Court respectively. The Editorial Board is also deeply grateful to the OUULJ's Honorary Board, who has provided invaluable support and guidance throughout the years. Special thanks must

go to Professor Andrew Dickinson who has agreed to join the Board this year.

Finally, I would be remiss not to dedicate my deepest gratitude to the 12th Editorial Board. First, the Associate Editors who have worked tirelessly to fortify and polish the articles contained in this Journal. The quality of this publication is a testament to their ability and dedication. Second, the Vice-Editors in Chief, Weronika Galka, Amy Hemsworth, and Sahil Thapa who have stayed on the Journal to provide guidance and advice. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, thanks must be given to the members of the Senior Editorial Board, which include the Editor, Ethan Teo, our Vice-Editors Taha Anzar, Shivani Arun, and Nicole Tay, as well as our Administrative Director Kristen Palmer and Publicity Officer Caitlin Gillett.

Ethan has taken up the difficult role of Editor in his stride - particularly in strengthening the OUULJ's faculty ties. His management of every aspect of the OUULJ, with the support of Taha, Shivani, and Nicole has been remarkably ambitious yet impeccably efficient. Going forward, I am absolutely certain that the OUULJ will reach even greater heights under their stewardship.

In his Foreword, Lord Neuberger explains how academic writing nurtures an analytical rigour which can form the foundations for professional success. I would like to conclude by proposing, in addition, that legal academia is also valuable as an exercise in introspection. The first step in legal academia should be answering the question - 'What do I think?'. That necessitates identifying what our individual beliefs and values are, even when

engaging with the most technical areas of law. In this way, I believe academic law requires and increases not only our knowledge of the law but our understanding of ourselves.

As such, dear reader, I hope that the effect of the articles that follow is not only to illuminate and impress, but to prompt you to ask yourself the question: what *do I* think?