

INTRODUCTION TO THE EDITION

Isabelle Looi
Editor-in-Chief

It is my great pleasure and privilege to introduce the 15th Edition of the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal (OUULJ).

As the Journal marks its 15th edition, this milestone offers a moment to reflect on that mission and to reaffirm its continued importance. Legal scholarship, at its best, is a conversation that invites participation, rewards curiosity and develops through the exchange of diverse perspectives. Laying the path for young minds to engage meaningfully with this conversation has never been more important. It allows both authors and readers to sensibly navigate a world where multiple jurisdictions face threats to the rule of law, where Artificial Intelligence has disrupted how the law is taught, understood and practiced. This is what fuels the Journal's mission to make legal academia accessible to undergraduates.

The publication of long-form legal articles by undergraduates remains the core of the Journal. This year's seven articles were chosen from a strong pool of submissions from around the world. The final selection reflects contributions from undergraduate students spanning seven different institutions, marking the greatest institutional diversity the Journal has seen to date. Together, they exemplify the breadth of perspective and originality that undergraduate legal scholarship can offer.

This year, we have the honour of The Right Hon Lord John Dyson and President of the Supreme Court, The Right Hon The Lord Reed of Allermuir, adjudging the best Private and Public Law submissions. Thanks to the generous support we have received, we have also introduced two new Honourable Mention prizes to reward more authors for the high calibre of their work. In their thoughtful forewords, their Lordships highlighted the importance of legal scholarship for the development of the law as a whole. Lord Reed will be speaking about proportionality in the human rights context at our Publication Evening and Lord Dyson will also be gracing the event as a guest of honour. The significance of having two of the most eminent members of the Judiciary supporting the Journal and its mission cannot be understated. I sincerely thank their Lordships for their willingness to engage with undergraduate students. In doing so, they help to nurture the earliest stages of the ecosystem, cultivating the seeds of legal scholarship from its undergraduate beginnings.

The complementary limbs of the Journal also work to increase accessibility to high-quality legal academia in synergistic ways. The Oxford University Undergraduate Blog (OUULB), led by Esther and staffed by our Blog Editors, has published two articles, with two more in the works. The Oxford Undergraduate Law Podcast (OULP), led by Yvette and staffed by our Podcast Editors, has published four episodes, featuring both academics and practitioners. We are most grateful to our podcast guests for joining us and to the Oxford Law Faculty for collaborating with us on the episode featuring the 2025 Clarendon Law Lecture's guest speaker, Professor Sheila Jasanoff.

On the events front, led by Navin, we hosted our annual Academic Writing Workshop. Navin led a hands-on editing

exercise, while our General Editor, Ju Rae, moderated a panel consisting of Jordan English (Associate Professor at Magdalen College), Angelo Ryu (DPhil candidate at St John's College), and William Cann (Law finalist at Magdalen College). We sincerely thank our panelists for sharing their insights and experiences with the attendees. Further, our Essay Competition returned once again, asking participants to consider questions involving interpretation and judicial review. We also continued fostering a culture of collaboration, collaborating with the Fordham Undergraduate Law Review and the LSE Law Review.

The Journal reaching its 15th Edition is no accident, it stands as a testament to the generosity of those who believe in our mission and have sustained our work, to whom we extend our sincere gratitude. First, to Lord Dyson and Lord Reed, our judges for the best submissions and for supporting the Journal's Publication Evening. Second, to the Oxford Law Faculty, our Dean and Vice-Dean, Professor John Armour and Professor Donal Nolan for their steadfast support and invaluable guidance. My thanks also to Professor Timothy Endicott for moderating the discussion at Publication Evening and to the members of the Law Faculty administrative team that make all our events possible.

Third, to the firms and chambers that support the Journal: Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Simmons & Simmons LLP, 4 Stone Buildings, Francis Taylor Building (FTB) Chambers, Crown Office Chambers, 3 Verulam Buildings (3VB), South Square, Serle Court Chambers, One Essex Court, and Maitland Chambers. Their generosity has been instrumental in making both this publication and the Journal's broader work possible.

Fourth, to the 15th Editorial Board. To our Podcast Editors, who have skilfully blended their technical expertise with their wonderful hosting skills and legal knowledge to produce such high-quality episodes. To our Blog and Associate Editors, who have consistently approached their editorial work with care and commitment. I was particularly struck by the quality of many of the edits I had the opportunity to review, which reflect both precision of thought and a keen engagement with the material.

Lastly, to the 15th Senior Editorial Board. To our General Editor, Ngiam Ju Rae, for providing clear direction and steady guidance throughout the term and for her tireless dedication to the Journal. To our Vice-Editors, Esther Goddard, Navin Sivakumar and Yvette Young, for sustaining their strong commitment and playing a vital role in advancing the Journal's vision with creativity and precision. To our Administrative Director and Publicity Officer, Chris Ye and Seng Junn Fong, for ensuring that every aspect of the Journal's operations ran smoothly and effectively. My final personal thanks goes to my Vice-Editors-in-Chief, Nicole Yee and Libertad Seoane de la Fuente, for their unwavering loyalty to the Journal, for stepping up when faced with adversity and for continuing to provide the 15th Edition with assistance and advice.

I recall sitting in the Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre as a first-year student, listening to Professor Nolan's address. He mentioned being so impressed by an OUULJ article that he added the article to his lecture reading list. Recognising that the Journal, its authors and its editors can produce work that sits alongside academic heavyweights and be recommended as reading in this institution sets a demanding standard to meet. Nonetheless, it is the shared commitment to giving undergraduates a platform to

thrive in the legal academia world that keeps the flame alive. It is my hope that decades later, our shelf in the Law Library will have dozens of editions and we will still be contributing a copy of the OUULJ to the library's collection every year.