

INTRODUCTION TO THE EDITION

Adrian Burbie and Niamb Kelly
Editors-in-Chief

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the 9th edition of the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal.

We write this introduction in unprecedented times; with the Coronavirus crisis in full swing, Oxford is eerily quiet and its colleges and libraries are bereft of students and academics. Prof. Nick Barber, in his foreword for this edition, has reflected on both the challenges and opportunities for academic life that are wrought by this once-in-a-century event. Given this backdrop, one would be forgiven for expecting the work of the Journal to have ground to a halt this year like so many other aspects of Oxford life.

However, this could not be further from the truth, for the Journal continues to go from strength to strength. Indeed, given the litany of fresh milestones this year, one would be forgiven for thinking that life, in the academic world and beyond, had continued as normal. This year has seen the Journal reach levels of exposure which have been hitherto unprecedented. The start of the year saw record numbers of applications (over 50) to join the 9th Editorial Board; we have seen unparalleled expressions of interest from authors both within and without Oxford; and this edition contains a healthy roster of articles spanning the public-private law divide.

This year has also seen the Journal embark on new enterprises. It has entered into collaborative partnerships with its equivalents at Cambridge, Trinity College Dublin, and the LSE. These partnerships involve collaborating with these journals to share calls for submissions so as to stimulate the flow of young academic talent between these institutions. Also involved is the

staging of joint events with our partners; this year saw the Journal's first event in some years, a joint symposium at the LSE featuring Prof. Paul Craig, Dr Jan Zgliniski and Dr Jo Murkens on the subject of "Constitutional Reform and Academic Publishing: 1970-2020." The event was a great success, featuring a packed lecture theatre. We are pleased to confirm that more joint events, including with the LSE Law Review, are in the pipeline for the next academic year.

However, perhaps the most innovative enterprise which the Journal has embarked on this year is the establishing of a blog, the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Blog ("OUULB"). The OUULB complements the outreach work of the Journal by providing a platform for more topical, digestible and responsive pieces of legal writing, providing a medium for Oxford undergraduates and graduates to get their commentaries on the latest legal developments published on the Oxford Law Faculty's webpage and accessible to a wide audience. Each month has seen fresh blog posts at least every fortnight covering topics as diverse as the legislative responses to Coronavirus, Supreme Court developments in the field of vicarious liability, and key administrative law decisions on the Heathrow third runway from the Court of Appeal.

Many thanks are owed. Firstly, the Journal expresses its gratitude to its sponsor, Allen & Overy LLP, for their generosity in providing £150 to fund the prizes for the best private and public law submissions; thanks go to Editor Bruno Ligas-Rucinski for his efforts in securing this sum. Congratulations must go to Cassandra Somers-Joce, winner of the prize for Best Private Law Submission, and Joseph Lavery, winner of the prize for Best Public Law Submission.

Secondly, the OUULJ could not function without its army of Associate Editors. The Journal would not be able to achieve the levels of excellence in academic originality and clarity, as

commended by Profs. Nick Barber and Donal Nolan in their forewords, without the diligence and dedication of its Associate Editors who each juggle the extra research required to edit several articles along with the travails of their Oxford law degrees. This edition would not be possible without their industry. Special thanks must also go to the Senior Associate Editor Francesca Parkes, who, as well as contributing her invaluable experience and expertise, took on a vital role in reviewing submissions for the blog.

Finally, as an outgoing Editor conducting interviews for your successor, it is your sincerest hope that the two candidates you appoint prove to be worthy choices, rising to the challenge of steering the Journal through waters choppy and smooth, advancing the OUULJ's mission whilst surpassing what legacy you manage to leave behind.

Bruno Ligas-Rucinski and Vivian Leong have risen admirably to the challenge. Many of the successes enumerated above are solely attributable to their ingenuity, determination and leadership. They have deepened the OUULJ's connection with the Faculty of Law, whose support has been gratefully appreciated, expanded the OUULJ's profile, especially through the blog, and continued to attract the very best young academic writing that is on offer by law students in the United Kingdom. The quality, quantity and breadth of articles on display in this edition are testament to their vision. The OUULJ stands in even better stead at the end of this 9th Edition than it did at the end of the 8th – may this upward trajectory continue evermore.

The goal of the OUULJ is to expound, challenge and humble. We finish our term as Editors-in-Chief, after two years working at the Journal, more humbled by the intellectual prowess of our peers than ever before. We hope that you, the reader, also come away from this 9th Edition of the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal with that very same feeling.