

LAC Legal Advice Centre



THE YEAR SO FAR
(still counting)

Enquiries: 1495

Up by 28% on last year and 54% on opening year

Client Follow-Ups: 3857

Up by 72% on last year and 81% on opening year

Clients Seen: 231

Up by 21% and 50% on opening year

New Initiatives in
2015 – 2016

SPITE #revengeporn

SPITE for Schools

SPITE for Pastoral Care

SPITE CPD Series

Winner of Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards

Best Team of Students - SPITE

The Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards took place on 28th April at the House of Commons. The LAC was shortlisted for three awards: Best Contribution by a Law School, Best New Project and Best Team of Students. We were thrilled that our SPITE (sharing and publishing intimate images to embarrass #revengeporn) team of students won the above award for all their hard work.

“Students are required to work beyond their expected capacity in order to cope with the high volume of clients, whilst processing and assimilating a new area of law with very little written, to explain or assist them.”

The project advises people who have had private sexual images of themselves shared, as well as campaigning about the law and surrounding issues. The project has engaged 25 students since February 2015. Students have

undertaken as many as 10 clients each, taking up to 20 hours per client.

9 students attended secondary schools, providing workshops and have developed ways to educate a younger audience, such as producing artificial

Facebook accounts to show how quickly images spread, as well as demonstrations of mobile phone privacy settings.

Students also conduct client appointments with victims where, at times, clients share

extremely sensitive information.

Since starting the project, 400 school students have been educated and a further 40 law practitioners have attended CPD seminars on the sharing of intimate images.

“[We] very much appreciated your expertise, anecdotes, swift thinking and energy. The workshops were thought provoking and useful, raising many issues that we had not realised.” Head Teacher on SPITE for Schools

The Breakfast Club

Coffee, croissants and chat

This year, the LAC started what has become known as the Breakfast Club. At 8.30 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday, LAC students who have undertaken their client interview the previous night, join the LAC Team for an in-depth discussion about the areas of law the client presented with, any ethical issues raised, difficulties in dealing with clients, and general exploration of their cases. The first term Clubs required compulsory attendance but despite the

second term being optional, over 80% of Student Advisers dragged themselves from their warm beds and joined LAC staff for the early morning (sometimes sleepy) discussions.

“It was a great, the chance to talk to my peers about the issues I was dealing with, and

the feedback I received, made more complicated issues seem easier to synthesise and resulted in more tailored research into particular legal issues, as well

as bringing my attention to other issues that I may have missed during the interview.”

“This is a really great service to use to get your started in the right direction with any legal issue - the fact that it's free gave me great confidence to really scrutinise the issue. It's just a very good place to start if you are not sure where or how to begin.”

Good to Know

The Great Legal Bake

Thanks to all the efforts of our bakers and eaters, the LAC raised the most money of all HE institutions and ranked third in England & Wales for overall fundraising.

Funding

This year, the LAC received £5,000 funding from the London Legal Support Trust, as well as a £5,000 donation from a client we helped to win £99,000 compensation. The money will fund an LAC Administrator in the new academic year for our busiest periods.

Client Feedback

Although we are still collecting client feedback, we are to date, still at 100% client satisfaction with our services.

London Legal Walk

On May 16th, the LAC Team will be walking to raise money for the London Legal Support Trust. Donations can be made at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=QMULLegalAdviceCentre>