



Queen Mary
University of London



Annual Report 2019-2020

qLegal
The small print for BIG IDEAS

growth

qLegal is: a simulation of an innovative commercial legal practice. Postgraduate law students at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, and supporting external professional partners volunteer their time to provide pro bono services to real clients—budding entrepreneurs, start-ups and community groups – on corporate and commercial law matters.

Our **mission** is to help the next generation of lawyers help the next generation of clients to create value in the world.



Professor Ian Walden,
Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

In the past year, the outstanding theme for qLegal has been one of **growth**: with more students, more clients, more partners and more programmes than ever before.

There are always more students applying to qLegal than places available, so we are trying to meet student demand - but not at the expense of quality.

Our overarching aim is to help students develop and grow as reflective and innovative practitioners, while helping early stage businesses grow and thrive to benefit their community.

highlights



95%

increase in students on a qLegal programme



New **compliance** mentoring programme



Appointment of the qLegal **Advisory Board**



Winning **funding** for new interdisciplinary programmes



Delivering 10% of Law Clinic cases **remotely**



10 new **external partners**



13 new **toolkits** for the start-up community



Establishing a qLegal **alumni network**



2 new **team members**



First Legal Design challenge



New **collaboration** with Strathmore University, Kenya

students

I was a commercial disputes lawyer for 10 years, before starting my own business, and then moving into project management. I really enjoy working with such a diverse range of students.



Emily Wapples
qLegal Project Coordinator



“The Future Clients programme tests how to adapt the way we communicate and collaborate with each other...*We found that, in the end, it was not difficult to communicate with strangers. It greatly helped all of our social skills.* Globally, this is the valuable experience we have learned through qLegal.

Kamila Kararzyna Gomolka, Poland,
Future Clients

8
programmes

27
nationalities

43
students were
qualified lawyers



“As a student adviser it was great to interview real-life clients, knowing that my advice would influence how they operate their start-up in future. *The experience has given me confidence expressing legal advice in a practical and succinct way*, that will serve me well in my future career.

Daniel Harvey, England, Student Adviser

144
students
(up from 74 last year)

Over
200
qLegal applications
(758 students eligible)



“qLegal gives you a wholesome experience in your LLM that your other taught courses do not necessarily offer. *The experience helped me to perceive law differently, from the perspective of the user, not the advocate.*

Gathirwa Githinji, Kenya, Design the Law



“*I learned the truth about working in a fragile economical environment.* Due to the coronavirus outbreak, most of my externship took place remotely. This was a very challenging time...because although I was able to reach my colleagues through emails, it was not as easy as it would have been in person. I am proud that I have been able to overcome such a challenge.

Emma Suarez, France, Externships (Habito)

programmes

I have been teaching clinical law in the US for over a decade. I think that the practical skills students learn across our programmes give them a head start on their peers. **Four new programmes** started this year.



Eliza Platts-Mills
qLegal Teaching Fellow



Advising clients and managing files

In pairs, students interview clients from the start-up community, research the law and provide tailored written legal advice, supervised by external lawyers.

Student Advisers (Law Clinic) / Entrepreneurship Law Clinic Module: 41 students



Gaining commercial awareness (akin to a secondment)

Students typically spend one day a week with a LawTech business, for 3-6 months, assisting in legal and commercial matters, with structured learning and reflection.

LawTech Externships / Internships: 27 students



Stakeholder management and organisation skills

Students help run the qLegal clinic, booking in and liaising with clients, and assisting students and external lawyers.


Client Managers: 4 students



Innovating and legal process improvement

In teams, students use Legal Design methodology to produce solutions to law-related problems (for example, creating improved Ts&Cs and/or user experience for an online LawTech business).


Design the Law: 19 students



Communication skills and emotional intelligence

Students mentor pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, using coaching techniques.

qLegal x CoachBright: 6 students



Pro bono/outreach, supporting the generation below

Students design and deliver lessons on law and entrepreneurship to pupils in disadvantaged areas, culminating in an incubator-style Pitch It competition for the pupils, run with external lawyers.

StreetLAB: 15 students



Business development/ profile-raising

Students identify and develop leads for qLegal – producing and presenting a written report identifying opportunities for future qLegal students to run legal workshops for community groups.

Future Clients: 12 students



Personal development and managing up

Students take responsibility for developing a 6-month plus mentoring relationship with senior compliance professionals.

Compliance Mentoring Programme: 32 students

I am the qLegal Development Facilitator. I have experience designing programmes which provides experiential learning opportunities to our students, while delivering key support to our very diverse range of clients.



Clemence Tanzi
qLegal Development Facilitator



“
qLegal students competed to redesign F-LEX's Terms & Conditions in our first Legal Design challenge.

We were blown away by their presentations. I really can't get over the effort they put into this; it was SO impressive and so inspiring, and the fact that they did this alongside their studies, was even more amazing.

Mary Bonsor
F-LEX CEO and Co-Founder



“
Our start-up has a social impact and defining it without any legal knowledge or expertise was challenging.

The prudent approach was to seek help. We are very confident in the advice we received and would recommend qLegal's professional services!

Bridget Oliseneku
AmaiZonia founder



“
The students delivered a really amazing workshop for our London College of Fashion students. They came across so clearly and professionally.

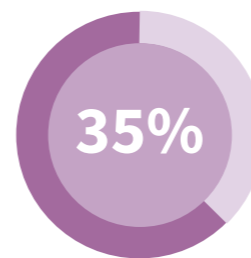
Tiff Radmore
Unit Coordinator at London College of Fashion



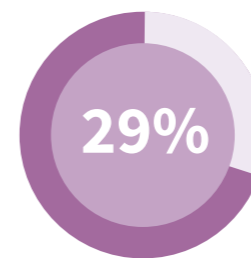
“
As a start-up with very limited funds, I had not realised how much legal advice costs. Ensuring I was GDPR compliant and protecting my IP was critical to safeguard my business. The whole process was professional, thorough and I felt in safe hands.

Barum Jeffries
Director, reclearn – recruitment training that works!

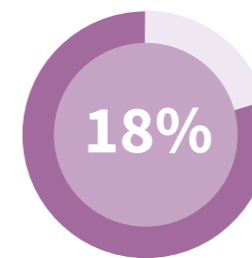
What kind of legal advice did we provide in the Student Adviser programme?



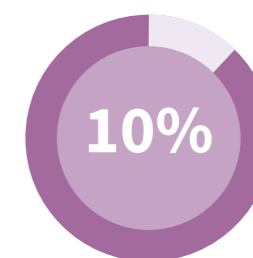
Intellectual Property
(including NDAs)



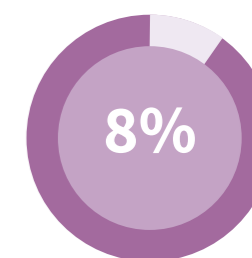
GDPR



Corporate



Third-party contracts



Other

Who have we helped?

28

clients received one-to-one advice on 37 separate issues

300+

clients attended workshops in partnership with other institutions: Queen Mary's own Qincubator, University of the Arts, Ada National College for Digital Skills

23

StreetLAB school pupils received interactive lessons on Law and Entrepreneurship, and pitched their business ideas during a final competition

4

teams competed to redesign the Terms & Conditions on F-LEX's website

10

start-ups received support from students in our Externship programme

6

young pupils were mentored by qLegal student coaches trained by CoachBright, to raise pupils' educational attainment

What do they say about us?

From the clients who responded to our Student Adviser programme survey



- would use qLegal's services again
- would recommend qLegal to colleagues, friends and family
- feel more confident in their understanding of the law relating to their issue after receiving our advice

How did we support entrepreneurs?

- we sent 37 advice letters
- we published 13 online publications/toolkits
- we delivered 10 workshops
- we delivered four market-tested prototypes of new Terms & Conditions
- we provided 1,500 hours of practical support within start-ups
- we ran a mini-incubator programme for the next generation of budding entrepreneurs
- we identified areas for future collaboration

Partners

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our partners. We are delighted to welcome new partners this year and greatly appreciate the continued support of our longstanding partners. We would like to thank:



Our Legal & Compliance Department has really enjoyed working with qLegal's student advisers on StreetLAB and the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, and we are particularly pleased to have co-founded a Compliance mentoring programme that has already achieved positive results. We look forward to continuing to build our partnership with qLegal.

Mia Motiee and Mitesh Jagatia, Co-Chairs of Bloomberg L.P.'s EMEA Pro Bono Committee

Being able to publish the toolkits prepared by students on our website is a win-win situation for us.

Sue McLean, Partner, Baker McKenzie

Working with qLegal is a great way for partners to give something back and to help shape the next generation of lawyers. It is a pleasure to work with such motivated and enthusiastic students.

Eamon Gallagher, Associate, Ropes & Gray

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Abigail Hunt | Eamon Gallagher | Luke Mitchinson | Rayhaan Vankalwala |
| Abu Uddin | Edward Machin | Lyndsey Shaw | Richard Cuevas |
| Ahmed Badr | Egmont Seeber | Mahnaz Asgari | Richard Soyoye |
| Alex Chandran | Eilidh Lennon | Marina Ioannou | Robin Chu |
| Alex Harmer | Electra Japonas | Mark Campbell | Robin Somerville |
| Alex Mitchell | Eliska Macnerova | Mark O'Connor | Rohan Paramesh |
| Alison Arnaud | Emma Burnett | Mark Kingsley-Williams | Rory Wilson |
| Anastasiya Chernobay | Emmah Senge | Mary Bonsor | Rosemary Carrie |
| Anchala Indrakumar | Eric Le Reste | Meegan Carrig | Rosie Carrie |
| Andris Ivanovs | Farnaz Massoumian | Meera Klemola | Rosie Rylance |
| Anisha Sekhri | Fatima Butt | Meeta Patel | Roxanne Peters |
| Anusha O'Donoghue | Federica Fraschini | Mercedes Samavi | Rukshana Pervin Hoque |
| Ashish Alexander | Felicity Kirk | Meryem Hassan | Rupert Phillips |
| Assunta Ndami | Fiona Vickerstaff | Mia Motiee | Ruth Agyei |
| Baldev Bilkhu | Gemma Jones-Parry | Michael Thorne | Sana Ashcroft |
| Ben Rogan | Georgia Quenby | Michal Merkel | Sarah Connolly |
| Bridget Latter | Grace Tan | Michelle Liptakova | Sarah O'Brien |
| Carter Hansen | Hemi Bhatti | Mitesh Jagatia | Shabdita Gupta |
| Celale Ozpalas | Ian Walden | Muna Dol | Simon Collin |
| Chandni Patel | Isaac Boamong | Muzammil Abdul Majeed | Simon Osborn-King |
| Chantal During | James Mead | Nakul Patel | Sisietta Owen |
| Charlotte Brunson | James Moore | Narsimh Singh | Stacey Duncan |
| Charlotte Hill | Janine Ajoodan-Poor | Natalie Elidas | Steven Chambers |
| Cheryl Stevens | John Egbebu | Neelu Vasishth | Steven Niven |
| Chris Kelly | Joseph Anderson | Nicholas Iles | Steve Rich |
| Christine James | Julia Bonder-Le Berre | Nicky Trimble | Sue McLean |
| Ciara Stratford | Julia Milosh | Osman Topal | Thomas Smith |
| Claire Starza-Allen | Kalika Sunger | Oumeira Tegally | Tiff Radmore |
| Craw, Stephanie | Karen Jones | Patricia Mbangui | Tina Hartwright |
| Cristina Caggiano | Karli Denier | Patrick Cahill | Tina Gotschi |
| Dan Pront | Kate Gaskell | Pete MacIntyre | Toby Crick |
| Danial Alam | Kawtar El Ouaraini | Peter Emsen | Uchechukwu Ani |
| Daniel Jarrett | Kritika Mohan | Phil Fogarty | Valerie Farkas |
| Darya Solovey | Lesley Edmunds | Phil Sanderson | Victoria Newbold |
| David Shanks | Libby Baptista | Philip Wild | Vincenzo Volpe |
| Duncan Bull | Lisa Kaltenbrunner | Pinar Celebi | Xun Ning Choong |
| | | Quentin Vaile | Yannis Yuen |

impact

I practised law for 15 years and now focus on the future of legal services. qLegal is not just about short-term outcomes. It's lovely to hear about its wider **impact**.



Karen Watton
qLegal Director

Clients

“ LawTech start-up Lawren.io has partnered with qLegal for two years now. Lawren.io has developed a **Covid-19 virtual assistant** helping European lawyers to provide pro bono support to SMEs, and were able to expand that offering into the UK with the help of four qLegal student volunteers.

Dries Wijnen
Lawren.io Co-Founder

“ Enrol Yourself is a social business reimagining lifelong learning through peer groups. We host the Learning Marathon: a six-month, **peer-led learning accelerator** designed to allow participants to pool their skills and resources to multiply their development. Enrol Yourself train 'Hosts' who initiate and run the Learning Marathon locally, or around a specific theme.

Zahra Davidson
Enrol Yourself Founder and Director

“ Former qLegal client BuddyHub is a social enterprise **connecting older people** with others in the community to ward off loneliness and self-isolation. Launched as a membership club for older people in late 2017, following a pilot phase, BuddyHub's services are needed more than ever.

Catherine McClen
BuddyHub Founder & CEO



*As we adjusted to the pandemic, we checked in with former clients and existing partners to see how they were helping others adapt. We also caught up with **former qLegal students** as we set up our new alumni network.*

Alumni

“ Last time I visited Queen Mary I had just **set up my own firm**, and the firm is one year old now. I'm very happy with the past year, and we have grown a lot already, handling many clients both from Brazil and the UK. As I always say, qLegal helped me to gain the confidence I needed to take this step and to start my own business.

Cassio Mosse
Student Adviser, 2014 – 2015

“ I am now a **Senior Associate** at a law firm in Belgium. The qLegal experience was a preview of my future/current job as a lawyer and it has prepared me well. qLegal gave me confidence and valuable experience as a legal adviser.

Nicolas Hamblenne
Student Adviser, 2014 – 2015

“ I am working as faculty in a university in India. Apart from my teaching, I am engaged in **research in the techno-legal field**. Working for a techno legal start-up through qlegal gave me a practical insight. Taking a cue from this experience, I have plans to start my own venture sometime in the near future.

Prajakta Kale
Externship Student, 2018 – 2019

“ I came back to Mexico in December last year and in January I set up **my own legal tech start-up** intended for the Mexican market. It's like Booking.com for lawyers. The [StreetLAB] programme gave me more than public speaking skills and good memories, it boosted an entrepreneur spirit in me.

Sofia Mancilla
Street LAB Student, 2018 – 2019

2019 – 2020

Expansion into new programmes, allowing students to develop a wider range of skills for the fourth industrial revolution.

Welcoming new partners, new clients, our Advisory Board and more students than ever before.

Supporting **Strathmore University** in Kenya to develop its entrepreneur law clinic.

Expanding into compliance as a reflection of changing commercial practice.



2014 – 2019

Establishing a highly regarded entrepreneurship law clinic, one of the first in the UK.

Completion of the three-year EU-funded eHealth Hub programme.

Culminated in winning the LawWorks & Attorney General's Pro Bono Award 'Best Contribution by a Law School' 2019.



2020 +

Streamlining programmes and creating new modular packages to add flexibility for students, clients and partners in the areas of:

- One-to-one Legal Advisory
- Public Legal Education
- Legal Projects
- **Compliance and regulation:** a new experiential learning programme from autumn 2020, co-developed with Bloomberg

Focusing on interdisciplinary projects so that law students collaborate with students of finance, business, computer science and other subjects, better reflecting real-life practice.

Introducing new tech and embedding innovation across all programmes.

To find out more, or to get involved (we'd love to hear from you), please get in touch:

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