Another year gone by! Time again to say Merry Christmas and thank everybody for all the work done this year. Time again to wish us all a successful and healthy new year 2019! 2018 was not just another year. It is the year Murdoch University has decided to undergo a major restructure and has embarked on that journey. With already visible consequences and with many details yet to be figured out, determined and implemented. One of the consequences of the restructure is that all 8 schools of Murdoch University will cease to exist and be replaced by disciplines, 14 altogether. All schools? Well, not quite. Three areas will continue to exist as “virtual schools”, and Law is one of them (as are Business and Veterinary Science). That means that Murdoch University School of Law will continue to present as such to the outside world but will internally be a discipline in the College of Arts, Business, Law and Social Sciences. It means that the title of this column is a misrepresentation as there is no Dean of the Law School any more. I write this as the “Head of Transition” (note: HoT) and from next year there will be a “Head of Discipline” (note: HoD). And whereas I am now “HoT” I will not be “HoD”.

The new HoD will be Sonia Walker, who everybody knows and who knows everything about our Law School, virtual or otherwise, because Sonia has studied law at Murdoch and has worked here from the beginning. Presumably Sonia will write this column going forward. It is important that we not only wish Sonia the best of luck in her new position but that all of us, staff and students, give Sonia the best support we can to master this difficult task.

For me almost 12 years as a Head of School and Dean, 7 here at our Law School are now coming to an end. It was a fantastic ride for me with so many opportunities. Time for me to say a heartfelt thanks to all who have supported me so wonderfully here at Murdoch. We are a great team here at OUR Law School. A special thanks must go to my PA, Fiona Peters, and our School Manager, Gail Wescombe. The changes will mean new challenges for them as well and I wish them the best of luck to master them as no doubt they will. I certainly could not have functioned without them. All of us will stay at Murdoch University and at least for a few months I will spend my “new life” as the interim Dean Engagement for the College of which our Law School is now a part. And continue to do what I have tried to do in the past 7 years—help make OUR Law School a little bit better. I am looking forward to this new task and one thing I know already—I will again need a lot of help to make it work!

Jürgen Bröhmer
MSLS 2018 Competition Winners

Ashurst Junior Trial Advocacy

Alex Di Rosso

This junior competition sure did heat up with Alex and Troy going head to head for the title of champion. In an exciting display of skills that came down to the final bell, however Alex managed to take out the title.

Ashurst Senior Trial Advocacy

Elisha Rayner

The intense competition between Sean Ayres and Elisha Rayner was a spectacle to behold and provided great entertainment to all. Congratulations to Elisha for taking out the top spot.

MinterEllison Senior Mooting

Rueben Pemberton-Ovens

Rueben took out the top spot in a heated display of advocacy skills, showing everyone how it was done. Since then, Rueben has competed in the championship moot at ALSA and the Kirby Contract Moot—where the team won the best written respondent memorandum award.

Senior Client Interview

Monica Vu & Troy Gittos

In a great display of interviewing skills, Monica and Troy took the win in a soccer themed interview with plenty of delicious Easter eggs.

Clayton Utz Negotiations

Kevin Jarret & Candice Jonker

A question of dodgy business practices and backroom dealings kept the whole room captivated as the teams battled to secure the best deal for their clients. In a close final, Kevin and Candice took the win with an amazing display of high-pressured negotiating.
MSLS 2018 Competition Winners Contd.

King & Wood Mallesons Junior Client Interview
Jessica Elin & Noran Elwafai

The show stopping performance from both teams made for an incredible night. However, Jessica and Noran blew everyone away with their skills - demonstrating an incredible standard of professionalism in the early days of their degrees.

ALSA 2018
A big congratulations to the team who represented MSLS at the 2018 Australian Law Students Association conference in Adelaide. The team this year comprised of Andy Hunter and Marche Bantum (Negotiations), Rueben Pemberton-Ovens and Timothy Wrathall (Championship Moot), and Elisha Rayner (Witness examination).

MSLS would like to thank all the competition sponsors for giving students the chance to compete and continue developing practical skills, and thank you to the judges for all their donated time and effort.

MSLS 2019 Committee

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On Thursday 8th November 2018, Murdoch School of Law celebrated a special reunion for Murdoch Law Alumni on board the Swan River steamer ‘Decoy’ to celebrate 25 years since the very first law graduates emerged from the new Law School at Murdoch University. It was a wonderful event and the weather put on its best behaviour as we paddled down the Swan River on the only ocean going paddle steamer in the Southern Hemisphere.
Dr. Dennis Ndonga presented at the Africa Skills Trade & Investment Conference held at the Novotel Peth Langley Hotel on 30 August 2018. The conference was part of seminars held during the Australia Africa Week that attracted international, interstate as well as local delegates and organisations. Dr. Ndonga’ presentation focused on how African countries can leverage their diaspora’s skills and resources in promoting the continent’s economic vision.

Dr. Dennis Ndonga with trainee students of the Shanghai Customs College (SCC) in Shanghai, China. The SCC is the World Customs Organization’s (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Centre (P.R. China). Dr. Ndonga was invited by the SCC to give a guest lecture series on single window systems and Customs managements on 27 September 2018.
On Tuesday 27th November the Law School hosted its annual end of year function, which is held to thank the profession and alumni for their support during the year.

Invited guests included Adjunct Professor Jennifer Searcy OAM, our Foundation Dean, the Hon. Ralph Simmonds and the Dean of the Curtin Law School, Professor Paul Fairall.
MSLS End of Year Dinner

This year the MSLS End of Year dinner was held on Friday 2nd November at Burswood on Swan. The evening was a farewell dinner to those students about to graduate as well as the announcement of the Lecturer of the Year Award and the Administrative Support Person of the Year Award.

This year the Lecturer of the Year was **Dr Steve Shaw**

At left he is depicted giving his acceptance speech.

Runners-up were **Associate Professor Chris Dent, Sarah Howe and Lorraine Finlay**.

The award should be seen as what it is - a recognition of the fact that a lot of effort goes into teaching. A big thank you to all teaching staff of the Law School!

The award for the Administrative Support Person of the Year went to **Gail Wescombe**

Gail gave acceptance hugs—this one to the MSLS (now immediate past) President, Carmen Grobbelaar.

All of our Admin staff at the Law School are outstanding and without them neither Steve nor anybody else could do their good work.
Migration Clinic

Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Australian Migration Law and Practice (GDAMLP) in 2018 had the opportunity to experience practice with real clients through the Migration Clinic run in collaboration with SCALES Community Legal Centre.

The GDAMLP was offered for the first time in 2018. Recognised by the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA), it meets one of the requirements of becoming a registered migration agent in Australia. Murdoch is one of only six universities in Australia to be recognised by the MARA to deliver this course, and the only university in WA to offer this course face to face.

“Our initial cohort of students chose Murdoch because we offer unique opportunities for learning that are not available in other online courses. Our small classes with experienced teachers offer great opportunities for problem solving, discussion and the application of the law. The opportunity to then apply those skills in a clinical context gives our graduates the skills to manage a challenging and ever area of law.” - Associate Professor Mary Anne Kenny

Four GDAMLP students completed the Migration Clinic in semester 2 where they worked on immigration law cases under the supervision of Mary Anne Kenny and Kirstein Fentiman. During their 14 week placement at SCALES they delivered immigration advice and assistance to around 24 clients. The clients were from a wide variety of nationalities including: Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Turkey, PNG, Zambia, England and Liberia.

They assisted clients on a range of migration matters including citizenship, refugee and protection visas, child visas, temporary work visas, cancellation, family violence and partner visas. Students interviewed clients, (often with interpreters), drafted documents such as letters of advice and submissions, prepared applications for review and appeal.

Some students also worked on a specific project preparing educational materials for delivery to refugees who hold Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) about their options for applying for other visas at the completion of their SHEV. One session was run with a group of around 20 Afghani SHEV visa holders at the Riverview Community Centre.

This is a complex area of migration law, which, since this case, I have become very interested in and is something I now want to do in practice. This case was extremely upsetting knowing what this client is about to face. I found this case emotionally challenging yet satisfying in helping her achieve a good outcome. I really enjoyed working on this case with Mary Anne. (Jesse Casey Migration Clinic 2018)

My experience in the SCALES migration law clinic has not only added to my practical skills but also in my passion for helping disadvantaged people access justice and legal services. (Sahaj Leach Migration Clinic 2018)
Law Student awarded the Geoff Adjuk Memorial Prize

Law student Caitlin Joensson was awarded the 2018 Geoff Adjuk Memorial Prize by the Magistrates Society in recognition of her commitment to social justice. Caitlin has volunteered at several organisations such as Legal Aid, CARAD, SCALES and the Mental Health Law Centre.

She has also undertaken several research projects and she has submitted research pieces to parliamentary inquiries, advocating for recognition of issues such as Aboriginal deaths in custody, imprisonment for fine-only offences and a lack of cultural awareness training for custodial officers. At present, she is examining the positive effect that domestic tenancy legislation can have on protecting victims of family violence, with my research recently being used in a submission by SCALES.

Caitlin is travelling to the Hague in January 2019 to study international law.

Visiting Research Fellow - Simone Lamont-Black

Dr Simone Lamont-Black (Edinburgh University) visited Murdoch University School of Law on Sabbatical between February – July and enjoyed her time at the School so much that she returned in November 2018. Simone was drawn to Murdoch by the opportunity to work with Professor Kate Lewins, expert in Maritime Law and Carriage of Passengers by Sea, who kindly sponsored her visit. Whilst at the Law School Simone was engaged in researching International and Australian legal perspectives in two broad fields: a) the carriage of passengers and b) freight forwarding.

The first of these tied-in with a research project entitled “Ring-fencing Passenger Rights after Brexit?”, comparing the rights of passengers as provided in the EU with those that may be available in Australia and Singapore. The second contributed to the preparation of a book chapter featuring the benefits of a model law for Freight forwarding for an Edward Elgar Maritime Research Handbook.

Simone gave a staff seminar in the Law Café Series of the Law School at Murdoch on Passenger Rights available when travelling to the EU and participated as arbitrator in the 18th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition (IMLAM) organised by Murdoch Law School and hosted at Brisbane by TC Beirne Law School. Simone also spoke on the EU and UK experience with the Athens convention on the conference on Carriage of Passengers by Sea, held at TC Beirne School of Law, UQ under the auspices of the Global Shipping Law Forum 2018.

Simone (http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/people/simonelamontblack) is Senior Lecturer in International Trade Law, at the University of Edinburgh. She trained and practiced law in Germany before moving to the UK. Teaching across a range of topics in international commercial law, private international law and arbitration, her research centres on international transport law (goods and passengers) and the law related to freight forwarding. She recently co-edited with Professor R. Thomas the book Current Issues in Freight Forwarding: law and logistics (Lawtext, 2017) and, with Paul Bugden, is co-author of Goods in Transit (4th ed., Sweet and Maxwell, 2018).
Refereed Articles


2018 School of Law Publications


Book Chapters


Other Publications

Copeland, A., “Review of the amalgamation of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal”. Submission to the independent statutory review.

Evans, P., “AJCCL Article Penalties Final”.

Evans, P., “Dominance and Deterrence”. Brief Vol 45 No. 4 April 2018.


Lewins, K., “Carriage of Passengers and Their Luggage by Sea” Letter to DOTI outlining third option.
