

# The EHU Law Lowdown

## Key Tips:

- Write down key dates and deadlines to help plan around your academic calendar so you don't miss anything.
- Check the law society social media pages to find out about events!
- Always ask for help- even if you think its a silly question!

## Legal Jokes:

Q- Why was the Lawyer so scared?

A- Scare-decisis

Q-Why did the lawyer not laugh?

A- They said they would only laugh if a reasonable person would.

## Legal Update:

- Big change for Family Law, with the presumption of parental involvement being repealed.
- Another big change for criminal, with changes to jury trials!

Go to pages 3 and 4 to find out more!

## Case Highlight- Revill v Newbury (1996):

It has been thirty years since the case where a burglar who was shot while breaking into a shed successfully sued the homeowner for negligence in Revill v Newbery (1996). The court held that even trespassers are owed a duty of care, becoming a key case in Occupiers Liability.

## WELCOME TO THE EDGE HILL LAW LOWDOWN- AN OVERVIEW OF THAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

Welcome to the first edition of the EHU Law Lens, a newsletter that covers everything Law related at Edge Hill! It will include events hosted by the Law and criminal Justice Department and the Law Society as well as celebrating the achievements of the staff and students! This will give a snapshot of what it means to study law at Edge Hill as well as future events you can get involved with! On top covering all of this, this newsletter also aims to cover legal updates, giving an overview of any big changes and contentious issues, helping students to stay up to date in an ever evolving world!

To start things off, this newsletter is created by Jessica Casey, VP of Social Media within the Law Society, and a third-year law student, enthusiastic about all

things sport and international law! Outside of my degree, I am a Captain of the University Badminton Team and love to read!

Thank you so much for reading, and we hope you find this newsletter useful to review the past semester and also find out about any exciting upcoming events.

The rest of this newsletter will contain an overview of events, including a snapshot of the talk by Lord Justice Tim Holroyde and the alumni panel!

We will also be taking student submissions. If you are interested, please email Jessica.

Enjoy!



The EHU Law Society's First Meeting

## EVENTS IN SEMESTER 2:

- International Women's day panel- 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- SU Spiking Awareness Workshop- 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Postgraduate Open Evening 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Law Society applications close- 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## ALUMNI PANEL

During Semester one, the annual Law Alumni Panel took place, where past EHU students came back to Edge Hill for one evening to discuss their legal careers and journeys and how they got their! This was a fantastic evening where we got to celebrate past students, as well as the achievements of some of our current students!

We first heard from former student and footballer Gareth Farrelly! He discussed his journey as a professional athlete and his decision to pursue the law and why he chose Edge Hill as the place to do this. He went over how Edge Hill was crucial in his journey from the fast-track scheme and how this allowed him to begin his journey and provide a gateway to his degree. He then discussed his decision to qualify as a lawyer and how his experiences and staff support allowed him to do this and what his career as a solicitor looks like now!

We also heard from Chloe Moran, who has very recently passed the SQE! A big congratulations to Chloe, who we couldn't be more proud of! It was amazing to hear her journey of completing the SQE and the challenges of this, including how demanding this is and how much work it requires. She also discussed how she developed a passion for human rights and public law, and the types of cases she manages and oversees, such as capacity cases. Whilst they can be emotionally demanding, she discussed how fulfilling this work is and how much of a difference she makes!

Faye Morris also discussed her journey and how she became a paralegal at Weightmans, with Edge Hill providing her with the necessary experiences to achieve this! Faye is also involved in the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division, and she explained what this meant and how it has helped her develop and grow, as well as the opportunities for our students to get involved with them, with the Marshalling Schemes. She went over how she manages her case load as well as the emotional side of things when cases can become quite serious and how it is essential to maintain work life balance. This was very useful to hear about and she gave some amazing advice about how to do this!

We also heard from Anthony Hutchinson, who reflected on his experiences at Edge Hill and how they were crucial to him becoming an Employment Law and Civil Litigation expert for Liverpool City Council. He emphasised the importance of getting involved in everything and how quintessential the negotiation competition was for him.

He discussed how this gave him the essential skills to not only understand exactly what your client wants but how to successfully and respectfully discuss this with the opposition to achieve your clients goals! To get involved with competitions don't forget to consult the Law Society social media pages and get involved with practical modules!

Finally, Amanda Sheppard went over her journey as a Military law specialist and how this has led her to create her own law firm! She discussed how interlinked criminal law was with military law and how this developed her passion for the area, leading to her wanting to create her own firm so she can focus and tailor her own case load. She also discussed that whilst owning her own firm can quite often be demanding and requiring a lot of hard work, it has been so rewarding with the flexibility and independence being worth the effort!

A key message from all of our speakers was to never give up and how there will be challenges in every step of your journey, but it is important to maintain dedication and balance. This was an inspiring experience, and we cannot thank our speakers enough for dedicating their time to our students! Thank you so much to the Edge Hill University School of Law and Criminal Justice and Evelyn Philpott for organising such a fantastic event!

Another big congratulations to our students for winning the academic high achievers awards! We are all so proud of you and cannot wait to see what they will achieve next!

Written by Jessica Casey



## MY LIFE IN LAW: LORD HOLROYDE



On the 16th, we had the privilege of joining a discussion organised by Edge Hill University School of Law and Criminal Justice, welcoming Lord Justice Holroyde to the university!

This was such an amazing start to the semester, allowing students and staff to engage with and learn so much! Sir Holroyde provide insights and stories from how he chose to study law

at A-levels, how no one can be good at every subject, the highs and lows of pupillage, his life in practice and finally as a Justice of the Court of Appeal.

The main message throughout the talk was that you will have setbacks throughout your life and career, but don't let that hold you back and define you! He went over how hard a career in law can be, with pupillage rejections and tricky interviews, but if you persevere and try your very hardest, setbacks will become distant memories of a successful and hard-earned career. Before questions, he finished with some funny and heartfelt anecdotes that included being locked in court! Our students finished the session with some truly amazing questions, that built upon the talk, and there were some even better answers by Sir Holroyde!

Thank you to everyone who came down, and we really hoped you enjoyed the session and got as much out of it as we did! If you couldn't come to the talk, we hope that this quick recap was helpful and that you take away the message of never giving up!

Finally, a massive thank you to Lord Justice Tim Holroyde. The talk will for many students, be one of the many highlights of our degrees and has given us an important message and advice that we can carry with us throughout our time at Edge Hill! Thank you for taking the time to speak with us. We really appreciate it, and everyone found the talk an exciting and interesting experience!

Written by Jessica Casey

## BIG CHANGE FOR FAMILY LAW: ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

On the 22nd of October, the government announced plans to repeal the presumption of parental involvement from the Children Act 1989 after new evidence shows that always prioritising contact can perpetuate child abuse. A review was conducted looking at how the courts are applying the presumption, finding that the design and practice of the wider family justice system did promote involvement at every stage of a child arrangements case. Whilst in a lot of cases, joint parental involvement had a positive impact on the child, however, when a parent poses a risk and contact was continued, the risk for harm exponentially increased.

Despite limitations of the review, it developed a clear picture of how the presumption was being used, with a 'no stone unturned' approach and was intrinsically geared towards fostering involvement.

In light of this review and its findings, the government has made the decision to repeal the presumption of parental involvement. They deemed it an important step in addressing pro-contact culture and addressing the specific and individual needs of the family. A pilot scheme was launched in Dorset and North Wales, with a more investigative approach being taken than an

adversarial one. They focused on supporting domestic abuse victims and enhancing the voice of the child. Early evaluation has been positive, with the courts listening more to the child, and early information gathering is improving case progression.

Whilst this is a significant change and may take the legal professional a while to adjust, this is undoubtedly a major step forward in addressing the needs of the individual child and ensuring that their safety and welfare are prioritised above nothing else.

Source:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68f5f5c206e6515f7914c7e3/Review\\_of\\_the\\_Presumption\\_of\\_Parental\\_Involvement\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68f5f5c206e6515f7914c7e3/Review_of_the_Presumption_of_Parental_Involvement_Final_Report.pdf)

Written by Jessica Casey

## LAW SCHOOL CHALLENGE



This year, the EHU Law Society are taking part in the Law School Challenge, where Law Schools across the country are competing to raise the most amount of money. This is for the pro bono legal aid charities Law Works and Advocate! In order to do this, the society have hosted multiple events including, a Halloween Quiz, a Badminton Tournament, a Christmas Sip and paint as well as a twenty four hour spinathon!

Our first fundraising event was a halloween quiz, hosted at our

brand new Student Union building! This was such a fun evening, where we had multiple fun filled rounds, including a halloween, legal and general knowledge round, testing all of our students and friends! Questions ranged from the origins of halloween to more difficult legal questions that even our third year students struggled with! In the end our winners were, Evelyn, Jovi, Erin and Molly, a massive congratulations to them!

Our next event was a badminton tournament that brought together the Law Society and the EHU Badminton Team! This was an action packed evening, filled with some brilliant badminton as teams of two competed in knock out rounds! The evening concluded with Jack and his partner winning, with a close and tense final against Jess and Charlie, a big well done to our winners!

The next event took place at

Christmas, with our lovely president Rachel organising a sip and paint! This was such a relaxing afternoon and the perfect way to end a stressful evening. It combined the best things, hot chocolate and painting, with some beautiful and questionable paintings produced, but the most important thing is that it let everyone unwind!

Our most recent event was our twenty four hour spinathon that took place inside the hub! Teams of two were cycling for a total twenty four hours, raising over £400! Everyone put in a lot of effort and tried their best and we couldn't be more happy with the money we raised! Thank you to everyone who took part and donated!

In total we have raised £800 and we are in fourth place for the challenge! Keep an eye out for some more exciting fundraisers!

Written by Jessica Casey

## PROPOSED JURY CHANGES

The government have announced plans to reform the justice system, with the biggest change in recent years set to change the way jury trials are organised and used. David Lammy, current deputy Prime Minister and previous Secretary of Justice, announced plans to scrap jury trials with sentences of less than three years, radically changing the current justice system and the way justice is undertaken.

The plans have been announced in light of the current court backlog causing unprecedented delays and wait time for a trial, delaying justice for victims and their families. However, this is not the only part of the justice system, with inherent issues. Overcrowding in prisons has dominated news headlines with

the wrongful release of prisoners gaining criticism, leading to nation wide outrage and manhunts. Whilst these issues have been mentioned by the government, condemning the problems, the first major change to tackle this has been changes to the jury and court system.

The proposed changes include more jury free trials and out of court settlements, including greater use of cautions and the current magistrates system. However, questions have arisen with how will this work with the magistrates court suffering shortages, with the government launching a major recruitment drive. Changes also include the creation of "swift courts" to tackle to the

issue of delays head on.

Whilst this change has sparked outrage, with concerns of undermining the principle of justice and the right to a jury in front of your peers, this change has also been deemed vital. Jury trials are still guaranteed for serious offences, but for lesser offences, it will increase the speed of the process, due to not having to organise the jury and explain complex legal issues. Many see this a positive change, with only radical reform fixing the fundamental issues in the justice system. however, criminal barristers criticise this change, citing the issue with backlogs is not due to jury trials but the real issue being cuts to the Ministry of Justice. But only time will tell, if this change will fix the issue or will it undermine justice?