

# Commonwealth Legal Education

**Newsletter of the Commonwealth  
Legal Education Association**

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# EDITORIAL

by the Editor of the Newsletter<sup>1</sup>

## Legal education, legal capacity building and online resources

This issue of the CLEA Newsletter naturally divides into three sections. We hear news of legal education from a number of countries and regions across the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on Sri Lanka and Canada. We learn about legal capacity building through legal education in a number of sub-Saharan countries in the Commonwealth and otherwise. The final section of this Newsletter outlines the online resources that are freely available to law teachers in whatever country and institution they are based.

### Legal education around the Commonwealth

We begin with a focus upon developments in legal education in two Commonwealth countries. In the last issue of the Newsletter the focus was upon Rwanda. In this issue we look at Sri Lanka and Canada. Dr Asoka Silva provides a succinct and fascinating account of the sources of law in Sri Lanka; he sets out the hierarchy of the courts and describes the legal education pathway leading to practice as an attorney-at-law. Dr Paul Ocheje informs us about the rise of the JD and the demise of the LLB in Canada, the possible phasing out of articling (legal apprenticeship) due to the oversupply of new lawyers and the undersupply of placements; and the introduction of a continuing legal education requirement for lawyers and paralegals in the Canadian state of Ontario.

In the following section we hear news of Legal Education in South Africa (Professor David MacQuoid-Mason), Tanzania, Singapore (Kumaralingam Amirthalingam), the Caribbean (Ronnie Boodoosingh), Australia (Emeritus Professor David Barker AM), England & Wales (Keren Bright) and Scotland (Michael Bromby).

### Legal capacity building

We then turn to legal capacity building through legal education in a number of sub-Saharan countries. Lesley-Anne Long of the Africa Justice Foundation tells us about the work of its successful scholarship programme which has extended over the last year from Rwanda to Ethiopia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone and will include Malawi next year.

The next section of this Newsletter tells you about the website of the UK Centre for Legal Education. This is a boon for hard-pressed law teachers in any jurisdiction. We give you a flavour of the resources it holds which are freely available for you to use. They help with such issues as what to teach your law students, how to teach and how to assess.

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Members of the Open University Law School peer review and edit the Journal of Commonwealth Law and Legal Education. Please see: [www.open.ac.uk/business-school/law/journal-commonwealth-law-and-legal-education](http://www.open.ac.uk/business-school/law/journal-commonwealth-law-and-legal-education).

We conclude with news and information about the incoming General Secretary of CLEA, Dr Clare Chambers-Jones, and her deputy Ruth Eldon.

### **CLEA Conference Cape Town 2013**

Finally, a reminder that the next CLEA Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 12-14 April 2013. Planning and arrangements are already underway and there will be further details about the venue and theme of the CLEA Conference in the next issue of the CLEA Newsletter.

### **Next copy date**

In 2012 it is intended that the next CLEA Newsletter will be published in September. The deadline for submissions is 15 August 2012 and the Editor welcomes contributions!

# FEATURES

## FOCUS ON SRI LANKA

Dr Asoka Silva<sup>2</sup>

The legal system in Sri Lanka is heterogeneous like its population. In addition to statutory laws there are a number of tradition-based personal laws that govern the affairs of different ethnic groups of the populace. The Kandyan law is applicable to the descendants of original ethnic Sinhalese inhabitants of the Kandyan provinces, which were the last to succumb to colonial rule. Thesawalamai is a system of law applicable to the ethnic Tamil inhabitants of the Jaffna region or the Northern Province. The followers of Islam in Sri Lanka are governed by the provisions of Muslim law. The Roman-Dutch law, introduced by the Dutch colonial masters who ruled the maritime provinces of Sri Lanka for nearly 140 years until the arrival of the British in the late 18th century, has provided the foundation for the common law of the country. English law, which is also a part of the Sri Lankan legal system, was introduced through legislation and judicial decisions by the British who were the only foreign power to conquer the entire country.

The current court system in Sri Lanka has the Supreme Court at the apex. In addition, there is also a Court of Appeal, Provincial Civil Appellate Courts, Provincial High Courts, a Commercial High Court, District Courts and Magistrate Courts. The Supreme Court, apart from being the final court of revision, acts as the court of first instance in the case of breach of fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution. The District Courts are the courts of first instance in civil matters. The Provincial High Courts and the Magistrates Courts are courts of first instance with regard to non-summary and summary criminal matters respectively.

The legal education that creates the knowledge and develops the skills required to practise professionally in Sri Lanka is two pronged. The Sri Lanka Law College, which is the oldest law teaching institute in the country, conducts a three-year program leading to the professional qualification of attorney-at-law. Any person who wishes to practise at the Bar in Sri Lanka needs first to qualify as an attorney-at-law. The quality and standard of the study program and examinations conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College are maintained by the Sri Lanka Council of Legal Education. In terms of the Universities Act of Sri Lanka, only the universities established under the Act have the power to confer degrees. At present there are four such universities conducting undergraduate level law programs. All these programs are of four-year duration and at the end confer the degree of Bachelor of Laws. The quality and standard of these undergraduate degrees are maintained by the Quality Assurance Agency of the University Grants Commission established under the Universities Act. These undergraduate programs have also been approved by the Sri Lanka Council of Legal Education. Hence, any person holding a Bachelor of Laws Degree awarded by one of the four aforementioned universities can, if he or she so wishes, qualify as an attorney-at-law by sitting the final examination conducted by the Sri Lanka College. Out of the four universities conducting undergraduate legal studies three are conventional universities and the other is the Open University of Sri Lanka. Annually around 300 students enter the three conventional universities and around 1,200 register with the Open University to study law. In addition, there are also a number of private sector institutions conducting classes which lead to the award of foreign law degrees.

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<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Open University, Sri Lanka.

# FOCUS ON CANADA

Dr Paul D Ocheje<sup>3</sup>

## Canadian Law Schools Choose JD over the LLB

The LLB degree can now be properly described as an endangered specie in Canadian law schools. In a development quite out of congruence with the position in other Commonwealth law schools, most Canadian law schools have converted their LLB (Bachelor of Laws) programs to JD (Juris Doctor). The impetus for change has been the claim by students that the LLB (which in most Commonwealth law schools is a first degree obtainable after secondary education) does not reflect the reality in Canada of law as a second degree program undertaken after a first degree. In the view of most Canadian law schools, the JD is better regarded internationally than the LLB. It seems clear that in a few short years from now, the JD will be the norm in Canadian law schools, doing away with one of the most celebrated symbols of Commonwealth legal education.

Articling might be phased out of the licensing requirement for new lawyers in Canada

In most of Canada over the last decade the number of candidates seeking licensing to become legal practitioners has continued to outstrip the number of available articling positions. Articling, a period of apprenticeship during which law school graduates are provided with an opportunity to observe and work with established lawyers, is an important part of the licensing process in Canada as in other countries of the Commonwealth. The articling placement challenge is, however, more serious in some provinces than in others. In Ontario, for example, in spite of the best effort of the Law Society of Upper Canada to address the situation, the number of Licensing Process students who are unable to obtain articling placements has more than doubled in the past five years. According to the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC), '[T]here are simply not enough articling positions to meet the needs of current and incoming candidates' ([www.lsuc.on.ca/with.aspx?id=2147486425](http://www.lsuc.on.ca/with.aspx?id=2147486425)). Consequently, in June 2011, the LSUC set up an Articling Task Force to look at the issues related to articling and the challenges associated with the current articling requirement. The task force has prepared a consultation report to seek the profession's comments on five possible options for addressing the issues, as follows:

Option 1: Maintain the status quo (Articling Requirement as it exists).

Option 2: Maintain the status quo with quality assurance improvements (measurement tools to assess the delivery and acquisition of the program objectives).

Option 3: Replace a pre-licensing transition requirement with a post-licensing transition requirement.

Option 4: Introduce a choice of either an articling requirement or a practical legal training course (PLTC) requirement ('after law school' model or 'during law school' model).

Option 5: Introduce only a practical legal training course (PLTC) requirement.

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The Articling Task Force welcomes comments on all these and any additional proposed options. Participation of the profession and other interested organizations will contribute to a constructive process and meaningful solutions. The deadline for written comments is 15 March 2012.

The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) does not yet see a crisis, but acknowledges increasing challenges to the articling requirement for the licensing of lawyers in Canada. The CBA takes the position that the challenges can be met by students and law firms working together: [www.cba.org/bc/bartalk\\_01\\_05/10\\_04/guest\\_articling.aspx](http://www.cba.org/bc/bartalk_01_05/10_04/guest_articling.aspx).

### **Continuing legal education for Canadian lawyers**

The Law Society of Upper Canada has introduced a new continuing legal education requirement for lawyers and paralegals in Ontario. Tagged 'Continuing Professional Development' (CPD), the new requirement aims to help maintain and enhance the professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and professionalism of lawyers and paralegals throughout their careers. Commencing 1 January 2011, lawyers and paralegals who have been practising law or providing legal services for more than 2 years must complete in each calendar year at least 12 hours of CPD in Eligible Educational Activities. A minimum of 3 of the 12 hours must be on topics related to professional responsibility, ethics and/or practice management ('Professionalism Hours'). 'Substantive Hours' may address substantive or procedural law topics and/or related skills. Non-legal subjects may also be eligible towards Substantive Hours if they are relevant to the lawyer's or paralegal's practice and professional development.

# COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION NEWS AND CONFERENCES

## CLEA: SOUTHERN AFRICA

Professor David MacQuoid-Mason

### Conference of the Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa 10 - 13 July 2012

The Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa invites you to its conference at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Participants from outside Southern Africa are welcome. The conference provides a unique opportunity to meet law colleagues from other institutions, exchange knowledge and share ideas with lecturers and researchers in the same field.

The conference will cover a broad range of fields in the areas of private and public law, such as corporate and commercial law, international law, mercantile law, jurisprudence, consumer protection, delict<sup>4</sup> and labour law.

For more information please visit: [salawteachers@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:salawteachers@nmmu.ac.za).

## CLEA: TANZANIA

The Dar es Salaam Law School has recently celebrated its first 50 years. It is the oldest legal education and training institution in East Africa. It was established in October 1961, following a decision of Julius Nyerere's government, to train lawyers for countries in East Africa:  
<http://law.udsm.ac.tz/>

Tanzania now has 12 Law Schools. This reflects the situation in other East African countries, which have also seen a similar growth in the number of Law Schools.

## CLEA: SINGAPORE

Kumaralingam Amirthalingam

We inaugurated an Asian Law Deans Forum in 2009 to look into greater collaboration and cooperation amongst Asian law schools. In terms of conferences, apart from the various smaller symposia and research conferences, of note is the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Law Institute Conference which will be hosted at the National University of Singapore on 31 May and 1 June 2012. The theme of the conference is 'Law: An Asian Identity?'. You will find the conference website here:  
[http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli/9th\\_asli\\_conf/index.html](http://law.nus.edu.sg/asli/9th_asli_conf/index.html).

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<sup>4</sup>. 'Delict' is the same as in Scotland and means 'tort'.

## **CLEA: THE CARIBBEAN**

Ronnie Boodoosingh

Sunny greetings from the Caribbean! The regional law schools are coping with the challenges of increasing numbers of students, as there is rapid expansion in the demand for legal education. At two law schools the intake has doubled in two years and the numbers will continue to increase each year. The law schools have responded with enthusiasm and creative solutions and teaching methods, facilities, e-learning, staff expansion, quality control and assessment methods have all come under scrutiny. Teacher training has also been a major focus.

In recent times, there has also been more attention being paid to making legal education practical and relevant. Thus advocacy; alternative dispute resolution; public speaking; client interviewing; and specialist legal aid clinics in corporate governance, human rights, family law, civil litigation and criminal law, have all become fully integrated into the course curriculum. More changes are coming. These will be discussed at the upcoming meetings of all the law schools to take place in Nassau, Bahamas in March 2012.

## **CLEA: AUSTRALIA**

Emeritus Professor David Barker AM

### **Council of Australian Law Deans**

At a recent meeting of the Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD) the Chairperson, Professor Jill McKeough, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Technology, Sydney, resigned in anticipation of being appointed to an acting position with the Australian Commonwealth Government. Professor Gillian Triggs, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, was elected as the new CALD Chairperson.

### **Australian Academy of Law**

There has also been complete changeover at the Australian Academy of Law (AAL) where many former officers of the AAL had completed three successive terms as directors and were therefore prevented by the Constitution from being considered for re-election. The new officers elected at the Academy's AGM on the 18 November 2011 were:

*President:* The Hon Kevin Lindgren QC

*Vice President:* Emeritus Professor David Weisbrot AM

*Treasurer:* Mr John Digby QC

Emeritus Professor David Barker AM continues in the position of *Secretary and Public Officer*.

The AGM of the Academy was held in conjunction with a Conference on Tomorrow's Law: Disclosure of Information – Balancing Public and Private Interests, organised by the Centre for Legal Governance, Macquarie Law School and supported by the Rule of Law Institute and the Academy. The main speakers included Jennifer Robinson, Attorney for Julian Assange of Wikileaks, Richard Ackland and Donald McDonald AC, formerly Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In due course the papers presented at the Conference will be available on the AAL Website.

## **Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) Regional Law Conference**

This will be held on 19-22 April 2012 in Sydney, Australia and here is a link to the conference website: [www.commonwealthlaw2012.org/](http://www.commonwealthlaw2012.org/).

# **CLEA: ENGLAND & WALES**

Keren Bright

## **Legal Education and Training Review**

This is the most extensive review undertaken of legal education and training in England & Wales since the Ormrod Report in 1971. It is a joint project of the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board and the Institute of Legal Executives Professional Standards. It has been tasked with examining the education and training requirements across both regulated and unregulated legal services to ensure they are fit for purpose in meeting the needs of consumers, with particular reference to ethical standards and levels of competence. The project team is expected to present its report in December 2012. [www.lettr.org.uk/](http://www.lettr.org.uk/)

## **Committee of Heads of University Law Schools 2012**

The annual residential meeting for Heads of Schools was held at Warwick University 23-24 February. The theme was 'The Law School and Legal Education: 2012 and after'. [www.chuls.ac.uk/News.aspx](http://www.chuls.ac.uk/News.aspx)

## **Association of Law Teachers 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2012**

This conference is being held at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford on 1-3 April. The theme of the conference is '(Re)assessing Legal Education'. [www.lawteacher.ac.uk/events/?id=23](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/events/?id=23)

## **Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference 2012**

This year's conference is being held at Leicester De Montfort Law School on 3- 5 April. There are a large number of subject sections or 'streams'.  
[www.slsa.ac.uk/content/view/179/139](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/content/view/179/139)

## **The British and Irish Association of Law Librarians 2012**

The British and Irish Association of Law Librarians is holding its 43rd Annual Study Conference and Exhibition at the Hastings Europa, Belfast from Thursday 14 June to Saturday 16 June 2012.  
[www.biall.org.uk/pages/belfast-2012.html](http://www.biall.org.uk/pages/belfast-2012.html)

## **International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference 2012**

This conference is taking place from 11-13 July 2012 in Durham, United Kingdom. Further details can be found at [www.ijcle.com](http://www.ijcle.com).

## **The Society of Legal Scholars Annual Conference 2012**

This conference will be held in Bristol on 11-14 September: [www.legalscholars.ac.uk/conference/](http://www.legalscholars.ac.uk/conference/)

# CLEA: SCOTLAND

Michael Bromby

The Law School at Aberdeen University is running a pilot scheme which enables sixth form pupils to experience studying law at a university: [www.agcc.co.uk/pilot-scheme-opens-the-eyes-of-school-pupils-to-the-life-of-a-law-student/](http://www.agcc.co.uk/pilot-scheme-opens-the-eyes-of-school-pupils-to-the-life-of-a-law-student/)

Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen has developed Scotland's first online LLB: [www.rgu.ac.uk/law/study-options/distance-and-flexible-learning/law-llb-online-](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/law/study-options/distance-and-flexible-learning/law-llb-online-)

Strathclyde University is offering a Clinical LLB, which adds clinical curriculum (skills, ethics, work on real legal cases) to the standard LLB: [www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/law/courses/cllb/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/law/courses/cllb/)

Law Society of Scotland: All PEAT2 (traineeship) students have a new online tool for recording Continuing Professional Development and quarterly performance reviews: [www.lawscot.org.uk/members/legal-reform-and-policy/education--training-policy/information-for-peat-2-trainees](http://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/legal-reform-and-policy/education--training-policy/information-for-peat-2-trainees)

# BUILDING LEGAL CAPACITY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE COMMONWEALTH

## THE AFRICA JUSTICE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Lesley-Anne Long<sup>5</sup>

The Africa Justice Foundation's (AJF) successful Scholarship programme is now in its fourth year. Initially launched in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda, the programme in 2011/12 has expanded considerably following demand from other Ministries of Justice in Africa. This year, AJF has 13 scholars from 4 countries studying in 5 UK higher education institutes,<sup>6</sup> and one scholar studying at the University of San Diego in America. Scholars from Ethiopia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Rwanda are enrolled in postgraduate programmes such as legislative drafting and commercial law that will enable them to contribute effectively to developments in their justice systems when they return to their Ministries at the end of their studies this year. Prior to returning, some of the scholars will also be undertaking placements in law firms and the legal departments of companies based in the UK, to gain practical experience in drafting and working within the commercial sector.

We know that the scholarships are making a difference. The scholars tell us that when they return to their posts in Ministries, they are contributing more effectively to government endeavours to create a favourable climate for business investment. They are helping to draft new laws, assist in strengthening independent judiciaries and they are supporting the development of fair and transparent systems in state affairs and business.

AJF supports the scholars through the generous funding it secures from donors. Funding covers the costs of the scholars' University fees and the partner governments commit to pay the scholars' travel and living costs and to hold open their positions within their respective Ministries on their return. AJF supports the scholars' network while they are here in the UK and also the growing alumni network which aims to foster ongoing collaboration and support once the scholars return to their Ministerial positions.

Over the next 12 months and beyond, AJF will continue to seek funding to grow the scholarship scheme: applications have already been received from the government of Malawi, in addition to continuing interest from our current partner Ministries. There are also discussions underway to create a scholarship programme in partnership with the University of Cape Town, thereby widening the access to and the reach of the Scholarship programme.

If you are interested in supporting a scholar and would like to discuss how you or your organisation can make a contribution to this important programme, please contact Lesley-Anne Long at [lesley-anne@africajusticefoundation.org](mailto:lesley-anne@africajusticefoundation.org).

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<sup>5</sup> CEO, Africa Justice Foundation; [l.a.long@open.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.long@open.ac.uk).

<sup>6</sup>Institute of Advanced legal Studies, Liverpool John Moores (UK), Liverpool University (UK) and Glasgow University (UK).

# RESOURCES FOR LAW TEACHERS

The website of the UK Centre for Legal Education is an archive site and on it you will find a wealth of resources freely available for law teachers to use covering a diverse number of subjects. These range from legal subjects to legal skills and the student experience. To gain a sense of what is available to you, do take look here: [www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/](http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/)

Here are just a few examples of what you will find:

Assessment:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=assessment">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=assessment</a>
Barristers:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=barristers">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=barristers</a>
Blended Learning:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=blended%20learning">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=blended%20learning</a>
Clinical legal education:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=clinical%20legal%20education">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=clinical%20legal%20education</a>
Criminal Law:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=criminal%20law">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=criminal%20law</a>
Globalisation:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=lectures">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=lectures</a>
International Law:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=international%20law">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=international%20law</a>
Islamic Law:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=Islamic%20law">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=Islamic%20law</a>
Lectures:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=lectures">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=lectures</a>
Legal ethics:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=legal%20ethics">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=legal%20ethics</a>
Legal research:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=legal%20research">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=legal%20research</a>
Mooting:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=mooting">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=mooting</a>
Plagiarism:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=plagiarism">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=plagiarism</a>
Problem-based learning:	<a href="http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=problem-based%20learning">www.ukcle.ac.uk/search/?search=problem-based%20learning</a>

The UK Centre for Legal Education was funded by The Higher Education Academy, which is now providing support for legal education with learning and teaching resources, scholarship funding and a professional recognition scheme for teacher excellence. Further details are available at [www.heacademy.ac.uk](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk) for generic support, and for law at [www.heacademy.ac.uk/disciplines/law](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/disciplines/law)

# Change of General Secretary of CLEA

Dr Clare Chambers-Jones has taken over from Selina Goulbourne as General Secretary of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association, with Ruth Eldon as her deputy. The Commonwealth Legal Education Association warmly thanks Selina for the service she has given during her term of office and the contribution she has made to its work across the Commonwealth, particularly with regard to the successful implementation of the British Overseas Territories Project.

## **Dr Clare Chambers-Jones**

Dr Clare Chambers-Jones is an Associate Professor at the University of the West of England and she specialises in banking and financial law. Clare has worked in the City of London at Grant Thornton (chartered accountants) and at Morgan Stanley (a global financial services firm). She returned to teaching in 2006 at Bournemouth University (UK), before moving to the University of the West of England (UK).

## **Ruth Eldon**

Ruth, as well as acting as deputy to Dr Clare Chambers-Jones, is Executive Administrator of the Slynn Foundation. Ruth previously worked as Institute Secretary at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and was the Editorial Director of the International Bar Association for many years, having started her career in legal publishing at Butterworths.

## **A NEW ERA IN THE COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Dr Clare Chambers-Jones<sup>7</sup>

It is a real honour to be asked to take over such a prestigious role as General Secretary of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association and one which has been performed so well by my immediate predecessors, Selina Goulbourne, and John Hatchard. What struck me first and foremost about the members of CLEA is how kind and welcoming they are. I went to the CLEA bi-annual conference in 2008 in Hong Kong to present a paper and came back with firm friends. To work alongside eminent academics such as Peter Slinn and David MacQuoid-Mason is a wonderful opportunity. I am delighted to act on behalf of CLEA and hope to continue its work in promoting legal education throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

Ruth and I have big plans for the next couple of years which include rebranding CLEA, making arrangements for the CLEA South African Conference in 2013, visiting law schools and meeting law professionals and academics to promote the Association. We hope to build upon the work of our predecessors and bring in more grants and research projects. Primarily we want to ensure that the name of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association is widely known and recognised within the Commonwealth and we want to involve our regional partners to a greater degree in the work that is being done. The Commonwealth is an important part of our shared historical, political, cultural and

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<sup>7</sup> University of the West of England, UK.

educational life and to enhance the role of the Commonwealth in legal education can only be a positive action for society.

I would like to get to know as many of our friends and colleagues in other Commonwealth countries as possible and as such if anyone has anything they would like to ask me, then I would be delighted to hear from you. It could be about wanting to get involved in CLEA activity or seeking advice about putting together a research project in your regional area or country. Either way, please contact me at [Clare.chambers@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Clare.chambers@uwe.ac.uk).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **CLEA bi-annual Conference 12-14 April 2013, Cape Town, South Africa**

The CLEA has a long-standing history of holding conferences that are both prestigious and informative and the 2013 conference will be no different. This time we are holding the conference in Cape Town and as with previous years, the CLEA conference will be held immediately before the CLA conference (Commonwealth Law Association) which is scheduled for 14-18 April 2013, also in Cape Town. For more information about the CLEA conference, please contact the CLEA General Secretary, Dr Clare Chambers-Jones: [clare.chambers@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:clare.chambers@uwe.ac.uk).

# About the Commonwealth Legal Education Association

The CLEA fosters and promotes high standards of legal education in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1971, it is a Commonwealth-wide body with regional Chapters and Committees in South Asia, Southern Africa, West Africa, the Caribbean and the UK.

Membership is open to individuals, schools of law and other institutions concerned with legal education and research.

The Association's Programme of Action is based on the need to make legal education socially relevant and professionally useful, particularly through:

- the development of law curricula and teaching methodology;
- assisting law schools to prepare themselves for the demands of the profession in the context of the information revolution and other global challenges; and
- supporting continuing legal education and distance learning programmes.

## **Publications and research**

- Journal of Commonwealth Law and Legal Education is published twice a year and contains news and views about law and legal education developments in the Commonwealth.
- A variety of books on law and legal education in the Commonwealth is also published.

The Association's website provides access to a wide range of

Commonwealth legal materials, model curricula and some publications.

## **Conferences**

The Association organises regular international and regional conferences and seminars. Recently, it has organised/co-sponsored conferences on topics such as law and development, human rights and just and honest government, as well as on legal education. Venues have included Australia, Nigeria, Cayman Islands, UK, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, South Africa, Canada, Kenya and Hong Kong.

## **Commonwealth Law Lecture Series**

This is a unique series that takes place on a Commonwealth-wide basis. Lectures are given by leading legal academics and judges.

## **Curriculum development**

The Association is committed to developing new curricula that reflect both the importance of Commonwealth jurisprudence and the need for law schools in the Commonwealth (and beyond) to equip their students to meet the demands of the 21st century lawyer. Subjects include:

- human rights for the Commonwealth;
- transnational crime/anti-terrorism law;
- environmental justice (in preparation);
- international trade law (in preparation).

### **Strengthening law schools**

- Providing training and materials for the teaching of a transnational crime course.
- Assisting in the distribution of law books to Commonwealth law schools.
- Establishing the Commonwealth Legal Education Research Centre in Cameroon.

### **Strengthening the Harare Commonwealth Principles**

The Association works with the Commonwealth and three other Commonwealth professional organisations: the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association, the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, on the development of the Latimer House Guidelines for the Commonwealth.

The Association supports the work of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

### **Activities for law students**

The Commonwealth Moot Competition is held biennially, with the last three competitions being held in United Kingdom, Kenya and Hong Kong. The Commonwealth Students' Essay Competition is also held biennially

### **For further information on the work of the Association and details of membership, please contact:**

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# Benefits of CLEA Membership

## The benefits of a one-year institutional subscription include:

- Copy of the CLEA's *Journal of Commonwealth Law and Legal Education*
- Copy of the CLEA's Newsletter, *Commonwealth Legal Education*
- Priority booking for all CLEA events

## The benefits of a three-year institutional subscription include:

- Those for a one-year subscription plus.
- Significant discount of membership rate.
- Significant discount on all CLEA publications.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

### Please tick

- Individual membership (one year) (US\$80; £50)
- Individual membership (three years) (US\$190; £120)
- Institutional membership (one year) (US\$240; £150)
- Institutional membership (three years) (US\$600; £400)

### Please print

Title: ..... First name: ..... Surname: .....

Institution: .....

Address: .....

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Country:.....

e-mail: ..... Fax: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Please make cheques payable to CLEA and return the completed form and cheque to:  
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