OXFORD LAW SOCIETY

VERDICT MAGAZINE

EASTER **2016**

A LETTER FROM

THE EDITOR

Dear LawSoc Members,

I hope you have all had a great term and are happily gearing up towards the summer, whether that means doing vac schemes, relaxing after finals or merely taking a break from all this law!

In this issue of VERDICT we've touched upon some controversial and topical discussions in our essay competition, provided some honest insight into work as a commercial solicitor and have hopefully given you all much food for thought.

In particular, thanks must go to Deemster Andrew Corlett for allowing me to interview him, my Deputy Editor Joseph Gourgey, the Exec team for providing such a great Trinity term for LawSoc, and (somewhat cheesily) all of you for coming along to events and getting involved!

Leanne Chen
Editor of VERDICT TT16

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AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW CORLETT

SECOND DEEMSTER OF THE ISLE OF MAN HIGH COURT

WRITTEN BY **LEANNE CHEN**

Andrew Corlett is an esteemed legal professional residing in the Isle of Man and currently holds the prestigious title of Second Deemster, the second most senior judge on the Island. Deemster Corlett is an alumnus of Pembroke College, Oxford where he studied law (jurisprudence), having matriculated in 1978 before being called to the English and Manx Bars in 1984. Since his time in Oxford, Mr Corlett has enjoyed a diverse and exciting legal career and during our conversation he imparted many pearls of wisdom.

What was it that made you choose the Bar after graduation?

Well, I went to the Inns of Court School of Law in London to do my barrister's training but I didn't practise at the English Bar. I was called to the Bar but then I came to practise in the Isle of Man (or back home, as it were!) because the Isle of Man was just taking off as a financial centre in 1982-3 and the job opportunities here were very good at that time. I wasn't particularly attracted by the London Bar – some of them could be rather pompous at times and not always particularly friendly! I then practised Manx law.

How does practising law in the Isle Man differ from in the rest of the UK?

We have a fused profession here – you become an advocate of the Manx Bar but a lot of advocates do not actually go into court, although some do essentially perform both the roles of a barrister and solicitor. This is very common in many small jurisdictions. You could move very readily from doing commercial work and you do not have to requalify to do court work.

What kind of law did you practice after you joined the Bar?

Initially my work was very general. I worked in the Attorney-General's office here and I then moved into private practice at a firm named Dickinson Cruickshank. I did a huge variety of work there, for instance, commercial transactions, civil litigation, criminal law and family law. This was because the Bar was very small and I suppose you had to do a bit of everything! Then I moved back into Government and in 1995 I became the Government Advocate, which was like the Deputy Attorney-General. During my career I have moved backwards and forwards between private practice and government work which has been very interesting. In 2001 I went to a firm called Simcocks where I mainly did civil litigation and in 2007 a job as Deputy Deemster came to be advertised. I thought I'd have a go and I'm glad I did!

What sort of work was involved as Deputy Attorney-General?

A wide variety – a lot of court work, European Community work, mainly public law based. Well, public law was always my favourite subject at Oxford! And when I started working in the 80s and 90s, administrative law was developing very quickly. Why was administrative law developing so much in particular in that period? Judicial review became quite a well-developed remedy and the judges became a bit more proactive in intervening, whereas they'd been a bit more timorous beforehand! Then of course we had the Human Rights Act on the horizon. In the Isle of Man ours was enacted in 2001 and I did quite a lot of work in connection to implementing that for the Government here.

So now you're the Second Deemster, how has the diversity of work changed?

I do a large variety of work from complex civil cases to adoptions and the full gamut of family work. The only thing I don't do (rather disappointing perhaps for your readers!) is criminal work. I'm glad I took the gamble in moving from private practice though. I'd chaired a couple of tribunals before but apart from that I didn't have that much experience of being a judge. The volume of work now is very considerable – I really hadn't realised how hard judges work.

You mentioned before the fact that you practise Manx law – have you found much of a difference between the Manx law system and the English Common law system in practice?

There's not much difference. We use English cases as precedents – they are persuasive, or even highly persuasive, particularly when they are Privy Council decisions. We do pass our own Acts of Tynwald though, since we have a lot of devolved powers. Essentially we can make our own law. Where there's a gap in the statute, we rely on English common law. So an English lawyer would feel quite at home here!

Now, this may be a bit controversial, but do you have any comments to make on the recent Panama Papers scandal since the Isle of Man is an offshore centre?

I think the Isle of Man should not be put in the same category as the likes of Panama. We have been, for many years now, a very well-regulated jurisdiction. It is undoubtedly the case that the British Government and the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] has a very high opinion of the Isle of Man in this regard. We are seen as being one of the leaders in this area. We're not a jurisdiction which allows people to use instruments of fraud or hide terrorists' money or anything like that.

Do you face any challenges being a judge now?

Well, being a judge in a small community means that you have to be very conscious of your position. In comparison, as an advocate in private practice you perhaps have a little more freedom to express yourself or to behave in the way you want to behave. But apart from that, it's intellectually very stimulating and you feel like you're doing something valuable – something that really makes a difference to people.

Have you ever had to make a particularly difficult decision?

The most difficult to make are probably in the area of family law because you're making momentous decisions about the

future of the child. But at the end of the day the decisions are actually quite easy to make. After I have come to a decision, I am confident that I have got it right and I try not to worry about it. From a practical view, much of the time there is evidentiary difficulty rather than problems of law.

How much do you think your Oxford law degree has helped you in your career?

Well it certainly has helped me. I look back on the course and I think undoubtedly that it was a very rigorous degree. That was a very good foundation. I was very lucky in that I had two very good tutors at the time. My only complaint was the quality of the university lectures! Nothing really seemed to be coordinated with what you were doing at the time!

Did you enjoy your time at Pembroke?

I did. It took me a while to settle in, particularly into law. I recall that after the first term I felt that this wasn't for me at all and I thought I really didn't want to do it. I wanted to change to philosophy and a modern language. But I think when Mods were out of the way I felt a lot more confident, although I seem to remember doing particularly badly in criminal law! It took a while to get used to the language of law; the way things were put and the way that judges expressed themselves.

And how was your experience of Oxford in general?

It was lots of good fun. I ended up sharing a house with 6 other people in my final year, which was entertaining to say the least. I wasn't a rower though. It was quite out of the question for me to get up at 6am or whatever ridiculous time it was! I was much more into the music scene – punk rock and new wave. I perhaps wasn't the typical Oxford student. I didn't spend that much time punting or that kind of thing.

Do you have any final words of advice for students who are considering advocacy?

I think it's a mistake to specialise too early. Now the big law firms seem to want you to be pretty much pigeon-holed in one area for almost the whole of your career. But I think people should get as much experience in as many areas as possible. You never know what kind of thing will take your fancy! The elusive work-life balance is also a tricky one. The amount of hours worked now by people I think is terrifying. Oh and mobile technology is another thing – I'm not sure I would like to be starting off as a junior advocate now with a Blackberry in my pocket all the time. Before, when you went on holiday, you were on holiday. The difficulty with the Bar is that it can be all-consuming. Don't go into it unless you are of good mental and physical health, I would say!

ESSAY COMPETITION

RUNNER UP

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DECISION TO ALLOW IPADS IN PRISON, DO YOU NOW THINK THE PURPOSE OF PRISON SHOULD BE PUNITIVE OR REHABILITATIVE?

CHRISTOPHER GIN, 1ST YEAR LAW, ST. EDMUND HALL

When discussing criminal justice, the claim that imprisonment is either a uniquely punitive or rehabilitative system is a dangerous one to make. To accept such a framing of the issue is to accept a false dichotomy that not only oversimplifies our approach to some of the most ostracized elements of society, but also severely limits our options in combating crime. Today, the better view seems to be that rehabilitative and punitive measures are very much intertwined, and that both play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of recidivism and reducing crime in general. In assessing this proposition, you are invited to consider with me the extent to which these two prima-facie antagonistic doctrines can, and indeed should co-exist in the context of prisons.

A good starting point would be to look into the two approaches individually, and of the two we will first turn to punishment, it is important to understand the relationship between this concept and notions of retribution and deterrence. Punishment can be meted out to deter or fulfill many other purposes besides, and cannot be defined by these functions. What is universally true about punishment when it is administered, however is that it recognizes the agency of those it punishes and the responsibility that the individual must bear for his/her actions.

If punishment recognizes an individual's responsibility for his actions, then rehabilitation recognizes the responsibility of the state to ensure that he does not suffer unduly. Rehabilitation concerns itself with the reintegration of a criminal into society after he has served his sentence, the emphasis is on preparing him for a future beyond bars. The key distinction to be made here is that it is not the same as rehabilitation in the context of substance abuse, rehabilitation in penology does not purport to go as far as to try to prevent reoffending, rather it is a means to achieving that end.

The prevention of recidivism is an important policy objective, because it means an actual reduction in crime, which is the main purpose of any criminal justice system. In the prevention of crime it has to be acknowledged that the deterrent effect of punishment is an important tool, but prevention is not cure, and the deterrent effect is not effective at reducing crime beyond existing levels. Intuitively, it would seem that the harsher the consequence of criminal behavior, the less likely it is for someone to risk it, and yet in practice, the opposite is true. The more punitive the system, the more likely the criminal relapses upon release. In the United Kingdom the percentage of adult inmates who reoffend has remained at just under 50% since 2003, contrast that position with Norway, a country with prisons that share more similarities with hotels than with their counterparts throughout the rest of the world- and a country that has a recidivism rate of less than 20%. Compare that again with America, with much harsher prison environments

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The fact is, the issue is rarely the lack of motivation on the part of the criminal to change, but rather a lack of any real choice to do so; it is the sense of hopelessness that results from countless rejections and stigmatization that is often conflated with a lack of motivation. A lot of habitual reoffenders simply lack the basic skills, social and otherwise to function in society, and an excessively punitive prison system leaves them disillusioned with the likelihood of society accepting them back. Rehabilitation exists to address this problem. It shows an inmate that the state, and by extension the society that it represents still believes that they have a role to a play in the community and it provides them with the skills to play that role. If a punitive system gives an inmate the motivation to change for the better, rehabilitation provides him with the means to do so.

In fact a punitive system is not only ineffective without rehabilitation, it should be argued that rehabilitation is the corresponding duty that the state owes an individual in imposing a sentence. If the state says that it is entitled to punish you in certain circumstances and defines the punishment that you are to receive, it stands to reason that he also gives you the guarantee that your punishment ends when it is said to end. Any punishment that would otherwise affect your life after your term is served must be justified and its post-term effects mitigated, punishments that would do this would include any restrictions on a juvenile inmates access to education, or an inmate's access to his family. The reason why post-term effects cannot now be said to fall within the scope of the punishments

But if the right to punish is qualified by a duty to rehabilitate, rehabilitation can only occur within the punitive backdrop of prisons, and cannot exist independent of punishment either. Prison provides an inmate with a controlled environment in which he is isolated from his criminal connections and he is forced to interact with people who are not part of his normal social group. Reintegration into wider society means that an inmate has to be led away from the community that distances itself from society. Rehabilitation also cannot happen without a modicum of punishment- if we are to recognize that he is human and a member o society, we must in turn recognize his dignity. If that is the case we must punish him, for we realize his actions can at the very least be partially attributed to his agency. The assumption that we are responsible for our actions is one that is universally held in our society, to treat a criminal otherwise is to patronize him and isolate him not out of distaste but pity, with the end effect of the criminal class being distinguished remaining. Thus rehabilitation requires punishment, just as much as punishment requires rehabilitation.

Does the recent initiative of the justice secretary to allow iPads in prisons change any of the analysis? The short answer is no- the positive should not affect the normative. But it does show us that perhaps the government is starting to recognize that prison system geared towards being punitive is ineffective. Allowing iPads in prison to enable prisoners to keep in touch with their families and conduct independent learning definitely has rehabilitative features, and that is an encouraging step, but a lot more must be done at the societal end to remove stigmas and ensure that society can accept ex-convicts back into the community, and unfortunately, there is no app for that.

ESSAY COMPETITION

WINNER

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DECISION TO ALLOW IPADS IN PRISON, DO YOU NOW THINK THE PURPOSE OF PRISON SHOULD BE PUNITIVE OR REHABILITATIVE?

MARIUS B. GASS, 2ND YEAR BA LAW WITH GERMAN LAW, ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

The government's recent decision to allow iPads in prison is part of a wider shift in attitude by the British executive — the public policy paradigm concerning convicted criminals has undergone an evolution from the 'tough on crime' rhetoric that dominated much of the 1990's, towards considering rehabilitation as its primary target[1]. This controversial move must be set against the background of a large, longstanding debate, centring on the purpose of punishment and prisons in society at large. The two most commonly cited of these, punitive[2] and rehabilitative, are diametrically opposed at their respective ends of the ideological spectrum. The former, as the name suggests, is concerned primarily with the idea of punishment and seeks to reduce crime, if at all, through incidental deterrence and incapacitation which are not at the core of the retributive approach. The latter, on the other hand, is concerned with 'curing' offenders by changing their habits and actions, so as to offer them the opportunity to 'rejoin' society as productive and reformed members of their community. This essay will argue that the fundamental principles underpinning prisons, and the justice system as a whole, is to be found in the decrease of criminal activity, thereby improving public order. As such, the purposes of the prison system should be judged in relation to this ultimate, practical goal. Therefore, this paper will highlight fundamental, overwhelming arguments against punitive punishment before turning its attention towards the essential question of effectiveness; at this stage it will be shown that a rehabilitative approach is more practically useful in achieving the public policy objectives for which the criminal justice system has been instituted.

The rationale behind giving prisoners iPads lies in increasing productivity, providing educational resources as well as an opportunity for inmates to contact loved ones. These objectives are deeply rooted in rehabilitation, concerned with reducing the risk of re-offending by correcting and removing the desire to offend. In this regard, the view of the European Court of Human Rights on successful rehabilitation is telling: appropriate, useful measures include access to medical care and the protection of inmates more generally to avoid health-threateningly bad conditions. More importantly, for the scope of this paper, the court considers inmates who are able to maintain ties to the outside world and learn new skills that could be of benefit beyond the prison walls will be less likely to return to previous ways. This approach is a stark contrast to the punitive approach, which is primarily concerned with punishment — punishment should be determined solely by the seriousness of the crime itself, and not be influenced by external factors. Immanuel Kant argued in The Metaphysical Elements Of Justice that '[j]udicial punishment can never be used merely as a means to promote some other good for the criminal himself or for civil society, but instead it must in all cases be imposed on him only on the ground that he has committed a crime.'

There are a number of theoretical arguments that clearly illustrate the contrasting approach of the ideologies. Firstly, with regards to which ideology is 'morally just' as an objective for a justice system, the merits of a rehabilitative approach are clear to see. A system based upon rehabilitation will be more humanizing and serve a more honourable objective than a penal approach; it is predicated upon the notion that offenders can be 'changed' and is founded in the belief that the state, and society more generally, should seek to help those that have fallen short of public standards of behaviour back on the proper path. The contrasting view of the punitive approach contends that punishment by the state offers a clear signal that a particular conduct is wrong as it undermines the interests of societal order and peace. A punitive system aims to acknowledge the harm caused to the victim, and promotes accountability through punishments which are proportionate to the severity of the crime in question. While extrinsic considerations, such as deterrence and incapacitation are utilitarian ideas which do not necessarily constitute a part of any retributive approach, any practical implementation of a justice system focused upon punishment will have these effect. However, these arguments for the punitive approach fail to recognize that some of the goals of the punitive approach can be, and often are incorporated into a system following the rehabilitative approach. Rehabilitation by no means allows offenders to escape punishment, and does recognizes and place value on the rights of victims. In addition, the rights of the offender and of society at large are considered, seeking to minimize the occurrence of crimes in society through curing offenders and allowing these individuals to become functioning members of society. Even if, as it currently doubtful, deterrence could be shown to work in reducing the incidence of crime, a rehabilitative system will not be fundamentally incapable of providing this deterrence factor. No matter their utility, the provision of iPads will not undermine the aversion to prison most of us hold. While incapacitation is able to reduce re-offending, it does so at a high price, both financially and when considered more holistically in its impact upon individuals and society.

Furthermore, rehabilitative justice better accounts for the circumstances of individual offenders, acknowledging societal realities of inequity and context. The punitive approach refutes the relevance of such considerations, instead believing that crimes are the result of individual choices to disrupt societal order. Any other contention, it may be suggested, would be an affront to concepts such as autonomy and free will. However, it would be misguided to state that a rehabilitative approach completely disregards concepts of moral responsibility for one's own actions. Rather, it recognizes an individual's status as being culpable for his own decisions, but further seeks to understand and mitigate societal circumstances that might have influenced an individual's decisions. This willingness to account for context also provides for a more flexible sentencing procedure that optimizes the system's efficiency in realizing its goals. Two individuals who have committed the same crime might have done so in drastically different contexts and are often not equally morally culpable. Indeed, the criminal law makes allowances for these in a preceding stage of the process by providing justifications and excuses that a defendant may utilize. There is no reason why this sensitivity to context, and difference in culpability should not be

reflected in the length of prison sentences. While the retributive approach is unwilling to account for such factors, it is beyond doubt that most of us entertain notions of diverging moral culpability according to circumstance; the idea that theft, committed in dire circumstances, is ordinarily condemned less harshly than otherwise. These considerations offer a compelling reason to allow for greater subjectivity at the sentencing and punishment stages, and thus argue for a rehabilitative approach.

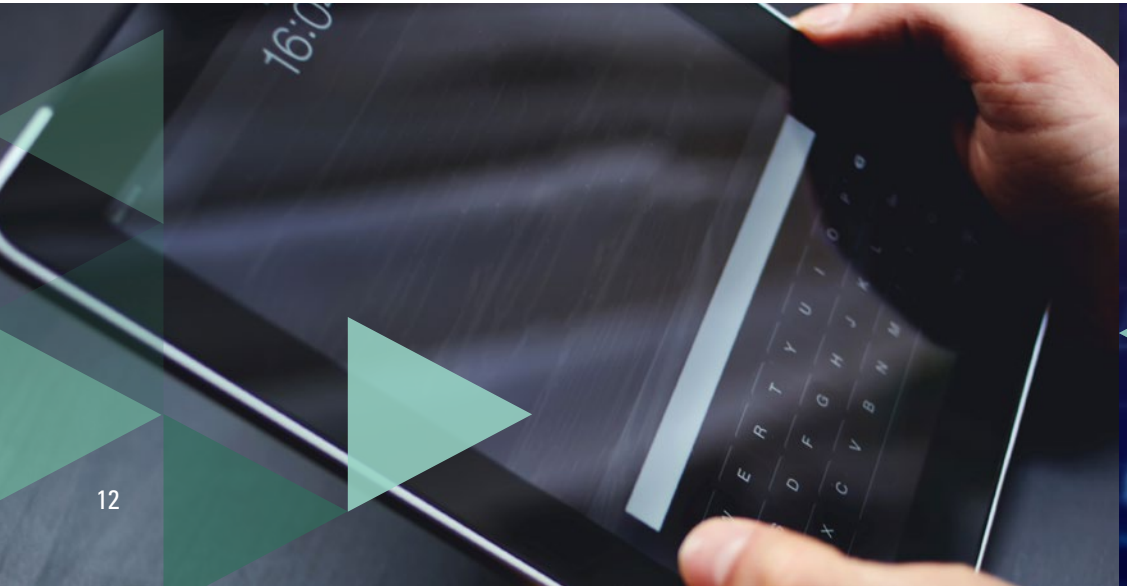
Lastly, the scope of the discussion shifts to the practical effects of the two different approaches by evaluating the ability of each to efficiently achieve the ultimate goal of lower crime rates. Studies in various jurisdictions have shown that rehabilitation programs are effective, and certainly relatively more so than punitive methods, which have failed to statistically deter crime. Studies in the Unites States undertaken since the mid-1970s, when a punitive approach to sentencing and punishment started to take a hold, have failed to show the supposed positive effect of retributive justice. On the contrary, exploding prison populations have drastically increasing the cost of the criminal justice system. On the other hand, the rehabilitative approach has been shown to work. Cognitive-behavioural programs are structured to directly tackle the common lack of basic societal skills and psychological problems amongst offenders, ensuring that ex-criminals are able to integrate into society upon release. The Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust offers quantitative measure of this success: only 31% of substance misusing prisoners who had completed the program while in prison had reoffended within 12 months of release, an astronomical improvement from the predicted rate of over 70%.

The criminal justice system as a whole, and prisons in particular, should be seen as society's response to crime. The objective of any approach should therefore be to counter this problem by reducing the incidence of this negative phenomenon. This essay has attempted to show that not only the practical arguments for rehabilitation are compelling, especially when compared to the decades of failure resulting from a punitive approach, but that the arguments for such an approach extend to the theoretical discussion as well. The punitive ideology is narrow in its approach, focusing on specific gains that stem from a retributive brand of justice while failing to recognize the broader utilitarian values that rehabilitation can provide.

[1]Nevertheless, this transition is not uniform; the rise of mandatory minimal sentences and discretion as to sentencing can be seen as the anathema to this overall development

[2]This ideological stance is often also characterized as an 'retributive' approach

[3]The overwhelming consensus of studies shows that deterrence is not an efficient tool for reducing crime. Not only do criminals seldom direct their minds to the potential consequences of their action, but a large proportion of the prison population in any jurisdiction consists of re-offenders, who were evidently not deterred by their previous incarceration.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FINANCE ASSOCIATE: LINKLATERS

Working in finance at a leading city law firm is a great experience and one which has proved to be immensely enjoyable. Having started with the firm as a trainee, I was fortunate enough to see a variety of departments, international offices and client secondments. Choosing a finance department for qualification was not an easy choice, but after nearly 3 years in the group, it is certainly one of the best decisions I have made.

A typical day starts at 9am. The morning might consist of a number of conference calls with clients, internal meetings and drafting (or reviewing) a set of transaction documents. Keeping up with the variety of work is challenging but it ensures there is never a dull moment. The work is varied and interesting. It is not unusual to find yourself regularly switching between completely different product areas and clients throughout the day – establishing a debt programme for an UK corporate can quickly morph into an asset acquisition for a U.S. fund.

The afternoon might involve a meeting with other departments within the firm or a number of external third parties in multiple jurisdictions to discuss our next steps on the deal and establish action points to progress. The transactions we work on are impressive in scale and invariably complex and market leading and learning to manage the transaction, as well as the team, is as much a part of the job as knowing the hard letter law. The hours can be up and down and the expectation is that everyone works hard to get the deal across the line.

For me, the most important aspect in my working life is the team atmosphere. The group is social, friendly and supportive. Alongside casual drinks every Friday afternoon, there are plenty of team social events to get involved in and at the end of the day it's a fantastic place to be.

COMMERCIAL AWARENESS PIECE

WRITTEN BY **JOSEPH GOURGEY**

The term commercial awareness can be a frightening one for prospective lawyers, both studying law and not. We are told we need to have a 'good commercial understanding' if we want to work in a top law firm one day, yet we're stuck inside learning about the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 all day.

But while the need for 'commercial awareness' may seem off-putting, it simply refers to a candidate's general knowledge of business, their business experiences and, specifically, their understanding of the industry which they are applying to join. It's an up-to-date knowledge on what's going on in the business and commercial world.

Why is this so important to law firms? The current legal world revolves around business and commerce in the marketplace, between countries and regions. So to be a good solicitor, it is rather essential that you are commercially aware. To complete deals and mergers, to advise clients on multi-million pound infrastructure plans, you need to have a comprehensive idea of how the commercial industry works in that field. There is more to a law firm than just providing legal advice to clients. There is a necessity to keep a watchful eye on its profitability and cashflow. Indeed, assessment days can often test one's commercial awareness, by examining the candidate's ability to understand what's important to the client and how the law firms operate. It's important that solicitors think about the client; it's not just a case of knowing the law but knowing your client's objectives and thus tailoring your advice to these objectives.

That is not to say that you are expected to know the shipping industry inside and out before you even apply to a firm. Law firms are well aware that you are still studying academically in university, however, they will expect a certain degree of understanding and interest in the commercial side of things.

So how can you improve your commercial awareness? Traditionally, reading papers such as the Financial Times, The Times and The Telegraph have been good methods. But in this age, there are so many more options available to us. Social media is one option, and so if long broadsheet articles aren't for you, you can keep up to date with the latest business markets by reading 140 character updates on Twitter, or watching informative videos on Facebook. There are also legal publications available, such as The Lawyer and Legal Week. For those who aren't such big fans of reading, there are some great podcasts available; in particular the FT Money Show and MR University are useful. Finally, the annual reports each law firm produces are a great guide as to what happens inside the firm and helping to understand how the commercial firms operate.

I would suggest finding something that genuinely interests you, and whether this involves a recent football takeover or a global merger between two leading law firms, you should culture this interest early on. Commercial awareness is not something you can soak up one day before an interview, but an understanding which grows over the years. You will not be expected to have a full understanding of the complex issues which solicitors have to deal with on a daily basis, but you must show an interest in the commercial aspects to a firm, and this should be started sooner rather than later.

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LEAVING MESSAGES FROM

THE EXEC TEAM

Georgina Candy
President

Being President of such an impressive and established society has been both an honour and a challenge. Fortunately, I have had the support of a great executive team, who have all brought something valuable to the team. Matthew's sensible head, Biz's bubbly personality and Laura's laid back demeanour have made for an enjoyable and successful term. A particular highlight of the term was being able to hold President's Drinks at the beautiful venue of The Cherwell Boathouse, where the weather was mild and the gin & tonics were strong. Aside from this we have held a number of successful dinners, a first year boat party and of course the Trinity Term Ball at the picturesque Syon Park. Coming to the end of my Law Soc career, after five terms, I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and friends (and of course countless branded hoodies) Law Society has given me. I wish the Michaelmas term executive the best of luck.

Elizabeth Shorland
Vice President

I have really enjoyed my four terms on the Law Society committee, but of the various roles I have had the chance to take on, the role of Vice-President has been both the most challenging and the most rewarding. I have loved working with the rest of the executive and general committee to ensure another great term for the society and to be involved in organising some of our well-known events such as President's Drinks at the Cherwell Boathouse, Pizza & Prosecco and Tapas & Sangria, but also introducing some new events like the First Year Boat Party. Most of all, it has been great fun putting together the ball in the Great Conservatory at Syon Park, which was a magical night and a really exciting way to end our term. I would like to thank the rest of the exec committee for all their hard work in making Trinity term such a success, in particular our President Georgie. She has worked tirelessly in order to ensure that all events were fantastic experiences for our members and is also to be applauded for putting up with my tendencies to bombard her with ten or so emails in an hour! Finally, I am very sad to be leaving the committee at the end of this term but look forward to still being involved in the society in the future and wish the best of luck to Alyssa, Josie, Harry and Tom for Michaelmas term

Matthew Hoyle
Treasurer

I've been a member of LawSoc Committee now since Hilary of my first year, and it's with a heavy heart that I say good bye. In that time I've run moots, published this magazine, signed up over 1000 new members and now managed sums of money that I didn't think I would lay my eyes on while at university. It's been a lot of hard work but without a doubt the most rewarding and instructive experience I have had while at Oxford, and while having to meet a mountain of receipts in my room is not something I will miss, the satisfaction of seeing an event run smoothly and most of all the excitement of seeing new committee members at the start of every term, as it finally becomes time for me to be one of the outgoing executive. A special thanks to Elizabeth and Laura for being part of a great team and to our president, Georgie, who has been on committee with me from the beginning (what now feels like a very long time ago indeed). Very soon I will never have to tell any of you about the accounts again. All that remains for me to say is good luck to next term's executive, I'm sure you'll do an excellent job in what promises to be a busy term. And especially good luck to my successor as keeper of the accounts, Harry, I do hope you find everything in good order, or if not, sorry about the mess!

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRINITY TERM