

OXFORD LAW SOCIETY

VERDICT MAGAZINE



HILARY 2017

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear LawSoc Members,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Hilary term, and are enjoying your spring vacation. In particular, a hearty (and somewhat self-serving) congratulations to all those first years who successfully survived their Law Moderations!

In this term's Verdict we had the opportunity to read interesting responses to an essay question that is particularly relevant to the state of world affairs right now, and gained some firsthand insights into the lives of

people in commercial law, as well as in a career as a solicitor.

I hope these have been interesting and helpful, and I would like to especially thank my Deputy Editor Chloe Lettington and our esteemed President Chantal Olavesen for helping me put this magazine together, as well as all of Committee for an incredible term.

Amith Yedugondla,
Editor of Verdict, HT17



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INTERVIEW WITH A BARRISTER

MICHELLE FAWCETT

CHLOE LETTINGTON | DEPUTY EDITOR, MANSFIELD COLLEGE

Michelle is a 23-years qualified, top barrister at Furnival Chambers in London, whose areas of expertise involve confiscation, fraud, bribery & corruption and serious crime. Undertaking both prosecution and defence work, she is regularly instructed in serious criminal cases involving violence, such as murder, manslaughter and sexual offences, as well as mental health issues, the import and supply of drugs, and white collar fraud.

A number of her recent successes involving the defence of serious criminal allegations have received high-profile media coverage. These include: defending the girl accused of stalking her best friend and throwing sulphuric acid in her face, prosecuting a multi-handed £25m cocaine ring in London, prosecuting the bank manager accused of a £250,000 insider fraud and defending a case alleging GBH brought against a defendant with serious mental health issues accused of attacking a woman with a hammer at Embankment underground station.

Why did you choose to be a barrister over a solicitor or any other law-related profession? Can you remember when you made up your mind/what triggered this decision?

For me it was always about the advocacy side of the job. I did not want to be stuck in an office 9-5 or paper pushing for the rest of my career days. Solicitors tend to represent clients over a far broader legal area – and I knew that I wanted to concentrate on criminal law and no other area. I also wanted to avoid the grass-roots level of taking the initial complaint, advising clients over mundane issues and also the all-hours contact. Things were very different 23 years ago! Today barristers tend to have to do exactly that – especially with the introduction of direct access.

I realised very early on that I liked the drama of the actual courtroom, the prestige of wearing my wig and gown and the fact that I could specialise in a given area so easily.

Do you think that the bar's traditional elitist nature still prevents people of low income background from applying to the bar, or is it more accessible today?

The Bar is far more accessible today and, indeed, the Bar Council and individual sets of chambers positively discriminate in applications to achieve a far broader spectrum of entrants into the profession.

When I came to the Bar in 1993 I faced an extremely uphill struggle. As someone from a working class background, East-London born and bred and

Is there a 'typical day' for you? What kinds of things, if any, are certain to happen?

There is no such thing as a typical day at the Criminal Bar. That's what is so unique about the profession – every day brings something different. From different court centres, different cities, different opponents, different cases – and you never know what can happen at any given moment, Cases change hour by hour. That's half the thrill of this profession. You have to be continuously on your toes and expect the unexpected. This can be anything from witnesses or defendants failing to attend court so the case cannot proceed, last minute pleas of guilty so a case collapses, witnesses changing their statements so the case takes on a whole new dimension. You just never know if any given day is going to go according to plan or not.

What is your work/life balance like?

This career path plays havoc with your personal life. That is a certainty!

Early in your career, you have to show dedication like you would not imagine. From being in chambers at 8:30am some days to await instruction to being back there until 6:30-7pm in the evening to see if the next day's work can be allocated. It is common to suddenly be given a new trial at 6pm the evening before the case commences. The same applies to weekends. I lose virtually every Sunday now due to preparing the case that is coming the following week. It is very difficult to explain to others just how many hours the profession takes in reality – most people only see this as a 10am-4pm (court hours) job for which we are ridiculously overpaid? That is, I am afraid, a total myth.

The important thing in this job is to plan many months ahead. Book holidays and stick to them. Arrange your work diary around important private engagements and appointments as soon as they are known.

As a female at the Bar, with the pressures of having your own families at some point, it can be very difficult to balance out work and private life. This is only exacerbated by the uncertainties that I spoke of earlier. I have seen numerous colleagues suddenly losing their family holidays at the last moment due to cases overrunning. I have seen colleagues having relationship or marriage breakdowns due to the pressures of the job and the lack of spare time to dedicate to friends and family. It truly is a testing profession.

What's your favourite thing about the job in general ?

The pride in winning a case, without a doubt. Whether we like it or not, anyone in this profession is competitive. You take your side and you strive to do your best. Nobody likes losing! But, for me, hearing a jury return a verdict in your favour is still the moment when you realise how important your job is.

What's the most interesting/funny/weird thing that has happened in your career?

I have always had a habit of recording how many male/female jurors are sworn in at the start of a trial. Not recording their names – just numbers. On day 3 of a trial many years ago I realised when looking at the assembled jury that something was amiss. A quick "reccy" of the numbers told me that I now had an extra male and one less female listening to the evidence. I asked the judge for a break and drew my observations to his attention. He conducted an enquiry and - lo and behold - my observations were correct. The said additional gentleman was asked who he was and how he came to be on our jury panel. Imagine our surprise when – and in all honesty – he revealed that he was "covering for his wife" that day as she had gone Christmas shopping. It was mid-December and she had gotten quite stressed the previous evening that she would not

have been able to buy all of the presents in time for Christmas as she was on jury service! So he had "kindly" volunteered to attend court in her place the next day! The Learned Judge asked how he thought he could do such a thing and how could he form an opinion when he hadn't heard the previous 2 days evidence? Cue said gentleman informing the Judge that everything was fine as his wife had told him all about the case the previous evening and they had discussed their opinions at length! Jury discharged...

Do you have any tips for people looking to apply for pupillage or mini pupillage?

Be realistic. There are still thousands of people applying for this career path annually and not everyone can succeed. Now that pupillages are paid on a salary basis, sets of chambers have restricted

the number of places offered and are extremely competitive. It is worth doing mini-pupillages at several different sets to see the variety in the work approach.

Try different areas of law with mini-pupillages. As times are changing now, we need to be more open and realise that our practices are not as streamlined as they once were.

What's the one bit of advice you would give any aspiring lawyer?

Be prepared to work ridiculously long hours for very little financial reward in the beginning. This profession is all about dedication and a long-term plan.



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TIPS FOR VACATION SCHEMES

CHRISTOPHER DONAGHEY

AMITH YEDUGONDLA | EDITOR, ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Christopher is a 19 year old second year law student at St. John's College who has applied for and received offers for more vacation schemes than the vast majority of applicants. Despite this, he maintains a remarkably down-to-earth outlook on the whole commercial law careers scene and is always pursuing new opportunities.

From which firms did you receive vacation scheme offers and which did you accept?

I received offers from Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Davis Polk & Wardwell, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Herbert Smith Freehills, Shearman & Sterling, Sidley Austin and Travers Smith. I decided to accept Allen & Overy, Herbert Smith Freehills, Shearman & Sterling, Clifford Chance, Sidley Austin and Davis Polk & Waldwell.

How did you choose which firms were right for you?

Key factors for me were the reputation of the firm, the extent to which the firm's practice area strengths aligned with my personal interests, and my impression of the 'culture' at the firm. I also wanted to experience a variety of firms, e.g., both UK and US.

Why did you choose to pursue this quantity of vacation schemes?

My main reasons for pursuing vacation schemes were to obtain professional experience, gain contacts and improve my CV. (Though the social

events and dinners laid on by firms, as well as the monetary rewards were also attractions.) Doing all of the schemes still left me with a lot of free time in the winter, easter and summer vacations, so I didn't see the point in declining any more than I had to, considering the above benefits. Another factor was that at the time of applying I didn't expect to have the success rate I did - had I known this I'm not sure I would have had the motivation to apply to quite as many firms.

What was the most difficult experience you had during your application process and how did you deal with it?

During one interview I was asked a personal question, which really caught me off guard since I hadn't considered the possibility I'd be asked anything of that kind. I took a sip of water, then was very gradual in giving my answer, gauging what to say by asking questions such as 'does that fully answer your question?' and 'would you like me to give more detail on any area of my answer?' So I guess the take-home tips here would be to accept a drink if you are offered one, as this can be a great way to buy yourself time and remain calm, and to ask questions to check that you're

interpreting and answering questions in a way that appeals to the interviewer.

If you had to give 5 pieces of advice for success in vacation scheme applications/interviews, what would they be?

Securing an internship is basically a two stage process; having your CV in a good enough state to get an interview, and performing well at the interview itself. These are all relatively obvious but I'd say my 5 pieces of advice would be:

1. Commercial awareness - this should ideally be reflected on your CV and come across in interviews. Reading the business news and finance/economics websites or books should put you in good stead.
2. Proof read applications - this is an easy thing to do and can make a really big difference - get someone else to do this as well if you want to be extra careful.
3. Have at least one unusual thing on your CV - Graduate Recruitment departments will have hundreds or maybe thousands of similar-looking forms to read, so having something slightly out of the ordinary can only help you to get noticed.
4. Interview technique - this ranges from the basic, such as being polite and well structured when giving responses, to the

more advanced, such as body language techniques. If you really want to go for it, look into isopraxism/mirroring as this can be powerful in building rapport.

5. Keep going - everyone gets multiple rejections, it's just the nature of the market at the moment. Keep applying and you will land something!

What tips do you have for during the attendance of the schemes themselves?

I think this stuff goes without saying but be punctual, dress and act appropriately, research the firm well before arriving, and try to build rapport with everyone you meet whilst there. Also do have fun at dinners and drinks events, but make sure not to get too intoxicated - there are a few stories of people throwing away TC offers after having too many drinks at social events!

THE LIFE OF THE PARALEGAL

DANNY WALDMAN

AMITH YEDUGONDLA | EDITOR, ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Why did you choose to be a paralegal?

Becoming a paralegal in the short term is the perfect option for law students that don't quite know if working in a law firm is for them, or otherwise just haven't got their act together. Whilst a lot of firms will put up job adverts saying LPC desirable, this is not necessary and for temporary work they really just need anyone with some legal experience. At the big firms it also pays well too so is ideal for keeping you occupied/earning while you plan your next moves.

What kind of work do you find yourself doing and is it fulfilling?

To be perfectly honest, some of the work is not fulfilling. It is creating bundles, or uploading documents to online databases, or moving them from one to another, or going through correspondence to find every reference to a certain individual: brute force work that the lawyers don't have time to do. However, overall working as a paralegal is fulfilling because it needs to be done and is crucial for the entire machine to continue operating. Even if the tasks themselves are not that exciting most of the time, there are moments assisting lawyers with their work or otherwise where you can really understand the integral impact you are having.

Do you think people studying law aiming

towards a career in the city look down on working as a paralegal? If so, do you think there is any merit to it?

I certainly think that is the case, especially coming from Oxford. There is an expectation that if you are going into a law firm you will be a trainee. We get the best legal education in the country, some argue the world, so to consider being a paralegal for life is often seen as setting your sights too low. However, I think that working for a paralegal for a little while will give you two things that, say, vacation schemes cannot. It will give you a good idea of the lifestyle at the firm, and at law firms more generally, and also a much better idea of what it is trainees do. Vacation schemes are a bit of a pantomime, which makes sense as the firm doesn't want to show you the more tedious or less glamorous parts of trainee life. If you are in any way unsure about becoming a city lawyer, try being a paralegal for a bit, and imagine the work is a bit more interesting but with much longer hours, and you're in the right ballpark.

Is your life as a paralegal how you expected it to be?

I didn't really have high expectations coming in: I was specifically assured that the first week would mostly entail photocopying so to be provided with a desk and computer was a welcome surprise. Eventually however, we are given less menial work

to do, and it is definitely possible to make your own impact on the cases that you work on under various lawyers.

How do you think your time as a paralegal will help you in your long term legal career?

It's given me proper experience of the workplace and a much more informed view of how law firms operate and what the lifestyle is like. I think that it will be much easier to appreciate the need for quality of work as a lawyer, having seen the research and other such aspects while working as a paralegal. It's also increased my tolerance for tedium which will no doubt come in handy at some stage in my life.

Would you recommend this as a career path for law grads/non law grads?

I think if you know you want to be a city lawyer, you don't necessarily need to pursue this path. It may just slow you down, and in any case many firms will offer you paralegal work to fill the time between starting your LPC/TC as there are often big gaps.

Don't hold back on applying for the lawyer job in favour of being a paralegal if you know that's what you want. If, however, you're unsure if you want to commit yourself to commercial law, or perhaps haven't gotten your act together by graduation, it's a useful stop-gap that will pay you well while you figure out what to do next, or even apply for other opportunities.

Was there any part of your university experience that particularly helped you in the application process, or transitioning into your career?

The Holdsworth Society at St. John's provided a massively helpful network of peers and alumni that gave me access to different opinions, advice and general support. Even now, having left the university, I often keep in touch with my close friends from the Holdsworth and it has made the shift to the city a lot easier. It is a venerable institution which I am proud to have been a member of, and I am supremely confident that it will be a lifelong boon.

ESSAY COMPETITION

RUNNER UP

JOSHUA CLEMENTS, ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

On the 27th January 2017, President Donald J Trump signed an executive order banning people entering the United States from seven Muslim majority countries for 90 days, restricting the US refugee intake for 120 days and banning refugees from Syria indefinitely. Within 24 hours, ports and airports across the United States were in chaos. Confusion ensued with customs and immigration officials unclear of their orders. Thousands were detained or had visas revoked. It is worth noting that when Mr. Trump signed the order, many of the top officials tasked with carrying it out only found out from their televisions.

Then, on the 3rd of February, following a series of similar but more limited rulings, Judge James Robart issued a court order blocking the further enforcement of the order nationwide. Mr. Trump of course, responded in his usual, shall we say, unorthodox, style, taking to Twitter to lambast the judgement with all the exclamation marks he could muster. Mr. Robart was labelled the "so-called judge" and his "opinion" proclaimed "ridiculous". Yet, beyond the now expected brashness of Mr. Trump's 160 character nuggets of wisdom lies a more troubling message. President Trump has again demonstrated his distaste for not getting things his own way, and has again blamed someone. But this time, he has chosen to blame a judge. The President of the United States has made clear his disregard for the position of a member of the Judiciary, in many ways the implications of this for the American constitutional system cannot be overestimated. As every libertarian and limited-government

conservative in the US will proudly tell you, the US Constitution is a near-sacrosanct document which instituted the most effective system of checks and balances known to man. The effect of the founding father's wisdom and ingenuity was to ensure that no branch of the federal government would ever become too powerful and that the liberty of "We the People" would never be taken away. Three *equal* branches, executive, legislature and judiciary. Mr. Robart referred nobly to this principle in his judgement, opining that it was in fact part of the court's constitutional role to hold the Presidency to account.

This then, should give us hope. One of the implications of this ruling is that at least we know there are those amongst the judiciary who are willing to fulfill their constitutional duty rather than acquiesce to the White House. Further encouragement can be taken from the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court's refusal to remove the injunction issued by Mr. Robart. In their ruling the Judges highlighted the fact that Mr. Trump's lawyers had "pointed to no evidence that any alien from any of the countries named in the order has perpetrated a terrorist attack in the United States". Mr. Trump, naturally, responded with an all caps tweet, "SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!". Therefore, despite Mr. Trump's ramblings, it seems the courts still has some constitutional teeth when it comes to would-be despots. Yet, others don't see the system of checks and balances as being in such a healthy state. The

power grabs by Presidents Bush and Obama in recent years in areas of war, foreign policy and civil liberties, lead Bruce Ackerman, a legal scholar, to predict in 2010 that the president would be changed "from an 18th-century notable to a 19th-century party magnate to a 20th-century tribune to a 21st-century demagogue." Some argue that Mr. Trump's disregard for both rulings is part of a wider problem, they highlight the derisory effect of partisanship and the growing negative impact of the two-party cage fight that is modern Washington. It is argued that a side effect of the ever-increasing grid lock and ever lacking spirit of civility and consensus is the erosion of important checks on power. An example is the overuse and subsequent restriction of the filibuster, a tool meant originally for emergency use by minorities in Congress to prevent abuse by tyrannical majorities. Mr. Trump is certainly not giving up on his travel ban, and he has of course, signed a second, revised order, on the 6th March. This new order has dropped the indefinite ban on Syrian refugees, exempts lawful permanent residents, and also now applies only to six Muslim majority countries, with Iraq now exempted to avoid prejudicing the alliance against IS. Further, this new order had a ten-day warning period and applies only to future visas, not to people already holding valid visas. These changes were no doubt aimed at quelling

some of the legal objections to the original ban. Again, the language relating to the preference for 'religious minorities' in refugee selection was removed, having been criticized for discriminating against Muslims. Yet these appear only cosmetic changes and the main, disruptive effect of the original ban remains.

It is again encouraging to note then, that not one, but two federal courts, in Maryland and Hawaii, have temporarily stayed Mr. Trump's second ban. These rulings were made on the 16th March and later that same day, Mr. Trump responded. This time his response was even more worrying. He told a rally that the rulings represented an "unprecedented judicial overreach". Here again we see a clear intent to ride rough shot over the will of the judiciary, Mr. Trump's equal partner in government. This runs in stark contrast to Mr. Trump's predecessors, who, when faced with challenges to their executive actions, gracefully backed down. It remains to be seen how this will play out. The rulings in Maryland and Hawaii were only temporary, and Mr. Trump has already indicated that he aims to challenge the former. But, equally there are more challenges awaiting judgement, a number before Judge Robart, the man who brought down the first ban.



It is worth noting that I have spent the majority of this essay discussing the legal and constitutional implications of the courts' actions and both the responses of the President's administration and his Twitter account. This is not to say that the emotional rollercoaster of those directly affected by the two proposed bans and their subsequent blocking by the federal courts is not important. Nor is it to belittle the human cost involved, for families have literally been separated. Without straying into the sort of levels of rhetoric employed by the current 'leader of the free world', these bans are, in my humble opinion, ill-founded and ineffective. In fact, I would go so far as to say immoral. It is of course true that any government has a duty to protect its citizens, but the existing evidence gives no indication that what Mr. Trump is proposing would even bring about that aim. This was of course, one of the considerations involved in the various federal court rulings. We must also not forget that there are people at the end of these measures, to use the analogy of the Attorney General for Hawaii, this order makes a kid think "Gee, I'm different because I'm a Muslim", that is

the sort of executive action we should all oppose as unjustifiably discriminatory.

However, whilst these measures have caused great pain, it is ultimately a temporary wrong. In my view, the much graver danger is the precedent this President is setting, of disregarding and disrespecting the position of the judiciary in the US Constitution and of aiming to enhance the power of the Presidency by what amount to bullying tactics. To conclude then, whilst the immediate implication of the courts blocking Mr. Trump's travel bans is positive and encouraging for the separation of powers in the United States, we must not become complacent. Mr. Trump has demonstrated a desire to get his way, whatever the means, this should trouble us. For those of us who have an interest in maintaining the US founding fathers' vision of a system of government devoid of tyranny (and I submit that is all of us), not only in the US but here in the UK, we need to be vigilant. I will finish with a quote attributed to Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing".



ESSAY COMPETITION

WINNER

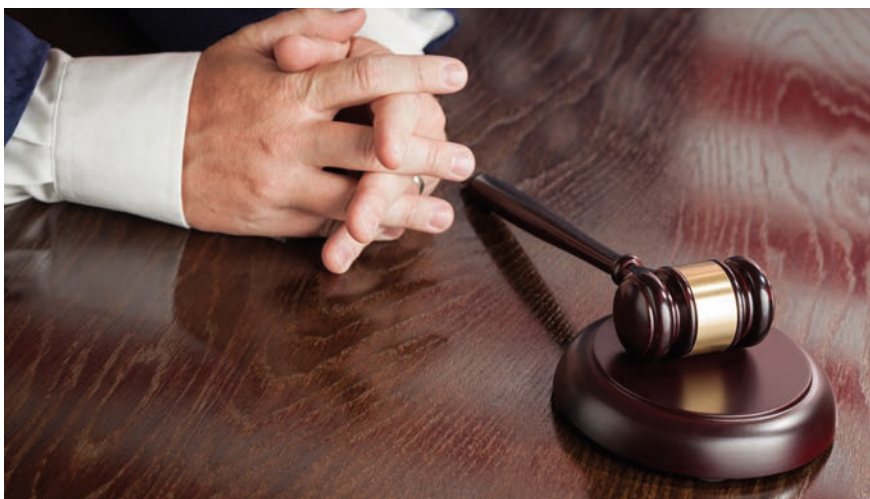
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13769, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION BAN, HAS MET WITH SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION, AND HAS BEEN BLOCKED SINCE FEBRUARY 3 THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, AFTER THE RULING BY A DISTRICT COURT IN THE CASE WASHINGTON V TRUMP, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN UPHELD BY THE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS.

BENJAMIN FOO, MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Executive Order 13769, commonly referred to as Trump's immigration ban, has met with significant opposition since its introduction, and has been blocked since February 3 throughout the United States, after the ruling by a District Court in the case *Washington v Trump*, which has since been upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The enjoinder of the executive order by the courts has had tremendous implications. The most obvious consequence is the entry of thousands of individuals who would otherwise have been blocked from entering the United States. It is clear that this opportunity has greatly helped many, allowing families to reunite or employees to begin work for instance. Entry into the United States also facilitates their continued residence there, in that it will be much more difficult politically and legally to remove them from the country so long as they comply with the conditions of their residence, and also more difficult simply to locate them. The injunction has thus prevented significant hardship for many innocent individuals

who had been affected by the ban. Supporters of the executive order will however point out that this injunction will prevent the government from stopping individuals from high-risk countries while enhanced screening measures are being designed and rolled out, potentially increasing the risk of terrorist attacks from entrants. They further argue that knowledge of the administration's intentions and the lack of a final legal resolution on the case will mean that some ill-intentioned individuals will rush to enter the United States while the temporary injunction applies. The conflict between the tangible goal of alleviating hardship to many and the less tangible goal of promoting national security is clearly difficult to weigh, and it is notable that the 9th Circuit declined to find that either factor outweighed the other in determining whether the stay was in the public interest. While the immediate practical consequences of the injunction are obvious, the action of the courts in these cases also have many other much less-explored important legal, political and indirect practical implications.



First, the legal grounds on which the court made the decision is of interest. The court rejected the argument that the President had unreviewable authority over immigration matters, providing an important check on executive power, and clarifying that even in areas where the President had plenary power to act, he remained bounded by the Constitution. The courts thus reaffirmed that judicial review could not be excluded in these areas, echoing earlier decisions such as *Boumediene v Bush*. This decision compares to the English case of *CCSU v Minister for the Civil Service*, where the prerogative powers of the Crown were held to be subject to judicial review on limited grounds.

Another important holding of the court was that many aliens targeted by the executive order possessed Due Process constitutional rights protecting them from arbitrary and unfair use of power, which had been violated by the executive order. Had the administration's argument succeeded, non-citizens would have become at risk of government abuse of power without any judicial recourse, and the affirmation that they have constitutional rights helps protect these vulnerable people.

The decision of the 9th Circuit Court to continue the injunction based on due process rights was thus of great significance, and it should be noted that in focusing on this aspect the court took a middle ground of sorts. The court did not examine the hotly contested and deeply political allegation that the immigration ban was a covert ban on Muslims and determine whether such a ban violated the Equal Protection rights of immigrants. Nor did it take the technical statutory route of examining whether the ban based on nationality was prohibited by a clause in the Immigration and Nationality Act 1965 prohibiting discrimination against place of origin, which would have allowed Congress to lawfully pass a similar executive order, or the President to revise the order to discriminate against an unprotected characteristic such as religion. Instead, the court's decision vindicated an important right, and clarified that such an order might pass muster if appropriate procedural safeguards such as a notice period and a hearings procedure were implemented.

The political consequences of the court's actions are also major. Firstly, the fact that the District Court judge and one of the 9th Circuit panel members who blocked the ban were appointed by Republican Presidents demonstrates cross-

ideological judicial rejection of this executive order, and limits charges of partisan judicial activism. This pressure on the administration may have been an important factor in causing them to abandon legal challenges and instead rework and improve the executive order. Next, the decision has demonstrated the robustness of the rule of law in the United States, and helped to allay overblown concerns of the rise of an authoritarian regime. Not only did the court reaffirm the reviewability of executive power and the universality of constitutional rights, the decision of the judicial branch was accepted by the government. Despite complaining about the decision and posting personal attacks on the judges on Twitter, President Trump has not attempted to ignore or subvert the decision, and indeed amended the executive order to comply with the decision. The recognition of the authority of the judicial branch in interpreting the law even when their decision is considered to be egregiously wrong is of utmost importance in upholding the separation of powers, and apart from the childish rhetoric from the President, the reaction of the administration has been in many ways similar to that of the British government's reaction to the recent case of *Miller* - an utterly conventional response of disagreement and deference.

Returning to practical consequences of an indirect nature, this judicial intervention has led to the significant alteration of the Executive Order. Initially, despite its vague language, the administration interpreted the ban to include all citizens from the 7 countries provided they did not also hold American citizenship, including American permanent residents and dual citizenship holders. Over the next few days, "clarifications" to the order were issued, stating that it did not apply to permanent residents or those with dual citizenship from another country. While these alterations occurred prior to the decision in *Washington v Trump*, they followed several other legal rulings that had gone against the administration. It is thus plausible that the desire to keep the executive order within legal bounds was one motivation

for these limits. In the aftermath of the Court of Appeal decision, the Trump administration finally issued a new executive order on 6 March, amending the order to ensure that permanent residents, dual citizenship holders and those with existing visas were exempt. This limit to the executive order will prevent hardship for many who have lived in America for years without significantly affecting the national security considerations offered for the executive order, since these individuals have already gone through an extremely stringent vetting process particularly with regards to permanent residents. The Trump administration also made other major changes to the executive order in response to the court's concerns, for instance delaying its implementation for 10 days (unlike the original order which had immediate effect), which greatly alleviates the effect on travellers who can now adjust their plans instead of being stopped at the airport. Another important change is the inclusion of reasons for each of the countries whose citizens are affected (and a reason for removing Iraq from the list), in response to criticism by the court that the list of countries was arbitrary and violated due process. Provision of such reasons is important to the rule of law in that it may allow affected nationals to challenge the grounds for the decision, either in disputing the validity of the reasons listed, or to challenge whether such reasons can fairly be said to apply to their country.

The wide range of implications of the court's injunction thus far exceeds even the considerable positive impact it has had on the many individuals not obstructed from entry by the executive order, and the potentially negative impact the injunction has consequently had on American national security. It is hard not to consider that the decision in *Washington v Trump* blocking the immigration ban has overall had a positive effect by reaffirming the centrality of the rule of law and the Constitution in this deeply uncertain political climate, and resulting in an improved executive order that is more respectful of human rights while tackling the important issue of national security.

HILARY 2017 COMMITTEE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS TERM



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OUTGOING EXECUTIVE MESSAGES

CHANTAL OLAVESSEN
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PRESIDENT



Without a shadow of a doubt, my time running the Oxford Law Society has been the highlight of my time here at Oxford so far. Being on committee has enabled me to meet some wonderful and inspiring people, and it has been an absolute honour to be President for Hilary Term 2017.

We've worked hard this term on finding a balance between fun social events and informative presentations. The annual Varsity Dinner was a great opportunity to collaborate with Cambridge University Law Society, and is illustrative of our aim to widen the horizons of each of our members, by providing networking chances and important connections which will serve them in future careers. We have embarked on a partnership with Work Ready Graduates to provide our members with micro-learning modules on skills such as Resilience, Communication and Leadership, and our presentations have focussed on commercial awareness issues such as the implications Brexit will have on the City, and Case Study workshops. LawSoc's ability to combine fun with learning is one of its greatest strengths and we hope you have found these events to be valuable.

This term we have been excited to present our Law Moderations care packages, kindly sponsored by Ashurst. This new element to LawSoc seeks to build on previous welfare events such as the storied Puppy Party. Being a student at Oxford is challenging at times, and I personally have worked to ensure that the events enable members to relax, meet new people and grow. Oxford is, after all, a transitional period to grow into the confident, resilient and intellectually curious lawyers that many will become later on.

Thank you to our sponsors, especially to Herbert Smith Freehills, for their continued support. It is thanks to these firms that we have been able to provide such a diverse range of opportunities.

On a personal note, I have learnt so much from my time as President. I have been challenged at many points (mentally, logistically and physically – boxes of term cards, water bottles and stash are not easy to transport across Oxford multiple times!), but never once have I regretted my decision to step up to the plate. Everyone has been so patient with me while I learnt the ropes, and a year ago I would never have believed that my team would be able to organise a Ball, let alone a night as magical as the one at the Roman Baths!

I have been incredibly lucky with both my Exec team and committee this term. Leanne, Hena and Maddie never cease to amaze me with their energy and talent, and they have made running committee, and the society as a whole, so enjoyable. Committee has really united this term and it has been amazing to see each individual embrace their role on committee, make it their own, and offer their own contributions as to how the society can evolve and improve. I am so proud of every single one of them.

I am so grateful for this opportunity I have been given, and although I am devastated to be leaving, I am certain that the Oxford Law Society will continue to thrive under the leadership of Tom, Mia, Joe and Catrin.

LEANNE CHEN
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
VICE PRESIDENT



I cannot believe that it has already been a year since I applied to join the Oxford Law Society Committee as a first-year law student desperate for a temporary escape from the stress of Mods.

This term in particular has absolutely flown by and I have had some truly fantastic experiences and created memories with people who are now some of my closest friends. The term hasn't been without its hiccups and teething problems, but I am so proud of what has been achieved. A huge highlight has, of course, been the Hilary Term Ball at the Roman Baths. After many months of hard work, negotiations and difficult decisions (new potatoes or potatoes dauphinoise????), I was so happy that we managed to pull off a spectacular night – if I do say so myself.

I am truly sad to be leaving Committee, as I feel that the 17 other members have become my family at University. I can always count on a good time and a barrel of laughs when with Committee, as well as a shared love of hummus and sandwich thins. So, a huge thank you to all of the hard work from each and every member – LawSoc takes a lot of work and without everyone's support, willingness to help, and a plentiful supply of Frubes on a Sunday afternoon, I really wouldn't have been able to do it. And finally, thank you to the rest of the Executive team, all of whom have been wonderful and incredibly inspiring. I can think of no better people to chase a taxi through Bath with in order to secure the safe return of our cake pops.

HENA PATEL
NEW COLLEGE
TREASURER



Being the Treasurer of the Oxford Law Society has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I have learnt so much about very random concepts such as sound limiters, seating plan boards and the frustrating concept of VAT. I would like to thank Harry for all of his help with settling me into the role, and Chantal and Leanne for being a fantastic team and truly sympathising with our limited budget. The role has taught me the importance of planning, organisation and good communication. My Excel skills have undoubtedly improved by five-fold and I am so thankful for everything this role has equipped me with. I will truly miss our committee; the best team I have ever been on so far. Everyone has been extremely helpful and akin to family. I wish Joe the very best of luck and have no doubt about his success.

MADELEINE FOX
LINCOLN COLLEGE
SECRETARY



I have been a member of LawSoc Committee now since Michaelmas 2016, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time thus far serving both as Membership Manager and Secretary. I have had the pleasure of getting to know two excellent committees and serving on an executive with three exceptional women and future lawyers. Many thanks to Chantal, Hena, Leanne and the rest of the committee for organizing such memorable events and continuing the tradition of Law Society being an incredibly fun and inclusive organization. Best of luck to Tom, Mia, Joe and Catrin next term, I have no doubt that you will do an incredible job.

