

The fifth meeting of the Nottingham Law School Legal Education Group was held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The LEG, led by Becky Huxley-Binns and Jane Ching, engages in research in legal education and as a result aims to raise the profile, internally and externally, of the teaching quality within Nottingham Law School. This meeting was billed as focussing on two subjects "different legal cultures inside and outside the academy and the profession(s)" and "broadening the curriculum, existing and possible usages of multidisciplinary aspects at all levels". Participants shared their experiences of working with students from other disciplines (art and design, business, forensic science) and their different approaches to empirical investigation and problem-solving – in some respects thought to be superior to that of law students. The clinic exposed students to diagnosis, prognosis and a bit of treatment and students often wanted to have more definitive answers to problems than their practitioner supervisors felt that there were: more uncertainty in the real world than in the academy. Mooting undergraduates often find it hard to take a position and formulate an argument. Discussion then moved on to the place of negotiation skills in legal education (and as a general transferable skill for those who might not go on to work in the legal services sector): whilst there were pockets of activity, it had been removed from the LPC and, although there was reference to it in the current training contract regulations, it did not appear explicitly in either the WBL or day one outcomes (it was possible that A level law syllabi were more explicit about ADR than some other stages of legal education). Students participating in preparation for the ICC mediation moot (see below) expressed shock that negotiation involved techniques that could be learned. Clearly negotiation skills and their place in legal curricula can inform further debates and, as the legal services sector broadens under the Legal Services Act 2007, can contribute to the employability agenda.

#### Other things:

- A new JASB framework is out for approval (qualifying law degrees)
- NLS is currently holding heats with a view to selecting a team to participate in the ICC mediation moot in Paris in February 2010. See <http://www.iccwbo.org/iccceadc/index.html>
- A report commissioned by the Law Society (the Hunt Review of the Regulation of Legal Services) makes recommendations about all stages of legal education: <http://www.legalregulationreview.com/files/Legal%20Regulation%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

#### LEG report on the year

The Legal Education Group held three discussion meetings in 2008-2009; including discussion of values in legal education and levels of assessment. Its activities were singled out for commendation in the report of the Periodic School Review and a special edition of the Nottingham Law Journal focussed on matters relevant to legal education is in the final stages of organisation. A number of articles in the academic and professional press have been contributed in the course of the year, including work on mediation education, regulation, CPD and other issues including a forthcoming discussion of the Hunt Review and tracking of such output will be a task for LEG to undertake on a rolling basis. Participants in LEG have spoken at or will speak at (with or without papers):

- LILAC 2009;
- University of Sheffield Widening Participation Event July 2009
- Nottingham Trent University Learning and Teaching Conference April 2009
- The Association of Law Teachers' Annual Conference April 2009
- Misc staff development with partner colleges (e.g. NCN HE day July 2009)
- the WUF/Davos Conference [The World Universities Forum Annual Conference 2010];
- the Standing Conference of Mediation Advocates Nottingham launch;
- the Law Society Legal Education and Training Group;
- the International Conference of Jurists for Judicial Reforms;
- SRA Event on "Quality, Values, Standards – the future legal landscape";
- Leeds University Centre for Research in Professional Education & Lifelong Learning Institute conference on "Critical Perspectives on Professional Learning";
- LILAC 2010.

One participant has been nominated for Law Teacher of the Year. Although a bid for NTU SPUR 2 Succeed funding was not successful, making the application raised awareness of LEG and the bid's proponents are now involved in supporting junior academic staff in such topics as curriculum design, teaching methods and PGCHE mentoring. Participants in LEG also contribute to debate on educational topics within the legal professions and have responded to consultations during the course of the year as well as being involved at a more direct level in the shaping of the educational framework for trade mark attorneys.

**Would you like to join us?** The LEG is open to *all* academics in all 3 divisions of the Law School, and you do not have to be interested in publishing in legal education. If you are interested in what we teach, why we teach it and how, you are more than welcome to join us, either for a single session or at every meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and work is ongoing to find dates that are accessible to *everyone*.

#### Dates for your diaries.

1. LILAC10 is on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at Warwick
2. NTU learning and teaching conference is on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NLS Learning and Teaching Event is on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010.
4. Deadline for copy for the special education-themed edition of the Nottingham Law Journal is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010.