

Despite a wide range of other competing commitments a group of 8 (plus our friendly neighbourhood press officer) gathered to discuss writing for professional publications. Many, many ideas were generated, going widely beyond the *New Law Journal*, *Counsel* or the *Solicitors' Journal*. By the time we had finished we had several articles, a textbook, a debate and much blogging and tweeting in prospect.

## Confidence and conferences

The old advice "start by writing what you know" holds good. You know about your course or the projects you are involved with (and writing about that is time efficient too). See how many educational articles are about people describing their own educational innovation (there are copies of the *Law Teacher* in the staff development library in room 4806). Tell a story about what you do and why you do it. Get some credit outside as well as in!

Go to a conference (the next Association of Law Teachers Conference is being held at NTU in March 2013) both to meet people and find out for yourself that you may well be ahead of other people in your field. Remember to look at conferences in Europe. You get an immediate audience by explaining what we do in your bit of legal education over here (we can all do this with a level of confidence), finding out what they do over there; coming home and writing it up as a comparative study. The networking opportunities are plentiful. Appearing at a conference may not mean (probably does not mean) having a fully referenced, fully-fledged paper in advance. It might mean PowerPoint slides or a poster (look out for future support on creating posters for academic conferences).

There are lawyers and legal subjects in other schools at NTU: might you talk to their students or join forces with them to talk to their professional body, or at their conference? What have we got right in legal education that surveyors and engineers could benefit from?

## Local press and NTU media

Remember that what we know as a matter of course is not necessarily obvious to other people. Are you angry or irritated about something in the law? Is there something you think should be changed? Do you have something to say about a live topic in current affairs? Can you explain something briefly for laypeople? NTU press office can advise too if staff are very irritated by media reports and want to write letters/articles about it. The press office has an 'expert alert' to tell media about our interests and areas of expertise and they only need 300 words per piece. You can start locally (e.g. Radio Nottingham) We need to remember we are experts, and we do have things to say. We have contact details for NTU press office (see internal handout sent previously).

## How we started and where we go now

People came into this from so many different directions and not always by being expected to "do research". As we have said before: being angry about something or thinking someone else got the law wrong is a good start. And it's what we do. And once people's heads were above the parapet and no-one had shot them down, they just kept going. Usually with some kind of trajectory: conference presentation to paper, to more papers, to article. Case note to longer case note to article to book.

Several ideas came out during the session and we clearly should organise a writing retreat or two to help over the fear of the blank page.

## Nottingham Law Journal

Write with friends! There are lots of people around who would be happy to co-write. If you have opposing views, could you craft your debate (OK argument) into an article debating both positions. Remember the journal takes book reviews and case notes (these could include a fresh look at an old case).

## Professional and student press

If you can teach students you ought to be able to write for students. Did you write for the professional press whilst in practice? If you were competent to do so then, you are still (more so even). Our internal and external press and PR people can direct colleagues to the student press as well as the professional press. Are you someone who has an idea that you think the professional press might be interested in; or a person who would be happy to be contacted by our PR people to write short pieces for the professional press? We have contact details for NLS's public relations (see internal handout).

## Blogging and tweeting

Where people used to get started by writing letters to the newspapers (and then being contacted by journalists desperate for someone with expertise in the subject), people now make contacts and make an impression by tweeting and blogging.

An NLS blog is imminent and will want feeding: can you, to start with, write 500 words on "how I became an academic" and get it to Becky by the beginning of January? Alumni and contacts often get in touch enquiring about this so it is an immediate point of interest.

## Dates for your diaries:

1. **Workshop on Ethics in the Undergraduate Curriculum (NTU, 24<sup>th</sup> November).** Contact [graham.ferris@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:graham.ferris@ntu.ac.uk)
2. **Sustainability and Drama workshops – 11 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – Becky has more details** [rebecca.huxleybinns@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.huxleybinns@ntu.ac.uk)
3. **Next LEG meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> March, LETR (or a report on our work in Mauritius)**
4. **NTU Annual Learning and Teaching Conference – 26 March 2013 (submissions by 23 November)** <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/cadq/quality/events/index.html>
5. **ALT conference – 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (NTU) (submissions by 11 January)** <http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/events/?id=25>
6. **NLS Teaching and Learning Event – TBC**