



YOUNG LAWYERS' COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Introduction:

It has been a busy year for the YLC. This report sets out what has been achieved in 2016, what the YLC aims to achieve in 2017, and the support that the YLC will require from the EC in order to achieve those aims.

2016:

(i) Journal

The second edition of the Young Human Rights Lawyer ((2016) 2 YHRL) was launched on 8 December 2016 at a seminar at Leigh Day. The seminar was very well attended, and was a fine end to the seminar series. Hard copies of the journal have been given to the contributors and to various organisations, and the standard of contributions has been repeatedly complimented as being very high. The YLC wishes to place on record its gratitude to Anthony Gold Solicitors, Church Court Chambers and Shoaib Khan for sponsoring the journal, to the members of the EC who acted as the reviewing board, and to all members of YLC for taking part in the first sift. Particular thanks are due to Asma Nizami for her work liaising with the printers to ensure that sufficient hard copies could be produced.

(ii) Seminar series

Two seminars have been held in 2016. The seminar on Article 9 was held at Temple Church in February 2016. The seminar on Articles 10 and 11 was hosted by Leigh Day in December 2016 and combined with the launch of the journal. Both seminars were very successful. High profile speakers, including Robin Allen QC and Clive Sheldon QC, spoke at the events and it was excellent for our delegates to be able to hear them speak, ask them questions and interact with them at the receptions afterwards. The YLC is particularly grateful for the financial support provided by the EC towards the reception after the Article 9 seminar.

(iii) JR Competition

The fourth annual JR competition took place in 2016, with the final being held at Middle Temple Hall in April. The final was judged by a distinguished panel presided over by Longmore LJ, sitting with Professor Sara Chandler QC. The standard of advocacy was, as ever, very high. The YLC is very grateful for the assistance of Kate Beattie in drafting the problem, and to those members of the EC who reviewed the written submissions and judged the semi-finals.

(iv) *Career days*

Both the London and Leeds days were a great success, and the YLC is very grateful to those members of the EC who gave their time to speak at one or both of the events.

2017:

(i) *Journal*

The call for papers is in the process of being drafted and will be sent out in the coming weeks. The newly constituted YLC will discuss a timetable at its first meeting in January 2017 and will send this to Willow and the EC once it has been agreed upon. In order to assist both committees and Willow with planning, the call for papers will not be sent out until a full timetable has been agreed.

(ii) *Seminar series*

The seminar series has now concluded. One of the first tasks of the newly constituted YLC will be to discuss potential events for 2017. In this regard, it would be helpful to be able to draw on the ideas submitted by YLC candidates as part of the selection process.

(iii) *JR Competition*

The problem has been drafted and was sent to Willow on 9 November 2016. The YLC requests the urgent assistance of a member/members of the EC who are able to look at the draft, as there is a pressing need to publish the problem.

The timetable is envisaged as follows:

- Deadline for claim forms and grounds – 3 February 2017
- Oral round – w/c 20 February 2017
- Final – 30 March 2017

We would therefore ask for assistance from members of the EC in February 2017 to review skeleton arguments and to judge the oral round. We also require a venue for the oral round – if any members of the EC think that their chambers/firm/organisation would be willing to assist, please let the YLC know. Experience over the last four years suggests that between 35 and 40 skeleton arguments will be received.

(iv) *Career days*

The YLC is attempting to set dates for the career days at an earlier stage this year, as (particularly with Leeds) inviting speakers can become a somewhat fraught and last-minute enterprise. We will be able to report further at the AGM as to any progress that has been made.

It is envisaged that the days will be held, as in previous years, in late May/early June (London) and late October/early November (Leeds). Once the dates are fixed, we would be very grateful to hear from any EC members who are either available to speak or can suggest someone at their firm/chambers/organisation who could speak. If every member of the EC can send one person from their firm/chambers/organisation, that would go a long way towards filling the number of speakers required.

Chetna Varia has agreed to be contactable for advice and guidance in the organisation of the careers days. However, she is not standing for the YLC this year and does not wish to have a front-line role in organising the days.

Participation:

The YLC has experienced a welcome lack of participation problems in 2016 compared to previous years. However, all candidates who are elected onto the YLC are reminded of the nature of the commitment they are making and of the provisions of the YLC for removing members in the event of non-participation.

Conclusion:

The YLC is very grateful for all the support that it has received from the EC in 2016, and hopes that this report will enable the EC to support the YLC further in 2017 by setting out what is needed and when it will be needed in advance, so that EC members and Willow can plan accordingly.

**HLRA Young Lawyers' Committee
9 January 2017**