

Business Law Clinic Annual Report

2024/25

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Business Law Clinic Report 2024/25

The <u>Business Law Clinic</u> (BLC), together with the <u>Essex Law Clinic</u> and the <u>Human Rights Centre Clinic</u>, is an important component of <u>Essex Law School</u>'s commitment to clinical legal education and experiential learning.

The BLC opened its doors for the first time in the 2023/24 academic year.

Mission

The BLC aims to provide our undergraduate and postgraduate students with an opportunity to gain new knowledge in various specialised areas of Business Law that are not covered in the standard teaching curriculum and/or observed from a new angle in a practical setting, whilst serving our local community.

The BLC provides essential opportunities to enhance the practice-readiness and employability of our business law-oriented students by providing them with transferrable skills such as teamwork, business communication, empathy, and many other highly sought-after skills by employers.

The BLC proudly stands as a vital cornerstone for both the local and University communities. It is dedicated to offering expert guidance through cutting-edge research in various areas of Business Law, as well as providing specially tailored public legal education.

The BLC follows the esteemed tradition of social justice upheld by Essex Law School, the Essex Law Clinic, and the Essex Human Rights Centre Clinic, championing social justice through the lens of Business Law. The BLC delivers social justice with a business law focus, understanding social justice as *equality* and encompasses activities that aim to alleviate inequality in various settings:

- to provide access to justice to those individuals who are disadvantaged in society e.g. because they cannot afford legal advice and/or do not know how to access it themselves;
- to enable those groups of individuals to acquire learned key skills that have no social networks to support them, such as money management, or who need help in acquiring additional knowledge and skills to empower them for future employment;
- to support those organisations that serve the public good, such as local authorities, not-for-profit
 organisations serving the community, or for-profit organisations that are either means tested or
 pledge to fund the work of the BLC.

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Projects

In 2024/25 the BLC continued with supervised research projects, establishing new partnerships with external stakeholders.

Our projects focus on public legal education, following the interactive and learner-centred *street law method* as set out in Street Law Theory and Practice, by Francis Ridout and Linden Thomas (Hart, 2023)

- Empowering Young Entrepreneurs
- LawTech Journal Lab
- Contract terms: a practical guide for Essex Startups
- Selecting the right business form: a practical guide for Essex Startups



Empowering Young Entrepreneurs

The project empowered our students to become educators with a mission to strengthen the next generation's intellectual property (IP) literacy. Students gained the skills and knowledge to teach young learners (ages 16-18) about the significance of IP in protecting their creative ideas, business concepts, and artistic works from imitation, and to help young learners understand how IP plays a central role in safeguarding innovation and driving progress across industries.

The project team delivered training to The Sixth Form College in Colchester, A-level Law Students in March 2025, covering an area that was outside their standard curriculum. The session was well-attended and enjoyed by both parties.

The project was delivered in partnership with <u>The Sixth Form College Colchester</u>.



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LawTech Journal Lab

The project aimed to educate and raise the technology awareness of the Essex Law School student community about the challenges and opportunities that technology poses to the legal profession. Students created three newsletters for Essex Law School students and staff on the latest LawTech news in the UK and around the world. The newsletters featured articles on the new technology-driven legal professions, Al systems employed by law firms, and the application of Al in areas of business law.



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Contract terms: a Practical Guide for Essex Startups

The project aimed to provide <u>Essex Startups</u> with training on key aspects of contract law for their business operations, with a particular emphasis on contract terms, and offered an opportunity to ask questions from the team during the interactive part of the training session.

The project was delivered in partnership with Essex Startups.



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Selecting the right business form: a practice guide for Essex Startups

The project aimed to provide <u>Essex Startups</u> with guidance in selecting a suitable business form and establishing sound corporate governance when launching their ventures in the UK. Whether it is a sole proprietorship, partnership, or limited company, each structure presents its own set of obligations, advantages, and risks. The students outlined these differences and provided an opportunity for startups to gain more detailed insight into various business forms during the interactive part of the training.

The project was delivered in partnership with Essex Startups.



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Visibility of the BLC

In 2024/25, the BLC established its own <u>LinkedIn page</u> and expanded its presence on Facebook and <u>Instagram</u> through the Essex Law School channels.

The Director of the BLC Dr Andrea Fejos, attended two conferences:

- UK and Ireland Street Law Conference 2024, Middlesex University, 5 September 2024
- Clinical Legal Education Organisation (CLEO)
 2024 conference, Queen Mary, University of London, 4 September 2025 (pictured right).



2024/25 Staff

- Dr Andrea Fejos, Director of BLC and Project Supervisor
- Dr Alexandros Antoniou, Project Supervisor
- Professor Chris Willett, Project Supervisor
- Dr Ewa Kruszewska, Project Supervisor

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2024/25 Alumni

We are proud to have our second-generation alumni who have joined the Business Law Clinic Alumni Community.

All alumni received a Certificate of successful completion.

NO	Company	TRADE MARKS project	LAWTECH project	Contract
1	Chloe Varley	Yayoi Ebihara	Sharon Orhue-	Amin Qureshi
			Evian	
2	Ebenezer Sarpong	Ana Belén Elizondo Yáñez	Jessica Martins Salgueiro	Eva Jauffret
3	Do Xuan	Riya Sahijwani	Oluwatoyosi Adeyemo	Raphaele Shields
4	Andreas Kalavas	Thanushan Kugathas	Camille Ramonet	Eva Papadopoulos
5	Grace Cook	Rachael Ong Hui Xuan	Ragd Ahmed	Lou Tapie
6	Mufliha Syed Abuthahir		Jeslyn Ong Yong Hui	Ninon Tranchinsu
7	Amelia Badrohelan		Tracey Kabo	Muneerah Bello
8	Kai Cheow		Julian Burgos Urra	Luna Beaucher
9	Ee Ann Chye		Priscilla Kariuki	Lydia Riache
10			Dione Dosoo	

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