

Editorial

We are very pleased to publish the second issue of the thirtieth volume of the *Coventry Law Journal*, marking the 30th anniversary of the Journal since its first publication in 1996. The Journal was initially devised to encourage staff in the Law School to embark on their academic writing careers, and to then proceed and write in other publications. However, in addition to fulfilling that goal, the Journal soon encouraged other academics and practitioners to contribute. Since its first publication, the Journal has published articles, legal essays, recent developments, case notes and book reviews on a variety of legal issues. Although specialising in Public Law and Human Rights, it has attracted scholarly work in all areas of law from academics, students and practitioners (from the United Kingdom and overseas) and achieved a solid reputation as a university-based, in-house journal. We are proud to note that the Journal has survived and outlived many other such journals, and that its contributions are regularly cited by other academics and organisations. We are particularly proud of our efforts in encouraging our students to publish their legal work and to embark of their academic careers.

As with previous issues, this one contains pieces covering contemporary legal issues and dilemmas, such as the reform of domestic employment law and employment status, harassment and freedom of expression, equality and diversity, prisoners' rights and the ban on smoking in prisons, the right to protest and European Union Law. We are particularly pleased to publish pieces by a former student, and one current undergraduate student, based on their undergraduate studies and research. We wish them every success in the future as academic writers. We are also delighted to publish a research article by Dr Rona Epstein, who shares her recent research findings on contempt of court law and practice, adding to her considerable publications in various aspects of criminal and civil justice. We are equally delighted to include an article from a student at the University of Maastricht, whose essay on Law and Shakespeare is included in the Articles section of this issue.

This issue is dedicated to Tracey Reeves, who has taught on our LLB law programmes for over 20 years, and who has recently retired from her position as Assistant Professor in Law at the University. Tracey joined the Law School having taught law at the University of Central Lancashire (formerly Preston Polytechnic) and instantly became a favourite with our students, and a treasured colleague with the staff and management in the School and the Faculty. Tracey specialised in employment law, in particular equality law, and her outstanding module evaluation results in those subjects (and in others) was testimony to her expertise, professionalism and her deep love of law and teaching. Tracey also taught on a variety of other law modules, and without exception her dedication was appreciated by the students and rewarded with exceptional module evaluation results and feedback. Tracey led the Law School's programme on student satisfaction, creating a friendly environment for assisting law students on issues of student health and happiness, legal skills and success on their programmes. Staff, management and, of course, students were indebted to Tracey for her work in this area, and she will be sorely missed as a lecturer and academic and personal tutor. Tracey made several contributions to the *Coventry Law Journal* on employment and equality law, displaying exceptional writing and analytical skills. We wish Tracey every success and happiness in her retirement and hope that she will keep in contact with the University; Tracey, we will miss your regular presence in the School, and your dedication and attention to detail, and your overall humanity.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and find something of interest to satisfy your academic research and curiosity. We also look forward to receiving your contributions for future issues. We encourage contributions from students, academic staff and practitioners, and if you wish to contribute to the Journal and want any advice or assistance in being published, then please contact the editors. For the next issue we are particularly interested in receiving work related to maintaining the rule of law and international law, both in national law and globally, although

contributions in other legal areas are welcome. The next publication date is August 2026, and contributions need to be forwarded to us by the end of June 2026 at the latest.

The editors: Dr Steve Foster and Dr Stuart MacLennan