

Editorial

We are very pleased to publish the first issue of the thirty-first volume of the *Coventry Law Journal*. As with previous issues, this issue contains pieces covering contemporary legal issues and dilemmas, such as asylum law, constitutional law and practice, freedom of expression, equality and the law, prisoners' rights, land law, comparative contract law and dispute resolution. We are particularly pleased to publish pieces by former undergraduate students, based on their independent research, and we wish them every success in the future as academic writers and professional lawyers. We are also happy to include an article by one student from our partner university in China – SWUPL – on comparative contract law. We also have contributions from our regular contributors – your editors, a book review from Dr Rona Epstein, an obituary for Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who died on 7 July 2026, by Dr Stuart MacLennan, and a recent development from our former colleague, Professor Sukhninder Panesar, on trust law. We thank them all for their continued support and for sharing their research and expertise. We are equally delighted to include an article from Francis Ekene Ikebundu, a Nigerian academic, in this issue, on dispute resolution.

This issue is dedicated to the George Eliot Building at the University, which has been the home to the Law School since the 1960's. Formerly 'B' block, George Eliot housed the Law School and, in its time, Social Studies, Business Studies, International Studies, the Chinese Centre and various languages' departments. We will now be moved to the William Morris building and will continue our teaching, research and other activities with our colleagues from the College of Business and Law. In any case, the Moot Room and the lecture theatres on the ground floor will remain in operation.

Your editor has worked in the George Eliot Building for nearly 50 years and, together with existing and former students, will miss the old building, which remained largely unchanged in the 60 years since it was built. Former students and staff have been notified of the change of location and expressed sadness, but at the same time a deep affection and nostalgia for the building and their time there as lecturers and students. A number of our authors have especially fond memories of the building: Rona Epstein began her law career by studying her LLB (part-time) there, in 1995; and Sukhninder Panesar was taught in the building between 1988 and 1991 and then taught in George Eliot for many years before leaving the university. Many former students, now very successful lawyers, warmly remember 'B' block and those that taught them there, providing opportunities for them to learn their basic legal skills and to participate in mooting, clinical practice and legal and social debate. The building also hosted several social events in the classrooms, to celebrate graduations and to welcome guest lecturers and speakers.

The Law School was proud to be housed in the last building at the University to provide individual and shared offices, as opposed to general shared working places, which have become the norm these days, and which fail to encourage students to converse with their lecturers. Your editor, for one, believes that the office space we enjoyed contributed significantly to our teaching and research and to student satisfaction. But time passes, and we will continue to operate from the William Morris Building and provide the excellent standards of teaching and support we pride ourselves on. So, farewell B Block: this issue is dedicated to you, and all the staff and students who worked and studied there.

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 getting published, then please contact the editors. For the next issue we are interested in receiving contributions in all legal areas. The next publication date is December 2026, and contributions need to be forwarded to us by early November 2026 at the latest.

Dr Steve Foster and Dr Stuart MacLennan