

FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce this latest volume of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence (UCLJLJ). I have been closely involved with the Journal, as its Faculty Advisor, from its foundation in 2012 until 2015. In that time, building on the reputation and high standards of its predecessors (the UCL Jurisprudence Review and the UCL Human Rights Review), the UCLJLJ has flourished. The number of submissions – and their quality – has continued to climb; the Journal has moved from an annual to a biannual publication; and its online availability (through databases such as Westlaw and HeinOnline), as well as its online presence, has expanded significantly. A glance at the table of contents of this current issue illustrates the breadth of coverage and sheer range of intellectual enquiry that the Journal embraces: there are articles here on subjects as diverse as competition law, copyright, contract and energy law, which are approached using methodologies ranging from economic analysis to philosophical critique. Some authors have chosen to subject legal doctrines to close analytical examination, others have focussed on how the law operates in its social context. In short, there is all the variety and liveliness that an inclusive, general law journal should aspire to. And there is also a distinctive quality: the sound of new voices dominates. This is quite deliberate: successive editors of the Journal have taken great care to encourage authors at the early stages of their writing careers to develop and express their own fresh, original ideas. We have always hoped that, for many of our authors, their contributions to the UCLJLJ would be just the start of prolific academic careers.

The Journal's appeal and its prestige are, of course, a direct reflection of the high quality of the submissions that it attracts. But anyone who has ever been involved in the production of a successful law journal quickly realises just how much work has to go on 'behind the scenes' in relation to editing, proof-reading, marketing, publicity, and similar activities. In this respect the Faculty of Laws at UCL has been extraordinarily fortunate to have had an extensive pool of enthusiastic and committed graduate student volunteers, who have selflessly dedicated themselves to making the UCLJLJ such a great achievement. The Journal is, above all else, a reflection of their spontaneous generosity – not just with their time, but with their energy, their ideas, and with their willingness to help authors to improve their work, and to publish it in the best possible way. It is this enormous generosity of spirit which will ensure that the Journal continues to thrive, and which has made it such a pleasure to act as its Faculty Advisor for the last four years.

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