Key Dates for your diary:
Please see below the dates for some of the society’s upcoming events for you to diarise, we look forward to seeing you there...

Annual General Meeting: 8th November 2014
Annual Society Dinner: 8th November 2014.

Make sure you RSVP by 27th October 2014!

Other Upcoming Activities
Dates to be Confirmed:

Annual Lecture in College
Non-Lawyers Day at Oriel
London Legal Day
London Summer Drinks Party

Legal London Day
By Henry Maxwell-Lyte

On Tuesday 13th May, the Oriel undergraduates travelled to London for yet another successful Legal London Day. The day began at 4 New Square with a presentation and discussion from Graham about a life at the bar. This was followed by a trip around the Royal Courts of Justice before enjoying an excellent lunch at Inner Temple, attended by Oriel Alumni. After lunch the trip journeyed to Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf where Mark was able to give us a briefing on his career as a solicitor. Finally, the group headed to Ashurst where everyone enjoyed a drinks reception with the Oriel Law Society members.

The day allowed the students to form an impression of the work of a Barrister and a Solicitor at both an early and a late stage in their respective careers, as well as seeing the places where they might work in the future. The detailed discussions also allowed the students to ask questions e.g. how to improve a CV, tips on securing an internship or mini-pupillage, and the drinks reception in the evening provided an excellent occasion for networking with a breadth of Oriel lawyers.

Thank you to Graham and Mark for the presentations, to Matthew for hosting us at Ashurst and to the Society for organising the trip once again.
A day in the life of an in-house legal graduate is very diverse, no matter how well you plan you will find that sometimes rigidity and organisation is overtaken by priorities. This certainly keeps it interesting!

It is a role that tests your ability to juggle - being organised and ensuring all tasks are completed on time is vital, however reacting to priorities and urgent queries is an absolute must.

Although being the legal graduate puts you at the bottom of the hierarchy within the team, this is not reflected in the role at all. The role allows the graduate to have responsibility of their own processes within the organisation. Obviously this responsibility is not built up over-night, it is built up over time through accuracy in the work undertaken, trust and precision. Having not long graduated from university, having the pressure of meeting not only your own, but other team members’ deadlines is incredibly pressured but very rewarding.

From the first week I had the opportunity to assist the team on a range of different commercial and legal tasks. Having the responsibility to carry out work for another team member enhanced the pressure, and conveyed how there is impact to be made on the company within a graduate role in such a variety of avenues. It is impossible when first starting out to know everything- and it takes a great deal of gumption, determination and drive to complete tasks to the best of your ability- even where you may have never heard of the subject area, so it is safe to say that you will never be left bored! Researching, reading thoroughly, not rushing and asking questions soon had me up to speed, and put me in a stronger position to carry out important work without supervision.

The workload is challenging and stressful, but it tests your ambition to work in the fast lane which reflects the legal industry absolutely. Although there may be a designated specialism within an in-house legal team, it allows for a much wider learning curve than may be expected. From the beginning I had every expectation that working in a commercial team, would mean solely being focused on commercial law. Reflecting on this, I should have thought again… having the opportunity to explore a range of areas of law has allowed me to focus my interests and has equipped me for challenges likely to be faced in future practice.

I have had the chance to meet lawyers and other professionals from all walks of life who are experts in their field. It has been a very beneficial, interesting yet testing year.
Law for Non Lawyers: Open Evening

On 8 May, the Oriel Law Society held an Open Evening in College for non-Law Oriel students (undergraduates and graduates), considering Law as a possible career. Organised by Clive Newton and attended by Matthew Bool (partner at Ashurst LLP), the Open Evening allowed a number of non-Law Oriel students to "drop-in" and discuss in an informal way the various options available for non-law students interested in becoming a barrister or solicitor. The evening had a good turn-out and the overall response from those who attended was that this was a successful way of passing on useful tips and advice from former members of College now in practice.

The Oriel Law Society will look to repeat this again during the next academic year. If you would like to participate or assist in the Open Day in 2015 please contact us.

Oriel Law Society Membership

Please get in contact with Clare Parry (see contact details below) to become a member of the Oriel Law Society. Membership costs £20 a year, to be paid by standing order.

Although it is a relatively small sum to most practicing lawyers the membership fees are very important for the Society's finances. They allow us to be able to pay expenses to cover our activities, such as the Legal London Day for undergraduates, the non-lawyers Open Evening in college etc. They also help us to keep the costs of the annual dinner affordable for undergraduates. Many of you will have benefitted from attending those events when you were undergraduates and no doubt that was because of the subscriptions paid by the then members of the society.

Mailing List

If by any chance you were forwarded this newsletter or saw it on the Oriel College website, you may not be on our mailing list. If you would like to be sent this annual newsletter, along with other notifications about upcoming events, please contact us.

Contact Us:

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Please contact any of the above with queries about how to be come more involved in the Society and its work or to contribute to The Oriel Lawyer.
Annual Black Tie Dinner 2014
Invitation
at Oriel College, Oxford on Saturday 8th November 2014
7.15pm Drinks
7.30pm Annual General Meeting
7.45pm Dinner
Guest Speaker: Stuart Popham QC

Please complete the form below and return by 27th October 2014 to:
Graham Chapman, 4 New Square, Lincoln’s Inn, London WC2A 3RJ
or scan and send via e-mail to: g.chapman@4newsquare.com

Name: _____________________    Telephone number: _____________________
E-mail: _____________________
Guest(s): _____________________

I/We wish to attend the Annual Dinner of the Oriel Law Society on 8th November 2014.

I/We have the following dietary requirements: _____________________

I enclose a cheque for £____ (which includes a donation of £______ towards subsidising the cost for students). Alternatively, I confirm that I have paid an amount of £____ by direct bank transfer to Account Number: 04452984 Sort Code: 18-00-02.

Signed: _____________________    Date: _____________________