**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Ms |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Liz |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Fisher-Frank |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | Essex Law Clinic |
| Name/s and details of other presenters | Mr Lee Hansen -Deputy Director Essex Law Clinic. Uk. Lhansen |
| Title of Proposal | Outreach Clinics in areas of Deprivation - Shaping Student Aspirations and Contributions to Society. |
| Summary of Proposal | The small coastal town of Jaywick is deemed to be the most deprived neighbourhood in the UK. Students from the Law Clinic at Essex University’s Law Clinic provide a regular outreach service from a Methodist Church in the local community. In this session, there will be assessment of the impact on student aspirations from advising clients in areas of great need. There will also be consideration of the potential for additional training and support needs associated with this. |
| Abstract Proposal | The small Essex coastal town of Jaywick is deemed in the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 to be the most deprived neighbourhood in the UK. For the last year, students from Essex University’s Law Clinic, have been regularly visiting the town to provide an outreach legal service to the community.  Students, based in a Methodist Church, advise mainly on family law including cases involving social services and housing, particularly regarding the many local mobile home parks. Clients often present with multifaceted problems and cases generally are far more complex and sensitive than those seen on campus.  In this session, there will be assessment of the impact on student aspirations from advising clients living in an area of great need. The session will include student reflection on their approaches to pro-bono work particularly in areas of law where clients would have been likely in the past to have accessed legal advice and representation through the legal aid system, but are now unable to do so.   Our experience has indicated that there are potential additional training needs for students who are involved with the Jaywick Outreach. There is also a focus on the importance of student reflection about the impact of the Outreach on the clients and the students themselves.   Also, reference will be made to student mental well-being in terms of the need to positively shape aspirations regarding pro-bono. From my role as Director of Student Support in the Law School, it is evident that students generally are experiencing a high level of mental health issues. Therefore, consideration will be given to how to address the possible impact on clinic students who may be dealing with particularly sensitive cases when they themselves may be struggling with their own issues.   Our view is that involvement in outreach clinics in areas of deprivation can provide students with a greater understanding of the social context of legal advice work and hence, shape aspirations. However, it has also highlighted the need to recognise the complexity of student involvement particularly in relation to their training and well-being needs.  The session will include photographs and information about the Jaywick area. The Presentation will be by Liz Fisher-Frank, Law Clinic Supervisor and Lee Hansen, Deputy Director, Essex Law Clinic. |