**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**

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| Title | Dr |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Jodi |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Gardner |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | St John's College, University of Cambridge |
| Name/s and details of other presenters | Mary Spector  Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Clinics SMU Dedman School of Law |
| Title of Proposal | Bringing Clinical Legal Education to Cambridge University: The Trials and Opportunities |
| Summary of Proposal | Clinical legal education is increasing in importance in UK universities, with approximately 70% of all law schools in the country engaging in some form of clinic legal education. Despite this increased importance, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have yet to embrace clinics in their approach to legal education. The authors of this paper are currently exploring the opportunities and challenges of starting a clinical program in the University of Cambridge. The paper will explore the steps that have been taken in this regard, including the challenges and opportunities associated with clinical legal education in a college-based educational institution. |
| Abstract Proposal | Clinical legal education is increasing in importance in UK universities, with approximately 70% of all law schools in the country engaging in some form of clinic legal education. Considering the impact that austerity has had on access to legal services, clinical legal education is becoming increasingly important for access to justice. Despite this increased importance, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have yet to embrace clinics in their approach to legal education. The authors of this paper are currently exploring the opportunities and challenges of starting a clinical program in the University of Cambridge. Professor Spector is spending a term at the University of Cambridge as part of the Herbert Smith Freehills Visitor Scheme. During this time, she and Dr Gardner will lay the groundwork for what they anticipate will be a pilot program to test the viability of a clinical legal program at the University. The teaching format and college-based nature of the University of Cambridge provides a unique set of challenges for this type of legal education, and the authors will discuss the steps that have been taken to overcome these barriers. A legal clinic in Cambridge would allow University students, to assist those most vulnerable and provide benefits for not only the recipients but also the students - giving them the opportunity to witness law in practice on a first-hand basis.  Dr Gardner is a Fellow of Law at St John’s College in Cambridge, having previously been a community legal lawyer in Brisbane, Australia. She specialises in consumer protection law and has held visiting positions at Princeton University, Columbia Law School, Max Planck Centre for International and Comparative Private Law and the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (University of Birmingham). In addition to her academic roles, Dr Gardner is an accredited arbitrator who specialises in aviation and telecommunications disputes. Professor Spector is the Associate Dean for Clinics at the SMU Dedman School of Law. She is a recipient of the University Golden Mustang Teaching Award, the Law School’s Don Smart Directed Research Award and Women in Law’s Faculty Appreciation Award. Professor Spector writes and speaks in the areas of consumer credit, landlord-tenant law and clinical legal education. For her project on consumer debt collection litigation published in the Virginia Law & Business Review (2011), Professor Spector was honored with the Bellow Scholar Award from the AALS Clinical Section. |