**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  | Professor |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Jason |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Tucker |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | Cardiff University |
| Name/s and details of other presenters |  |
| Title of Proposal  | Piloting a Family Law Self-Help Clinic |
| Summary of Proposal | Cardiff University is piloting a self-help clinic for litigants-in-person involved in private law children’s proceedings. The clinic’s focus is providing general information rather than tailored legal advice. The session will contribute to the themes of research and interdisciplinarity. The delivery model draws on the experience of the California Court Self Help Centres, and aims to generate outputs returnable under the Research Excellence Framework. The pilot has also identified opportunities for interdisciplinary working with other university departments and with external agencies. As the project is at the pilot stage, input from clinicians experienced in running large-scale street law projects is invited. |
| Abstract Proposal | The School of Law & Politics, Cardiff University is currently piloting a self-help clinic for litigants-in-person (lips) involved in private law children ‘s proceedings. Following the restrictions on legal aid implemented by the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, the number of lips has risen exponentially (with up to 80% of family cases estimated to have at least one lip). Whilst a number of family law clinics already operate in England & Wales, the Cardiff pilot is unique as its focus is on providing general information and assistance, rather than tailored legal advice. The delivery model is based on the California Court Self Help Centres, and aims to create a service which can genuinely be delivered by students and which is accessible to all litigants. In particular, the absence of advice provision means that the knowledge required to deliver information sessions is more commensurate with that of undergraduates, and the possibility of a conflict of interests arising, if the clinic is contacted by more than one party to the same dispute, is removed.The session will contribute to the conference themes of research and interdisciplinarity. The pilot is co-designed by practitioner staff and research academics, and the delivery model is research informed. It is intended that, going forward, the project will generate a rich data set with view to developing outputs and an impact case study returnable under the Research Excellence Framework. Whilst the clinic will primarily be operated by law students, the pilot has identified opportunities for interdisciplinary working. In particular, collaboration with the School of Psychology to design resources to support emotional resilience and manage the stress arising from court proceedings. In addition, it is proposed to work with students from the University’s National Software Academy to develop an online platform to host a suite of resources to support lips. Opportunities to partner with external organisations, such as HMCTS and Cafcass Cymru, have also been identified. Jason Tucker is a Professor of Law and member of the ENCLE Board. He is the academic supervisor of the Mencap-WISE student advice project, which won the best partnership project category at the national lawworks pro bono awards in 2018. As the self-help project is at the pilot stage, the presenter would welcome input and suggestions from fellow clinicians, particularly those experienced in running large-scale street law projects. |