

**ULAW
STUDENTS'
UNION**

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Business, Law & Society

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE | BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS





SHAPING THE FUTURE

Business, Law & Society



WELCOME!

We're thrilled to have you for an inspiring day of **ideas, stories, and innovation**. We hope you're excited to connect with students and speakers from a range of backgrounds, joining talks, panels and interactive sessions.

With nearly 30 confirmed speakers, this conference will cover a range of topics and themes that will help students at ULaw **shape the future**.



Over the past several years, the SU Co-Presidents have been proud to develop and deliver conference-style initiatives like TEDx, BizCon, and LawCon. These initiatives have allowed hundreds, if not thousands of students to gain direct access to industry expertise and networking opportunities.

Now in our 10th anniversary year, we have brought these ideas together to create our biggest ever students' interdisciplinary conference. Our mission is to encourage students from different faculties to connect, collaborate and learn from one another. During this event, we encourage everyone to experience sessions that are different from their current programmes and understand that our ability to shape the future is enhanced by insights across the intertwined sectors of law, business, languages and more!

To bring this vision to life, we enlisted the support of student volunteers who were integral part of the organising process from start to finish. Their enthusiasm, ideas, and commitment have made this conference a reality and it is through this collective effort, we can demonstrate what the Students' Union is all about: creating a community of students, that is driven by students for students.



SU CO-PRESIDENTS 2025-26

JANA & UCHE



AGENDA

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS

[studentsunion.law.ac.uk
/community/activities/shaping-the-future](https://studentsunion.law.ac.uk/community/activities/shaping-the-future)

- 10:00 - 10:30** Registration
- 10:30 - 11:00** Welcome and opening plenary **(227/228)**
- 11:10 - 12:00** **Block 1** - The Changing Global Landscape
- 12:10 - 13:00** **Block 2** - Regulation, Ethics & Accountability - AI shaping the future
- 13:00 - 13:50** Lunch **(Café)**
- 13:50 - 14:40** **Block 3** - Empowering Futures: Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact
- 14:50 - 15:40** **Block 4** - Bridging Academic Study with Professional Practice
- 15:50 - 16:15** Closing plenary **(227/228)**
- 16:15 - 17:00** Networking



REGISTRATION

Registration is open from 10am.

As you come through the entrance barriers on campus, our staff at the conference registration table will take your name and ask you to complete a quick QR code link to confirm your attendance.

Once registered, you'll be directed up to the conference rooms where there will be tea and coffee available.

BREAKS

There are **10-minute transfer times** between each block of sessions to allow you to move between rooms, use the bathroom or grab a drink. A **50-minute light lunch** will be available in the Café area, and there are lots of shops and restaurants surrounding the campus.



PLENARIES

Our open and closing plenaries are open to all attendees.

Shaping The Future: Emma Beenham, Patrick Johnson, Paul Doddridge

Get started with a warm welcome from members of our senior leadership team at ULaw and the SU

Closing Plenary: Jana Holeckova-Francis, Uche Chigozirim Adika

Our opportunity to share some closing notes and say thank you!



NETWORKING

Make the most of the opportunity to meet experts and other students!

Room 209 and the café area will remain open throughout the day for informal conversation and sharing ideas.

**SHAPING THE
FUTURE**
Business, Law & Society

BLOCK 1

11:10 - 12:00

The Changing Global Landscape

Thread	Session Title	Session Summary see pages 9-15 for more detail
Law Immigration & Global Business Strategy (203)	A Business-Law Perspective on Global Mobility, Corporate Growth, and Competitive Strategy Keerthana Sharon Moses	Examine how immigration law underpins global business strategy, enabling talent mobility, supporting international expansion, and shaping corporate governance, risk management, and growth.
Business AI Skills & Global Change (204)	Data, Decisions, and the Limits of AI Agents; building AI scepticism in case studies Andrew Grice	This session explores using AI tools and interactive methods to build students' critical thinking and AI skills for employability.
	The Changing Global Landscape - A Live Global Strategy Simulation Olubunmi Elizabeth Ebisemiju	This interactive simulation explores how global shifts in politics, technology, and economics shape business, law, and leadership.
Languages Multilingual Advantage and Inclusive Language (205)	Language, Voice and Futures: Why Multilingualism Matters (and Why It's Never Too Late) Dr Marina Micke	Multilingualism can enhance confidence, connection, and professional opportunities at any stage of learning.
	Rethinking Academic English for Today's ULaw Students Rachel Barker	Explore embedding inclusive, strengths-based English language support across teaching, assessment, and academic practice in a diverse university context.
Student-led Change AI Responsibility & Active Citizenship (206)	AI Did Not Take the Responsibility, We Gave It Away Yunique Demann	This talk challenges the misconception that AI reduces human responsibility, highlighting the need for clear accountability, robust governance, and ethical oversight in automated decision-making.
	Policy Engagement - Shaping the Future of Communities and Society Oluwasola Adesulu	The importance of active citizenship, drawing on experiences of engaging in policy and advocacy across a variety of communities.

BLOCK 2

12:10 - 13:00

Regulation, Ethics & Accountability - AI Shaping the Future

Thread	Session Title	Session Summary see pages 16 for more detail
Inter-Disciplinary Panel AI in Law & Human Responsibility (227/228)	Your AI, Your Future Vipul Ladwa, Dr Marina Micke, Suraj Singh Sanhi	This panel explores how AI is transforming law and communication, emphasising its potential alongside the need for human judgment, accountability, and responsibility.
Law Test your knowledge! (204)	Law Quiz	A fun, team-based law quiz open to everyone.
Business Student Startup Pitch Showcase (206)	Elevator Pitch Competition Final Host: Uche Chigozirim Adika Panellists: Olubunmi Elizabeth Ebisemiju, Segun Oluwatayo, Dr Dessy Ohanians	The final round (part 1) is here! Watch our student entrepreneurs pitching business ideas, to an expert judging panel who will provide insights, feedback, and guidance on building scalable and impactful ventures.

BLOCK 3 Empowering Futures: 13:50 - 14:40 Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact

Thread	Session Title	Session Summary see pages 17-21 for more detail
Law Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact (205)	The intersection of leadership, innovation, and societal impact Zainab Zaeem	How future leaders can drive innovation, act responsibly, and create meaningful impact.
Business Student Startup Pitch Showcase (227/228)	Elevator Pitch Competition Final Host: Uche Chigozirim Adika Panellists: Olubunmi Elizabeth Ebisemiju, Segun Oluwatayo, Dr Dessy Ohanians	The final round (part 2) is here! Watch our student entrepreneurs pitching business ideas, to an expert judging panel who will provide insights, feedback, and guidance on building scalable and impactful ventures.
Policing and The Community Legal Careers & Public Sector Leadership (203)	Making an Impact and understanding legal roles across sectors Baljinder Singh Atwal	Open your mind to diverse legal career paths, including in-house roles and policing, and how legal professionals can make an impact across different sectors.
	Leading change in the Public Sector Gareth Howell	Improve community outcomes by focusing on building strong team cultures, managing volunteers, and overcoming challenges.
Student-led Change Students as Co-Creators & Leadership Development (204)	Students in the Driver's Seat: Postgraduate Student Engagement as Partners and Co-Creators Gary Knight, Alev Haddadieh, Kiyala Matanga	This panel explores how partnering with students as co-creators can drive meaningful change at universities, while developing their personal leadership, confidence, and professional skills.
Business Test your knowledge! (206)	Business and Leadership Quiz	A fun, team-based business quiz open to everyone.

BLOCK 4 Bridging academic study 14:50 - 15:40 with professional practice

Thread	Session Title	Session Summary see pages 22-28 for more detail
Law From Law Study to Legal Practice (206)	Connecting Theory with Practice: Lessons from My Legal Journey Anaiah Ferdinand	This session explores how academic legal study translates into real-world practice, building confidence, practical skills, and professional identity.
	Transitioning from academia to professional practice Tegan Lovett	Insights and practical tips for successfully transitioning from academia to legal practice in the first six months.
Business Consultancy Projects & Global Marketing Careers (205)	Business consultancy projects for enhanced graduate employability Dr Richard Galletly	Contribute towards new initiatives to embed practical consultancy projects into the curriculum, to bridge the skills gap between academia and employment whilst having a positive local impact.
	From Classroom to Career: What the Real World Actually Expects Raj Hariharan	How to bridge the gap between university and the workplace by developing the key skills and a mindset that employers value.
Cyber security Cybersecurity in Practice (204)	What Cybersecurity Looks Like in Practice: Beyond the Classroom Renu Guntur	Engage in interactive activities to learn how cybersecurity theory is applied in practice, building skills in risk assessment, decision-making, and incident response.
Student-led Change From Student Life to Legal Professional Identity (203)	Bridging the Gap: From Law Student to Legal Professional Malaika Yasir	Navigate the transition from law student to legal professional, focusing on building skills, confidence, and real-world experience beyond academic study.
	From Student Experience to Professional Impact Blessing Sonnylove Donkor Yawson	A reflective conversation that explores how lived experience and student leadership shape personal development, building confidence, resilience, and professional identity.

ELEVATOR PITCH COMPETITION

**SHARE YOUR
BUSINESS IDEA**

Winners will receive support from our
Angel Investors!

- Structured mentorship
- Guidance on setup, registration and compliance
- Practical support for structure and scaling
- Meaningful value to develop your venture



HOST: UCHE ADIKA

Come along to watch our final round of the elevator pitch competition and hear from current students about their ideas for future businesses. Our finalists have been selected from preliminary campus rounds to present to a panel of internal and external experts, with the winners receiving bespoke support to bring their ideas to life.

The session will provide student entrepreneurs with the opportunity to pitch their ideas, receive constructive feedback, and gain practical perspectives on what investors and business leaders look for in emerging startups. Participants can expect interactive discussions, questions and answers, and guidance on transforming ideas into reality.



**PANEL: OLUBUNMI
ELIZABETH EBISEMIJU**

With academic and professional training in Accounting, Business Administration, and Business Analytics, Olubunmi combines commercial insight with practical entrepreneurial experience, helping founders translate ideas into scalable and socially impactful ventures.



**PANEL: SEGUN
OLUWATAYO**

Segun will contribute insights on entrepreneurship, innovation, business sustainability, and social impact.



**PANEL: DR DESSY
OHANIANS**

I am looking forward to hearing the students' pitches and especially how they demonstrate innovation and creative problem solving to known problems.

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of logos. Each logo consists of a yellow speech bubble containing the text 'ULAW STUDENTS' UNION' in blue, followed by the text 'SHAPING THE FUTURE' in large blue letters, and 'Business, Law & Society' in smaller blue letters below it. The logos are arranged in a staggered grid across the top and bottom of the page.

SESSION DETAILS

Delve into the details of each session, meet our speakers and choose between which sessions to attend!

We encourage you to explore sessions across the full range of our themes with an open mind.

For example, if you are a law student; you don't just have to stick with the law threads!

The purpose of this inter-disciplinary conference is to open your mind to other topics such as policing, languages and business.

Shaping the Future

Opening Plenary (10:30AM - 11:00AM) - For all Attendees



Emma Beenham

ULaw Students' Union, Students' Union Manager

“I'm passionate about continued learning, personal and professional development. This conference combines a range of subjects taught at ULaw and invites students to jump into micro-learning about current topics across a range of areas.”

Emma has led the ULaw SU team for more than five years, with her career in the higher education sector spanning the past decade. She is also a trustee for another SU, is a British Sign Language tutor and undertakes consultancy work across the sector in governance, democracy and events.



Patrick Johnson

The University of Law, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Success, Diversity and Inclusion

I am a member of the University Executive Board and have strategic responsibility for Student Support and Wellbeing, Employability, Student Success/WP, EDI and the Students' Union. I have worked in education for over 30 years and trained as a Careers Adviser at the start of the 1990s.



Paul Doddridge

The University of Law, Campus Director

“I'm excited to join the conference to share insights from educational leadership and engage with students and professionals exploring how business and law can shape a better future.”

Paul is an experienced educational leader with over 20 years' experience in executive leadership, headship, and school improvement. He has led strategic growth, curriculum innovation, and staff development across diverse settings, consistently improving outcomes. Paul brings a collaborative, values-led approach and a proven track record of transformational leadership, supporting staff and students to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environments

A Business-Law Perspective on Global Mobility, Corporate Growth, and Competitive Strategy

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Law

Immigration law has evolved into a key component of modern business law and global corporate strategy. The presentation will examine how businesses rely on immigration frameworks, such as sponsor licences, skilled worker visas, and global mobility routes, to expand internationally, attract talent, and remain competitive in global markets. The talk will also discuss the growing importance of immigration compliance within corporate governance, risk management, and business operations, highlighting how legal mobility frameworks influence innovation, investment, and commercial growth. Participants will be encouraged to engage in short interactive activities throughout the session, where they will write down key pointers, insights, and business-law connections they identify from the presentation. These activities are designed to promote critical thinking and encourage discussion around the relationship between immigration law, global mobility, and business expansion.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Keerthana Sharon Moses

Tulia CIC, Trainee Immigration Caseworker

“Having been an undergraduate less than a year ago, I know exactly how overwhelming the transition into the legal world can feel. I want to share every bit of knowledge I’ve gained so far, answer questions honestly, and help students navigate the legal maze with confidence”

I’m a First-Class Honours law graduate from Birmingham city university with experience in immigration, family, commercial property, and small claims work gained through both law firms and charitable organisations. These roles have given me the realistic exposure for the human side of the legal world and the importance of supporting clients with care. I’m known for being friendly and approachable, and in my free time you’ll usually find me learning languages, cooking new recipes, or enjoying some peaceful gardening.

Data, Decisions, and the Limits of AI Agents; building AI scepticism in case studies

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Business

The session will provide an overview of the deployment of 22 AI agents and a custom ChatGPT to bridge employer requirement for AI proficiency and critical evaluation. It will introduce the use of stakeholder mapping, roleplay and Socratic questioning to position students as the most knowledgeable other.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Andrew Grice

The University of Law, Senior Lecturer

“The themes of the business environment, frameworks, the future on change and shaping the future. To share my thoughts on encouraging critical thinking, practice-based pedagogy and empowering people, through inclusivity, to become active contributors for a brighter future with AI is an honour.”

I have worked in academia for 19 years. My research and teaching sits at the intersection of data, analytics and AI aimed to shape strategic and operational activity, and the way we work. Where pedagogy is designed for active decisions from data, analytics and AI, inclusivity, well-being, and AI scepticism.

The Changing Global Landscape - A Live Global Strategy Simulation

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Business

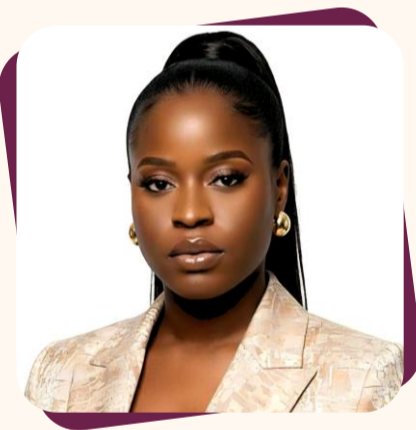
“The Changing Global Landscape” is an interactive session exploring how rapid shifts in global politics, technology, economics, sustainability, AI, and international relations are reshaping business, law, entrepreneurship, and society. Rather than a traditional lecture, the session will use a live country-representation simulation where selected audience participants act as strategic representatives of different nations (China, UK, and USA).

Through guided scenarios, discussions, and quick decision-making exercises, participants will explore how global events, innovation, trade, regulation, talent mobility, ESG pressures, and AI advancement influence international business and legal environments.

The session aims to help students: understand the interconnected nature of the modern global economy; think critically about emerging global opportunities and risks; recognise how geopolitics and technology influence business and law; appreciate the growing importance of ethical leadership, sustainability, and adaptability in a rapidly changing world.

Participants can expect: a highly interactive and discussion-based experience; live audience participation and role-play; short strategic decision-making activities; practical business and global insights; audience Q&A and reflection.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Olubunmi Elizabeth Ebisemiju

Elinth Group Limited, Director

“I’m excited to join this conference because I’m passionate about helping the next generation of leaders understand how business and social impact intersect. I hope to share practical insights from building businesses and community initiatives, while encouraging students to think boldly, innovate responsibly, breakthrough early and create meaningful impact in society.”

Olubunmi Elizabeth Ebisemiju is a UK-based business consultant, entrepreneur, and founder of Elinth Group Limited, a multidisciplinary company operating across business consulting, real estate, and digital enterprise development. Through her work, she supports emerging entrepreneurs and SMEs with business strategy, operational development, growth planning, digital innovation, and sustainable enterprise models.

With academic and professional training in Accounting, Business Administration, and Business Analytics, Olubunmi combines commercial insight with practical entrepreneurial experience, helping founders translate ideas into scalable and socially impactful ventures.

Beyond business, she contributes actively to society development initiatives through her second registered UK company -Creative Health, Arts, and Culture CIC. She is also recognised for building and supporting a growing global community of over 1,000 entrepreneurs, creatives, and emerging talents through social impact events, mentorship, and collaborative initiatives. Her visual art work under the brand name - Elinth Arts, and creative health contributions have received international recognition across business, arts, and community engagement platforms.

Language, Voice and Futures: Why Multilingualism Matters (and Why It's Never Too Late)

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Languages

Language shapes our understanding, voice and professional futures, and multilingualism is an expandable resource. Drawing on examples from public life, we challenge the idea that language learning only matters if started early or pursued to native-like fluency. Instead, let's present multilingualism as something we can grow into at any stage, supporting confidence, belonging and professional agency in a global society. The session will reflect on how languages function as tools for participation and connection across different contexts and why engaging with additional languages (even at basic or intermediate levels) can open opportunities. There will be brief interactive moments encouraging reflection on language use and aspirations as an invitation to consider how language experience can shape our voices and futures.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Dr Marina Micke

The University of Law, Head of Modern Languages

“This conference is an opportunity to explore together how language shapes understanding, voice and, in turn, professional futures.”

Marina Micke is a specialist in German language education and assessment in higher education, with particular expertise in curriculum design and language provision for international and professional contexts. Her work focuses on inclusive teaching and assessment through Universal Design for Learning, technology-enhanced language learning, and the growing impact of artificial intelligence on language education, communication and assessment.

In her current role as Head of Modern Languages, she is excited to create language learning opportunities across the University of Law and is keen to engage with students about their diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Rethinking Academic English for Today's ULaw Students

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Languages

As the University of Law becomes increasingly diverse, including more international students, English for Academic purposes provision should move beyond a deficit model, realising that having more than one language in your learning tool kit is in fact an advantage to be exploited. In rethinking our approach, we are looking to review current provisions and embed English language learning materials that can benefit all student populations, whilst supporting EAL in particular. This will involve an exploration of learning and teaching practices, as well as assessment themes and academic integrity practice and policy. This session will focus on what this might look like in practice, what we predict will work, and what still needs to be resolved.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Rachel Barker

The University of Law, Academic English Language Manager

“Your languages are not a problem to fix but a resource to build on—and academic English should be part of your learning, not separate from it.”

After living and working in Asia for over a decade, I have been working in the UK HE sector for 6 years, exclusively with international students. Having been through the challenges of adapting to another country's education, I bring lived experience as well as academic underpinning to my learning and teaching strategies.

AI Did Not Take the Responsibility, We Gave It Away

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Student-led Change

One of the most urgent and overlooked risks of the AI era is the illusion that automation transfers responsibility. As AI systems increasingly influence decisions in education, healthcare, employment, finance, and public services, organisations often assume that accountability rests with the technology, the vendor, or the policy framework. It does not.

When an algorithm screens a job candidate, flags a student, prioritises a patient, or influences a financial decision, accountability does not transfer to the machine. It concentrates in the hands of whoever chose to deploy it. Drawing from industry governance, privacy, and security experience, Yunique examines why humans consistently over-trust automated outputs, how shadow AI is spreading inside institutions without oversight, and why every automated decision must have a clearly defined human owner.

Through real cases across hiring, healthcare, housing, and law enforcement, this session exposes the gap between how organisations talk about AI governance and how they actually practise it — and what it looks like when accountability structures are built for the AI era, not retrofitted after harm has already occurred. Grounded in current legal frameworks including GDPR, the EU AI Act, and UK equality law, the session makes the case that the law is not behind. Institutional behaviour is. The next generation of lawyers, executives, and public leaders will either close that gap or widen it.

The core message is direct: AI did not take responsibility away from us. We handed it over — through rushed deployment, deliberate opacity, and the comfortable fiction that the algorithm decided. Taking it back requires governance that is operational, not performative.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Yunique Demann

Yunique AI, Founder & CEO

“Conversations about AI often focus on what the technology can do, while overlooking what it means for accountability, trust, and human decision-making. I hope attendees leave with a deeper understanding that responsible AI is not just a technical issue — it’s a business, legal, and societal one.”

Yunique Demann is an AI governance strategist, privacy professional, and former security leader specializing in the intersection of AI, law, privacy, and organizational accountability. As the founder of Yunique AI, she helps organizations build AI systems that are not only innovative, but legally defensible, operationally responsible, and human-centred. She is the creator of the CLEAR™ framework for organizational AI governance and the VOICE™ framework for AI literacy, and the author of the forthcoming book, *The App Is Not Your Friend*. With experience leading governance initiatives across global organizations, her work focuses on transforming governance from a compliance exercise into a practical framework for trust, accountability, and ethical decision-making in the age of automation.

Policy Engagement - Shaping the Future of Communities and Society

Block 1, The Changing Global Landscape (11:10 AM - 12PM) - Student-led Change

It is important that students are active citizens within whatever community they find themselves, whether that be the university community, their local community, their city, country or state. I'll touch on my experiences engaging in policy shaping from my days at University and my progression to a professional role as a policy and advocacy professional.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Oluwasola Adesulu

The Caribbean and African Health Network, Advocacy and Empowerment Coordinator

“The future is shaped by those who pay attention to matters of Law, Policy, Governance and Society”

Oluwasola is a policy and advocacy professional with an educational background in Law. His experience spans public health, higher education, English devolution, municipal politics, and civic engagement. His work focuses on shaping public policy through strategic advocacy, public campaigns, stakeholder engagement, and project delivery. He is a member of the Common Futures Conversations at Chatham House London and contributes to shaping the future of national media strategy as a member of the Long-Term Strategy Steering Group at the Student Publication Association.

Your AI, Your Future

Block 2, Regulation, Ethics & Accountability; AI Shaping The Future (12:10 PM - 1PM) Inter-Disciplinary Panel

It is important that students are active citizens within whatever community they find themselves, whether that be the university community, their local community, their city, country or state. I'll touch on my experiences engaging in policy shaping from my days at University and my progression to a professional role as a policy and advocacy professional.

MEET THE PANELLISTS



Vipul Ladwa

Casey, Co-Founder

The ethics debate has become more performative than practical, meanwhile, lawyers are already using AI every day. The question of whether AI should be used in law has been long surpassed, and has now become whether it is being used in a way a lawyer can professionally stand behind. Having spent a decade advising the companies building AI on liability frameworks, and now building AI for the firms using it, the conversation I hear inside law firms is not about regulation or ethics, it is about accountability: if this gets it wrong, what happens to me? AI is just a tool -powerful, useful, and never a substitute for judgment. The lawyers who understand that distinction are the ones that are really delivering value to their clients.

“Law is at an inflection point and I want to talk honestly about what that means for the people entering this profession. I'm joining this conference to share what I've seen from both sides: as a lawyer who watched AI reshape the industry, and as a founder building what comes next.”

Vipul is Co-Founder and CEO of Casey, a legal AI platform that enables law firms to productise their expertise and deliver AI-powered legal services directly to clients. A former technology lawyer at DLA Piper, he spent over a decade advising on AI regulation, machine learning, and emerging technology. He is a recognised member of the UK LawTech Advisory Board and a 2026 LegalTechTalk LaunchPad finalist.



Dr Marina Micke

The University of Law, Head of Modern Languages

AI is already transforming how we work, but it remains a tool whose value depends on how we use it. In language learning, its greatest potential lies in supporting access and boosting confidence. We should not mistake this as a sign that AI will replace the fundamentally human act of communicating with others to understand and be understood. Like in law, the real value comes from recognising that AI can enhance human capability and realising that it cannot replace the individual's judgment, ability to build connections, create and convey meaning.



Suraj Singh Sanhi

Fieldfisher LLP, Trainee Solicitor

“I have a keen interest in AI, from my experience, and think conferences like this are great to facilitate shared knowledge.”

I am a career changer, going from teaching mathematics after graduating from university to now being a second seat trainee at Fieldfisher. I was fortunate enough to be a paralegal in Personal Injury and Medical Negligence before commencing my training contract and, for my first seat, was seconded to Berlin to join our colleagues at Fieldfisher X. This is the technology branch of Fieldfisher where we help create a variety of legal solutions. In my time, however, the focus was creating AI solutions, education and enablement throughout the firm.

The intersection of leadership, innovation, and societal impact

Block 3, Empowering Futures: Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact (13:50PM - 14:40PM) - Law

Empowering the future means equipping the next generation of leaders to think innovatively, act responsibly, and create meaningful change on a global scale. This session will explore the intersection of leadership, innovation, and societal impact, inspiring attendees to broaden their ambitions and recognise the opportunities they have to shape the world around them.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Zainab Zaeem

Summerfield Browne Solicitors, Director | Solicitor

“The world is changing and the future will be shaped by those willing to rethink how business, law, and society intersect - and I’m excited to share insights that encourage bold thinking, practical action, and meaningful change.”

I am an award-winning Solicitor with several years of experience in handling all matters in relation to litigation and employment law. I have experience in dealing with all court processes to include small claims, fast track, intermediate, multi-track actions and employment tribunals covering a wide spectrum of work including, but not limited to, commercial contract disputes, debt collecting, professional negligence claims for both Claimant and Defendant, unfair dismissal, breach of contract, and discrimination matters.

I am an avid motorbiker, the Executive Chair for Muslim Lawyers Group (a pro bono initiative), and is a mentor for De Montfort University’s ‘Inside Edge’ Mentoring Scheme. I am also an award-winning radio presenter for Ramadan FM with my own show of ‘Breaking Stereotypes’.

Making an Impact and understanding legal roles across sectors

Block 3, Empowering Futures: Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact (13:50PM - 14:40PM)
- Policing and The Community

This session will cover several aspects of legal roles, exploring the variety of legal roles and practice areas in a large police force, understanding the nature of in-house legal roles across different sectors and industries when compared to private practice, and learning how to make an impact with your legal career.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Baljinder Singh Atwal

West Midlands Police, Senior Lawyer - Commercial

“In-House legal practice is the fastest growing sections of the legal profession, when I was a student, we had little knowledge of this career route. I'm hoping to share some insights and inspire our next generation of lawyers into considering careers in-house.”

Bal is a Senior Solicitor at West Midlands Police, specialising in Commercial Property, Commercial and Procurement. West Midlands Police is the second largest police force in the country. Bal trained at international law firm Trowers & Hamlins and then qualified at global law firm DLA Piper. Outside of the day job, Bal was previously Chair of the Birmingham Law Society In-House Committee and Chair of the Birmingham Solicitor's Group.

Leading change in the Public Sector

**Block 3, Empowering Futures: Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact (13:50PM - 14:40PM)
- Policing and The Community**

Anyone who wishes to improve outcomes for the people and communities we serve, soon runs into the familiar problems of staffing and budgetary shortages, rising expectations and falling public satisfaction with services.

We will discuss reforms to police training and the acute challenges of shrinking budgets and staff numbers and managing working relationships between volunteers and paid staff.

New technology has limits when driving change, but good leadership can successfully overcome these challenges to build teams effectively, create the right working environment, emphasise the importance of culture, discipline and standards, and change toxic team identities with the aim of leading change in the wider public sector.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Gareth Howell

Gloucester Academy, Head of History, Local Association Secretary NASUWT

“I want to inspire young people to work for the public good.”

A member of Nottinghamshire Special Constabulary for 14 years, I rose to the rank of Special Chief Inspector in charge of City Division (Nottingham), with responsibility for Training, Rewards and Recognition and was Officer in Command, Police Training School. I was instrumental in introducing the PEQF (Policing Education Qualifications Framework) for which I was runner up for the Lord Ferrers Award for outstanding contributions to volunteering in policing. In my day job I am Head of History for a school and a Trade Union Official, and have also acted as a History and Politics advisor for the BBC, most notably as the military historian when Armed Forces Day was hosted at Nottingham. I also acted as a Politics advisor, covering the resignation of Boris Johnson and the first Truss vs Sunak debate. I lecture on History, most notably on Medieval Surgery for the NHS and the British Biomedical Sciences Institute and have regularly addressed Trade Union National Conferences.

Students in the Driver's Seat: Postgraduate Student Engagement as Partners and Co-Creators

Block 3, Empowering Futures: Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact (13:50PM - 14:40PM) - Student-led Change Panel

This panel will explore how ULaw SU engages its large postgraduate student population to make change behind the scenes. Students are engaged as partners in their own educational framework, through policy development, strategic co-creation, and the ability to hold departments accountable for institutional challenges and issues affecting students.

Together, we will explore how the ULaw SU Student Pool empowers students to make change and set the agenda. Through including students squarely in decision making and embedding them in the breadth and width of ULaw meetings, it builds their leadership, confidence, and critical thinking skills.

Attendees will be invited to reflect on how involving students as partners and respecting their experiences can strengthen trust in our relationship with the University, foster inclusivity and drive innovative cultural change.

Engaging as partners through the SU can develop personal and professional skills in a fast-changing corporate landscape. Students aren't a homogenous bloc, and we should be learning from them!

We hope this is a positive example where attendees can reflect how we can make the shift from "students as consumers" to "students as co-creators", re-centring them and their experiences.

MEET THE PANELLISTS



Gary Knight

ULaw Students' Union, Student Voice Co-ordinator

"Students can get involved directly and indirectly to change their education for the better. Having led strategically on a wide variety of student representation initiatives, I'm excited to share my findings and interview some of our past and former student reps to hear from them how it has led to personal and professional growth."

I have been working at the University of Law Students' Union for almost 5 years. I have been involved in leading and changing how the University and Students' Union use student input and feedback through their elected and selected representation systems to enact changes big and small, and in front of view or behind the scenes. I'd be delighted to come and talk about the different ways students can get involved in ULaw and through their experiences give something back to their peers and changing the University for the better. Before I joined the University of Law, I studied History at the University of Leeds and achieved both an undergraduate and postgraduate degree in the subject. I use this background to co-host the SDP session 'Politics 101'.



Alev Haddadieh

The University of Law, PGDL Student and member of the ULaw SU Student Pool

"Purpose gives us direction, but what we are wired for defines our impact."

Alev Haddadieh is a technology professional with extensive experience leading complex digital transformation, enterprise infrastructure, and system integration programmes across sectors including banking, retail, and energy. She brings together strategic leadership, technical expertise, and a strong passion for personal growth and positive social impact.

She is currently undertaking a part-time PGDL at The University of Law, positioning herself within the evolving field of cyber law. She is a Student Pool member working with the Students' Union, actively contributes to amplifying student voice and supporting initiatives that enhance the student experience.

She is also a single mother of two children and a full-time carer for her 85-year-old mother, who is undergoing cancer treatment for a terminal illness. These lived experiences have further shaped her perspective on resilience, empathy, and the importance of wellbeing in leadership and education. She is passionate about creating conversations around sustainable leadership, emotional intelligence, and the human dimension of professional success in an era of rapid technological and societal change.



Kiyala Matanga

DPD, Customer Experience Manager

Kiyala Matanga was the Students' Union Vice President for the Moorgate campus 2024-2025, and Chair of Student Parliament 2024-2025. She currently works at DPD as a Customer Experience Manager having completed a Legal Internship at Themis Crown Advocates. Kiyala brings experience in high pressure corporate environments and provided rigorous analytical skills and technological fluency to fulfil her elected duties.

Connecting Theory with Practice: Lessons from My Legal Journey

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Law

Explore how academic study can be translated into legal practice and professional development. Drawing on experiences across occupational disease litigation, criminal law, and clinical negligence, we will discuss how university modules such as Civil Dispute Resolution, Criminal Litigation and Evidence, and Tort Law can directly inform professional work.

The session aims to encourage students to approach their studies proactively and recognise the practical value of academic learning beyond assessments and examinations. Participants can expect a reflective and interactive discussions focused on building confidence, applying legal knowledge in practice, and developing a professional identity whilst at university.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Anaiah Ferdinand

Kingsley Bond Solicitors, Paralegal

“I’m passionate about creating a more inclusive legal profession, and I hope to share honest insights, experiences, and encouragement that will inspire others to pursue opportunities with confidence.”

I graduated from The University of Law with a 2:1 LLB (Hons) in 2025 and currently work as a Clinical Negligence Paralegal. I am passionate about creating opportunities for others and helping make the legal profession more inclusive and accessible.

For the past two years, I have served as an Executive Committee Member of Birmingham Black Lawyers, supporting initiatives focused on representation and career development. I also founded Empowered Voices Network at university to help connect students from underrepresented backgrounds with diversity-focused organisations and opportunities.

Alongside my professional work, I mentor aspiring legal professionals both formally and informally and was proud to be recognised as a finalist for the Birmingham Law Society Outstanding Student Contribution of the Year Award 2026.

Transitioning from academia to professional practice

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Law

Let's explore key lessons from transitioning from academia to legal practice. Focusing on offering practical tips and insights from personal and shared experiences, we will delve into how to make the most of your first six months in the legal field after university.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Tegan Lovett

Bevan Brittan LLP, Trainee Solicitor

“The transition from academia to legal practice can be daunting. I want to share my own experiences to help prepare others entering this profession.”

My journey into law began with my undergraduate degree in Ancient History at the University of Liverpool. I found myself enjoying the study of ancient Roman laws and their socio-economic impacts on marginalised groups, much more interesting than any other content I had been learning. Once I graduated, I quickly decided to take on the MA Law Conversion at the University of Law, while working full/part time hours. During the first month of my studies at ULaw, I applied for a training contract at Bevan Brittan (BB), where I am now a 2nd seat trainee in the Litigation and Procurement department.

After finishing my Law conversion and with the support of BB, I went on to take the SQE, which I passed first time after many hours of study.

My journey into law wasn't the most traditional and I understand the struggle and stress of balancing full-time study and full-time work. The jump from academia to legal practice can be daunting, so I will be sharing my own experiences and tips to help prepare you for your training contract.

Business consultancy projects for enhanced graduate employability

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Business

A recent ISE Student Development Survey highlights that employers are concerned that graduates are less prepared for the workplace than in previous years, lacking essential communication and interpersonal skills (Institute of Student Employers, May 2025). Employers comment that graduates don't meet expectations in self-awareness and misrepresent their skills using AI.

Graduates who have completed an internship or placement, however, are reported to have better skills and attitudes, since this work experience helped graduates develop skills that are essential for the workplace (Times Higher Education, May 2025). University leaders are aware that there exists a gap between the competencies graduates have upon leaving university and the needs of employers. It is essential that students are better engaged with employers while they are at university, and this engagement must be embedded into the curriculum.

ULaw Business School plans to offer a range of business consultancy services from current students to local businesses, supported by academic staff who have specialist expertise in a range of valuable topics. This initiative benefits local businesses by providing access to fresh, innovative thinking, while our students gain from live projects with real clients. Participants can expect updates on the initiatives progress and will have the opportunity to help it take shape by offering their perspectives on some of the remaining unanswered questions.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Dr Richard Galletly

The University of Law, Senior Lecturer

“I look forward to sharing exciting news about potential student consulting projects.”

Richard is a Senior Lecturer of Leadership and Human Resource Management, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Academic Member of the CIPD. He is an Advance HE Mentor, School Governor, Academic Coach, and MBA Dissertation Supervisor. Richard has taught in Spain, Austria, China, and Russia.

From Classroom to Career: What the Real World Actually Expects

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Law

Explores the transition from academic study into professional life, drawing on experiences across the UK markets. Through practical examples from strategic marketing, digital transformation, leadership, and client-facing roles, the session will highlight the skills, mindset, and adaptability employers truly value beyond academic qualifications.

Students will gain insight into:

- The gap between university learning and workplace expectations
- How communication, problem-solving, and adaptability shape career growth.
- The growing influence of AI and digital tools in modern business environments.
- Building confidence, professional identity, and employability in a competitive global market.

The session will include interactive discussion, practical career reflections, and audience Q&A designed to help students better prepare for the realities of the workplace.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Raj Hariharan

BHSF, Marketing campaign manager

“I believe my perspective would resonate strongly with students preparing to enter the workforce.”

I bring over 10 years of experience in strategic marketing across the UK, India, and Asia-Pacific, currently working in Birmingham. My background involves leading multi-channel campaigns, driving business growth, and working closely with data, digital transformation, and evolving technologies, including AI in marketing.

What Cybersecurity Looks Like in Practice: Beyond the Classroom

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Cyber security

Explore how cybersecurity operates beyond academic theory and into professional practice as we highlight the practical challenges organisations face, the skills expected from graduates, and how theoretical knowledge is applied in dynamic, high-stakes environments. The session will begin with a short talk drawing on both industry and academic experience to bridge the gap between classroom learning and workplace expectations.

This will be followed by an interactive activity where participants will engage in a simplified cyber incident scenario, encouraging them to think critically about identifying risks, making decisions, and responding effectively. The aim is to provide attendees with a clearer understanding of how cybersecurity functions in practice, while building confidence in applying their knowledge.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Renu Guntur

Arden University, Lecturer in computing

“I’m excited to join this platform to share insights that connect education with practice, and to contribute to shaping a more secure and innovative future.”

Renu Guntur is a Computing Lecturer at Arden University, Manchester, with a Master’s degree in Cybersecurity Management from The University of Law. She brings a blend of academic and industry experience, having worked across cybersecurity, governance, risk, and compliance roles. As an IEEE member since 2020 and a committee member of IEEE UK & Ireland Women in Engineering, Renu is committed to advancing diversity in technology and empowering students to move beyond theory into confident, practical application. Her work centres on bridging the gap between education and industry, inspiring learners to see cybersecurity not just as a subject, but as a critical force in today’s digital world.

Bridging the Gap: From Law Student to Legal Professional

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Student-led Change

Drawing on personal academic experience as a second-year LLB student, the discussion will focus on the realities of entering the legal field, the skills that matter beyond grades, and practical steps students can take to build confidence and experience. Attendees can expect an open and reflective conversation, with practical advice, relatable insights, and space for discussion around common challenges faced by aspiring legal professionals.

MEET THE SPEAKER

Malaika Yasir

The University of Law, LLB Second-year

“I’m looking forward to sharing practical insight with students as they navigate the transition from legal education into the professional world.”

Malaika is a second-year LLB student with a strong interest in the relationship between legal education and professional practice. Through academic study and personal experience navigating the early stages of a legal career, she is passionate about supporting students as they prepare for the transition into the legal profession.

From Student Experience to Professional Impact

Block 4, Bridging academic study with professional practice (14:50PM - 15:40PM) - Student-led Change

Lived experience, student leadership, advocacy, and professional experience can shape personal and professional development. Drawing from work in student representation, mental health advocacy, and research on accent and language bias, the discussion will reflect on navigating higher education and professional spaces while balancing full-time work, leadership responsibilities, and legal studies.

The session will encourage students to think about confidence, communication, identity, and the value of diverse perspectives within professional environments. Participants can expect an honest and reflective discussion about bridging academic study with real-world experience, alongside practical insights into leadership, resilience, and student advocacy.

MEET THE SPEAKER



Blessing Sonnylove Donkor Yawson

The University of Law, Senior Diversity & Inclusion Advocate and Deputy Co-Chair (Student Advisory Committee)

“I value spaces like this because they create opportunities for honest conversations about growth, identity, and the realities of professional life. I’m looking forward to sharing my journey and encouraging students to recognise the value of their voice, experiences, and perspectives.”

Blessing Sonnylove Donkor Yawson is an LLB (Hons) Law student at The University of Law with a strong passion for advocacy, representation, and creating more inclusive professional and educational spaces.

Having moved to the UK from Ghana as a teenager, her experiences navigating cultural adjustment, identity, and accent bias have significantly shaped her commitment to student voice, belonging, and equity. These experiences later inspired her work leading conversations and initiatives focused on mental health, cultural competency, and inclusion within higher education.

Blessing is currently leading a university-wide research project exploring accent and language bias and its impact on students’ confidence, participation, and sense of belonging within academic and professional spaces. Alongside this, she has led student-focused workshops and initiatives exploring mental health awareness, allyship, resilience, and inclusive leadership, while also contributing to university committees and institutional projects aimed at improving student experience and representation.

Alongside her studies, Blessing balances full-time work in a high-level executive support role while also serving in student leadership and advocacy spaces at The University of Law, including as a Senior Diversity and Inclusion Advocate and Deputy Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee. She is passionate about using communication, advocacy, and lived experience to help create spaces where people feel seen, heard, and empowered to succeed.

Closing Notes and Thank you!

Closing Plenary (15:50PM - 16:15PM) - For all Attendees



Jana Holeckova-Francis

ULaw Students' Union, Co-president (Academic Affairs)

“I want our students to hear how technology is transforming our world, so that they feel empowered and confident to face their own future.”

A law graduate currently serving as the Students' Union Co President for Academic Affairs at The University of Law.

Jana has a strong background in student advocacy, academic governance, and event leadership, and is particularly passionate about promoting experiential learning for all ULaw students irrespective of which campus they are at.



Uche Chigozirim Adika

ULaw Students' Union, Co-President (Union Development)

“The future isn't merely a destination; it's a verdict. Business sets the facts, law writes the rules, and society decides who wins.”

An alumnus of the University of Law Business School, Uche has spent over a decade working at the intersection of business strategy, legal frameworks, and societal impact. His career spans the management of multimillion-dollar greenfield and brownfield oil and gas projects in Nigeria to serving as Co-President of a UK university students' union, a trajectory that reflects both breadth of experience and consistency of purpose. With advanced qualifications including an MSc in Business Analytics with Distinction, an MBA, and a PG Cert in AML from the University of Law, Uche brings a grounded, analytically rigorous perspective to the conversation on business, law, and society.

He is not someone who speaks about change from a distance; he has lived it across industries, institutions, and continents.

We hope you've had a great day...

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<https://forms.office.com/e/EWvXCuMM0P>

