



## News



11 Jun

# Top law firm offers UEL students work placements

Duncan Lewis, the largest legal aid practice in the UK, has announced it is funding the University

of East London's Law Clinic for the next three years.

UEL's Law Clinic provides free legal advice to the east London community. Support is given to those who are unable to pay for legal services or obtain legal advice under legal aid.

Duncan Lewis, one of the country's fastest growing firms of solicitors, is also the first legal firm to award three outstanding UEL students work placements which includes: one prize of £100 plus a two-week work placement and two prizes of £75 plus two-week work placements.

Students, Naomi Ling was in first place, Lucie Darrall was in second place and Shereen Brown was third receiving the Duncan Lewis pro bono award from UEL's Law Clinic. In their work with the clinic they conducted client interviews, researched relevant areas of law and drafted letters of advice to clients.

Ms Ling worked on the most number of cases including providing advice on the liabilities of charity trustees, contesting council tax liability, a tenancy deposit dispute and an employment dispute.

Ms Darrall assisted clients with a range of matters including, advice on the grounds and procedure for divorce, a customer making a complaint against their bank and successfully appealed against a Transport for London bus ticket evasion penalty notice.

Ms Brown worked on a number of cases including one where she assisted a client to submit representations to the police to impose a driving awareness requirement instead of prosecuting the client for a first time speeding contravention.

Professor Nora Colton, UEL's deputy vice chancellor, said: "These placements will enable our students to gain valuable experience of working in the largest legal aid provider and one of the country's best law firms where they will undertake substantive legal work, considerably improving their chances of gaining employment, which is incredibly important to our university.

"We hope other law firms will also be motivated to follow Duncan Lewis' fantastic lead of providing work placements for our talented, dedicated and hard-working students."

David Head, director of Duncan Lewis said: "I congratulate the University of East London on your enthusiasm in the setting up and the running of the Law Clinic and I look forward to participating in future sessions."

The Law Clinic also has partnerships with Bindsman LLP and McCormack Laws who regularly attend the clinic and work with UEL students to provide advice to clients. It also builds links

between UEL law students and the local community whilst providing legal experience for the next generation of lawyers. Human rights lawyer Imran Khan, a former UEL law student, is patron of the clinic.

Duncan Lewis specialises in civil liberties and human rights, housing, immigration, mental health, professional negligence and public law.

### Notes to Editors

The University of East London (UEL) is a global learning community with over 28,000 students from over 120 countries world-wide. Our vision is to achieve recognition, both nationally and internationally, as a successful and inclusive regional university proud of its diversity, committed to new modes of learning which focus on students and enhance their employability, and renowned for our contribution to social, cultural and economic development, especially through our research and scholarship. We have a strong track-record in widening participation and working with industry.

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