

INSPIRED BY LAW

Why has the School of Law and Social Sciences launched this gallery?

We are celebrating the work of our chosen lawyers and legal campaigners and providing our students with the inspiration for their present studies and future careers. The School is committed to the promotion of social justice through its teaching, research and engagement with the local and international community. The Law Division has a proud history of working for social justice through its teaching, research and the Legal Advice Clinic, seeking to promote and protect human rights.

What is Inspired by Law?

In this gallery and on our website, you will find photographs and profiles of lawyers and legal campaigners who have been nominated by our students as being inspiring.

Why are these lawyers and legal campaigners inspiring?

They have all advanced social justice, human rights and the rule of law in many different fields. Some of them work in the UK, others in dangerous parts of the world. Several have run great risks and put themselves and their families in danger. All have been inspired themselves by the power of the law to protect the powerless.

Najiba Ahmadi

'Services to Afghani women's rights'

Background

Since the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, the country has been subjected to internal military conflict which continues to this day. Human rights in Afghanistan are generally poorly protected and frequently abused, not least those of women. In 2011 an international survey by the Thomson Reuters Foundation concluded that the country was the most dangerous place in the world for women.

Inspiration

The work Najiba and her colleagues undertake at the shelter comes at a heavy cost. They are exposed to constant threats and Najiba and her family have been subjected to a sustained campaign of intimidation, slurs and death threats which she once described as having become 'routine'. This led her at one point to send her three young children to live with their grandparents in a different part of the country. Despite all this, Najiba has refused to bow to pressure and continues with her valuable and important work. She has been described as 'the quiet revolutionary working to end violence against Afghan women'.

Achievements

Against this forbidding background, in 2009 Mrs Ahmadi became one of the county's first female paralegals, after participating in an initiative launched by the anti-poverty charity ActionAid to combat the rising tide of violence against women in Afghanistan. Since then, she has run a shelter in the Bamyan province for women who have suffered violence and abuse. The shelter educates women on their legal rights and provides practical support, counselling and legal advice as well as literacy classes and vocational training.

Nominated by Md Mahbubul Alam, CPE student and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by ActionAid.



Shami Chakrabarti

'Services to the promotion of human rights'

Background

Shami Chakrabarti studied law at the London School of Economics and was called to the Bar in 1994 before working for the Home Office. She joined Liberty as in-house counsel in 2001, and has been Director since September 2003. Her first book, *On Liberty*, was published in October 2014.

Inspiration

LSBU student, Judith said:

'When I had just arrived in the UK in early 2000s, Shami was the face of human rights campaigns on UK television and an inspiration for me to look at the UK's human rights achievements and failures. She was, and still is, a fearless voice in civil liberties issues.'

Achievements

By campaigning through the media, lobbying Parliament, taking test cases and providing free advice to the public, Liberty challenges attempts to undermine civil liberties and human rights in the UK. Shami and Liberty are fighting to save the Human Rights Act from repeal and to end blanket surveillance of the entire population.

Nominated by Judith dela Cuesta, Year 3 LLB student and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Liberty.



Dame Linda Dobbs

'Services to encouraging the advancement of diversity in the judiciary and the legal professions'



Inspiration

At the time of her appointment as the first non-white High Court Judge, she stated "Whilst this appointment might be seen as casting me into the role of standard bearer, I am simply a practitioner following a career path. I am confident, nevertheless, that I am the first of many to come."

Background

Dame Linda is of dual heritage; her mother was Sierra Leonean, her father English. She studied Russian and Law at the University of Surrey. She then went on to obtain an LLM and a Doctorate in Soviet criminology and penology at the London School of Economics.

She is committed to equality and diversity and has, both at the Bar and on the bench as senior liaison judge for diversity, encouraged and supported aspirant lawyers and judges from diverse backgrounds. She has been nominated as one of Britain's 100 most powerful black women and one of the 100 Great Black Britons.

She actively continues to promote diversity in the legal profession and the judiciary, encouraging students from all backgrounds. She is also an ADR Group accredited mediator and is on their international training faculty.

Nominated by Year 3 LLB student James Opong Nsiah and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Dame Linda Dobbs.

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

'Services to the promotion of human rights'

Background

Baroness Kennedy came from a working class background in Glasgow. She was called to the Bar in 1972.

She has been a member of the House of Lords as a Labour Peer for 18 years, where she sat on the Joint Committee of Human Rights, and is now chair of the European Union Sub Committee. She is chair of Justice and co-chair of the International Bar Association's Institute of Human Rights. She is Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. She is an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy.

Achievements

Baroness Kennedy is one the United Kingdom's most distinguished criminal lawyers. She has worked on a number of the leading cases, including the Guildford Four Appeal, and the transatlantic bomb plot.

She has championed law reform in relation to women regarding sexual and domestic violence, developing the defences relating to battered women's syndrome in the British courts. She has also been a leading voice for equal opportunities in the legal profession for women. She has chaired numerous inquiries. She has chaired the British Council and the UK Human Genetics Commission. She has authored a number of books on law reform and is a well-known broadcaster on law and ethics.

Inspiration

Baroness Helena Kennedy is an inspiration to generations of lawyers with her commitment to criminal justice, social justice and women's rights. She does her work with the conviction and determination that justice will prevail in society.

Nominated by Claire Bradford, Year 3 LLB and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC. Copyright Alistair Thorpe.



Professor Akua Kuonyehia

'Services to international criminal law and legal education'

Background

Born at a time where women in Ghana were synonymous with managing homes and specialising in dress-making, Akua has defied insurmountable odds to become a national icon. She studied law at the University of Ghana and Oxford University.

Inspiration

She has inspired young African women the world over with her model of education, empowerment and equality.

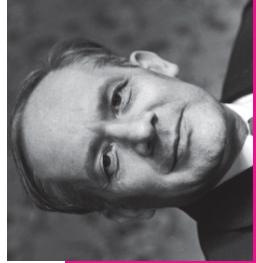
Nominated by John Boadu from the CPE Part Time Year 2 and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Achievements

Akua Kuonyehia was a Judge of the International Criminal Court at The Hague until March this year, when her mandate of 12 years ended. She was the First Vice-President of the Court for the first six years of her mandate from 2003 to 2009. Then she was a judge of the appeals division for the rest of her term. She was also one of only three female African judges at the ICC. She represented Ghana on the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee in 2003.

Photo kindly provided by Professor Akua Kuonyehia.





Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959)

'Services to promoting international criminal justice'

Background

Raphael Lemkin was born in 1900 in a village called Bezwodne which is now a small town in Belarus. After qualifying as a lawyer, his first professional appointment was as Secretary to the Court of Appeal in Warsaw where he later became a public prosecutor. Following the commencement of the Second World War, he participated, as a member of the Polish Army, in the unsuccessful defence of Warsaw. He managed to avoid capture by the Germans and travelled to Sweden where he lectured at the University of Stockholm. He then gained permission to enter the United States, arriving in 1941.

Inspiration

This term was incorporated into the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide in 1948, which he drafted.

Dr Lemkin lost 49 members of his family in the Holocaust. He succeeded in introducing the crucial concept 'genocide' as an international crime. According to reporters who went looking for him to share his triumph after the adoption of the UN Genocide Convention, they found him in a darkened room weeping in solitude. He received the Stephen Wise Award of the American Jewish Congress in 1951 in recognition of his contribution to international law and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Winston Churchill in 1950 and 1952. In 1989 he was posthumously awarded the Roosevelt Freedom Medal for his enduring contribution to the principle of freedom of worship.

Achievements

Dr Lemkin held professorships at the University of Stockholm in Sweden and at the American universities of Duke, Yale and Princeton. He was an adviser to Justice Robert Jackson at the Nuremberg trial. He published a number of substantial books during the course of his career including *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe* in which he, for the first time, used the term 'genocide', with which he is particularly associated. He defined 'genocide' as 'the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group'.

Nominated by Baris Anil, CPE Part Time Year 2 and Carol Jacobs LLB Graduate and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo provided by Alamy. Copyright Alamy.



Khalil Ma'touq

'Services to Syrian human rights'

Background

Khalil Ma'touq is a Syrian human rights lawyer who has been detained without charge or trial in Syria since October 2012. A large number of prominent human rights organisations continue to call for his release. The consensus of opinion amongst them is that he has been detained by the Syrian state because of his work as a human rights lawyer specialising in the defence of political prisoners.

Khalil has regularly published articles and studies on human rights issues including a critical analysis of Syrian penal codes and their non-compliance with the Rome Statute and other international legal instruments.

Inspiration

Despite the brutal nature of the Syrian regime and the difficulties Khalil has experienced as a human rights lawyer, Khalil continued with his work until his detention. Prior to his imprisonment he was subject to a travel ban between 2005 and 2011 and exposed to frequent harassment by the state security apparatus. Khalil's courage and dedication to his work in the face of severe adversity are an inspiration to all those working in the field of human rights. Working towards achieving his release from detention continues to be an urgent task.

Achievements

Khalil has been a human rights lawyer in Syria for many years. He has provided legal assistance to many political opponents, journalists, peaceful protesters and prisoners of conscience. This includes those tried by the notorious Supreme State Security Court. After the eruption of unrest in Syria, in 2011, Khalil played a leading part in the defence of civilians and activists. In 2012, he was a member of the defence team of Mazen Darwisch and of his colleagues from the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression.

Nominated by Rabii Fathi, CPE Part Time Year 2 and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Amnesty International UK.



Adil Jose Melendez Marquez

'Services to Colombian human rights'

Background

Adil lives in the Colombian city of Cartagena. He practices law as a prominent human rights activist.

Inspiration

Adil has drawn on his personal and professional experiences to continue the ongoing fight for human rights crisis in Colombia. He has a particular emphasis on the displacement of communities in two particular departments of the region. He has continued his work despite the frequent deaths threats made towards him by violent and illegal organisations.

Nominated by Yue Zhang, CPE graduate and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Adil Jose Melendez sourced with the support of Colombian Caravana.

Achievements

In 2005 Adil Melendez joined MOVICE (Movement for the Victims of State Crimes). In 2006 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights set in place protective measures. He has the protection of three bodyguards in light of the fact that lawyers are simply being murdered without forewarning. He undertakes his work despite threats to his life and surviving an assassination attempt in Cartagena. He has also been the subject of a campaign of stigmatisation to discredit his work as a lawyer accused of being a 'dangerous element' by the police. He currently coordinates the National Movement for Human Rights in Afro-Colombian Communities (CIMMARON). He has been involved in successfully prosecuting corrupt high-level officials in his home municipality of Son Onofre.



Diana Nammi

'Services to the advancement of women's rights'

Background

Diana Nammi has been campaigning for women's rights since she was a teenager in Iran. In response to the 'honour' killing of her British interpreter, soon after Diana arrived in the UK as a political refugee, she founded the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), which provides advice and counselling. They have established the first refuge for women from Middle Eastern, North African and Afghan communities and campaign for improvements in law and policy.

Inspiration

IKWRO's current Right To Know campaign calls on the government to make every school safe from 'honour' based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Diana Nammi has faced many challenges including war following the Islamic revolution in her homeland of Iran, opposition to her work and threats to her personal safety. Despite these, she has refused to keep silent and led many campaigns which concern 'honour' based violence, forced and child marriage, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence against women. She remains implacably dedicated to these causes until all women enjoy safety and equality.

Nominated by Eliane Oliveira, CPE Part Time Year 2 and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by George Crook from the South Bank Collective, LSBU's student run photography agency.

Achievements

Diana Nammi has played a key role in a number of important campaigns. These include helping to secure the first UK murder conviction recognised as an 'honour' killing; establishing the Justice for Banaz campaign which led to the first ever extradition from Kurdistan Iraq to the UK of two of the perpetrators of the 'honour' killing and gang rape of Banaz Mahmood who were subsequently convicted and imprisoned; and her key involvement in changing the law in 2014 to ban forced marriages in the UK.



Lucy Scott-Moncrieff

'Services to legal aid and mental health law'

Background

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff is a mental health and human rights lawyer. Some 28 years ago she founded what is now the solicitors' firm Scott-Moncrieff & Associates. Today the firm has more than 70 consultants and undertakes a substantial amount of legal aid work in a variety of areas including that of mental health.

to obtain a declaration of incompatibility under the Human Rights Act. The resulting remedial order altered the discharge criteria affecting all those detained under the Mental Health Act. In 2011 she won the Association of Women Solicitors award for best manager of a legal aid practice. In 2013 she was awarded the CBE for services to legal aid.

Inspiration

We simply describe Lucy as an inspiration. The numerous awards she has received are testimony to her contributions to the advancement of social justice. Lucy has fought long and hard promoting human rights and mental health causes and she has spent her working life fighting for justice for vulnerable people. Lucy describes herself as a "north London legal aid lawyer" confronting the government.

Nominated by Lisa Jackson, Year 2 LLB and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Photo kindly provided by Lucy Scott-Moncrieff.

Achievements

In addition to her legal practice commitments, Lucy has undertaken a number of prominent roles within the profession, including President of the Law Society, Mental Health Act Commissioner and a founder member of the QC Appointments Panel. At present, she is Chair of The Law Society Equality and Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Co-Chair of the Legal Aid and Access to Justice Committee of the International Bar Association, a Mental Health Tribunal judge and a Commissioner with the Judicial Appointments Commission. Many of her cases have been reported over the years. One of Lucy's clients was the first person



James Thornton

'Services to protection of the environment through law'

Background

After graduating from Yale, magna cum laude, James practised in New York, thereafter moving to California where he set up an office of the National Resource Defence Council. He has been a professor of environmental law at New York University, Editor in Chief of the New York University Law Review and has written an environmental legal thriller. In the UK he is a solicitor, ranked as one of the top 100 by The Lawyer. He is also a Zen priest.

Inspiration

James is a modern champion of the environment through the power of law. Studying and originally practising in the US, he ferociously enforced the Clean Water Act in the US once the government had ceased to do so. He also founded ClientEarth which operates globally, using advocacy, litigation and research to address issues such as pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Nominated by Joseph Lambert, CPE graduate and chosen for the Inspired by Law gallery of lawyers and legal campaigners in 2015.

Achievements

James has used the law to promote environmental consciousness. He has founded the pioneering environmental law NGO 'ClientEarth'. ClientEarth promotes awareness in relation to biodiversity loss, climate change, and toxic chemicals. In 2011 ClientEarth's action in the High Court forced the UK government to admit that it was breaching legal limits for air pollution. This went to the Supreme Court this year where the ruling was upheld. He is involved in campaigning to reform the common fisheries policy within the European Union.

