

ATTRIBUTES TO THEMIS



Edition One | 18 September 2020

Welcome to the Queen Mary

Criminal Justice Society



MEET THE COMMITTEE

Learn about us and how you can become part of the QM Criminal Justice Society

EXPLORE RECENT NEWS STORIES

Learn about some of most recent news stories relating to Criminal Justice

DISCOVER OUR EVENTS

Look through some of the exciting events we have planned for the first semester

READ OUR INTERVIEW WITH JEREMY DEIN QC

Get some advice and insight from Jeremy Dein QC

Coming Up

20 September 23:59 PM BST
Deadline for discounted membership

23 September 12:00 PM BST
Deadline for Committee Applications

23 September 17:00 PM BST
Baking with CJS

30 September 18:30 PM BST
Introduction to Criminal Justice

and finally ... **ENTERTAINMENT**



<https://qm-cjs.wixsite.com/webpage>

info.qmcjs@gmail.com



<https://www.qmsu.org/groups/qmcjs>



qmcriminaljusticesociety



qmcjs



qmcjs



qmcriminaljusticesociety

'Attributes to Themis' aims to help students who are passionate about learning and exploring the features and functioning of the Criminal Justice System, as well as providing support to those who seek a career in that domain.

It will comprise: upcoming events and socials of the society, as well opportunities that we consider benefiting and enriching for you. Interesting and captivating news stories, to ensure that you have the best awareness of the recent developments in the Criminal Justice System. Interviews with anyone who has liaisons with the Criminal Justice System. And lastly, our top picks of the month.

We really hope that you will enjoy reading Attributes to Themis which will be benefiting and pleasurable. We greatly welcome any suggestions or ideas, at info.qmcjs@gmail.com, from you as members in what you would like to be featured in the subsequent publications. We wish you all the best for this year whether at QMUL or elsewhere!

Tetiana Toma & Zoe Hill

Committee 2020 - 2021



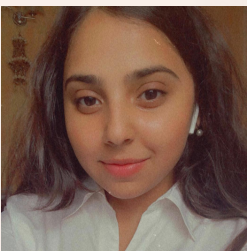
Tejal Shah
President



Ines Garcia
Vice President



Khalid Dhalla
Treasurer



Vidhi Mago
Secretary



Matilda McDermott-Krasker



Tanisha Patel

Event Assistants



Soniya Ponniah
Marketing Executive



Zoe Hill



Tetiana Toma

Newsletter Creators

Our Committee Applications are now open. We are recruiting for four additional members. More info on the next page! *To apply click on the star.*



About us

We aim to inform students as much as possible about the updates in the Criminal Justice System and providing numerous opportunities for students, outside their studies, to engage in activities, challenging and questioning their opinions.

Impact of Coronavirus

For the first semester, all our events will be online to protect our members.

Despite being online, we still have an exciting range of upcoming events, some of which, you will see in this edition.



Did you know?



Our newspaper 'Attributes to Themis' is named after the Greek Goddess of justice, who is the personification of law, justice, wisdom and good counsel.

Become a member now! 20% discount until Sunday 20th September

←<<< 23:59 BST >>>→



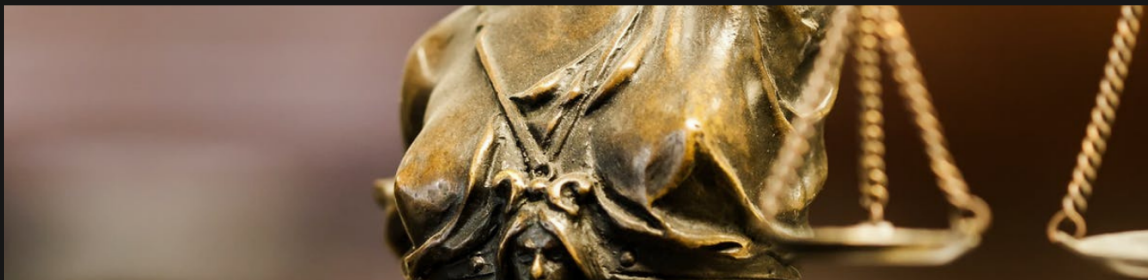
INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE
Martin Luther King



**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW LIVE
FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS!**



QM CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY



Details:

- Committee applications are accessible through our website.
- Answer 2 questions and **SUBMIT C/V.**
- Must be a **MEMBER** to apply.

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 | 12PM BST.



Interview with Jeremy Dein QC

Jeremy Dein is a Criminal defence QC and Joint Head of Chambers at 25 Bedford Row, the UK's pure leading criminal defence set. He was called to the Bar in 1982 and took silk in 2003.



In one sentence, how would you describe the current state of the Criminal Justice System?

Under huge pressure both as a consequence of longstanding government cuts, and the impact of Covid-19. Probably facing its biggest challenges in modern times. But it needs to power through because the CJS is of vital importance to a healthy, free and democratic society.

if you could make only one change to the current state of the Criminal Justice System, what would it be?

Much wider recognition of the role of the defence and the difficulties and pressures the criminal defence Bar faces. We are grossly under appreciated – this must change.

What are you looking forward to seeing happen in the Criminal Justice System this year?

I am hoping that the CJS will resume, and that it will be vibrant and successful. It has been on hold for too long. We need a flourishing CJS, thus public confidence is raised. More specifically, we need to reduce prison numbers – especially remand. Our prison culture is too great, so this is something I hope to see improved this coming year.

Jeremy Dein QC is a Queen Mary University of London Alumni.

The Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society is honoured to have Jeremy Dein QC as our patron.

For Students...

What advice would you give to an aspiring Criminal Barrister?

Follow your heart – despite the negative press and prophets of doom, go for it. Because, I did not come from a professional background, I was advised by barristers not to pursue a career at the Criminal Bar, but I am delighted I did. It is hugely interesting and exciting occupation.

"If your instincts tell you to follow a career at the Criminal Bar, do all you can to proceed. An intriguing career lies ahead."

Is there something you wish you did more/less of during your time at University?

Life at QMC [now known as QMUL] was very different then – no computers or mobiles! I regret not having explored the uni more, the law faculty was very isolated but still great. Frankly, I don't think I got the most out of uni, but it was a long time ago – my advice is to enjoy every moment. The years wiz past!

With the current atmosphere regarding grades, what importance does A Level and University grades have on your career?

Competition is such that all aspects of applications for pupillage matter. The key is to do your best at all times. However, at Bedford Row, we look for the global package – grades are not determinative. Experience, enthusiasm, ambition, personality, drive – a genuine passion for criminal justice. These are just some of the things we look for. Try to stand out, not just on grades, but overall. A great challenge, but a worthwhile one.

Interview with Jeremy Dein QC

Jeremy Dein features as a lead presenter in the award winning BBC 1 Documentary series "Murder Mystery and my Family" an examination of historic death penalty cases in the UK. The programme is now being broadcast in countries across the world.



Pandemic Related...

What impact has the pandemic had on the Criminal Justice System and what consequences are likely to follow?

The pandemic almost paralysed the CJS. The backlog of cases is huge, periods in custody are unacceptable and jury trials are currently at a premium. In addition, young criminal barristers have been starved of work, their incomes badly affected. But things are starting to pick up now, and everyone involved is determined that the CJS should flourish – so let's hope so.

Do you consider yourself in a more secure and less difficult position than those your junior colleagues?

Senior barristers are in a much more secure position. We have reaped the benefits of a historically healthy legal aid system and have had the opportunity to build up contacts and opportunities.

What do you think of the proposal to reduce the size of juries to 7 in response to the pandemic? What would the impact be of a smaller jury?

Totally against. There must be no inroads to the jury system. And it is too small of a number to ensure a fair trial for the accused. The government must work things out by opening new courts and by providing maximum Covid protection, not by reducing jury numbers.

Diversity-related...

What may be the best way of tackling lack of diversity in the judiciary?

Encouraging as many diverse applicants as possible and making as many appointments as feasible. The judiciary still isn't diverse enough.

With regards to the recent Black Lives Matter Protests, some people argue that issues of racial discrimination are not an issue BAME people face in the UK, and that is more of a US issue. What is your response to that?

I disagree. There is clear evidence that the CJS discriminates: see the Lammy report, 2017; 8/9/17. We are a multi cultural society, but there is still much to learn.

"It would be wrong to proceed on the basis that Black Lives matter is a US issue, far from it. It is highly relevant in the UK, and that is precisely how the criminal Bar feels."

What difference has the most impact on the Criminal Justice System, the difference of race or the difference of class?

Both.

The system discriminates against minorities and favours the wealthy. There is good evidence of this. The objective must be to ensure that criminal justice is blind to colour or class –but work remains to be done on this.

Interview with Jeremy Dein QC

Jeremy Dein presents a podcast series "Criminal Justice on Trial". A detailed review of the Criminal Justice process, spotlighting the dramatic impact of Coronavirus, and examining the mechanics of the system generally.



Career Related...

What is the biggest change that you have seen in your career since you became a QC compared to when you were a junior Barrister?

Leading in life sentence cases is highly pressurised and the work involved in such cases is huge. As a QC, you have to lead by example and set the highest standards for the whole of your team. Years as a junior are fantastic training, but reaching the front row creates unique pressures – however, I relish every moment.

What case has been the highlight of your career?

Defending Tulisa Contostavlos, lead N Dubz singer and X-factor judge, was an amazing challenge. The day the prosecution case collapsed following cross examination of the main prosecution witness – the fake sheikh, was unparalleled and the resulting publicity was huge. The whole experience was thrilling, if incredibly stressful.

As someone who has years of experience, how do you measure success? Does it have the same meaning to you as it may have at the beginning of your career?

Success means as much to me as it ever did. I measure it by performance – whether I feel that I have tried my best, worked my hardest and performed effectively. I hate to see injustice to defendants and if I feel that I have not performed, it brings me down. Results can be hard to obtain, so it's not the result I go by, but my contribution.

"The day my standards drop I will give up – that's how I feel."

How do you manage to keep a work life and personal life balance?

Good question.

Defending at the criminal Bar is a lifestyle – when in the midst of a case, it takes over, 24/7. The key is to work hard and play hard, but to ensure that everything is carefully timetabled. Organisation is crucial. Keeping the balance between personal and professional is nurtured over the years – it is vital to a happy and fulfilling life as a criminal barrister.

How do you look after your own mental health?

I have a strict and regular gym regime and have had for years. This allows me to release tension and energy three times a week and keeps mind and body sharp. I honestly believe that physical fitness has kept me sane as a criminal barrister.

Jeremy Dein QC will kindly be attending Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society's first event, "Introduction to Criminal Justice" on 30th September and "Life within the Criminal Justice System" on 1st December.

And lastly, Criminal Justice Society related.. Why do you think a CJ related society is important?

A CJS society is vital to bring young lawyers together – a shared passion for criminal; justice needs to be encouraged, and nurtured. Thus, those interested and motivated can progress together, hopefully by forging close links with the CJS itself.

"A CJS society is a great idea."



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Deadlines

Mentoring Schemes

'Mentoring for Underrepresented Groups:
a scheme run by Commercial Barristers'
Chambers'

Deadline 2nd Oct midday

Queen Mary Bar Society:
members-only mentoring scheme with a
legal professional

Deadline 25th Sept 23:59

Criminal Chambers mini-pupillages:

Crown Office Chambers
Deadline 30th September

2 Bedford Row
Ongoing

Bridging the Bar
Sign up Now!

Internships

Reprive
Sign up Now!

Other opportunities:

Sentencing Academy
Fellowship Scheme:
Deadline 16th October 17:00

Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society's

Events Calendar



Not exhaustive. A FULL LIST of our Term One events will be available on our website very soon!

More information is available on our website. *Click the arrows!

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Baking with CJS | 23/09 17:00 |
| Introduction to Criminal Justice | 30/09 18:30 |
| Netflix Party with CJS | TBA |
| Covid-19 & CJS | 13/10 18:30 |
| UK Prison Systems | 20/10 TBA |
| Decriminalising Prostitution | 26/10 18:30 |
| Study of Honour Killing | 03/11 18:30 |
| Chit and Chat with CJS | TBA |
| Grey Area between Arranged and Forced Marriage | 10/11 18:30 |
| Decriminalising Drugs | 13/11 18:30 |
| Multi-jurisdictional CJS | 17/11 18:30 |
| US Death Row | 24/11 18:30 |
| Criminalisation of Pleasure | 30/11 18:30 |
| Life within Criminal Justice | 01/12 18:30 |
| System w QM Bar Society & QM Open Law Society | |

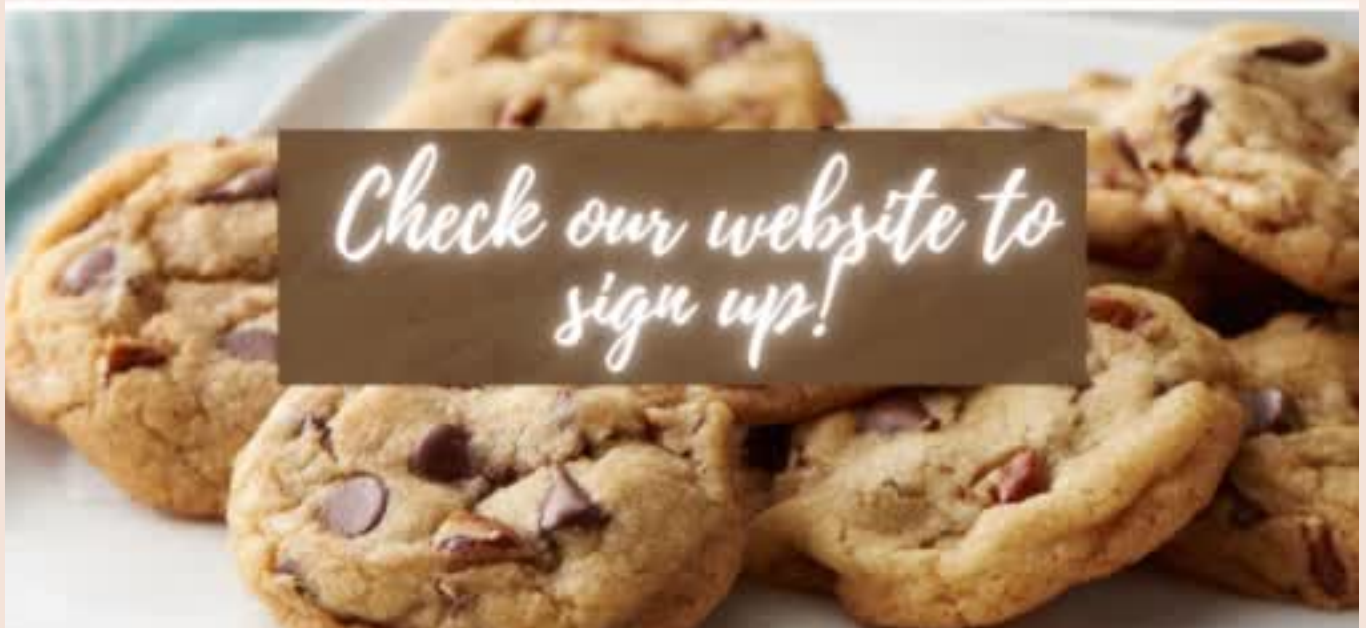


JOIN CJS FOR THEIR VERY FIRST SOCIAL:

BAKING WITH CJS

• 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 • TIME: 5:00PM BST
JOIN VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

MAKE SOME BROWNIES AND GET TO KNOW
THE SOCIETY!



*Check our website to
sign up!*



MEMBERS ONLY

Jeffrey Kennedy
LECTURER IN
CRIMINAL LAW AT
QMUL

Jeremy Dein QC
JOINT HEAD OF
CHAMBERS - 25
BEDFORD ROW

Christopher Stevens
SOLICITOR AT SONN
MACMILLAN WALKER

Robert Rinder
BARRISTER AT 2
HARE COURT,
JUDGE RINDER

*H/HJ
Nicholas
Cooke QC*
DEPUTY HIGH
COURT
JUDGE[QBD]



PANELLISTS

QM CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY PRESENTS

INTRODUCTION INTO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A LIVE VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION



DATE
SEPTEMBER 30TH

JOIN VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS

TIME
6:30PM BST

REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE



RECENT NEWS STORIES

REDUCED JURORS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS?

The Coronavirus's impact on the Criminal Justice System has been ongoing. On the 23rd of March the Lord Chief Justice suspended all new jury trials to ensure the safety of court users. Whilst in July a handful of jury trials resumed: taking place over three court rooms to facilitate social distancing. However, with an increasing back log of cases and subsequent injustice due to delay, to deal with the crisis the government proposed reducing the jury size from 12 to 7.



'Jury Trials Face 'Biggest Change Since WW2' (BBC News)

The effect of reducing the jury:

- Impact on the fairness of proceedings;
- Risk of compromising diversity;
- Worry over the conduct of the trial;
- If a juror is unwell, there will be even fewer jurors.

EXTENSION OF CUSTODY TIME LIMITS FOR SERIOUS CRIME SUSPECTS

"This temporary extension to custody time limits will keep victims and the public safe, and we should not apologise for making that our priority"

Lord Chancellor, Robert
Buckland QC MP

People arrested for serious crimes can spend longer in custody as they await trial, under government measures to keep the public safe while courts recover from the pandemic.

Custody Time Limit is to be increased **from 182 days to 238 days**.

The Lord Chancellor has also unveiled the comprehensive plan and £80 million funding to support criminal courts, which include:

- 1) employing 1,600 new staff to support the recovery,
- 2) setting up more temporary 'Nightingale Courts',
- 3) a further rollout of technology,
- 4) and changes to the physical set-up of courtrooms to minimise risk.

'Suspected criminals held for longer as criminal courts recovery plan announced' (GOV.UK)

TRIPLE THREAT TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



'Triple threat to justice system in England and Wales, lawyers warn' (The Guardian)

The shortage of defence lawyers

The Law Society has warned that criminal defence solicitors might become nearly 'extinct'

Financial strain

The pandemic has forced many lawyers to be put on furlough scheme, which will end in October.

The Legal Aid Agency has cut "standard monthly payments" to criminal law firms, which may lead to redundancies and many of the firms shutting down.

The Law Society has warned that without government support, 'criminal defence firms may not be there when justice is needed in the future, leaving victims in limbo and the accused potentially deprived of a fair trial'.

Mass postponement of trials

The total backlog in crown and magistrate courts has reached to 560,000 cases

Some trials are scheduled until July 2022.

PRISON VISITS AND CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Prison visits were suspended since March due to the pandemic.

Ministry of Justice is facing legal action from mothers as their children are unable to see visit their fathers in prison

Lawyers claim it breaches:

1) **Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights** - 'the right to family life' that all children should enjoy

2) **Children Act 2004** - best interests of children should be safeguarded

The experts claim this will have a damaging long-term impact on children's attachment and relationship to their parents, especially the impact on young children and children with disabilities.

One of the barristers said: 'It seems absurd, the government are encouraging people to go to pubs and restaurants but yet they are not allowing young children to see their parents for many months...They need to have a more flexible approach considering the varying degree of need children have for direct contact'



MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Stefan Kiszko

An intellectually disabled young man who lived near Molseed in Greater Manchester, was wrongly convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering her, and served 16 years in prison before the conviction was overturned.

THE MURDER OF PC ANDREW HARPER: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Attorney General, Suella Braverman, has ordered a review of the sentences of three teenagers which were under 'Unduly Lenient Scheme' (ULS) and referred it to the Court of Appeal.

Henry Long, 19, Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole, both 18, were jailed for manslaughter after being acquitted of murder.

"Attacks made against emergency workers will not be tolerated and offenders should be punished with the greatest severity for such heinous crimes."

Lissie Harper, the widow of PC Andrew Harper, has welcomed this decision as she said that their sentences did not 'match' the severity of the crime that they committed.

She is also campaigning for Harper's Law - law that would grant a life sentence to those who kill an emergency worker.

'PC Andrew Harper killing: 'Unduly lenient' jail sentences of three teenagers to be reviewed'
(Sky News)

NEW RADICAL SENTENCING OVERHAUL INTRODUCED

The Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland QC, has set out the plan for 'smarter sentencing' to minimise the number of crime by putting more tougher measures on keeping criminals in prison.

The measures include:

The longer jail terms for sexual and violent offenders
Improving the rehabilitation and supervision of offenders in the community.

Whole Life Orders (WLOs) for child killers

Diverting less menacing offenders to the special treatment programmes, such as mental health support or drug addiction programme.

New powers to halt the automatic release of offenders who pose a terrorist threat or are a danger to the public.

Doubling the maximum sentence for assaulting an emergency worker.

Ending the halfway release of offenders sentenced to between four and seven years in prison for serious offences.

www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-sentencing-overhaul-to-cut-crime

CLOSURE OF CHARTER CHAMBERS

The London Criminal Chamber is set to close on 30 October 2020 due to the pandemic, court underfunding and the sale of its premises.

Neil Hawes QC, Head of Charter Chambers, said that the decision was the result of the assessment which concluded that the continued work will result in depletion of financial reserves and an entry into borrowing.

He also condemned the lack of support from the government for self-employed.

19 of the members at Charter Chambers will be launching a new venture under the leadership of Neil Hawes QC and Senior Clerk James Hall.

The new and exciting enterprise will continue to focus on their industry-leading expertise in financial crime, serious crime and regulatory law while always putting their clients' interests at the heart of everything they do.

'Charter Chambers to Close' (Charter Chambers)

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

The inquiry was set up to examine the circumstances relating to Grenfell Tower fire on 14/06/17.

The Phase 2 of the hearings will resume on Monday 21 September 2020.

www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk



Our Top Picks This Month

MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES

NETFLIX 3.5/5 IMBD

TRIAL BY MEDIA

Miniseries about famous court cases that have had their outcomes affected by media coverage.

CHANNEL 4 5/5 AMAZON

INSIDE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Based on the tell-all book, a behind the scenes of courtrooms and the people working in them.

SERIES



NETFLIX 4/5 NME

MONEY HEIST

Criminal mastermind has a plan to pull off the biggest heist in History.

NETFLIX 4.5/5 IMBD

MINDHUNTER

FBI expand criminal science by delving into psychology of murder.



BBC IPLAYER 4.5/5 IMBD

SILK

A six-part series about life at the Bar and what it means to become a silk.



BOOKS

SARAH LANGFORD 5/5 W

IN YOUR DEFENCE: STORIES OF LIFE & LAW

Barrister Sarah Langford who represents the voice of the most vulnerable in society.



CHRIS ATKINS 5/5 W

BIT OF A STRETCH: DIARIES OF A PRISONER

Eye opening account of Atkin's five year jail term in HMP Wandsworth and reflection on the prison system.



SECRET BARRISTER 5/5 W

STORIES OF THE LAW & HOW IT IS BROKEN

First-hand account of the current state of the Criminal Justice System in England & Wales by a secret author.

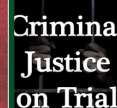


PODCAST

JEREMY DEIN QC

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ON TRIAL

In depth look at coronavirus and how that has thrown the criminal justice system into chaos.



NEXT
EDITION
18|10|20

...Interview with
Sarah Langford

