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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Plymouth Law School is delighted to headline the fifth issue of the *Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review* with Sir John Thomas' Annual Pilgrim Fathers' Lecture 'Quality and Accessibility in Legal Education' organised by the Plymouth Law Society, the President of the Queens' Bench Division presented a highly topical and enlightening review of the current position regarding the provision of legal education.

The 2013 edition of the *Review* is packed with a range of exciting and interesting articles and reports from staff, students and visiting speakers. There is a clear emphasis this year from both law and criminal justice contributions on the theme of human rights. Subjects examined in this context focus on family and children's rights such as the 'right' of individuals to have a child, the rights of lesbian and gay parents and their children, the failure to recognise the rights of children to be protected from sex trafficking, comparison of the rights of children in Kurdistan and the UK and the treatment of pregnant women in prison. Restorative justice is another strong theme to emerge with an article from the Director of the recently relaunched Plymouth Research Centre for Law and Criminal Justice on community problem-solving initiatives in Australia, Professor Harry Blagg, an overview by leading expert and founder of the Restorative Justice Council, Dr Martin Wright, and a highly original conference report from Gareth Addidle drawing on a Cinderella analogy.

Criminal justice students have been involved in various real life work-based learning experiences and our law students continue to provide an invaluable service through the Innocence project. Our final year students have produced some truly excellent work as evidenced in the student authored articles.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and Lesley and I as General Editors wish to extend our sincere thanks to Tom Smith our assistant editor (who has also contributed a piece on the ethical conflicts faced by criminal defence lawyers), and Hannah Boyle who is currently studying law at the Open University and volunteered to undertake some work experience with the Research centre. Tom and Hannah have made a fantastic effort in helping us put this issue together – though we are not sure Hannah knew what she was letting herself in for when she volunteered.

Finally, some good news for everyone who has contributed articles to all issues of the *Review*. We were approached by Gale Cengage, one of the biggest educational material providers in the world, requesting that the *Plymouth Law and Criminal Justice Review* be

included in their database. Cengage wish to reproduce the top 1,500 law journals in the world without prejudice to our authors. Many US universities and libraries subscribe to their databases and packages therefore the Journal and its articles will available to an even wider audience.

Kim Stevenson and Lesley Simmonds
General Editors December 2012