

Lawyers Without Borders Student Division at UCL: **An Introduction**

Who are Lawyers Without Borders?

Lawyers Without Borders is an internationally-renowned organisation that works with law firms, governments, and NGOs throughout the world. Entering our fourth year as a Student Division at UCL, we are part of an established international network of volunteer judges, lawyers and law students from all over the world who work on Rule of Law projects, access to justice initiatives, and promoting pro bono service.

For more information, please see our website:

<http://www.lawyerswithoutborders.org/>

What is Lawyers Without Borders Student Division at UCL?

The LWOB Student Division at UCL is made up of a group of specially selected students who are interested in promoting Human Rights within the university. Our aims as set by LWOB are:

LWOB's Chief Governing Principles

- 1. To foster a deep culture of pro bono amongst students before they enter the profession.*
- 2. To provide opportunities for students to engage in Rule of Law oriented activities.*

To achieve these aims, the Division embarks on a wide range of Human Rights related projects from event organisation and fundraising through raising social media awareness and journalism to research. We are open to applications **from law, non-law, undergraduate and postgraduate students alike** who are interested in Human Rights and International Law — this is an opportunity to share, develop and build on experience.

The LWOB Student Division at UCL is affiliated with the UCL Centre for Access to Justice (CAJ) at the Faculty of Laws as a student-led project. The CAJ oversees the Student Division, providing administrative support, and ensuring that Student Division and its members adhere to UCL's policies and standards.

The Core Division: Structure

The core division is made up of five 'subgroups' (see below), each of which is responsible for its own direction and activities, with oversight from the Central Committee. The subgroup teams will, of course, cross over and support each other, but the individuals in each will focus on their specific role within the Division. This Core Division is also accompanied by a group of affiliated students who act in a more general way to support the division, and are not part of a subgroup or the committee.

The Committee

President – The head of the division, chairing all committee and division meetings, as well as corresponding with the CAJ, the LWOB charity, and other LWOB Student Divisions across the UK. The President will meet with the CAJ at least once a month

and communicate with the CAJ through monthly reports. It is the President's responsibility to ensure the overall smooth running of the Division and its consistent compliance with LWOB's formal requirements.

Vice-President – Works directly with the President, providing assistance, guidance, and oversight. Deputises the President when they are unavailable and assists them in ensuring all administrative requirements from LWOB are met.

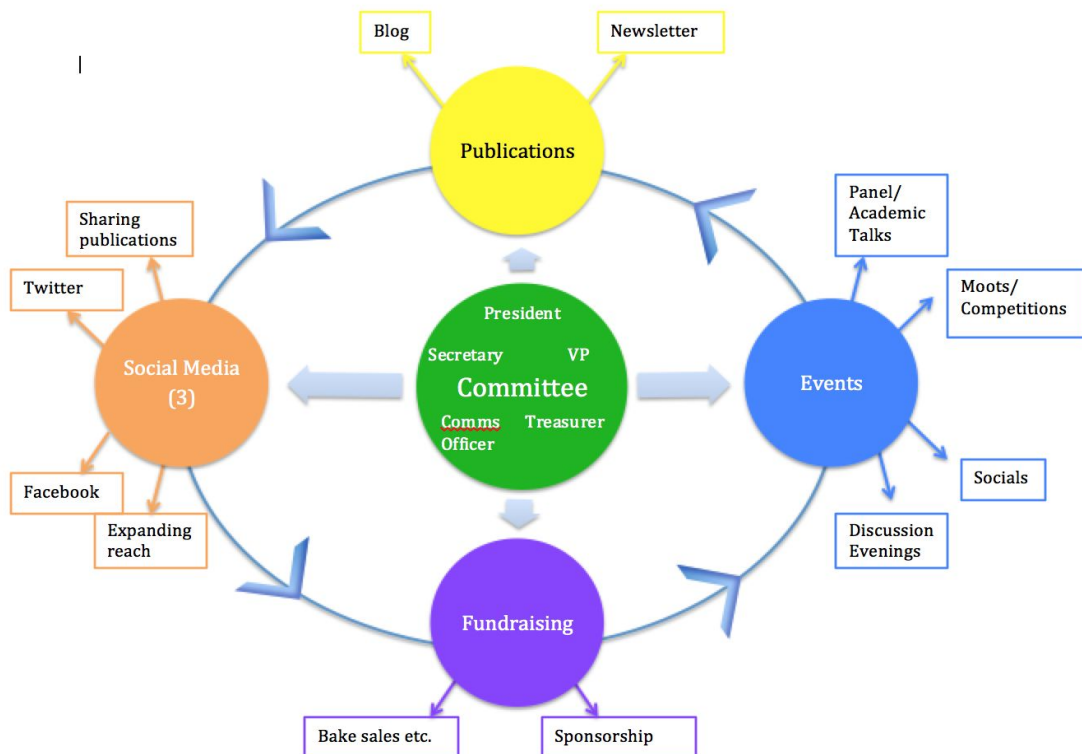
Secretary (Head of Publications) – Responsible for general administration. They are expected to write the minutes of each meeting, send out all official emails of the division, and manage the Division's newspaper.

Treasurer (Head of Fundraising)– Oversight of funding and expenditure. The treasurer will be expected to update the committee regularly on the financial state of the division and ensure that all subgroups have a solid financial basis.

Communications (Head of Social Media) – Responsible for overall social media and outreach. The chief responsibility of the Communications Officer is to promote LWOB online.

Events Officer (Head of Events) – Responsible for oversight of LWOB debates, moots, panel discussions, etc. The Events Officer will lead the Events team in organising their activities, keeping the CAJ in particular updated and cooperating often with other subgroups.

Research Officer (Head of Research) – Obtaining and managing research tasks from the main LWOB charity. Managing the Research team in assisting the other subgroups (as described below in the Research section). Preparing the UCL team for the annual ROLIC.



The leadership of the subgroups is delegated to the respective heads of each group, but as a Committee member, it is the responsibility of each subgroup leader to report back to the committee and keep its members up-to-date with their activities. The subgroups will regularly meet up between themselves and the minutes of these meetings will be e-mailed to the whole Division or uploaded to a central online document. Their achievements will also be shared at termly whole-division meetings.

Publications

Our Publications Team will be responsible for providing articles for our weekly blog, and producing a termly newsletter. Its aim is to inform readers of the major Human Rights news, and keep up-to-date with international and domestic news. The team will have freedom over which exact topics they cover and the methods they use to inform the readers (such as articles or interviews). The ideal candidate would have a genuine interest in pro bono work, but also have skills in communicating information clearly and journalism.

Skills needed: eloquent writing, interest in journalism, ability to write neutrally and factually.

For examples of our work in our first year, see the blog, which is normally updated every Friday:

<http://lawyerswithoutbordersucl.blogspot.co.uk/>

Social Media

Our Social Media Team will be responsible for the upkeep of our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter handle. They must consistently update these pages with relevant Human Rights-news, sharing our events, boosting the Blog, and expanding reach to gain more attention. The Social Media team is also generally responsible for promoting events, which might include designing posters and engineering a creative online presence in cooperation with the Publications team, so a good grasp of graphic design would also be of particular use, though not required.

Skills needed: social media experience, awareness of multiple news outlets, efficiency, communication

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Team will be responsible for both contacting and engaging with potential sponsors and organising fundraising events. As this team develops, we can host specific fundraising events in conjunction with particular Human Rights issues, as well as raising money for LWOB as a whole. This team will be in extensive contact other subgroups, providing a financial basis for their activities.

Skills needed: creativity, experience hosting fundraising events, organisation.

Events

The Events Team will work in conjunction with the Fundraising Team, but will focus primarily on academic, informative events. They will be responsible for contacting external speakers for panel events, organising moots and debates with other LWOB student divisions, and putting together a conference which will generate much interest from UCL students and outside. While these are just a few examples, the organisation of more creative events such as competitions and workshops are highly encouraged. The Events Team are expected to keep in contact with the CAJ regarding proposed speakers and events. The team is encouraged to explore several current issues related to human rights and to do so through innovative events that often involve Student Divisions from other universities.

Skills needed: good communication, efficient organising, innovation, experience balancing multiple interests and stakeholders.

Research

The Research Team will support both the main LWOB charity and our Division through a mixture of legal and non-legal research. Consequently, the team will be in extensive contact with LWOB. When they do not receive tasks from the main charity, they will advise other subgroups, such as the Social Media team on optimising the reach of their advertising, the Publications team by fact-checking or researching for their articles, and the Events and Fundraising team by exploring potential partners. Additionally, the Research Team will represent our Student Division in LWOB's annual Rule of Law Innovation Challenge (ROLIC), the results of which directly support LWOB's work.

Skills needed: experience in legal or non-legal research, ability to work independently, genuine long-standing interest in Human Rights. Experience in research as paralegal, legal assistant, or LLM student is desirable but not required.