

## CHARITY LAW UNIT

The Faculty of Law of the University of Liverpool has a well-established reputation for research and teaching in charity law. There is no other department of law in the country with a similar reputation or any significant expertise in charity law. The reputation was initially established on the publications of three members of staff and is now being expanded through participation in conferences and meetings within and outside the Faculty.

Research activity in charity law in the Faculty over the years has ranged from contributions to academic journals, through supervision of postgraduate research students to editorship of a leading text on charity law for practitioners. Members of staff regularly speak at conferences and in the last year gave papers on charity law and education, the contract culture and the future of research into charities and voluntary organisations. In addition, contributions have been made to training charity personnel and lawyers on the implications of new legislation by providing seminars for outside organisations.

As part of the Law Faculty's centenary celebrations, Richard Fries, Chief Charity Commissioners, gave a public lecture entitled "Charity, Law and Practice". The attendance at the lecture was witness to the interest in charity law and to the support of the Faculty's work in that field by the Charity Commission, local charities and lawyers.

To mark the existing reputation of the Faculty of Law and to provide a focus for future activities a Charity Law Unit was established.

A major aim of the Unit is to encourage research in charity law. Present research projects include work on a new legal structure for charities in conjunction with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Charity Law Association, research into how schools are affected by charity law for a commissioned book and supervision of research on the concept of charity in France.

The establishment of the Unit has already begun to attract postgraduate students to work in the area of charity law. A considerable encouragement was the funding of a one-year research studentship by the Charity Law Association and it is hoped that this is the beginning of a pattern of outside support for research in the Unit. The Unit also intends to encourage inter-disciplinary research with other departments in the University and with outside organisations.

Members of the Charity Law Unit provide a one semester course in charity law for undergraduate students on the LL.B degree. A possible future development for the

Unit would be to provide taught courses for postgraduates and non-law students. The Unit intends to continue to contribute to the training of lawyers and charity personnel by the provision of courses either in the Faculty of Law or in conjunction with outside organisations.

The Charity Law Unit is very concerned to encourage and support discussions of charity law and its implications for those working in the charity field. To further that aim a series of seminars has been organised and conferences will be planned. It is also proposed that the Unit will publish occasional papers, both the results of individuals research and seminar and conference papers.

An inaugural talk was given on 28th October 1994 by Tessa Baring, Trustee of Barnardo's Foundation, Mental Health Foundation and the Baring Foundation on "Deregulation for the Voluntary Sector".

## Charity Law Unit - Programme 1994/95

### Seminars

Kindly supported by Dibb Lupton Broomhead, Solicitors, Leeds. All seminars take place at 5.00 pm in the Faculty of Law

2nd February 1995

**Charities, Business and VAT**

Jean Warburton

Faculty of Law

University of Liverpool

27th April 1995

**Charities and Education**

Debra Morris

Faculty of Law

University of Liverpool

29th June 1995

**Charity Trustees in Commercial Contexts -  
Some Practical Problems**

Matthew Wrigley

Partner

Dibb Lupton Broomhead

Leeds