

# Swansea Law Clinic Annual Report

## 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Swansea Law Clinic has had another busy and successful academic year, which has built on existing work and seen the continuation of a number of volunteering opportunities for students in the **Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law**.

This ninth annual report assesses the Clinic's activities from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026. The reporting period for this report is slightly shortened this year due to our finalising preparations for our AQS Monitoring Assessment which is due to take place at the beginning of July 2026.

This year, we have continued to offer either in-person appointments, or remote appointments for clients over Zoom. Some projects have been in-person only (for example, appointments held at outreach venues), but in-house appointments have been flexible to accommodate the needs of the client.

LAA366/LAA367 *Clinical Legal Education*, a twenty-credit module, was delivered this year as in previous years, running in Teaching Blocks One and Two. This year we saw an increase in student numbers with the maximum number of students in each cohort increasing from twenty to thirty. In 2025/26, **fifty** students were enrolled on these modules, **twenty six** in Teaching Block One and **twenty four** in Teaching Block Two.

Our Miscarriage of Justice Project has continued to be offered solely as a volunteer project. The *Miscarriage of Justice* project works in partnership with the charity, Inside Justice, which refers cases to the Project. There was a competitive application process to secure a place on the project this year, **ten** students were taken on and volunteered on this project.

In total, **one hundred and fifty-five** extracurricular student volunteers signed up to our various projects (including the Miscarriage of Justice Project and Street Law Project) making a total of **two hundred and five** students being involved in Clinic activities during 2025/26.

In total, the Clinic advised on **62** separate cases.

We partnered with four law firms, who have provided volunteer solicitors who volunteer at the 30-minute Advice Appointments, Legal Surgeries and Drop-in Clinics.

We are very grateful to the following firms and their volunteer solicitors for their support:

- Smith Llewelyn Partnership
- Hodge Jones and Allen
- Graham Evans and Partners
- Moore Barlow Lawyers

The Clinic also forged new partnerships and continued to develop existing partnerships. We are very grateful for the support we received from Gors Community School, better Bonymaen Project, Citizens Advice Swansea Neath Port Talbot, Swansea Council, Swansea Carers Centre, Age Cymru, Eastside Foodbank, Welsh Government, the National Lottery, National Archives, Tabled Technologies Ltd., Innovate UK, Inside Justice, LawWorks, Bishop Vaughan Catholic School, Gower College.

The Clinic holds the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) quality kitemark and is one of only three university law clinics which have AQS in the UK. As outlined above, we are due to undergo our third full Monitoring Audit in July 2026.

The Clinic obtained accreditation from the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide immigration and asylum advice in 2021. OISC has since rebranded to become known as the Immigration Advice Authority (IAA). We are currently waiting to hear from IAA regarding our application for continued registration from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

The student activity during 2025/2026 encompasses the following:

- 30-minute Advice Sessions (Student Volunteers shadowing initial advice appointments with solicitors – either remotely or in person);
- Student Adviser-led Appointments (Student Advisers meeting with clients remotely);
- Drop-In Clinics and Legal Surgeries;
- Miscarriage of Justice Project;
- Remote Personal Injury Clinic (Student Volunteers shadowing initial advice appointments with our partner solicitor at Hodge Jones and Allen – remote clinic);
- Collaboration volunteering (HOPE Project, Age Cymru);
- Clinic's Global Day of Action for Climate Justice;
- Street Law;
- Law Schools Challenge Fundraising Challenge;
- Student Board.

We will be offering a Summer Clinic to students in June/July 2026 which will consist of our Miscarriage of Justice project, Drop-In Clinics and 30-minute Advice Sessions (Student Volunteers shadowing initial advice appointments with solicitors – either remotely or in person);

## Staffing

During 2025/26, the core Clinic staff remained the same as in the previous year, with one full-time professional services post: Ellen Parker-Jones, Law Clinic Manager. Professor Rich Owen continues as the Swansea Law Clinic Director.

Our **Swansea Neath Port Talbot Community Advice Network (SNPTCAN) Project** continued this year with a new Senior Project Administrator. Jess Williams joined the team in September on a fixed term contract as we secured funding from the National Lottery until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure ongoing funding and Jess left the university at the end of March. We are very grateful to Jess for the contribution she has made to the SNPTCAN project and the Clinic in general.

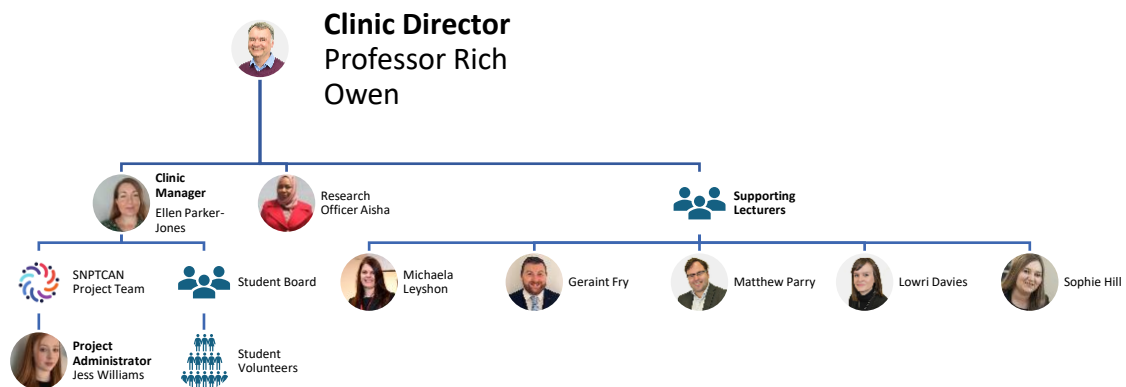
The Clinic continued to be involved with **Project Odyssey** which is part of an Innovate UK funded research project. Partners on the project are Tabled Technologies Ltd, Northumbria University, Keele University, Durham University and The National Archives. The main objective of the project is to develop an AI Assistant app to provide low cost/free legal advice to individuals and SMEs, focussing on Social Welfare Law. Aisha Bashir joined the Clinic

team as Research Officer in September 2025 on a fixed term contract. Aisha left the university at the end of March. We are very grateful to Aisha for the contribution she made to Project Odyssey and the Clinic in general.

We have also been very grateful to have the support of School of Law academic staff Michaela Leyshon, Geraint Fry, Lowri Davies, Sophie Hill and Matthew Parry, who have all supported the delivery of the Clinical Legal Education module, supervising student interviews with clients. We would also like to thank Helen Yu from the School of Management for her support. Particular thanks go to Michaela Leyshon who has offered extra support.

Throughout the year, our Clinic Student Board has continued, with the following students representing different activities:

- Ayzah Butt (Representative of the Miscarriage of Justice Project)
- Caitlin Baldwin, Sophie Myers and Vasisht Prabhu (Representatives of the Clinical Legal Education module, both semesters)
- Chase Montague and Morgan Sinclair (Representatives of the Street Law project)
- Lucy Baker and Hannah MacEwen (Representative of Law Schools Challenge Project)
- Lily Persaud (Representative of Global Day of Action for Climate Justice)



Swansea Law Clinic Staffing Organogram, October 2025

## Awards and Clinic Recognition

### *Clinic HEAR Awards*

The Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) is a student's comprehensive record of learning and achievements whilst at Swansea University. The **Swansea Law Clinic Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Award** was validated in 2019/20, and we were able to award **nine Gold, thirty-three Silver and nine Bronze Awards (51 total)** to students at the end of the 2025/26 academic year.

To achieve the Bronze Award students volunteer for **20 hours** with the Clinic, (these hours comprise of volunteering, training and a short reflection on their experience). Those achieving the Silver have carried out **30 hours** of volunteering, and those achieving the Gold

award have carried out **30 hours** of volunteering and sat as a member of the **Clinic Student Board**.

Huge congratulation to Lucy Baker, Caitlin Baldwin, Ayzah Butt, Hannah MacEwan, Chase Montague, Sophie Myers, Lily-Rose Persaud, Vasisht Prabhu and Morgan Sinclair for receiving the Gold Award. Hannah Aldridge, Zaynub Ali, Hannah Alkathiri, Brier Baldwin, Jacob Ball, Beau Childs, Katie Cooper, Yasmine Diwany, Thomas Dixon, Madison French, Khell Giffen, Laurene Govier, Deborah Gyasi, Sian Harrison, Jessica Henderson, Lateefah Lewis, Katelynn Locke, Stephanie Madden, La-Verne Masocha, Aimee McCullagh, Charlotte McGawn, Fleur Morgan, Madeha Nahi, Kylie Nash, Arianna Rees, Carys Richards, Libby Robinson-Boyce, Isabelle Shaw, Skyla Stevens, Hadassah Swayze, Ffion Thomas, Koralia Tsavari and Miles Welton for receiving the Silver Award.

Further congratulations to Megan Bennett, Lucas Forster, Razan Malik, Sara Mohan, Shayna Neibergall, Lauren Pogson, Carys-Tara Sage, Maria Schofer and Isobel Wharrad for receiving their Bronze Award.

## Breakdown of types of cases by type of activity

### Clinical Legal Education Module

- **Fifty cases in total**



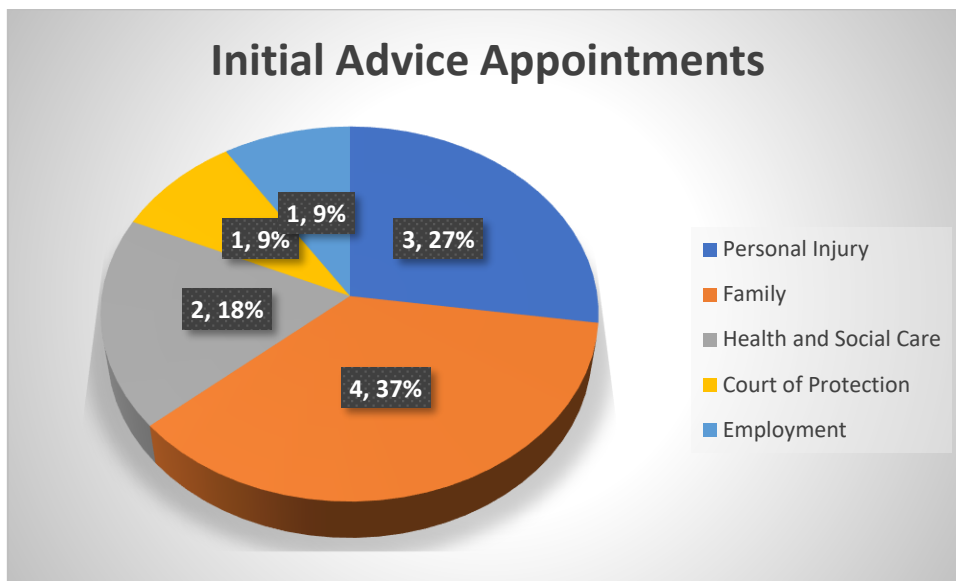
Students enrolled on the Clinical Legal Education Module were trained as Student Advisers and carried out interviews with members of the public requiring legal advice. Students conducted their client interviews from the Law Clinic offices on Singleton Campus, with their supervisors present.

A majority (64%) of our clients attended their appointments in person, with the remaining 36% of clients requesting remote appointments, which were held over Zoom. This is a similar statistic to that seen in the last academic year.

Student Advisers advised on **fifty separate** legal cases over the autumn and spring terms. The interviews covered the areas of law shown on the pie chart above, most cases were either family/relationship breakdown, housing, consumer, employment/discrimination or immigration related.

***Legal Surgeries at Swansea Carers Centre / Gors Community School Drop-in Clinic / December 2025 Family Law Drop In Clinic / Remote Personal Injury Clinic***

***– Eleven cases in total***



***Legal Surgeries at Swansea Carers Centre***

We again worked in partnership with Swansea Carers Centre to hold an in-person **Legal Surgery** at their offices in Swansea, as part of their 'Live and Learn Dementia' project. This surgery was held at Swansea Carers Centre, Bethesda Chapel, Prince of Wales Road, Swansea. These appointments offered thirty minutes free advice. Three clients were assisted through this service, the prominent areas of law were: Court of Protection and Health and Social Care issues.

***Gors Community School Drop-In Clinic***

We were approached by the Deputy Head of **Gors Community School**, Gors Avenue, Swansea to become involved in a series of Community Advice Drop-In Sessions at the school's community rooms. We feel that partnering with an anchor institution assists with community engagement and we were therefore delighted to become involved in this project.

We attended the first session in May 2026. We assisted three clients by offering them thirty-minute free advice appointments. We are very much looking forward to continuing with this partnership over the coming months with a number of sessions planned. Issues dealt with included Family Law and Employment Law.

### ***December 2026 Family Law Drop-In Clinic***

As Semester One concluded we offered a **Family Law Drop In Clinic**. The Drop-In Clinic was held at our suite of offices on campus. We are very grateful for the support of Michaela Leyshon and Bethan James from Smith Llewelyn Partnership in delivering the Family Law Drop In Clinic. This Drop In Clinic offered thirty minutes free advice appointments. Two clients were assisted through the Drop-in Clinics. We are very grateful for the support of Michaela Leyshon and Bethan James in delivering this clinic.

### ***Remote Personal Injury Clinic***

Working in partnership with Hodge Jones and Allen we continued to offer our **Remote Personal Injury Clinics** throughout this academic year. Three clients were assisted via zoom appointment with the volunteer solicitor from Hodge Jones and Allen. We are very grateful for the support of Daniel Denton in delivering this clinic.

### ***Miscarriage of Justice Project***

This academic year, the Miscarriage of Justice Project again ran as a volunteer project, available to 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate students on Law LLB programmes, and to students on postgraduate programmes in the Law School. Students underwent a competitive application process to secure a space on the project. In Semester One, ten students were taken on and worked on the project for the whole academic year. The students were put into firms, working on three different cases which we worked on throughout the year. The project will continue through June and July as part of our Summer Clinic. The students have been supported by the Inside Justice Advisory Panel, which consists of a retired judge, barristers, solicitors, forensic scientists, retired senior police officers, journalists and campaigners. In Semester Two we were visited by Mark Evans President of the Law Society of England and

Wales when the students were given the opportunity to explain about the work that the Miscarriage team undertakes.



*Miscarriage of Justice Team meeting with Mark Evans, President of The Law Society of England and Wales*

### **Street Law Project**

Our Street Law Project continued to develop this year with 57 students attending the first session in Semester one and 36 students attending the first session in Semester two. Street Law teams presented to University Open Days throughout the academic year. We also again worked with Bishop Vaughan School on a series of workshops which were delivered at the school as part of their “Active Citizenship Day” in March. We also worked with Gower College for the first time with a view to providing an afternoon of workshops to a group of A Level students. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control we had to postpone the workshops. We are hoping to deliver these in the new academic year. We also partnered again with Children’s Legal Centre Wales (CLCW) on a series of PowerPoint presentations for inclusion on the CLCW’s website as a learning resource for children. Our students were supported by Rhian Howells, Education and Engagement Lead, CLCW and they worked on a variety of projects including Sexting and Worker’s Rights.



*Street Law Volunteers at Bishop Vaughan School, March 2026*

### LawWorks Law Schools Challenge

Our Fundraising Committee again took part in the **LawWorks Law Schools Challenge** to raise money for LawWorks and Advocate. 17 students joined our team and a number of fundraising events were held over the course of the academic year including a Pub Quiz and Craft Events.



*Law School Challenge Participant Badge*

### Global Day of Action for Climate Justice

We have again taken part in this annual event organised by the University of York. University law clinics from across the globe commit to doing one thing to raise awareness of the climate emergency and to think about the role law teachers, lawyers and law students can play in tackling major societal changes such as climate change. This year the theme was “Decarbonisation” and the Clinic organised a hike across Gower, along with a “Seed Stall” and a talk. All events were held in the lead up to the Global Day of Action on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



*"Seed Stall" Global Day of Action for Climate Justice*

## Testimonials

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A project I've found particularly interesting are shadowing opportunities I've been able to participate in. The chance to sit in on client meetings have given me valuable insight into how such meetings are conducted as well as the tone and professionalism expected. It's given me a clear idea of how to carry myself in a professional environment and what other skills I should continue to develop.

*Student Volunteer, 2025-2026*

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My experience with the Swansea Law Clinic and the Miscarriage of Justice Project has been one of the most formative aspects of my legal education so far. This experience has provided me with direct exposure to the realities of the criminal justice system, and the profound impact legal representation can have on individuals who have exhausted all routes of appeal. Through this role, I have developed not only my legal and analytical abilities, but also a greater sense of professional responsibility, resilience, and awareness of the ethical dimensions of legal practice.

*Student Volunteer, 2025-2026*

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Overall, my involvement with the Law Clinic has given me a mix of practical skills and a deeper appreciation for the ethical and social responsibilities of legal practice. These experiences have not only built my confidence but also fuelled my ambition to pursue a career focused on accessible, client centred legal work.

*Student Volunteer, 2025-2026*

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Extremely satisfied with the service received. I only contacted the service 2 days before the appointment I was offered. Also to be offered a zoom call as I was unable to attend in person. Really friendly staff, easy to access and use, I couldn't recommend the service enough. Thank you.

*Client Feedback from Drop-In Clinic Client, 2025-2026*

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I felt the service was calm and relaxed whilst being professional. The students put me at my ease and the advice I received was very helpful and definitely informative. Thank you so much indeed for making a stressful time easier. Thank you

*Client Feedback from CLE Client 2025-2026*

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## **Student Board**

This was the sixth year of operation of the Clinic's Student Board. Members of the Student Board are asked to contribute ideas directly to the Clinic staff in all areas of Clinic development and strategic priorities.

There were two meetings of the Board during the period under review.

At the first meeting of the year the Board reviewed the Student Board's Terms of Reference. Throughout the academic year, the board discussed and reviewed the Clinical Legal Education module. The Board also reviewed how the Miscarriage of Justice project, Street Law, Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, Law Schools Challenge and Social Media Rep were working throughout the year.

At the second meeting of the year the Board considered who we should be engaging with in terms of client groups and also ways that we can engage with clients in the future.

## Events

**Wales Pro Bono Committee Event** - Professor Rich Owen attended this event at the Senedd on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**LawWorks and Attorney-General's Pro Bono Awards 2025** - Professor Rich Owen attended the LawWorks and Attorney-General's Pro Bono Awards on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

**National Advice Network** - Professor Rich Owen attended the National Advice Network's quarterly meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 along with the National Advice Network's Outcomes Working Group on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Faculty Showcase** - Clinic Manager provided a tour of the Law Clinic as part of the Faculty Showcase on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**better Bonymaen Project** - Professor Rich Owen continued to support the better Bonymaen project.

**Access to Justice Committee Meeting** - Professor Rich Owen attended the Access to Justice Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Visit from President of The Law Society of England and Wales** - Mark Evans, President of The Law Society of England and Wales visited the Law Clinic on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and met with our Miscarriage of Justice students.

**Law Society Wales Office** - Professor Rich Owen attended the Law Society Wales Office St Davids Day Celebratory Event at National Museum of Wales on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Gors Community School Drop-In** - Clinic Manager and Director attended a meeting with the Deputy Head of Gors Community School with a view to taking part in a School Drop-In for Advice Providers on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**Swansea University's School of Law Annual Legal Networking Dinner** - Clinic Manager attended the School of Law's Annual Legal Networking Dinner on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**Legal Services Board Visit** - The Legal Services Board visited the Law Clinic and met with the Clinic Director and Manager on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026. Topics discussed included Access to Justice issues, regulation of immigration advice, health justice partnership and development of AI app.

**Legal News Wales Awards** - Swansea Law Clinic has been nominated for Legal News Wales Awards Pro Bono Award of the Year and the Clinic Director and Clinic Manager were invited to attend an interview with the judging panel at Menzies LLP offices on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.



## Networks

Members of the Clinic's staff participate in a number of networks.

Professor Rich Owen continued to chair the **Law Society's Access to Justice Committee**.

Professor Rich Owen commenced his work with the **National Advice Network**, which fosters partnership working across the advice sector in these local nationally.

Swansea Law Clinic continue as a member of the **Swansea Neath Port Talbot Regional Advice Network**.

Professor Rich Owen participates in the **SRA's Consumer Vulnerability Expert Panel**.

Professor Rich Owen continued to work with the **better Bonymaen project** throughout the course of this reporting period.

Professor Rich Owen continued to work with the **Health Justice Partnership** a multi-disciplinary partnership with Singleton Hospital.

Swansea Law Clinic continued to be involved with Clinic **Project Odyssey** throughout the course of this reporting period. Project Odyssey involves the development of an app which can be used by individuals and SMEs to access free legal advice resources.

Our **SNPTCAN Referral System Project** continued to work with over 100 organisations in the local area who are collaborating by using the referral system.

## Research and Development

**Project Odyssey** which is part of an Innovate UK funded research project. Partners on the project are Tabled Technologies Ltd, Northumbria University, Keele University, Durham University and The National Archives. The main objective of the project is to develop an AI Assistant app to provide low cost/free legal advice to individuals and SMEs, focussing on Social Welfare Law.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Both staff and Student Advisers engaged in a number of continuous professional development opportunities.

Ellen Parker-Jones attended Hydra Education Development Training on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Jess Williams, SNPTCAN Senior Project Administrator and Aisha Bashir, Project Odyssey Research Officer attended all Induction training mandated by the university.

Ellen Parker-Jones attended Generative AI Training on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Ellen Parker-Jones attended Supporting Students with their Mental Health Training on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Rich Owen is studying an Intermediate Level Specification (Welsh for Adults) course with Coleg Gwent.

