

Job Description

Clinic Solicitor/Barrister – Senior Lecturer

Salary:	Grade 9
Contract:	Full time, ongoing
School/Department:	Kent Law School
Location:	Canterbury Campus
Responsible to:	Director of the Kent Law Clinic and Head of School

Job purpose

To deliver excellent teaching and engage in aspects of scholarship and/or pedagogic research in the subject area in support of career development. The role will also involve administrative responsibilities, working collaboratively towards the School and University aims.

The successful candidate will contribute to the development and delivery of modules in Kent Law School, with prior experience of teaching in immigration law.

The role is offered on an Education, Scholarship and Professional Practice (ES&P) contract, appropriate for candidates who are student focussed in teaching and pedagogic research with demonstrable commitment to all aspects of teaching in higher education, including assessment, feedback and academic support.

Kent Law School sits in the Top 30 in the Times University Good Guide 2025 and is the 17th ranked UK institution for Law in the Times Higher Education World Law School Rankings 2025. It is also within the Top 40 in the UK in the Guardian Best University Guide 2025 and The Complete University Guide 2026.

Kent Law Clinic was the first university law clinic in the UK. It has built up a strong reputation for the vital legal services it provides to the local community. Kent Law Clinic has two objectives – to provide a legal service to people living or working in Kent who need such a service but cannot afford to pay for it, and to enhance the legal education of students in the Kent Law School through enabling them to work on live cases and projects. The focus, in educational terms, is on developing students' knowledge and understanding of the law, and developing students' ability to reflect critically on the law and its operation in practice.

Key accountabilities

- Supervising and teaching law students in the Clinic in the provision of such services
- Assessing students, including through formative and summative assessments
- Developing the educational and legal work of the Law Clinic and the service to the local community
- Maintaining existing links, and developing new links, with legal practitioners, potential legal volunteers, and voluntary sector organisations delivering support and legal services in the area
- Contributing to the administration of the Law Clinic
- Participating in the broader academic and community life of Kent Law School
- Engaging in such other duties, commensurate with the post, that may be assigned by the Director of the Law Clinic and/or Head of School or their nominee.

Key duties

The following are the main duties for the job. Other duties, commensurate with the grading of the job, may also be assigned from time to time.

- Providing legal services, including advice, assistance and/or representation to members of the public who live or work in Kent and who need such services but cannot afford to pay for them
- Teaching students and enabling students (including students engaged in the Law Clinic on a curricular basis and those involved on a co-curricular basis) to develop their understanding of the law and their ability to reflect critically on the law and its operation in its social and political context
- Contributing to the wider roles of the Law Clinic, including supporting co-curricular activities for students and contributing to scholarship (broadly defined)

Internal & external relationships

Internal: Academic and professional services colleagues, students, Head of School, other University of Kent PSDs, Schools and departments

External: Research funders, research networks and collaborators, professional and subject associations, publishers and journals, conference organisers, external examiners, potential students, employers.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

This job involves undertaking duties which include the following health, safety and wellbeing considerations:

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Conflict resolution

Person specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Applications will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in an application, or cover letter (where applicable), which back-up any assertions made in relation to each criterion.

Essential Criteria:

- Degree or equivalent qualification (A)
- For solicitor or barrister applicants, a current practicing certificate or evidence of entitlement to hold one (A)
- At least 5 years' experience as a solicitor or barrister in the field of immigration law (A,I)
- Excellent grasp of the law and procedure in the area of immigration law (A,I)
- Interest and aptitude to extend areas of practice within the areas of social welfare law (A,I)
- Interest and aptitude for teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students (A,I)
- Ability to work well with staff, students and clients in a busy legal office (A,I)
- Ability to professionally supervise and teach students and volunteers (A,I)
- Ability to work to tight deadlines and to prioritise and balance caseload and teaching duties (A,I)
- Ability to maintain an enquiring and reflective approach to the work of the Law Clinic with students and clients (A,I)
- Excellent communication skills with clients, students, colleagues and the legal community (A,I)
- Ability to make a positive and creative contribution to the intellectual and collegial life of the Kent Law Clinic (A,I)
- Willingness to represent clients at Court and Tribunals (I)
- A commitment to considering the meaning and application of social justice in relation to the practice of law (I)
- Willingness to study for and obtain a PGCHE qualification (if not already obtained) (I)
- Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research (I)

- Commitment to deliver equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role (I)

Desirable Criteria:

- Excellent grasp of the law and procedure in other areas of social welfare law (A,I)
- Experience of working or volunteering in pro bono legal services (A,I)
- Competence in using online, web-based, audio-visual and other learning technologies (A,I)

Assessment stage: A - Application; I - Interview; T - Test/presentation at interview stage

Additional Criteria for Senior Lecturer appointment

For the Senior Lecturer post, applicants must demonstrate a higher standard of achievement in either excellence in practice/activity or leadership within and/or beyond the discipline and their University and how their achievements have been recognised in impact and recognition. Candidates must also demonstrate a strong record of research leadership and successful grant applications.

At Senior Lecturer level, the post holder will also be expected to undertake a major leadership role within the School.