

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Essex</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 20 - Law</p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>Essex Law School is internationally renowned for its research, particularly at the <b>forefront of international human rights law and practice, commercial law, and public law</b>. These peaks of excellence provide a distinctive intellectual orientation for our work and set the agenda for innovative research in those fields. Our <b>outlook is global</b> and our research addresses contemporary legal problems at the international, regional and domestic levels, <b>deploying a range of methods</b>, including analytical, comparative, historical, interdisciplinary, and socio-legal.</p> <p>In some areas, we have established formal focal points, such as the Human Rights Centre, the Essex Transitional Justice Network and the Essex Business and Human Rights Project. In others, looser collaborations are considered more effective, while enabling individuals to work outside such groupings continues to be important. <b>Priority is given to research which has practical impact</b> and encouraging collaboration with research users is central to our strategy.</p> <p>During this assessment period, members of the School have published 24 sole or co-authored books, 17 edited volumes, over 170 journal articles, and 120 chapters in edited books. We have also obtained nearly £2 million in funding from Research Councils, charities, government departments, international organisations and foreign governments to engage in academic and applied research.</p> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p><b>Strategic aims</b></p> <p>Essex Law School is committed to ‘fostering an environment conducive to the highest quality research, unbound by artificial limits within or across disciplines, founded in theory and applied analysis’ (RAE 2008). Our strategic aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ maintain the traditional values of legal scholarship - rigour, depth, and careful analysis - while fostering theoretical and empirical research that is relevant to practice and policy development;</li> <li>▪ undertake research which addresses key global, regional and domestic legal issues by advancing theory and contributing to practice and policy;</li> <li>▪ further strengthen our capacity to undertake research which crosses legal sub-fields, is interdisciplinary, and employs mixed methods, including theoretical, socio-legal and comparative approaches;</li> <li>▪ maximise our ability to develop cutting edge research in response to opportunities and needs as they arise.</li> </ul> <p><b>Achievements 2008-2013:</b></p> <p><b>International human rights law:</b> During the assessment period, Essex has further consolidated its position as <b>a world leading centre for research in human rights law and related fields</b>. Success in this regard was recognised in 2009 when we were <b>awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize</b> in recognition of our research, teaching and practice in advancing human rights across the globe. Our Human Rights Centre provides an intellectual hub for our exceptionally strong team carrying out research on human rights issues that has global, regional and domestic impact. Eighteen members of our Human Rights Centre contribute publications to this submission covering traditional areas of human rights law such as: torture (McGregor: 2013; Wright: 2010); unlawful detention (Rodley: 2009); refugee protection (Gilbert: 2010; 2012); as well as developing areas including economic, social and cultural rights (Sandoval: 2009; 2011), transitional justice (Michalowski: 2009(b); Sandoval: 2013), and the rights of the child (Daly: 2013).</p> <p>Related to human rights is <b>our work on humanitarian law</b>. Building in particular on Hampson’s fundamentally influential work on the scope of extra-territorial applicability of human rights and the relationship between human rights law and the law of armed conflict (e.g. Hampson: 2011;2012), we have undertaken research addressing emerging problems, including Hulme’s writing on humanitarian law and issues of environmental security (Hulme: 2008; 2010), Sheeran’s work on peacekeeping (e.g. Sheeran: 2011; 2013), and Lubell’s research on challenges posed by new</p>

developments in armed conflict: see, for example, his important OUP monograph, *Extraterritorial Use of Force against Non State Actors* which has received excellent reviews (Lubell: 2010; also 2013 (a) & (b)). Gilbert's work on the overlap between international refugee law, international criminal law and the international law of armed conflict (Gilbert: 2012) addresses the confusion created through regime interaction.

We have successfully **expanded our capacity to undertake research that addresses key global and regional issues** combining our strengths in human rights with other areas of our expertise. The establishment of the **Essex Business and Human Rights Project (EBHRP)** has productively brought together our human rights, commercial and environmental lawyers, for example, to work on difficult problems associated with enabling multinational corporations to apply human rights requirements in project financing (see Leader's co-edited volume, *Global Project Finance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development* (2011), which was the result of an ESRC-funded interdisciplinary project and includes contributions by two Essex PhD students), and developing legal standards to hold corporations to account for complicity in human rights violations (e.g. Michalowski: 2012).

In the area of transitional justice, which raises pressing issues facing many regions and countries attempting to move on from periods of conflict or repression, we have developed **world leading research capacity through the Essex Transitional Justice Network (ETJN)**. This is generating innovative and interdisciplinary research on the interface between human rights law and wider transitional justice concerns, particularly on reparations (e.g. Sandoval: 2009; 2011) and on the economic and social dimensions of transitional justice. The intellectual importance and cross-disciplinary nature of our work in this area led to our **British Academy-funded international research seminars** on the hitherto unexplored topic of the role of corporations in transitional justice processes. These seminars, held at Essex and in Argentina, involved 16 Essex academics from law, politics and philosophy, including 'young' (using British Academy terminology) researchers, six postgraduate students, and international academics and practitioners. The agenda setting collection edited by Michalowski, *Corporate Accountability in the Context of Transitional Justice*, was a product of the seminars. The volume draws on the expertise of members of the ETJN and the EBHRP and contains contributions from PhD students (Van Ho) as well Essex academics, including Calley (Calley: 2013) and Sandoval (Sandoval: 2013).

**Commercial law:** As well as successfully bringing our commercial law expertise to bear on problems associated with human rights and transitional justice, our group, 11 members of which have contributed to this submission, has addressed a spectrum of matters with a more specific commercial focus. Here too the **primary concern is to undertake work of academic rigour and excellence that is of the highest importance to practice and policy**. For instance, Mugasha's research on international financial law and loan markets, including his OUP book, *The Law of Multi-bank Financing* (Mugasha: 2008), has been of particular pertinence given the international financial crisis. It has led *inter alia* to invitations to Mugasha to become a visiting professor at the Shanghai Finance University School of Law (September 2013), and from the UK charity, Advocates for International Development (A4ID), to join a multi-disciplinary panel on the Equator Principles. **The scholarship of our commercial lawyers focuses on how to shape regulatory design, policy and practice at national, EU and international levels.** For example, P. Stone has published on product liability and Rome I and II (P. Stone: 2009; 2012), while Willett's work on the use of legal tools to promote 'fairness' between traders and consumers throws fresh light on the relationships between fairness and freedom of contract and conceptions of justice and other societal policies (Willett: 2010; 2011). His work with Koutsias provides an important analysis of the development of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive which is of significance to policy development in this area (Koutsias: 2012).

**Another important theme of our commercial law work, 'services of general interest'**, considers whether it is possible to foster 'market competition' values while ensuring access to high quality, affordable services of general interest. Hughes' research, for example, seeks to improve understanding of the core values of competition law (Hughes: 2009), and Bamodu (Bamodu: 2013) provides an important contribution to understanding the developing position on citizen/consumer rights of access to TV sports channels across the EU. Allied to this work is our research on internet regulation undertaken by Woods with particular reference to digital content (Woods: 2012(a)), exploring the relationships between public and private law. Also reflecting this aspect of our

approach is Marique's highly innovative comparative research, supported by Leverhulme and the British Academy, on public and private partnerships (e.g. Marique: 2012; 2013)).

**Public law:** Fifteen researchers in our public law group have contributed to this submission. **Our work in public law, human rights, and commercial law is mutually supportive**, further exemplifying our strategy to achieve cross fertilisation across these fields. For example while Koutsias, Marique, Willett, and Woods address EU law from the perspective of commercial and consumer law, their work involves public law and regulatory issues. By contrast, Peers' research on free movement and EU regulation adopts a more explicitly human rights/public law perspective (e.g., the significantly expanded new edition of his acclaimed OUP book, *EU Justice and Home Affairs Law*, Peers: 2011). Wright's research on the implications of UK human rights on English common law and the horizontal and vertical effects of 'Convention Rights' (Wright: 2009; 2013) illustrates **our research across domestic and comparative law and international human rights**, as does Fox O'Mahony's work on human rights and 'home' (Fox O'Mahony: 2012). Similarly, Michalowski's work links criminal law and human rights concerns, as shown in her analyses of different ways to achieve a legalisation of assisted dying based on constitutionally protected human rights, and on a common law defence of consent that finds its backing in Art. 8 of the ECHR (Michalowski: 2012(a)). K. Brennan's work on infanticide in Ireland and the UK adds a historical dimension to our work on crime (K. Brennan: 2013 (a,b,c)), while Gobert's research on corporate crime bridges public and commercial law (Gobert: 2008, 2011), and O' Mahony adopts socio-legal approaches to criminal justice issues (e.g. O' Mahony: 2011; 2012(a)&(b)).

Further evidence of our **distinctive success in transcending traditional boundaries and bringing theoretical analyses to bear on policy and practice** is Cornford's monograph, *Towards a Public Law of Tort*, (Cornford: 2008). The development of new thinking on the relationship between liability in tort and public law in this book has received excellent reviews. Cornford's theoretical framework assisted the Law Commission when considering reforming the availability of monetary relief against government (e.g. Law Com No 322, paras 2.7; 2.66 and Law Com Consultation 187 A 30). Palmer led the ESRC-funded seminar series, *Access to Justice in an Age of Austerity*, which drew on expertise across the School, including that of ECRs, and involved academics from Essex and many other universities as well as practitioners. Palmer's published work also explores the challenges confronting the protection of health and other socio-economic rights (e.g. Palmer: 2009; 2010; 2011). **Our strategy of strengthening our capacity to work on the Courts** (Cornes: 2011; 2013(a)&(b)) has been furthered by the appointment of Le Sueur to a newly formed Chair of Constitutional Justice. Sunkin has continued to develop his interdisciplinary, socio-legal, research on the dynamics of public law litigation and on the use and impact of judicial review (JR). His ESRC-funded study of the impact of JR on the quality of local government services, undertaken as part of the ESRC's Public Services Programme, described by the Law Commission as a 'major quantitative study' (Law Com 322, para 4.25), revealed important new evidence of links between JR challenges and improvements in the quality of local authority performance (see his jointly authored cross-disciplinary paper Sunkin: 2010). Sunkin's Nuffield-funded work, in collaboration with the Public Law Project (PLP), provides new insights into the use of JR, including the incidence of, and reasons for settlement (see Sunkin: 2009). This again, illustrates our **success in undertaking work which has significant impacts on policy and practice**, here in connection with recent reforms to JR both in England and Wales and in Scotland. Our collaboration with the PLP has also borne fruit in the form of a further major Nuffield-funded project on the effect and value of judicial review, fieldwork for which has been undertaken during this REF period. The project employed as senior researcher Chris Luff, who was a graduate student at Essex and has now embarked upon his PhD at Essex. These projects exemplify **our success in attracting external funding for collaborative socio-legal work drawing on the strengths of Essex in this regard**.

The above summary provides a sense of the **vibrancy of our research environment**. It shows our success in employing **mixed approaches** to tackle problems which are new and cross jurisdictions at domestic, regional and global levels. Much of **our work is conducted collaboratively** through the School's centres and networks, often with non-lawyers and with those beyond Essex. We greatly **value contact with users** of our research and work directly with international and national institutions, governments, NGOs and charities; and we fully engage our PhD students in our work, including as co-authors.

**Main strategic goals for the next five years, are to:**

- continue to undertake research of the highest quality, employing mixed methods, to address core global, regional and domestic legal issues by advancing theory and contributing to policy and practice;
- consolidate our position as a leading centre for research in human rights and related areas;
- further increase our capacity in public law, especially in relation to research on courts both from the perspective of their constitutional roles and their place in dispute resolution more generally. To this end we propose to establish a new centre on courts and adjudication;
- increase our capacity to undertake socio-legal research across our existing fields of strength and in private law, internet, broadcasting, and criminal justice which offer increasing opportunities to collaborate across the University. Recent Chair level appointments of Fox O'Mahony, O'Mahony, and Woods support these goals;
- further enhance the general research environment, especially the research support available to PhD students and ECRs, and mentoring arrangements;
- in accordance with our impact strategy, to: extend engagement with non-academic research users to maximise our research impact including through institutionalised projects under the umbrella of the HRC; enhance engagement with the public sector to greater influence the development of law and policy decisions, especially in relation to justice issues and financial regulation; extend the impact of our research in EU and commercial law; and expand the impact of our research on the private sector.

**c. People, including:**
**i. Staffing strategy**

Essex Law School is highly diverse and it reflects our global outlook that members received their legal training in Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, Uganda, the UK and the US. Of the 43 academic members of staff, 19 are female. Of 20 full and part time professors at the end of the REF period, 7 are female, 3 having been promoted to full-time Chairs during this REF cycle. Our staffing strategy is based on the following principles and practices.

- **Sustaining expertise in areas of specialism:** During this assessment period one senior professor died and seven retired, five of whom retain reduced contracts, three in the area of international human rights law, one in commercial law and one in criminal law. This enables them to maintain significant research commitments, including through PhD supervision and research collaboration with ECRs and PhD students; to provide research leadership; and to mentor more junior replacement staff, thereby ensuring continuity while maximising the sustainability of our research strengths.
- **Strategic appointments:** During this REF period we appointed seven lecturers, two senior lecturers, one reader and five professors. In order to sustain and develop work in human rights we appointed McGregor (senior lecturer), Sheeran (lecturer), and Lubell (reader), all of whom further strengthen our contacts with NGOs and the UN: McGregor in areas of unlawful detention, torture, and reparations and redress; Sheeran broadening our profile into peacekeeping and international organisations; and Lubell expanding our expertise in humanitarian law. Significantly, each has been promoted during the REF period. In line with our aim to further strengthen our expertise in commercial law, we appointed Hughes (senior lecturer), Koutsias and Antoniou (lecturers), as well as Willett (professor) to play a leading role in our commercial law research and Woods (professor) to expand our research in internet, broadcasting and EU law. We have also appointed Daly, an expert in family law and children's rights (lecturer); K. Brennan, a criminal lawyer (lecturer), and M. Stone, an expert on trusts and legal theory (lecturer). Strategically important appointments of outstanding researchers to Chairs have also strengthened our capacities in relation to criminal justice (O'Mahony); public law and constitutional justice (Le Sueur); property and wealth issues (Fox O'Mahony); and socio-legal studies (all three appointments)
- **Internal Promotion:** We provide ample support for staff to meet the University's permanency and promotion criteria, which emphasise research excellence based on the quality of publications, research funding and successful PhD supervision. During this REF period, there have been six promotions to senior lecturer, two to reader; two from reader to professor and

three from senior lecturer to professor.

### Staff development

The School's **culture of mutual support and feedback** sustains its research environment and forms an important pillar of our approach to staff development. We have a strong tradition of informal discussion and debate alongside more formal opportunities to discuss work in a variety of research seminars held in the School, under the auspices of centres, groups and across the University. They enable researchers to benefit, for example, from feedback on work in progress and on grant applications; and to discuss academic papers with colleagues from a variety of disciplines.

During this REF period we have **formalised mentoring arrangements** for probationary staff which include annual meetings between mentors, mentees, the Research Director and the Head of School. These provide a formal opportunity for new staff to learn about research expectations and our structures to support their achievement.

ECRs have a **reduced teaching commitment** (by 50% in their first year and 33% in the second). Their administrative duties are minimal in the first year, allowing focus on developing their research profile. ECRs are encouraged to serve on PhD supervisory boards (which have primary responsibility for monitoring student progress) and to co-supervise PhDs with more senior colleagues to develop experience in doctoral supervision. They are also strongly encouraged to collaborate with more experienced staff in making funding applications and in co-authorship (e.g. Koutsias & Willett: 2012)

The Research Committee supports staff, and in particular ECRs, by **reviewing and providing feedback on individual research plans**, applications for funding, draft publications, and advising on suitable routes of publication.

With the University, the School has strengthened its system of **Professional Development Reviews** which provides formal means for staff to discuss and review career development with a professorial colleague to identify career goals and opportunities, as well as needs for support.

Staff development is supported financially through the **Research Promotion Fund (RPF)** allocated by the Research Committee and individual research allowances (£500) given to all staff for research-related activities. In allocating the RPF priority is given to: ECRs (e.g. Marique was funded to attend conferences related to her work on PPPs, and Daly to attend a conference and to meet the Child Rights Coordinator of Save the Children); those seeking seed-corn funding to help establish larger research funding bids; and applications that promise to generate internationally excellent and world leading research outputs. Every research-active member of staff is **entitled to one term of research leave after six terms of service** (pro rata for part-time staff). Staff may be given additional or advanced research leave (e.g. Sheeran gained advanced leave to work with colleagues in the US on a project that will bear fruit in the next REF), or a very light teaching and administrative load to support research projects or after performing demanding administrative roles, or where research is affected by extenuating circumstances. To help ensure that research leave is used to best advantage applications for leave are considered by the Research Committee, which provides feedback on expected outputs and makes recommendations regarding the award of leave to the Head of School. The Committee, with the University, also monitors outcomes. These processes help to support a culture in which the School has a collective understanding of the work being done, thereby informing the implementation of the research strategy.

We aim to **maximise fit between research and teaching** and to provide staff with opportunities to teach in areas related to their research, often of particular importance for ECRs and junior staff. Daly, for example, was able to teach international child law, strengthening her expertise and the School's research in child rights. M. Stone had the opportunity to teach jurisprudence enabling him to draw on his research interest in critical legal theory, especially in relation to concepts of property, and to work more closely with other legal theorists. In both instances congruence between teaching and research contributed to the completion of REF outputs (Daly: 2013; M. Stone: 2012)

**Ethical considerations** are of particular importance to research design and Essex has strict policies to ensure that staff are aware of the ethical dimensions of their work including in the design, conduct and reporting of research, storing of sensitive data, and in giving full credit to all authors. Ethical approval of research projects, including those of students, is overseen by the

Research Director who reports to the Faculty Ethics Committee, a sub-committee of the University Ethics Committee.

## ii. Research students

The Law School has a thriving PhD community, with currently 55 PhD students from 27 countries working on projects reflecting the School's research strengths and groups. Since 2008, we have admitted 44 research students, 43% (19) held **competitive scholarships** including from the AHRC, FCO, OSF, Modern Law Review, foreign governments, Silberrad, and the University of Essex. During the period, 46 PhDs were completed with no or minor revisions. Our strong and integrated PGR culture is reflected, for example, in the School's weekly research seminars which bring together PhD students and academic staff, often to discuss presentations by students. Students frequently have the opportunity to **co-author publications** with supervisors (e.g. Lubell with Derejko) or other academics, both in the form of academic pieces and reports for NGOs, policymakers, the UN etc (e.g. Leader with Van Ho; Yilmaz and Danesi). They are also actively involved in **conferences organised by the School** and its centres, sometimes being invited to give presentations. PhD students are instrumental in organising a number of extremely successful conferences, including annual conferences on human rights in Africa and in Asia.

PhD students are supervised by one or more active researchers. **Regular PhD training seminars** (which are additional to the weekly research seminars to which PhD student are invited) are held in the School covering matters such as: comparative research methods; using theory in postgraduate research; referencing; getting published; and employability. At the University-level, PhD students have access to high quality cohort skills training, for example, as part of the University's *Proficio programme* short courses are commissioned by the Graduate School and delivered by academics and expert trainers.

The University runs a central PhD programme, which includes: (1) a Doctoral Welcome Conference, for those embarking on PhDs and start-of-year conferences for second and third year doctoral students; (2) *Vitae*-approved programmes: a GRADschool for second-year students - addressing key communication skills, negotiating, giving and receiving feedback, along with career management skills - and Leadership in Action. (3) free-standing half- and one-day courses run throughout the year, addressing topics including: presentation skills, assertive communication, building an academic profile, sustaining motivation, writing for publication or applying for grant funding. The University's accredited **ESRC Doctoral Training Centre** provides key platforms for interdisciplinary engagement and non-HEI partnerships.

From 2013, incoming doctoral students will be given the equivalent of **£1,000 to spend on advanced training courses of their choice** in consultation with supervisors. This stands in addition to School funding that is available for conference attendance. With the Universities of East Anglia, Kent and Sussex, the School has established the **South East Law Network (SELNet)** and is part of the **CHASE Consortium for AHRC BGP2**. The first interdisciplinary workshop was held in October 2013.

Research students working on human rights issues are encouraged to participate in the Human Rights Consortium with the University of London, which organises graduate student conferences, as well as in 'human rights triangle' events (a partnership between Essex, LSE and Cambridge University), where students meet and present papers at the various institutions before their peers and academics. PhD students can become members of the student-run **Human Rights Centre Doctoral Affiliates Network**. As well as encouraging and promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary doctoral research into the theory and application of human rights, the network provides opportunities to share research, discuss human rights issues, talk through difficulties with studies, and obtain general support.

In addition, research students are encouraged to participate in **specialised Essex summer schools**, such as that organised by the ETJN and the research methods summer school, which bring together international academics and practitioners and provide excellent possibilities for networking.

Students can also gain **practical work experience**, for example through the University's 'frontrunner' scheme which funds student placements, ranging from administrative to research-oriented placements; or through engagement in the Human Rights Clinic and the work of the EBHRP. Students have the opportunity to gain teaching experience as GTAs, including research-

led teaching based on their areas of expertise (e.g. Szesnat and Jachek-Neale on the law of armed conflict).

The quality of our students, the effectiveness of our career development mechanisms and the general success of our PhD programme, are demonstrated by the **success of students in gaining positions on graduation**. During this REF period, one obtained an academic post at Galway University upon completion of his PhD, was appointed as Reader at Essex in 2011 and has subsequently been promoted to a chair in 2013 (Lubell); several obtained academic posts at other institutions (e.g. Cantor at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies; Canestri at Surrey; Hill at Bedfordshire; Hourani at Bournemouth; Valladeres at Anglia Ruskin; Cinar at Oxford; Droubi at the Brazilian Federal University of Juiz de Fora; Schoensteiner at the Diego Portales University, Chile). Others have influential positions in organisations such as the Ford Foundation (Osorio). Several PhD theses have been published as monographs with prestigious publishers (e.g. Lubell with OUP; Fujita with Edward Elgar). Work of PhD students has also had significant impacts beyond the academic world, for example, based on consultancy work provided by Kalandarishvili-Müller, the Georgian government is amending its occupied territories law on criminalising movement into certain regions.

#### d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

##### Income

During this assessment period members of the Law have received just under £2m to support projects, from 19 funding bodies, including Research Councils, governments, international organisations and charities. Externally funded projects include: the ESRC seminars on *Access to Justice in and Age of Austerity* (PI Palmer, £15,255); *Value and Effect of Judicial Review* (Nuffield, PI Sunkin, £223,401, 2010-2013); the ESRC-funded project on the impact of Judicial Review on the quality of local authority services (PI Sunkin, ESRC, £131,865.45, 2005-2008), the Nuffield-funded project *The permission stage of the judicial review procedure*, (PI Sunkin, £115,974, 2005-2009); British Academy-funded seminars on *Linking Transitional Justice and Corporate Complicity* (Michalowski, 2010-2011, £19,966), and *Towards a Conceptualisation of the Economic and Social Dimensions of Transitional Justice* (Michalowski, 2012, £9,952); the AHRC-funded *Network on Developments in Corporate Criminal Liability* (PI Gobert, £35,844.00); the Open Society Institute-funded work on the Human Rights 7 Drug Policy Debate (PI Lubell, £123,420); the FCO, the German and Dutch governments-funded work on the human rights situation in Iran (PI Sheeran, £28,439). In addition to externally funded research, the School's research has also been supported by substantial University funding, including, for example, the award of £105,000 from the VC's Global Challenges project to Sandoval to support the ETJN. During this REF period the School has invested £155,865 from its own funds to support research-related activities (£96,850 for the RPF and £59,015 for personal research allowances).

##### Infrastructure and facilities

Elements of our infrastructure and facilities have already been mentioned, including individual research allowances; research leave policies; the facilitative role of the School's Research Committee; our research seminars; and the School's subject specific seminar programmes, including those organised by the Human Rights Centre and the EBHRP. In addition, the School regularly contributes to research seminars across the University, such as those held by the Centre for Theoretical Studies, the ETJN, and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Environment and Society. The opportunity to present research in its early stages to an informed, critical but supportive interdisciplinary audience has improved the quality of publications and grant applications: examples include Sunkin's presentation in 2011 which informed the regionalisation of JR paper (Sunkin: 2013), and Cornes' work on judicial leadership (Cornes: 2011).

Reference has already been made to the use of RPF funds to support research that enables staff to present their findings to expert audiences and that promises to generate significant publications. RPF funding, for example, enabled: Gilbert's presentation at the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration conference in Kampala (July 2011), which led to a REF publication (Gilbert: 2012); Cornes, Cornford and Marique to attend the SLS conference to present papers leading to publications in this submission.

Further support to researchers seeking external funding has been provided by the School's

appointment of a senior level Research Administrator and a Faculty Research Support Manager with dedicated responsibility for advising on funding opportunities and assisting funding applications.

### **Operational infrastructure**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) is responsible for the University's policy and strategy on research, knowledge exchange and enterprise and supports the research performance and plans of all research active staff across the University through biannual monitoring, in discussion with the Faculty Executive Deans, Departmental Heads and Research Directors. The PVC chairs the University's Research Committee (RC) which has oversight of research across the University. The RC engages with the departmental research committees, monitoring research grant activity and the strategic deployment of centrally provided resources. For its own research-support purposes, each Department receives: (1) a portion of the HEFCE QR income it earns; (2) a share of a cross-University 'Research Promotion Fund' (RPF); and (3) approximately half of the indirect-cost component of research grants won, with a further 10% going directly to the principal investigator as research incentive. In addition, for academics who succeed in winning external research funding for a proportion of their salary, up to 30% of the funded salary is returned to departments as an additional resource to provide for teaching and administrative buy-out of the academic.

The University's Research and Enterprise Office (REO) provides unified and comprehensive support for pre- and post-award external research grant activity, and for 'third-stream' research applications including knowledge-exchange and commercialisation. This includes a team of Research and Enterprise Managers who provide: expert advice on sources of funding; support with preparing research proposals; support for faculties in providing opportunities for collaborative research brainstorming; training events some of which are particularly directed towards early career researchers; links to external bodies and research funders. The REO, through the Research Governance and Planning Manager, also ensures ethical compliance and good governance of all projects.

### **Scholarly infrastructure**

The University Albert Sloman Library is committed to providing a high quality service in support of the research excellence of the Law School. Its on-going commitment to research support is demonstrated by the expenditure of almost £331,000 on law and human rights materials in the year 2012-13, among the highest of any UK university library, and by the engagement of a qualified law graduate to deal with collection development and subject assistance in these disciplines. Research support is a key activity for the Library and facilities are constantly improved and legal holdings developed to provide the best possible support for researchers. The Library provides a wealth of research tools and resources and currently offers access to some 78,600 hard copy volumes, 6,600 e-books and 2,470 online journals and electronic reports directly relevant to the fields of law and human rights. The Library continues to monitor developments in legal research to ensure that it fully supports the needs of the Law school.

### **e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

Collaboration amongst colleagues within the school, with researchers in other institutions, with non-academics, and institutional collaborations of various types, is vital to our research agenda and to the success of our research which contributes to practice and policy.

#### **Cross-institutional and global and regional collaboration**

Essex actively pursues cross institutional collaborations, such as that with the UEA, Kent and Sussex law schools (SELNet), which includes PhD students, as well as collaborations which are formed as part of the University's Global Alliances programme (e.g. with JNU, India).

Many of our research outputs are the product of collaborations with other UK universities (e.g. Koutsias with Dine (QM) (Koutsias: 2013); Sunkin with Nason (Bangor) (Sunkin: 2013); Peers with Costa (City) (Peers: 2012). Research of global and regional importance has been enabled by collaborations, such as those between Michalowski and Bohoslavsky (UNCTAD), and between Sandoval and Rubio Marin (European University Institute) (Sandoval: 2009; 2011). We have developed formal and informal links with many research centres in other jurisdictions. These include Gobert's, AHRC-funded Corporate Crime Network consisting of partners in several European countries who, after a series of seminars, co-authored a book comparing approaches to

**Environment template (REF5)**

corporate criminal liability across Europe. The School also uses Erasmus exchanges for building research collaborations, such as Cornes' with the Autonomous University of Barcelona). Partners coming for teaching visits also hold research-based seminars at Essex.

**Collaboration to undertake research relevant to practice and policy development:**

Collaborations with NGOs, charities and practitioners in the UK and elsewhere have enabled research of the highest practice and policy impact. Examples include Sunkin's work with the PLP; McGregor, Rodley and Sandoval's work with REDRESS; Farah and Leader's research with Global Witness, CORE and Amnesty International UK; Michalowski and Sandoval's with the International Centre for Transitional Justice, NY, and DeJusticia, Colombia; Peers' with StateWatch.

Collaboration, and important contributions to the discipline, is assisted by our **hosting and organisation of meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences**, often together with NGOs and/or members of the legal profession. Several conferences organised during this REF period have been referred to. Others include 'European Developments in Corporate Criminal Liability', co-organised by Gobert and the Centre for Corporate Accountability, with ACHR support and hosted at Clifford Chance London (2009); the Symposium on Business and Human Rights, co-organised by Leader and the Law Society of England and Wales (2010); 'The Law and Practice of Rehabilitation in Domestic Administrative Reparations Programmes', co-organised by McGregor and Sandoval with support from the Clemens Nathan Research Centre (2012); the Essex meeting on prison conditions hosted by McGregor and Rodley, (2012). In January 2013 Gilbert hosted a closed roundtable on exclusion for the UNHCR involving academics, representatives of governments, judges and UNHCR staff. That meeting was based on Gilbert's outputs and is feeding into research on refugee status and armed conflicts (forthcoming in 2014). We also collaborate with local practitioners to host the Annual North Essex and Suffolk Law Lecture, and with Clifford Chance to host an Annual Lecture. These lectures are normally delivered by senior judges and practitioners. Enabling staff to **spend time working directly with organisations and practitioners** is also a vital element in achieving our strategy and is explained in our impact statement and case studies. Examples include enabling Rodley to serve as a member and Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee; Hampson as member of the former UN Human Rights Sub-Commission; and Sunkin as Legal Adviser to the House of Lords Constitution Committee.

**Interdisciplinary research:** the School strongly encourages interdisciplinary research, and our most successful centres, such as the HRC, the EBHRP, and the ETJN are led by members of the School but are interdisciplinary in nature. Examples of our interdisciplinary research are Sunkin's ESRC-funded work on the impact of judicial review (Sunkin:2010) carried out under the auspices of the HRC with Platt (then in the University's Institute for Economic and Social Research and Landman, (Government)); the establishment of the ETJN by Sandoval (Law), Freyenhagen (Philosophy) and Harrison (Mathematical Sciences); and Hulme's research on the notion of environmental resilience, being conducted by a team from the Departments of Government, Economics, Biological Sciences, Business School, and Psychology.

**Contribution to the discipline**

**Journal editorships:** Members of the School hold prestigious positions as editors of leading journals, including Gilbert, Editor in Chief of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*; Sunkin, General Editor of *Public Law*; and Rodley Co-Editor in Chief of the *Israel Law Review*. Other staff hold editorial positions on journals, including: Cornes and Le Sueur (*Public Law*); Willett (*Yearbook of Consumer Law and Journal of European Law and Policies*); Lubell (*Journal on the Use of Force and International Law*). Fox O'Mahony chairs the Board of Directors of the (US-based) Association of Law, Property and Society, is a member of the editorial board of *Modern Studies in Property Law*, and Associate Editor in Chief of the *International Encyclopaedia of Housing and Home*. Essex **encourages involvement in the SLS**, and supported Marrani as a member of the Executive Committee. Essex plays an **active role in the Research Councils and scholarly associations**. For example, Gilbert was a founding member of the AHRC Peer Review College (including Strategic Reviews) and sits on Research Grants Panels; Palmer is a member of the ESRC college to review funding applications; Le Sueur is a co-convenor of the UK Constitutional Law group and serves on the executive committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law; and Rodley is President of the International Commission of Jurists.