

Foreword: AccessBrian Leung¹

“A capacity and taste for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones.”

-Abraham Lincoln

The Queen Mary Law Journal (QMLJ) has become an important forum for doctoral research associates at Queen Mary University of London Law School to peer-review, collate and publish quality scholarship in the legal arena on an annual basis. In this issue, QMLJ consolidated initiatives from previous years and extended our collaboration with *Arts Law* to include non-literary work in our publication. We also expanded QMLJ to include a case note and book review, alongside journal articles across a range of specialisms. To reflect our theme, we have decided to broaden the reach of QMLJ as an open access journal and will host our issue on the Open Journal System alongside our existing channels.²

In this issue, QMLJ published an open call for submissions on an all-encompassing theme – ‘access’. Our decision to incorporate creative submissions under a broad theme is to reflect the observation that law itself is interdisciplinary and fluid in character. It is thereby insightful to examine the legal discourse through liberal interpretations that venture beyond the constraints of black-and-white legal discussions.

We received strong interests from legal scholars specialising in a diverse range of topics: from accessing sexual education via parenting to accessing Covid-19 vaccines, from accessing the European art market through the lens of post-colonialism to accessing the legal system itself from the perspective of gender inequality. Alongside, our case note discusses access to international trade through the lens of the ‘most favoured nation’ clause, and our book review

¹ Dr. Brian Leung from Queen Mary University of London is currently working on two books: ‘Copinger and Skone James on Copyright’ and ‘Copyright and the Public Interest’ with Professor Uma Suthersanen and Professor Gillian Davies. As tutor for the EUIPO Pan-European Seal Programme, his team won best research paper (*cf.* IP and dance) in 2023. Brian completed his PhD at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), LLM (IP law) at University College London (UCL) with distinction, and LLB (hons) at University of Birmingham with Excellence Scholarship. In addition, he completed the final vocational stage of training to become a qualified solicitor in England & Wales. As part of the qualification, he received an MSc in Law, Business and Management from the University of Law. He was elected an associate fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2023.

² Queen Mary Law Journal’s website can be accessed via <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/research/journals/qmlj/>.

systematically examines the notion of adopting open access as one of the tools to break research publication barriers.

I would like to thank our dedicated editorial board, peer reviewers and article editors. A special token of thanks to our executive editor, Uchechukwu Oluwatosin Ani – working with you is enjoyable and inspirational. My same gratitude extends to Luisa Herrera and Zoe Asser (deputy peer review editors), Jude Mbonu and Barasha Borthakur (deputy articles editors), and Marcela Martinez (communications manager). They are enthusiastic PhD research associates at Queen Mary University of London, whose unwavering hard work has made this issue possible.