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Looking Forward and Back in Time of Transitions

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Foreword

Looking Forward and Back in Time of Transitions

All times are exciting, but some times are more exciting than others. This edition of the Southampton Student Law Review, comprised of pieces from former and current students at Southampton Law School, reveals just how exciting our times are. From the political tumult of Brexit and the continual developments in a post-colonial global order to technical advances in medicine and transportation, this issue of the SSLR explores the full breadth of pressing contemporary legal developments.

This issue illustrates how law sits on the temporal boundary of these dramatic social transitions. Even as many of the topics look to the future – the status of law in international and transnational contexts, and how law must address shifting practices due to changing norms and technologies – the issue remains thoroughly grounded in the history-minded method of common law. Thus we have articles that look to the impact of a former Supreme Court justice’s attitude on the development of contemporary law and how new struggles in areas of law mirror struggles of the past. Moreover, many of the articles themselves are thoroughly grounded in the tensions that emerge from applying established law to new developments. Statutes and case law do not evolve of their own accord to keep pace with new social and technical developments. It is the role of lawyers to interpret law so that it can face new challenges even as it maintains coherence and continuity with its past. This project is perpetual, but it happens to be a time in human history when the depth and scale of this interpretive challenge is especially great.

The students who write these pieces are not merely commentators of the moment. They are the future solicitors, barristers, and academics who will guide this continued development of law to face new challenges in a variety of contexts. The diversity and depth of this issue reveals that we should feel ourselves to be in good hands.

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