

YORK LAW SCHOOL | Clinic



WHAT IS THE CLINIC?

The Clinic is a free legal service for the public that opened its doors in January 2011. Since then we have received over 800 requests for help. In 2018/19 57 students were involved in the Clinic as part of their studies. All work done is supervised by professionally qualified lawyers who ensure that the Clinic meets the standard of service expected of any solicitors' practice. The Clinic therefore provides much needed help for clients whilst at the same time putting theory into practice for students.



Comments from Clients

"We admired the courtesy and friendliness shown by the students including their profound interest in our case. Without their valued advice received, we would have remained clueless on our course of action. With many thanks to all."

"I would like my appreciation to be passed onto the Firm. I am very grateful for the advice provided. I felt this case was particularly complex, however their suggestions add a lot of clarity to my further avenues of action and that is hugely helpful."

"I would like to thank your team for their kindness and hard work."

WHO CAN ASK FOR ADVICE?

Anyone can ask the Clinic for help and we do not charge for our services.

We work with individuals, companies and community organisations to provide a free, professional and confidential legal service. Over the past eight years we have managed to help clients who may struggle to find or otherwise afford legal advice. The Clinic has been able to provide its expertise in a range of areas, from family, employment and landlord & tenant disputes to creating charities and companies. Since the Clinic began, we have advised over 250 clients and have worked in schools, courts, tribunals and prisons and with other service providers such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and the local legal profession, making and receiving referrals.

We act for a wide range of clients most of whom come to the Clinic from York and the surrounding community but we have also attracted enquires from further afield. Wholesale cuts to Legal Aid entitlement have meant a significant increase in unmet legal need generally, and this has certainly been the case locally.

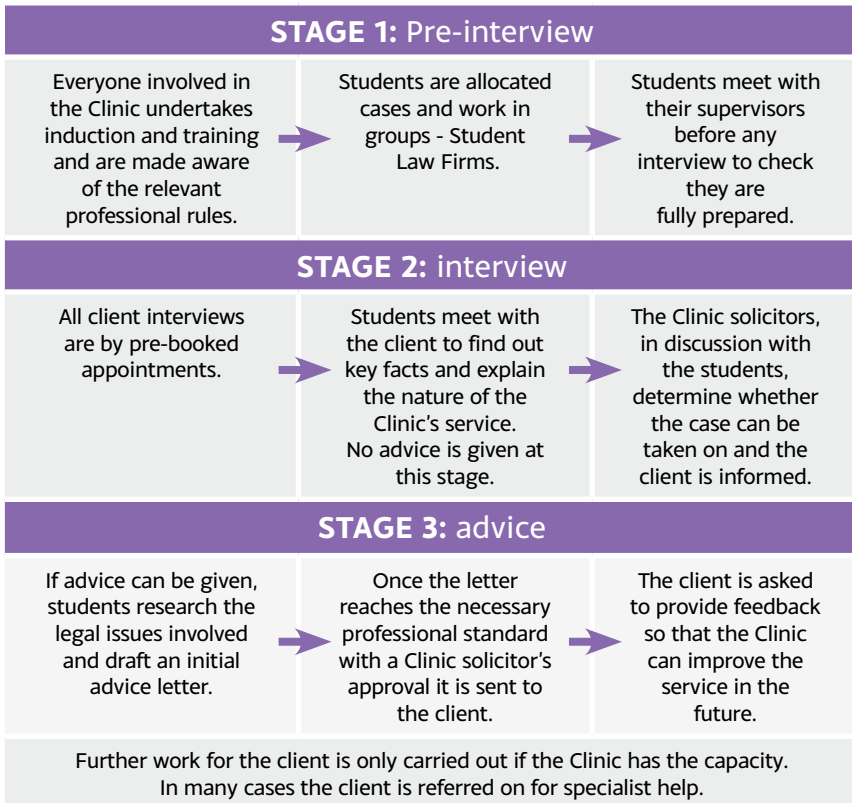
We try to help clients with their legal issues if we can. Where we are unable to, we explain why and refer on to specialist advisors where possible.



THE CLINIC PROCESS

Everyone in the Clinic follows a clear set of well tried and tested procedures. As a result, clients can expect to receive a high quality, professional and confidential service. So far as is possible, these procedures reflect the workings and demands of any legal practice. We also aim to meet the University and Law School's educational standards for the students concerned. All work undertaken in the Clinic is closely supervised by qualified solicitors with practicing certificates. Additionally, the University's Professional Indemnity Insurance covers the activities of the Clinic, providing further protection for clients, students and staff.

Provided below is a summary of the Clinic process:



EXAMPLE CASE STUDIES

Private tenancy

Our client entered into a private rental tenancy with a landlord and agreed with the landlord to make improvements to the patio and garden. After the tenants left, the landlord disputed this agreement and deducted the costs from the deposit. The Clinic advised our client about the Deposit Protection Scheme and alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Property/subsidence

Our client contacted the Clinic because a tree outside their property was causing subsidence and they were having subsequent difficulty renewing property insurance. The tree was on a public street and managed by the local authority. The Clinic was able to explain how the client could challenge the local authority about their management of the tree to mitigate the subsidence. The Clinic also guided our client on how to use ombudsman services.

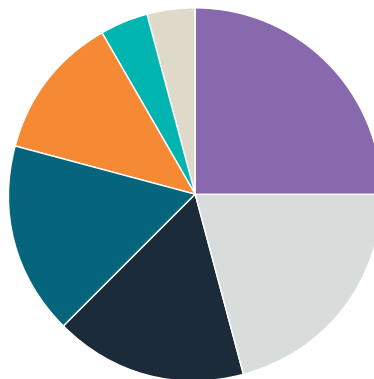
Amateur musicians' band

Our client is involved with an amateur musicians band charity. The client was aware of recent case law concerning noise control for professional orchestras and wanted to know if this might affect its members. The Clinic advised on liability and insurance matters, as well as signposted to relevant information about noise regulation.

CLINIC CASES 2018-19

Summary/stats

- Contract: 6
 - Property/planning: 5
 - Consumer: 4
 - Family: 4
 - Private tenancy: 3
 - Medical negligence: 1
 - Charity: 1
- Total cases advice given: 24



Comments from student self-evaluation:

"Receiving positive feedback from the client felt like we really helped someone."

"This case was most useful in terms of improving our drafting skills and making the law/its application clear for the client to understand."