



CLEO AGM Chairs' Report: 2024-25

Below is a summary of CLEO's activities since our last AGM on 4 September 2024.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of CLEO continues to increase, with a membership of 392 as of 14 July 2025.

2. TRUSTEES

During 2024-25, Jane Krishnadas, Omar Madhloom and Louise Hewitt resigned from their roles as CLEO trustees. We wish to thank Jane, Omar, and Louise for their hard work and commitment during their time as trustees.

During the June 2025 trustees' meeting, Lucy Blackburn stepped down from her role as co-Chair (but remains a trustee of CLEO). We wish to thank Lucy for her commitment to CLEO in her co-Chair role. Francine Ryan was unanimously voted in as co-Chair from June 2025.

Lyndsey Bengtsson stepped down from her role as trustee and treasurer of CLEO in June 2025. We wish to thank Lyndsey for her contribution to CLEO in both these roles. Mathew Gray was unanimously voted in as Treasurer of CLEO from June 2025.

3. EVENTS

The CLEO trustees are committed to organising events that will help our members to learn from one another and welcome proposals from any member who wishes to organise an event. In the academic year 2024-25 we organised the following for members:

3.1 Research Skills:

On 20 May 2025, CLEO and CEPLER hosted a joint legal education workshop at The University of Birmingham. This in-person interactive workshop was led by Professor Lisa Webley and was aimed at supporting law lecturers to undertake legal education research projects.

3.2 Policy Network Events:

The Policy Network organised workshops on 9 April and 15 July 2025. The workshops were chaired by Liz Hardie from the Open University, who has taken over the organisation of events for the Policy Network. Events provided an opportunity to share current policy clinic work and projects and to share best practice in setting up clinics.



The Policy Clinics team also held several one-to-one meetings with colleagues to assist with the setting up and operation of the policy clinics within their university setting.

3.3 Regional meet ups:

The Northwest Regional meet up had 10 attendees and took place on 2 July 2025 at the University of Law in Manchester. The meeting focused on using AI in clinics and what a policy to teach students to utilise AI in the right way might include.

Two London Regional meet ups were held at City University (9 Jan 2025) and Kings College London (9 July 2025).

3.4 Roundtables:

The Family Law roundtable took place at the University of Liverpool on 4 July 2025 and focussed on showcasing best practice in Family Law pro bono projects, from McKenzie Friends services to legal design projects.

4. CLEO BLOG AND PODCAST

CLEO strives to find new ways to spread its message to as wide an audience as possible. As part of this, we have launched a [podcast \(hosted on Spotify\)](#) with Sharan Sandhu acting as interviewer of podcast guests and have published articles on [CLEO's LinkedIn page](#). It is envisaged that a new website (see below at 8) will host a dedicated CLEO blog in the future; until then, LinkedIn will be the host platform for any posts. To date, there are two podcast episodes and two articles on the respective platforms. We have a further blog post in the pipeline (by recent podcast guest Jonny Hall) and will be encouraging further podcast and blog contributions in the coming months.

5. REPRESENTATION AND PROJECTS:

5.1. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PRO BONO COMMITTEE:

CLEO's Co-chairs sit as representatives of CLEO on the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee (meeting twice per year in Parliament) and the Steering Group of the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee (meeting monthly in London/online). This has led to CLEO's involvement in the following projects:

5.1.1 The Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales

The List (<https://www.probonorecognitionlist.org.uk>) recognises barristers and solicitors who have given 25 hours or more pro bono legal assistance over the last year. The initiative is



supported by the Law Society, the Bar Council and all the major pro bono organisations, with the Lady Chief Justice as Patron. Now in its second year, the List recognises solicitors, barristers, and (new for 2025) chartered legal executives and registered foreign/European lawyers both in private practice and in-house who provided pro bono legal assistance over the last year.

5.1.2 The Updated Guide to Pro Bono and Other Free Legal Advice

This guide (<https://probonoweek.org.uk/guide>) is a directory for MPs and others looking to signpost individuals to free legal advice, and was updated in conjunction with the major pro bono organisations, including CLEO, in Autumn 2024.

5.2 ENCLE

CLEO trustee Linden Thomas represents CLEO at meetings of the European Network for Clinical Legal Education.

5.3 UKRAINE PROJECT

CLEO's relationship with the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine (ALCU) continues. A memorandum of understanding was signed by CLEO and ALCU in April 2025, and the organising committee's work on event planning for sharing best practice is underway.

6. CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION RECOGNITION LIST

During 2024-25, CLEO has devised The Student Clinical Legal Education Recognition List (CLERL) to acknowledge the achievement of those students who, via their university law clinics, have applied 25 hours or more of their legal learning to the provision of legal advice and assistance to achieve access to justice and community impact. The first list will launch in the 2025-26 academic year. CLEO members will receive a full briefing about the list prior to its launch in Spring 2026.

7. FUNDS

CLEO does not have a regular source of income. We have no significant running costs but do need some income to support the website and to have some funds available. We intend to continue to generate income from charging a small fee for attendance at events as this model continues to work well.

As at the end of the financial year (April 2025), we had £6,914 in our bank account. A copy of the latest accounts for the last financial year are attached.



8. WEBSITE AND TEAMS SITE

The build of the new CLEO website has been an area of significant focus for the CLEO trustees during 2024-25. This will conclude in September 2025 with a refreshed, more intuitive site.

CLEO has a new Teams site which will also be ready for use in September 2025. This will be the central focus for online events and best practice discussions.

9. THE YEAR AHEAD

The spirit of CLEO is very much one of collaboration and mutual support. We are grateful to our fellow trustees and all those who have volunteered to support, host and attend events.

Andy Todd (continuing co-chair), Lucy Blackburn (outgoing co-chair), and Francine Ryan (incoming co-chair)