



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

A man in a blue suit and patterned tie is smiling and sitting at a table with laptops in a meeting room. The background is slightly blurred, showing a whiteboard and other people.

Scaling Clinic Up for Large Groups: Business Law in Practice

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Client Work in Clinic



- Excellent preparation for the workplace
 - Exciting and engaging, resulting in students working hard
 - Demonstrates how law works in practice, and how students might fit in
 - Promotes emotional understanding of clients' needs
 - Provides opportunities for dealing with unexpected twists and turns
- BUT
- Staff-intensive
 - Usually done in small groups.

The challenge: Provide realistic clinical legal education in corporate and commercial law for a large group of students



Authentic Learning Experiences in Law School

Problem questions

Authentic documents with a problem question (Legal Document Pack Exercises)

Business Law in Practice Module

Client work in Clinic

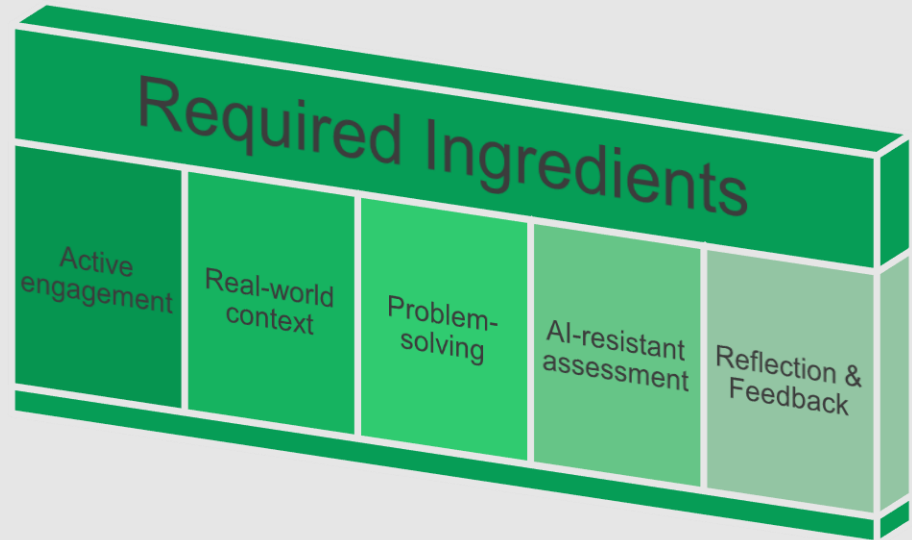
Less authentic

More authentic



Is experiential learning a solution?

Aspects of professional law and work-ready skills can be learnt through "doing" to incorporate direct experience, reflection, and application (mirroring Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle)





Our Business Law in Practice model

Final year undergraduates form, run and advise a real company (non trading)

Exercises which combine real-world tasks and simulated case study

Real World	Simulated case study
Shareholder agreement – binds all students and staff	Funding of the case study company to establish (fictitious) financial importance
Emotional buy-in by forming the company & owning it	Entrepreneurs with the business passion (initial clients)
Responsibility to resolve problems that they cause	Characters who cause case study problems
Run real board meetings, draft real documents	Due diligence issues for legal research tasks
Sell one company to the other	Extent of risk assumed by characters within the business
Parties to legally-binding transaction	Advise on high risk issues and negotiate settlements
End the business in a way which does not impact on future careers	Financial disaster necessitates closure of the business



Roles

Tutors as learning facilitators

Supervising solicitor

Organised funding from alumni

Information & data approval

AI resistant assessments
due diligence, negotiation
strategy & reflection

Students & Tutors as company stakeholders (REAL)

Shareholders & Directors
of real companies

Made decisions at
company meetings
together

Signed legally-binding
paperwork

Completed UK
government records

Students as early career lawyers (SIMULATED)

Trainee solicitor
accountable to the
supervisor

Organised meetings

Researched & advised
fellow directors and
shareholders

Submitted assessments
directly related to their
personal experiences



Reflections

- 20 students in a group, rather than 3 in clinic
- Fun / stressful / surprising!
- We noticed clinic type benefits such as high engagement, hard work, excitement. Students were invested - embedded in the case study.
- Clinic-like supervision experience – they would seek support more readily.
- Everything takes a long time (staff preparation and student work)
- Students and staff learning together.
- Like clinic, the learning wasn't always what we expected.



Student Feedback

“My favourite thing ...is the focus ...on partnership. The lecturers gave us the independence to make all the important decisions concerning the company and this strengthened the harmony between the members”

“While law school often emphasized theoretical writing, this module helped me expand my ability to translate my research into client-based advice. This experience directly built my practical legal knowledge, which was non-existent.”

“I realised I did not really know how to carry out research using the databases. AI was unreliable and unhelpful – it actually totally misunderstood what the question asked us to research so we considered completely the wrong topic, which was embarrassing in class.... I quickly learned how to use Westlaw and Lexis+ as a result and the librarian helped me do this.”



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Thank you

Questions?