

Press Release

28 November 2011

**LEADING FAMILY LAW FIRM AWARDS OUTSTANDING STUDENT  
IN MEMORY OF FORMER PARTNER**

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Leading UK family law firm, Dawson Cornwell has awarded former College of Law student, Rebecca Hazeldine, with the second annual Peter Clark Prize, for her outstanding performance in the family law paper of the Legal Practice Course (LPC).

Rebecca was presented with the £2,000 award at the firm's office in Holborn, London. The prize also includes a two-week internship at Dawson Cornwell, gaining experience in cases involving divorce, financial settlements, international child abduction, forced marriage and dissolution of civil partnerships.

The prize is open to the ten LCP students who submit the best family law papers at the College's centre in Bloomsbury, London.

To enter, students must submit an essay proposing the changes they feel are most needed within family law. They must also submit a statement explaining why they are committed to that field of practice.

Rebecca, aged 22 from Hove, East Sussex, completed the LPC in July 2011, achieving 87 per cent in her family law exam. Her winning essay explored the issue of extending parental rights to grandparents.

She said: "It is a great privilege to win the award and to be recognised for my achievement. I have really enjoyed studying family law at both university and during the LPC as it is an

interesting area of law and one that is constantly changing and bringing forward new issues. This area of law impacts on the lives of everyday people and working in this area of law would provide many opportunities to work with people and help make a difference.”

Rebecca graduated from the University of Nottingham in 2010 with a 2:1 in Law. She is now working as a paralegal at TPP Law where she hopes to commence her two-year training contract in March 2012 in order to qualify as a solicitor.

The annual prize was established last year in memory of Peter Clark, who was a partner at Dawson Cornwell from 1993 until his death in April 2010. Peter Clark was revered and respected within the world of family law and was a driving force behind leading family law precedent book *Practical Matrimonial Precedents* published by Sweet & Maxwell.

Dawson Cornwell’s senior partner, John Cornwell has said: *“Peter’s contribution to his clients, this firm and to the field of Family Law was immense. We trust that this prize goes a little way to recognising that and to inspire young lawyers to emulate him.”*

Dawson Cornwell is one of the UK’s leading specialist family law firms. It has departments specialising in children and money with particular expertise in work involving an international element. The firm also advises on property and probate, and thus, unlike other niche matrimonial firms, Dawson Cornwell is able to offer full training contracts.

Richard de Friend, Chair of The College of Law’s Academic Board said: *“The College is very honoured that Dawson Cornwell decided to memorialise Peter Clark in this way. In addition to a generous sum of money, the prize provides invaluable work experience, and testifies to the importance of family law, the area in which Peter Clark specialised, and so many College students wish to practise.”*

**ENDS**

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

1. Peter Clark (1947 – 2010) a former partner at Dawson Cornwell in whose memory the new student prize has been set up
  2. Rebecca Hazeldine, the 2011 Peter Clark Prize winner
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## **ABOUT DAWSON CORNWELL**

Dawson Cornwell is a boutique family law firm, based in London. This niche, 11 Partner practice, specialises in international family law.

As distinct from many firms, Dawson Cornwell has a separate, discrete Children Department (specialising in child abduction, relocation, forced marriage, abandoned spouses, adoption and surrogacy work) carrying out a significant volume of legal aid work. This co-exists independently, but in conjunction with, a busy and successful Matrimonial Department which focuses on privately funded divorce cases and financial applications.

Established in 1972, the firm follows the principles of Resolution. Formerly known as the Solicitors' Family Law Association This national organisation was founded by Dawson Cornwell's senior partner, John Cornwell, to encourage a constructive approach to divorces and family law. The firm is consistently recommended by Chambers and the Legal 500, the two main legal directories and in particular, its reputation in cross-border children disputes is unsurpassed.-

For further information about Dawson Cornwell please visit [www.dawsoncornwell.com](http://www.dawsoncornwell.com).

## **ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

The College of Law is the leading provider of professional legal education and training in Europe with centres in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Chester, Guildford, Manchester and York.

We are widely regarded as experts in legal training – all of our tutors and course designers are qualified solicitors or barristers and have practice experience. We work closely with law firms and chambers of all sizes and exclusively deliver the Legal Practice Course (LPC) to trainees at many of the leading global law firms.

As a Royal Charter educational charity, we are proud of our record of empowering students from all backgrounds to achieve their legal career goals. As well as being a leading provider of the LPC, we support qualified lawyers throughout the profession with a comprehensive programme of professional development courses and in 2008 we launched our Master's LL.M programme in professional legal practice.

We also provide the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) to give non-law graduates an entry route into the profession and the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) for prospective barristers.

In 2006 the College was the first independent institution to be granted degree awarding powers. In September 2012 we will be launching a two-year undergraduate LL.B law degree focusing on employability and professional legal skills.

For further information about the College please visit [www.college-of-law.co.uk](http://www.college-of-law.co.uk)