LAWWITHOUTWALLS: REVOLUTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Reforming the Legal Industry from its Roots

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AUTHOR

Amir S. Dhillon was a student on the inaugural LWOW X program in 2014 and later became the first LWOW Jim Ferraro Intern. Amir's active participation and experiences as a student and intern in LWOW X led him to Axiom, where he works as the Lawyer Development Coordinator in the London office. Most recently, Amir has become the first ever Alumni Officer for LWOW and is excited for his third year involved with the program. In his spare time, Amir enjoys writing and playing music (especially Heavy Metal), hobby photography and his never-ending quest for the ultimate burger (and cocktail). He can be contacted at amir.dhillon@axiomlaw.com.

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I.   INTRODUCTION

In the wake of every other industry, the legal industry is finally adapting to the quickening waves of change, wrought by globalization and technological advancement on an unprecedented scale. Archetypal, risk-averse lawyers are coming to, as it becomes more evident that whilst technological capabilities and prowess are swelling, the world itself appears to be shrinking. Not too long ago, "globalization" was at the tip of every tongue, as the ultimate harbinger of change. Now we speak of a "glocal" world, where globalization is not an idea to be discussed, but an integral part of the environment in which we live.

II.   A PLATFORM FOR INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

LawWithoutWalls (LWOW)[1] re-engineers legal education, transforming it on a molecular level. Students learn to work across time zones, become fluent in the technological means required to excel in a glocal legal market and ultimately, reinvigorate their skillsets through creating "Projects of Worth" – implementable business solutions to issues plaguing the legal industry. Students (under the mentorship of thought leaders across a range of industries) will design, create, market and refine their Projects of Worth until they present them to their peers at the ConPosium - the final event of the LWOW calendar, where all student teams present their final Projects of Worth to the LWOW community. This allows students to develop and cultivate a deep knowledge of business skills and the business of law.

LWOW is split into three distinct programs. In LWOW Original, students meet at the start (KickOff) and the end (ConPosium) of the program; presenting in-person, after working together on their projects online during the time between the KickOff and ConPosium events. In LWOW X[2] and LWOW X Compliance[3] (which is specifically geared towards compliance topics, issues, and solutions), the students undertake the entire programs virtually. This represents an honest simulation of the future of glocal collaboration; conducting and coordinating project management, development and implementation from across the globe – both simultaneously and in real time. Students on these programs must therefore deliver their final presentation (to their fellow stu-

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[1]   LawWithoutWalls, a part virtual collaboration of over 750 professionals, was founded by Michele DeStefano at the University of Miami in 2010 and now includes over 30 law and business schools from around the world. For further information, *see* http://www.lawwithoutwalls.org.

[2]   LWOW X is an all-virtual variation of the successful LawWithoutWalls program.

[3]   LWOW X Compliance is an offshoot of a combination of LawWithoutWalls and a successful virtual pilot, Compliance Elliance, which was founded by Dr. Hendrik Schneider from the University of Leipzig in conjunction with the University of Miami School of Law. Similar to LWOW X, the entire program of LWOW X Compliance is offered virtually.

dents, academics and industry leaders from across the world) online using Adobe Connect – an interactive virtual tool that allows students to present live on webcam, with the aid of videos, audio and a slide deck. Furthermore, their contemporaries and mentors can contribute comments and questions during the presentation; a live, unprecedented and wholly unique approach to legal education and business presentations.

III.   LAWWITHOUTWALLS AS AN EDUCATIONAL NECESSITY

As an academically rigorous career, the importance of updating legal education in line with the transformation of the legal world cannot be underestimated. Ultimately, the disconnect that many feel exists between academic education and the practical application of knowledge has only widened. This gap now presents itself as a chasm; a void in which tomorrow's lawyers are often left without a torch or a map; denied of the skills required to navigate (and most importantly effect) the changes tomorrow's industry must undergo. This includes project management, marketing, market research, writing a business plan and the other myriad of skills that can only be forged in the fire of conceiving, developing and pitching a business idea to a group of elite, globally recognized academics, investors, entrepreneurs and the like.

IV.   GLOCAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN #LWOW2015

This year, students on both LWOW Original and LWOW X Compliance had to battle with one rather poignant, gripping and relevant topic: "In a Glocal World, How do Corporations Reduce the Dark Zone of Unknown Corporate Misconduct?"

A. LWOW Original: WhiteHatters

> Creators:
> Vincent Beyer (IHEID University)
> Alexandra Marshakova (Bucerius Law School)
> David O'Donovan (University College Dublin)
>
> Mentors:
> Academic Mentor: Moray McLaren (IE Business/Redstone Consultants)
> Practitioner Mentor: Joanne Canning (Eversheds)
> Corporate Mentor: Duncan Watson (Deutsche Bank)
> Entrepreneur Mentor: Darren Mee (Novus Modo Consulting)
> Alumni Advisor: Giorgia Linardi (IHEID)

WhiteHatters aim was to increase cyber security, whilst building awareness of the dangers posed by targeted phishing attacks. WhiteHatters aimed to achieve this through deconstruction learning and simulation. Whilst this idea in principle appears worthwhile, the presentation itself proved to all LWOW attendees how urgent the need for

WhiteHatters' Project of Worth was. A masterful cocktail of deceit, context and ingenuity (in equal measures), the group revealed they had sent a (benign) phishing email to the entire LWOW community regarding food options for the post-ConPosium event. Deliberately littered with red flags, such as incorrectly spelt names and being sent from a fake, slightly altered email address, almost all students and mentors responded to the email as predicted; by clicking the link in the email and providing their information on the webpage that followed. WhiteHatters thereby demonstrated the unnerving ease with which cyber security can be undermined, and how easily regulations, the need for their compliance and thus their effectiveness may be circumvented given the cloak of anonymity cyberspace creates. When such regulations may fail us, the final line of defense is each individual – who, as shown by WhiteHatters' experiment – currently requires significant upskilling in order to be capable of providing themselves with any meaningful protection from phishing and other cyber attacks. Ultimately, the team had proven the effectiveness of their Project of Worth, the simulation and deconstruction learning it entailed and it's necessity long before they'd even started their presentation.

B. LWOW X Compliance: NomNomNom

Creators:
Ruan Min (Peking University School of Transnational Law)
Christina Straub (University of Leipzig)

Mentors:
Academic Mentor: Rick Williamson (Miami Law)
Innovation Mentor: Mark Graffagnini (Graffagnini & Associates)
Lawyer/Compliance Mentor: Chris Callahan (Farmer & Associates)
Alumni Advisor: Alessandra Ionata (U of Montréal)

NomNomNom was a duo of two students from vastly different backgrounds – neither of whom were native English speakers. In spite of this, NomNomNom delivered a clear and striking presentation based around a deceptively simple idea – an app to provide Chinese consumers with information about fast food restaurants, their dishes, suppliers and the ingredients used. The Chinese context provided an additional dimension and unique counterpoint to this Project of Worth. Given a spate of recent high-profile scandals regarding grave failures to adhere with food quality standards and regulations in China, the Project of Worth was positioned to the most suitable target market possible. Recent failures in maintaining food quality standards include the powdered milk scandal, resulting in the death of six infants, or the Husi Food scandal, which revealed that various multinational corporations such as McDonalds were purchasing expired meat from suppliers that was wholly unfit for human consumption. Therefore this Project of Worth addressed a critical and topical need for its target market of fast food consumers. One cannot underestimate the importance of ensuring food quality standards are complied with, and the Chinese market in particular has become all too aware of this. Similar to WhiteHatters, this Project of Worth provided their target market with the means to

protect themselves in light of regulatory failings to safeguard consumers in one of (if not the most vital) area of consumer protection; the maintenance of food quality and safety standards.

V.   CONCLUSION

The stark contrast between two Projects of Worth born of the same topic exemplifies how diverse the LWOW community is and how much room exists for innovation in not only the legal industry, but across the business world. This becomes especially prevalent with the increasing utilization of technology, its permeation in everyday life and the ease with which such technology can be harnessed for almost any purpose – whether for deception and trickery or knowledge and awareness. Finally, LWOW underscores the capabilities of the bright minds that will enlighten the legal industry in years to come; who will steer the legal profession from its pre-Susskind antiquation towards desperately needed efficiency, efficacy and ethically conscious evolution.