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Announcements

Youth Justice in New Zealand - Papers by Nessa Lynch, Senior Lecturer of Law, Victoria University of Wellington

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"'Girls Behaving Badly?' Young Female Violence in New Zealand"

Victoria University of Wellington Law Review: Special Issue in Honour of Harriette Vine, First Woman Law Graduate 1913 (2014) 45(3) VUWLR pp 509-524.

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 130

NESSA LYNCH, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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While female crime, and particularly young female violence, has long been a titillating subject for the media, recent reports suggest an upsurge in violence amongst girls in New Zealand. This short article uses raw apprehension and sentencing data to consider the question of whether violence by girls is indeed increasing. It is concluded that while there does seem to have been an increase in violence by girls in the earlier part of the decade, the level of violence has fallen in the last three years. There may also be other explanations for an increase in apprehensions for violent offences such as changes in Police practice and societal attitudes.

"The 'Pushback' of Child Offending Cases to the Family Court"

(2013) 7(12) NZ Family Law Journal pp1-6.

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This note discusses recent case law on the operation of s 280A of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 (CYPF Act).

"Playing Catch-Up? Recent Reform of New Zealand's Youth Justice System"

12 Criminology and Criminal Justice pp 507-526 (2012)

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 132

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The New Zealand youth justice system emerged as a 'new paradigm' in the early 1990s. This model of reintegration, restorativeness, diversion and family empowerment has been highly influential worldwide. The New Zealand system has remained stable and non-punitive in the context of a volatile and punitive adult criminal justice system and the 'punitive turn' in the youth justice systems of similar jurisdictions. Significant reforms have been made through amending legislation in 2010. Here, three significant conceptual shifts underpinning the recent reforms are discussed. It is suggested that the New Zealand youth justice system is 'playing catch-up' both with the adult system, and with comparable jurisdictions. Nevertheless, those factors which allowed the youth justice system to remain non-punitive up to now may act to mitigate the potentially harsh effects of the legislative changes.

"Competing Paradigms? The Use of DNA Powers in Youth Justice"

(2012) 12(1) Youth Justice pp 3-18

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 133

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DNA is an important tool for criminal investigations and prosecutions. There has been considerable comment on its collection and retention from adult suspects and convicted persons, but little analysis of the particular situation of young people in the youth justice system. This article considers the competing paradigms at play when young persons' DNA is collected and stored. The tensions between expanded DNA powers and norms of youth justice such as reintegration and best interests are considered as well as the implications for young persons' rights.

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The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

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