



# The Dutton Career Development Fellowship in Law

*Securing the future of excellence  
in Law at Keble College Oxford*



# Introduction

In the 1960s there was a very clear decision by the Law Fellows to make Keble one of the great Oxford law colleges. This was led by David Williams, later Sir David Williams and Vice Chancellor of Cambridge. He was warmly supported by the remarkable Jim Harris. Today, Professor James Goudkamp and Dr Michael Foran continue to fight to keep Law at Keble as strong as ever, but they are under increasing pressure. This document details why support for The Dutton Career Development Fellow in Law is now absolutely essential to retaining excellence in the subject at Keble.

As you may know, Keble suffered substantial financial losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite prudent financial management, our relatively small endowment represents a significant weakness in Keble's fiscal health. We are committed to ensuring we continue to offer future generations of students the same unparalleled opportunities afforded to so many before them. Endowing Career Development Fellowships serves the triple purpose of securing the future of Oxford's unique tutorial system, supporting young academics' career development and feeding into research at Keble, and immediately relieving pressure on College finances whilst income from conferences remains unstable. We have demonstrated our commitment to Law by making a substantial core contribution to the appeal, which means we are closer to endowing the position in perpetuity. We hope this message will resonate with you, and that you will consider helping us over the finishing line of this important and timely appeal.

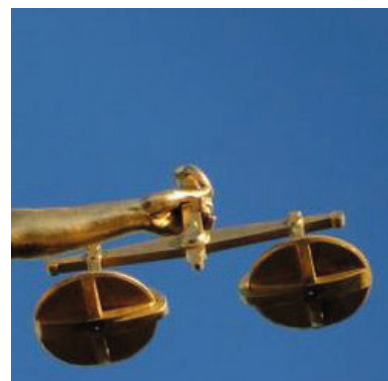
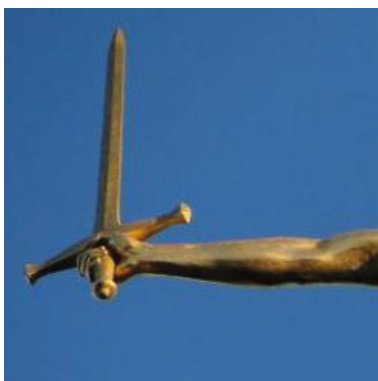
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**Dr Sir Mike Jacobs,  
Warden**

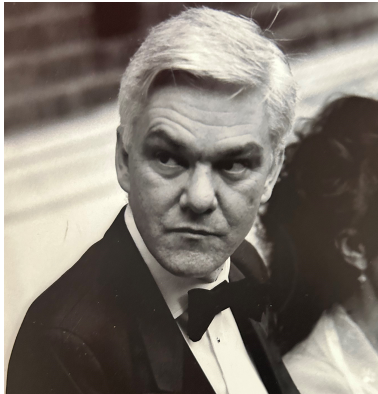
# Law and Oxford

Law has been taught at Oxford for 850 years. The Law Faculty has a preeminent role in training the world's most successful lawyers. Oxford has one of the largest Law faculties in the UK with more than one hundred and fifty-three academic staff, with a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 7:1. This vibrant community is at the heart of the Faculty's reputation, and underpins the role that it has long played in British society, training solicitors and barristers, and producing the leading Human Rights and civil justice experts of the future. As a subject at undergraduate level it is highly valued by employers as students develop a range of desirable skills.

The study of common law remains central at the Oxford Law faculty, but has evolved over the years to include comparative law, the philosophy of law, international law, and European law. Oxford also houses specialist centres in criminology and socio-legal studies. The Roman tradition has been reignited in collaborations with continental European universities, and building relationships with other international institutions continues to be a priority. This diversity of expertise ensures Oxford's reputation as the leading university for interdisciplinary work connected to the Law.



# Timothy Dutton KC CBE



## BA Jurisprudence 1975

Tim came up to Keble in 1975 and was taught by Professor James (Jim) Harris from whom he learnt that any lawyer must work furiously hard and with logical rigour. Called to the Bar in 1979 he practised in civil work increasingly focused on commercial law and professional regulation; he was often described as “the doyen of regulatory law”.

In 1987 he was invited to teach advocacy to practising lawyers in the USA. From this experience he realised that teaching of advocacy in the UK lacked sophistication. In 1994 he founded, and for the next 10 years directed, the Keble College Advanced International Advocacy Course which teaches practising advocates how to improve their skills, always complying with ethical standards. The course is regarded as the world’s leading advocacy course for practising advocates, and the model has been widely exported. In 2004, Tim was elected leader of the South-Eastern Circuit, and in 2008 he was elected Chair of the Bar Council through which he campaigned for better standards of integration and inclusion. The same year he became head of chambers at Fountain Court.

Tim married Burmese barrister Sappho Dias. Together they founded the Burma Justice Committee to work on re-establishing the rule of law in Burma.

In 2010 he was diagnosed with Dupuytren’s Contracture; and in 2014 with Motor Neurone Disease. He said at the time that he “collects diseases like other barristers collect fine wine”. Despite his MND diagnosis, Tim continued to work as a barrister for ten more years and conducted many well-publicised trials, appearing in the Supreme Court on four occasions during this time.

His motto, “treat every day as if it were the last” is one he lived by and recommended to anybody who has read this far in his story.

# Why endow a Career Development Fellowship in Law?

There are multiple short-term and long-term, financial and intellectual benefits to endowing The Dutton Career Development Fellow in Law post at Keble.

## **Securing the future of teaching provision and excellence in Law:**

- One of the strongest subjects at Keble, Law accepts eight undergraduate students per intake from varied backgrounds, and there is a growing postgraduate presence studying for MSts or DPhils. The group is large enough to be reckoned a major element in the College's life, but small enough to be a friendly, close community. The law students get to know each other, and their tutors, well. There is an active College Law Society which invites speakers on topics relevant to law studies or careers in the legal profession. Keble library is particularly well stocked with legal materials, a privilege for the undergraduates, providing the great majority of the sources needed for their course;
- The tutors take a particular interest in advising and assisting students to gain places in the professions. There are opportunities for work experience during the vacations and also to visit Law Firms and the Inns of Court. There are also many former members of the College in the legal profession, some in very senior positions, who are willing to provide help and advice concerning careers. In recent years, Keble lawyers have performed well in Final Honours Schools;
- Despite Keble's history of excellence in Law, the College does not currently have certain law subjects satisfactorily covered. There are significant gaps in our teaching requirements for Contract Law, Trusts and Land Law. In effect, each year the Tutorial Fellows have the additional administrative burden of arranging

swaps with other colleges for, typically, 5 out of 12 papers, in order to secure the teaching provision for the required subjects. This is additional to the events programme they organise, and extensive career advice they offer to students. It puts these areas of activities at risk, and also risks the consistency of the quality of teaching;

- Funding opportunities can be skewed to science, technology, engineering and maths subjects (STEM) in a progressively technological society, but the analytical thinking and the interest in justice and society's needs and expectations demonstrated by Law graduates ensures they are prepared for the future labour market. Although the majority of Keble's pool of Law graduates become solicitors and barristers, the subject also boasts an impressive array of leaders in the fields of non-profit management, finance and education;
- Along with four other colleges, Keble's 4:1 student to tutor ratio is the lowest across Oxford. In order to retain its position as a major subject at Keble, substantial teaching provision is required.

### **The immediate and lasting impact on College finances:**

- Our core objectives of teaching, learning, and research, present ongoing financial challenges which have been made more acute since the global pandemic and the associated reduction in conference business and student rental income;
- Although the College has significantly increased its endowment in recent years it is still well below the median for Oxford colleges. As in most colleges, undergraduate student fee income at Keble only covers around half of the cost to the College of providing the teaching and maintaining the facilities: therefore, every year there is a significant shortfall. In recent decades the College has sought to compensate by generating revenue through conference activity (c£1m –£1.5m profit pa) and through actively fundraising;
- During the global pandemic, conference income was eliminated and student rental income reduced significantly. The College incurred Covid-related losses of £3.5m, even after furlough and non-academic redundancy savings;
- Fully-funded Career Development Fellowships enable the College to plan with confidence, and invest in fundraising for undergraduate Bursaries and graduate Scholarships. When teaching is secured, we can focus on ensuring the brightest students, regardless of background, can benefit from this unique teaching model.

# Alumni stories



## Vitit Muntarbhorn

**BA Jurisprudence 1971**

**BCL Law 1974**

**International Human Rights Expert KBE**

Vitit Muntarbhorn is currently Professor Emeritus at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. In 2021, he was appointed by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council as UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, and his work under

this mandate continues today as a pro bono expert. Prior to that work, in 2016, he was appointed as the first UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He has served in various other UN positions: Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea; Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; member of UN Commissions of Inquiry covering the Ivory Coast and Syria. “My job is to protect and assist those who don’t have a voice. I want to use what power I may have constructively and find ways to deal with abuses of power. I feel very humble and very blessed that I can use information to help nurture change. I loved Oxford and the freedom it gave me. It gave me methodology to develop critically and analytically. It made me grow up. I made my best friends here and they are still my friends.”

## *Did you know?*

The Oxford tutorial system is of fundamental importance to the success of the students, the Colleges and the University. The intensity of teaching and learning is what sets Oxford apart; but providing that quality is expensive - Each year Keble spends £400,000 more on teaching costs than it receives from central University funding, the current endowment and past philanthropy combined. The shortfall is currently covered by the revenue from vacation conference business, but this income is no longer guaranteed.





## Dr Tatiana Cutts

**BCL Law 2010**

**DPhil Law 2011**

Dr Tatiana Cutts is an Associate Professor in Law at the University of Melbourne. She studied at Oxford from 2006–2015, completing a BA, BCL and DPhil. She helped set up the campaign MindYour Head, aimed at encouraging students to tell their stories of mental illness. MYH hosted

more than 100 events and helped inspire similar projects in universities across the UK.

“Keble was both an intellectual and personal home for me. Rather than channelling all my efforts towards academic success, I was encouraged to contribute more broadly towards university life; that institutional outlook gave me confidence, and it gave me a unique opportunity and platform to help other students. If Oxford can be competitive, demanding and—at times—isolating, Keble only ever felt both welcoming and supportive. I am so grateful to the College—to its students, tutors and College staff—for all the support that I received throughout the five years that I spent as a graduate student and College lecturer.”



## William Wong

**2020/21 Roger Lui Scholar in Law**

**BCL 2020-21, distinction**

William won the Vinerian Scholarship (Proxime Accessit) for the Second-best Performance in the BCL (shared) in a year group of c. 170 students.

William would not have been able to study at Oxford without the Roger Lui Scholarship. After his exceptional performance in Law at Keble, William was accepted into Harvard Law School where he completed his LLM. William will soon commence his pupillage with Temple Chambers Hong Kong, where he intends to develop a practice in commercial litigation and arbitration.

“I particularly remember Professor Peel’s kindness. He was not only interested in the students’ intellectual development, but also their emotional wellbeing. He organised events, provided thoughtful career advice and arranged regular walks in the park during the Covid-19 pandemic to connect with students.”



### *Did you know?*

With 55% of alumni having given at some point, Keble has one of the highest participation rates for alumni giving of any Oxford College – a wonderful testament to the strength of the Keble community

# Cost of endowing the post

To endow The Dutton Career Development Fellowship in Law will cost the College £1.5m.

Given the essential need for this post to ensure excellence in teaching in Law, Keble has committed the sum of £300,000 towards the appeal. Thus far we have raised an initial £470,000 from Law alumni and legacies, and aim to secure the outstanding £730,000 with a view to filling the position by October 2026.

We have a rare opportunity to establish the position in perpetuity.

# How you can help

By making a tax-efficient single gift or a multi-year pledge.

*For example: a gift of £40,000 spread over five years would, with gift aid, contribute £50,000 to The Dutton Career Development Fellowship campaign. For UK additional rate tax payers, after tax relief, the total cost would be £27,500 (i.e. £5,500 per year).*

With the value of gift aid to the College @25%, the actual collective cost could be just £584,000 to raise the outstanding £730,000.

# Recognising your support

Keble was established by philanthropy and we depend upon the visionary support of our benefactors. All donors are listed in annual College publications. Members of giving groups\* will receive invitations to special College events throughout the year as well as, once at the cumulative £250,000 level, to University events and ceremonies.

*\* Donors are recognised as having membership of a specific group once cumulative gifts to the College at each level have been received, regardless of whether or not gifts are given as instalments, or in one lump sum.*

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# Thank You