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Faculty of Laws Newsletter

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Comments from the Dean

During March we celebrated two Ph.D. graduations from our Faculty, these being Maurizio Ferrari and Paul E Micallef; in a separate ceremony we also celebrated the success of our post-grad students, including but not limited to our M.Adv. and M.Not students (Academic Year 2022-2023). A big well done to Dr Oleksandr Pastukhov and Dr Mireille Caruana for their excellent orations! On a different note, as in the past, I reminded our members of staff, in particular the full-timers, of the importance of putting in a good attendance at these ceremonies. Time is a premium for all of us, but participating in these special occasions is time well spent. Some heeded my request and attended at least one of the four events (including the Graduation Mass); others had the decency to call me up and explain why they were unable to attend this year. To all of these, I am grateful for their collegiality and for understanding that by attending at least some of these ceremonies they are not doing the Dean a favour, but are honouring our Institution and the graduating students to whose formation they themselves contributed.

This month, we were also honoured that after a long wait the planned visit to the Faculty of Laws by the President of the European Parliament Dr Roberta Metsola, finally materialised. This visit had been on the cards for about a year, but unfortunately she could never make it on the dates we had suggested to her, and on the only day her office suggested to us in late 2023 both myself and Deputy Dean Prof Ivan Sammut could not make it.



Said visit was divided into two parts: the first part was a meeting with Academics, in Room 317. The room was packed with members of staff, and the brief but intensive meeting was a resounding success; Dr Metsola then went on to meet and discuss European Union - related matters in a lecture hall (Arts Lecture Theatre) packed with students who not only showed a genuine interest in the event, but held her to task with their extremely intelligent questions. Further to this visit, I received the following correspondence, which I am extremely happy to share with you. *[Photo borrowed from social media]*



Annual visit to the European Union institutions

As in previous years, we visited the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Auditors, accompanied by a group of around thirty students, two from our LL.M. study programmes, the others being current M.Adv. students. This visit included meetings with Judge Professor Peter G Xuereb and Dr George Hyzler; we also attended an extremely interesting court sitting in a case instituted by a European producer of organic foods who was ordered to stop labelling his products as ‘organic’ because the ingredients included certain additives; the plaintiff was arguing that competitors of his from the USA whose



products included the very same ‘additives’ were allowed to market their products as ‘organic’ within the European Union, and thus he queried why he was being singled out and discriminated against; the answer seems to lie in WTO rules which do not allow the EU to order an American producer to desist from labelling its product as ‘organic’ once it is classified as such in the USA; the outcome of the actual court case remains to be seen. We also met somebody from last year’s group, who is currently doing a *stage* in the Press Office of the CJEU; it turned out that it was this very visit with us a year ago which enticed her to apply for her *stage*, which experience she is finding so rewarding that she is actually considering a career with one of the EU institutions.

Annual Team Building event

Faculty of Laws' Admin Staff held their annual Easter recess team building event. This year they went for breakfast, followed by pottery lessons in Ta' Qali and lunch.



Special thanks are due to University Human Resources, who support and indeed encourage such initiatives.

WHPARTNERS

WH Partners recently wrote to us, offering to make a donation to the Faculty of Laws' library; they offered to purchase €1,000 worth of books of our choice for the Library. Further to an exchange of correspondence, a number of book titles were suggested, and we are now informed that WH Partners are in the process of procuring the suggested titles. On behalf of the Faculty of Laws, the Editorial Board extends its thanks to WH Partners for their generosity.

Lecturing in London

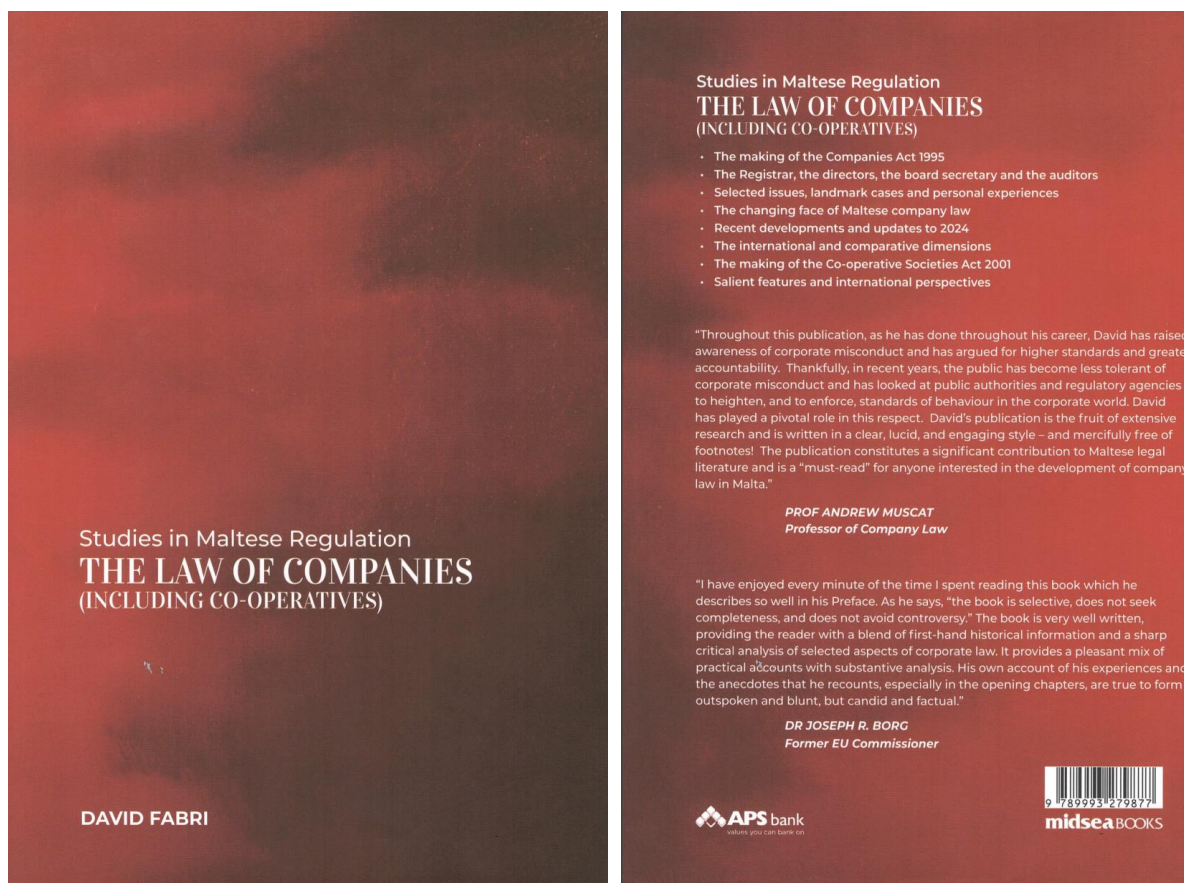
In March 2024, Professor Tonio Borg delivered two public law lectures in London. The first was delivered at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on “*Constitutional Supremacy: “Different experiences in the United States , India and Malta.”*”



Professor Borg was welcomed at the Institute by Director Carl Stychin and was accompanied by Dr John Stanton, Senior Lecturer at City University London. The second lecture was delivered on 22 March at City University, on “*Judicial Creativity in Public Law Actions : a Comparative Study.*” Both addresses will be soon be published.

New publication by Dr David Fabri

This month Dr David Fabri published a sequel to last year’s *Studies in Financial Services Law*. Once again Dr Fabri approaches the subject from the personal, unique angle which only someone who lived what he is writing about, can offer. This makes the *Studies in Maltese Regulation* series not only very useful both to practitioners and to students, but also extremely interesting reading.



While congratulating Dr Fabri for his contribution to academia, we look forward to the next installments in the *Studies in Maltese Regulation* series.

Meeting with the Parliamentary Ombudsman

Also during the month of March, the Parliamentary Ombudsman Judge Joseph Zammit McKeon, accompanied by Mr Jurgen Cassar (Head of Communications & Research within the Office of the Ombudsman) visited the Faculty of Laws and met with the Dean, together with Prof. Mario Thomas Vassallo and Dr George Vital Zammit from the Department of Public Policy, FEMA. The possibility of the Faculty of Laws and FEMA's Department of Public Policy jointly offering training was discussed, and quickly followed up with a concrete proposal which is to be discussed at the next Faculty Board before being relayed to the Ombudsman.

Promotion to Associate Professor

The Newsletter Editorial Board wishes to congratulate Dr David Zammit on his recent promotion to Associate Professor.

Have you got any news to share? If you have any item of relevance to this newsletter, feel free to inform us about it. You may contact any member of the editorial board, these being Prof Tonio Borg, Prof Ivan Sammut, Ms Rowena Leontijevic and Dr Ivan Mifsud. The Board reserves the right to refuse to publish an item submitted to it for its consideration.