

LawWithoutWalls : multi-media tool announced as 2016 winner

[United Kingdom](#) [Global](#)

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VIDE, a project to provide affordable multi-media tools to help defendants present themselves to courts and judges, has won this year's LawWithoutWalls programme at Miami Law School.

LawWithoutWalls (LWOW) is a global collaborative programme dedicated to innovating the future of legal education and practice. Eversheds have sponsored the programme since 2013.

The winning team was mentored by Eversheds senior associate, Abby Green and Louise Callam, associate counsel at Amex.

Abby Green, senior associate, Eversheds, said:

"Taking part in innovative projects like LWOW is one way for lawyers to have their eyes opened to the immense and transformational potential of digital technologies – it has done for me.

"Working with the students to develop their business ideas was an inspiration. This combination of legal problem-solving, creative thinking and harnessing of technology to provide innovative commercial solutions is something leading law firms are looking to embrace."

Other pioneering legal projects developed over the three month LWOW programme included:

DataDam - An accreditation system that used blockchain technology and random audits to ensure that a company/manufacturer cannot change its terms and conditions without the knowledge and permission of the purchaser.

Mana – A product that uses big data to recognise an objective measure of quality in legal writing, providing guidance to younger lawyers on the tone and approach most likely to succeed in a particular case.

Photo Guard – An app to discourage teenage sexting without thinking, and help teens (and parents) through the trials and travails of growing up amid social media.

CyouPID – A matchmaking service that helps lawyers find work that aligns with their forgotten passions.

Eversheds partnered with Miami Law School through LawWithoutWalls to help teams of graduate law and business students from around the world to build technology solutions for a legal industry faced with rapid change.

James Batham, head of innovation at Eversheds, said:

"The global business landscape is constantly changing, and the legal sector needs to adapt with it. LawWithoutWalls is about developing a future generation of lawyers that not only have great legal brains, but are commercial, innovative, digitally-savvy and global thinkers. The standard from this year's students was remarkably high, with some great solutions put forward to help solve real-world legal problems.

"And it's not just about educating the students. Our lawyers and clients benefit hugely from the experience and learn invaluable skills for working in a world that is already significantly different from the one they prepared for at law school."

This year concludes Eversheds headline sponsorship of LawWithoutWalls. In the next round of the programme, Eversheds will sponsor one of the participating teams.

LawWithoutWalls

Founded in 2010 by Michele DeStefano, Professor of Law at the University of Miami, LawWithoutWalls is a part-virtual global collaboration that teams students from law and business schools around with world with mentors from the academic, business and legal fields, and challenges them to create viable solutions to the challenges 21st Century law firms, businesses and consumers face. The skills taught to both the students and the Eversheds mentors during the programme include leadership, communication, business acumen, social networking, creative problem solving and cultural competency.

This year's teams met in January at KickOff in Madrid, an intensive weekend of sessions focused on idea generation, personality assessments and other exercises designed to speedily build high-performing, collaborative teams. Team members then worked across at least two continents (and sometimes as many as four), developing the projects through video calls and conferencing.

The VIDE team

Courtney Rickersey from Griffith University in Australia, Carolina van der Mensbrugge from Fordham Law School in New York, and Aina Cordero from the Universität St. Gallen in Switzerland – discovered that humanising defendants in legal cases with tools such as short video biographies,

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had a significant influence in sentencing outcomes. They drew inspiration from Silicon Valley De-Bug, a California-based communications company that has saved defendants over 2,570 years' imprisonment and the State of California over \$160 million in incarceration costs over seven years by profiling defendants with video biographies.

Carolina van der Mensbruggee said:

"We came up with an app idea to democratise video biographies and other media capabilities through an application that gives attorneys instructions on how to craft the best legal defence.

"We're all from different countries and we have different legal systems, but we're really united about this cause and helping this issue."


For more information see [LawWithoutWalls](#) website

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