

4-22-2010

Simulated Law Student: With Guest Deb Quentel from CALI

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Recommended Citation

Ginsberg, Debbie, "Simulated Law Student: With Guest Deb Quentel from CALI" (2010). *Presentations*. 47.
http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/lib_pres/47

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The Simulated Law Student

April 22, 2010

Debbie Ginsberg

Special Guest, Deb Quentel of CALI

The SIMPLE Project

The SIMPLE simulation project was designed and implemented in several higher education institutions in the UK in 2007 and 2008. From the SIMPLE project website:

SIMPLE, the SIMulated Professional Learning Environment, is an open source teaching, learning and assessment environment. SIMPLE supports the creation of a virtual town where students engage in authentic simulations of professional transactions. Learners ... are able to develop links and liaisons with each other and to practise the collegiality, networking, values and community building within and between professions that exists within actual workplaces.

The SIMPLE project developed two software applications for developing simulations:

- **SIMPLE Tools** is an application that runs on a desktop. It is used create “Narrative Event Diagrams” (NED) to develop the roles, structures, resources, and timelines of simulations.
- **SIMPLE Platform** is a web-based interface that runs the simulation itself. Faculty upload documents, maps, and other materials to the platform for students to use. Simulations can be customized to release particular documents to students at preset times. Faculty can use SIMPLE to track anything their students do in the simulation and use that information to provide students with detailed evaluations and feedback.

Law Schools using SIMPLE

Since 2007, several law schools have created SIMPLE simulations to teach students transactional and litigation skills.

Glasgow Graduate School of Law

Simulations at Glasgow included transactions for the purchase and sale of property, litigation in the sheriff court, and handling the estate of a deceased client. Read more about Glasgow’s simulations here: <http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/ict/simple2.html>

University of Stirling School of Law

Stirling used SIMPLE for two simulations: a one-week scenario concerning an incident on a film set and a longer four-week simulation which focused on public law. Read more here: <http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/ict/simple3.html>

University of Glamorgan law school

Glamorgan used SIMPLE for a torts simulation. The simulation was based on one used by Glasgow

but Glamorgan made adjustments to accommodate differences between English and Scottish law. Read more here: <http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/ict/simple1.html>

University of Warwick School of Law

Warwick used SIMPLE for a “Law in Practice” simulation module. The simulation focused on an adversarial issue. Students took on not only the role of lawyers in the Warwick simulation, but they also acted as witnesses and clients. Read more here: <http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/ict/simple4.html>

ANU Legal Workshop

The Australian National University is using SIMPLE for distance education courses for its Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Franklin Pierce Law School

Franklin Pierce is currently developing a SIMPLE project which will run in the 2010-2011 academic year as part of the Daniel Webster Honors Program. They are planning to create two transactional simulations and link them to another simulation project, the Standardized Client Initiative.

CALI

CALI is working with law school faculty to create simulations which can be shared with other law schools.

SIMPLE Resources

SIMPLE Community

<http://www.simplecommunity.org>

Includes the latest SIMPLE news, the SIMPLE Project Report, software downloads, and other resources.

SIMPLE Project

<http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/research/projects/tle.html>

How the SIMPLE project was created and funded; includes case studies.

Presentation on SIMPLE and legal learning (Karen Barton and Patricia McKellar)

<http://www.slideshare.net/ukcleslidespace/simple-presentation-lilac-2009-presentation>

An overview of the role simulations can play in legal education.

Standardized Client Initiative

<http://zeugma.typepad.com/sci/>

A project to train simulated clients to assist law students with learning interview and client-relations skills.