

DEGREE FIRST

Protecting the value of legal education after Mazur



Campaign teaser | UK law students, universities and graduate voices

A campaign platform to defend the value of university legal education, support law degree programmes as the professional benchmark, and open a national conversation after the Mazur appeal on how far firms should rely on unauthorised persons in litigation under supervision.

Core question

Why should students take on years of study and debt if firms can increasingly substitute cheaper supervised labour in litigation?

Why this matters now

The post-Mazur environment has shifted the debate from whether delegated litigation work can happen to how far it should go in practice.

Students, graduates and universities now need a collective voice on standards, transparency, accountability and market fairness.

This campaign is not anti-paralegal. It is pro-qualification, pro-transparency and pro-public trust.

Campaign goals

- Defend law degrees and formal legal training as the default benchmark for litigation careers.
- Create structured discussions with UK universities, law societies, student bodies and graduate networks.
- Press for clearer supervision rules, client disclosure and enforcement where firms overreach.
- Show the human cost of student debt, qualification bottlenecks and inconsistent standards.
- Build a national coalition of thousands of law students, graduates and supporters.

Who we will engage

Universities	Students & graduates	Regulators & profession
Law schools, deans, lecturers, employability teams and alumni networks.	Law societies, aspiring solicitors, aspiring barristers, trainees and junior lawyers.	The Law Society, SRA, MPs, policy groups, legal press and consumer voices.

What we will do in the first 12 months

- Launch a national open letter and digital sign-up campaign targeted at 10,000 supporters.
- Hold university roundtables on student debt, qualification value and litigation supervision.
- Publish a policy paper: *Supervision Is Not a Substitute for Qualification*.
- Collect graduate testimonies on debt, training barriers and standards concerns.
- Brief journalists, MPs and sector bodies with evidence-led campaign materials.

Policy position

Lawful supervision should not become a commercial loophole that weakens the value of legal education.

Clients should know when important litigation tasks are being performed by unauthorised persons and under what safeguards.

Firms should not market professional-quality litigation services while quietly shifting core work to lightly supervised non-qualified staff.

The profession should protect social mobility by ensuring that formal study, training and competence still carry real market value.

Revenue and sustainability

Student membership Low-cost annual membership for campaign participation, events and research access.	University partners Sponsored forums, employability panels and policy roundtables with law schools.	Public advocacy Donations, briefs, speaking events and branded supporter campaigns.
---	---	---

Call to action

We are inviting universities, law students, graduates and legal professionals to join a national discussion on a simple proposition: **if the profession wants to preserve trust, fairness and standards, qualification must still matter.**

- University discussions and campus forums
- Student and graduate sign-ups
- Media partnerships and policy outreach
- Evidence gathering on standards, supervision and debt impact

DEGREE FIRST | Campaign teaser