

# The College of Law

## Audio Visual Case Study

### Technology upgrade delivers dramatically improved learning environment



The College of Law is one of the most distinctive organisations within the legal training market. The largest such College in Europe, it occupies a pivotal position at the heart of the legal profession. With an unrivalled reputation for excellence, the College has six locations nationwide. Two are located in London, one of which, the Bloomsbury Centre on Store Street, facilitates the study of Graduate Diploma in Law, Legal Practice Course and the Bar Vocational Course.

#### AV Requirements

The College of Law already had some audio visual equipment located around its premises but wished to upgrade its facilities as a whole to ensure it retained its position at the top of the legal training ladder.

The College had used Reflex Limited on two minor installations in their Chancery Lane location and had been impressed with the professionalism and project management the company had provided. They therefore turned to Reflex to find a solution to their needs at Store Street.

The first area that required attention was their 180 seat lecture theatre. The existing audio visual equipment had been installed without any clear or accurate planning as to how the technology would benefit lecturers and students. It had also become increasingly unreliable and dated over a number of years.

The College tasked Reflex with designing an upgrade of the theatre to provide teaching staff with a simple and user friendly AV presentation system that would enhance the teaching space. They required a contemporary looking system that would fit with the modern feel of the theatre. Specifically, there was a need for students at the back of the theatre to be able to view easily the images shown on the main screen and a need for upgrading a number of existing projectors to newer, more efficient models.

The second requirement was in the College's reception area. They wanted to create an environment in keeping with their reputation, with facilities to improve communication with visitors, staff and students. The third requirement was in the College's 12 Bar Vocational Course (BVC) training rooms which are assigned to the development and assessment of trainee barristers in a courtroom environment. These assessments were being filmed and captured on VHS. The College wished to upgrade the facilities to DVD and provide the students with a high quality playback facility.



The final requirement was to upgrade the Oral Skills Rooms for the Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practitioner Courses. The College has 40 rooms where video assessments were recorded for both these courses by camcorders linked to a VHS/Combi TV. The College wanted to upgrade from VHS to DVD, improving the poor audio quality and playback facilities.



#### The Solution

To meet the requirements for a modern looking AV presentation system in the lecture theatre, a TeamMateTutor lectern was installed into which was built all the required AV technology. This contemporary looking lectern accommodates a resident PC with network access and a laptop connection point so that visiting lecturers can simply plug in their laptop if required.

Additional equipment includes a DVD/VCR, an amplifier and an AMX 16 button push button control system built into the lectern. This provides a simple way to turn all the equipment on or off, or switch from one media to another at the push of a button. A SMART Symposium interactive tablet gives lecturers the ability to interact with the material displayed on screen, for example to annotate or highlight certain information. The solution was completed with an amplifier,

goose neck microphone and Elmo 5600 document camera which allows printed material to be shown on screen and displayed to a large audience. Reflex installed an Epson EMP8300 Data Projector into the ceiling for the projection of source material to a main screen. In order that students at the back of the theatre were able to view images from the main projector, Reflex also installed two 42" NEC plasma screens at the centre of the room which displays the same information simultaneously.

In the reception area, Reflex recommended the latest Digital Signage technology which allows different types of media to be combined, to display information instantly, accurately and simultaneously across multiple screens. Information is displayed on NEC 40" LCD Screens for better staff-student communication purposes. The College uses this communication tool to show all types of messages such as facts about the College and health and safety information.

In the BVC training rooms, Reflex installed 40" LCD screens along with cameras, DVD recorders and boundary microphones, whilst 30" LCD screens along with DVD recorders and boundary microphones were installed in the Oral Skills rooms.

Once the installation was complete, the College decided to take out a three year maintenance agreement with Reflex. This gives them an eight hour on site response and includes two preventative maintenance visits each school year which minimises equipment downtime. The agreement allows the College to concentrate on teaching rather than worrying about technology issues.

The AV upgrade provides staff at the College of Law with the latest technology tools and has dramatically improved the learning environment for both staff and students. As a result the other College of Law sites are beginning to follow the London sites lead in upgrading facilities and Reflex has been involved in a number of integration projects across other sites.



#### Summary

The project was carried out successfully in a challenging timescale of under two weeks during the College's summer holiday, to cause minimum disruption to staff and students. Fast and efficient working practices were the key to this successful installation project and the College of Law was delighted with the outcome.

**"Reflex provided a 'no hassle' solution right from the initial design of the project all the way through to the completion. We had great support from both sales and technical teams and the installation engineers were first class. The Reflex team was excellent at ensuring that we were entirely happy with the project and we are delighted to be working with them on future projects."** James Hordern - Facilities Manager at The College of Law