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Weekly Notes: legal news from ICLR – 1 July 2016

By Paul Magrath

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Art

The Body of Law



PMS International Ltd v Magmatic Ltd (2015) – Isobel Williams

This is the title of a wonderful exhibition of the drawings of Isobel Williams, an artist who has been given permission to draw in the Supreme Court during its hearing of appeals. The exhibition is at Senate House in Malet Street, London, until the end of the month.

This image shows the artist next to the picture (based on the Supreme Court's emblem) from the "image rights" case of *PMS International Ltd v Magmatic Ltd*

[2016] UKSC 12; [2016] Bus LR 371, concerning the Trunki ride-on suitcase, heard in 2015.

The other cases which have inspired drawings range from a shipping case involving "a stricken cargo vessel, a bilge alarm and a rogue mop head" (*Versloot Dredging BV v HBI Gerling Industrie Versicherund AG*, heard in 2016 and judgment not yet given but reported below: [2014] EWCA Civ 1349; [2015] QB 608), a dispute over the title to a Scottish baronetcy (*In the matter of the Baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill* [2016] UKPC 16; [2016] WLR (D) 314 heard by their Lordships sitting as the Privy Council) and a case about stalking (*Hayes v Willoughby* [2013] UKSC 17; [2013] 1 WLR 935).

You can see all the images on this PDF, and many are discussed further on Isobel's own blog, <u>Drawing from an Uncomfortable Position</u>, where Judith Townend, of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, who organised the exhibition, asks her about her law-based images.

Judith has also written her own post about the exhibition, with some of the pictures, on the Talking Humanities blog.

As well as the drawings which she was permitted to make in the Supreme Court / Privy Council, there are also drawings made from memory (because you can't draw in the lower courts) of the hearings in Winchester Crown Court of the prosecution against Stephen Gough, or the Naked Rambler as he has become known, in December last year. In one of them

Matthew Scott is, on this occasion, the naked barrister. He cast off wig, gown and official court status when the Naked Rambler made a late decision to represent himself – which he was then not allowed to do, as he refused to cover himself in front of the jury."

Scott, who was then invited to act as amicus curiae, has blogged about the absurdity of the case on his Barristerblogger site, in posts such as Who is more ridiculous: the Naked Rambler or the CPS?

the problem is with an Anti-Social Behaviour Order that turns an eccentric into a criminal, and a prosecution system that could easily turn a blind eye, but which prefers instead to try to break the will of a harmless and astonishingly courageous man.

Among the other artworks, Williams has exhibited some relating to a project in which Hannah Thompson, Senate House Library sound artist in residence, has been creating sound installations. You can read more about this on the Senate House Library blog.

<u>The Body of Law</u> is on the second floor of Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. It is part of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' public engagement programme, <u>www.ials.sas.ac.uk</u>. Open until the end of July, Mon-Fri 9am-8.30pm, Sat 9.45am-5.15pm.