



# Aura™

**CITY**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
EST 1894

## EQUIPPING THE 21ST CENTURY COURTROOM

The next generation of legal specialists can now hone their professional skills in authentic, tech-enabled courtroom environments at The City Law School.



Digital signage  
and wayfinding



BYOD video  
conferencing



Courtroom live stream  
functionality



## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Having been part of London's educational offering for over a century – it was founded in 1894 as the Northampton Institute – this historic higher education provider has been known as City, University of London since 2016, when it joined the University of London group. With an explicit focus on supporting business and the professions, as well as improving the quality of the student experience as a strategic priority, it follows that City is building next-generation learning spaces that keep pace with the best that the business world has to offer.

Aura were approached by the University to provide a brand-new installation of AV technology, with an emphasis on innovation and aesthetics, into the City Law School building on Sebastian Street.

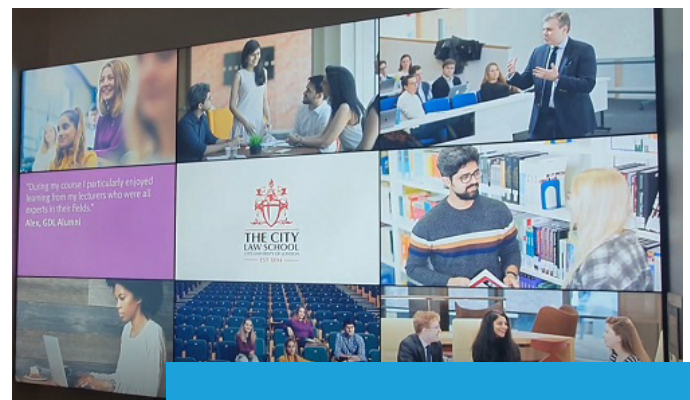
The project covered 16 rooms comprising four group study rooms, two meeting rooms, one CPD room, six advocacy rooms, a board room, a library study space, and a moot court. Additionally, the requirement included a 3x3 video wall in reception, four standard digital signage displays, and one LG stretch wayfinding display.

The upgrade project had four key aims: to provide the staff and students with high quality AV facilities in all rooms, to improve the presentation and collaboration experience for all, to enhance the AV booking experience for all, and to update the teaching methods by creating training environments that replicate the real world. It also had to be performed within a tight timescale – taking place during the summer months to ensure no disruption to staff and students during term time.

## SOLUTION

With a concise brief that left plenty of room for creativity in how the objectives were achieved, the Aura team put in plenty of CAD work up front. This ensured that the final solution not only worked efficiently but complemented the spaces and also delivered the 'wow factor' in key areas, as well as offering the maximum technical flexibility possible. The CAD drawings provided coordination to the highest level with other contractors, to ensure services were provided in the precise locations necessary for the AV installations, thus avoiding any delays to the project.

Highlights of the installation include the executive boardroom, where large format displays are installed on two walls, along with PTZ cameras and Zoom and Teams video conferencing capabilities. Dual touch panels offer equipment control, and the room is set up for BYOD functionality via USB to give users flexibility. Electric retractable microphones and Crestron's electric flip top cable management on the table are aesthetically appropriate for this sleek-looking space, while offering excellent functionality.



The project required an install of a 3x3 video wall which is displayed in the reception area.

## Contact us

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## SOLUTION

In the library study space, where a multi-purpose area is used for teaching and presenting, a City-branded lectern is located next to a retractable projection screen, along with a PTZ camera. Ceiling mounted, tabletop and wireless microphones, complete with a large front of house Extron speaker system, offer great flexibility and top-quality audio to this large open area.

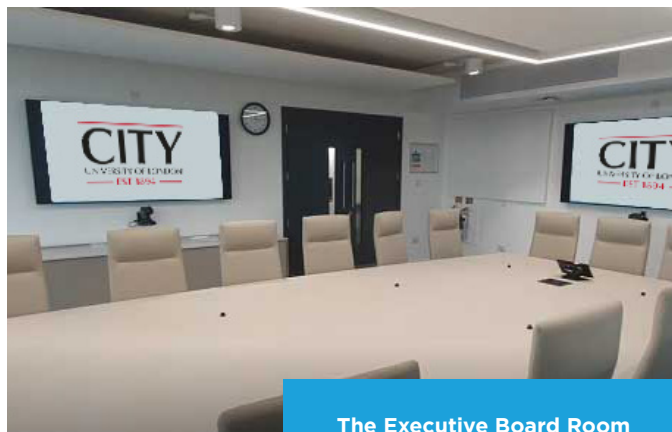
The moot court is set up as a facsimile of a real courtroom, to give students the opportunity to train in a realistic environment – it contains a prosecution and defence bench, judge's bench, display, and witness box. The technology has also been chosen to match what might be found in a 21st century courtroom environment. Aura installed a Crestron NVX AV over IP system, a large 98" display behind the judge's bench, and personal touch displays for the judge positions. Recordings of the proceedings are available via an Extron SMP351 streaming processor and Echo 360 for lecture capture. A live stream can be cast from the moot court to other spaces in the building, using Exterity encoding.

Next door, in the witness room, a Roland VT-4 voice transformer gives users the ability to mask an individual's voice by adjusting their pitch, which protects their identity. Users can also choose any camera angle using their own MPC3-201B touch panel to have a clear view of the court proceedings. These elements have all been chosen to offer an authentic experience of the sort of tech-enabled courtroom we are starting to see in use.

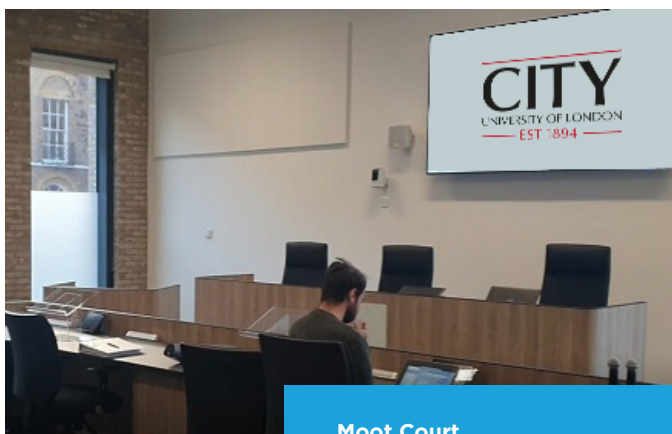
Across at the course office desk, in the reception area, a 3x3 digital wall is driven by a Onelan digital signage system; it can be used as a single large screen, or as multiple displays. Onelan is also deployed to drive the LG stretch display, also in reception, which is used for timetabling and wayfinding.

All these solutions were designed using the latest models of products, and technologies already widely used across the university, to ensure up-to-date functionality, whilst maintaining familiarity of use and an improved experience for staff and students alike.

With the support of City's staff, and other key contractors working on the project, Aura was able to complete all work under budget and to a high-quality finish – and, critically for an educational establishment, it was completed on time, ready for the start of semester. All four project aims were met, with the new tech solutions providing a fully up-to-date environment to augment staff and student teaching and learning experiences.



The Executive Board Room



Moot Court



***I'm extremely pleased with the final outcome of this project. From beginning to end it has been a pleasure to work with Aura. Brilliant coordination, communication and attention to detail from Sam Barter (Project Manager), along with a diligent and can-do attitude from his onsite team, meant the installation and commissioning went very smoothly. The installation of the equipment has been done to a very high standard and has created user-friendly spaces with a great amount of flexibility. The result is a high-end look and feel in keeping with the aesthetic of the rest of the building.***



Mike Sadler, AV Infrastructure and Development Manager, City, University of London

### Contact us

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