



19/05/23

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 12 of 2023

### Finalists announced for the 2023 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards!



We are absolutely delighted to announce the quite exceptional shortlist for this year's Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards.

The LALYs is our opportunity each year to thank you all for your continued commitment to legal aid and access to justice. It is also a chance to shine a spotlight on the incredible, life-changing work of legal aid lawyers, and the power of legal aid to bring about positive change. The work is complex and difficult, remuneration is inadequate, the scheme is unnecessarily bureaucratic, and the political environment is often hostile. Yet legal aid lawyers work tirelessly each day to get the best possible results for their clients. We couldn't be more proud to represent you or more honoured to have the opportunity to thank you for your efforts by delivering the LALY awards.

[Read the full press release here](#)

This year's winners will be announced at our customarily glittering ceremony on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 in central London. 500+ finalists, friends and colleagues will join us for a true celebration of legal aid. [Join us by registering for your place here](#). Tickets are very affordable for an in-person event and cover a drinks reception and

food, with discounts available to YLAL members and Justice First Fellows.

A special thanks to our sponsors (set out below) and to our media partner Legal Action Group, who have been steadfast in their support for the LALYs. There is no LALY awards without them.

**Here is the full list of finalists in the 11 award categories for which we seek nominations:**

**1) Criminal Defence – sponsored by DG Legal**

Andrew Palazzo – McCormacks Solicitors  
Aneka Thirurajah – Hodge Jones & Allen  
Catherine Bond – SL5 Legal

**2) Legal Aid Newcomer – sponsored by Friends of LALY23**

Christian Weaver – Garden Court North Chambers  
Danielle Manson – Garden Court Chambers  
Ife Thompson – 1MCB Chambers  
Josie Hicklin – Greater Manchester Law Centre

**3) Social Welfare Law – sponsored by Doughty Street Chambers**

Christopher Johnson – Community Law Partnership  
Jamila Duncan-Bosu – Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit  
Jess Haley – Bristol Law Centre

**4) Children's Rights – sponsored by Leigh Day**

Alia Lewis – Duncan Lewis  
Whitney Hard – Coram Children's Legal Centre  
Katie Wilkins – Irwin Mitchell

**5) Family Legal Aid – sponsored by Resolution**

Amna Khaliq – Wilson Solicitors LLP  
Saifalee Doolooa-Collins – Reeds Solicitors  
Victoria Jones – RLE Law

**6) Legal Aid Support Staffer – sponsored by Accesspoint**

Katayoon Zare – TRP Solicitors  
Kelly Smith – Child Poverty Action Group  
Sheree Clark – Coram Children's Legal Centre

**7) Legal Aid Barrister – sponsored by The Bar Council**

Antonia Benfield – Doughty Street Chambers  
David Gardner – No5 Chambers  
Kathryn Cronin – Garden Court Chambers

**8) Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-Profit Agency – sponsored by The Law Society**

Central England Law Centre  
Deighton Pierce Glynn  
Watkins & Gunn Solicitors

**9) Regional Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-Profit Agency – sponsored by The Legal Education Foundation**

Butler & Co Solicitors  
Fountain Solicitors  
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

**10) Immigration & Asylum Law – sponsored by Garden Court Chambers**

Alison Stanley – Bindmans LLP  
Daniel Merriman – Wilson Solicitors LLP  
Nath Gbikpi – Leigh Day

**11) Public Law – sponsored by One Pump Court Chambers**

Nusrat Uddin – Wilson Solicitors LLP  
Stephanie Hill – Leigh Day  
Emma Vincent Miller – Public Law Project

**12) Outstanding Achievement – sponsored by Matrix Chambers**

No shortlist for this award

Many thanks also to Miles & Partners for their additional sponsorship of this year's awards ceremony.

For all the latest news on the LALYs follow @LALYawards and @WeAreLegalAid

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So there we have it - 6 organisations and 28 individual practitioners - a truly inspiring shortlist.

Choosing the finalists was a fiendishly difficult task for our judging panel this year, as the calibre of nominations was so high. The nominations are a testament to the professionalism, resilience and sheer brilliance of lawyers working in the social justice sector - who all deserve to be celebrated. We send our warmest congratulations to everyone shortlisted, and heartfelt commiserations to those

who weren't.

Thank you to everyone who submitted or supported a nomination this year. We do appreciate it given all the competing demands on your time. It really is wonderful to be part of the legal aid sector.

Take care one and all and I look forward to seeing many of you on 12 July,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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Thank you for being brave enough to be part of the LAPG community!





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