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LAPG Member Update

Issue 17 of 2024

Finalists announced for the 2024 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards!

We are absolutely delighted to announce the outstanding 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 Friday, 5 July 2024 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. Legal Aid Newcomer - sponsored by Friends of LALY24 crowdfunding

John Crowley - Leigh Day

Mira Hammad - Garden Court North Chambers

Nicholas Hughes - Duncan Lewis Solicitors

Ollie Persey - Garden Court Chambers

2. Legal Aid Support Staffer/Support Team - sponsored by Accesspoint

Family Billing Team - AFG LAW

Helen Fanning - MJC Law

Mia Haki-Law - Garden Court Chambers

Silvana Velez - Leigh Day

3. Housing Law - sponsored by Leigh Day

Michael Marshall - UCL Integrated Legal Advice Clinic

Rose Pritchard - Community Law Partnership

4. Family Legal Aid incl. Children's Rights - sponsored by Resolution

Oliver Conway - Oliver Fisher Solicitors

Tash Fairweather - Hanne & Co Solicitors

Jenny Newton - TV Edwards

5. Criminal Defence - sponsored by One Pump Court

Amy Cox - Sonn Macmillan Walker Solicitors

Rebecca Freitas - Ringrose Law

Katy Hanson - Welch & Co Solicitors

6. Legal Aid Barrister - sponsored by The Bar Council

Nick Bano - Garden Court Chambers

Mani Singh Basi - 4PB

Miranda Butler - Landmark Chambers

7. Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-Profit Agency - sponsored by The Law Society

Harrow Law Centre

Public Interest Law Centre

Wilson Solicitors LLP

8. Regional Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-Profit Agency - sponsored by The Legal Education Foundation

North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre
TRP Solicitors
Watkins Solicitors

9. Social Welfare Law - sponsored by Doughty Street Chambers

Eleanor Bulmer - Butler & Co
Sabira Kashmiri - South West London Law Centres
Esme Madill - Islington Law Centre

10. Disability Rights - sponsored by Communicourt

Emma Bergin - Irwin Mitchell LLP
Lauren Crow - MJC Law
Tam Gill - Gledhill Gill Solicitors

11. Public Law - sponsored by DG Legal

Bahar Ata - Duncan Lewis Solicitors
Sophie Naftalin - Bhatt Murphy
Paul Keeley - South West London Law Centres

12. Outstanding Achievement - sponsored by Matrix Chambers

No shortlist for this award

Many thanks also to **39 Essex Chambers** and **Miles & Partners** for their additional sponsorship of this year's awards ceremony.

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

So there we have it - six organisations, 27 individual practitioners and one team - a truly inspiring shortlist.

As always, choosing the finalists was a fiendishly difficult task for our judging panel 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,

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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