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07/07/25

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 24 of 2025

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### Winners Announced of the 2025 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards



We're absolutely delighted to announce the winners of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards. Trophies were given out on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at our inspiring and uplifting ceremony in central London. 500 legal aid lawyers, support staff and friends and family from across the sector joined us as we celebrated the finalists and winners across our 10 categories.

The full list of winners, chosen from a pool of incredibly talented and dedicated nominees and finalists, is:

#### 1. Legal Aid Newcomer

Yasmin Karabasic - SL5 Legal

#### 2. Legal Aid Support Staffer/Support Team

Kuda Tayengwa - Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit

#### 3. Immigration & Asylum

Laura Smith - Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

#### **4. Family Legal Aid incl. Children's Rights**

Beverley Watkins - Watkins Solicitors

#### **5. Criminal Defence**

Manisha Knights - MK Law

#### **6. Legal Aid Barrister**

Justin Ageros - 4PB

#### **7. Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-Profit Agency**

Phoenix Law

#### **8. Social Welfare Law**

Rachel Hogan - Children's Law Centre, Northern Ireland

#### **9. Public Law**

Shaun Livingston - TV Edwards

#### **10. Outstanding Achievement**

Stephanie Harrison KC - Garden Court Chambers

[Read the official LALY press release here.](#)

Thank to everyone who made such a special event possible, from all those who took the time to make a nomination, to our generous sponsors (listed below), our judges, the members of Team LALY, and the colleagues and friends old and new who attended on the evening.



And the biggest thank you of all goes to you, the legal aid practitioners and support staff who strive every day to meet the needs of your clients and your communities. We see you, we have nothing but admiration for the work you are doing, and we are so proud to work alongside you. It has been an astonishingly stressful few months due to the LAA data breach and the impact on their IT systems. We are incredibly proud of the way that practitioners have responded to that crisis, and hope that the LALYs serve as a reminder that your work is being recognised and that we are all in this together.

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The Law Society  
The Legal Education Foundation  
Garden Court Chambers

### **Media partner - Legal Action Group**



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Righto, we're off to continue planning for our next big event - the 2025 Legal Aid Conference. Pop the 20th of October in London into your calendars and we'll send round more detail soon!

Take care one and all, Kia Kaha,

**Chris Minnoch, CEO @ChrisLAPG**

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**Would you like to contribute to our Member Updates and share news and information with other members? If so, just email us and we can discuss how you can best contribute.**

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





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