



Legal Aid Practitioners Group

2016

LEGAL AID LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nomination form

14th year

Help us find this year's stars of legal aid.

**New for 2016:
Crowdfunding!**

See Legal Aid
Newcomer
Award

Award categories

- ★ **Children's Rights**
Sponsored by Accesspoint
- ★ **Criminal Defence**
Sponsored by CILEx
- ★ **Family Legal Aid**
- ★ **Family Mediation**
Sponsored by Resolution
- ★ **Mental Health**
Sponsored by DG Legal
- ★ **Public Law**
Sponsored by Irwin Mitchell
- ★ **Legal Aid Newcomer**
Sponsored by Friends of LALY16
(See page 4 for details)
- ★ **Social and Welfare**
Sponsored by Tikit
- ★ **Legal Aid Barrister**
Sponsored by The Bar Council
- ★ **Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency**
Sponsored by The Law Society
- ★ **Access to Justice through IT**
Sponsored by The Legal Education Foundation
- ★ **Outstanding Achievement**
Sponsored by Matrix

**Deadline for nominations:
25 April 2016.**

Shortlisted candidates will be notified asap and invited to the ceremony on 7 July 2016 in London, where the winners will be announced.



Legal Aid Practitioners Group

2016

LEGAL AID LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Deadline for entries: Monday 25 April 2016 (late entries cannot be accepted)

Awards ceremony: 7 July 2016

Send completed nomination form (signed by the lead nominator and supporting papers of no more than 20 pages) to:

Carol Storer
Director
Legal Aid Practitioners Group
12 Baylis Road
London
SE1 7AA

Or, email: carol.storer@lapg.co.uk
(with LALY AWARDS 2016 in subject line).

Additional forms can be downloaded from: www.lapg.co.uk

Read the guidance below for detailed information on submitting a valid nomination.

If you have specific questions, email carol.storer@lapg.co.uk; or see 'frequently asked questions' on our website: www.lapg.co.uk. The decision of LAPG's director as to whether to accept a nomination as valid is final.

Guidance

1. All nominations must be paginated, with the nomination form numbered one, and the total number of pages stated where indicated on section 3 of the form. Unpaginated nominations will not be accepted.
2. Entries should consist of a completed form, plus a nomination of no more than two A4 pages setting out why the nominee should be honoured by the LALY judges; plus no more than 20 pages of supporting documents (eg, client and other testimonials, etc). Material over this amount will only be put before the judges at the discretion of LAPG's director. Her decision in this respect will be final. Please avoid repetition and duplication, where possible.
3. Where possible, one person should be identified as the lead nominator, with supporting statements from others, rather than sending multiple nominations for the same nominee. The lead nominator should sign the form, and will be contacted in the event that further information or clarification is needed. All three sections of the form must be completed.
4. Individuals may **not** nominate themselves, although organisations may make a nomination on their own behalf for the Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency, and Access to Justice through IT awards.
5. Ideally, the nomination should be made or supported by a legal professional (eg, solicitor, barrister, judge, CILEx member, etc). Supporting statements from outside the nominee's organisation are not essential but the judges are likely to give particular weight to external testimonials. We particularly welcome supporting statements from clients.
6. Membership of LAPG is not required to nominate someone or to be a nominee.
7. The judging panel has the right to nominate any individual or organisation who meets the criteria and will be solely responsible for choosing the winner of the Outstanding Achievement award.
8. For the following awards, nominees must work in a private practice solicitor's firm, law centre, or other organisation with a Legal Aid Agency (LAA) contract, or be undertaking a significant amount of legal aid certificate work from the Northern Ireland Legal Services Agency (NI LSA): Children's Rights, Criminal Defence; Family Legal Aid; Family Mediation; Mental Health; Public Law; Social and Welfare. Organisations nominated for the Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency must hold an LAA contract, or conduct a significant amount of legal aid certificate work from NI LSA. The Legal Aid Newcomer award is open to solicitors, barristers, case workers, and legal executives. Solicitor nominees for the newcomer award must work in an organisation with an LAA contract, or which conducts a significant amount of legal aid certificate work from NI LSA. Legal executive and caseworker nominees for the newcomer award must either work for an organisation with an LAA contract, or which conducts a significant amount of legal aid certificate work from NI LSA, or a barristers chambers. (see below, point 9).
9. The Legal Aid Newcomer award is open to trainee solicitors working under a current training contract; caseworkers employed in that capacity for no more than 5 years; solicitors of no more than 5 years qualified on 1 May 2016; CILEx graduate members and CILEx Fellows with up to 5 years PQE on 1 May 2016, and barristers of no more than 7 years call on 1 May 2016.
10. The Children's Rights award is open to legal aid lawyers whose work primarily involves protecting the rights and welfare of children and young people. It could include work done in one or more fields, such as education, youth justice, family, asylum, mental health, etc.
11. The Family Mediation award is open to family mediators, where publicly-funded mediation makes up a proportion of their personal caseload, and/or they have shown innovation in promoting legally-aided mediation. Qualifying nominees may be entered in both the Family Legal Aid and Family Mediation award categories.
12. The Public Law award is open to legal aid lawyers acting on behalf of individuals or groups against public bodies. Qualifying nominees will include (but not be restricted to) those working in the fields of actions against the police, inquests, prison law, and judicial review, where the work is funded by legal aid.
13. The Social and Welfare category includes all legally-aided fields that are not covered by a dedicated award category. It specifically includes areas such as housing and asylum.
14. We do not seek or accept nominations in the Outstanding Achievement category.
15. Qualifying nominees may be entered in more than one category (eg, Family Legal Aid and Family Mediation; or Social and Welfare and Legal Aid Newcomer). Please just tick the relevant boxes on the nomination form. There is no need to submit more than one entry.
16. The Access to Justice through IT award is open to legal services providers (organisations or individuals), who are making innovative use of technology to increase access to justice for people of modest means, in areas of law traditionally covered by legal aid. This could include the provision of legal advice, information, representation, or public legal education.

Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards 2016 – Nomination form

1. Nominee name:

Nominee organisation name and address:

Nominee phone number:

Nominee email address:

Category (tick as appropriate): Entrants can be nominated in more than one category (see Guidance)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid Barrister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Defence | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid Firm/ Not-for-profit Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Justice through IT award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid Newcomer | |

2. Nominated by:

Name of individual making nomination:

Organisation name (if applicable):

Nominator address:

Phone number:

Email:

If possible, please give an indication of your relationship to nominee (eg, employer/instructing solicitor, etc)

I confirm that the information supplied is correct to the best of my knowledge

Signed

3. What type of legal aid work does the nominee conduct?

How has this person/organisation demonstrated exceptional commitment to their clients and publicly-funded work?

(continue on separate sheet)

We welcome supporting documentation (no more than 20 pages). Please list additional material below, and state the total number of pages:

**See www.lapg.co.uk for additional advice on making your nomination. Deadline for nominations: Monday 25 April 2016
Send to: Carol Storer, Director, LAPG, 12 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA carol.storer@lapg.co.uk**

Award sponsors

Become a Friend of LALY16

For the first time, the Legal Aid Newcomer award is being sponsored by Friends of LALY16 - which means **you**. If you believe excellence among legal aid lawyers should be celebrated, this is a unique opportunity to show your support for the LALYs.

To become a Friend of LALY16 (and sponsor of the newcomer award), just make an online donation (from as little as £10) via www.crowdfunder.co.uk/friends-of-LALY16 – before the close of nominations on 25 April 2016. All funds will go towards the cost of staging the awards and all donors will be listed in chronological order in the awards programme*, so this is a chance for everyone to show solidarity with all legal aid lawyers.

Note, for logistical reasons, we can only accept donations made via crowdfunder.
*Donors can also opt for anonymity.



Accesspoint is about people and personality. We are a Specialist Independent Legal IT solutions provider, supporting enterprises within the legal services sector with 'best in class' knowledge and experience.

www.theaccesspoint.co.uk



Resolution is an organisation with over 6,500 members, who are family law professionals - committed to the constructive, non-confrontational resolution of family disputes.

www.resolution.org.uk



The Law Society

The Law Society of England and Wales is the independent professional body, established in 1825, that works globally to support and represent its members, promoting the highest professional standards and the rule of law.

www.lawsociety.org.uk



The Bar Council represents barristers in England and Wales. It promotes quality specialist advocacy services, fair access to justice for all, respect for the rule of law, and the highest standards of ethics, equality and diversity across the profession.

www.barcouncil.org.uk



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www.dglegal.co.uk



Tikit Ltd, part of BT Group, is one of the largest suppliers of technology solutions to legal aid law firms. Partner for Windows (P4W) is a fully Legal Aid Agency compliant practice and case management software which enables the lawyers to focus on clients.

www.tikit.com



Matrix is a group of independent and specialist lawyers with a multi-disciplinary approach. We have a strong dedication to publicly funded work and are proud of our legal aid commitment. Our customisable online resource, Legal Aid Link, is a useful tool for legal professionals.

www.matrixlaw.co.uk



Irwin Mitchell has over 100 years' experience of facilitating access to justice and remains committed to publicly funded legal work (including pro bono). Irwin Mitchell's specialist solicitors continue to defend people's rights across the whole spectrum of Public Law issues.
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The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) is the professional association for more than 7,500 qualified Chartered Legal Executive lawyers and 12,500 paralegal and other legal practitioners in England and Wales.

www.cilex.org.uk



The Legal Education Foundation is a grant making trust distributing around £5 million a year. The Foundation promotes legal education so as to help people better understand and use the law. Amongst its priorities, is an interest in helping legal educators, service providers and consumers to explore the potential role that technology can play.

www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org

Media partner



Legal Action Group is a national independent charity, which

promotes equal access to justice for all members of society who are socially or otherwise disadvantaged. LAG seeks to improve law and practice, the administration of justice and legal services through its programme of publications, training and policy work.
www.lag.org.uk

The Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards are a unique celebration of the invaluable work done by lawyers and advisers working in the publicly-funded sector.

They are organised by LAPG, which is the leading membership organisation for legal aid lawyers, providing a wide range of services and support.

LAPG is at the forefront of campaigning to protect vital client services.



Legal Aid Practitioners Group

**Follow us on Twitter @LALYawards
#LALY16**

www.facebook.com/LALYawards

Find out more about how to make a nomination: www.lapg.co.uk

