

# Important information about LALY20 - the 'show' must (and will...) go on!

Our legal aid family is being tested as never before, and we're all worried things may get worse before they get better. The work of legal aid lawyers has never been more vital, nor had to be delivered in such challenging and uncharted circumstances.

LAPG and Team LALY are determined to ensure we can still celebrate the extraordinary individuals, teams, and organisations that this year make us prouder than ever to be part of this profession.

We know everyone is at full stretch, so are making a number of changes that we hope will help those who would like to make a nomination.

- the **deadline for entries is being extended by two weeks, to 17 April.**
- this year, **we invite you to submit briefer nominations**, in order to minimise the time needed to be spent producing them. (Equally, we will still be happy to accept longer nominations in the usual way, up to our specified 20-page limit.) Our key message to you is: **if you know a really exceptional individual, team or organisation that should be recognised this year, send us what details you realistically can and Team LALY will do the rest.** Where more information is needed in order for our LALY20 judges to make a decision about an entry, we will follow up to make sure they have it. IMPORTANT: please continue to submit all nominations via: <https://www.lapg.co.uk/lalys/laly-nomination-2020/>
- the judging panel will convene (remotely) on 19 May; finalists will be contacted later that week; the full shortlist will be announced late May (all of these timings are unchanged from the original LALY20 schedule).
- after discussing with our friends at ETC Venues, at this stage **we are still hoping to announce the winners at the LALY20 ceremony on 7 July, as originally planned.** This may change, depending on what happens over the next few weeks and months. We will let you know more information, as soon as we have it. (If the date does change, we'll refund anyone who has already bought tickets or exchange them for the new date.)

**Chris Minnoch, LAPG CEO, says:**

*'The LALYs have celebrated the life-changing work of legal aid lawyers every year since the awards were launched in 2003. We want to ensure that continues, not despite but **because**, of the current national health emergency. Our clients are facing uniquely difficult and uncertain times, so it feels more important than ever to recognise the Herculean efforts legal aid lawyers are making - often with precious little recognition or support in some quarters - in order to be able to serve those who need us most.'*

If you have questions about any aspect of this year's awards, please contact Fiona Bawdon, LALY founder and co-organiser: [fiona.bawdon@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.bawdon@gmail.com); or tweet @LALYawards. No query too small! No question too daft! We are here to help.

For full details of this year's award categories, including new for 2020, Legal Aid Team, and Regional Legal Aid Firm/Nfp: <https://www.lapg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/LALY20-flyer-online.pdf>

Guidance notes: <https://www.lapg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/LALY20-Guidance-Notes-Final.pdf>

For information about the background to the awards:

<https://www.lag.org.uk/article/207603/nominations-open-for-laly20--the-most-important-night-for-the-legal-aid-community->

**LAPG**  
**25 March 2020**