

PRESS RELEASE



14.11.18

LAPG appoints new leadership duo

Chris Minnoch becomes CEO; Swain & Co Head of Housing and Community Care Kate Pasfield joins in new Director of Strategy role.

LAPG is delighted to announce two new senior appointments, which will ensure the group continues its vital work representing members and lobbying for a sustainable and properly-funded justice system.

Chris Minnoch, who has been LAPG operations director since 2016, will step up to become CEO, following the departure of its Director of 10 years, Carol Storer OBE, later this month.

Kate Pasfield, who has been a legal aid solicitor for 17 years in private practice and the not-for-profit sector, will take up the new post of Director of Strategy, from February 2019.

LAPG co-chairs Jenny Beck and Nicola Mackintosh QC (Hon) say:

'We are very pleased, both for LAPG and for the wider profession, to have such a high calibre duo at the helm. Chris and Kate will give us the ideal combination of continuity and change, which will enable us to build on the sterling work that Carol Storer has done for the past 10 years.'

Chris, a former housing adviser and manager at the not-for-profit agency Greenwich Housing Rights, says:

'Much of LAPG's energy next year will be focused on the government's post-implementation review of LASPO. We are already planning how we will respond to the review, as it is imperative our members' voices are heard. They know better than anyone the damage that LASPO has caused to access to justice.'

Kate, who has a wealth of experience leading and managing advice services in the Nfp sector and private practice, and of successfully implementing change to maintain profitability, says:

'I have always been an admirer of LAPG's work, and I have a passion for promoting equality and access to justice, so I am delighted to be taking up this role. I have worked at the legal aid coalface for 17 years, and felt the role at LAPG would enable me to use the experience I have gained working as a legal aid practitioner for the greater good.'

Kate is currently Head of Housing and Community Care at the highly-regarded legal aid firm (and LAPG member) Swain & Co in Havant, Hampshire.

In 2019, as well as responding to the LASPO review, LAPG's CEO and Director of Strategy will be working on a new programme of training courses for legal aid providers, as well as putting greater emphasis on recruitment, retention and pastoral care within the sector, in recognition of the incessant pressure that legal aid lawyers are under. The group will also continue to support members on a one-to-one basis, and to lobby on operational and policy issues. Wheels are already in motion for the 17th LAPG Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards, which will be held in summer 2019.

Outgoing LAPG Director Carol Storer OBE says:

'I know Chris and Kate will make a formidable team, and continue to work closely with LAPG's committee of experienced and dedicated legal aid lawyers, as well as Rohini Teather, who co-ordinates our All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid.'

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