

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations for the 16th Legal Aid Practitioners Group Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards are now open.

New for 2018: Practice manager award

Nomination period ends 10 April; winners to be announced at awards ceremony on 17 July in central London.

Nominations for the 2018 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year (LALY) awards are now open. There are 12 awards in total including Children's Rights, Public Law, Housing, Access to Justice through IT, and Criminal Defence (see full list, below).

LAPG director Carol Storer says:

'For the first time this year, we are introducing an award specifically to recognise the role of legal aid practice managers, who do a vital and increasingly challenging job. They are often the bedrock of the sector, providing the leadership and stability, which allow legal aid lawyers to continue to deliver access to justice to clients.'

For the third year running, LALY18 will be crowdfunding for sponsorship for the popular Legal Aid Newcomer award, allowing supporters to show solidarity with the profession by donating to become Friends of LALY18. All money raised will go towards the cost of staging the event, and to keeping ticket prices affordable.

Full details of how to become a Friend of LALY18 see:

www.lapg.co.uk/laly-crowdfunding

All LALY nominations must be submitted online via: www.lapg.co.uk/laly-nomination

The 2018 award categories in full are:

- * Children's Rights
- * Criminal Defence
- * Family (including Mediation)
- * Housing
- * Public Law
- * Social and Welfare
- * Legal Aid Newcomer

- * Legal Aid Barrister
- * Practice manager
- * Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency
- * Access to Justice through IT
- * Outstanding Achievement

LALY18 sponsors are:

Accesspoint
Anthony Gold
The Bar Council
Garden Court Chambers
DG Legal
Irwin Mitchell
The Law Society
The Legal Education Foundation
Matrix Chambers
Resolution
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Legal Action Group (media partner)

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. LAPG is the leading membership organisation for legal aid lawyers, providing a wide range of services and support. www.lapg.co.uk
2. The Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards are into their 16th year. They are organised on a not-for-profit basis by LAPG. Nominations close on 10 April, and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in central London on 17 July 2018.
3. We do not seek nominations for the Outstanding Achievement award.