

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 February 2020

Legal Aid Practitioners Group launches its 18th Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards today.

Nomination period ends 3 April; and this year sees the introduction of three new award categories:

- Regional Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit agency**
- Legal Aid Team**
- Mental Capacity Law**

Winners to be announced at awards at ceremony on 7 July in central London.

The 2020 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year (LALY) awards are launched today (Monday 17 February), with awards in 12 categories to be won (see full list, below).

LAPG CEO Chris Minnoch says:

"Given the current political climate, it is hard for those of us who care about access to justice to find much to cheer about - which is why these awards are now more important than ever. The LALYs are the one time in the year when legal aid lawyers come together as one, to celebrate the work we do to protect the rights and improve the lives of ordinary people and their families. Without us, many of the most vulnerable in our society would have no chance of making their voices heard."

The LALY awards are non-profit-making, and only made possible thanks to our sponsors (see below).

For the fifth year, LALY20 will be crowdfunding sponsorship for its important Legal Aid Newcomer award, which celebrates the inspiring work of newer entrants. Crowdfunding donations start from £10; all donors are recognised as Friends of LALY20, and will have their name published in the ceremony programme. Donations go towards the cost of staging the event, and to keeping ticket prices affordable.

For full details of how to donate to become a Friend of LALY19 see:

<https://www.lapg.co.uk/laly-crowdfunding>

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

The 2020 award categories in full are:

- Outstanding Achievement (we do not seek nominations for this category)
- Criminal Defence
- Family Legal Aid
- Mental Capacity Law*
- Legal Aid Team*
- Regional Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency*
- Social Welfare Law
- Legal Aid Newcomer
- Legal Aid Barrister
- Legal Aid Firm/Not-for-profit Agency
- Immigration and Asylum Law
- Public Law

* New awards for 2020. See guidance for eligibility criteria:

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

LALY20 sponsors are:

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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 18th year. They are organised on a not-for-profit basis by LAPG, and are the only awards aimed solely at lawyers doing publicly-funded work. Nominations close on 3 April, and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in central London on 7 July 2020.
3. We do not seek nominations for the Outstanding Achievement award.