



ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
Thursday 14th October 2021

**Deadline for Nominations
Wednesday 8th September 2021**

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES AN AWARD?

If so, Bristol Law Society would like to hear from you.

There are 13 award categories for which you are invited to nominate (see page 2 and 3 for details).

The last 18 months have been extraordinary times both personally and professionally within the legal sector. The profession had to move to a virtual service almost overnight and in spite of the logistical and wellbeing issues associated with working during a pandemic, the legal sector has adapted to the "new normal" and achieved great things in the most demanding of times.

More than ever BLS looks forward to celebrating the excellent work done by the local profession in this, its 250th year.

The winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Dinner at the Bristol Marriott Hotel City Centre on Thursday 14th October 2021. **Deadline for Nominations: Wednesday 8th September 2021.**

HOW TO NOMINATE

For EACH nomination, please make ONE submission via this link www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9SMMLZF to our online nomination form. Please note further guidance on submissions in the Judging Procedures below and Terms and Conditions overleaf.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

The nominations will be judged by a panel of judges selected by the President of Bristol Law Society. The Judges' decision is final and awards will be made at their sole discretion. Feedback on nominations will not be provided. Not all awards advertised will be awarded if the judges decide the criteria have not been met.

By way of additional guidance to the criteria set out in each award definition we confirm that the factors the judging panel will consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Demonstrating excellence in a chosen field of law including commitment to, and evidence of impact, on clients and recognition among clients and peers alike as a leader in that field. The key word here is excellence - that does not mean simply ticking the boxes, it means going above and beyond the call of duty.
2. Involvement in relevant professional bodies including office holder/stakeholder status
3. Active involvement in community projects and making contributions to the wider local society
4. Evidence of 'trailblazer' activities and innovation
5. Longevity of experience and excellence in service delivery and professional conduct
6. Exceptional achievement in and promotion of the local legal community and Bristol as a business and legal centre of excellence
7. Please note size of business isn't important: Judges take into account the relative size of each company involved and make their decision on the basis of the evidence in front of them.



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AWARD CATEGORIES

1. LAW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a law student who has shown exceptional endeavour and commitment to their studies of the law and has achieved outstanding results in academia and/or extra curricular activities

2. SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual who has shown exceptional support in the delivery of legal services or within their organisation and who has demonstrated that they have gone above and beyond normal standards in their contribution to the firm and/or commitment and dedication to clients and the legal sector, employees and internal support services

3. DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING AWARD

Awarded to a team or organisation from private practice, chambers or in-house in the private or public sector who can showcase successful and innovative examples of the promotion of diversity, inclusion and social mobility within their organisations and/or those who have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing or promoting an inclusive working environment that supports the mental and physical wellbeing of its people as a core value of its business culture

4. PRO BONO LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual (paralegal, legal apprentice, trainee solicitor, any grade of CILEx/FCILEx, barrister and any solicitor) who has demonstrated a strong and dedicated commitment to the supply of pro bono work either long-term or from a single outstanding case, for the benefit of individuals, organisations and the region

5. JUNIOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a junior lawyer (paralegal, legal apprentice, trainee solicitor, any grade of CILEx below FCILEx and any solicitor up to 5 years PQE) who can show exceptional endeavour and has made a significant impact both within their firm and in the legal sector in the early part of their career

6. LEGAL INNOVATORS AWARD

This award recognises law firms, in-house teams and Chambers that are innovating and changing the way legal products and services are delivered (both internally and to the client), or shifting business models to meet changing client demands. Please outline in your submission (i) the idea/innovation and the target market (ii) how the original idea was conceived, who was involved and how the idea developed into the final solution (iii) how the idea was evaluated, tested and trialled during the development process (iv) the tangible and intangible results which have been achieved and how these have been measured and (v) what you have learned from the

experience. Please note that this award recognises both technology and non-tech based initiatives

7. CHAMBERS OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a Chambers that is able to demonstrate excellence and innovation in the provision of legal services above and beyond their colleagues in the field. Points to consider may include strategic growth, key work highlights, technology and innovation, EDI initiatives around talent attraction, progression and retention and Community Engagement and pro bono activities.

8. LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an exceptional solicitor or FCILEx who has made an outstanding contribution either to their firm, client work or the legal sector. This award may include solicitor and legal executive advocates who can demonstrate excellence in advocacy, in-house solicitors and sole practitioners

9. TEAM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a legal or support team from private practice, chambers, or in-house in private or public sector that has made an outstanding contribution either in their organisation or to their clients or legal sector

10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a firm that has shown a notable CE/CSR/Responsible Business commitment to supporting causes or projects in the region. Regard will be had to championing those who can demonstrate a meaningful and sustainable impact on their chosen cause/communities

11. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This award recognises the law firm, chambers or in-house team, which has demonstrated the strongest commitment over the last 24 months to improving the environmental sustainability of its operations and activities. Please include what actions the business has taken to accelerate progress around sustainability, how this goes beyond 'business as usual' and how it has aligned itself with global climate and sustainability frameworks (e.g. SDGs).

12. LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (UP TO 20 PARTNERS)

Awarded to a firm that is able to demonstrate excellence in the provision of legal services which has been recognised either regionally or nationally or a firm that has seen significant development during the year

13. LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (OVER 20 PARTNERS)

Awarded to a firm that is able to demonstrate excellence in the provision of legal services which has been recognised either regionally or nationally or a firm that has seen significant development during the year



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Nominations must relate to achievements between **1st September 2019 to 31st August 2021**.
- Only organisations, teams and individuals practising in the Bristol and Bath area are eligible to enter.
- Nominations should relate largely to the work done by initiatives instigated/implemented with the Bristol and Bath area. If evidence relates to work/initiatives on a more national basis across other locations too, please note this in submission, but note greater weight is given to the local connection.
- You can nominate yourself, your team or your own organisation or another individual, team or organisation.
- Full Council members of Bristol Law Society are not eligible to be nominated for an individual award (but may for team and organisation which they are part), however they may nominate other individuals, teams and organisations in each category.
- The closing date for nominations is **8th September 2021**.
- Please note that we will only accept one nomination per category in each email and the word limit of 750 will be enforced. Any reasons not contained within the first 750 words will not be considered.
- Any nomination submission that does not meet the awards criteria will not be accepted (this includes postal or hand-written nominations).
- Where necessary, some nominations may require additional verification to ensure the individual, team or organisation being nominated meets the criteria set out in each category.
- Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering the competition.
- Bristol Law Society will accept your submission via the link as confirmation of the validity of the contents.
- You must obtain consent from the nominee to submit a nomination. By agreeing to the submission of a nomination, the nominee is consenting to us processing their personal data in order to consider their nomination; communicate with them about the awards event; share the nomination with the Judges (all personal contact details will be hidden); share the relevant information with our event manager, event printers, AV provider, Host Presenter and award engravers; publish the shortlisted entrants by name and firm only and for the winning entrant's photograph to be taken and used for publicity purposes by Bristol Law Society and the award sponsoring organisation. See our [privacy notice](#) for further details of how we process your data and your rights to object to/restrict processing.
- Award entries will remain confidential to Bristol Law Society and the Judging Panel until the Annual Awards Dinner.
- Winners of each category will receive a trophy and BLS award logo for use on their marketing materials and website.

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