



2023

*Annual Awards Dinner*

Thursday 2nd November 2023

Delta Hotels Bristol City Centre

Our Charity

**SARSAS**  
*Listen.  
Believe.  
Support.*



# BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY'S FLAGSHIP EVENT

Recognising the excellence  
of the legal profession in the area

**Drinks Reception**  
**Four-Course Dinner with Wine**

Four-Course Dinner with Wine will be followed  
by the prestigious awards ceremony in honour of the local  
legal profession

This year's chosen charity is SARSAS

**Drinks Reception:** 6.15pm

**Dinner:** 7.15pm

**Carriages:** 1am

**Venue:** Delta Hotels Bristol City Centre

**Booking Form:** [www.bristollawsociety.com](http://www.bristollawsociety.com)



## Friends and Colleagues

In our second (and you'll be pleased to hear final) year as Co-Presidents, we are excited and pleased to invite you to the Society's Annual Awards Dinner 2023.

As the local legal communities biggest and most celebrated event approaches, it is time to get you all excited about what an incredible event this year will be.

The Awards Dinner is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate not only the award winners, but all those who are nominated and all that our legal community does for the city we live in and call home. This year more than ever it's time to break down the barriers and ensure that all exceptional individuals are recognised and celebrated. No more unsung heroes, no more hiding lights under bushels, no more unseen talent, please get nominating and help us to showcase all that our incredible local sector has to offer.

In our extended term of office, Bristol Law Society's team of volunteers and incredible staff have continued to support the legal and business community and build upon our work and the connections that makes Bristol Law Society to be held in such high esteem both locally and nationally.

This year has been a year of consolidation and building for the future; Bristol Law Society is now a landlord rather than a tenant and we are part way through restructuring to ensure that our council members and our wider membership can become more involved in committees, and engage in areas of law, our city and our future that they are interested and invested in.

Bristol continues to lead and facilitate conversations amongst the legal and professional community on climate change and the environment, equality, and diversity, legaltech, community engagement and pro bono commitment. Our new committee structure will further enhance our ability to provide impactful representation and action in these areas.

This year, we are raising funds in support of Erin's chosen Charity of the Year, Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS). SARSAS is an integral support service for our region, providing vital and inclusive access to counselling and support for all individuals affected by rape and sexual abuse, as well as training and campaigning for survivors. Through their tireless work, SARSAS make a transcendent difference in our community. We hope you will join us in showing our support for SARSAS at the Awards Dinner.

Finally, we would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters who provide our thousands of members, and our council members and incredible staff without whom this would not be possible.

It has been an honour for us to be your Co-Presidents' for nearly the last two years, so we hope to see you to celebrate all the fantastic achievements of our members at the Awards Dinner.

Thank you

**Erin Sawyer & Edd Thompson**  
Co-Presidents', Bristol Law Society



Please click on sponsor logo to visit their website  
Take a look at our [Nomination Form](#) for full Award criteria

### 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

### 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 whether long-term or from a single outstanding case, for the benefit of individuals, organisations and the region

### SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

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

### 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 POE) 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

### DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual, team, organisation from private practice, chambers, in-house in the private or public sector or network who can showcase successful and innovative examples of the promotion of diversity, inclusion and/or 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

### LEGAL INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

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



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### 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, Community Engagement and pro bono activities

### 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 12 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)

### 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

### 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

### 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, their clients or legal sector

### 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

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a firm (or a collaboration of law firms) 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

### PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated an exceptional contribution to the legal sector, their organisation and/or clients whether that be on a one-off basis or over the course of their career. Please note this award remains in the gift of the Co-Presidents' and will not go to the Judging Panel



THANK YOU

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VIP RECEPTION

MAIN RECEPTION

WINE

TWITTER SCREEN AND TABLE PLAN

FLOWERS

ENTERTAINMENT

CHARITY RAFFLE

LIGHTING & AUDIO