



BRISTOL
LAW SOCIETY

2024

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



Thursday 7th November
Delta Hotels Bristol City Centre

Our Charity

DOGS
FOR
GOOD

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES AN AWARD?

IF SO, BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

There are 14 award categories for which you are invited to nominate (see page 3 and 4 for details).

Bristol Law Society is committed to improving equality of opportunity for everyone in Bristol and Bath and to eliminate discrimination in all its forms. We actively encourage nominations in all award categories from our diverse local profession to contribute to the creation of a local legal sector that prioritises diversity, equality, and inclusiveness.

The winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Dinner at the Delta Hotels Bristol City Centre on Thursday 7th November 2024. **Deadline for Nominations: 11.45pm on Thursday 19 September 2024.**

HOW TO NOMINATE

For EACH nomination, please make ONE submission to our online nomination form via this [link](#)

Please note specific criteria for each award against which it is judged can be found [here](#) and further general guidance on submissions in the Judging Procedures below and Terms and Conditions.

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. An advertised award category may not be awarded if the Judges decide the criteria have not been met.

MAKING YOUR NOMINATION STAND OUT

By way of additional guidance to the specific criteria set out in each award category, please note the following factors:

1. Please tailor your nomination, a recycled directory submission stands out a mile. The awards will *strictly* be judged against the nomination criteria, *so please read those carefully*
2. Nominations should relate largely to the work done by/initiatives/instigated/implemented within the Bristol and Bath area. If evidence relates to work/initiatives on a more national basis across other locations too, please mention this in the submission, but note greater weight is given to the local connection
3. Size DOESN'T matter! When assessing a submission the Judges will take into account the relative size of each organisation involved and make their decision on the basis of the evidence in front of them and consider the impact of what has been achieved given the resource available

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AWARD CATEGORIES

1. 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.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

2. PRO BONO AWARD

Awarded to an individual, firm, team, organisation, collaboration or network which has/have demonstrated a strong and dedicated commitment to the supply of pro bono work or the introduction of a pro bono initiative as set out in the Joint Pro Bono Protocol "legal advice of representation provided by lawyers in the public interest including to individuals, charities and community groups who cannot afford to pay for that advice or representation and where public and alternative means of funding are not available"

[Judges will be looking for](#)

3. RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a junior lawyer (law student, paralegal, legal apprentice, trainee solicitor, pupil barrister, any CILEX, solicitor or barrister up to 3 years PQE) who can show exceptional endeavour (in their work and/or their studies) and who has made a significant impact within their firm or institution, in the legal sector and BLS' local community in the early part of their career.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

4. LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an exceptional solicitor or CILEX (3PQE+ and above) who has made an outstanding contribution to their firm, client work and the legal sector and BLS' local community.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

5. TEAM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a legal or support team from private practice, Chambers, or in-house that has made an outstanding contribution either in their organisation, to the legal sector or the BLS' community.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

6. DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual, team, organisation from private practice, Chambers, in-house, collaboration or a network which can showcase successful and innovative examples of initiatives around the promotion of equality diversity and inclusion within their organisations and/or those who have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing or promoting an inclusive working environment that supports the mental any physical wellbeing of its people as a core value of its business culture.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

7. COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Awarded to a firm (or a network/collaboration of law firm(s)) that has shown a notable impact over the qualifying period, while supporting causes or projects in the Bristol/Bath region relating to the community engagement and corporate and social responsibility.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

8. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This award recognises the law firm or Chambers which has demonstrated the strongest commitment over the qualifying period to improving the environmental sustainability of its operations and activities.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

9. LEGAL INNOVATION 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. This award recognises both legal technology and non-tech-based initiatives.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

10. 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.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

11. LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (BOUTIQUE)

Awarded to a firm with a significant presence within Bristol/Bath region with 3 or fewer niche practice areas that is able to demonstrate excellence in those practice areas and within the legal sector and the community and has experienced significant development during the year.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

12. LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (REGIONAL)

Awarded to a firm exclusively based in the Bristol/Bath region that is able to demonstrate excellence in those practice areas and within the legal sector and the community and has experienced significant development during the year.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

13. LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (NATIONAL)

Awarded to a firm with at least one office in Bristol/Bath region that is able to demonstrate excellence in those practice areas and within the legal sector and the community and has experienced significant development during the year.

[Judges will be looking for](#)

14. 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.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Nominations must relate to achievements in the period **1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024**. The closing date for nominations is **11.45pm on Friday 19 September 2024**.
- Only organisations, teams, networks and individuals practising in the Bristol and Bath area are eligible to enter.
- You can nominate yourself, your team or your own organisation or another individual, team or organisation.
- Directors of Bristol Law Society are not eligible to be nominated for an individual award (but may for team and organisation awards of which they are part). They may nominate other individuals, teams and organisations in each category.
- Please note that word limit of 1,000 will be enforced.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Judging Panel will judge the submission against the individual award criteria.
- Any nomination submission that does not meet the awards criteria will not be accepted
- 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.
- An advertised award category may not be awarded if the Judges decide the criteria have not been met.
- We would ask all nominees to note that the Judging Panel will only consider **ONE** submission per nominee per category. If more than one submission is received, the nominee will be asked to select one submission for the Judging Panel to consider. Client testimonials must be included within the allocated **word count** per submission.
- Award entries will remain confidential to Bristol Law Society and the Judging Panel until the Annual Awards Dinner.
- 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.
- Winners of each category will receive a trophy and BLS award logo for use on their marketing materials and website. Official photographs will be sent to the winners for their use. Where the photograph contains images of Officers of Bristol Law Society, the Officer must be captioned with their name, position at BLS and position and name of the firm they work for. Photographs including pictures of our Officers must not be used in firm advertorials or promotions. Please contact the Bristol Law Society office if you wish to use the photographs for anything other than a standard news item relating to the winning of an award.