



Junior Lawyers Division Engagement Programme 2016 – 2017





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JLD Council
Member

Foreword

Welcome to the Law Society's Junior Lawyers Division 2016-2017 engagement programme.

Law is a rewarding career and junior lawyers working across the spectrum, from legal aid to magic circle firms and the employed sector, enjoy and value the profession they have chosen. However, the profession continues to be competitive with many junior lawyers struggling to progress. On entering the profession, whether through obtaining a training contract or qualifying by other means, there are many challenges facing junior lawyers. These challenges include managing high levels of debt or qualifying into your chosen area of law. Once qualified there are still many barriers to overcome.

Partnership may no longer be seen as the ultimate career goal, working in-house has become more popular, and the pressure on solicitors at a junior level to contribute to the business in which they work through commercial initiatives has increased dramatically. Further, barriers to social mobility and equality and diversity remain at all levels of the profession. Junior lawyers continue to face the removal of certain protections, such as the abolition of the trainee minimum salary, and drastic proposals to change the routes to qualification as a solicitor. These proposals threaten to remove some of the regulation of the practical training given to aspiring solicitors. The Junior Lawyers Division exists to support, represent and promote junior lawyers and guide them through the early stages of their career, from Legal Practice Course (LPC) students through to solicitors with up to five years PQE.

Represented by a committee, with an independent voice, our focus for 2016- 17 includes:

- representing current and future junior lawyers in relation to the SRA proposal for a centralised assessment to qualify as a solicitor
- providing information on the increasing alternative routes to qualification
- supporting solicitors up to five years PQE in their career and skills progression
- increasing engagement with our members across the whole of England and Wales

The JLD are always looking for participation. If you are a junior lawyer and have ideas and the drive to see those ideas actioned, why not get involved with the JLD at a local or national level? The JLD committee has seats open for elections each year and by joining the committee or attending our events you could help shape the future of your profession.

The JLD is all about its members and their needs. To enable the JLD committee to better represent you, we want to hear from you. Please get in touch at juniorlawyers@lawsociety.org.uk or through our social media channels to give us your thoughts, seek our support or just to connect

I look forward working with our members over the coming year.

Bryan Scant, chair of the Junior Lawyers Division Committee

[Read the JLD Annual Report 2015-16.](#)



Our vision

To represent, support and provide services to junior lawyers at the start of their careers to help them to develop, progress and diversify within the legal profession.

Who we are

The JLD is a division of the Law Society of England and Wales. The division, which has a committee with an independent voice, was established in 2008 to support:

- LPC students
- LPC graduates
- trainee solicitors
- solicitors up to five years qualified

The JLD is one of the largest communities within the Law Society with approximately 70,000 plus members. Membership of the JLD is free and automatic for those within its membership group.

What we do

The JLD provides members with an opportunity to:

- network and connect with other junior lawyers
- discuss issues of concern
- benefit from training, advice and career guidance
- ensure their views are heard
- contribute to JLD campaigns, lobbying activities and consultations

Tailored support for junior lawyers

To address the diverse needs of the junior members of the profession the JLD has created a programme of engagement for all sectors of its membership – from LPC students looking for training positions to solicitors settling into their chosen area of practice. The programme seeks to:

- provide career advice and guidance and personal skill development through a series of events, members support activities and services
- support, promote and represent junior lawyers by providing opportunities to share and develop best practice, to exchange ideas and experience, to learn from peers, and by providing research information
- provide opportunities for junior lawyers to influence the overall direction of the legal sector and the future of the profession
- provide greater protection for junior lawyers in the work environment
- help the Law Society to understand and represent junior lawyers more effectively
- continue to develop links with legal organisations, both here and abroad, to learn from and to further promote the JLD, the solicitors' profession and England and Wales as a jurisdiction of choice.

Events

Throughout the year the JLD aims to cater for its diverse and vibrant membership through its free one day forums and annual conference and ball which focus on the skills and knowledge junior lawyers need to take control of their careers. This year the JLD will be looking to work with other teams in the Law Society to provide events targeted at currently under represented sectors of the membership. Details of these events will be advertised in the JLD newsletter – [Junior Lawyer Update](#) – and published on our [website](#). We also encourage our members to attend local JLD group events in their area and help support their local junior lawyer community.

JLD national committee meetings 2017

When: 28 January 2017, 9 April 2017, 14 October 2017
Venues: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL
Cost: Free to attend – but prior approval necessary

The JLD national committee meets three times a year and includes the executive committee, Law Society Council members, representatives from the local JLD group network, LPC student representatives and representatives of other Law Society divisions (e.g. Lawyers with Disabilities Division). The purpose of the national committee is to provide:

- a forum for issues affecting junior lawyers to be discussed and policy positions to be settled and actioned accordingly
- an opportunity for the JLD committee to obtain feedback from the local JLD group network on issues affecting junior lawyers at a local level

If you are interested in getting involved with the JLD but unsure where to start or do not have a local JLD group in your area you can attend a JLD national committee meeting as an observer and find out more about the JLD. Places for non-national committee members are limited and need to be approved beforehand.

If you are interested in attending a JLD national committee meeting as an observer please email juniorlawyers@lawsociety.org.uk for authorisation.



Forum: helping you to secure a training position

When: 18 February 2017 and 7 October 2017
Venues: February (Cardiff) / October (The Law Society, London)
Cost: Free

These free one day skills events are aimed at LPC students and LPC graduates to assist them in their research for a training position. We invite delegates to join us for presentations, discussion and activities designed to be of value and assistance with speakers who are highly regarded and experienced in their field. Individual CV advisory clinics are also held throughout the day.

Typical forum sessions may include some of the following topics:

- tips from current trainees and newly qualified solicitors on they secured their training position
- CV and application techniques and what organisations are looking for
- understanding assessment centres and how to prepare for them
- how to stand out at interviews
- working in-house and alternative career paths for solicitors
- other routes to qualification including regulatory updates
- networking and social media for aspiring solicitors
- commercial awareness: what it is and how to get it

[Register your interest in attending the February event.](#)

Forum: career development skills for junior lawyers

When: 11 March 2017 and 16 September 2017
Venues: March (Sheffield) / September (The Law Society, London)
Cost: Free

These free one day skills events are aimed at trainees, newly qualified solicitors and solicitors up to five years qualified. They are intended to equip those who are at the start of their careers with skills and advice necessary to progress within the law and the working environment. We invite delegates to join us for presentations, discussion and activities designed to be of value and assistance with speakers who are highly regarded and experienced in their field. Individual CV clinics are also held throughout the day.

Typical forum sessions may include some of the following topics:

- social media for solicitors and developing your personal brand
- moving in-house: what to expect and how to prepare
- application and interview advice
- achieving your career goals
- developing your specialism and changing practice area
- the art of public speaking and advocacy
- current trends in the work place and what firms and organisations are looking for in junior lawyers
- time management and maximising productivity
- raising your commercial awareness and understanding your business sector
- Brexit and the implications for the legal profession

[Register your interest in attending the March event.](#)

10th annual JLD conference and ball

When: Saturday 8 April 2017
Venues: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL
Cost: From £55

Offering a mix of keynote speeches and presentations, interactive group sessions, practical breakout workshops and networking opportunities, the 10th annual JLD conference and ball provides invaluable guidance on taking control of your career.

[Register your interest in attending the JLD annual conference.](#)

International Weekend 2017

When: 28 – 30 September 2017
Venues: Various venues in Central London
Cost: TBC

Once a year the JLD, the Young Barristers' Committee, the European Young Bar Association and the London Young Lawyers Group organise a two-day training conference that is attended by young lawyers from the United Kingdom, Europe and North America. This is a great opportunity to further your legal skills, share ideas with like-minded individuals and, most importantly, start establishing your professional network.

For further details, when available, please keep an eye on our [website events pages](#).



Member Support

E-newsletter – Junior Lawyer Update

The JLD publishes a regular e-newsletter for junior lawyers – Junior Lawyer Update. The e-newsletter, which has a circulation of over 66,000, includes updates on news, features, events and activities which are relevant to junior lawyers. To receive Junior Lawyer Update you can subscribe [here](#).

Representation, policy and lobbying

The JLD is proud of the policy work it has initiated and contributed to in recent years and the range of consultations it has responded to on behalf of its membership – not just on issues directly related to junior lawyers but also on wider matters which may impact the future career paths of junior lawyers, particularly with regards to regulation of the profession and the provision of legal services. As a result of this the JLD has been successful in the adoption of new practices and procedures which have benefited the working lives of junior lawyers. The JLD also invites its members to “[have their say](#)” and input into JLD policy development and consultation responses. The JLD updates its [policy and campaigns manifesto](#) regularly. Consultation responses can be read [here](#).

Social media

The JLD has an active social media presence. Join us on LinkedIn, become a member of our Facebook group and follow us on Twitter. These sites are updated regularly with items of interest to junior lawyers and those in the profession who have an interest in junior lawyer issues. Access the JLD social media sites on the [JLD website here](#).

Law Society Excellence Award and LawWorks Pro Bono Awards

In recognition of the work of junior lawyers they have their own category of award at both of these ceremonies. The awards recognise the most outstanding junior lawyers' contributions to the profession and to pro bono services.

JLD essay competition

The 2,000-word essay competition gives the JLD's student and trainee members the chance to compete for prize money, as well as honing their drafting skills on a subject which is topical, will engage junior lawyers and be of professional relevance. The essay competition will be launched in July 2017 and close at the end of November 2017.

Website

The JLD website is a source of information which tells you all you need to know about becoming a solicitor, issues facing junior lawyers and how the JLD is representing your interests. It includes information about legal career paths, latest policy and regulatory developments, surveys and polls, national and regional skills events, training materials and good practice, FAQs and other sources of help and advice. We welcome your suggestions and contributions to the website, for example, articles, reviews, blogs, hints and tips. If you would like to submit an item or send us your suggestions for additional website content that junior lawyers would find helpful and informative, please email us at juniormlawyers@lawsociety.org.uk

Working with and influencing others

Over the course of the JLD's development it has forged links and working connections with a range of legal bodies and organisations – both here and internationally – which aim to strengthen the role of the JLD, raise the profile of junior lawyers as valuable members of the profession and promote the Law Society. For example, the JLD is represented on the Legal Wellbeing task force which is managed by LawCare, the Solicitors Qualifying Exam working party, Legal Pride and review of the courts reform programme. It also takes an active part in the annual National Pro Bono Week by showcasing the pro bono work being done by junior lawyers and the projects they are involved with. In addition, the JLD committee has also cultivated the support of high profile advocates in the profession, in particular the Lord Chief Justice by updating him on the work of the JLD and the issues affecting the membership.

Exclusive benefits

The **JLD membership benefits** include a number of exclusively negotiated products, services and discounts aimed specifically at junior lawyers. This currently includes bespoke discount TM Lewin vouchers as well as discounted rates for many Law Society events and publications.

CV clinics

At all JLD forums and the annual conference the JLD offers individual CV advisory clinics to delegates seeking to update and tailor their CVs. This is an excellent opportunity for those seeking to obtain a training position or newly qualified solicitor post as well as those looking to move into a different practice area. Our CV advisers are themselves members of the profession who are able to pass on their benefit of their experience.

Press and media

The JLD is regularly approached by the national and legal press to comment on matters affecting junior lawyers, particularly training and qualification requirements for entry into the profession and the impact upon aspiring lawyers and the JLD membership. These provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of the JLD and also junior lawyers in general. In addition the JLD committee provides a regular feature for Solicitors Journal on a variety of topical subjects.

Webinars and podcasts

Webinars and podcasts give members the chance to listen to influential speakers talk about topical subjects of interest on matters of relevance to you as well as those more focused on training and career development. This year the JLD is introducing a series of bite size training webinars based on the sessions held at the JLD forums, podcasts of JLD events and video interviews and panel discussions. Free to access, you can sign up to listen to them at your convenience. For webinars and podcasts visit the JLD website [here](#).

Regional junior lawyer groups

In the same way that the Law Society exists alongside local law societies, [local JLD groups](#) exist all across the country. They run events ranging from lectures to monthly meetings and social events, and offer an opportunity to socialise with junior lawyers who work and live in the area. They can often be a lifeline for trainees who may be alone in their firms, as well as giving junior lawyers the chance to connect and build their professional networks. Many groups are building contacts with other groups representing the junior professions in their area.



International outreach

The JLD has long standing links with other young international bar associations, specifically the European Young Bar Association (EYBA) and the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Through these international connections the JLD is able to mirror the relationship between the Law Society and the more senior bar associations, to ensure a 'bow-tie' networking at all levels of the profession, as the junior end are the future leaders of the legal professions. We are able to provide our members with information about opportunities available for cross qualification purposes. We can also provide advice to international lawyers on the Qualifying Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS) who may wish to qualify in this jurisdiction.

Research and surveys

The JLD appreciates the value of research and membership surveys as a way of identifying the needs of its members and thus ensuring that products and services are better targeted in future. This year the JLD is looking to undertake a junior lawyer careers aspiration survey. The JLD wants to know what career paths junior lawyers set out upon at qualification and whether these have changed along the way and, if so, why. For example, do they envisage seeking partnership at some point or maybe a judicial career is more attractive. Previous JLD surveys have lead to the publication of good practice guidance. Please look out for this survey on the JLD website later in the year.

Members' queries

Members are able to engage with the JLD directly at any point by emailing juniormlawyers@lawsociety.org.uk. Members' queries can range from finding out if there is a local JLD group in their area, whether funding is available for the LPC or how to get involved with the JLD to more serious issues where junior lawyers are being bullied at work or they are not receiving adequate training. Where the JLD is unable to provide direct assistance it signposts its members to other sources of help and support.

Help shape the future of the profession

There are a number of ways junior lawyers can get involved and help influence the future of the profession, either at national, local JLD group or student level.

Contact your local group

The JLD has a network of local groups, which although affiliated, are independent of the main national JLD. The local groups hold regular events and activities and are always looking for new members to get involved. For details of a local group near you, please visit the [JLD website local group page](#).

Set up a local JLD group in your area

If there is not a local JLD group in your area, you may want to consider setting up one yourself or with a few of your colleagues. The JLD is working on a local group guide to assist you which will soon be available on our website.

Stand for a JLD committee position

Each year the JLD holds elections for positions on its executive committee. All JLD members are eligible to apply. Nominations open in September and close in October. Details are posted on the JLD website nearer the time and also advertised in the Junior Lawyer Update newsletter.

Stand for a Law Society Council seat or policy committee vacancy

Periodically, the Law Society advertises vacancies on its Council and various specialist practice committees, sections and divisions. The Law Society actively encourages applications from junior lawyers. Look out for vacancies on the JLD website, the Law Society website, and in the Junior Lawyer Update newsletter.

Volunteer to become an LPC ambassador

At the start of each academic year the JLD seeks to recruit LPC students to become ambassadors at their individual LPC institution with the intention of being a conduit between their fellow students and the national JLD. This is to enable students to directly feed issues and problems to the JLD executive committee which will in turn enable the JLD to better represent the needs and interests of its student membership. It also acts to increase awareness of the JLD amongst the student membership and encourage students to become actively involved with the JLD, sign up to receive the [free JLD e-newsletter](#) and make the most of their free and automatic membership.

Attend a JLD national committee meeting

The JLD holds three national committee meetings a year at which issues affecting junior lawyers are discussed. The national committee consists of the JLD executive and representatives of the local JLD group network. Meetings are held on a Saturday (sometimes Sunday). A limited number of places are available for JLD members to attend these meetings although permission is required. Information about forthcoming national committee meetings can be found on the [JLD events page](#).

Let us have your views

The JLD policy issues and consultation responses are available on the JLD website. Members are welcome to share their views with the JLD on any of the policy, projects or campaigns set out on the website, or let us know of other issues the JLD should be focusing on, by emailing us at juniorlawyers@lawsociety.org.uk



Committee

Thank you to our committee members

Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) executive committee members, who are themselves all junior lawyers, volunteer to serve a two year term. During that time they meet regularly to discuss key issues facing junior lawyers and how best to support and represent them as well as hosting and attending events and undertaking activities on behalf of the JLD. The JLD is supported by three Law Society Council members whose role is to represent junior lawyers on the Law Society Council.

The Law Society thanks all of the committee and Council members, whose details are included below, for their time, commitment and contribution. You can view committee members' profiles on the JLD website www.lawsociety.org.uk/juniorlawyers

Committee Member	Committee Role	Status
Bryan Scant	JLD committee chair	Solicitor, Bournemouth (private practice)
Adele Edwin-Lamerton	JLD committee vice chair	Solicitor , London (private practice)
Matthew Allan	Law Society Council member for LPC students and trainees	Paralegal, London
Amy Clowrey	Executive committee member	Solicitor, Yorkshire (private practice)
Ronagh Craddock	Executive committee member	Solicitor, Newcastle (private practice)
Beth Forrester	Law Society Council member for solicitors 0-5 years qualified	Solicitor, London (in-house/public sector)
Adam Hattersley	Executive committee member	Newly qualified solicitor, Manchester (private practice)
James Kitching	Executive committee member	Trainee, Southampton (private practice)
Kayleigh Leonie	Law Society Council member for solicitors 0-5 years qualified	Solicitor, London (private practice)
Charlotte Parkinson	Executive committee member	Trainee, Yorkshire (private practice)
Gregory Smith	Executive committee member (student representative)	LPC student, London
Rick Thomas	Executive committee member	Newly qualified solicitor, Nottingham (private practice)

About the Law Society

The Law Society exists to represent, promote and support all solicitors, so they in turn can help their clients.

We also work to ensure that no-one is above the law and to protect everyone's right to have access to justice. We promote England and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice and the vital role legal services play in our economy. We work internationally to open up markets to our members and to defend human rights while supporting our members with opportunities in the domestic market.

The Law Society helps members by:

- representing solicitors by speaking out for justice and on legal issues
- promoting solicitors through publicising the value of using a solicitor at home and abroad
- supporting solicitors by helping them develop their expertise and their business, respective of whether they work for themselves, in-house or for a law firm

The Law Society represents the profession by:

- campaigning on the rule of law, human rights, access to justice and regulation. This includes lobbying in Brussels, Westminster and Cardiff and in the media.
- working with international legal bodies to position the Law Society as a thought-leader on global issues
- intervening in cases where solicitors and the law are under threat in the UK and abroad
- helping our members to represent key issues impacting the profession to their MP, AM or MEP
- using the law to challenge changes which will impact negatively on the profession and society
- championing and facilitating pro bono work



The Law Society promotes the profession by:

- internationally working to open and grow markets for English and Welsh law such as inward visits of foreign lawyers and trade missions
- providing and increasing awareness of Find a Solicitor – our website enabling consumers and businesses to find a solicitor who can meet their needs
- hosting our annual Excellence Awards which highlight and celebrate outstanding contributions across the profession
- recognising the contribution solicitors make to civil society and communities
- publicising the value of legal services to the UK economy



The Law Society supports the profession by:

- identifying issues and market trends affecting solicitors to help them prepare for the future
- developing a comprehensive and cohesive education and training offer
- providing practice notes and guidance on issues important to members
- giving advice through our library and helplines
- running accreditation schemes to support and demonstrate effective practice
- creating communities of members based on who you are and what you do
- supporting those who find it difficult to enter the profession through our Diversity Access Scheme
- offering consultancy services for members who want more detailed help
- assisting members who wish to practice abroad





The Law Society

How the Law Society works

Solicitors pay their annual practising certificate fee to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The Law Society receives around 30 per cent of this fee to support, represent and promote the profession. Other funding comes from commercial activities.

The Law Society Council governs the Law Society's work. Council members are elected to represent members from England and Wales, different demographic groups and parts of the profession. The Law Society harness the knowledge of the Council members and around 300 volunteers to deliver the advice, support and service members want. The Council has 100 seats, 61 for geographical constituencies and 39 for special interest groups and areas of practice.

For more information please visit www.lawsociety.org.uk

 **Junior Lawyers Division**

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