

**news feature****Call for nominations for 2010 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards**

The Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards (the LALYs as they have become known) were launched in 2003 by the Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG) and the then *Independent Lawyer* magazine to recognise the outstanding work undertaken by many legal aid lawyers. *Legal Action* magazine is proud to be media sponsor for the 2010 LALYs, the eighth year of the awards, which launches this month with nominations running until mid-April. LAPG is urging practitioners and the public to nominate lawyers and advisers working in legal aid from either the private practice or the not for profit sector.

The presentation ceremony will be held on 26 May at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in south-east London. The evening's compère will be former BBC radio presenter John Howard, with Cherie

**ANGELA JACKMAN**

Angela spearheaded the development of education law to ensure justice for many disadvantaged children. A LALY judge said: 'It is rare to find a lawyer dedicated and committed to seeking excellence in the field of education law but Angela's legal skills shine brightly in this area of the law where few reach the limelight.' Angela is co-author of regular 'Recent developments in education law' articles in *Legal Action* and a former trainer for LAG.

**MICHAEL BURDETT**

Michael has been a criminal defence solicitor for 45 years. Michael was instrumental in setting up the court and police station duty solicitor schemes. One LALY judge said: 'He has worked locally and nationally to establish, administer and improve court and police duty schemes and has served on any number of committees.' Michael was for several years a member of LAG's board of trustees.

Booth QC, who chairs the judging panel, presenting the awards.

Last year, the LALYs marked LAPG's Silver Jubilee and 60 years since the inception of legal aid by making five awards for Outstanding Achievement to recognise legal aid practitioners who have made an exceptional contribution to access to justice over the life of the legal aid scheme (July 2009 *Legal Action* 8). The winners were as follows:

- David Gray Solicitors;
- Edward Fitzgerald CBE, QC;
- Michael Burdett;
- Angela Jackman; and
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers.

Commenting on the LALYs, Poonam Bhari, LAG's chairperson, said: 'Legal aid has gone through some difficult times in recent years. The LALYs are an opportunity to celebrate the excellent work legal aid practitioners do and raise the profile of the work they undertake on behalf of clients.'

LAPG is calling for nominations for the 2010 LALYs in nine categories:

- **Criminal defence lawyer:** sponsored by the Criminal Law Solicitors' Association
- **Family legal aid lawyer:** sponsored by Resolution
- **Legal aid barrister:** sponsored by the Bar Council
- **Mental health lawyer:** sponsored by Allen & Overy LLP
- **Immigration lawyer:** sponsored by RBS
- **Social and welfare lawyer:** sponsored by Trimega Laboratories
- **Legal aid firm/not for profit organisation:** sponsored by Matrix
- **Young legal aid solicitor:** sponsored by the Legal Services Commission
- **Young legal aid barrister:** sponsored by Irwin Mitchell LLP

The judges will also be making an award for **Outstanding Achievement** sponsored by Manches LLP.

For a nomination form, see the insert with this issue, telephone: 020 7183 2269 or visit: [www.lapg.co.uk](http://www.lapg.co.uk).

The LALY judges are:

- Cherie Booth QC (chairperson);
- Fiona Bawdon (freelance legal affairs journalist, LALY co-organiser);
- Rob Brown (former director, London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association, partner, Corker Binning);
- Yvonne Brown (former chairperson, Black Solicitors Network, principal, Legal Management Consulting (Child Protection and Practice Management));
- Sara Chandler (Law Society council member for the voluntary sector, professor, College of Law);
- Richard Charlton (consultant, Kaim Todner LLP, chairperson, Mental Health Lawyers Association);
- David Emmerson (partner, Edwards Duthie, chairperson, Resolution's legal aid committee, committee member, LAPG);
- Wesley Gryk (senior partner, Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP);
- Robert Latham (Doughty Street Chambers, 2008 Legal Aid Barrister of the Year);
- Doreen Lawrence (director, Stephen Lawrence Trust);
- Mr Justice Andrew McFarlane QC (High Court judge (Family Division)); and
- Roy Morgan (chairperson, LAPG, principal, Morgans Solicitors).



The Law Society is overall sponsor of the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards 2010



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