

letters

Dear LAG...

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, LAG invited comments and received several letters on the extent to which it has carried out its purpose of promoting equal access to justice for all members of society who are socially, economically or otherwise disadvantaged.

It is rare for an organisation to stand by and to continue to live by its high ideals. LAG is such an organisation. Everyone associated with LAG over the years is entitled to feel proud of its remarkable achievements – and the story is by no means complete. May there be many more years of the work.

MICHAEL ZANDER

Since its foundation over 20 years ago, the Legal Action Group has, by its provision of legal facilities for the disadvantaged and its prolific range of publications and lectures, disseminating legal information to those who would not otherwise enjoy such access, achieved that which could not have been foreseen. Best wishes for its 25th birthday.

RICHARD GORDON

LAG stands for justice for all.

SUNNY OMOTOSHO

Irreplaceable; unmatched; eternal?

ANDREW PHILLIPS

Seriously radical and very chic. How do you manage it? All good wishes for the 21st century.

WENDY MANTLE

If I have to meet R White, C Glasser, S Marsden-Smedley, A Phillips etc every 25 years, I shall die happy. But it is wonderful you are still here and socking it to everyone.

HENRY HODGE

The web site is a winner.

Congratulations and good luck for the next 25 years.

DIANA BEALE

Congratulations and best wishes for another 25–50–100.

JOHN WHEATLEY

Many happy returns and good wishes for the next 25!

CAROL HARLOW

I look forward to LAG's aggression continuing in the years to come.

DAVID MCNEILL

Head of Press Office
Law Society

Well done – Brilliant work, excellent magazine (and not just because I'm a contributor).

DAVID THOMAS

Ad multos annus! The challenges now are as great as they were in 1971.

RICHARD WHITE

Remember the past – imagine the future. Well done, congratulations on 25 years.

TAMARA GORIELY

Access to justice for all seems as much of a dream as it was in 1972. Being reminded of how far we are from that ideal is perhaps LAG's most important role.

ROBERT LATHAM

May LAG continue to support not only those that need access to justice but also those who provide it. Here's to the next 25 years.

ROBERTA TISH

Continue to carry forward law reform for the benefit of those who are at the sharp end of court procedure, as you have until now.

DAVID WATKINSON AND SUZANNE TARLIN

The need for LAG continues and the organisation will thrive into the 21st century. It is an honour and privilege to contribute to the organisation.

JUDITH SCHRUT

From strength to strength – congratulations and here's to another 25 years.

PETA SWEET

director, Solicitors Pro Bono Group

Congratulations on your 25th birthday. I look forward to celebrating your half century.

MICHAEL BURDETT

To a time when LAG is not needed.

HOWARD LEVENSON

Without LAG the legal profession would not have a conscience.

SUZANNE BURN

Law Society

Without LAG where would there be a voice for us?

HELEN SHAW

Inquest

Congratulations on your seminal contribution to law and lawyers for real people and difficult circumstances. My 'vintage' is that of LAG's, and I can readily appreciate the contribution you have made to the law we practice. Keep the faith.

EILEEN PEMBRIDGE

What would we do without you? It's a remarkable achievement to reach your silver anniversary in such wonderful shape – and still fresh. I'll celebrate by joining up.

MARLENE WINFIELD

LAG has fulfilled all of the vision we saw 25 years ago, when we set it up. We expect new paths to be tramped in the next 25 years. What about really simplifying legal procedure? Lord Devlin said, in 1968: 'We have made litigation, which ought to be a gentle solvent of disputes, into a thing of horror.' Isn't that true still? Courts for people next.

SUSAN MARSDEN

Just having read Susan Marsden's entry, if LAG could play some part in *really really* simplifying legal procedures that would be something wonderful. I'm glad I came.

CAROLE CHILDS

Most voluntary bodies fall into factions and dissolve within a few years. LAG has identified a core of supporters – not too passionate, thank goodness – but committed, nevertheless.

The boundaries of the remit remain as wide as ever – plenty of challenges, intellectual, practical, political for the next 25 years.

WALTER MERRICKS

All the best for the next 25 years. I look forward to the next party!

GAY MOON

Congratulations to all the old and new LAGs. Best wishes for the next 25.

FRANCES WEBBER

Congratulations to all at LAG. Keep up the good work. Best wishes.

GEORGETTE DJABA

Congratulations. Remember *Life without lawyers*.

JAMIE RITCHIE

Congratulations – looking forward to another *brilliant* 25 years.

TOOKS COURT

What a privilege to have been associated with such a brilliant organisation. It's been a pleasure over the years.

NANCY CARLTON

I am writing to add my voice to the many which will undoubtedly offer congratulations to everyone at LAG which has, over the years, done such invaluable work providing all of us with up-to-date, reliable information and campaigning for change in so many areas of the law. The advice from my pupil master all those years ago (1976 – Stephen Sedley as he then was), included joining LAG as soon as possible! I followed that advice and over the years I, together with countless others, have continued to benefit from the service provided by this excellent organisation. Long may it continue. Here's to another 25 years!

LAURA COX QC

Cloisters, 1 Pump Court, London

I am very sorry to be missing your party. I would have gladly made the trip to see so many old friends but I will be in Dublin watching Tranmere Rovers.

But at least, in the letter, I can send you my personal congratulations for the brilliant way that you have sustained LAG's work.

NICK WARREN

chair, Independent Tribunal Service, Liverpool

I send my congratulations to you for the incredible work that LAG has done, and that Roger has been involved in over this period.

AVROM SHERR

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

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