

Award Category Criteria

Please read the following criteria **for each award category** carefully before submitting your entry to ensure that all the required areas and evidence are addressed.

Your submission should comprehensively demonstrate your qualifications for the award by providing detailed information and examples in alignment with the criteria. Failure to provide comprehensive evidence in line with the criteria may impact the evaluation of your submission.

We encourage you to review the criteria attentively to showcase your accomplishments effectively and increase your chances of receiving the recognition you deserve.

Please submit your submission by completing the **LLG Awards Nomination Form 2025** which can be downloaded below.

LLG Awards consist of a **one-stage nomination process**.

Please submit the following alongside the application:

- Statement evidencing how the nomination meets criteria as described in the category details.
 - o Please note, this must not exceed 2000 words.
- Supporting testimonials from clients, or partner feedback.
 - o Please note, this is recommended but remains optional.
 - o Please note that the testimonial is additional to the 2000-word submission statement.
- Nominee or team photo
- Nominee or team biography
- 60 second VLOG supporting the application.
- Local authority logo

Junior Lawyer of the Year 2025

The award seeks to recognise a lawyer who, at the time of nomination, is either **a trainee, apprentice or paralegal** pre-qualified, or post qualification lawyer who has been **practicing for less than five years** and has made an **exceptional contribution** to their legal team. Key achievements should be highlighted, focusing on specific projects, cases, or initiatives where the nominee has made a substantial impact. Detailed descriptions of these achievements, including the complexity and importance within the legal team and their authority, should be provided.

Equally important is the **nominee's commitment to public service and public service objectives**. Evidence of their dedication to public service may include involvement in pro bono work, community engagement, or projects that directly benefit the public or community.

The **nominee's ability to contribute to the desired outcomes** for their service and clients as a junior member of the team is a crucial criterion. The entry should elucidate how their work has improved legal processes, legal services, or client satisfaction. Moreover, it should highlight how their contributions align with the service's overarching goals and objectives.

Innovative thinking is a significant aspect of this award. The nominee should demonstrate an innovative approach in their legal work, showcasing fresh ideas, creative solutions, or new strategies that have positively impacted service delivery and client support.

Supporting testimonials from colleagues, supervisors, clients, or external partners are invaluable in providing concrete examples and anecdotes that substantiate the nominee's expertise, value, and contributions to their legal team and the local government authority.

Whilst optional, additional information on the **nominee's professional growth and development**, such as continuing legal education, certifications, or memberships in relevant legal associations, can also be included. Lastly, if the nominee has been active in **promoting inclusivity and diversity** within the legal team or their service, this should be highlighted as it aligns with the values of a progressive and inclusive legal profession.

Legal Team of the Year Award 2025

This award recognises a legal team that has exhibited the highest levels of creativity, innovation, knowledge, client sensitivity and responsiveness, and a substantial contribution to corporate, diversity, and community objectives. To be considered for this award category, the entry should provide a comprehensive **overview of the legal team's achievements and impact**.

The entry should begin by offering relevant **details about key members of the team**, outlining their roles and responsibilities within the team. This information allows for a deeper understanding of the team's structure and the contributions of individual members.

Case studies and/or projects should be presented as concrete evidence of the team's remarkable qualities. These examples should showcase the team's creativity, innovation, knowledge, client sensitivity, and responsiveness in addressing legal challenges or opportunities. The case studies and projects should be selected to demonstrate the team's ability to tackle complex legal issues effectively and efficiently.

The entry should **provide evidence of the team's excellence in service delivery**. This may include details on the positive impact of the team's legal services on the community and the authority. The entry should illustrate how the legal team's work has contributed to the broader objectives of the local authority.

To further substantiate the expertise and value added by the work undertaken, **the entry should incorporate supporting testimonials**. These testimonials may come from both internal and external sources, such as colleagues, clients, and partners. These testimonials should offer specific examples and instances where the legal team's contributions have been exceptional.

Legal Professional of the Year

This award is designed to recognise outstanding achievements within local government, spanning across various legal practice fields and encompassing contributions related to the advancement of legal services delivery and/or practice.

Your entry should **provide a comprehensive outline of the key activities and accomplishments** of the nominated individual. This should encompass detailed insights into their key achievements, supplemented by the inclusion of relevant case studies and projects that serve as **tangible evidence** of their qualities and impact, wherever applicable.

Your application should include the beneficial **impact of the nominee's activities**, clearly highlighting how their work has positively affected the community and/or has furthered the objectives and operations of their local authority.

To support the entry and substantiate the nominee's expertise and value addition through their work, it is strongly recommended to **include supporting testimonials** from both internal and external sources. These testimonials should underscore the skills deployed and the value contributed through their legal work.

Excellence in Training Award

This award category champion legal professionals who have displayed a profound commitment to fostering professional growth, knowledge sharing, and the advancement of legal careers within the local government sphere. This award celebrates the **individuals or teams** who have **excelled in their efforts to support aspiring legal professionals**, promoting diverse and accessible routes to legal qualifications within local government.

In your submission for this award, you should provide a **comprehensive account of the training activities and initiatives dedicated to trainee lawyers** and the establishment of diverse entry points into the legal profession. Your presentation should demonstrate the design, execution, and impact of training programs as well as illustrate key achievements with specific case studies and successful projects that showcase the direct link between training initiatives and the progress of trainees. Crucial to the evaluation is the **measure of the beneficial impact of these training efforts on trainee lawyers** and their journeys toward legal qualifications. The submission should offer clear evidence of how the training has nurtured their skills and contributed to their successful attainment of legal qualifications.

Of equal importance is the **creation of diverse and accessible routes into the legal profession**, ensuring that aspiring legal professionals from all backgrounds have opportunities to succeed. Provide evidence of how these initiatives have resulted in **an inclusive and accessible legal workforce** within local government.

As an added layer of recognition, we also encourage **submissions that demonstrate the nominee's support for initiatives which raise the profile of local government careers**, such as the LLG work experience week or other similar opportunities and/or schemes. Showcasing involvement in these programs further highlights the nominee's dedication to creating pathways for aspiring legal professionals.

We strongly recommend **incorporating both internal and external testimonials** to endorse the impact of the training and the availability of diverse routes to legal qualifications and support the submission.

Significant Contribution to Local Government Award

This award recognises who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, leadership, and a lasting impact within the local government sector; it celebrates those who have gone above and beyond their roles, driving meaningful change and delivering tangible benefits to their organisation and the communities they serve. Nominees should have made a substantial difference through their work, demonstrating excellence in their field and showcasing a commitment to continuous improvement. Their contributions should reflect innovation in service delivery, strong collaboration across teams and stakeholders, and a deep-rooted commitment to public service values. Nominations will be assessed based on **exceptional achievement**, with a focus on specific projects, initiatives, or cases where the nominee has had a demonstrable and lasting impact. Submissions should provide clear evidence of how the nominee has overcome challenges, introduced best practices, or driven strategic change that has significantly improved local government operations or service provision. The **commitment to public service** criterion will evaluate the nominee's dedication to enhancing the quality and accessibility of local government services, particularly their efforts to promote inclusivity, diversity, and active community engagement. This includes initiatives that have fostered greater public participation, improved social cohesion, or addressed inequalities within local communities. **Innovation and creativity** will be judged based on the introduction of forward-thinking solutions, problem-solving approaches, or pioneering strategies that have led to sustainable and positive change.

The **impact on the community and organisation** will be a key consideration, with nominations expected to demonstrate measurable improvements in service efficiency, community well-being, or organisational effectiveness. Submissions should highlight clear outcomes, using supporting data, case studies, or testimonials to illustrate the nominee's contribution.

Leadership and collaboration will be vital factors, assessing the nominee's ability to inspire and empower others, foster teamwork, and build productive relationships. This includes evidence of strong partnership working, mentorship. The ability to influence positive change, drive high standards, and contribute to a culture of excellence within the organisation will be highly valued.

Suki Binjal Rising Star Award

This award honours mid-career lawyers who exemplify the dedication, leadership, and passion that defined Suki Binjal's career in local government law. As a highly respected public sector solicitor, Suki was known for her unwavering commitment to legal excellence, good governance, and the development of future leaders. This award serves as a tribute to her legacy by recognising individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the public sector and are ready to take the next step towards senior leadership roles. It is designed to celebrate those who have not only excelled in their own careers but have also made a meaningful impact on their colleagues, organisations, and the wider legal profession.

Nominees should be **mid-career legal professionals** with substantial experience in local government law, demonstrating a strong track record of professional growth and achievement. They must exhibit **exceptional leadership qualities**, including the ability to inspire and mentor others, lead key initiatives, and contribute to policy development that enhances local government practice. Leadership in this context is not just about seniority but about the ability to drive change, advocate for best practices, champion EDI and support the development of legal teams within the public sector.

A **commitment to public service** is essential, with nominees expected to uphold the core values of integrity, inclusivity, and community engagement. This includes a dedication to ensuring that legal services within local government are delivered fairly, efficiently, and in a way that best serves the public interest. Nominees should demonstrate their role in promoting ethical governance, advancing diversity and equality, and fostering greater collaboration between legal professionals and the communities they serve.

The award also recognises **innovation and forward-thinking contributions** to local government law. By highlighting and celebrating these rising stars, the award seeks to not only honour their achievements but also encourage the next generation of leaders in local government. It is a recognition of those who, like Suki Binjal, were committed to excellence, innovation, and the continued advancement of the legal profession within the public sector.