MEET THE CANDIDATES STANDING FOR LLG JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAD

There are 3 candidates standing for election as follows: -

Carla Bayona

Wiktoria Frej

Chantelle Johnson

Information about the candidates appear below in order as listed alphabetically.

Carla Bayona

I am standing for Junior National Lead because I want to support and represent junior lawyers across local government. Having worked in local authority for five years and now completing my training contract at Harrow Council, I understand the challenges we face from finding opportunities to developing confidence and managing demanding workloads.

LLG has played a big part in my own development. I attended the LLG Spring Conference in Bristol through a bursary and found it incredibly inspiring. The workshops and networking showed me how important it is for junior lawyers to feel connected and supported, and I want to help make those opportunities accessible to others.

My journey into law has shaped my commitment to helping others. I arrived in the UK at 14, learned English, completed my GCSEs, A-levels, undergraduate degree and LPC/LLM, and became the first in my family to go to university. I know how important encouragement and support can be, which is why I want to give back.

If elected, I will work to strengthen engagement, develop meaningful opportunities for junior members, and ensure our voices help shape the future of LLG. It would be an honour to represent you.

Wiktoria Frej

Wiktoria Frej is a trainee solicitor at One Legal (a shared legal service for Tewkesbury Borough, Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Stroud District Councils), specialising in planning law. Since commencing her training in June 2024, Wiktoria has advised on a wide range of planning matters, including enforcement, building regulations, Article 4 Directions, and the negotiation and drafting of Section 106 agreements. Her experience also includes preparing for and attending a Court of Appeal hearing and supporting Planning Committees across all partner councils. Wiktoria is additionally a member of One Legal's Green Team, contributing to the development of practical, forward-looking initiatives aimed at embedding sustainable and environmentally conscious practices across the organisation.

She brings prior experience across legal practice, operations, policy development and research, having worked at LexisNexis Legal & Professional and BARBRI Global, where she led legal projects, drafted policies, contributed to regulatory compliance and received awards in recognition of her performance.

Committed to the future of local government, Wiktoria is particularly interested in governance, financial resilience and innovation, and how these factors can shape more adaptable and effective models of local government to support the delivery of essential services across all communities.

Vision:

My vision is to continue to help shape a resilient, collaborative and future-focused local government legal community that empowers junior voices, embraces innovation and shares knowledge openly to strengthen the profession as a whole. Drawing on my diverse experience across legal practice, operations, policy development and

public-facing roles, I am committed to contributing to a sector that is adaptable, confident and able to meet modern challenges with integrity and creativity. Through continuous learning and active engagement, I aim to support LLG in cultivating a more connected, confident and forward-looking network at the junior level.

Chantelle Johnson

I have spent the last six years working for Essex County Council. During this time, I have gained experience across seven practice areas and progressed from caseworker to paralegal, then to graduate solicitor apprentice, and most recently to newly qualified solicitor. I therefore understand what it is like to be a junior lawyer in local government at different career stages and the challenges junior lawyers face.

Drawing on my own experience and discussions with other junior lawyers, I have identified several issues that currently affect junior members. These include navigating career progression within local government and difficulty establishing professional networks in an increasingly remote working environment. To help address these issues, I would explore the introduction of the following initiatives:

• LLG junior mentor scheme - pairing junior lawyers with senior practitioners to support career development, confidence building and cross-authority collaboration.

• Networking skills workshops - offering practical tools to help junior members develop confidence when networking in person and online.

• Biannual in person junior lawyer meet ups - creating opportunities for peer connection, shared learning and relationship building across authorities, and helping junior members develop a stronger shared identity.

I have a strong track record of representing my peers and helping to bring about meaningful change. Throughout university and my graduate solicitor apprenticeship, I served as a student representative, study abroad ambassador and SQE cohort representative. In these roles, I listened to concerns, gathered feedback and made suggestions to improve service delivery. For example, as cohort representative, I identified that many online learners felt isolated. In response to this, I proposed the implementation of a buddy system to reduce isolation. I want to bring this same

member-focused and solution-orientated approach to representing junior lawyers within LLG.

I am committed to a career in local government and to supporting junior lawyers within it. I have experience presenting to students, coordinating work experience sessions, and succeeding in public speaking and advocacy competitions. If elected, I will use these skills to deliver engaging workshops, represent you effectively and advocate for useful, practical opportunities for your development.

I would appreciate your vote and the opportunity to represent you. Please feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn if you would like to discuss my ideas or the experience I can bring to this position.

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