

# LLG Awards 2026

## Award Categories & Criteria

Please read the criteria for each award category **carefully** before submitting a nomination, to ensure that all required areas and evidence are fully addressed.

Submissions should clearly demonstrate why the nominee, or team deserves recognition, using detailed examples and evidence aligned to the published criteria. Nominations that do not provide sufficient evidence against the criteria may be disadvantaged during the assessment process.

We strongly encourage nominees to review the criteria thoroughly and use them to structure their submission, ensuring their achievements, impact and contribution are communicated clearly and effectively.

### **How to Submit**

All nominations must be submitted using the LLG Awards Nomination Form 2026, available [HERE](#)

### **Deadline for the submissions is 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

The LLG Awards operate a single-stage nomination process.

### **What to Include?**

Each nomination must include the following:

1. A written statement explaining how the nomination meets the award criteria  
(maximum 2,000 words)

2. Supporting testimonials from colleagues, clients or partners.  
Testimonials are additional to the 2,000-word statement (recommended but optional)
3. Nominee or team photograph
4. Nominee or team biography
5. A 60-second video (VLOG) supporting the application (recommended but optional)
6. Local authority logo

## **AWARD CATEGORIES**

There are 6 categories in the LLG Awards 2026 as follows: –

### **1. Junior Lawyer of the Year Award 2026**

This award recognises a junior lawyer who has made an exceptional contribution to their legal team and authority.

Eligible nominees must, at the time of nomination, be:

- a trainee solicitor
- apprentice solicitor or paralegal; or
- a qualified lawyer with less than five years' post-qualification experience.

#### **Assessment Criteria**

Submissions should highlight:

Key achievements, including specific projects, cases or initiatives where the nominee has made a demonstrable impact

The complexity, responsibility and importance of their work within the legal team and authority

Their contribution to delivering outcomes for internal and external clients, including improvements to legal processes or service delivery

Equally important is the nominee's commitment to public service. Evidence may include:

- work that directly benefits communities or service users,
- involvement in pro bono, outreach or community-focused initiatives, or
- contributions that support fairness, transparency, or good governance.

Innovation is a key consideration. Nominees should demonstrate:

- creative or forward-thinking approaches to legal work,
- problem-solving skills, or
- new ways of improving efficiency, quality or client experience.

Supporting testimonials are highly valued and should provide concrete examples of:

- the nominee's skills, professionalism and impact, and
- the value they bring to their team and organisation.

Additional information on professional development (training, qualifications, memberships) and work supporting equality, diversity and inclusion may also be included.

## **2. Legal Team of the Year Award 2026**

This award recognises a local authority legal team that has demonstrated exceptional performance, innovation and impact.

### **Assessment Criteria**

Submissions should highlight:

- An overview of the team structure, including key roles and responsibilities
- Evidence of creativity, innovation, technical excellence and client responsiveness
- Case studies or projects that demonstrate how the team has successfully addressed complex challenges

The nomination should clearly evidence:

- excellence in service delivery,
- a positive impact on the authority and the communities it serves, and
- alignment with corporate priorities, including diversity and inclusion.

Supporting testimonials from internal or external stakeholders are strongly encouraged and should illustrate the team's added value and effectiveness.

### **3. Legal Professional of the Year Award 2026**

This award recognises an outstanding legal professional whose work has had a significant impact within local government.

#### **Assessment Criteria**

Submissions should include:

- a comprehensive overview of the nominee's key activities and achievements
- evidence of impact through relevant case studies or projects
- demonstration of how their work has advanced legal service delivery, governance, or organisational objectives

Submissions should clearly articulate the benefits delivered to the authority and/or the wider community.

Testimonials from internal and external stakeholders are strongly recommended to evidence:

- technical excellence,
- leadership and influence, and
- the value added through the nominee's work.

### **4. Excellence in Training Award 2026**

This award recognises individuals or teams who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to training, development and widening access to legal careers in local government.

#### **Assessment Criteria**

Submissions should demonstrate:

- delivery of high-quality training and development for trainees and early-career lawyers,
- creation of diverse and accessible routes into legal careers, and
- measurable positive outcomes for those supported.

Evidence should include:

- details of training programmes and initiatives,
- case studies demonstrating impact on trainee progression, and
- clear links between training and successful qualification outcomes.

Submissions are encouraged to highlight involvement in initiatives that promote local government legal careers, including the LLG Work Experience Week or similar schemes.

Testimonials are strongly encouraged to evidence impact and effectiveness.

## **5. Significant Contribution to Local Government Award 2026**

This award recognises individuals who have made an outstanding and lasting contribution to local government.

### **Assessment Criteria**

Nominations will be assessed on evidence of:

- Longevity and commitment in service to local government law and practice
- exceptional achievement and leadership,
- innovation and continuous improvement, and
- demonstrable impact on services, governance or community outcomes.

Submissions should highlight:

- specific projects, initiatives or cases,
- challenges overcome and best practice introduced, and
- measurable outcomes and long-term benefits.

The nominee's commitment to public service values, inclusivity, collaboration and community engagement will be central to the assessment.

## **6. Suki Binjal Rising Star Award 2026**

This award honours mid-career local government lawyers who exemplify the values, leadership and excellence that defined Suki Binjal's contribution to the profession.

### **Assessment Criteria**

Nominees should demonstrate:

- a strong track record of professional growth and achievement,
- leadership through influence, mentorship and initiative, and
- commitment to ethical governance, equality, diversity and inclusion.

Submissions should evidence:

- forward-thinking contributions to local government law,
- the ability to inspire others and drive positive change, and
- readiness to progress into senior leadership roles.

This award celebrates rising stars who are shaping the future of local government law and continuing Suki Binjal's legacy of integrity, excellence and service.