

The Wig & Pen Prize 2010

The City of London Law Society and the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society are pleased to announce the launch of the 2010 Wig & Pen Prize, awarded for pro bono legal work by a young solicitor. The Prize is awarded to a candidate whom the judges feel has made a significant contribution to the quality of justice in their communities and in helping to ensure that the legal system is open and available to all.

The Wig & Pen Prize has been awarded since 1979 and applications for this year's Prize are invited from individuals who have undertaken pro bono work between September 2009 and September 2010, have been admitted as solicitors for less than 5 years and who are a member of the City of London Law Society (CLLS) or the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society (CWHLS) or work as a solicitor within the catchment area of either Law Society.

In particular, the judges will take into account -

- (a) the length of time involved in giving free legal advice or representation to people who have otherwise failed to obtain access to justice;
- (b) the candidate's involvement in setting up new or innovative projects providing free legal services to people who would otherwise fail to obtain access to justice;
- (c) the significance of the candidate's service to their clients and their community; and
- (d) the extent to which the candidate's contribution was made in his or her own time outside that person's normal employment.

Application packs are available from each Society's website at www.citysolicitors.org.uk or www.cwhls.org.uk and the closing date for applications is 15th October 2010.

The Prize consists of a silver ink stand and quill pen to be held by the winner for one year and a cash sum of £1,000 which is paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CLLS and CWHLS. In certain circumstances a second Prize may be awarded to a candidate who is not in receipt of the first Prize and, at the closing date for entries, does not work within the local Law Society catchment area of the first Prize winner. The second Prize consists of a cash sum of £500 to be paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CWHLS and CLLS.

The Prize will be awarded at the annual Mary Ward Lecture on the evening of 9th November 2010.

We hope that firms will encourage applications, not only to recognise the pro bono achievements of their young solicitors, but also for the opportunity to win up to £1,000 for the applicant's chosen charity or project.

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Guidance notes and nomination form

Closing date – 15 October 2010

The Wig & Pen Prize provides an opportunity to give public recognition to the invaluable pro bono work undertaken by newly qualified solicitors.

Nominations are sought for individuals who have made a contribution to broadening access to justice in their communities and helping to ensure that the legal system is open to all.

Nominations can be made by you, your employer or the project you support. Please nominate anyone you think has been involved in a great pro bono project - whether large or small.

At the judges' discretion cash awards may be made to pro bono projects supported by nominated individuals.

Criteria

The Wig & Pen Prize is open to solicitors up to five years qualified in September 2010 who practise in the catchment areas of either the City of London or City of Westminster and Holborn Law Societies.

Nomination process

Please complete the nomination form below. Please also supply the following attachments:

- **Attachment 1:** Details about the entrant (maximum 150 words)
- **Attachment 2:** Information about the pro bono project and the entrant's contribution (maximum 500 words). Please note guidance below.

Please submit a summary of the pro bono project undertaken and why the entrant should receive an award, for example, time spent on the project and whether it was during office hours; how the activity was undertaken; the impact of the activity on their clients and the local community; and whether the activity involved setting up a new or innovative project.

Examples of work undertaken in past years have included providing legal advice in law centres, setting up an advice service to support business start-ups or being part of a team representing a UK national facing the death penalty.

- **Attachment 3:** Two letters of support
Please supply two letters of support from other individuals such as supervising solicitors, clients or project managers who have knowledge of the entrant's pro bono work during the relevant period.

Closing date and awards ceremony

The closing date for nominations is 15 October 2010. The presentation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 9 November 2010.

The Wig & Pen Prize 2010 Nomination Form

Name of entrant:

Address of entrant:

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E-mail address of entrant:

Telephone number of entrant:

Date of admission as a solicitor:

Referring to the guidance notes please provide the following documentation in support of the nomination.

- **Attachment 1: Entrant biography - maximum 150 words**
- **Attachment 2: Details of pro bono project and contribution - maximum 500 words**
- **Attachment 3: Two letters of support**

If this nomination is being submitted on behalf the entrant, please supply your contact details:

Name:

Address:

.....

E-mail:

Telephone No:

Closing date - 15 October 2010

Please return to:

Mrs Elizabeth Thomas

City of London Law Society

4 College Hill, London EC4R 2RB

DX 98936 Cheapside 2

E-mail: mail@citysolicitors.org.uk