



The Law Society

Diversity Access Scheme

supporting
solicitors

FUNDED BY

THE
LAW
SOCIETY
CHARITY

Intelligence and integrity, determination and drive, commitment and creativity are among the many attributes needed to be an outstanding solicitor.



I have been seriously impressed by the drive and ability of most of the short-listed applicants.

Michael Mathews, Trustee of the Law Society Charity and former President of the Law Society

I thought my chronic health problems would mean that I couldn't pursue a career as a lawyer. I worried that I would struggle to repay a loan without having a training contract to go on to. The Law Society Diversity Access Scheme relieves the financial pressure and also gives me the time to find a suitable training contract.

The Law Society Diversity Access Scheme set up in 2004 supports individuals who have demonstrated these qualities and also exceptional dedication to becoming a solicitor. Without help from the scheme they would almost certainly not be able to realise that ambition.

Who benefits?

The scheme is designed to support promising entrants to the solicitors' profession who also face exceptional social, educational, financial or personal obstacles to qualification.

Previous alumni have, for example, experienced homelessness, time in local authority care, resisted coercion into arranged marriage, and battled for access to university and work experience with severe physical disabilities. Whatever their obstacles, all have shown tenacity, courage and commitment in the pursuit of their career.

Further funding is urgently needed to safeguard the future of the scheme and demonstrate the profession's commitment to increasing access to the profession for talented students from diverse backgrounds who are financially disadvantaged.

Participants in the scheme are helped through:

- Full scholarships for the LPC course
- Mentoring by practising solicitors
- Help to gain relevant, early work experience.

I was made homeless at 16 and struggled financially to stay in education and complete a law degree. Support from the Law Society Diversity Access Scheme enabled me to study for the legal practice course and gain a commendation which I am very pleased about!

I am the carer of two disabled children, which involves determination and strict time management. My aim is to become a mental health lawyer as it is my passion to represent vulnerable groups in society.

Supporters

The Law Society Charity has provided funding for the scheme since its inception. *Nigel Dodds, Chairman, the Law Society Charity, says*

"The Law Society Diversity Access Scheme provides a tremendous practical opportunity to demonstrate commitment to increasing access to the profession, but we need more money now to be able to help more students in these difficult times."

We are very grateful to all of our supporters who include LPC providers, for their generosity and commitment to the scheme.

A full list is available on our website - www.lawsociety.org.uk/diversityaccessscheme

You can help by:

- Sponsoring a place on the scheme
- Making a donation to the Law Society Charity
- Offering work experience opportunities
- Acting as a mentor

If you would like more information, please e-mail us at diversityaccessscheme@lawsociety.org.uk or complete and return the form overleaf.

The Law Society Diversity Access Scheme - offer of support

Further funding is urgently needed for the scheme to continue to change people's lives. Each year we are overwhelmed by the volume of exceptional candidates and your donation will help to ensure that as many as possible can be helped.

I would like to help by:

- ☐ Making a donation for £ _____ by:
- ☐ Credit card at www.justgiving.com/diversityaccessscheme
 - ☐ BACS sort code: 20 32 29 A/C 00568449 ref: DAS
 - ☐ Cheque payable to 'The Law Society Charity'
- ☐ This is a personal donation which I would like to make as a Gift Aid donation (please ensure that you provide your **home** address)
- ☐ I would like this donation and all donations I've made over the past six financial tax years and all future donations to be treated as Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.*

Title: _____ Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

E-mail: _____

You can also help by:

- ☐ Offering work experience opportunities
- ☐ Acting as a mentor

We really value your support and would like to update you about future campaigns and activities.

Please tick the box if you do not wish to be contacted. ☐

*You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year.

Please notify the Law Society Charity, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Please return this form to:
Kate Walmsley, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

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