**Birmingham Law Society Legal Awards 2026 - Marking grids**

**Law Firm of the Year (1-49 Employees)**

The winner of this category will be a firm that employs 1 to 49 employees.

The Judges will be looking for firms who have who have set themselves apart from their competition by making demonstrable progress in the legal market in the last 12 months. The successful firm must be able to demonstrate a commitment within the Birmingham or surrounding area in respect of the following categories:

* Highlights – Two top highlights from the past 12 months
* Growth – This could be as a result of good financial performance, a successful merger/acquisition, successful expansion into new practice areas and/or the opening of new offices nationally
* Clients – This could be coveted new client wins, or by differentiating itself from its competitors by the way it provides its services to its clients
* CSR – How local communities have benefited from the firm’s CSR initiatives
* Staff – This could be demonstrating how diversity within the firm is recognised and promoted, or what policies/procedures the firm has in place to attract and then retain staff
* Regional focus- Ways in which the firm helps showcase Birmingham legal talent in our region

At each stage marks are out of 100 but this will be converted for an overall score. Shortlisting will be 30% of overall mark with 70% being

awarded after interview.

Emphasis is on **activity over the last 12 months**

Judges are asked to please provide a summary of comments on the category and why the winner wins e.g. outstanding contribution/quality of work which may be used at the awards evening.

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| **Name of candidate** | **Demonstrated**  **excellence in client services /significant client wins**  **/20** | **Staff- their vision for staff development/wellbeing initiatives**    **/20** | **Impact and contribution to Birmingham**  **Legal/business Community/ organisations e.g. BLS, BPS etc**  **/20** | **How they showcase Birmingham legal talent on a regional stage**  **/20** | **CSR projects with local impact**  **/20** | **Final score** |
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**Summary:**