

Kristian Campbell- Drummond



I am an Associate in the Employment HR Rely team at Weightmans LLP, born and raised in Birmingham. A key requisite of my role is the ability to communicate and collaborate with people, whether it is within my job or my external commitments. Over the last 9 months I have benefited from being co-opted onto Council where I was able to observe firsthand the important role council members of the society must fulfil and how their work helps to shape the wider legal community.

I currently serve as Co-Chair of Birmingham Law Society's newly formed Junior Lawyers Division (JLD), alongside Christie Nelson. Previously, we successfully led the Birmingham Solicitors' Group for two years, which means across our leadership roles we have met junior lawyers and understand what they require from their law society and representation. In my opinion it is crucial that where decisions are being made for the future of the Birmingham Law Society, the concerns and desires of its future talent are well represented.

In order for Council to best meet the needs of junior lawyers, it is imperative that junior lawyers are well represented within the environments where those with power make key decisions about our future. If I am voted onto Council, I will continue my efforts to be a voice for all juniors across the region. This will be done through ensuring that the needs, experiences and many challenges of our membership are advocated for in an authentic, genuine and meaningful way, directly with BLS leadership.

Pragya Chadha



I am a Commercial Solicitor in the Harper James commercial team, advising on a broad range of matters, including technology and intellectual property. Having grown up in Dubai before building my legal career in Birmingham, I understand the opportunities and challenges that can come with establishing yourself in a new city and profession. This has shaped my commitment to ensuring that a broad range of perspectives are represented within our legal community.

I currently serve as Deputy Vice Chair of the Birmingham Law Society's Junior Lawyers Division and previously chaired the Birmingham Trainee Solicitors' Society. These roles have allowed me to engage with junior lawyers across Birmingham, giving me valuable insight into the issues that matter most to those entering and developing within the profession today.

Alongside my legal practice, I co-host the I'm Working Late podcast, where we explore career development, wellbeing and the realities of modern legal practice. Through these conversations, I have gained an even deeper appreciation of the experiences, ambitions and challenges facing junior lawyers from a wide variety of backgrounds.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve on Council and contribute these perspectives to its discussions and decision-making. I am passionate about supporting the next generation of lawyers and helping to ensure Birmingham's legal community remains inclusive, connected and representative of those it serves.

Philip Chapman



I am proud to stand for election to the Council of Birmingham Law Society, having already had the privilege of serving as a co-opted Council member. Since joining Council, I have attended every meeting and contributed actively to discussions and initiatives. This experience has enabled me to stay informed about the interests and concerns of members, engage with committees and working groups, help promote the Society's activities, and contribute to the development of policy positions that support our profession.

As a Corporate Partner at MFG Solicitors LLP, based in Victoria Square, and having practised in Birmingham for over twenty years, I bring extensive experience of both the legal profession and the wider business community. My career has been firmly rooted in Birmingham since attending the College of Law in the Jewellery Quarter. As a former shareholder of Thursfields Solicitors, I played a key role in its strategic development and subsequent acquisition by Knights plc, providing leadership experience, governance and organisational change.

Alongside my corporate practice, I have served as a Notary Public for fourteen years and am a CEDR-accredited mediator, bringing a pragmatic approach to problem solving and consensus building. Beyond legal practice, I am a Board Member of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Chair of its Enterprise Committee, contributing to strategic decision-making and governance.

I am passionate about supporting our legal community and ensuring the Birmingham Law Society remains an influential voice. I would be honoured to continue serving and representing members as an elected Council member.

Christy Davies



Birmingham is a city that never stands still, and neither should its legal community. As a Housing Solicitor my work shapes the city's physical growth through development and regeneration projects. However, Birmingham's success is about far more than bricks and mortar. It is the people, professionals and networks around us that transform developments into communities and a city into a place where people flourish.

Birmingham has a proud history of innovators, pioneers and changemakers, and what excites me most is that the next generation is already amongst us. I am passionate about championing that talent and creating opportunities for people to connect, develop and succeed.

Over the last few years, I have served on the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Future Faces Committee, helping to shape one of the region's largest young professional networks. My primary focus has been organising the annual GBYPY Awards, a flagship event celebrating Birmingham's rising stars. This has given me valuable experience in building sponsorship partnerships, liaising with charities, coordinating a competitive awards process and running a successful large scale event.

I have also enjoyed serving on the BLS Property and Development Committee, connecting with fellow professionals and contributing to discussions affecting the sector, whilst proving that conversations about land registration can be surprisingly engaging when you're in the right company!

I would be honoured to bring this experience to the BLS Council and help ensure our legal community remains connected, supported, representative and ambitious for the future.

Rebecca Davies



I am a Solicitor at Irwin Mitchell in Birmingham, specialising in abuse litigation. My work involves supporting vulnerable individuals through what can often be a very difficult and emotional process, helping them seek answers, accountability and redress following experiences of abuse.

Outside of my day-to-day role, I enjoy getting involved in initiatives that bring people together. I am a member of Irwin Mitchell's Birmingham Charity Committee and previously set up a running club in our Birmingham office. Both have given me the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the business and create opportunities for people to get to know each other outside of work.

I have also volunteered with the Envision programme, mentoring young people across Birmingham to help develop their confidence and essential skills. This was a hugely rewarding experience and our mentoring team was proud to receive the Envision Team of the Year Award.

Having made Birmingham my home and now living in the Jewellery Quarter, I am keen to play an active role in the city's legal community. One of the things that appeals most about Birmingham Law Society is the opportunity to meet people from different areas of the profession, learn from their experiences and contribute ideas of my own.

As a junior solicitor, I would bring enthusiasm, a fresh perspective and a genuine willingness to get involved. I would welcome the opportunity to represent fellow members and contribute to the continued success of Birmingham Law Society.

Kate Hatton



I am seeking a position with Birmingham Law Society because I believe strongly in the value of our profession and the important role the Society plays in supporting, connecting and championing legal professionals across the region.

I currently work as a Senior Crown Prosecutor with CPS Direct, having previously practised in criminal defence. These experiences have given me a balanced perspective of the justice system and a deep appreciation of the dedication shown by lawyers working in a wide range of roles. Earlier in my career, I also served a Short Service Commission in the Army Legal Service, where I developed the values of public service, leadership and teamwork that continue to guide me today.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work alongside talented and committed professionals who are passionate about the law and the communities they serve. I recognise that the legal profession faces significant challenges, but also exciting opportunities for growth, innovation and development.

If elected, I would be committed to serving Birmingham Law Society thoughtfully and effectively, helping to ensure that it remains a strong and inclusive voice for its members. I am particularly keen to support professional development, encourage engagement across all stages of practice and help foster a profession in which people can thrive.

It would be a privilege to contribute my experience and enthusiasm to the Society and to play a part in supporting the continued success and prosperity of the legal profession in Birmingham.

Viney Jhalley



I am a Senior Associate in the Commercial team at Browne Jacobson, with a specialism in the Health and Life Sciences sector. I work with several public and private sector clients, including various Midlands based clients. Alongside my fee-earning role, I am also the Co-Chair for our REACH Network and am directly responsible for strategy overview, DEI related objectives and budget oversight for REACH related events.

In addition to this, I have been in an events role with the Junior Lawyer's Division for the last year and previously with the Birmingham Solicitors Group for 2 years. During that period, I have arranged, attended and facilitated a wide array of events across the Birmingham legal and professional market.

As a group, we have managed to grow our junior division and representation over that period to incorporate a wider range of people interested in the legal sector e.g barristers, students and legal recruiters. This has allowed me to widen my network within the Birmingham market, and I believe that I will be able to share these insights with the Council. I wish to serve on the Council as I have a vested interest in the law and believe that we share the same goals and objectives within the Birmingham legal community.

Dr Alan Ma



Dr Alan Ma is a Lecturer in Law at Birmingham City University and Chair of Birmingham Law Society's Legal Tech Committee, with more than 20 years' experience in legal practice as a solicitor.

Since taking the Chair in early 2025, Alan has worked with colleagues to develop the Committee's activities, external engagement and contribution to wider professional debate, including events, consultation work and collaboration with professional and regulatory bodies.

Alan believes that legal technology should not be viewed as a separate area of practice. Technology, and increasingly AI, is becoming pervasive across the profession, affecting areas as diverse as litigation, property, family law and dispute resolution. If elected to Council, he would particularly like to encourage greater collaboration between BLS committees through joint events and initiatives, bringing technological perspectives together with the specialist knowledge of practitioners in different fields.

He is also keen to strengthen connections between legal education and practice, helping to bridge the developing AI literacy gap between future lawyers and those already in the profession.

Alan hopes to bring to Council the same practical and collaborative approach he has taken as Committee Chair, contributing to BLS's wider work in professional engagement, consultation and responsible innovation.

Christie Nelson



I am a Senior Associate in the Birmingham Corporate team at Freeths LLP. I trained and qualified in Birmingham and now work and live here too. Having been co-opted onto Council last year, I have had the opportunity of observing Council members in their role and would welcome the opportunity to become a full member and represent the junior lawyers who form such an important part of Birmingham's legal community.

Alongside my colleague, Kristian Campbell-Drummond, I serve as Co-Chair of the BLS's Junior Lawyers Division (JLD), which was established in February 2026. Leading the JLD in its current form and having previously chaired the Birmingham Solicitors Group (BSG), has given me a strong understanding of the needs, priorities and aspirations of junior lawyers across the region. I am keen to ensure those voices continue to be heard and represented at Council level.

The JLD has been extremely successful in its first 6 months, hosting 2 events per month which have been profitable and well attended. As the JLD continues to grow and support the next generation of Birmingham's lawyers, it is important that its leadership has a direct voice within Council. The junior legal community represents the future of our profession, and there is obvious benefit in ensuring that its perspectives and experiences are reflected in Council discussions and decision-making. Kristian and I are well placed to provide insight into the challenges and opportunities facing junior lawyers and to strengthen the connection between the BLS's leadership and its emerging professionals.

Rajpreet Sangha



I am currently a Partner within the Family Law Team at FBC Manby Bowdler (Midlands) Limited, having recently been promoted in February 2026. In terms of relevant experience, I have been an active member of the Birmingham Law Society having started out in my career as a Paralegal in 2014 at a niche matrimonial law firm located in Birmingham City Centre. I have attended many of the Birmingham Law Society events, which have allowed me to network and to grow personally and professionally. I wish to serve on Council as, not to state the obvious but places were available – but also to shape and build on what the Council already stands for. I believe that I have strong connections within the legal community in Birmingham and hope that I am able to fulfil the requirements of what the Council requires from its members.

Sukie Shemar



I would bring to Council senior legal experience, regional commitment and practical governance insight, with a clear understanding of the opportunities and pressures facing the local profession.

I am a Partner in the Corporate department at Enoch Evans LLP, where I lead the Transactional Services Team and serve as Staff Partner and Training Partner, with responsibility for trainee recruitment and development.

I also sit on the firm's Finance and Management Committee, which acts as its board and oversees day-to-day management.

These roles have developed my skills in strategic decision-making, risk awareness, mentoring and commercial judgment, which I would bring to Council discussions.

After approximately 24 years in the profession, I remain committed to the law, to those who practise and rely on it, and to its continuing evolution. As a corporate lawyer with an MBA from the University of Birmingham, I would bring practical experience, leadership and strategic focus to the role.

My perspective is grounded in regional practice at Enoch Evans, a Legal 500, medium-sized, full-service firm with offices in Walsall, Sutton Coldfield and Cannock, a broad client base and strong professional connections across the Birmingham region.

Having been born in Birmingham, I have a longstanding personal connection to the region and would welcome the opportunity to support Council's work in representing, promoting and strengthening the local legal profession.

I would approach the role with energy, integrity and a genuine commitment to supporting current and future members of the profession.

Deirdre Smythe



I would like to be considered for a full membership on the Birmingham Law Society (BLS) Council.

My name is Deirdre (Deirdra in Irish) but call me Dee-easy to say and spell.

I live in Birmingham and I am a practising barrister in family and criminal law. I attend all courts in Birmingham and travel by train to courts outside the midlands too.

I am very fortunate my Chambers allows me to have control of my diary , to attend Birmingham Law Society events and committee meetings. I have been a member of the Family and Criminal committees for some years. As a member of the (BLS) I enjoy socialising in the evening at events sponsored by the BLS and The Junior Lawyers Division including mentoring/giving advice to law students about-the fantasy and the reality of being a barrister.

I was one of the first barristers to be a BLS member and the membership has grown with an increase in Barristers becoming members.

I was one of the first barristers to attend Birmingham Pride along with members of the BLS. This has grown and I will continue to support diversity and social mobility events.

I was delighted to accept the invitation by former President Alice Kinder and Midland Circuit Leader Michelle Healey to be co opted member of the Council representing the link between Solicitor and Barristers. Each year I have renewed my co -opted membership and I will continue to participate in Council decisions/governance.