



Eleven leading advice agencies and charities to host solicitor trainees under The Legal Education Foundation's 2017 social welfare law Fellowship programme.

Drugs charity Release, campaigners against trafficking, and leading youth justice organisations in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, are among those selected by TLEF to take part in its groundbreaking Justice First Fellowship scheme from next year (see full list, below).

Recruitment for the 11 solicitor trainee positions - which will be fully funded by the Fellowship scheme - will commence on 15 August 2016. Applications should be made through The Legal Education Foundation website. Trainees will take up their posts in January 2017.

The Justice First Fellowship scheme was launched in 2013, with the first cohort of nine trainees due to qualify in January next year. This will be JFF's third solicitor intake; earlier this year, the scheme was extended to the Bar for the first time.

The aim of the JFF scheme is to increase diversity within the legal profession and help create future leaders in social welfare law. Candidates will have to demonstrate commitment to social justice and, as well as completing their professional training, are expected to undertake an individual project aimed at increasing access to justice. JFF recruits also receive additional training, provided by TLEF, in skills such as public speaking, communications, campaigning and business planning.

TLEF has partnered with a number of other like-minded organisations, who are joint funding selected 2017 Fellowship positions, including City Bridge Trust, and city firm Hogan Lovells (see below).

Matthew Smerdon, TLEF chief executive, says:

'We are very proud that this year's host organisations include leading social welfare law advisers in four countries, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - which indicates just how much the scheme has come of age and is now an established part of the access to justice landscape. This is an incredibly exciting and significant time for the scheme. Our inaugural intake of Fellows is just a few months away from qualifying, which will happen around the same time that our 2017 intake begin their training. The recruitment process for our first ever barrister Fellows is also well underway, with candidates due to start at the end of September 2016. They will be spending a year at the Bar Pro Bono Unit, gaining invaluable experience, before starting pupillage in October 2017.'

To apply for a Fellowship position, or for more information about the JFF scheme, including details of the current Fellows and their projects, see TLEF's website (<https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/>). **NOTE: The application period commences on 15 August 2016. Applicants may apply to one JFF host organisation only.**

Full list of 2017 Justice First Fellowship host organisations:

- **Release**, www.release.org.uk
- **TA Law** (Ty Arian Solicitors), Swansea, www.talaw.org.uk
- **RCJ Advice**, London (co-funded with City Bridge Trust), www.rcjadvice.org.uk
- **Islington Law Centre**, London (co-funded with City Bridge Trust), www.islingtonlaw.org.uk
- **South West London Law Centres**, London (co-funded with City Bridge Trust), www.swllc.org
- **Clan Childlaw**, Glasgow and Edinburgh, www.clanchildlaw.org
- **Children's Law Centre** (Northern Ireland), Belfast, www.childrenslawcentre.org.uk
- **Just for Kids Law**, London, www.justforkidslaw.org
- **Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit**, London (with support from Hogan Lovells), www.atleu.org.uk
- **Norfolk Community Law Service**, Norwich (with support from local partners), www.ncls.co.uk
- **Central England Law Centre at Birmingham** (with support from Eversheds and Hogan Lovells), www.birminghamclc.org.uk

***St John's Chambers**, Bristol (with support from the Council of the Inns of Court, and the Bar Pro Bono Unit), www.stjohnschambers.co.uk

***Pump Court Chambers**, London, (with support from the Council of the Inns of Court, and the Bar Pro Bono Unit), www.pumpcourtchambers.com

*Applications for 2016 Bar Fellowship applications have now closed.