

The Herald

LAW AWARDS OF SCOTLAND 2025

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

in Scotland's legal sector

ENTRY GUIDE

ENTRY
DEADLINE:
THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 4

Title Partner



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Previous Winners

Welcome

The Herald Law Awards of Scotland 2025

Now in its 21st year, The Herald Law Awards of Scotland continues to stand as a respected celebration of legal excellence. As we enter our third decade, we once again invite entries from across the Scottish legal profession and recognise the very best in talent, innovation, and impact.

These awards honour the individuals, teams, and firms whose dedication sets new benchmarks across the legal landscape from business growth and specialist expertise, to stand-out individuals and rising stars of law.

Why Enter?



Celebrate Excellence:

Gain industry-wide recognition for outstanding work and leadership.



Showcase Your Achievements:

From business innovation to career development and community impact, let your work take centre stage.



Boost Team Morale:

Recognise and reward the people behind your firm's success.



Gain Valuable Exposure:

Finalists and winners benefit from high-profile publicity and a prestigious platform across The Herald to amplify their profile.



Be Judged by the Best:

All entries are reviewed by a panel of independent experts, ensuring fairness and credibility.

Join us in celebrating Scotland's leading legal talent at a landmark awards ceremony on Friday, November 7, 2025, that brings together the profession's most influential voices.

Key dates

ENTRY DEADLINE

Thursday,
September 4
11pm

FINALIST ANNOUNCED

End
September
2025

EVENT DATE

Friday,
November 7,
2025

Submission Guidelines

01

Choose Your Category

- Identify the most suitable category or categories for your organisation or individual. Review the entry requirements specific to each:
- Categories are split between organisation/team-based and individual-based entries.
- Each category has unique criteria. Tailor your responses accordingly.
- You can enter multiple categories, but each requires a separate submission.

02

Download the Entry Form or Enter via the online Portal

- Use the official entry form provided in the document:
- For Organisations/Teams, use the "Organisation Entry Form".
- For Individuals, use the "Individual Entry Form".
- You can either: Copy the content into the online portal, or fill out the form and email it directly to: **sharon.franchetti@newsquest.co.uk**

03

Complete the Entry Form

For Organisations/Teams:

- **Question 1** (max 600 words) – Describe achievements over the past year aligned with the category criteria.
- **Question 2** (max 1000 words) – Make the case for why you should win, citing specific entry requirements.
- **Question 3** (max 100 words) – Short description for programme (specific to category).
- Required Uploads: A team photo and Company logo

For Individuals:

- **Question 1** (max 600 words) – Describe the nominee's achievements aligned with the category.

- **Question 2** (max 1000 words) – Justify why they should win, addressing all entry criteria.
- **Question 3** (max 100 words) – Short biography for the event programme.
- Required Uploads: Headshot photo and Company logo

04

Add Supporting Materials (Optional)

You may include supporting documentation, such as:

- Testimonials
- Case studies
- Photos
- Videos or web links
- Limit written supporting documents to no more than 2 A4 pages.

05

Save and Label Your Entry

- Format your file name like this:
 [Category] – [Organisation/Individual Name]
 e.g. Family and Child Law Team of the Year – Smith & Co Solicitors

06

Submit Your Entry

- Online submission via the awards site [newsquestscotlandevents.com/events/lawawards]
- Email submission to: **sharon.franchetti@newsquest.co.uk**

07

Confirmation

You will receive acknowledgment of receipt. All entries are treated confidentially and the detail within is only used for judging purposes.

Deadline

All entries must be received by 11pm on Thursday, 4 September 2025.

Judging

The Process

All entries will be independently assessed by a panel of experienced legal professionals and industry experts. Judges will review submissions based on criteria relevant to each category, including evidence of impact, innovation, teamwork, and results achieved.

Judges will meet to review all entries and a shortlist will be agreed.

Find out more about our Judges here

 newsquestscotlandevents.com/events/lawawards-event/

Successful finalists will receive notification by end of September and the shortlist will be announced in The Herald.

All finalists are encouraged to attend the awards evening on Friday, November 7, 2025 at Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow.

Tickets are available here

 [link to follow](#)

Entry Rules

1. The awards are free to enter.
2. Award sponsors or companies affiliated with award sponsors may not enter the category they sponsor.
3. You must have permission of the organisation or individual to nominate them to win an award.
4. Entries are treated in confidence.
5. The word count must be adhered to; judges are looking for clear and concise answers.
6. Supporting information can be included please ensure written material does not exceed two A4 pages.
7. You can submit multiple entries across the categories, but a separate submission must be made for each nomination.
8. Incomplete entries will not be judged.
9. All entries will be acknowledged on receipt. Entries will become the property of The Herald and entries will not be returned.
10. The Herald reserve the right to withdraw an award from any applicant supplying false information within their entry. Judges reserve the right to audit any information supplied.
11. The Herald reserve the right to withdraw an award or nomination from any applicant whose actions may bring the reputation of The Herald, its affiliated companies, the Judges, or our Sponsors in disrepute.
12. Judges reserve the right to move entrants within categories if they feel their criteria is better suited to another award, to remove categories or to update or add new categories during the awards process.
13. Information supplied will be shared with the judging panel and all information will be treated as confidential. It will not be used for any purpose other than judging the competition. Finalist organisations may be included in related media coverage and may be required to take part in promotional activities about The Herald Law Awards of Scotland 2025.
14. The judges' decisions are final.
15. By registering and completing an entry for the awards you agree to these terms and conditions.

Categories & Criteria

Criminal Law Firm of the Year

This category is open to firms across Scotland that focus either specifically or mainly on criminal work.

Entry requirements:

- Examples of success in the criminal law area
- Details of where innovation was used to deliver effective criminal legal services
- Evidence of successful achievement over the past 12 months
- Details of significant staff recruitment cases or promotions

Debt Recovery Team of the Year

sponsored by Stirling Park



This category is open to firms, teams or organisations that focus on debt recovery, bank recovery, insolvency and corporate restrictions work.

Entry requirements:

- Details of significant cases and examples of excellence in legal practice handled by the team, such as complex recoveries, insolvency litigation, restructuring advice, enforcement actions, or director disqualification cases.
- Examples of the impact the insolvency team's performance has had on the firm's financial growth including financial performance, client retention, reputation enhancement, or market leadership in recovery, insolvency or enforcement work.
- Overview of the team structure and how it supports success.
- Details of significant lateral recruitment and promotions that have strengthened the team and its future capability.

Digital & Intellectual Property Team of the Year

This category recognises the outstanding performance and achievements of IT and IP legal teams based in Scotland. The award celebrates teams that have demonstrated excellence in managing complex intellectual property matters, advising on cutting-edge technology law, and adding significant value to clients in sectors such as software, data protection, digital services, and IP law.

Entry Requirements:

- Provide examples of significant IT and IP legal matters the team has handled, including notable intellectual property cases, technology transactions, licensing agreements, data protection or cybersecurity work, and other high-impact IT-related legal services.
- Demonstrate innovative approaches the team has taken in providing legal advice in emerging areas such as data privacy, AI, blockchain, or digital media. Include examples where the team has led in shaping new legal strategies or practices within the IT/IP field.
- Describe how the team's legal expertise has created value for clients, include case studies or examples that show measurable benefits to clients, such as new business models, expanded market reach, or regulatory compliance achieved through the team's work.
- Provide an overview of the team's structure, roles, and key specialisms within IT/IP law and demonstrate how the team has contributed to the growth and reputation of the IT/IP legal sector in Scotland.

Employment Team of the Year

This category is open to firms or teams with an Employment focus.

Entry requirements:

- Details of significant cases and examples of excellence in Employment Law
- Examples of the impact the Employment team's performance has had on the firm's financial growth
- Overview of the team structure and how it supports success.
- Provide evidence of client satisfaction and the difference the team made

ESG Award

This category is open to firms, faculties, in-house teams, and legal societies or organisations that can demonstrate a clear commitment to driving sustainable, inclusive, and ethical practices across their operations, culture, and community engagement by following Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles within the legal profession in Scotland

Entry requirements:

- Clear and concise demonstration of your organisation's ESG strategy & objectives, including environmental sustainability initiatives, social impact programmes, and governance improvements. Describe how staff are engaged in delivering and shaping this strategy.
- Details of your organisation's financial and operational investment towards delivering ESG goals.
- Examples of the of how your ESG work has delivered real impact, both internally (e.g. staff wellbeing, culture, governance) and externally (e.g. community benefit, environmental impact, stakeholder trust).
- Provide data or case studies that demonstrate how targets have been met or exceeded, including progress against ESG benchmarks or industry standards.
- Examples of client or staff testimonials, third-party recognition, or collaborative initiatives that reinforce the value and visibility of your ESG commitments.

Family and Child Law Team of the Year

This category is open to firms or teams with a Family & Child Law focus.

Entry requirements:

- Details of significant cases and examples of excellence in their specialism.
- Examples of the impact the Family & Child Law team's performance has had on the firm's financial growth
- Overview of the team structure
- Provide evidence of client satisfaction and the difference the team made

High Street Firm of the Year

sponsored by **denovo**

denovo

This category is open to firms across Scotland involved in traditional high street practice.

Entry requirements:

- Must be able to demonstrate a strategic vision for developing the firm
- Evidence of strong financial management
- Examples of success in chosen field of expertise
- Details of commitment given to staff development

Innovation Award

Sponsored by **Law Society of Scotland**

Law Society of Scotland

This category recognises those who are transforming legal services and delivering measurable impact in the legal sector, through innovative technology, new working practices, business models, or internal process improvement. The category is open to individuals, law firms, faculties, in-house legal teams, legal organisations, and legal technology providers that can demonstrate how innovation is helping to reshape the delivery of legal services in Scotland.

Entry requirements:

- Evidence of innovative solutions, technology or process implemented with a clear description and explain the rationale behind its development or adoption.
- Evidence of new business streams and how they have enhanced the overall business offering including performance, productivity, client outcomes, or access to legal services
- Evidence of how the innovation has transformed internal operations, case management, service delivery, or client engagement.

Junior Counsel of the Year

This category is open to all Junior Advocates who have been called for more than five years and have not yet taken silk. Open to third party nominations and Judges' selection, this award recognises outstanding advocates who have consistently demonstrated excellence in advocacy, professional integrity, and peer respect. These individuals are recognised for making a significant impact at the Bar and are seen as leaders among their peers, with a reputation for excellence across the legal profession.

Entry requirements:

- Evidence of consistently high standards of advocacy across a range of cases, including written and oral advocacy, legal analysis, and courtroom performance.
- Examples of complex or high-profile work involved in during the past 12 months.
- Evidence of a wider contribution to the development of the profession, whether through mentoring junior colleagues, involvement in legal education or training, participation in professional committees, or contributing to legal reform or community legal initiatives.

Law Firm of the Year - up to 150 certificates

Sponsored by IDEX Consulting



This category is open to independent law firms which are headquartered in Scotland and firms that are headquartered outside Scotland but which either have a strong presence inside Scotland OR can demonstrate significant success working on Scottish matters.

Firms must be able to evidence up to 150 solicitors who hold a Scottish practising certificate.

Entry requirements:

- Details of a strategic vision that achieved significant success for your firm, either across the whole firm (for Scottish-headquartered firms) or enhancing your presence and impact in the Scottish legal market (for firms headquartered outside Scotland).
- Provide evidence of strong financial performance, including overall firm growth or Scottish practice-specific growth, where applicable.
- Examples of success in your firm's chosen field of expertise including notable mandates, client impact, or market leadership.
- Details of the commitment to staff development specifically in relation to Scottish teams.
- Evidence of a commitment to promoting equality & diversity in the legal profession with examples of initiatives, outcomes, and engagement in Scotland

Law Firm of the Year – over 150 certificates

Sponsored by IDEX Consulting



This category is open to independent law firms which are headquartered in Scotland and firms that are headquartered outside Scotland but which either have a strong presence inside Scotland OR can demonstrate significant success working on Scottish matters.

Firms must be able to evidence over 150 solicitors who hold a Scottish practising certificate.

Entry requirements:

- Details of a strategic vision that achieved significant success for your firm, either across the whole firm (for Scottish-headquartered firms) or enhancing your presence and impact in the Scottish legal market (for firms headquartered outside Scotland).
- Provide evidence of strong financial performance, including overall firm growth or Scottish practice-specific growth, where applicable.
- Examples of success in your firm's chosen field of expertise including notable mandates, client impact, or market leadership.
- Details of the commitment to staff development specifically in relation to Scottish teams.
- Evidence of a commitment to promoting equality & diversity in the legal profession with examples of initiatives, outcomes, and engagement in Scotland

Litigation Team of the Year

sponsored by Stirling Park



This category is open to firms or teams that focus specifically on litigation and dispute resolution work.

Entry requirements:

- Details of significant cases and examples of excellence in legal practice; including commercial disputes, personal injury claims, catastrophic injury cases, public inquiries, or other forms of litigation.
- Examples of the impact the team's work has had to the success of the firm, including client outcomes, business development, financial growth, or enhanced reputation within the legal sector
- Overview of the team structure and how it supports success.
- Details of significant lateral recruitment and promotions that have strengthened the team and its future capability.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Sponsored by Border

BORDER

This award will pay tribute to an individual in law who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Scottish legal profession. Judges will look for evidence of how this individual has advanced the field of law and whose efforts, dedication, and commitment has supported the legal industry in Scotland.

Paralegal of the Year

sponsored by 123 Medical Services



This category is open to accredited Paralegals working within Scotland for individual entries, but will also be open to third-party entries and judges selection.

Entry requirements:

- Evidence of significant skills and the ability to deliver paralegal services within chosen field
- Demonstrate innovative approaches to meeting and exceeding client expectations
- Examples of significant achievements from the past 12 months
- Provide a reference from a partner or manager from within your firm or organisation

Pro-Bono Award

This category is open to firms, faculties, in-house teams or legal societies/organisations that can demonstrate a clear commitment to pro-bono work.

Entry requirements:

- Clear and concise demonstration of your organisation's approach to pro-bono work
- Details of your organisation's financial investment in pro-bono, for example in terms of billable hours committed
- Evidence of proven results that show your firm's investment has had a beneficial effect and achieved targets
- Examples of client and staff testimonials that value your activity

Rising Star at the Scottish Bar

sponsored by 123 Medical Services



This category is open to all advocates who have been called for five years and under and will also be open to third party entries and Judges' selection. This award focuses on Advocates tipped for great things by their colleagues, peers, and the solicitor profession.

Entry requirements:

- Evidence of significant legal skills and the ability to deliver excellent legal services within their chosen field
- Details of significant cases involved in during the past 12 months
- Provide a reference from an instructing solicitor

Solicitor of the Year

Sponsored by Law Society of Scotland



This category is open to all solicitors who hold a Scottish practising certificate with over five years of post-qualification experience. Nominations are open to individual entries, as well as third-party entries and judges' selection.

Entry requirements:

- Evidence of significant legal skills and the ability to deliver legal services within chosen field
- Demonstrate innovative approaches to meeting client demands
- Examples of significant achievements from the past 12 months
- Provide examples of taking the lead on implementing at least one innovative project

Strategic Transactions Team of the Year

This category is open to firms or teams that focus specifically on high-value transactions and corporate deals. The award recognises teams who consistently deliver exceptional results in transactional work across various sectors.

- Detailed examples of significant transactions and corporate deals your team has handled. This could include mergers, acquisitions, financing arrangements, or other major corporate transactions, highlighting your team's involvement and impact.
- Demonstrate the volume and value of deals completed by the team, showcasing a broad spectrum of high-profile transactions and the team's ability to manage complex, large-scale matters.
- Illustrate innovative approaches your team has taken to structure or execute transactions, meeting clients' evolving needs with creative solutions or new legal strategies
- Evidence of how the team's expertise has added significant value to clients through client feedback or tangible outcomes of your work.
- Evidence of how completing major transactions has positively impacted the firm's financial performance, including growth in revenue, profitability, or market position as a direct result of the team's work

Up and Coming Award

sponsored by 123 Medical Services



This category is open to solicitors with up to five years of post-qualification experience for individual entries, but will also be open to third-party entries and judges selection.

Entry requirements:

- Achievements from the past 12 months
- Individual's impact within their team/department
- Evidence of client satisfaction & contribution to the success of the firm or organisation
- Commitment to developing personal business & leadership skills within the firm or organisation

Previous winners

Join the ranks of former winners who have helped shape the future of Scottish law



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For any queries relating to your entry or attendance
at the awards please contact Sharon Franchetti, Event Manager,
on 0141 302 6039 or at sharon.franchetti@newsquest.co.uk

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