

PRESS RELEASE - 10 August 2017

## Applications for 15 new Justice First Fellows open 14 August 2017.

Liberty, Deighton Pierce Glynn, Govan Law Centre, and North Kensington Law Centre among 2017 host organisations.

This year, The Legal Education Foundation is funding 15 trainee solicitor posts at law centres, private practice firms, and specialist legal charities around the country, as part of its groundbreaking Justice First Fellowship scheme (see full list of 2017 host organisations, below).

The Fellowship scheme was launched by TLEF in 2014, to create social welfare lawyers who are equipped to become future leaders of the profession.

Successful applicants must have completed their Legal Practice Course (or equivalent), and be able to demonstrate strong commitment to social justice. Candidates must apply via TLEF, rather than direct to the host organisation: <https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org>

As well as completing their solicitor qualification at a leading social justice organisation, Fellows receive additional training in key skills, such as business planning, fund raising, and communications. They will also have responsibility for an individual project, aimed at increasing access to justice.

The Fellowship scheme is now into its fourth year, and the first eight Fellows qualified as solicitors in January 2017.

### **TLEF chief executive Matthew Smerdon says:**

*'Four years in, and the Justice First Fellowship scheme is building exactly the kind of momentum in the sector that we were hoping for. After this recruitment round, there will be 50 solicitor and barrister Fellows in some of the most committed and highly-respected social justice organisations in the country. Their work is starting to make a significant difference to their communities and the social welfare law sector, which has been under sustained pressure over many years. Our first intake of Fellows are all now working as solicitors and making full use of the skills and knowledge the scheme has equipped them with.'*

**2017 Justice First Fellowship trainee solicitor hosts:**

Brighton Housing Trust  
Coram Children's Legal Centre  
Deighton Pierce Glynn  
Derbyshire Law Centre  
Govan Law Centre  
Greater Manchester Law Centre  
Hackney Community Law Centre  
Just for Kids Law  
Legal Advice Centre (University House)  
Liberty  
Mary Ward Legal Centre  
Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit  
Minton Morrill Solicitors  
North Kensington Law Centre  
Speakeasy Advice Centre

**For individual job descriptions and details of the posts offered at each host organisation, see:**  
<https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/current-opportunities/>

**Potential applicants with questions about the Fellowship scheme should contact TLEF via our website:** <https://www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/contact-us/contact-form>

**Press inquiries only, contact Alan Humphreys, TLEF deputy chief executive:**  
[alan.humphreys@thelef.org](mailto:alan.humphreys@thelef.org)

**Notes for editors:**

1. The Legal Education Foundation is a grant-giving charity, set up to help people better understand and use the law. [www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org](http://www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org)
2. Justice First Fellows' posts are funded by The Legal Education Foundation, but Fellows will be employees of their host organisations.
3. Applicants may apply to one host organisation only.  
<https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

4. Applications open 14 August, 2017, and close 18 September, 2017. Candidates will be notified in October, and interviews held in November. Successful candidates will take up their posts in January 2018.

5. This year's Fellowship posts have been supported by the following co-funders: BBC Children in Need (Just for Kids Law; Coram Children's Legal Centre; Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit); City Bridge Trust (North Kensington Law Centre; Hackney Community Law Centre; Legal Advice Centre (University House)); Linklaters (Mary Ward Centre); RBS (Govan Law Centre); AB Charitable Trust (Liberty).

6. Earlier this year, two pupil barristers were appointed, at Public Law Project (with co-funding from AB Charitable Trust), and Trinity Chambers.