

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE SINCE 2005?

<b>2005</b>	
April	Young Legal Aid Lawyers is founded by Laura Janes after discussions with Ashley Dias Patel and Felicity Williams
2 April	Laura creates the first YLAL website.
13 April	<p>The first meeting! Held at Doughty Street Chambers.</p> <p>In attendance: Prem Ahluwalia, Ruth Brander, Robert Brown (from the London Criminal Courts' Solicitors' Association), Steve Cox , Edward Fitzgerald (to welcome the creation of the group), Helen Howard, Laura Janes, Alasdair Mackenzie, Zahra Nanji, Kathy Pinney, Aron Rollin, Jessica Skinns, Tom Walker, Felicity Williams.</p> <p>Laura explained the purpose of the group and the difficulties for young people joining the profession. She suggested the group could make a difference by responding to the consultation processes being carried out by the Legal Services Commission (LSC).</p> <p>The meeting discussed the Price Competitive Tendering (PCT) consultation paper and the Fundamental Legal Aid Review (FLAR). It was agreed that YLAL would produce a response to the consultation. This was the group's first task.</p>
9 May	<p>Another early meeting at Doughty Street chambers where YLAL's role and tasks were fleshed out.</p> <p>Those attending discussed YLAL's response to the PCT consultation paper, writing articles, outreach (including contact with Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG), Legal Action Group (LAG) and the Young Solicitors Group of the Law Society), a panel event to discuss the PCT proposals, pay and conditions for junior legal aid lawyers, how to get more members to join up including outside of London, an invitation to talk at the College of Law, setting up an All Party Parliamentary Group on legal aid, and holding meetings on the 1st Monday of each month in London.</p> <p>At the meeting the following positions for the committee were agreed: Chair - Laura, Treasurer - Ashley, Vice Chair/Arm Chair - Felicity, Regional Co-ordinator - Marie, Publicity/Lobbying - Prem and Kathy, Membership - Aron</p>

June	Membership passes 100
August	Input into Law Society Training Contract Framework Review
August	Response to the Fairer Deal paper
August	<p>At the monthly meeting the Access to Justice Alliance (AJA) was discussed. Ruth Brander explained that AJA were compiling a booklet of legal aid success stories and examples of those who had been turned away. The group was asked to collect ideas or possibly add this to the members' questionnaire.</p> <p>Strike Action over Criminal Fees was also discussed.</p>
6 Oct	YLAL runs a session jointly with the Trainee Solicitors Group from the Law Society at the LAPG conference
26 Oct	YLAL takes part in the lobby for legal aid at parliament
22 Nov	<p>Public meeting at South Bank university.</p> <p>Speakers included Lord Falconer (Lord Chancellor), Rob Brown (LCCSA), Henrietta Hill (Barrister) and Roger Smith (director of Justice). Jon Snow chaired. Roger Smith gave a lecture before the panel event.</p>
<b>2006</b>	
March	YLAL responds to a white paper on the proposed new form of regulation of the legal sector (which eventually led to the creation of the Legal Services Board)
March	<p>Sheffield branch of YLAL set up</p> <p>Mentoring scheme set up</p>
April	YLAL provides a response to the Fairer Deal proposals
June	YLAL responds to the LSC "preferred supplier" consultation
2 Oct	YLAL responds to the Constitutional Affairs Committee's inquiry into the implementation of the Carter Review - based on a survey of members.
4 Oct	Representatives from the YLAL committee meet with Simon Hughes, justice spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats
7 Oct	YLAL run a session at the LAPG conference

Oct	YLAL training sessions held (including on Magistrates' court work)
Nov	Workshop held in Cardiff on "campaigning lawyers"  The monthly meeting in London discusses the Law Society's proposed abolition of the trainee minimum salary
30 Nov	Public meeting - hosted by Jon Snow - with minister for legal aid Vera Baird QC, Simon Hughes and Oliver Heald, LSC Chief Executive Carolyn Regan, Richard Millar from LAPG
<b>2007</b>	
22 Feb	A follow-up to the public meeting held in November 2006 - again at South Bank University as a question time event.
19 March	YLAL members protest against the new cuts (the unified contract and Carter reforms) outside Parliament, as the Law Society issues a pre-action letter to challenge the changes
May	Lady Justice with YLAL members welcomes the new Ministry of Justice with a call for the new department to reconsider plans to implement the Carter reforms
June	YLAL expresses disappointment with the Government's decision to push ahead with Lord Carter's recommendations for change to the legal aid system
August	YLAL encourages members to write to their MPs to sign an Early Day Motion against the regulations bringing in the new fixed fee regime (better known as the Carter changes)
Sept	YLAL writes to the Prime Minister Gordon Brown about the importance of legal aid. We also respond to the Justice Secretary Jack Straw's comments that he is astonished by an increase in legal aid spend.
10 Sept	YLAL submits a paper to the LSC and MoJ on how to ensure the next generation of qualified, dedicated legal aid lawyers - following a meeting with Lord Hunt (Legal Aid Minister)
19 Oct	YLAL runs two sessions at the LAPG conference
<b>2008</b>	
Feb	Launch of the YLAL paralegal survey report

June	YLAL welcomes LSC announcement to increase number of training contract grants from 100 to 150
June	Members are asked to provide evidence to support the campaign run with the Access to Justice Alliance
10 Oct	YLAL runs sessions at the LAPG conference
<b>2009</b>	
Jan	YLAL responds to LSC consultation on civil bid rounds
April	We respond to LSC consultation on family law
May	YLAL responds to LSC consultation on prison law
June	Together with the LAPG, YLAL launches the APPG on legal aid. The first chair, Karen Buck MP held the inaugural meeting on 2 June in Parliament.
June	YLAL responds to Best Value Tendering (BVT) consultation
23 June	YLAL receives outstanding achievement award from LAPG at their silver jubilee Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards.
9 Oct	LAPG conference - YLAL runs two sessions
15 Oct	Question Time event at London South Bank University
Oct	YLAL responds to the MoJ consultation "Refocusing on priority cases"
Dec	MoJ proposes criminal legal aid cuts - YLAL responds
<b>2010</b>	
Feb	Launch of the Save Legal Aid website - in partnership with other charities and organisations. It was brought to a close in 2015 with the advent of the Justice Alliance.
Feb	YLAL's response to the Government consultation paper "New opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future" and The Panel on Fair Access to the Professions report "Unleashing Aspirations" recommends action to support diversity and social mobility in the legal aid sector.
March	Jon Snow hosts YLAL's 5th birthday event - this was also the launch of <i>Closing the Justice Gap: some new thinking about an old problem...</i> produced by the legal research company

	<i>Jures</i> and published by the <i>Solicitors Journal</i> in association with YLAL
7 July	LSC fails to offer new training contracts grant scheme - YLAL expresses disappointment and dismay
Nov	YLAL wins Young Person of the Year at Liberty Human Rights Awards
Nov	The Government issues its green paper, " <i>Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales</i> ", which sets out its proposal to cut £350 million from the £2.1 billion legal aid budget. This green paper would eventually lead to LASPO.
<b>2011</b>	
Jan	YLAL submits evidence to the Justice Select Committee considering the green paper proposals. Chair Laura Janes gives oral evidence to the JSC later on.
2 Feb	Together with the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, YLAL launches the Commission of Inquiry at Parliament. This event was effectively a "hearing" of evidence, chaired by Michael Mansfield QC with evidence given by people helped by legal aid, charities and practitioner groups. The Commission consisted of Dr Evan Harris, Revd Nicholas Sagovsky and Diana Holland.
14 Feb	YLAL submits its massive response to the green paper
14 Feb	On the same day we also respond to the Jackson proposals on changes to civil litigation funding
26 March	YLAL joins the march against public service cuts through London
June	YLAL responds to the Family Justice Review
July	YLAL proposes amendments to the LASPO Bill working its way through parliament
10 Aug	The Government carries out a limited consultation on cuts to fees paid by 10% across civil work and reducing fixed fees in criminal work. YLAL responds against the cuts.

Sept	Parliament publishes YLAL's Memorandum of Evidence to the LASPO Bill committee
7 Oct	LAPG conference, "Legal Aid planning for an uncertain future" - YLAL holds two sessions: one, on a career in legal aid and the second on campaigning.
26 Oct	Lord Beecham in House of Lords debate on Community Legal Service (Funding) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2011 Motion to Annul cites YLAL briefing in detail
Nov	Together with Justice for All, YLAL sets up a "pair up with a peer" scheme to help members lobby the House of Lords over the LASPO bill. Many members take part.
<b>2012</b>	
2 Feb	Co-Chair Katie Brown speaks at the Westminster Legal Policy Forum meeting ' <i>The future of legal aid - assessing the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill</i> '. Katie calls for action to ensure there is a next generation of legal aid lawyers.
Feb and March	YLAL hosts training sessions for members on judicial review
14 March	YLAL launches its MP report " <i>Nowhere else to turn: The impact of legal aid cuts on MPs' ability to help their constituents</i> " at a meeting of the APPG on legal aid
April	We respond to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) consultation, " <i>Review of the minimum salary requirement for trainee solicitors</i> ". We are strongly against removal of the minimum salary but the SRA later decides to abolish it.
April	LASPO ping pong - YLAL members continue to campaign against the LASPO bill through the "pair up with a peer" scheme run by Justice for All
April	YLAL co-founder Laura Janes profiled in the Guardian newspaper as a "lawyer to watch"
May	YLAL responds to the Legal Services Commission consultation on the future of the Specialist Support Service ("SSS").

Sept	Following a consultation with our members, YLAL provides its contribution to the Legal Education and Training Review
6 Sept	Committee member Charlie Image speaks at WLPF event
10 Sept	At Doughty Street Chambers YLAL runs its 'Introduction to legal aid' training for new members and students
10 Oct	Barristers Paul Bowen and Alison Pickup give an update to YLAL members on "Challenging legal aid cuts post LASPO - ensuring access to justice in the brave new world of legal aid".
12 Oct	LAPG conference - YLAL hosts two sessions - the first on using judicial review as a campaign tool, the second on a career in legal aid
Nov	YLAL produces briefings for the parliamentary debates on the merits criteria regulations under LASPO
<b>2013</b>	
Jan	Response of YLAL to "Judicial Review: proposals for reform" (which includes the plan for "no permission, no payment")
16 Jan	YLAL and LAPG together produce a briefing for members to send to their MPs against new regulations laid down by Government on the telephone gateway and evidence for domestic violence victims
May	YLAL produces a one page briefing against the new proposed cuts contained in the Government's Transforming Legal Aid (TLA) consultation and encourages members to write to their MPs to state their opposition
18 May	Committee member Rachel Francis as Lady Justice roams the streets of Old Street and Whitecross Street in London to promote the Save Legal Aid campaign
22 May	YLAL members take part in the protest at Westminster
June	Response of YLAL to "Transforming legal aid: delivering a more credible and efficient system" (TLA)

4 June	Committee member Laura Janes speaks at the protest/rally held at the Ministry of Justice against the TLA cuts
27 June	YLAL produces briefing for Commons debate on the Government's recent proposals to "reform" legal aid (TLA consultation). The debate was secured by Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Teather and Labour MP David Lammy.
July	Petition against the legal aid cuts reaches 100,000 signatories
30 July	64th birthday for the legal aid system. Members support the national day of campaigning. YLAL produces leaflets for members and campaigners to use in the fight against the new proposed cuts.
Sept	YLAL publishes its representations to the Joint Committee on Human Rights as part of its inquiry into the implications for access to justice of the legal aid reforms contained variously in the TLA papers
Sept	YLAL issues follow-up report to " <i>Nowhere Else to Turn</i> "
4 Sept	YLAL produces a briefing for the <b>Parliamentary debate on the criminal legal aid reforms and price competitive tendering</b>
26 Sept	Liverpool YLAL launches
29 Sept	YLAL members take part in the Northern Save Justice Campaign march, Manchester
Oct	Response of YLAL to " <i>Judicial Review: Proposals for further reform</i> "
Oct	We also respond to " <i>Transforming legal aid: next steps</i> "
10 Oct	Inaugural event for YLAL Midlands in Birmingham with keynote speaker Baroness Deech
30 Oct	<a href="#">Launch of YLAL social mobility report "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" at London South Bank University with Lady Hale as keynote speaker</a>
<b>2014</b>	



6 Jan	YLAL members take part in the demonstration against the criminal legal aid cuts at Westminster Magistrates Court.
Jan	YLAL sets up "View from the gravy train" blog to dispel the myth that legal aid lawyers are getting fat off legal aid
Feb	YLAL responds to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) consultation, " <i>Training for Tomorrow: Regulation Review</i> " (which proposed qualification by way of "equivalent means")
Feb	YLAL committee member Alice Cullingworth creates "no thanks to legal aid" blog
April	Response of YLAL to the Justice Select Committee's inquiry into the impact of the changes to civil legal aid under LASPO
11 June	YLAL training at Doughty Street Chambers: 'Where we Are Now? An Update on the Changes to Legal Aid'
Oct	We respond to the Government's next TLA consultation: Transforming Legal Aid: Crime Duty Contracts
10 Oct	Two more successful workshops held at the LAPG conference 'LEGAL AID: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE'. Two YLAL workshops titled (1) Public Interest Challenges (2) A Career in Legal Aid
21 Oct	Co-Chair Connor Johnston and committee member Carita Thomas give evidence to the Justice Committee holds its third evidence session in its inquiry into the impact of changes to civil legal aid under LASPO.
25 Nov	London South Bank University and YLAL host a Justice Alliance event at the university. Committee member Alice Cullingworth is on the panel of speakers
<b>2015</b>	
11 Feb	Newcastle YLAL meets for the first time
23 Feb	Not the Global Law Summit events
18 Feb	Launch of LAPG manifesto (to which YLAL contributed)
16 April	The Legal Aid Team! animation is published on the Guardian website

23 April

YLAL is 10!