



Kevin De Silva Legal Article Trophy 2023

In their words...



*In October 2023, the **Kevin De Silva Legal Article Competition** was launched, at the Cocktails & Competitions evening, held at Revolution De Cuba.*

This year the competition entrants were given the task of writing an article or blog for publication in the Nottinghamshire Law Society Bulletin.

There were three subject areas to choose from:

- The SRA's recent increased fining powers*
- The role of the regulator in promoting well-being in the profession*
- The future of remote hearings in the justice system*

Many entries were received and three were chosen by the finalists judging panel. This year the final judging panel was HHJ Coe KC and HHJ Najib KC.

The winner was announced at the Newly Qualified Solicitors and Barristers Reception at MemSaab in November 2023. The winning article was published in the [December 2023 bulletin](#).

The finalists now share in their words the experience of taking part in the Society's competition.

Eleanor Harrison

Winner 2022



Legal Article Title:

[Has the SRA caught the wellbeing buzz?](#)

“After enjoying a rum cocktail at the official competitions launch evening, the article competition caught my eye because it included an option of writing about workplace wellbeing. Whilst this is an area that is repeatedly talked about nowadays, as a junior coming into the sector, I hope it will become more of a focus as the workplace continues to evolve in the coming years. I enjoy writing so it wasn’t a hardship to spend some time researching this area in relation to the SRA specifically or to articulate some of my own views into the article.”

Having the opportunity to take part in the article competition is something which I haven’t taken for granted – even if the article I’d written had been a dud, in the busy life of a junior lawyer it’s not often that you’ll get a chance to do some critical thinking about important areas like this one, or to express and share these thoughts on a wider scale. Thank you to the Nottingham Law Society for running the Kevin Da Silva Legal Article Competition – and good luck to all future entrants!”



Charlotte Hajduk

Finalist 2022

Legal Article Title:

“You’re On mute!” – The future of remote hearings in the Family Justice System

“While studying in Nottingham, I became aware of the Nottingham Law Society’s annual Kevin De Silva memorial competition. This year however, the competition came at the right time, and I was extremely motivated to explore each of the three topical areas the competition required selection from.

The future of remote hearings in our justice system is a topic which compliments my first seat as a trainee in the family team. The competition allowed me to examine in much greater detail the breadth of challenges and opportunities remote hearings presents, many of which impact the fundamental principles of justice. It is a dynamic debate, and I will continue to look into how this develops in our justice system.

I am thankful to the Nottingham Law Society for continuing to provide opportunities for young practitioners, with the Kevin De Silva memorial competition just one example of this.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the Nottinghamshire Law Society event, meeting both the likeminded finalists and distinguished High Court Judge. A huge congratulations to Eleanor the winner and I will continue to look out for the competition in years to come.”



Yoanna Spasova

Finalist 2022

Legal Article Title:

How far is too far?

Overview on the SRA's increased fining powers

"I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to the Nottinghamshire Law Society, the judging panel and the sponsors of the competition!"

I think it was a great opportunity to research and write about topical issues in the legal sector.

As I have recently moved to Nottingham, I did not have much knowledge about the Society and all the events and competitions they organise. I am beyond grateful for the invitation to the NQ event where I met some very inspiring people."