



THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LAW SOCIETY

Kevin De Silva
Memorial
Legal Article
Competition 2025

For this year's competition we are asking you to write an article/blog for publication in the Nottinghamshire Law Society's Bulletin.

You can choose from **one** of the following legal topic areas:

- What are the implications of Lord Leveson's proposals for non-jury trials in some Crown Court cases for young lawyers? Threat or opportunity?
- The Legal Aid Agency's data breach in April of this year compromised more than 2 million records of individuals who are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society. Have the Legal Aid Agency therefore complied with the GDPR by simply putting up a notice of the breach on their website?
- You have been asked to look at drafting a document for new lawyers on the ethical and operational implications in the use of generative AI in a court setting. Explain what the pitfalls are; where it can be used safely and why. Explain how you think it will be used in the next five years.

PRIZE

The Kevin De Silva Shield and a cash prize of £300

Two Runners Up prizes of £75.00 may also be awarded, in the discretion of the Judging Panel.

The winning article will be published in the Nottinghamshire Law Society's Bulletin.

The winner will be announced at our Newly Qualified Solicitors & Newly Called Barristers Reception at Revolution De Cuba, Nottingham, on Tuesday 18th November 2025.

The trophy will be formally presented at the Nottinghamshire Law Society AGM, which will be held on Tuesday 12th May 2026.

The judging panel will be comprised of senior legal professionals from the Nottinghamshire legal community.

RULES

1. The competition is open to students (including LPC, SQE and bar training course) and those still engaged in professional training in the workplace (including trainee solicitors and those doing SRA SQE, solicitors and paralegal apprentices, pupil barristers, paralegals (with up to 2 years' experience) who work and/or study in Nottinghamshire. (Name & institution/place of employment must be clearly stated on entry form)
2. Any doubt as to eligibility should be raised with the competition organisers prior to submission of an

entry. Please email any queries to for the of the attention of the Society's Head of Operations, **Michelle Foster** – michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org.

3. The entrants name, address, stage reached in their education/training & their educational institution or place of training must be clearly stated on the entry form.
4. Each entry shall be limited to no more than **800 words**. The number of words must be stated at the end of the entry.
5. The article must be an original piece of work, created by the person submitting the article.
6. All entries shall become the property of Nottinghamshire Law Society, who shall be entitled to publish or reproduce all or part of the article(s)/blog(s) as and when they see fit.
7. Entries will not be returned.
8. The competition organisers bear no responsibility for the safekeeping of the entries.
9. All entries should be submitted in WORD form via email attachment (as set out above) for the of the attention of the Society's Head of Operations, **Michelle Foster** – michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org.
10. Entries must be received, in accordance with the Competition Rules, no later than **Wednesday 5th November 2025, 5:00pm**, which is the closing date for the competition.
11. Any issue as to the application of the competition rules shall be determined by the competition organisers in accordance with these rules but otherwise in their absolute discretion and shall be final. No right of appeal arises from a decision made.

KEVIN DE SILVA ARTICLE COMPETITION 2025

MARKING CRITERIA

ARTICLE TOPIC

For this year's competition we are asking you to write an article/blog for publication in the Nottinghamshire Law Society's Bulletin.

You can choose from **one** of the following legal topic areas:

- What are the implications of Lord Leveson's proposals for non-jury trials in some Crown Court cases for young lawyers? Threat or opportunity?
- The Legal Aid Agency's data breach in April of this year compromised more than 2 million records of individuals who are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society. Have the Legal Aid Agency therefore complied with the GDPR by simply putting up a notice of the breach on their website?
- You have been asked to look at drafting a document for new lawyers on the ethical and operational implications in the use of generative AI in a court setting. Explain what the pitfalls are; where it can be used safely and why. Explain how you think it will be used in the next five years.

Please note, these are the topic areas and do not need to dictate the title of your article. You are free to give your article a title of your choosing.

The overall marking will be out of 60, with three criteria, each scoring a maximum of 20 points.

The **three criteria** are as follows:

1. **Structure and presentation** /20 points

Poor structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation etc, would justify a lower mark. Good use of language, a user-friendly structure e.g. one that is concise and has a clearly defined title, introduction, main body and conclusion will attract a higher mark.

2. **Content** /20 points

Does the article engage with the topic clearly and is the content presented in a concise, accurate, and informative way? Is the article written in a way that is suitable for its intended target audience? Does the article provide insight into the topic area, express appropriate opinion and/or commentary and is the information relevant and up to date?

3. Creativity and Originality

/20 points

In terms of overall presentation and content, is there something that marks the article out and makes it stand out from others?



KEVIN DE SILVA ARTICLE COMPETITION 2025

Hints and Tips

The following hints and tips may be useful to bear in mind when drafting your article:

- Choose a catchy title.
- Think about your target audience – bear in mind this article will be published in the Nottinghamshire Law Society Bulletin. The Bulletin is distributed to the Nottinghamshire Law Society membership which comprises legal professionals from across the county.
- Research and present facts that support your article. Some examples of research you can gather include:
 - ✓ Statistics
 - ✓ Quotes/opinions from legal sources on the topic area
 - ✓ References to recent events or developments in the topic area
 - ✓ Resources that a user might find helpful
- Your article should comprise of a title; introduction; main body of the article; and a conclusion.
- Make sure you proofread to check for punctuation and grammatical errors and do not rely on the spelling and grammar function.
- Your article should be concise, accurate and informative. Clarity is crucial for the success of your writing. It is better to make a few points succinctly and clearly than making a lot of points that may cause the reader to lose focus or interest.
- You may wish to refer to popular legal publications such as the Law Gazette, Solicitors Journal, New Law Journal for stylistic inspiration.