



lawforlife
advice*now*



CHAIR OF TRUSTEES RECRUITMENT PACK

**Applications close at
Midnight on Sunday 25th Feb 2024**

Our Background

The new Chair will be joining the team at an exciting time of growth and development for the Charity. Law for Life is the leading public legal education charity in the UK, established in 2011.

We strive for social justice by legally empowering individuals and communities. We believe everyone should be equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to deal with the law-related issues they are likely to encounter in their lives. Public legal education and information enables people to understand that the problems they encounter in their daily lives may have legal dimensions and empowers them to resolve problems and secure access to justice. Public legal education is a particularly important tool for reaching people in disadvantaged communities.

- We run the award-winning [Advicenow](#) website which provides practical resources for individuals and intermediaries on how to deal with life's legal problems.
- We provide education and training on housing, welfare and immigration law to community groups, activists, and volunteers and staff of small NGOs.
- We specialise in targeted and tailored public legal education and information that is user-centred, empowering, and effective.
- We deliver innovative access to justice initiatives that bring together on and offline help.
- We collaborate with communities and organisations to identify and achieve structural change.
- We combine research and practice to achieve excellence in public legal education and information.

As our new Chair of the Board of Trustees, you will play a key role in leading the charity in fulfilling our vision. Our new Chair will lead the Board of Trustees and will support and advise the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that Law for Life is well governed, develops and delivers our ambitious strategy.

We have a committed and capable Board of eight Trustees and a small but strong team of 10 staff members, supported by a team of Associates. This role is a truly exciting opportunity to help develop our people and services to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to grow. We will ensure an effective handover from our current Chair and a tailored induction programme to help the successful candidate fulfil the promise of this opportunity.



Message from Amanda Finlay CBE Outgoing Chair

Law for Life plays a unique role in giving people the knowledge, skills and confidence to tackle family and housing issues, employment and benefit matters or difficulties with goods and services. These issues are the cornerstones of everyday life that can become drivers of poverty and inequality if left unresolved.

In the post Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 years, with the curtailment of legal aid and the rising pressure on law centres and advice agencies, the role of public legal education has increasingly been recognised as an important part of the justice ecosystem.

As the cost-of-living crisis affects the lives of so many and touches people whose lives were previously manageable and secure, our services have become even more important. We help those who can help themselves with the support of our online guides. We train trusted intermediaries in the community, enabling them to support their vulnerable clients. We learn from our research on legal needs, evaluation of our resources and feedback from our users.

We share our learning with others. It has been a great honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of Law for Life. Public legal education is a cause dear to my heart and I have appreciated the chance to play a small part in promoting it, both in government and in the third sector.

I will continue to do so wherever I find myself in the future. We have an expert and committed team and a knowledgeable and resourceful Board of Trustees.

Over the last decade we have gone from strength to strength. Now it is time for a new chapter and a new Chair. If you share our passion for social justice, do apply. And do get in touch with me if you would like to learn more.



Message from Dr Lisa Wintersteiger CEO

Law for Life was established in 2011 in the wake of a global financial crisis and the UK general election. Amanda Finlay CBE has been an integral, founding Trustee and subsequently our Chair, steering Law for Life with wisdom, energy, and commitment. The time has come for our vibrant charity to invite a new Chair that shares our vision for social justice to join us to shape the future of access to justice strategy.

Law for Life has not only weathered extraordinary changes in the access to justice sector but has grown to be seen as a crucial part of the justice infrastructure of England and Wales.

A decade of changes in the policy landscape and in public spending decisions in the UK have left increasing numbers of people without the support that they need to manage the most common life encounters that demand basic legal knowledge and the skills to navigate disputes effectively. For many, this has devastating consequences; deepening existing inequality and disadvantage and foreclosing the opportunities that come with the ability to assert rights and negotiate a better outcome for oneself, family, or community.

Tackling this iniquity and fostering a culture of participation and engagement with the justice system is the work that Law for Life has become expert in; adapting emerging technology; testing creative pedagogical techniques and building a large and trusted network of community groups, front line workers and activists to reach those who otherwise go without help.

We have also worked hard to earn a seat at the policy and research table, sharing our theoretical and empirical understanding of how legal need evolves and impacts certain groups, what can be done to empower people through the law at scale and how systemic issues can be challenged to secure justice and foster democratic engagement.

Information

Reach



1,052,998 sessions
by **828,402 users**
from across England and Wales



174,418,900
pageviews



34%
identified
as disabled



54%
of our users
are female



28%
are helping
someone else



51% have a
household income
of below £1,100
per month after tax



75%
of our
users are
not working



20%
are BAME



22% said their problem was caused
by or made worse by Covid-19

Education

Reach



Over 40
workshops
held



Our training
videos have
been watched
9255 times



Estimated organisations indirect
reach of **25,000** people
across all courses



240 different
participants
from over
120 different
organisations



62% increase
in confidence in
helping people
with housing
law problems

Impact



5515
personalised mandatory
reconsideration letters produced



92% of course
participants able
to identify relevant
sources of legal
advice and develop an
appropriate course of
action for dealing with
key housing issues



Our information films
have been viewed
33,825 times



**14 family
law** solicitors
provide advice
on our Affordable
Advice panel



97% of respondents
said the course
changed their view on
how they can advocate
for the people they help
using the tools provided

**Stats taken from our 2021-2022
Annual review**

EMPOWERMENT
We believe that **SOCIAL JUSTICE** goes hand-in-hand with empowerment. People should have the knowledge and power to **TAKE ACTION** on the issues that are important to them.



INDEPENDENCE
We believe that as an **INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION** we can ensure that our work reflects the need of our audiences.

COLLABORATION
We believe that **COLLABORATIVE** working and involvement of service users delivers the most effective results.

Please visit lawforlife.org.uk for more information
You can read our latest annual report [here](#)

What's involved?

This role is voluntary and unpaid but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

The needs of a small charity can vary considerably, but as a minimum we would like our new Chair to be available to:

- Be able to commit to an initial term of 4 years
- Prepare for and Chair four Trustee meetings and one “away-day” style meeting annually. Meetings are predominantly remote, with occasional in-person meetings in London
- Meet (virtually or in person by mutual agreement) monthly with the CEO to provide appropriate support and keep up to date with the charity’s work.
- Represent the charity by mutual agreement with the CEO at key events and at meetings with important stakeholders.
- Be available to respond to and deal with urgent matters necessarily falling within the Chair’s remit as and when required.

Chair of Trustees role description and person specification

Law for Life is committed to equality and diversity and welcomes applications from all members of the community, particularly from those currently under-represented including young people, people with disabilities and people from minority ethnic groups.

The Chair is responsible for providing strategic direction for Law for Life. This involves working closely with the Board and our CEO to develop and implement a clear strategic plan that aligns with our mission and objectives. The Chair will also support, advise, challenge, appraise and help develop our CEO.

Strategic Leadership: Responsible for providing strategic direction for Law for Life, working closely with the Board and our CEO to develop and implement a strategic plan. The Chair will also support, advise, challenge, appraise and help develop our CEO.

Governance and Compliance: Ensure that Law for Life operates within the legal and regulatory framework. Overseeing good governance and compliance with relevant UK charity laws and regulations.

Board Management: Take a lead in managing our Trustee board, including recruiting, training and retaining board members, fostering a culture of collaboration, and ensuring effective board meetings and decision-making processes.

Stakeholder Engagement: Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, including donors, beneficiaries, government bodies, and the public. The Chair represents Law for Life externally and fosters partnerships to support our mission.

Financial Oversight: Take a lead role in overseeing the charity's financial health, ensuring the charity's financial sustainability, overseeing budgets, and monitoring financial performance. The Chair is supported in this by an honorary Treasurer and a Finance sub-committee of the Board.

You can find information on the duties and responsibilities of a Chair of Trustees in the following guideline provided by the Charity Commission.

[The Essential Trustee, what you need to know, what you need to do](#)

Experience and skills

The successful candidate will have the following essential experience and skills

Experience

- Substantial experience working in the justice and/or human rights sectors (including related health or technology fields).
- Proven experience in a leadership or governance role, demonstrating the ability to lead and inspire a diverse group of trustees and stakeholders.
- Strong strategic thinking and vision, with the ability to set and implement the charity's long-term strategic direction and to bring an innovative and creative mindset to the charity.

Knowledge and Skills

- Understanding of governance principles and a commitment to ensuring the highest standards of governance within the charity.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to represent the charity effectively to external stakeholders, donors, and the public.
- Proficiency in stakeholder engagement and management, including the ability to build and maintain relationships with diverse groups of stakeholders.
- Strong financial acumen, including the ability to oversee budgets, financial reporting, and financial sustainability.

Personal Qualities

- A genuine commitment to and passion for Law of Life's mission and values, with a demonstrated dedication to social justice and public legal education.
- High ethical standards and integrity, with the ability to lead by example and uphold the charity's reputation.
- A commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the charity and its governance structure.
- A collaborative and inclusive leadership style, fostering teamwork and consensus among board members and stakeholders.
- Resilience in the face of challenges and the ability to make tough decisions when necessary.
- An ability to work in partnership with the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive to ensure that the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and that the charity, the Trustees and the Chief Executive are focused on achieving these.

How to apply

If you are talented, passionate about social justice and want to use your skills, knowledge, and experience to help bring about change, then please submit a [completed application form](#) along with a current CV to our Office Manager Amy Milner amy.milner@lawforlife.org

Closing date is **Midnight Sunday 25th Feb 2024**

We offer all applicants the opportunity of an informal online chat with either our outgoing Chair, Interim Chair or CEO (Depending on diary availability).

Please email Amy Milner to arrange amy.milner@lawforlife.org

A recruitment panel consisting of three existing Trustees and the CEO will assess applications against the person specification and invite shortlisted candidates to an in-person interview in central London.

The charity will undertake a due diligence process in respect of the preferred appointee, and we will discuss this with you as applicable.

If you would like us to make any reasonable adjustments to the application and selection process because of a disability, please contact our Office Manager to discuss and arrange these.

Please note that all data will be held in the strictest confidence and in compliance with the Data Protection Act of 2018 (the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR) and will only be used for the purpose of selection for this position.

Key Dates

Application deadline: Midnight Sunday 25th Feb

Shorlisting: W/C Monday 26th Feb

First stage interviews: Thursday 7th March - London