



The City of London Law Society



*City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society*

## **The Wig & Pen Prize 2010**

The City of London Law Society and the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society are pleased to announce the launch of the 2010 Wig & Pen Prize, awarded for pro bono legal work by a young solicitor. The Prize is awarded to a candidate whom the judges feel has made a significant contribution to the quality of justice in their communities and in helping to ensure that the legal system is open and available to all.

The Wig & Pen Prize has been awarded since 1979 and applications for this year's Prize are invited from individuals who have undertaken pro bono work between September 2009 and September 2010, have been admitted as solicitors for less than 5 years and who are a member of the City of London Law Society (CLLS) or the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society (CWHLS) or work as a solicitor within the catchment area of either Law Society.

In particular, the judges will take into account -

- (a) the length of time involved in giving free legal advice or representation to people who have otherwise failed to obtain access to justice;
- (b) the candidate's involvement in setting up new or innovative projects providing free legal services to people who would otherwise fail to obtain access to justice;
- (c) the significance of the candidate's service to their clients and their community; and
- (d) the extent to which the candidate's contribution was made in his or her own time outside that person's normal employment.

Application packs are available from each Society's website at [www.citysolicitors.org.uk](http://www.citysolicitors.org.uk) or [www.cwhls.org.uk](http://www.cwhls.org.uk) and the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The Prize consists of a silver ink stand and quill pen to be held by the winner for one year and a cash sum of £1,000 which is paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CLLS and CWHLS. In certain circumstances a second Prize may be awarded to a candidate who is not in receipt of the first Prize and, at the closing date for entries, does not work within the local Law Society catchment area of the first Prize winner. The second Prize consists of a cash sum of £500 to be paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CWHLS and CLLS.

The Prize will be awarded at the annual Mary Ward Lecture on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

We hope that firms will encourage applications, not only to recognise the pro bono achievements of their young solicitors, but also for the opportunity to win up to £1,000 for the applicant's chosen charity or project.