

Individuals by Andrew Baxter

FINANCIAL TIMES | July 6 2007

Personal initiatives reveal breadth of new thinking in the profession

Lawyers who have gone the extra mile to be innovative – often starting something that would not have happened without them – are honoured for the first time this year in the Individuals category.

The 10 individuals came to the fore during the research for each section of the report, through a combination of quality of recommendations, the nature of what they are doing – that is, how they are adding value beyond their basic professional remit – and through follow-up interviews.

Ranking the final shortlist from these 10 innovators was the job of six judges. Three were from outside the FT: Geoffrey Vos, QC, Chairman of the Bar; Geoffrey Timms, group head of legal at Legal & General Group; and Nick Carter-Pegg, partner at BDO Stoy Hayward. The rest were from the newspaper: Simon Targett, associate editor; James Pickford, editor of the Business Life section; and Michael Peel, legal correspondent.

As one judge put it, the list “demonstrates the breadth of new thinking in the legal business today”. The innovations for which individuals have been recommended vary widely – from new mediation techniques (Patrick Green) to raising the bar on demutualisation (Glen James), and from a new model for barristers’ chambers (Stephen Ward) to providing thought leadership on conflict in the legal sector (Chris Perrin).

The judges were particularly keen on innovations that were based on the individual’s own initiative, rather than achievements that simply reflected expertise in their day job. “There were lawyers on the list who were doyens in their field and would unquestionably be the ‘go to’ on a specific matter,” says one judge. “However, we are judging being ‘innovative’ and that is a different attribute. That is making a difference by starting something new that maybe would never have been started if it had not been for the individual concerned.”

Interestingly, the top three individuals were all, in very different ways, showing innovation and initiative that underlines how lawyers can contribute to making the world a better place and helping the underprivileged and disadvantaged.

Of Mahnaz Malik, the “startlingly precocious” winner, as one judge puts it, most of the team wax lyrical. “Her initiative seemed to be really innovative and have a major impact over a sustained period. She not only did this herself but clearly got many others involved as well,” says one. Another



says: “The breadth and boldness of Ms Malik’s activities are striking. Her experience shows what can be achieved with energy and determination.”

Jim Rice is commended for “using his specialist knowledge in securitisation law to launch an initiative far outside his traditional arena, in vaccine provision”. Another judge enthuses: “He banged heads together and ensured that some of the best legal and financial brains were put to work for some of the world’s poorest children. Fantastic!”

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff sways one judge because her work “is helping modernise the legal profession, and it has a wider social impact”. He is also impressed by her “20-year commitment to what must be the difficult and often little acknowledged field of mental health practice”.

● *Now judge for yourself. What follows are edited versions of the biographies written by the RSG research team and received by our judges. Who do you think has been the most innovative? Send your comments to innovativelawyers@ft.com and we will publish a selection on www.ft.com/innovativelawyers2007*

THE WINNER

Name: **Mahnaz Malik**

Age: **28**

Position: **International advocate**

Organisation: **Independent consultant**

Biography: **Graduated in law from Cambridge in 1998, as a British Council Chevening Scholar. Appointed advocate in Pakistan in 2000, and, two years later, solicitor in England and Wales and attorney and counsellor at law in the state of New York**

Mahnaz Malik came to the attention of the Innovative Lawyers researchers via her work on Simmons & Simmons’ Project Advocate. This scheme provides legal representation to

children detained in appalling conditions in Pakistani jails. Ms Malik was instrumental in getting her firm to set up the programme, which now represents 92 per cent of children held in Lahore's jails. The extraordinary aspect to this is that Ms Malik was barely a qualified solicitor when she managed to get the firm to support this initiative.

Ms Malik left Simmons & Simmons 18 months ago to set up as a freelance lawyer, giving advice to governments about their investments in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other charitable organisations. She now numbers about 20-30 governments as her clients. As a lawyer, she is triple qualified in England and Wales, New York and Pakistan. She continues to use her contacts to get the City of London to support charitable projects in Pakistan, mainly around children's causes.

Ms Malik also had the idea to set up the British Pakistan Law Council, a bilateral legal organisation, launched in 2004

She continues to use her contacts to get the City of London to support charitable projects in Pakistan

by Tony Blair and President Musharraf of Pakistan. Within a month, it became one of the most successful Law Society alliances, in terms of numbers of members. Ms Malik is now the joint co-ordinating chair.

A precocious high achiever, Ms Malik received The Law Society's National Trainee Solicitor of the Year Award and Trainee Solicitor Most Likely to Succeed on the International Stage Award 2001. She is also the author of two books (fiction) and a film maker. Recently, she was covered in the Guardian as Cherie Blair's protégé.



Name: **Jim Rice**
Age: **50**
Position: **Securitisation partner**
Organisation: **Linklaters**
Biography: **After studying jurisprudence at Oxford, joined Linklaters as an articled clerk in 1980. Became partner in 1989, with spell as a partner in Hong Kong from 1997-99.**

Jim Rice is nominated for his work on behalf of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) spearheading the development fund of a groundbreaking scheme to provide lifesaving vaccines to millions of children in developing countries. He played a vital role in the outcome of the project, bringing not only his top-notch legal skills but also his outstanding project management, diplomatic and leadership skills.

Mr Rice acted as the conduit for the different ideas about how to implement the scheme, from the client, the World Bank, the investment bankers and other professionals involved in the project.

He also provided a leadership role to a team of young lawyers and was described as "inspirational" in keeping them motivated through a very complicated securitisation transaction that added little to their CVs or their billing hours – the job was done partly pro bono.

Mr Rice himself has a track record in applying what he does best for the wider benefit of the community. In 2006, as well as the GAVI project, he worked on Barclay's investment in the Charity Bank.

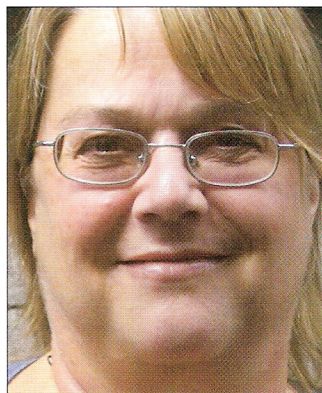
Name: **Lucy Scott-Moncrieff**
Position: **Partner**
Organisation: **Scott-Moncrieff, Harbour & Sinclair**
Biography: **Qualified as a legal aid solicitor in 1978. Practised as a criminal defence lawyer but since 1987 has been a mental health practitioner, and more recently has gone into human rights law.**

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff was highly recommended as a "true" innovator in the legal world for her work in providing essential services to vulnerable clients, particularly in the mental health sector.

Her innovation lies in the way she has created a "virtual" network of independent solicitors. Ms Scott-Moncrieff provides the infrastructure support to enable them to operate effectively and profitably in a legal aid practice.

The approach delivers legal aid sustainably and profitably. It also has relevance beyond legal aid as it is a perfect example of flexible working that does not force people to choose between family and career. One referee comments: "It is extremely innovative for a legal aid practice and runs counter to the prevailing culture of defeat in the sector."

Ms Scott-Moncrieff has been active in the Law Society for many years, and is chair of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee. She is also one of two solicitors appointed to the new QC selection panel. Ever the campaigner, Ms Scott-Moncrieff has led the way in criticising the draft Mental Health Bill.



Name: **Emily Taylor**
Position: **Head of legal and policy**
Organisation: **Nominet**
Biography: **Read Classics at Cambridge, and gained a distinction at the College of Law. Trained at McKenna & Co (now CMS Cameron McKenna), and qualified in the contentious IP department. Worked at Manches' Oxford office before joining Nominet in 2000.**

Emily Taylor has been at the heart of developing the UK's renowned internet regulatory environment. But given the global nature of the web, her regulatory influence has also been felt outside the UK – she is the only UK member of the United Nations' Advisory Group for the Internet Governance



Forum. This forum is a first for the UN in giving a voice to the industry rather than just governments.

Here and elsewhere, she consistently argues not for more regulation, but for less or better regulation: she has lobbied frequently for a pragmatic, flexible approach to internet governance and is playing her part in establishing a UK internet forum.

Being head of legal and policy might be seen as a contradiction for some, but it suits Ms Taylor's approach perfectly. When internet crimes outrun the available internet law, she can work out the applicable "offline" laws that apply. She has helped police officers – eager to prosecute but unsure how to do so – turn their cases into convictions.