

Candidate Brief

Governor with Experience as In-House Counsel

The Legal Education Foundation

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Wild Search

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Appointment of Governor with experience as an In-House Counsel

Background

"To promote the advancement of legal education and the study of law in all its branches"

The Legal Education Foundation, a Royal Charter charitable foundation was created in late 2012 with the monies received from the sale of the education and training business of the College of Law. The proceeds of the sale, £200 million, have been invested with the aim of providing an annual amount of 3.5% of the Fund Capital to advance the charitable Object of the Foundation which is “to promote the advancement of legal education and the study of law in all its branches”.

The Object is currently delivered by supporting public and civic legal education and develop a broad range of schemes aimed at promoting access to justice through legal education and an understanding of the law. There is no geographic limit to the Foundation's activities although currently the Governors restrict its grants programme to the United Kingdom.

Since 2013, The Legal Education Foundation has awarded grants to a value of £21 million to more than 370 organisations across the UK.

For more information on The Legal Education Foundation and to read its latest Annual Review please visit:

<https://www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/about-the-legal-education-foundation/annual-review>

Appointment of Governor: Context

The Foundation currently has twelve Governors and is managed day-to-day by a small executive team. The current strategy is to make grants to a wide variety of organisations, working in different social, professional and academic settings and to bring people in linked areas of activity together. The aims are supported by commissioning research to measure impact and ensure the best approaches are adopted.

Key strategic objectives

- Increase public understanding of the law and the capability to use it.
- Advance high-quality thinking, training and practice in legal education and legal services so as to ensure legal needs are met.
- Widen access to employment in the legal profession and, in particular, to advance social mobility and diversity.

Themes

Areas of current focus and interest where grant applications are encouraged:

- To develop the role of social welfare legal advice needs in health settings through legal education with health professionals and development of models to expand the provision of services.
- To influence the development and operation of the on-line court in a manner that maximises the ability of individuals to secure just outcomes in relation to their rights and protections.
- To explore the implications of Brexit for the areas covered by our strategic objectives.

Tools

- Work to understand the role that technology can play in achieving the objectives.
- Work on law reform, policy and regulation to create a supportive environment for the delivery of the objectives.
- Communications activity to disseminate learning and to create a supportive environment for the delivery of the objectives.

The Foundation does not take part in or fund political campaigning.

About the Board

The Legal Education Foundation has twelve Governors, two of whom will be retiring at the end of November. The current Board members are:

Guy Beringer CBE (Chair)
David Armstrong
Ailsa Beaton OBE
Rupert Baron
Timothy Dutton QC CBE
Roger Finbow
Jonathan Freeman
Mark Harding (Deputy Chair)
Sally James (Deputy Chair)
Edward Nally
Alison Pickup
Jane Reeves

Governors' meetings are held five times a year in central London. In addition, Governors may be selected to join one of four Committees (Audit, Grants, Investments and Nominations). These meet less frequently, usually two to four times a year. If ad hoc decisions or discussions are necessary, there may be conference calls and/or emails in circulation with required papers.

The Role and Requirement

As a result of a skills audit and succession planning, it has been identified that the governing board would benefit from a further person who has extensive knowledge and experience of the role of In House Counsel in a large organisation.

Candidates must be solicitors or barristers.

Candidates will demonstrate the following general characteristics and experience:

- a track record in their chosen field;
- experience of strategic decision making at senior level;
- commitment to the ethos, values and mission of the Foundation;
- the ability to work in a board setting, having done so in a quoted Plc or major unquoted organisation of equivalent size (this could be government, non for profit or charitable);
- an understanding of the Non-Executive role and how it can be used to guide and support the executives.

The Foundation is particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals with experience at national level and especially interested in applications from people who work from a base outside London and the South East.

It would be desirable for the ideal candidate to also have some experience or knowledge of one or more of the following areas:

- contributing to regional or national organisations such as local law societies, The Law Society or specialist legal organisations;
- developing the use of technology to improve organisational effectiveness;
- collaborating with other organisations on policy matters with local, regional or national government.

Terms and Conditions

Whilst most members of staff are based at the Foundation's registered office in Guildford, Surrey, Governors' meetings are held in London normally at 4 pm.

Governors are unremunerated, although expenses are reimbursed. Governors are appointed for a period of three years, renewable for up to two further terms in line with good corporate governance standards.

How to Apply

The Legal Education Foundation has engaged Wild Search to advise on this appointment. Anyone interested in applying should contact them to discuss the requirements further or apply by email (lef@wildsearch.org) including:

1. A full curriculum vitae;
2. A covering note of c. 500 words, setting out relevant experience and interest.

If you are shortlisted for this role you will be asked to provide two professional references.

Amy Wevill and Edward Wild are managing the process at Wild Search and can be contacted on 0207 233 2230.

Please be aware that by contacting Wild Search about this role, or applying, your data will be held in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).

The deadline for application is 30th October 2018 at 12 noon.

The shortlisted candidates will be notified and invited to attend an interview on 3 December in London. All shortlisted candidates will be notified thereafter of the outcome and, if unsuccessful, feedback will be provided.