



SUBMISSION PACK

#BWAPAwards2026

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Thank you for entering the British Wills and Probate Awards 2026

Getting started

Please ensure that you have carefully read the category criteria and make sure that you / your organisation are eligible to enter. Please note that some categories are open to suppliers only, whilst others are split based on regulated and unregulated, as well as size or location of your firm.

All entries **must** be completed on our bespoke judging platform here:

<https://awards.judgify.me/BWAPAWARDS2026>

Each firm is able to enter up to **THREE** categories.

Please note that this does not include the Wills & Probate Excellence award. The highest scoring submissions across all practitioner focused categories, will automatically be entered into this category for an additional round of judging to determine the overall winner.

For each submission you will be asked to....

- **Provide a covering statement** – this should be no more than 150 words and will explain why you/your firm are a worthy winner.
- **Answer the criteria points outlined for each category** – each criteria point will be scored out of 10.
- **Stick to a word count** – please supply between 750-1,250 words in total. This will include all criteria points but does not include your covering statement.
- **Provide supporting evidence** – this should be 1 page of A4 ONLY! Additional pages will not be considered by the judging panel. Supporting evidence may be testimonials, financials or links to specific software or case studies as referenced in your submission.
- **High-resolution photograph & organisation logo** – these will be used should your submission be shortlisted (1MB min)

Please carefully read our 'Tips for Success' before starting your digital submission and ensure that you allow plenty of time to complete the entry.

You will be able to review and amend your submissions until **midnight on Friday 10th July 2026**. After this point the judging portal will close.

If you have any queries please contact the events team on awards@todayswillsandprobate.co.uk

We wish you the very best of luck.

OPEN TO REGULATED FIRMS ONLY

Contentious Wills & Probate Team of the Year - Boutique

One of the key themes of the last few of years in probate has been the rise of contentious matters. As traditional firm structures change, there has been a rise in the number of smaller, boutique, teams delivering specialist legal services.

The Contentious Wills and Probate Team of the Year – Boutique awards recognises smaller, specialist teams of less than 10 staff (including support staff) who deliver technical and service excellence.

Skilled litigators with a proven track record of success, the winning team will demonstrate a diverse mix of skills and experience, taking a pragmatic and personable approach to dealing with disputes and the proceedings that follow. The submission will outline key metrics for success alongside how the firm upholds a sensitive and client-centred approach to dealing with contentious matters.

Criteria

The winner of this award will:

- demonstrate skill and success in this increasingly litigious area of law
- demonstrate the ability to deliver high standards of service and support across a region or national client base (to include a description of how the team works in the best interests of the client in regard to relationship and rapport building/ referrals/ pricing/ routes to resolution/ client journey etc
- describe their team approach to working with clients, including how they best utilise the mix of skills available across the team
- show a transparent and clear approach to pricing and to explaining costs and fees to clients
- provide at least one short case study undertaken from the last 12 months that demonstrates the team's approach to litigation of this type

Where possible, provide evidence of reviews/recognition/ testimonials/recommendations.

Tips for Success

Address the Criteria: Carefully review the category description and criteria points before crafting your submission. Your score will be based on how well you address each criteria point.

Clarity is Key: Make your submissions clear and straightforward. Judges appreciate concise, easily understandable entries that convey the necessary information effectively.

Back It Up with Evidence: If the entry criteria require evidence of success, whether financial or operational, ensure it's clearly presented. Judges rely on hard facts to validate your claims.

Keep It Concise: Recognize that judges may have to review numerous entries within a limited timeframe. Be concise and stick to the relevant information pertaining to each criteria point.

Stay Relevant to the Past Year: While we acknowledge the rich history of the UK legal profession, the awards focus on achievements from the past 12 months exclusively.

Go Above and Beyond: Strive for excellence beyond mere fulfilment of requirements. Stand out by showcasing how you've exceeded expectations, supported by tangible evidence of your exceptional efforts.

Provide Context: Don't assume judges are intimately familiar with your operation or sector. Offer background information and tell a compelling story to ensure a comprehensive understanding of your achievements.

Authenticity Matters: Entrants are encouraged to refrain from using AI-generated content in their submissions. Authenticity and originality are paramount, reflecting the genuine efforts and accomplishments of each entrant.

Allocate Sufficient Time: Crafting a winning submission requires dedication and attention to detail. Allow yourself ample time to research, plan, and refine your entry. Rushed submissions may overlook crucial details or fail to effectively convey your accomplishments. Remember, if you've taken the initiative to enter, ensure your submission receives the time and effort it deserves to truly shine. Quality submissions are a reflection of your commitment to excellence.

GOOD LUCK!

FAQS

- **I can't find the judgify link**

<https://awards.judgify.me/BWAPAWARDS2026>

- **I can't find the submission packs**

<https://britishwillsandprobateawards.co.uk/submission-pack/>

- **Can I have an extension?**

Unfortunately, not. We are on such tight timescales and judging starts immediately after the submission deadline.

- **Is the word count strict?**

The word count for the criteria points is for guidance only.

The judges have A LOT to read, so we ask that you avoid re-writing 'War & Peace', but you will not be penalised for going *slightly* over the recommendation of 1,250 words. **The cover statement is restricted to 150 words but does not count to the overall word count.**

- **My colleague entered the awards but is on annual leave. Can I access their profile?**

If you are able to obtain their login, you'll be able to view what they've done. If they haven't yet started the submissions on judgify, it's easier to set up a new user profile *via* the link above. There is no cost attached to profiles on the judgify platform.

- **What should I include in my supporting evidence?**

Something that backs up what you've written in your submission. Testimonials / case studies / visuals of new products, apps, initiatives / finance reports etc. **One, single side of A4 only.**

- **We can't get the whole team together for a photo. What should I do?**

Don't worry. Your photo will only be required if your submission is shortlisted.

A member of the events team will contact all shortlisted firms following the announcement to collect any missing images. If gathering your full team for a professional photo isn't possible, you're very welcome to provide a collage of individual photos or even a screenshot from a team meeting (such as Microsoft Teams). We're happy to be flexible, our priority is showcasing your team in a way that works for you.

- **When is the shortlist announced?**

The shortlist for The British Wills and Probate Awards 2026 will be announced on Friday 21st August 2026. All entrants will be notified directly *via* email, and the shortlist will also be published on our website and across our official social media channels.

To ensure you don't miss any important updates, please add awards@todayswillsandprobate.co.uk and the Today's Media website to your list of safe senders. This will help prevent our communications from being filtered into spam or blocked by your organisation's security settings. We also recommend following our social media channels for the latest announcements and updates.

- **When will the winners be announced?**

Winners will be announced on Thursday 8th October, at Kimpton Clocktower Hotel.