



The City of London Solicitors' Company



The City of London Law Society

## PRESS RELEASE

### **“City of London Solicitors’ Company Prize 2021 awarded to Slaughter and May Trainee, Charlie Wells”**

Charlie Wells, a Trainee Solicitor from Slaughter and May, has been announced as the winner of the City of London Solicitors’ Company Prize 2021, awarded annually to a promising City law firm trainee.

A record number of applicants applied for this year’s prize and were judged on the basis of a 500-word essay entitled “How must City law firms adapt, including through using the lessons learnt from present challenges, to thrive in the future?”. Charlie’s winning essay argued that unprecedented competition, catalysed by the influx of well-capitalised US law firms, is the key challenge facing City law firms, which must distinguish themselves to clients in order to prosper.

A small number of finalists were invited to attend an interview with the Master of the City of London Solicitors’ Company, Robert Bell of Rosenblatt Limited and the Chair of the City of London Law Society Training Committee, Patrick McCann of Linklaters LLP.

Charlie Wells commented: “I am delighted to have been chosen as the winner and I am grateful for the recognition and support I received throughout the process. The topic of the essay was very interesting and I enjoyed exploring how City law firms can overcome the challenges from unprecedented competition in emerging areas such as climate change, as well as increasing their human capital by reimagining working practices. I would like to thank Patrick McCann and Robert Bell for the engaging discussion that we had on these and other issues.”

Robert Bell commented; “Charlie is a worthy winner. We were impressed with his vision for future success in the legal profession, which stressed the importance of leveraging specialisms and enhancing human capital”.

Read the article in the Summer Edition of City Solicitor Magazine  
(p.28): <http://www.citysolicitemagazine.com/old-issues/city-solicitor-112.pdf>

For further information on the prize please contact Linzi James, Clerk of the City of London Solicitors’ Company ([clerk@citysolicitors.org.uk](mailto:clerk@citysolicitors.org.uk))

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