

ARU Chelmsford Law Symposium – Friday, 4 April 2025 – 12-5pm, Marconi Building

Laura Janes



Laura is a solicitor specialising in prison law, criminal appeals, community care, mental health and public law. She has particular expertise in representing children, young adults and vulnerable people in detention in both penal and mental health settings. Laura founded [Young Legal Aid Lawyers](#) and in 2006 she was named Young Legal Aid Solicitor of the year. In 2012 she was listed by the [Guardian as a lawyer to watch](#). In 2019, Laura was awarded [Solicitor of the Year](#) by the First 100 Years' Inspirational Women in Law Awards. Laura was legal director of the Howard League for Penal Reform between 2016 and 2022. In January 2025, it was announced that Laura will be appointed an Honorary KC.

Lucy Barnes



Lucy Barnes is a Pupil Barrister at East Anglian Chambers and Co-Founder and CEO of Lawyers Who Care. Lucy is proudly care-experienced herself and an advocate for social mobility. In 2024, Lucy was recognised as one of the #100 faces of the Universities UK 100 Faces campaign, highlighting those who were the first in their family to go to university. She is also a TEDx speaker and a Major Scholar of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. Lucy appeared on BBC 4 Women's Hour in December 2023 and has also been featured in The Times and Counsel magazine. Lucy wrote the first case for inclusion of care-experienced people in the legal sector in her June 2024 Bar Council article 'Raising the Bar: care-experienced people belong here.'

Karen Dovaston (Partner – Dovaston Law, Chair of The Law Society Family Law Policy Committee)



Karen is chair of The Law Society Family Law Policy Committee and is the Law Society Council Member for Essex. Her book, *Matrimonial Financial Toolkit, 2nd Edition*, was published in October 2024. Karen is a committee member of The Southend on Sea and District Law Society, supporter of the Law Clinic at Anglia Ruskin University and DEWA (Deaf Ethnic Women's Association). Karen has appeared on BBC News and several radio shows, discussing changes and advances in family law. She has also spoken alongside senior international judiciary and participated in numerous lectures, webinars, and panels on family law.

Julie Moktadir (Partner, Stone King Solicitors – member of ARU Legal Advisory Board)



Julie is an experienced immigration expert. Julie was appointed Head of Immigration at the Royal College of Nursing where she successfully lobbied on policy issues, including in relation to income restrictions and for nursing to be included on the shortage occupation list. Julie advises on matters affecting European nationals in the UK, supports organisations within the care sector and has a particular interest in bringing religious workers to the UK. Julie further acts for many individuals in relation to their personal immigration matters and has particular expertise in dealing with more complex cases, where individuals may not have detailed evidence of their immigration history, where their personal situation may complicate the application or where there have been previous negative decisions