

PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR



Isha Khatun
Shoosmiths LLP

Isha has had an outstanding year where her fabulous work ethic and passion for what she does has shone through. She has acted for vulnerable clients with great compassion. She has also been trusted to go beyond the usual remit of a paralegal. She has been involved with Scottish clinical negligence cases as well as personal injury abuse claims against a local authority for failure to protect vulnerable children. On top of her full-time job she has studied part-time to complete a Legal Practice course as well as a Masters in business, law and management. She has still found time to get involved with various community and charity initiatives.



Jess Allan
Irwin Mitchell LLP

Jess is the go-to person for funding queries. She has also been training junior colleagues in key business areas. Jess has been a great contributor and support in complex and sensitive medical negligence cases. She goes the extra mile. Her nomination refers to how much her input was appreciated in a case where a family felt they'd been deprived of a chance to say goodbye to a dying loved-one. She has enthusiastically embraced a number of community initiatives which support vulnerable people.



Marie Newton
Irwin Mitchell LLP

Marie self-funded qualifications to become a paralegal after a career break to raise her four children. She's passionate and driven about her work in the Will, Trust and Estate team. Life experience means she brings a great deal of tenacity and empathy to her role which has seen her excel in a number of complex cases and surpass expectations of a paralegal. She is a healthy mind advocate and workplace mentor. Outside of work Marie is a keen business networker in a Love Ladies group and holds several positions in CSR and charity pursuits.



Emily Morris

Emily is an Occupational Health Paralegal at DWF but most of her experience in 2019 was an International Personal Injury and Public Health Paralegal at Irwin Mitchell. She supported more than 250 claimants who suffered gastro-illness on holidays abroad. Testimonials to her work praise her attentiveness and work ethic. Dealing with Thomas Cook as the defendant was stressful for clients and Emily was a calming and trusted influence. Emily also raised awareness of different illnesses and had a role in business development. In her spare time she plays an active role for organisations giving back to our city.



Rebecca Kennedy
Pinsent Masons LLP

Violinist Rebecca hits the right note in her professionalism and contribution to the firm. She is a lead paralegal. She has worked on cases involving major city centre developments. Since 2018 she has been developing the concept of a nationally focused paralegal resource hub. This has now been actioned. She is also now tasked with ongoing line management and development of the paralegal team, as well as improving promoting delivery of hub services throughout Irwin Mitchell UK offices. Rebecca has organised various events including orchestra performances to boost good causes. She plays a major role in supporting Place2Be, which focuses on children's mental health.