

Professions for Good and Institute for Business Ethics announce winners of ethics writing competition

13 January 2014: Professions for Good, a collaboration of many of the UK's largest professional bodies, and the Institute for Business Ethics (IBE) today announce the winners of the *Joint Professions for Good and Institute for Business Ethics Writing Awards*. The awards celebrate the best academic and journalist writing on ethics and professional standards in business and public life.

Gavin Hinks, a freelance financial journalist for publications such as *Financial Director* and *Accountancy Age*, and Michelle Spiteri Bailey, a PhD student at the University of Leicester, have both been awarded cash prizes for their entries, which were judged to be the strongest in their respective categories.

Gavin Hinks won 'Best journalist article or blog post' for his opinion piece published in *Financial Director* magazine in November 2013 titled 'Corporate wrongdoing is all connected' which explores the crucial role that management team dynamics plays in determining whether unethical or criminal behaviour occurs in businesses.

Michelle Spiteri Bailey won 'Best academic essay' for her paper on how to put ethics and the 'public good' back at the heart of the financial auditing process in light of recent scandals and regulatory reform.

The judges were so impressed with the overall calibre of entries that they also chose to award 'Highly Commended' status to:

- Rebecca Doodson (Senior Conduct & Compliance Office for AAT) for her blog '50 shades of ethics'
- Dina Medland (Freelance journalist and blogger) for her blog 'Professional and individual ethics: no dividing line'
- Duncan Minty (blogger and consultant on ethics in the insurance industry) for his blog 'Whistleblowing and the vital contribution of wider loyalties'
- RaghavMunjal (Final year student at Sheffield University) for his academic thought piece 'Can trust ever be instilled back into the electorate?'
- Jonathan Rosenthal (Banking Correspondent at *The Economist*) for his article 'Reform school for bankers'

Louis Armstrong CBE, Chairman of Professions for Good and of the judging panel, said:

"Once again the standard of the submissions to this year's writing awards was exceedingly high, with the entrants impressing the judging panel with the

breadth, depth and originality of their thinking about the complexities of professional ethics and how they apply to so many aspects of business life. However, Gavin and Michelle's entries particularly stood out for the strength of their arguments and analysis of their respective issues.

"Professional bodies govern the standards and conduct of approximately 11 million qualified professionals in the UK and, thanks to the robust standards they enforce, we are largely able to take the integrity and expertise of these professionals for granted. Nonetheless, it is crucial that we do not become complacent, as new ethical dilemmas emerge every day, and I hope that these awards will continue to encourage debate about this vital social and business issue at the highest levels."

Philippa Foster Back CBE OBE, Director of the Institute of Business Ethics said:

"It is so heartening to see the subject of professional ethics given the attention it deserves with quality journalism and rigorous academic thought. The winning entries exemplify how important upholding high ethical standards should be for all professions, as we work together to regain public trust."

Gavin Hinks, winner of the 'Best journalist article or blog post' award, said:

"It's an honour to receive this award from Professions for Good and the Institute for Business Ethics. The financial crisis has placed a new emphasis on businesses and business people to behave responsibly. The awards and these organisations demonstrate that the measure of a successful business is no longer just about the making of profits, but the way the profits are made."

Michelle Spiteri Bailey, winner of the 'Best academic essay' award, said:

"Ethics and trust are values which I have always tried to adhere to in my profession as an auditor, but the failure of so many financial institutions created a crisis of public confidence in the auditing industry. The only way our profession will survive is by upholding the highest possible standards, and I am therefore glad that my work on this subject has been recognised as it shines a light on some of the practical steps and strategies we can use to put ethics back at the heart of the auditing process."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About the Awards

Inaugurated in 2012, but undertaken in 2013 in partnership with the IBE, the Professions for Good Ethics Writing Awards seek to promote the public interest role of

the professions, their codes of ethics and standards and the confidence and trust these engender.

The 2013 awards opened for entry on 22 October 2013 and closed on 9 December 2013. The two winners have each been awarded a cash prize of £400. The winners' entries and those Highly Commended can be viewed on the Professions for Good website at <http://www.professionsforgood.com/professionsforgoodprize2013>

Further information:

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About Professions for Good

Representing 1.2million practitioners, [Professions for Good](#) is a collaboration of the bodies responsible for the entry policy, professional standards and qualifications across many of the UK's largest professions. Professions for Good works together in the public interest to uphold:

- Fair access and meritocracy
- Professional standards and ethics
- Fact and practice based public policy

About the Institute of Business Ethics

The [Institute of Business Ethics \(IBE\)](#) is a non-profit organisation, which encourages high standards of business behaviour based on ethical values. The IBE raises public awareness of the importance of doing business ethically, and collaborates with other UK and international organisations with interests and expertise in business ethics.

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