

## LawtechUK announces five new members to join the LawtechUK Panel

LawtechUK, the government-backed initiative within Tech Nation, whose aim is to help transform the UK legal sector through technology, has chosen five new members to join its advisory board (known as the LawtechUK Panel):

- **Professor Katie Atkinson** is Dean of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science and professor of computer science at the University of Liverpool, working at the intersection of technology and law; she has served as President of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law.
- **Chris Grant** is Lawtech Director at Barclays Ventures and has extensive experience working with the lawtech community and wider sector innovation through the UK-wide Eagle Labs initiative.
- **Professor Sarah Green** is Law Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law at the Law Commission of England and Wales. She has a background in consulting and technology and is working to ensure the law keeps evolving.
- **Brian Liu** is CEO of BizCounsel and co-founder of LegalZoom, one of the most successful lawtech companies globally.
- **Julia Salasky** is the award winning founder of Legl and CrowdJustice, two lawtech companies established to simplify and improve access to legal services.

After a public call out over the summer, LawtechUK received a large number of applications from across the UK legal sector and internationally.

The extended Panel will provide insights, challenge and support for the work of LawtechUK, bringing their extensive experience in technology, academia, entrepreneurship, law and business.

**Jenifer Swallow - Director of LawtechUK at Tech Nation** comments: "I am delighted to announce our five new LawtechUK Panel members. All are experts in their field: computer science, law reform and building successful tech companies, and our work will be richer for their insights and support. The volume and quality of applications for Panel membership was exceptional, and reflective of the breadth of talented people recognising the need for change in the legal sector and committed to delivering that for society and the economy. Thank you to everyone who applied and we look forward to working with many as we progress our foundational projects over the coming months."

**Christina Blacklaws - Chair of the LawtechUK Panel** "It is a pleasure to welcome our new members to the LawtechUK Panel. I am excited by the additional depth and breadth of experience they each bring to an already exceptional group. As a Panel, we look forward to making a significant contribution to the important work of LawtechUK."

### About LawtechUK

LawtechUK, is a government-backed initiative within Tech Nation, established to support the transformation of the UK legal sector through technology, for the benefit of society and the economy. The Panel was established in 2018 by the Secretary of State for Justice, and as a group of leaders and experts from the public and private sectors, acts as the advisory board to LawtechUK. Its members take an active role in LawtechUK's work programme. Existing Panel members include Christina Blacklaws (Chair), Dr Anna Donovan, Faculty of Laws, University College London, Rosemary

Martin, General Counsel & Company Secretary at Vodafone Group Plc, Professor Richard Susskind, Technology Advisor to the Lord Chief Justice and President of the Society of Computers and Law, and Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos, the next Master of the Rolls.

**Further information on new LawtechUK Panel members:**

**Katie Atkinson**

Katie Atkinson is Professor of Computer Science and Dean of the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Liverpool, UK. Katie brings to the Panel the perspective of a computer scientist, together with vast experience at the intersection of new technology and law, with a focus on the development of artificial intelligence for the legal sector. Her recent projects include the development of intelligent tools for law firms, tools to support e-democracy and legal knowledge-based systems. Her passion is in bridging together academic, industrial and public sector bodies to deliver technologies that can benefit multiple sectors of society. Katie is past president of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law and regularly features in the media in the UK and internationally.

**Chris Grant**

Chris is Lawtech Director at Barclays Ventures, focussed on expanding the lawtech ecosystem across the UK and internationally, including through the successful Eagle Labs project. Chris works with law firms, startups and a range of leaders across the public and private sector on lawtech and wider sector innovation and has extensive insight into the sector and its development and opportunities. He has a background in law and tech companies, including legal COO roles, and is passionate about reengineering legal services - change he is advancing through his work, for the benefit of the UK market and beyond.

**Sarah Green**

Sarah is Law Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law at the Law Commission of England and Wales. Sarah's early career was as an IT consultant with Accenture, and she has a keen interest in the intersection of law and technology, having focused much of her academic work on this. Previously Professor of Private Law at the University of Bristol and Professor of the Law of Obligations at the University of Oxford, Sarah has a close involvement with the active lawtech community in Bristol and Bath. Sarah is committed to ensuring the law meets the needs of business and wider society and brings both a real-time and forward looking lens to this. Digital trade is a current focus, as well as the treatment of intangibles, smart contracts, digitised material and distributed ledger technology.

**Brian Liu**

Brian co-founded LegalZoom, one of the world's most successful lawtech companies and the first legal 'unicorn' (businesses valued at more than \$1bn), and is now scaling BizCounsel to address legal needs for growing businesses in the US. Brian brings entrepreneurial, business and scaling experience from a leading jurisdiction, deep knowledge of the legal sector, and investor insights from his time as CEO and Chairman of LegalZoom, which raised over \$750M from venture capital and private equity during his 18-year tenure. Prior to starting LegalZoom in 2000, Brian practiced corporate law at Sullivan & Cromwell and served as Assistant Vice President at Oaktree Capital Management. Brian earned his juris doctor degree from UCLA School of Law.

**Julia Salasky**

Julia is the founder of Legl and CrowdJustice, two values-led lawtechs established to simplify and improve access to legal services. Multi-award winning, Julia has been widely recognised for her work, including as the FT's Legal Innovator of the Year, CityAM's Digital Innovators Powerlist, Legal 500s Outstanding Innovator Award, Marie Claire's Future Shaper and by Debrett as one of the most influential people in law. Julia previously worked as a lawyer at Linklaters, and subsequently led the United Nations' work on online dispute resolution; she advocates for change in the sector through technology and also in respect of gender equality. Julia brings her entrepreneurial experience to the Panel as a trailblazer in lawtech and challenging the status quo. Julia was one of the early contributors to the work of the Panel through the Investment Taskforce, and is involved in developing the Lawtech Sandbox.

**Notes to the Editor**

About Tech Nation:

Tech Nation is the growth platform for tech companies and leaders. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 20 cohorts and 600 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation's growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo.