Sheffield's Sir Nigel Knowles honours promising students

Sir Nigel Knowles recently visited the University of Sheffield to award two undergraduate law students with scholarships funded by leading law firm DLA Piper.

A law graduate of the University of Sheffield and a proud native of Stocksbridge, Sir Nigel Knowles is Joint CEO of DLA Piper, the world's largest legal practice with 8,000 staff in 30 countries. He is also Chairman of the Legal Sector Alliance, a movement of law firms and organisations committed to tackling climate change, and the Managing Partners' Forum, the UK's leading association for enhancing the effectiveness of management teams. He received a knighthood in 2009 for services to the legal profession and Sir Nigel became an honorary Doctor of Laws at the University of Sheffield in July 2011.

The students receiving the awards were Luke Stowe, aged 19 and Saul Stone, aged 20, both undergraduate students in the University's School of Law. They were chosen from an extremely high-quality pool of talented undergraduate law students in recognition of their outstanding achievements and promise in the field of law.

The students also impressed the judging panel with their experience outside of academia. Recently Saul volunteered to help children and adults with learning disabilities enjoy summer camp in America, an experience that he said was: "the most amazing eye opening thing I have ever done and something I feel very passionate about."

The DLA Piper Scholarship was started in 2007 and is worth £3,000 per year. This year two students were equally outstanding and so the scholarship will be split between them, each receiving £1,500.

Sir Nigel Knowles said: "As a graduate of the University, having the honour of being invited as a Visiting Professor here, and also as an honorary Doctor of Laws, my affection for the University of Sheffield couldn't be higher. I hold the School of Law here in the highest possible regard and DLA Piper are always pleased to take on its graduates.

"This scholarship is a wonderful idea and we're incredibly pleased and proud to be a part of it. As the son of a Sheffield greengrocer, I was the first in my family to go to university. I feel it is important to help young people from all kinds of backgrounds to reach their full potential and encourage them to achieve the best they can. It's essential that we keep our close connections with universities such as Sheffield to maintain our well developed recruitment programme. By investing in young talent today, we are ensuring we can face the challenges of tomorrow."

Saul Stone said: "I'm extremely grateful to have been chosen for this scholarship. It will really help with my living costs and I'll be able to concentrate on my studies more instead of spending all my spare time working! After I graduate I'd like to become a solicitor for a large international law firm like DLA Piper."

Luke Stowe said: "It's amazing to have this acknowledgement of my ability and progress by DLA Piper and the University. I'm hoping that this will really help me to stand out in the recruitment market. It's a great boost to my studies and a spur to keep up the hard work. After graduating I hope to work in a big city law firm or an international one. I'm already applying for..."
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vacation work experience and I hope this scholarship will give me a competitive edge."

Professor Joanna Shapland, Head of the University's School of Law, said: "We are delighted that DLA Piper has provided these scholarships to help promising students in the School of Law. It is really important that the legal professions are open to bright people from all walks of life. We aim to provide excellent training in law for students to be able to join major law firms such as DLA Piper."

Notes for Editors:
To find out more about the University of Sheffield's School of Law please visit: School of Law [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/law].

DLA Piper is a global law firm with 4,200 lawyers across 76 offices and 30 countries. From its offices across Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and the United States, legal and business advisers provide a comprehensive range of services to local, regional and international businesses.

For further information about DLA Piper, please visit: DLA Piper [http://www.dlapiper.com].

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