



Appointments to the Federal Appeals Panel 2020-2025

Background

The Federal Appeals Panel is a group of eighteen, nine of whom are appointed by the Federal Party, who adjudicate on issues of the Constitution and internal disputes. Its powers and role are set out in Article 22 of the [Federal Party Constitution](#).

The Federal appointees are elected by the Federal Board 'subject to confirmation by the Federal Conference'. Federal Conference has the right to accept or reject each elected member individually.

The nine proposed Panel members for 2020-2025 are:

Name	Biography (short)
Anood Al-Samerai	Anood Al-Samerai joined the Liberal Democrats in 2003 and has been committed to creating a more Liberal society and to contributing to the party. She has been a Councillor in the London Borough of Southwark for 13 years and recently stood down after a decade as Group Leader. She ran the office of Simon Hughes for six years and has recently been running the London elections campaign. In addition, Anood has had a successful career in the charity sector, including running an education charity which matches retired teachers to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
William Charnley	William Charnley is an existing Federal Appeals Panel member and a corporate lawyer based in the City of London. He has a broad corporate practice advising on IPO's and securities offerings, takeovers, private equity transactions, joint ventures and regularly advises boards on governance and risk issues. In addition, William is a fellow of Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, holds a number of charitable positions, including being a member of the Court of the Draper's Company, one of the pre-eminent City Livery Companies where he was Master from July 2016 - July 2017 and is currently Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. William also has a number of non-executive directorship appointments and is an Honorary Group Captain 601 (County of London) Sqn RAuxAF. He has a keen interest in country pursuits, cycling, art, opera, European nobility and wine.



Roger Crouch	Roger Crouch has been a party member for over twenty years and has served at all levels of the party including standing twice as a parliamentary candidate. He is currently a councillor on the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames where he is Joint Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. Professionally, Roger is a solicitor specialising in trust, mental capacity and charity law. Roger believes he possesses the professional and political skills to contribute to the important and sensitive work of the Federal Appeals Panel.
Anthony Fairclough	Anthony Fairclough joined the Liberal Democrats in 2000 and lives in London. His professional and party background shows wide experience in thoughtful and measured decision making. He has been an election agent for all types of election, including most recently for a target parliamentary constituency. He is a trained party returning officer, having managed multiple selections including for the 2016 London elections. Professionally he has held senior management, legal advice/research and compliance roles for the last 15 years, including implementing the response to GDPR for a barristers' chambers, and providing direct data protection and complaints advice and support. He is leader of the largest ever Lib Dem group on Merton Council.
David Graham	David Graham is a barrister specialising in public and administrative law, practising at Francis Taylor Building chambers in London. His work mostly relates to planning, licensing, education, highways and other government functions, as well as the governance and procedures of public bodies. This includes interpretation of constitutive documents and the conduct of administrative appeals. David has particular experience and interest in environmental law and nature conservation. Prior to qualifying in 2011, David read History at Trinity College, Cambridge before studying law at City, University of London. David has been a member in the London Region since 2010, campaigning in local, European and general elections; in by-elections; and in the EU referendum campaign. He has been a long-standing volunteer for a charity helping destitute asylum seekers.
Stella Jones	<p>Stella Jones joined the Liberal Party in 1968 , and continued with the new SDLP party in 1981 and now the Lib Dems. She was elected to the new West Dorset District Council in 1973 and stayed its entire life until 2019, when local government reorganised, and was Lib Dem Group leader for 10 years. She was then elected to the new Dorset Council in 2019. She is a member of Dorchester Town Council and has been Mayor 3 times, and Mayoress 3 times for her husband Trevor .</p> <p>She has campaigned in local and national elections for over 50 years and was a member of the party's Appeal panel many years ago when it was chaired by Chris Graham. During her time on the Councils she has been involved in many appeals for staff for children and education and for planning.</p>



Harry Samuels	Henry 'Harry' Samuels is from Cornwall, and is currently a Bedingfield Scholar at the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. Having completed the LLM in Bar Professional Training, he will in October commence pupillage at a set of barristers' chambers in London, specialising in commercial and chancery law. His previous experience includes serving on the London Local Parties Committee, investigating disciplinary cases for the party, representing clients pro bono before the Employment Tribunal, and sitting on disciplinary and appellate panels in other voluntary organisations. He has been a member of the party for over five years, holding various roles in local and general election campaigns, and most recently served as Communications Officer for Young Liberals. In his spare time, he is a keen musician, and is working towards fluency in the Cornish language.
Catherine Smart	After Catherine took early retirement, she became a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Cambridge Magistrates Bench for 15 years. She was a Liberal Democrat Cambridge City Councillor for 18 years. She also became a Returning Officer for internal LD elections and was the Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee (RCC) for 5 years: as such she was on the English Candidates Committee and served on a number of panels dealing with appeals and complaints. She was on the English Appeals Panel for several years before being appointed to the Federal Appeals Panel 2015-20.
Alison Willott	Alison Willott is a long-standing member of the Lib Dems and has often been a candidate for Parliament (including Monmouth in 2019), the Welsh Assembly and local councils. She was on the Federal Executive for four years in the 1990s and was Secretary of the Parliamentary Candidates Association. She moved to Wales in 1997 and has been Chair of Monmouth as well as serving on the Welsh Executive Board. Outside of politics, she read Classics at Durham, taught English at the London Oratory, was a magistrate in Gwent, a CAB adviser, and a caseworker. Now retired, she is currently Chair of a large local environmental charity.