



Press Release

Immediate Release

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Cygnet Legal Team Celebrate Dual Shortlisting at The Lawyer Awards 2026

Cygnet Group is proud to announce that its legal team and General Counsel have been shortlisted at The Lawyer Awards 2026 which celebrate excellence across the legal profession.

Christian Young, Cygnet's General Counsel, has been shortlisted in the General Counsel of the Year category. His shortlisting reflects not only his outstanding leadership, but also the pivotal role of Cygnet's in-house legal team in supporting the organisation through a period of exceptional growth.

Also shortlisted is the wider in-house legal team, as Team of the Year in the Commerce and Industry category.

Christian qualified as a lawyer in 1998 and has built a career spanning private practice, government and healthcare. From his early days in high street law to working at Eversheds, and later serving as a fraud prosecutor and commercial lawyer at the Ministry of Defence, he has consistently operated at the intersection of law, ethics and public interest.

He went on to hold senior legal roles within the NHS, including Head of Commercial in Wales and Deputy Head of Legal Services at NHS England, before returning to private practice with Mills & Reeve. Christian joined Cygnet Group as General Counsel, bringing with him a wealth of experience across both public and independent healthcare sectors.

Today, Christian leads a highly effective in-house legal team of five lawyers, supporting Cygnet's 160+ services and nearly 14,000 staff across the UK.

The legal team is an essential support partner to the business, helping to enable the delivery of safe, effective, compliant and person centred health and social care.

Working alongside estates, finance, HR, governance, clinical and operational leaders, the team provides legal counsel on a range of issues, from complex acquisitions and service development to daily advice on CQC, Mental Health Act and Court of Protection issues. Under Christian's leadership the legal department safeguards Cygnet's reputation and workforce through sensitive management of inquests, regulatory challenge and employment matters, maintaining organisational oversight and supporting frontline colleagues.

By operating as a trusted in-house partner, the legal team reduces external spend, strengthens governance and enables confident decision making, ensuring growth and innovation never compromise safety, quality or compassionate care.

Commenting on the shortlistings, Christian said: "I'm incredibly proud that both myself and the team have been recognised at The Lawyer Awards 2026.

"This recognition reflects the dedication and expertise of our in-house legal team and the way we work in partnership with colleagues across Cygnet. Our focus is always on supporting safe, high-quality care for the people we serve across the Cygnet Health Care and Cygnet Social Care division, and it's a privilege to play a part in that."

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, which takes place on Tuesday 16th June at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.