

Joanna Finlay wins UK Young Banker of the Year 2017

4 September 2017

Joanna Finlay from Virgin Money has been named the 2017 UK Young Banker of the Year during the final of the competition held at London's Mansion House on 4 September.

Launched in 1987 by the Chartered Banker Institute, the awards recognise and reward those individuals who reflect the qualities of customer-focused, ethical professionalism promoted by the Institute and expected by society.

After scooping this year's title, Joanna Finlay was presented with the UK Young Banker of the Year 2017 trophy and a voucher for an overseas holiday for two by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley.

Joanna Finlay commented: "I am absolutely thrilled to have been named this year's UK Young Banker of the Year. I entered the competition as an opportunity to provide a voice for unbanked people. I felt very privileged to be given the opportunity to present my idea to such an esteemed panel of judges, alongside other people who share my passion for putting customers at the heart of banking."

A Banking Standards Board prize for the candidate who, in the opinion of the audience, best personified the high, professional standards expected of bankers through their presentation on the night was also awarded. The winner of this prize was also Joanna Finlay from Virgin Money, who will undertake a work placement with the BSB.

Simon Thompson, Chief Executive of the Chartered Banker Institute commented:

"Our Young Banker of the Year competition, this year celebrating its 30th anniversary, produced one of the most exciting finals ever. This year's competition has been bigger, better and of a higher standard than I can remember.

I'd like to congratulate Joanna Finlay on becoming our 2017 Young Banker of the Year. All four of this year's finalists displayed the qualities of customer-focused ethical professionalism that should be at the heart of a revitalised banking profession, but in the judges' opinion Joanna's presentation demonstrated originality and the development of socially purposeful banking that customers and communities expect."

Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, Lord Mayor of the City of London, said:

"I would like to congratulate Joanna on her award as the Young Banker of the Year.

“Joanna is showing all the qualities we expect to see from our banking industry – professionalism, pride and a customer-first approach – and I wish her well for what I am certain will be an exceptional career in banking.”

Dame Colette Bowe, Chairman of the Banking Standards Board, commenting on the winner of the Audience Prize said:

“The calibre of this year’s finalists was extremely high and it would be very encouraging to see all their ideas translate into reality in their firms. I would like to congratulate Joanna in particular, who the audience voted for as the finalist who best personified the high, professional standards expected of bankers through her presentation on the night. We look forward to welcoming her at the Banking Standards Board later this year.”

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. The challenge set for candidates is designed to test their capacity to generate new ideas, drive innovation and sustainable growth, and enhance confidence, trust and pride in the banking industry by submitting a business proposal. During the final, each of the 4 contestants presented their proposal, on the following topic, to a panel of judges: *What idea would you implement in your own organisation to improve outcomes for some or all of the following groups: customers, colleagues, counterparties, communities and the organisation you work for?*
2. The four contestants chosen to participate in the final had their ideas tested and judged by a panel of industry experts comprising Alderman Peter Estlin, Dame Colette Bowe (Chairman of the Banking Standards Board), Robert Dickie (President of the Chartered Banker Institute) and Simon Thompson (Chief Executive of the Chartered Banker Institute).
3. The search for the 2017 UK Young Banker of the Year commenced at the beginning of this year when the Chartered Banker Institute invited nominations from its 30,000 members and from a wide range of senior industry figures from across the UK banking industry. The response revealed a wide range of excellent candidates representing a diverse range of the UK’s banks.

4. Nominations for The Chartered Banker Institute's UK Young Banker of the Year 2018 will be opening soon. Please see www.charteredbanker.com/youngbanker for more information.

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