



COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

ABOUT THE JUDGES

CHAIR: CLAUDE LITNER

Claude Littner is a British-American business executive and the former chairman of Vigen, Powerleague and ASCO, and chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur.

He is also known for being Lord Sugar's long standing business associate and 'aide' on The Apprentice. Claude is visiting Professor at the University of West London and founder of the Claude Littner Business School.

ANDREW BLOCH

Andrew Bloch is a Non-Executive Director at Frank, the PR agency he founded in 2000. In May 2020, Bloch stepped down from his day-to-day role as managing partner of the agency to become a non-executive director. Andrew now runs Andrew Bloch & Associates which is a boutique consultancy that helps brands, agencies and celebrities create new business relationships. He helps brands find the right agencies, help agencies meet and win news clients, and help link celebrities and influencers with brands.

Andrew is also a board advisor to a number of high growth tech start-ups. He is an advisor to leading M&A company and PCB Partners helping holding groups and management consultancies identify suitable acquisitions in the marketing services sector.

Andrew has acted as official spokesperson and PR advisor to Lord Sugar for over 20 years. He sits on the Business Launch Group panel for The Prince's Trust, is a founding mentor of the School of Communications Arts, a council member of Superbrands and a group advisor to Big Community Records, the label set up by Google chief executive officer Craig Fenton, to help give young black people from low socioeconomic backgrounds a platform to showcase their talents.

SOPHIE EDEN

Sophie is the cofounder of Gordon & Eden, an Executive Search firm who specialise in finding world-class digital & technology leadership talent for some of the world's most innovative companies.

Their mission from the outset has been to connect the start-up, scale-up and corporate worlds. They give their clients access to a wide but selective pool of diverse talent and give candidates the opportunity to think about their career options in the broadest possible sense.

Gordon & Eden hire Chairs, NEDs, CEOs and leadership teams for technology and digital companies, as well as bringing executive digital talent into corporate businesses. Clients include Facebook, Asos, Newscorp, GSK & Stripe.

Sophie also has three children and is a strong advocate for diversity, is active in Women in Technology networks and mentors entrepreneurs regularly.



A tribute to the memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor CBE who were dedicated to changing lives and building futures.





COMMITMENT AWARDS 2023 LEADING THE WAY

ABOUT THE JUDGES

LINDA PLANT

Linda built her career from humble beginnings to become one of Britain's most recognisable business leaders and is now empowering others to successfully start and run their own companies with her Linda Plant Business Academy.

After leaving school at 16, Linda progressed from selling fashion on a Dewsbury market stall to launching an international knitwear brand, Honeysuckle, in the process becoming one of the first women to head a fashion company flotation on the London Stock Market. As a pioneering female business leader, Linda worked in a series of challenging executive roles, building, and running successful companies. Today, in addition to the Linda Plant Business Academy, she also runs property development and interior design businesses.

Linda is also one of the interviewers on BBC 1's The Apprentice, providing advice to Lord Sugar for over six series. Linda's passion for business and entrepreneurship has also been recognised with several business awards. She is also a panellist and judge, including top female entrepreneurs for HSBC's Panel of Forward Ladies and The Prince's Trust.

JOHN WARE

John Ware is one of this country's leading investigative journalists.

For most of his 26-year BBC career he has worked for Panorama, and his specialist subjects have included agenda setting stories on the Northern Ireland conflict, Islamist extremism, and most recently anti-Semitism in the Labour party under Jeremy Corbyn.

John has written for a wide variety of mainstream publications, and his documentaries have been BAFTA nominated several times. He has also been awarded the James Cameron prize for his "work as a journalist that combined professional integrity and moral vision."

He is the author of an acclaimed biography on Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz doctor.

Today he is freelance and is also a trustee of WIZO whose 2015 media commitment award he won for journalism which the judges described as "courageous, independent yet broadly sympathetic to Jewish concerns".