

advocate



25 FOR 25: THE PRO BONO CHALLENGE

PROJECT REPORT

25

25

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

25 for 25: The Pro Bono Challenge was introduced to mark Advocate's 25th anniversary and to celebrate the Bar's pro bono work. We invited barristers to complete 25 hours of pro bono work between June 2021 and June 2022.

We are delighted to report that 356 volunteers from across England and Wales completed the Challenge, completing an outstanding 15,434 hours of pro bono work.

The 25 for 25 report shows the variety of pro bono work happening at the Bar, via Advocate and beyond. It is important to recognise that the Challenge showcases just a small fraction of the Bar's pro bono work.

This data enables us to improve our service and to continually provide an excellent experience for barristers volunteering through Advocate.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS

356 volunteers completed the Challenge



Barristers at all stages of their career did the Challenge, ranging from junior (2021 call) to senior (1970 call).



Take up amongst the young Bar was exceptional- barristers called in 2019 were most involved in the Challenge.



The senior Bar also volunteered a significant portion of their time. Senior barristers who completed the Challenge included:

- 6 Heads of Chambers
- 52 KCs
- 132 Advocate reviewers

VOLUNTEERS BY YEAR OF CALL

COHORT BY DECADE	HOW MANY COMPLETED THE CHALLENGE	AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS COMPLETED
2020-2021	19	57
2010-2019	137	49
2016-2019	75	46
2010-2015	62	54
2000-2009	94	42
1990-1999	67	35
1980-1989	31	36
1970-1979	6	26

PLACE OF PRACTICE

The majority of those who took part in the Challenge were self-employed barristers who practise in Chambers, although law firms and other organisations also took part. The breakdown is:

125 Chambers
(see next page for full list)

7 law firms

Cohen & Gresser, Conyers,
Duncan Lewis Solicitors, Edwin
Coe LLP, Hulse Yazdi Limited,
Payne Hicks Beach LLP,
Shoosmiths LLP

Other: European Investment Bank
and some of Advocate's reviewers
are judges or retired.

LIST OF CHAMBERS

1 Chancery Lane
1 Crown Office Row
1 Essex Court
1 Hare Court
1 King's Bench Walk
11 King's Bench Walk
12 King's Bench Walk
15 New Bridge Street
18 St John Street
1GC | Family Law
2 Bedford Row
2 Dr Johnson's Buildings
2 Hare Court
2TG
25 Bedford Row
29 Bedford Row
3 Dr Johnson's Buildings
3 Paper Buildings
3VB
30 Park Place
33 Bedford Row
39 Essex Chambers
4 King's Bench Walk
4PB
4 Pump Court
4 Stone Buildings
42 Bedford Row
4-5 Gray's Inn Square
5 Paper Buildings
5 Pump Court
5 St Andrew's Hill
5 Stone Buildings
6KBW College Hill
7BR
7 King's Bench Walk
9 Gough Chambers
9 Park Place
9 St John Street
9 Stone Buildings
Blackstone Chambers
Brick Court Chambers
Broadway House Chambers
Chancery Lane Law
Church Court Chambers
City Chambers
Clerksroom
Cloisters
College Chambers
Cornerstone Barristers
Crown Office Chambers
Deans Court Chambers
Devereux Chambers
Doughty Street Chambers
Drystone Chambers
Enterprise Chambers
Erskine Chambers
Essex Court Chambers
Exchange Chambers
Falcon Chambers
Family Matters
Farrar's Building
Field Court Chambers
Field Court Tax Chambers
Fountain Court Chambers
FOURTEEN
Francis Taylor Building

CONTINUED

Fraser Chambers
Garden Court Chambers
Garden Court North Chambers
Gatehouse Chambers
Goldsmith Chambers
Great James Street Chambers
Guildhall Chambers
Hailsham Chambers
Harcourt Chambers
Hatton Chambers
Henderson Chambers
Kings Chambers
Lamb Building
Lamb Chambers
Landmark Chambers
Littleton Chambers
Maitland Chambers
Matrix Chambers
Monckton Chambers
New Bailey Chambers
New Park Court Chambers
New Square Chambers
No 5 Chambers
Normanton Chambers
Old Square Chambers
Old Square Tax Chambers
One Essex Court
One Pump Court
Optimus Chambers
Outer Temple Chambers
Park Square Barristers
Parklane Plowden Chambers
Pendragon Chambers
Quadrant Chambers
Queen Elizabeth Building
Radcliffe Chambers
Red Lion Chambers
Ropewalk Chambers
Selborne Chambers
Serjeants' Inn Chambers
Serle Court
Six Pump Court
South Square
Spire Barristers
St Ives Chambers
St John's Buildings
St John's Chambers
St Pauls Chambers
St Philips Chambers
Temple Garden Chambers
Temple Tax Chambers
Ten Old Square
The 36 Group
Thomas More Chambers
Twenty Essex
Unity Street Chambers
Westgate Chambers
Wilberforce Barristers Chambers
XXIV Old Buildings

WORK UNDERTAKEN

A diverse range of pro bono work was completed as part of this Challenge, from the different areas of law covered and the type of assistance provided, to the numerous schemes utilised.

15,434 hours pro bono were completed

Hours completed by individuals ranged from 25 to 250

The average number of hours completed was 43

35 barristers completed at least 100 hours, five of whom completed 200 hours or more

Areas of Law

Most barristers completed their hours across several areas of law. The data below gives us an indication of the most prominent areas of law in which pro bono was undertaken.

Admin and Public (incl. Inquests and Public Enquiries)- 82 mentions

Family- 80 mentions

Employment- 80 mentions

Chancery- 63 mentions

General/Other (incl. Media and Sport)- 52 mentions

Contract/Commercial- 43 mentions

Housing and Real Property (incl. Landlord & Tenant)- 41 mentions

Immigration- 37 mentions

Personal Injury and Torts (incl. Clinical Negligence)- 18 mentions

Criminal- 15 mentions

ORGANISATIONS & PRO BONO

Where did people undertake their pro bono work?



85% of those who took part in the Challenge conducted some of their pro bono work through Advocate.

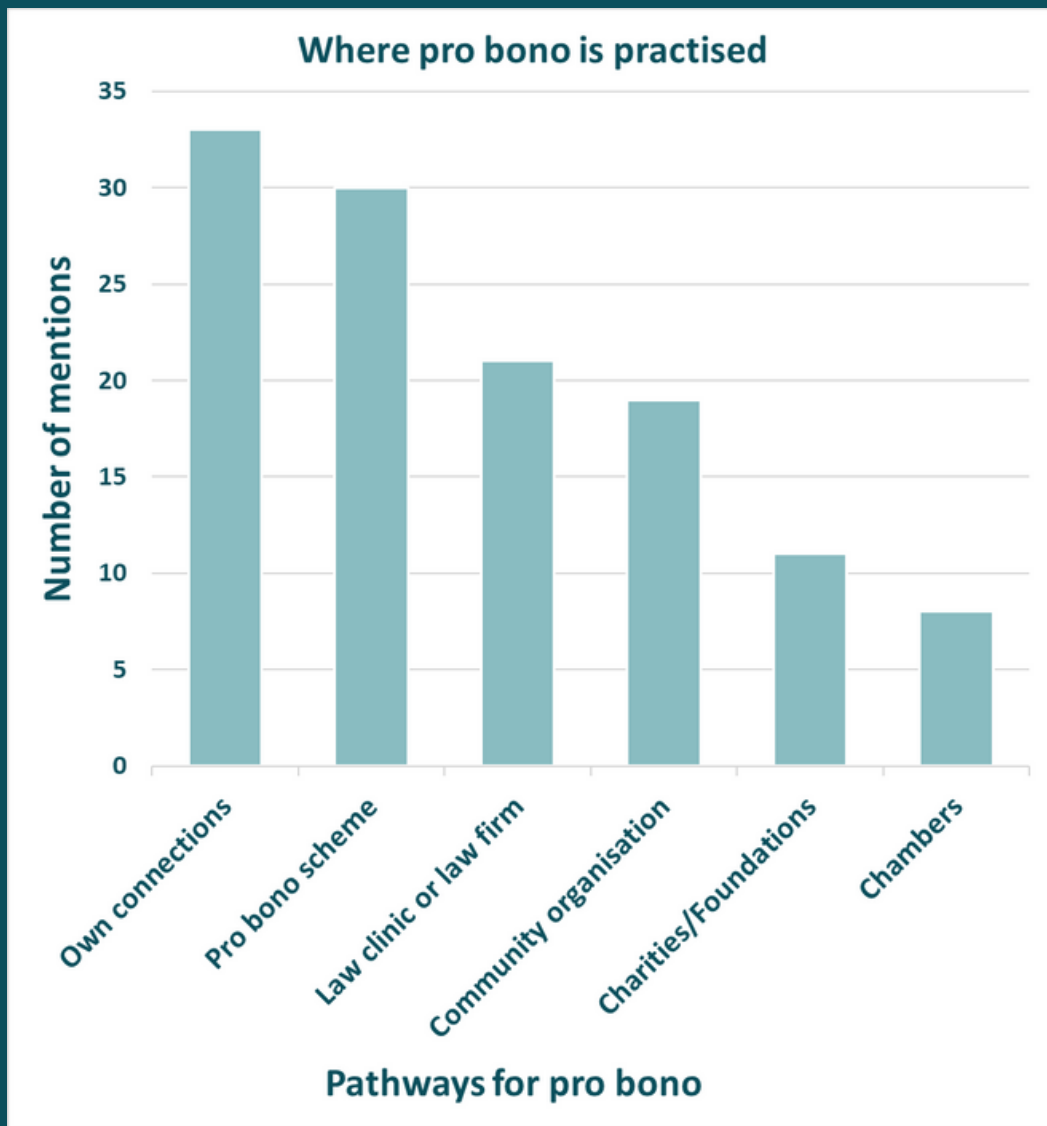


68% of participants only did their pro bono work through Advocate.



Barristers who recorded very high numbers of hours often completed their pro bono work through other connections and schemes.

These schemes fell into two categories: a scheme or charity specialising in a very specific area of law, or a law centre or other community-based scheme in a very specific geographic area.



When barristers were asked where they had conducted their pro bono, excluding Advocate, the results were as follows:

Through their own connections, 33 people

Pro bono scheme, 30 people

Law clinic or law firm, 21 people

Community organisation, 19 people

Charities/ Foundations, 11 people

Chambers connections/ Through clerks, 8 people

ORGANISATIONS WHERE BARRISTERS PRACTISED PRO BONO

AIRE Centre

Calm Mediation

Anthony Collins Solicitors

Camilla Baldwin Solicitors

Arnold and Porter's
pro bono scheme

Campaign Against Antisemitism

Asylum Support Appeals
Project

Centre for Women's Justice

Bail for Immigration
Detainees

Chancery Bar Litigant in
Person Support Scheme (CLIPS)

Birmingham City University
Law Clinic

Channel Rescue
(via Reed Smith LLP)

BPP Enterprise Clinic

Colours Caribbean
(an LGBTQI+ advocacy group)

Bristol Law Centre
Bross Bennett

Company Insolvency
Pro Bono Scheme (COIN)

Calm Mediation

COMBAR

Camilla Baldwin Solicitors

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Bross Bennett

DLA Piper

CONTINUED

Employment Law Appeal
Advice Scheme (ELAAS)

International Partnership for
Human Rights (IPHR)

Employment Tribunal Litigants
in Person Support Scheme
(ELIPS)

Irwin Mitchell's pro bono
programme

Environmental Law Foundation

Islamophobia Response Unit

EU Settlement Scheme

John FS Cabot Solicitors

Fairweather Solicitors LLP

Kalisher Trust

Free Representation Unit (FRU)

Kent Law Clinic

Geldards LLP

Kundert Solicitors

Herbert Smith Freehill's
pro bono unit

Lawyers Against Poverty

Here for Good

Legal Centre Lesvos

Hogan Lovells Solicitors

Legal Feminist

Home for Ukrainians scheme

Liberty

Human Rights at Sea

Mediation Buckinghamshire

Immigration Law Practitioners
Association (ILPA)

Mermaids

Inner Temple

Not Beyond Redemption

Oxford Process (Mediation)

LASTLY

Public Interest Law Centre

Springpod

PILnet

Swansea Law Clinic

Privacy International

Synchrony Law

Pro Bono Connect

Taylor Wessing Pro Bono Scheme

Project Afghanistan

Ukraine Advice Project

Protect Legal Support Network

Waterloo Legal Advice Centre

Refugee Week

West London Equality Centre
(WLEC)

SEND Tribunal

West London Welcome

Seychelles Truth Commission

Windrush Legal Advice Clinic

Sinclair's Law

Young Citizens

Sport Resolutions

This is not an exhaustive list of the places where barristers undertook pro bono work.

Barristers are clearly pursuing pro bono work through a wide variety of pathways, which is fantastic to see.

WHY BARRISTERS DO PRO BONO

Barristers undoubtedly undertake pro bono work for many different reasons. On the completion form, we included several pre-set reasons as to why a barrister may choose to do pro bono. The answers, in order of their importance to barristers, are:

1) To give back

167 mentions

2) It was an interesting case

114 mentions

3) To advance my skills

85 mentions

4) As an opportunity to broaden practice

59 mentions

5) To gain experience in a higher court

40 mentions

6) It was a high-profile case

30 mentions

Other reasons mentioned

- Importance to, or significant need of, the people involved. This could extend to assisting a disadvantaged community or supporting an important cause.
- Allowed the barrister to develop their career in some way; public interest case, opportunity to practise in a higher court, opportunity to lead junior barristers.
- Perceived unfairness regarding which cases are allocated legal aid, and which are not.
- Holds personal importance to the barrister i.e., in their local community, view pro bono as a duty of their profession.

IMPACT

The impacts of pro bono work, on the barrister, most commonly cited are:

1) I feel I am making a difference

147 mentions

2) Personally fulfilled

126 mentions

3) Professionally fulfilled

118 mentions

4) Professionally challenged

98 mentions

5) I learned something new

92 mentions

6) Increased awareness of the need to assist vulnerable people

77 mentions

7) Personally challenged

72 mentions

8) It reinvigorates my day-to-day practice

57 mentions

Other reasons mentioned

- Allowed the participant to challenge their own biases.
- Became more engaged in their community.
- Feeling that one has fulfilled the duty of one's profession i.e., helping those that need it when you have the ability to do so, fighting for equality and justice.

**FROM ALL OF US
HERE AT
ADVOCATE,**

THANK YOU!



25 for 25
pro bono hours



25 years
advocate
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