
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Join the 2025

Pro Bono Recognition List

advocate

PRO BONO
RECOGNITION
LIST
ENGLAND & WALES

The [2025 Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales](#) is endorsed by The Lady Chief Justice, the professional bodies and all the major pro bono organisations. Advocate are proud to be collecting submissions on behalf of the Bar.

Sharif A. Shivji KC, Chairman of Advocate, has commented:

"We are delighted to support the Pro Bono Recognition List which is now entering its second year. Barristers across the country make a huge contribution to pro bono across the full range of practice areas. Please do sign up and encourage others to do so. The list serves as a reminder of enormous efforts made by lawyers to make our justice system accessible for all."

Last year was the inaugural year for this initiative, and 483 barristers appeared alongside their solicitor colleagues on the Recognition List. We know from the [Barristers' Working Lives Survey](#) that thousands more barristers are doing pro bono work and we would love for this year's Recognition List to reflect the true breadth of pro bono work taking place across the Bar.

If you completed 25+ hours of pro bono work in 2024, through any pro bono scheme, organisation, charity, law clinic or law centre, and would like your name to appear on the 2025 Pro Bono Recognition List, please fill out [this form](#) by **Friday 7th March**.

More on the Recognition List



Support access to justice during ATP renewal

If you can, please consider donating £35 to Advocate when renewing your practising certificate through the MyBar portal. Donations through the Authorisation to Practise (ATP) process make up almost half our annual income and they are vital in our sustainability as a charity as demand for pro bono help continues to soar. In 2024, we saw an average of 31 people per working day filling out an application for help through our service. 7,800 barristers generously donated to us during ATP last year to support our work. To the extent that you can, please consider donating this year.

[More about donating during ATP](#)



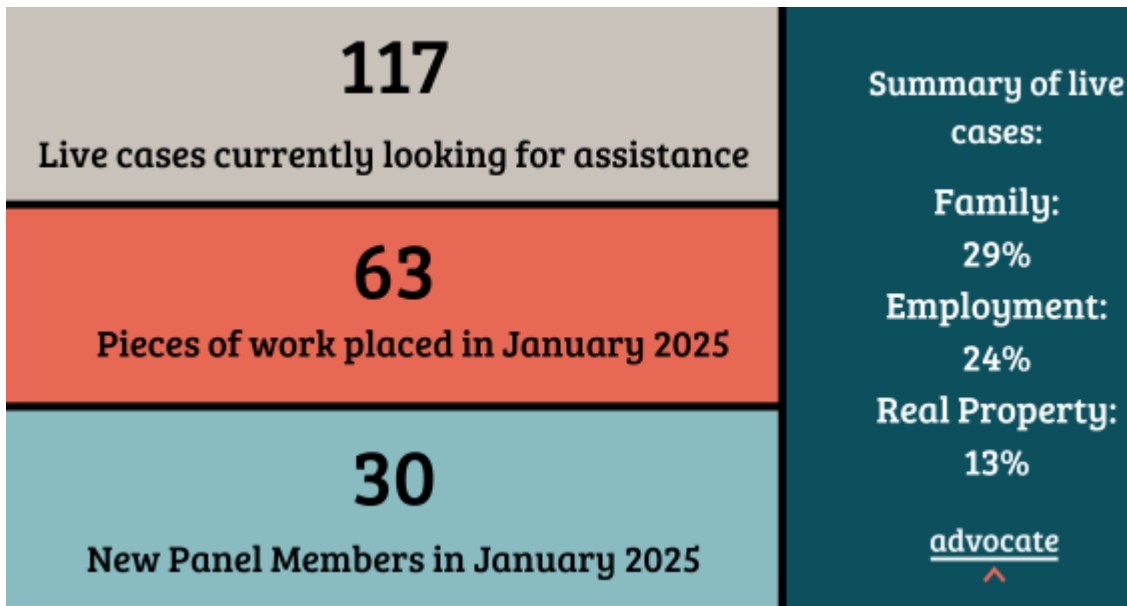
Celebrating one year of B-CLIPS

On 16th January, we were pleased to celebrate the first anniversary of the Birmingham Chancery Litigant In-Person Support Scheme (B-CLIPS) with the Midland Chancery and Commercial Bar Association (MCCBA). The event was well-attended by members of the local Bar and the judiciary. District Judge Mantle opened the event by thanking everyone involved. HHJ Williams, Mr Justice Michael Green, HHJ Kelly and District Judge Mody were also in attendance. Our many thanks to St Philips Chambers for kindly hosting the evening.

[More about the B-CLIPS anniversary](#)

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Advocate Statistics



**Advocate Chairman
congratulates the newly
appointed KCs for 2025**



Our many congratulations to the 105 new barristers appointed King’s Counsel on 24th January.

Our Chairman, Sharif A. Shivji KC, congratulated all those who have been appointed Silk status, commenting:

“Many congratulations to all those appointed KCs in 2025. Many of those barristers have been long-standing pro bono advocates and supporters of our work. We are delighted to see their achievements recognised. It is also worth remembering for prospective applicants that pro bono work can provide valuable material for completing the KC application form and establishing that the key competencies have been satisfied.”

Advocate have produced tailored guidance on how pro bono work can assist with KC applications. The Guidance for Applicants for the KC competition states that pro bono cases can be included within your 12 listed cases on your application if they provide good evidence of one or more of the competencies assessed, such as your ability to become familiar with a new area of law, or working with people from a diverse range of backgrounds. You can read the guide below.

[**Guide for KC applications**](#)

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Michael Jones KC
Deans Court
Chambers

Michael Jones KC of Deans Court Chambers is an Advocate reviewer and panel member who has assisted on a number of Advocate's family cases, one of our largest areas of law requiring pro bono assistance.

This month, Michael has shared his story with us on why he urges Silks from the family Bar to undertake pro bono work.

Silk story - Michael Jones KC

This includes how his role volunteering as both a panel member and case reviewer for Advocate has allowed him to work on rewarding cases in both the High Court and the Court of Appeal. He also talks about how pro bono work provided him with a number of valuable experiences that he was able to draw upon when applying for Silk:

"There is a myth that pro bono work is something that is only appropriate for junior members of the Bar seeking to 'build up' their experience. This is totally misconceived...I would definitely encourage more members of the family Bar to take up pro bono work."

[Read Michael's story](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Lydia Seymour
Outer Temple Chambers

We would like to thank Lydia Seymour of Outer Temple Chambers for representing a mother in a successful appeal at the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT). The Employment Tribunal had found that her hours had been reduced and she was dismissed as a result of her pregnancy, but awarded only £5,000 for injury to feelings. Lydia stepped forward less than a week before the appeal hearing, which considered whether the injury to feelings award was too low. The EAT allowed the appeal in favour of the mother and remitted for reconsideration of the award.

Thank you, Lydia

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**Brad Pomfret KC
&
Reuben Comiskey**
23ES & Radcliffe Chambers

Our many thanks to Brad Pomfret KC of 23ES and Reuben Comiskey of Radcliffe Chambers for securing an important result in the Court of Appeal for a judgement debtor who was being pursued by creditors. The creditors were asking our applicant to draw down money out of his occupational pension to pay off his judgment debts. Thanks to Brad and Reuben, the appeal was allowed, and he will no longer have to draw money from his pension. In addition, a huge pro bono costs order of £85,000 has been ordered to be paid by the creditors to The Access to Justice Foundation.

Thank you, Brad and Reuben

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Rabin Kok
South Square

A thank you to Rabin Kok of South Square for assisting a daughter with her claim against her late father's estate for breach of a trust declared over a family property. Ahead of the trial proceeding, the other party gave a settlement offer to pay the entire value of the claim sought. An agreement has been signed, and a consent order has been obtained. This will end proceedings and give the daughter an enforceable judgment for a substantial sum and bring an end to this long-running family dispute.

Thank you, Rabin



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework - sign up for 2025

We were delighted to see that 45 sets in England and Wales implemented the Chambers Pro Bono Framework initiative in 2024. All sets involved committed to undertaking four actions to promote a pro bono ethos in Chambers: appointing Pro Bono Champions in Chambers, actioning pro bono work, organising a seminar on pro bono work and reporting back on pro bono work done. If you are interested in establishing a commitment to pro bono work in your Chambers in 2025, [find out more](#) and encourage your set to [sign up](#) to The Framework this year.

[More about The Framework](#)

Follow us for more!

Advocate is now on [Bluesky](#) as well as LinkedIn and X. Please do follow these accounts to keep up to date with the latest news and information.