

# advocate



## Guide to Pro Bono for Movers and Returners

(This guide was originally produced for Middle Temple's Talent Retention Scheme)

Advocate is the Bar's national pro bono charity. We match members of the public who need free legal help with barristers who are willing to donate their time and expertise in deserving cases for those who are unable to obtain legal aid and cannot afford to pay.

### Why is pro bono work useful for movers and returners?

- You can pick junior briefs that may be an effective way of (re-)building knowledge and confidence.
- You can pick cases that expand your knowledge and skillset, particularly if you want to develop work in a **new practice area**.
- **Junior barristers** can enhance their legal skills and further their practice by choosing challenging cases and can be mentored by more senior barristers.
- **Senior barristers** can volunteer to lead junior barristers on pro bono cases or mentor junior barristers on their cases. Successful applicants for KC appointments, Government panels and judicial appointments have used pro bono cases to enhance their applications.
- **Barristers of all calls and experience** can showcase their pro bono work

### How does Advocate operate?

- You can sign up to help from your **second six all the way to KC**.
- Volunteers operate under **Advocate's direct access licence**.
- We send you a **personalised list of cases** tailored to your specialisms, call and circuit. We also have a **members' area** of the Advocate website to browse cases at your own convenience.
- All cases are sifted for means and merit by our senior **reviewing barristers** who are specialists in their area of law, and who are available to help if needed.
- Volunteers only take on the **piece of work** that has been authorised; there is no obligation to continue with a whole case.
- Once **you decide** to take a case, Advocate drops into the background and you take it forward directly with the applicant. Advocate caseworkers and the reviewer remain on hand to support you if needed. You can also make use of our [mentoring scheme for further support and guidance](#), and you can showcase your pro bono work via the [Pro Bono Recognition List](#).

**Sign up here:** [bit.ly/Advoc8SignUp](https://bit.ly/Advoc8SignUp)