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# 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards

**Tuesday 6 May**  
**The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn**

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# Welcome to the Bar Pro Bono Awards

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable pro bono achievements of the Bar in England and Wales.

Since 1997, the Bar Pro Bono Awards have recognised the outstanding commitment to pro bono demonstrated by barristers and chambers.

Since then, pro bono work has developed, broadened and grown, making it increasingly difficult for our judging panel to choose one winner in each category.

We received an overwhelming number of nominations this year, with a total of over 60. This is a testament to all the incredible pro bono work happening at the Bar.

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# About Advocate

We are the Bar's national pro bono charity. We make it possible for barristers to balance a dedicated practice with making a significant contribution to the community.

We believe that fair and equal access to justice is the foundation of our society, and that the quality of your legal representation should not depend on the depth of your pockets, but the merits of your case.

We match members of the public who need free legal help with barristers who generously donate their time and expertise in deserving cases for those who are unable to obtain legal aid and cannot afford to pay.

Advocate organises the Bar Pro Bono Awards year on year. If you would like to learn more about our work, please visit our [website](#).

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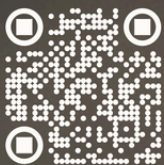


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# The Categories

**International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

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**Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

*Sponsored by Place Campbell*

**Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year**

*Sponsored by the IBC and LPMA*

**Pro Bono KC of the Year**

*Sponsored by Hewetson & Co*

**Pro Bono & Social Responsibility  
Initiative of the Year**

*Sponsored by Balance Legal Capital*

**Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

*Sponsored by Westgate Wealth Management*

**John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award**

*In partnership with the North Eastern Circuit*

**Pro Bono Chambers of the Year**

*Sponsored by ABC Chambers Solutions*



# 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards

## Shortlist

### **Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

*Sponsored by Place Campbell*

Abdallah Barakat – 9 Park Place  
Acland Bryant – Garden Court Chambers  
Alex Findley – Farrar's Building  
Bethany Pitt – Cobden House Chambers  
Emma Darlow Stearn – Cloisters  
Iona Gallagher – New Court Chambers  
Lance Baynham – 1 Crown Office Row  
Markus Findlay – Doughty Street Chambers  
Simon Ridding – 33 Bedford Row  
Susannah Burley – 4PB

### **Pro Bono KC of the Year**

*Sponsored by Hewetson & Co*

Brad Pomfret KC - 23 Essex Street  
Edward Fitzgerald CBE KC – Doughty Street  
Jeffrey Jupp KC – 7BR  
Justin Bates KC – Landmark Chambers  
Marc Willers KC - Garden Court Chambers  
Michael Jones KC - Deans Court Chambers

### **International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

*Sponsored by Ankura*

Adam Wagner KC - Doughty Street Chambers  
Catherine Drummond - 3VB  
Ewan Murray – FOURTEEN  
Ruth Kirby KC – 4PB

### **John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award**

Charlotte Mallin-Martin - Guildhall Chambers  
Emma Hughes - New Park Court Chambers  
Hazel Samuriwo - 42 Bedford Row  
Liam Kelly - Deans Court Chambers  
William Horwood - St Philips Chambers

### **Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year**

*Sponsored by Westgate Wealth Management*

Aisling Cowell - Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
David Stephenson - Doughty Street Chambers  
Elis Gomer - 5 Stone Buildings  
Jake Rylatt - Serjeants' Inn  
James Robottom - Matrix Chambers  
Jesse Crozier - Devereux Chambers  
Jyoti Wood - 4 King's Bench Walk  
Raza Halim - Garden Court Chambers  
Reuben Comiskey - Radcliffe Chambers  
Yasin Patel – Church Court Chambers

### **Pro Bono Chambers of the Year**

*Sponsored by ABC Chambers Solutions*

Deans Court Chambers  
Doughty Street Chambers

### **Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year**

*Sponsored by the LPMA and IBC*

Adam Farnsworth-Jones - 42 Bedford Row  
Daragh Henderson - 42 Bedford Row  
Siobhan Samuel - Field Court Chambers

### **Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year**

*Sponsored by Balance Legal Capital*

Beyond Detention  
Da'aro Youth Project  
Family BarLink  
Innocence Project London  
Schools Inclusion Project

# The Judges

Chair of the Bar Council  
**Barbara Mills KC**

Vice Chair of the Bar Council  
**Kirsty Brimelow KC**

Founder and President of Advocate  
**Lord Goldsmith KC**

CEO of Legal Aid Practitioners Group  
**Chris Minnoch**

Chair of the Institute of Barristers' Clerks  
**Dave Scothern**

Co-Chairs of the Legal Practice Management Association  
**James Whiting and Jemma Tagg**

Leader of the North Eastern Circuit  
**Jason Pitter KC**

Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee  
**Lachlan Stewart**

High Court Judge  
**The Hon. Mrs Justice McGowan**

Co-Chairs of the Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee  
**Samantha Singer and Laurie Scher**

Chair of the Employed Barristers' Committee  
**Sara George**

**Sheila Collins**

Global Bar Editor, *The Legal 500*  
**Will Tolcher**

# The Ceremony

Welcome  
**Sharif A. Shivji KC, Chairman of Advocate**

Introduction  
**Lord Briggs of Westbourne**

Winners announced in the following categories:

*International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*  
*Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*  
*Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year*  
*Pro Bono KC of the Year*

Headline Sponsor LexisNexis Remarks  
**James Harper**

*Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year*  
*Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*  
*John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award*  
*Pro Bono Chambers of the Year*

Close followed by Drinks Reception - kindly  
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# Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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Place Campbell  
Chartered Certified Accountants

**Abdallah Barakat**  
9 Park Place

**Markus Findlay**  
Doughty Street Chambers

**Lance Baynham**  
1 Crown Office Row

**Alex Findley**  
Farrar's Building

**Acland Bryant**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Iona Gallagher**  
New Court Chambers

**Susannah Burley**  
4PB

**Bethany Pitt**  
Cobden House Chambers

**Emma Darlow Stearn**  
Cloisters

**Simon Ridding**  
33 Bedford Row

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## Abdallah Barakat

9 Park Place

**“Abdallah has shown selflessness and keenness early on into his practice to assist those who struggle to obtain representation.”**



Abdallah was called to the Bar in 2021 and completed the Advocate Pupil Pledge in his second six. He is known for assisting on asylum cases, where there are fewer lawyers undertaking this work and where many asylum seekers go unrepresented at their appeal hearings. For his first pro bono case as a barrister at 9 Park Place, Abdallah travelled from Cardiff to Manchester to represent his client in an appeal in the immigration tribunal. The client was a trafficking victim who had spent a year in domestic servitude before escaping his captors. The client was in desperate need of assistance, unable to secure legal representation in Manchester because local solicitors were overwhelmed. The hearing involved detailed submissions on political persecution in the client's country and criticism of the Home Office's errors and inconsistent approach to the claim.

Abdallah was also instructed on a case at short notice in a local immigration tribunal. The matter was listed for an appeal hearing but the client was unprepared. Abdallah prepared for a full hearing and crafted an argument requesting an adjournment. He successfully secured the adjournment and has been instructed, pro bono, to represent the client at the upcoming hearing. From the beginning of his career at the Bar, Abdallah has demonstrated a genuine eagerness to support individuals who face difficulties in securing legal representation.

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## Lance Baynham

1 Crown Office Row

**“Lance Baynham acted pro bono in one of our most challenging and significant cases to date and was key to an exceptionally positive outcome for two vulnerable clients.”**



Lance did almost 200 hours of pro bono work in 2024, which was his first full year of practice. A standout case was an impactful employment case for a group of Ukrainian refugees who were recruited to live and work as translators on British military bases. These individuals were misclassified as self-employed and denied basic employment rights despite working long, demanding hours. Lance's advocacy led to a key admission by the Respondent that the Claimants - and others in similar positions - were not self-employed, resulting in compensation, a public apology, and a precedent that could protect many others in vulnerable employment positions.

Amongst other pro bono work, Lance also took on a tragic inquest concerning an elderly man with dementia who tragically died after wandering from his flat and being struck by a train. The inquest lasted more than a week and involved six Interested Persons, many witnesses, a jury and several complex issues. Legal submissions took a whole day. Solicitors, who also acted pro bono for the family, contacted chambers to say that they were “blown away” by Lance's work. Both cases demonstrate his commitment to pro bono work and the need for barristers to step up when needed.



advocate



## Acland Bryant

### Garden Court Chambers

**“His manner towards our group members has been exemplary, explaining both process and law to us, and enabling us to bring our case forward when it might otherwise have collapsed.”**



Acland was called to the Bar in 2019 and already has an extensive portfolio of pro bono cases relating to issues such as climate change, the environment, animal rights, and cases involving disadvantaged children. One notable pro bono case saw him successfully represent Clodagh Miskelly of *Stop Whitehead Oil Terminal* in an Application for Leave to Apply for Judicial Review. As a result of Acland's advice, Pre-Action Protocol letter, and advocacy in the hearings and pleadings, the decision to approve the multi-million pound expansion of an oil terminal on the shores of Belfast Lough was quashed. Another case Acland acted pro bono on was the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian) Public Inquiry, an Inquiry into Dalradian Gold Ltd's plans for a £750 million gold-silver-copper mine in County Tyrone, for *Friends of the Earth*. Acland has held multiple conferences and drafted many documents to aid the Inquiry, all pro bono.

Acland is a mentor through *Lawyers Who Care*, an organisation that breaks down barriers to provide care-experienced people with the opportunity and guidance to enter the legal profession. He is a Committee Member for the *Legal Vegan Network* and a legal panel member for *Law for Change*. He has spoken at many events, including those hosted by his chambers, on climate justice, personal welfare and children's rights. He has also spoken at the *Public Law Project's Introduction to Strategic Litigation* conference.

advocate



## Susannah Burley

4PB

**"Her empathy, professionalism, and unwavering commitment provided our client with much-needed reassurance during an emotional time."**



Susannah was called to the Bar in 2022 and regularly provides advice to some of the most vulnerable people in society. Susannah has undertaken multiple pro bono cases throughout her pupillage and first few months of practice. Notably, she undertook a challenging private child law case, representing a mother who had recently been released from prison and was being supported by *Not Beyond Redemption*. She represented the mother during a two-day final hearing and a subsequent appeal of the magistrate's decision. She also volunteered to undertake the appeal pro bono. The client was emotional and all communication had to be undertaken in a highly sensitive and compassionate manner.

Having now represented multiple mothers who have served custodial sentences on a pro bono basis, Susannah has consistently been given feedback that she approaches cases with empathy and clarity, in a non-judgmental and supportive way. Susannah also volunteers for the *Temple Legal Centre* providing pro bono advice and signposting to those requiring assistance with family law cases but who cannot afford legal representation. She demonstrates her dedication to access to justice by continuing to offer her time on a monthly basis.

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## Emma Darlow Stearn

### Cloisters

**“Beyond her legal acumen, Emma exhibited exceptional empathy and understanding, recognising the emotional and financial toll this case had on the claimant.”**



Emma started taking on work pro bono whilst in her second six as a pupil at Cloisters, and over the last year has undertaken 10 pro bono cases and worked 351 pro bono hours. She has advised on claims across the full spectrum of employment and discrimination law, drafted schedules of loss, prepared for 3 final hearings and negotiated four favourable settlements. Her clients have included a carer, delivery driver, engineer and psychotherapist.

Emma has successfully represented three claimants in their appeals to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT). In her first appeal, Emma represented the claimant, appealing Employment Tribunal (ET) findings that his dismissal for redundancy was fair. The appeal was won on all grounds and ultimately led to achieving a settlement in a long-running dispute. Emma's second time in the EAT was when she was led in a landmark appeal on whether whistleblowing protection should extend to charity trustees to ensure compatibility with their rights under Articles 10 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. That important question has now been remitted to the ET for determination, with the Charity Commission, whistleblowing charity *Protect* and the Secretary of State intervening. Emma made oral submissions on the issue of pre-work disclosures, succeeding in establishing that such disclosures are capable of whistleblowing protection. In Emma's most recent appeal as sole counsel, she successfully appealed a case management decision refusing the claimant's application for specific disclosure.

advocate



## Markus Findlay

### Doughty Street Chambers

**“Markus navigated the proceedings, ensuring that our voices were heard and that the complexities of our situation were addressed with sensitivity and care.”**



Markus was called to the Bar in 2018 after previously working as a caseworker at Advocate, where he had a particular focus on General Medical Council cases with doctors facing allegations of manslaughter, drug trafficking, and serious sexual offences. Recently, Markus made a significant contribution to a project with *Law Centres Network* on access to justice for victims of crime who only speak English as an additional language. The project included a report on Freedom of Information Act requests of all police forces across the country. Markus contributed to drafting its recommendations in line with his professional experience. Later, he helped the charity explore how forces could be encouraged to take forward the recommendations and improve justice outcomes for victims. They have since had further interest in the report from the National Police Chief's Council, the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, and others.

Another pro bono case, led by Markus, involved an inquest relating to the suicide of a 34 year old man. The Interested Persons included the local NHS Foundation Trust, fire and rescue service, and police headquarters. The impact of Markus' actions during the inquest was profound for the family involved. His work also resulted in a change to the approach of mental health training for new police officers – having a lasting impact on the wider community. The family described Markus' support as making *“a very emotional and challenging situation much easier to navigate”*.

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## Alex Findley

### Farrar's Building

**"He possesses outstanding ability to simplify complex legal matters without compromising on crucial details. He is extremely professional in his field."**



Alex has shown a very strong commitment to pro bono over the past year, undertaking more pro bono work via Advocate than any other barrister in 2024. Since becoming a tenant at Chambers in October 2022, he has undertaken around 20 pro bono cases, covering a wide range of legal issues. Key highlights include advising a client in a franchise dispute, ultimately securing a £18,000 settlement in her favour. In a complex probate case, Alex has provided comprehensive support to a client, including drafting key documents, attending conferences, and preparing for a three-day final hearing in 2025. In the criminal sphere, Alex successfully represented a client in appealing a Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme award, increasing it from just a few thousand to £23,000.

Beyond casework, Alex frequently volunteers through Pro Bono Connect and proactively offers representation when requests are made directly to Chambers. His extensive contributions highlight his genuine commitment to access to justice.

advocate



## Iona Gallagher

### New Court Chambers

**“It would be extraordinary for a barrister of ten years’ call to take on this type of pro bono work; to do this in pupillage is on another level.”**



Iona’s pro bono work has provided crucial support to vulnerable individuals navigating complex and emotionally charged legal proceedings. In a private children case, she successfully helped a father secure increased interim contact, strengthening his application for a joint lives with order. In a domestic abuse matter, she offered sensitive guidance, enabling a client to choose a non-legal resolution over pursuing a non-molestation order, better aligning with the client’s needs.

Her most demanding pro bono case involved representing an intervenor - specifically, a mother’s boyfriend - in a Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) case concerning serious harm to a baby. Both the client and the mother were in the pool of possible perpetrators. Iona dedicated over 35 hours to the case, including reviewing court orders, preparing an updated witness statement, and advising in conference. She liaised with solicitors to ease the client’s burden, while carefully managing evidence to avoid prejudice in ongoing criminal proceedings. The case concluded at an Issues Resolution Hearing (IRH) when the local authority dropped its findings against the mother. The client, who had felt overwhelmed and at times suicidal, reported feeling supported and empowered thanks to Iona’s involvement. Her work has helped make the legal process more accessible and less intimidating for those in vulnerable situations.



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## Bethany Pitt

### Cobden House Chambers

**"Beth's approach is outstanding and unusual because most advocates when they join the Bar concentrate on earning a living and paying off their student debts as quickly as possible, but Beth's approach is to give back first."**



From the outset of her career at the Bar, Bethany has committed to providing access to justice for those who cannot afford representation, particularly victims of domestic abuse. Since taking on her first pro bono case during her second six in July 2023, Bethany has handled over 10 pro bono cases.

Beyond her casework, Bethany is committed to fostering a culture of pro bono within the profession. She has engaged in discussions about pupil involvement in pro bono work, recognising its value for advocacy development and public service. She has also built connections with Liverpool Law Clinic, providing law students with valuable exposure to court proceedings and giving back to an organisation that was instrumental in her own journey to the Bar. While Bethany primarily takes on child cases, she is also using pro bono opportunities to develop her finance practice, having undertaken three financial remedy cases through Advocate.

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## Simon Ridding

33 Bedford Row

**"Simon never wavered in his time and commitment to the case... working until 3am to make sure our client was afforded unwavering commitment."**



Simon Ridding was called to the Bar in 2024 after a successful career as a solicitor specialising in data protection and class action work. Since transferring to the Bar, Simon has made pro bono work a central part of his developing practice. Simon's most significant piece of pro bono work has been as junior counsel in a high-profile asylum and deportation case. The matter concerns the risk of Article 3 ECHR harm to a homosexual man with criminal convictions if returned to his country of origin. The case was heard in the Court of Appeal in February 2025, and although the Secretary of State's appeal was allowed, the matter continues and has now reached the Supreme Court. Simon has dedicated 50 hours to this case. Since joining the case in September 2024, Simon has worked pro bono throughout, often into the early hours and turning down paid work to ensure full support for his client and legal team.

In addition, Simon is acting pro bono in a complex multi-track road traffic claim against a young, uninsured student passenger who could otherwise not afford legal representation. Without Simon's involvement, the claimant may have faced a life-changing judgment against him. Simon also regularly accepts instructions across a range of urgent and sensitive pro bono matters, including immigration, human rights, and data protection law. His commitment is both consistent and impactful - in one recent 10-day period alone, he recorded over 35 hours of pro bono work.



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# Pro Bono KC of the Year

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Hewetson & Co

**Justin Bates KC**  
Landmark Chambers

**Edward Fitzgerald CBE KC**  
Doughty Street Chambers

**Michael Jones KC**  
Deans Court Chambers

**Jeffrey Jupp KC**  
7BR

**Brad Pomfret KC**  
23 Essex Street

**Marc Willers KC**  
Garden Court Chambers

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## Justin Bates KC

### Landmark Chambers

**“Justin has approached every stage of the case with enthusiasm, kindness, and razor-sharp clarity and determination. His energy and passion for fighting his clients’ case is infectious.”**



Justin Bates KC was called to the Bar in 2003. Justin’s practice at Landmark chambers covers all aspects of housing, property and local government law. In addition to working for Advocate as a reviewer and taking on cases, Justin regularly acts pro bono for law centres and other charitable bodies. In 2024, Justin represented a tenant in the Court of Appeal in *Cabo v Dezotti*, who successfully applied for a rent Repayment Order against her rogue landlord. Without Justin’s expertise, the tenant would have struggled to navigate the complex procedure of the Court of Appeal successfully and would not have been able to represent herself.

Justin also volunteers with *Safer Renting*, assisting clients in appeals regarding Rent Repayment Orders under the Housing and Planning Act 2016. In addition, as the Pro Bono Champion at his Chambers, Justin regularly represents clients in complex cases where legal aid is unavailable. He regularly brings in junior barristers to work with him, helping to foster a culture of pro bono work within chambers.

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## Edward Fitzgerald CBE KC

### Doughty Street Chambers

**“Edward has tirelessly spearheaded initiatives to restrict the scope and application of the death penalty which has led to death sentences rarely if ever applied in a number of jurisdictions.”**



Called to the Bar in 1995, Edward Fitzgerald KC is a Founding Head of Doughty Street Chambers and is widely renowned for his extensive pro bono work, particularly in capital punishment cases through The Death Penalty Project (DPP). Over the past year, Edward has been instrumental in challenging the legality of the death penalty in Guyana, successfully securing the removal of three individuals from death row. He also advised the government of The Bahamas on the potential consequences of mandatory death sentences in response to rising criminality. In 2024, Edward was one of two lead counsel in a pro bono case in Grenada, where his efforts helped secure a ruling that declared flogging unconstitutional. The court described the punishment as a “repulsive” and “offensive” 19th-century practice.

Throughout his career, Edward has consistently advocated for pro bono work. He actively encourages colleagues, particularly junior barristers, to work with him on pro bono appeals to the Privy Council. In 2024, Edward represented eight former death row inmates, securing their immediate release after the Privy Council was persuaded to directly remit their cases to the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago. Through his work, Edward continues to inspire younger barristers to undertake pro bono cases as an integral part of their practice.

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## Michael Jones KC

### Deans Court Chambers

**“Michael sent me the first draft of a skeleton argument and grounds of appeal on Christmas Day. This is typical of MJ; he is selfless and dedicated in all his work, giving up his time for others.”**



Michael Jones KC was called to the Bar in 2008 and specialises in family law, particularly in cases involving international issues such as that of jurisdiction, child abduction, and the placement of children outside of the United Kingdom. In 2024, Michael was lead counsel in the High Court case of *Re T*, which was referred via Advocate just before Christmas. Michael acted for a father in adoption proceedings, later returning to the Court of Appeal—twice—to fight for his client's rights, producing the grounds of appeal and a skeleton argument over the Christmas holidays. His work led to important guidance on publication in adoption cases.

Furthermore, Michael was lead counsel in the Court of Appeal in *W and Others [2024]* again acting pro bono via Advocate. Michael was successful in his appeal, which resulted in his client having a fair opportunity at an assessment to care for the children, who would otherwise have been adopted. The case also resulted in guidance from the Court of Appeal in respect of adoption cases whilst an appeal is pending. Away from court, Michael volunteers as a Senior Case Reviewer for Advocate and devotes his time regularly to reviewing cases and assessing what support Advocate can offer.

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## Jeffrey Jupp KC

7BR

**"I would estimate that Jeffrey has worked several weeks per year on pro bono cases for as long as I have known him. His commitment to pro bono work has had a big influence on my own career."**



Called to the Bar in 1994, Jeffrey Jupp KC practises in employment law, regulatory and professional discipline, and commercial litigation. He dedicates countless hours acting pro bono in appeal cases to the employment appeal tribunal, providing support to lay clients who would not otherwise have had representation in often sensitive and difficult cases.

In the past year Jeffrey has taken on three significant Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) cases through Advocate and the Free Representation Unit (FRU), achieving notable successes. He represented clients in the landmark *Valimulla v Al-Kahir Foundation* (2024), which led to a £15,000 award, and in *Jones v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care* (2024), which clarified key points of law under the Equality Act 2010. Jeffrey was also involved in the *Sullivan v Isle of Wight Council* (2024) case, which seeks to extend whistleblowing protection to job applicants. The case has garnered significant attention, including from the whistleblowing charity Protect, and is set to be heard in the Court of Appeal in February 2025. Over the past three years, Jeffrey has worked on over 30 cases for the Employment Law Assistance Scheme (ELAAS), providing vital representation in an area of law where legal aid is often unavailable.

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## Brad Pomfret KC

23 Essex Street

**“Brad has not only assisted on the cases he has helped with directly, but also to ensure that those on the Northern Circuit have better access to justice.”**



Brad Pomfret KC was called to the Bar in 2004 and Heads the Business & Property team at 23 Essex Street. In 2024, he undertook 50 hours of pro bono work through Advocate, including leading in the significant Court of Appeal case *Manolete Partners plc v White*. Brad successfully argued that undrawn occupational pensions are protected from enforcement by creditors, a landmark decision that preserved his client's retirement income and secured an £85,000 pro bono costs order to benefit the Access to Justice Foundation.

In addition to his pro bono casework, Brad played a central role in establishing the Manchester Chancery Litigant in Person Scheme (MCLIPS). He brought together barristers, clerks, solicitors, and judges to launch the initiative, personally volunteered for hearings, and helped extend the scheme to cover more lists within the Business and Property Courts. His leadership ensured the scheme moved from concept to active support for litigants navigating complex legal disputes without representation. Brad has played a vital role in promoting a pro bono culture both at 23 Essex and across the Northern Circuit by arranging clerk liaison and hosting a seminar to encourage more members of the team to sign up to the panel of counsel.

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## Marc Willers KC

### Garden Court Chambers

**"I am certain that we would not have achieved the result we did had Marc not been involved. I will be forever grateful for the experience and for all I learned from Marc along the way."**



Marc Willers KC was called to the Bar in 1987 and dedicates a significant portion of his practice to pro bono work, particularly in the fields of environmental law, climate justice, and civil liberties. Over the past year, Marc has made significant contributions to multiple high-profile cases, including leading the pro bono legal team in the successful Privy Council appeal in *Mussington and Frank*, challenging the granting of planning permission for a new airport on the island of Barbuda on environmental grounds. Marc presented the oral arguments, and the Board decided that the appellants did have standing and so remitted the case for trial before the Caribbean courts.

In 2024, Marc represented community group Stop Whitehead Oil Terminal pro bono in a successful Judicial Review application. Ultimately, the decision to approve the multi-million-pound expansion of an oil terminal on the shores of Belfast Lough was quashed. Marc has also worked on several pro bono cases involving methane leakage, pollution, and environmental justice across the UK and internationally. Marc's pro bono contributions extend beyond legal cases, as he frequently advises and educates on environmental law. This includes advising Greenpeace International on the implementation of the KlimaSeniorinnen judgment, which Marc was instructed in and won in the European Court of Human Rights.



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# International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by **ankura** 

**Catherine Drummond**

**3VB**

**Ruth Kirby KC**

**4PB**

**Ewan Murray**

**FOURTEEN**

**Adam Wagner KC**

**Doughty Street Chambers**

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# Catherine Drummond

3VB

**"Catherine is without a doubt the most talented barrister with whom I have worked. Her brilliance is unmatched."**



Catherine Drummond was called to the Bar in 2022 and specialises in public international law. Over the past year, she has dedicated over 500 hours to pro bono work, assisting state governments and NGOs in matters of international significance. Catherine has played a key role in multiple cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), including representing Belize pro bono since 2019 in proceedings concerning Israel's obligations in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Catherine is also part of a team representing Antigua and Barbuda pro bono in landmark climate change advisory proceedings before the ICJ. This is the first time in history that the ICJ has been asked to address the issue of climate change.

Beyond her work at the ICJ, Catherine has represented NGOs pro bono in cases concerning human rights and international criminal law, including advising the Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association on proceedings at the International Criminal Court. She has also contributed to submissions to the UN and advised on international legal frameworks relating to climate change and migration. Catherine's international pro bono work has supported states with limited resources, enabling them to participate effectively in legal processes that shape international law and policy.

advocate



## Ruth Kirby KC

4PB

**“Ruth is passionate about helping clients who have no voice in their lives outside of court, including women stranded abroad, victims of domestic violence and of false allegations.”**



Ruth Kirby KC was called to the Bar in 1994 and specialises in private and public family law, often representing families involved in political and cross-jurisdictional issues. Over the last year, Ruth has dedicated significant time and expertise to ensuring two young children, born in Syria to ISIS parents, can be cared for by their grandparents in Trinidad. Since February 2024, she has represented the grandparents pro bono in a complex international case involving multiple hearings at the High Court. Before Ruth's involvement, the children were due to be placed in foster care. She successfully argued in the High Court for their grandparents to be properly assessed as carers. Ruth is now assisting in securing Trinidadian citizenship for the children to enable their relocation.

Ruth has spent countless days on this matter, including 13 days in court and significant preparation time, providing as much dedication and time as she would to her paid work. Ruth has been instrumental in enabling the grandparents to reunite with their grandchildren after two years apart. Alongside her busy practice, Ruth continues to undertake legal aid work and volunteers as a reviewer for Advocate. She regularly provides pro bono advice in international children law cases, where individuals would otherwise be unrepresented.

advocate



## Ewan Murray

### FOURTEEN

**“Ewan’s professionalism and expertise were outstanding, and I always felt confident in his guidance. Thanks to Ewan, we achieved a positive result, and I’m truly grateful for his support.”**



Ewan Murray was called to the Bar in 2008 and practices exclusively in the private client elements of family law. In 2024, Ewan took on the urgent representation of a respondent father in a High Court international child abduction case, stepping in with only five days to prepare. Despite facing a KC opponent and working without the support of a solicitor, he analysed extensive case papers and prepared comprehensive written and oral submissions. Over a four-day hearing, including a post-judgment directions hearing, Ewan’s advocacy secured a positive outcome for his client. Following this success, the mother appealed to the Court of Appeal. Ewan’s commitment to the case continued and he agreed to represent the father pro bono at the appeal. Led by Michael Glaser KC in the appeal, he played a crucial role in the extensive preparation of a second supplemental skeleton argument, following new information that came to light.

Ewan dedicated well over 100 hours to the case, working late nights and outside regular hours to ensure the best possible representation. His diligence, expertise, and willingness to take on complex international litigation at short notice made a profound difference to his client.

advocate



## Adam Wagner KC

### Doughty Street Chambers

**“Adam has made himself available to us on a pro bono basis and brought his whole heart as well as his outstanding professional expertise.”**



Adam Wagner was called to the Bar in 2007 and specialises in human rights, public inquiries, constitutional and international law. Following the 7 October 2023 hostage capture by terrorist organisation Hamas, Adam co-founded a pro bono initiative to support British-linked hostages and their families. He has since dedicated hundreds of hours to representing six families, including those of two British hostages, providing free legal advice and advocacy at the highest levels of government. Adam's work directly contributed to the establishment of a new Foreign Office scheme ensuring hostages with close UK ties receive the same support as British citizens. His legal pressure led to Lord Cameron's commitment to this policy, which was later endorsed by the Labour Party.

Through tireless advocacy, Adam facilitated meetings between the families and key political figures, including both the current and former Prime Ministers. His efforts also enabled families to engage with Qatari negotiators, senior US officials, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's inquiry into hostage-taking. Beyond this initiative, Adam continues to provide pro bono legal support and guidance, ensuring families can navigate complex legal and diplomatic processes. His dedication has been a vital lifeline for those affected, offering expertise, reassurance, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

advocate



# Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year

**Sponsored by**



**Beyond Detention**

**Da'aro Youth Project**

**Family BarLink**

**Innocence Project London**

**Schools Inclusion Project**

**Headline Sponsor**



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## Beyond Detention

**“Many of the people we support do not understand how the systems work in this country, and so don’t access all the support they are entitled to. Having a better understanding of their rights and entitlements has empowered them to be able to access this.”**



Since 2001, Beyond Detention has supported individuals who have been released from immigration detention in the UK. Their story starts with the struggle of people who find themselves caught up in the hostile environment of the UK's immigration system. These individuals can be moved anywhere in the UK, usually to areas of high deprivation into shared accommodation with strangers, in destitution and separated from friends and family. They still have their rights restricted and cannot work or access education. Their access to healthcare and therapy is limited. They have no recourse to public funds, are not eligible for welfare benefits or housing assistance, and only receive a very small allowance for basic living expenses. This, along with isolation and trying to navigate the complex immigration system, is a significant cause of depression and poor mental health.

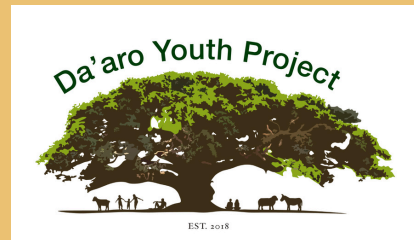
Recently, Advocate has been working with the charity to deliver a programme to help individuals understand their rights and entitlements around immigration and housing legislation. This course, along with emotional and practical support, empowers and improves the opportunities, skills, self-esteem and wellbeing of people after their release from detention.

advocate



## Da'aro Youth Project

**"It is no exaggeration to say that their work quite literally saves the lives of some very vulnerable people."**



Da'aro Youth Project was founded in 2018 by members of the Eritrean community in London in response to a tragic series of suicides among Eritrean teenagers. These heartbreaking events underscored the urgent need for a support network tailored to the unique challenges faced by unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors from the Horn of Africa. The small team at Da'aro Youth Project works tirelessly to ensure that young vulnerable people pursuing safety in the UK are adequately and effectively supported and that they do not slip through the ever-increasingly broad gaps in the asylum system.

The Da'aro team operates via two open-door youth clubs, enabling anyone to attend the community spaces and request support. They offer activities, trips, English classes and mentoring in addition to a comprehensive casework service which ensures young people can access assistance in relation to housing, legal support, advocacy, education, and physical and mental health support. The team works alongside expert legal representatives, solicitors and barristers to ensure that unaccompanied refugees can access the vital support and resources they need to be able to access safety and ultimately to thrive in their new environment.



advocate



## Family BarLink

**“The impact of legal aid restrictions has placed a huge strain on the courts, making Family BarLink a vital and timely intervention.”**



**FAMILY BARLINK**  
THE CFC PROBONO DUTY SCHEME

Family BarLink launched in 2024 in conjunction with Advocate. It is a pro bono scheme aimed at providing free legal advice and representation to litigants in person (“LIPs”) in family proceedings at the Central Family Court (CFC) with the hope to expand to other courts in the future. The scheme aims to provide much-needed assistance to the increasing numbers of individuals having to navigate emotionally charged family proceedings alone, improving their chances of early settlement and enabling hearings to be conducted more efficiently.

The scheme operates every Thursday, on which the CFC lists as many matters with unrepresented parties as possible. One barrister volunteering with the scheme is present at the CFC, whilst other barristers volunteering with the scheme are available “on call” to assist remotely and/or in person. Volunteers provide legal advice to the LIPs referred to them, and will represent them at their hearing before the Judge who referred them to the scheme.



advocate



## Innocence Project London

**“Miscarriages of justice are something that everyone should, and most do, feel genuinely strongly about. The work of the Innocence Project London truly matters.”**

**Innocence  
Project  
London**

The Innocence Project London (IPL) is a pro bono initiative which deconstructs claims of innocence from convicted individuals who have exhausted the criminal appeals process with a view to making applications to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). The organisation is only one of four Innocence Projects remaining in England and Wales (back in 2016, there were over 35).

The IPL has demonstrated a positive impact through providing free legal support and advocacy that would otherwise be unaffordable to individuals. Over the past 5 years, 7 barristers have worked with approximately 183 students across 23 cases to provide access to justice in excess of £264,000 of pro bono support to their clients. In the same 5 years they have assessed 180 applications for support, carried on average 5 cases each year with merit, and have submitted 4 high quality, persuasive applications to the CCRC on behalf of clients. Barristers work with the students to develop theories and investigate the evidence, providing practical guidance on the application of the law. From this process, students carry with them into their careers the knowledge of the risks associated with failings of the criminal justice system.

advocate



## Schools Inclusion Project

**"SIP has been a vital lifeline to families having a fair hearing."**



Launched in 2021, the School Inclusion Project (SIP) brings together lawyers, advisers and campaigners with expertise in the field of school exclusions and related issues, to address systemic discrimination in the education system. SIP is a forum coordinated by the Garden Court Chambers Education Law Team, Communities Empowerment Network, Coram Children's Legal Centre and Law Centres Network. It aims to facilitate referrals for legal representation in school exclusion hearings and related legal proceedings, share knowledge and best practice, and identify and address systemic issues.

SIP now comprises over 200 lawyers working mostly pro bono to represent those who have been unfairly excluded from school. Racialised minority and SEND children, and others who experience structural oppression, are disproportionately excluded from school. Evidence shows that exclusions harm children's mental health and long-term educational prospects, and that they increase the likelihood of social exclusion and engagement in criminal activity. SIP has had far reaching and positive consequences for those who are unfairly excluded from school, enabling an 'equality of arms' in school exclusion hearings. It has also spearheaded positive change by changing the law for the better through the successful concession awarded by the Lord Chancellor in amending guidance for Legal Aid Agency caseworkers.

advocate



# Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

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LLP

Deans Court Chambers

Doughty Street Chambers

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## Deans Court Chambers

**“Deans Court Chambers has a strong tradition of supporting pro bono causes, recognising the significant impact such work has on justice and society.”**



DEANS COURT  
CHAMBERS

Deans Court has always sought to instil beliefs in their members and pupils such as ‘serving the public’, ‘compassion’ and ‘providing legal support to those who cannot afford it’. These values are not only exhibited by their practising members, but they are further instilled in their clerks and staff. For example, their Senior Clerk, Matthew Gibbons, is the Northern Circuit representative for the Institute of Barristers’ Clerks, and also a member of the educational committee. As part of this, he has most notably assisted in the development of a new educational programme for clerks all around the country, which includes promoting the benefits of developing Advocate’s work and pro bono cases in all Chambers nationwide. In addition to this, Matt is also one of Deans Court’s two Pro Bono Champions, alongside Sophie Cartwright KC.

Deans Court recognises the need for charities such as Advocate in today’s society, and is proud to stand alongside them in assisting those who require legal services but do not have access to them. Deans Court continue to be a powerhouse in promoting pro bono work across the Northern circuit and beyond.

advocate



## Doughty Street Chambers

**“As a set, their commitment to pro bono work is demonstrative and they are real champions for pro bono access to legal services which benefit many disadvantaged groups in our society.”**



Doughty Street Chambers is committed to promoting human rights, civil liberties, and access to justice. In 2024, Chambers have been involved in high-profile legal challenges including before UN Special Procedures and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, addressing issues such as migrant worker trafficking and human rights abuses linked to Rwanda. Chambers also supported justice in accountability efforts for the killing and disappearance of photojournalist Anton Hammerl. They have also worked on the Displaced Journalists Initiative in collaboration with Leigh Day Solicitors, and have investigated labour exploitation in the Rajasthan sandstone industry and UK supply chains to expose human rights abuses.

Notable achievements include a landmark judgment against the Belgian State for colonial-era crimes against mixed-race children, securing the release of Iranian rapper and activist Toomaj Salehi from a death penalty sentence, and supporting justice for the Rohingya through the Rohingya Justice Initiative. Chambers also delivered training on war crimes and crimes against humanity for Ukrainian lawyers, the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Additionally, members contributed to the World Wide Fund for Nature's submission to the ICJ's climate change advisory proceedings. All this work reflects Doughty Street's leadership in global justice and pro bono commitment.

advocate



# Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

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Association



**Adam Farnsworth-Jones**  
42 Bedford Row

**Daragh Henderson**  
42 Bedford Row

**Siobhan Samuel**  
Field Court Chambers

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# Adam Farnsworth-Jones

42 Bedford Row

**“Adam is a hard-working and conscientious member of our civil clerking team and is our designated civil pro bono clerk.”**



Adam has proven himself to be an invaluable asset to 42BR Barristers, playing a pivotal role in ensuring that those who cannot afford legal representation still have access to justice. His attention to detail, deep understanding of employment and housing law, and commitment to ensuring that clients receive the best possible legal assistance demonstrate his exceptional professional skills and commitment.

One of Adam's standout qualities is his ability to assess the needs of each case and pair it with the expertise of the barristers within Chambers. His work is characterised by efficiency, professionalism, and empathy for those in need of legal support. He has streamlined the process, ensuring that cases are swiftly assigned and that clients receive a prompt, high-quality service, all while fostering an environment of collaboration among the barristers and clerks. Beyond his technical competence, Adam embodies the spirit of pro bono work. His passion for supporting people who otherwise would not have access to the legal system is evident in every aspect of his role. He consistently goes above and beyond, demonstrating a tireless commitment to ensuring that pro bono work in Chambers remains a success.

advocate



## Daragh Henderson

42 Bedford Row

**“Daragh is truly passionate about his involvement with pro bono work and has been an active part of promoting the message within chambers.”**



Daragh is a dedicated, compassionate, and effective individual. He has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing high quality clerking services to facilitate pro bono work, often going above and beyond in helping those who are most in need. His work ethic, empathy and attention to detail have made a tangible difference to the lives of many individuals who would otherwise not have access to legal representation.

Daragh has responsibility for matching the Advocate pro bono work with members of chambers and does so in a professional and timely manner. His dedication to pro bono efforts is not only professional but also personal. He consistently advocates for fairness and justice, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, receives the representation and support they deserve. His collaborative spirit and humility have earned him the respect of colleagues and clients. Daragh's consistent contributions to pro bono work serve as inspiration to all who work alongside him and make significant impact on the lives of those he serves.

advocate



## Siobhan Samuel

### Field Court Chambers

**“As a pivotal lead contact, Siobhan not only champions our Advocacy service but actively encourages her colleagues to engage in fundraising efforts and provide vital legal support to young people in contact with Children’s Social Services.”**



Siobhan has been instrumental in strengthening Field Court Chambers’ commitment to pro bono work. She has forged a partnership with *Action for Children’s* London Advocacy Service, who support children in contact with social services. Thanks to her organisation and support, seven barristers now provide expert advice to the advocates across a range of public law and children matters. Siobhan has helped to advertise the Advocacy Service at conferences and seminars to encourage greater barrister participation outside of chambers.

In her own time, Siobhan volunteers with Advocate, supporting the casework team on family matters. She drafts application summaries and prepares bundles, helping service users to navigate what can seem a complex and overwhelming application process. Additionally, Siobhan has supported Advocate outside of work with ad-hoc marketing activities including helping to re-draft materials for service users to ensure the application process is explained as clearly as possible. During Pro Bono Week 2024, Siobhan organised an in-person seminar with Advocate’s caseworkers to promote engagement at all different levels of call. As a direct result, at least two new barristers signed up to become panel members through Advocate.

advocate



# Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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**WESTGATE**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**Reuben Comiskey**  
Radcliffe Chambers

**Yasin Patel**  
Church Court Chambers

**Aisling Cowell**  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

**James Robottom**  
Matrix Chambers

**Jesse Crozier**  
Devereux Chambers

**Jake Rylatt**  
Serjeants' Inn

**Elis Gomer**  
5 Stone Buildings

**David Stephenson**  
Doughty Street Chambers

**Raza Halim**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Jyoti Wood**  
4 King's Bench Walk

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## Reuben Comiskey

### Radcliffe Chambers

**"I do not believe that we would have succeeded in the Court of Appeal without Reuben's diligent and patient work in what is an incredibly complex area of law."**



Reuben Comiskey is a commercial chancery junior who was called to the Bar in 2002. Reuben has long been a champion of pro bono work and is known in his set for his dedication, urging all members to take on pro bono work. Reuben is a frequent volunteer with the Chancery Bar Litigant in Person Support Scheme (CLIPS) and is a case Reviewer for Advocate. He is also named on the most recent Pro Bono Recognition List for taking on over 25 hours of pro bono work in the previous calendar year.

One of the most notable pro bono cases that Reuben worked on in 2024 was the appeal in *Manolete v White*, where he provided pro bono representation instructed by Advocate. The case clarified an important question in the law on whether a creditor can ask a judgment debtor to draw down on their occupational pension to pay off judgment debts. Reuben worked diligently and successfully with a team of lawyers and senior counsel to represent the Appellant (the judgement debtor) in the Court of Appeal. In addition, Reuben played a crucial role in obtaining a significant £85,000 pro bono costs order against the unsuccessful Respondent on this case. This sum was paid to the Access to Justice Foundation to help support organisations like Advocate to continue to carry out life-changing pro bono work.

advocate



## Aisling Cowell

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

**She consistently provides high-quality legal assistance with diligence, compassion, and a strong sense of professional responsibility.'**



Called to the Bar in 2018, Aisling Cowling's practice at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP focuses on regulatory, criminal and internal investigations. Aisling acts as a pro bono advocate, helping transform the lives of survivors of domestic abuse through the *Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA)*. As a lead DARA advocate, Aisling provides end-to-end legal support for individuals seeking protective non-molestation orders in the Family Courts - many of whom would otherwise be forced to face their abusers alone. In 2024 alone, she contributed nearly 100 hours assisting clients of DARA firms, securing protective orders in every case.

Drawing on her earlier criminal law experience, Aisling navigates complex and emotionally charged proceedings, often involving parallel criminal cases. Her trauma-informed approach, combined with her command of the Family Procedure Rules, ensures clients feel safe and supported throughout. Beyond her own cases, Aisling plays a pivotal role in mentoring junior colleagues and expanding Debevoise's pro bono capacity. Aisling has taken a lead role in overseeing the firm's DARA representations and is always available to guide and support others who wish to take on pro bono work.



advocate



## Jesse Crozier

### Devereux Chambers

**"His commitment to my case went far beyond mere legal representation; it is evident he genuinely cares about his clients' welfare and actively uses his talents to make the world a better place."**



Jesse Crozier was called to the Bar in 2009 and is a leading practitioner in employment and equality litigation. Jesse stands out for his commitment to pro bono work, having dedicated over 300 hours in the last year.

Jesse has been described as an excellent role model and mentor to others in Chambers on all things pro bono, providing junior barristers with pro bono opportunities and advocacy experience. His leadership is evident in several high-profile cases in the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT), including *Smirnov v Ramboll* [2025] EAT 12, where he successfully appealed an Employment Tribunal decision on procedural grounds, and *Morley v Unison* [2024] EAT 143, where he led the successful appeal against a Central Arbitration Committee ruling on union office eligibility. Most notably, in *Ridley v Kirtley* [2024] IRLR 845, Jesse represented a client in the Court of Appeal, challenging the EAT's approach to extending time for appeals, achieving a groundbreaking decision. His work on *Brahmaiah v NHS Trust* (EAT) further demonstrated his skill in reformulating appeals and securing permission at oral hearings. Through his pro bono work, Jesse has demonstrated a consistent dedication to justice and leadership in pro bono advocacy.

advocate



## Elis Gomer

### 5 Stone Buildings

**“His involvement in a case, even at what appears to be the last minute, is often the crucial step in achieving a fair outcome for those who would otherwise lose everything.”**



Elis Gomer was called to the Bar in 2008 and is a highly regarded practitioner at 5 Stone Buildings. Elis specialises in the field of estates and probate and his pro bono work in this area reaches vulnerable and unrepresented clients. In the last year, Elis has represented individuals who are often facing or bringing crucial claims in Chancery Law. Most notably, Elis represented a 76-year-old widow who was in considerable debt since her husband's death. The case was referred to Elis via Advocate and he managed to get the previous Judgment set aside and sanctions lifted for his client. Elis continues to represent his client pro bono in the proceedings. Reflecting on Elis' support, the client said that she had *'never come across anyone so patient and dedicated, who gave so much of his time to help reassure me'*.

Elis dedicates considerable hours to advocating for those who are often without the funds to seek proper assistance or advice and has been praised for his warmth and compassion when doing so. He has previously practised on the Northern and Welsh circuits and is fluent in Welsh, which is of enormous value in assisting those for whom English is a second language.

advocate



## Raza Halim

### Garden Court Chambers

**“Raza’s work not only maintains but sets a high standard for pro bono work at the Bar. His willingness to go the extra mile, both legally and personally, distinguishes him from his peers.”**



Raza is a committed and highly skilled barrister with a focus on judicial review and appellate proceedings in asylum, civil liberties, homelessness, and national security. Raza consistently steps in to handle a wide range of pro bono cases, ensuring that his clients’ right to access justice is upheld.

Over the past year, Raza’s pro bono work has had a significant impact on both individual clients and the broader communities they are part of. His cases often involve children in dire circumstances, including those orphaned by conflict, living in warzones, or in homes where caregivers suffer from mental health issues. His interventions have been crucial in protecting the rights of these vulnerable individuals, ensuring they receive the support they desperately need. Raza’s work has had meaningful, far-reaching consequences, with outcomes that directly improve the lives of clients, groups and organisations he advises, including global humanitarian organisation *Choose Love*. Despite the crucial nature of his contributions, he remains humble and out of the limelight.

advocate



## Yasin Patel

### Church Court Chambers

**“Yasin has helped me emotionally, personally and psychologically. He has been a pillar of support”**



Over the past year, Yasin Patel has dedicated more than 1,500 hours to pro bono work, representing over 20 individuals, charities and sports clubs. Specialising in high-stakes cases where clients often lacked legal support, Yasin has stepped in to advocate for coaches and athletes facing serious allegations from governing bodies in areas such as anti-doping, safeguarding, Olympic funding, and betting violations.

Yasin's pro bono work has spanned from defending coaches accused of safeguarding breaches - including allegations of abuse and discrimination - to representing athletes facing potential lifetime bans in anti-doping cases. Notably, his representation has led to acquittals and fair outcomes, even in complex hearings involving cross-examination of scientific and medical experts. He has also defended a range of young athletes, including a teenage rugby player accused of doping, an 18-year-old footballer facing 1,800 betting charges from the Football Association, and a 17-year-old girl with mental health challenges penalised for alleged discrimination. Yasin's work ensured that these individuals received fair representation and justice, outcomes that may not have been possible without his intervention.

advocate



## James Robottom

### Matrix Chambers

**“James’ deep expertise and skilful advocacy led to our client not just winning but receiving the highest known CICA compensation award to a survivor of modern slavery.”**



James Robottom, called to the Bar in 2009, has diligently provided pro bono representation in the developing area of law of modern slavery claims over the last 14 years. In 2024, James represented 3 modern slavery victims pro bono in First Tier Tribunal appeals. These include the appellant in *S v CICA* (Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority), which resulted in the highest ever compensation award to a victim of modern slavery, of over £350,0000. He has also represented the children of a victim of domestic homicide in their successful CICA application and currently represents a child born of rape in his appeal seeking to expand access to the CICA Scheme.

James has also worked on a pro bono basis with the *Death Penalty Project* at Simons Muirhead and Burton since he was a student. Over the past year, he has advised on an appeal against the death penalty imposed on a UK national in Bangladesh, a Jamaica murder appeal, and strategic litigation against the death penalty in Nigeria. Furthermore, James takes on cases via Advocate and is currently representing the appellant pro bono in the Court of Appeal in *Sullivan v Isle of Wight* led by Jeffrey Jupp KC.

advocate



## Jake Rylatt

### Serjeants' Inn

**"The pro bono time commitment for a case of this nature must have been very substantial indeed, and Jake's involvement was crucial in enabling his client to have access to justice. Jake's advocacy (both written and oral) was superb"**



Jake Rylatt was called to the Bar in 2017 and is a public law practitioner at Serjeant's Inn chambers, with a particular expertise in mental capacity, mental health, and education law. Jake has regularly provided pro bono advice to parents appealing decisions from the First-Tier Tribunal regarding their children's Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP). Notably, Jake helped secure a Specialist Independent School placement for a child whose family had been offered an unsuitable setting.

Last year, Jake acted in an appeal before the Upper Tribunal concerning a decision of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to recover an overpayment of benefits made to Jake's client, which later went to the Court of Appeal. The case was complex as Jake's client had suffered a series of serious illnesses, and the matter required detailed knowledge of social security case law and statutory provisions. Jake acted entirely pro bono throughout the proceedings. Jake's advocacy has also extended to multi-day Article 2 inquests, where he represented the families of the bereaved pro bono. Additionally, Jake has volunteered with the charity *Bail for Immigration Detainees*, attending immigration bail hearings and securing the release of detainees.



advocate



## David Stephenson

### Doughty Street Chambers

**"David was thoughtful, efficient, well-prepared and everything was discussed and agreed before the hearing. It was a very positive experience because I felt listened to and empowered by the collaborative process adopted."**



David Stephenson was called to the Bar in 2005 and specialises in employment, discrimination, and equality law at Doughty Street Chambers. David has consistently demonstrated his dedication to pro bono advocacy, particularly in cases of racial discrimination and employment law. David's pro bono contributions include working with the Employment Law Appeal Advice Scheme (ELAAS) and taking on cases pro bono with Advocate, where he has represented clients in complex employment and discrimination cases. In 2024, David provided pro bono advice and representation to a client who had been subjected to racial harassment by multiple employers. His guidance on the issue of vicarious liability helped the case settle successfully after a key preliminary hearing.

Last year, David acted pro bono at a Rule 3(10) hearing in the Employment Appeal Tribunal, assisting a claimant in appealing the tribunal's decision to grant "relief from sanction" to the respondent. David worked collaboratively with the client, ensuring that their case was well-prepared and effectively presented, ultimately leading to the granting of permission to appeal. David is known for his thoroughness, empathy, and efficient handling of even the most challenging cases, ensuring that clients feel supported and heard throughout the legal process.

advocate



## Jyoti Wood

### 4 King's Bench Walk

**"The fact that she is willing to take on, and retain, challenging cases until conclusion when working pro bono is a testament to her commitment to accessible justice for all."**



Jyoti Wood was called to the Bar in 2016 and her dedication to pro bono work reflects a deep commitment to justice, particularly for women and children affected by abuse. Over the past year, she has taken on numerous pro bono cases, often through Advocate, representing vulnerable clients in complex and emotionally charged legal proceedings. Notable cases include successfully acting for a mother in a case involving the sexual abuse of a child. In another long-running matter, she secured serious findings of coercive control and physical and sexual abuse against a father.

Beyond the courtroom, Jyoti is an active volunteer for the *Schools Consent Project*, delivering workshops on sexual consent to students across the UK. She also helps to train and assess other volunteers, extending the project's reach and impact. In Chambers, Jyoti frequently offers her expertise pro bono to clients otherwise unable to afford representation. One recent example includes seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court in a Judicial Review case against the Ministry of Justice. Much of Jyoti's pro bono work has centred on empowering those navigating trauma and injustice, ensuring they are not left to face the legal system alone.

advocate



# John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

**William Horwood**  
St Philips Chambers

**Charlotte Mallin-Martin**  
Guildhall Chambers

**Emma Hughes**  
New Park Court Chambers

**Hazel Samuriwo**  
42 Bedford Row

**Liam Kelly**  
Deans Court Chambers

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# About John Collins

John Collins was called to the Bar in 1956, and practised right up until he passed away in April 2020. He was Head of Chambers in Woodhouse Square, and then later became joint Head of Zenith Chambers in Leeds. When he retired from Zenith, he was 70 years old, and was the longest serving Head of a Common Law set in the entire country. When John died, Richard Wright, who was leader of the North Eastern Circuit at the time and Head of Park Square Barristers said: 'The North Eastern circuit has lost one of its finest'.

John was always committed to helping the underdog, and he championed pro bono work. He was well-known for his kind, gentle and modest demeanor - upon John's death, one pupil said: 'He was modest when he had every right to be immodest.'

John served on Legal Aid committees for many years and was utterly dedicated to pro bono. When he was travelling to and from London on one pro bono case that he worked on for 7 years that reached the Supreme Court, he said that he did it because 'it was the right thing to do'. In 2016, he won a Bar Pro Bono award and then in 2017 he won the Yorkshire Lawyers Pro Bono Award on a unanimous vote.

In 2020, posthumously, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Pro Bono. The John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award was then created that same year by Advocate in his name and honour.

advocate



## William Horwood

### St Philips Chambers

**“William has a strong understanding of Advocate’s work ethic and has made a significant contribution at a time where pro bono help is needed more than ever.”**



William joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in July 2019 and is a valued member of the volunteer panel. William has volunteered consistently with Advocate and often assists with cases involving domestic disputes and vulnerable persons. Such cases include the successful representation of a defendant in a cohabitee dispute and another case where he provided extensive assistance for a grandmother who was party to public care proceedings over a period of four years.

More recently, William appeared at an appeal hearing where he successfully reduced the costs owed by Advocate’s service user to the other party and has continued to provide advice in her ongoing financial remedy proceedings. William has assisted in organising and speaking at seminars at St Philips chambers, promoting the work of Advocate and benefits of pro bono. He is a leading example of commitment to pro bono work on the Midland Circuit, which has added huge value to Advocate’s work in promoting pro bono outside of London.

advocate



## Emma Hughes

### New Park Court Chambers

**“Emma is always willing to assist with cases on an urgent basis and if not available to provide representation she will always offer advice in the alternative to ensure our applicants feel supported and prepared for their hearings.”**



Emma joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in May 2022 and completed at least 30 hours of pro bono work in 2024. Emma has made a significant contribution at a time where pro bono help is needed more than ever. She is a valued member of Advocate's volunteer panel and an active member of the Northeast Pro Bono Committee. She has been assisting with an ongoing family case involving vulnerable persons since 2023, providing representation at over 10 hearings, while assisting with other pieces of work alongside this. Her assistance and dedication to this case has been invaluable to the person who would have struggled to face these proceedings alone.

Emma is the Pro Bono Champion at New Park Court, and as part of that role has been actively involved in encouraging pro bono at Chambers, as well as assisting in placing local cases, often at short notice. She has also attended numerous events on the North Eastern Circuit representing Advocate. Emma also participates in pro bono activities outside of those organised by Advocate, raising both awareness and money for Advocate, including writing for *Barrister Magazine* and talking at the recent Durham University Women in Law Panel Event in October 2024.



advocate



## Liam Kelly

### Deans Court Chambers

**“Liam has been one of Advocates biggest supporters in recent years and is always willing to go the extra mile in support of access to justice.”**



Liam joined Advocate as a volunteer in March 2020. He took part in the Pro Bono Pledge in 2023 completing more than 50 hours of pro bono work. He has demonstrated an impressive commitment to Advocate's service users and worked on one particular case for over 18 months. This complex case concerned issues of parental alienation, whereby a father had become exasperated due to lengthy delays preventing contact with his children. Liam handled communication with the father with professionalism, empathy and understanding. His assistance and unwavering dedication to the case was invaluable and without Liam, the father would not have known the further avenues of appeal open to him.

Liam never shies away from taking complex cases. In summer 2024, he advised on a case shortly before the appeal in the Supreme Court was due to be heard. With Liam's advice, the applicant was able to pursue alternate routes to resolving her legal issues, negating the need for the hearing. Liam spoke passionately about the importance of pro bono work and why he is involved during an Advocate event in Pro Bono Week 2024 and is always willing to go the extra mile in support of access to justice.

advocate



## Charlotte Mallin-Martin

### Guildhall Chambers

**"In every case Lottie's commitment is exemplary. She always updates us with changes to her diary and lets us know if she can fit in even more work."**



Charlotte joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in June 2021. She has demonstrated a clear passion for pro bono ever since and has dedicated an estimated 100 hours within the past year. She sits on the committee for the West of England Pro Bono Group and has been instrumental in the set up and development of numerous schemes in the South West. She spearheaded the South West Chancery Litigant in Person Scheme and the South West County Court Appeal Scheme, both launched at the end of 2024. This is as well as the Exeter Family Law Clinic, launched in 2023. Since Charlotte took up the role of Advocate Pro Bono Champion and Western Circuit Pro Bono Representative, there has been a visible improvement in pro bono collaboration across the South West with barristers, solicitors and judges and board.

This is all in addition to her role as the Pro Bono Champion at Guildhall Chambers, where she has supported several internal seminars resulting in a significant uptake in her fellow colleagues taking on pro bono work. Charlotte has taken on 12 pro bono cases with Advocate, where she has given extensive help drafting legal documentation, notably witness statements, and representing applicants in preliminary hearings.

advocate



## Hazel Samuriwo

42 Bedford Row

**“Her advocacy for pro bono working within chambers and the broader legal community further highlights her dedication to fostering justice for all.”**



Hazel joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in February 2022. She has undertaken 13 pieces of pro bono work since joining Advocate's panel of volunteer barristers and regularly volunteers to assist at short notice. She readily offers her time and expertise to help the most vulnerable service users.

Hazel has taken on multiple pro bono cases, showcasing her dedication to justice and accessibility. These cases are frequently of a sensitive nature involving matters such as risk of homelessness, alleged domestic abuse and cases involving children. Recently, she represented a woman at her injunction return hearing. This woman is a survivor of serious domestic abuse and faced her ex-partner who sought to discharge the non-molestation order in place. Her ex-partner had legal representation and without Hazel's support she would have had to face him unrepresented. Hazel successfully obtained a renewed non-molestation order. Outside of casework, Hazel spoke passionately at the Young Lawyers event for Pro Bono Week 2024 about her experience of doing pro bono work and encouraged audience members to view doing pro bono work as part of a barrister's duty. Hazel also contributes to the pro bono community through mentoring students at King's College Law School.

advocate



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- Take part in insightful sessions exploring the current state of the justice system, the critical role of statistical reasoning in legal practice, and the evolving culture at the Bar
- Choose your breakout options, from exploring your wellbeing and what reflective practice could look like for you, the impact and future of public inquiries and navigating ethical dilemmas
- Celebrate the winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Pro bono: the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award
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