

25 years
advocate



2021

BAR PRO BONO AWARDS

3rd November 2021

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About Advocate

We exist because committed barristers across England and Wales care about access to justice for everyone.

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

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

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.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please visit our [website](#).

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The Awards

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Categories

Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Pro Bono QC of the Year

Pro Bono Innovation of the Year

Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

The John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono,
the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award



2021 Judging Panel

Chair: Lord Goldsmith QC, Advocate Founder and President

Lucy Barbet, Chair of the Institute of Barrister's Clerks

Julie Bishop, Director of the Law Centres Network

Catherine Calder and Rachel Holmes,
Co-Chairs of the Legal Practice Management Association

Sarah Grainger, Editor of Counsel magazine

Joanne Kane, Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee

Derek Sweeting QC, Chair of the Bar of England and Wales

Leanne Targett-Parker, Chair of the Bar Council Pro Bono and
Social Responsibility Committee

Will Tolcher, Editor, The Legal 500, UK Bar

Emma Walker, Chair of Employed Bar Committee

The Secret Barrister, Criminal barrister and author

“As ever, I am humbled to read of the outstanding efforts made by my colleagues to support and advance access to justice. Choosing winners from these entrants becomes harder with each passing year, and any one of those shortlisted would be a fully deserving winner. They represent the very best of us, and make me proud to be a member of the Bar.”

The Secret Barrister



Introducing the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award



In collaboration with the North Eastern Circuit, Advocate is pleased to recognise the life and legacy of John Collins by introducing the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award.

John was a champion of pro bono who went above and beyond to ensure that everyone could access justice regardless of their ability to pay. He carried out his extensive pro bono work quietly and worked tirelessly to support and encourage others.

This award seeks to recognise those who display John's values in their commitment to pro bono. The casework team at Advocate have nominated individuals who have

- Committed significant amounts of time to pro bono work over the past year, particularly those who have volunteered on multiple occasions
 - Gone above and beyond for those they assist
 - Not received an award for their pro bono work in the past
-

The 2021 John Collins Award Judging Panel

Sheila Collins

Simon Myerson QC

St. Paul's Chambers

Richard Wright QC

Park Square Barristers



Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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Place Campbell



Nominees

Elisabeth Andrews

1GC Family Law

Cressida Mawdesley-Thomas

12 King's Bench Walk

Tadhg Barwell O'Connor

1 King's Bench Walk

Mary-Rachel McCabe

Doughty Street

Charmaine Clubb

42 Bedford Row

Ben Norton

Henderson Chambers

Daniel Grütters

One Pump Court

Christopher Rowe

Broadway House Chambers

Rose Harvey-Sullivan

7 Bedford Row

Rebecca Sheldon

15 Old Square

Aaqib Javed

Spire Barristers

Kate Temple-Mabe

7 Bedford Row

Adam Kayani

Leducate

Louise Verroken-Jones

1GC Family Law



Elisabeth Andrews

1GC Family Law



Elisabeth has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono by undertaking work with Advocate and Not Beyond Redemption, as well as on an ad hoc basis through her instructing solicitors. She also encourages others to undertake pro bono work through the Social Responsibility committee that she has created in Chambers, which she hopes to use to create a community where young barristers can support each other and access additional support from senior barristers. She was also recently appointed to the Young Bar Advocate Committee.

In March 2021, Elisabeth was featured in the Advocate newsletter's 'Top 10' for requesting authorisation to assist in a case for its entire duration. She routinely assists in complex cases, often involving international elements such as relocations, abductions, and risks of female genital mutilation. Over the last 12 months, Elisabeth has undertaken 11 hearings and 12 conferences in Advocate cases, including multi-day final hearings. When unable to conduct the hearing itself, she often requests authorisation to help in the background of a case, aiding with drafting and general guidance.

Elisabeth has assisted in two cases with Not Beyond Redemption, a charity that helps mothers who are serving custodial sentences to re-establish or continue their relationship with their children while they are in prison and on their release. She helps to run a training programme with the charity, which will be delivered to other members of the profession, enabling them to undertake the charity's work.

In pro bono work done with her solicitors, Elisabeth recently represented a vulnerable mother with mental health issues at a three-day hearing in the Family Division, who was seeking to challenge expert evidence to secure the return of her children to her care.

Tadhgh Barwell O'Connor

1 King's Bench Walk



Tadhgh joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in February 2020 and he has shown an impressive commitment by taking on seven separate pieces of pro bono work, including five separate instances of representation in the last year. This is especially noteworthy considering that he only completed his pupillage in October 2020. During the first six months of 2021, he took on three distinct pieces of work for Advocate .

In August 2020, Tadhgh assisted an Advocate applicant who was in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship with the respondent father. A Child Arrangements Order was put in place, however, the respondent father failed to comply. The Cafcass report demonstrated concerns about the father's behaviour as a parent in general and it was recommended that the court appoint a children's guardian. Tadhgh stepped in to advise and represent the applicant at a remote hearing, for which the applicant was incredibly grateful.

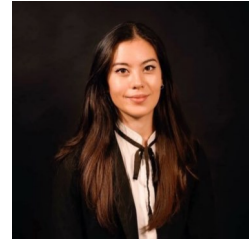
In another case, Tadhgh provided advice in a situation where two parents with no right to remain in the UK disagreed about an informal contact agreement. The mother was granted permission to remove the child from the jurisdiction and return to the Philippines, however she did not go. A casual arrangement had been in place between the parents for the father to spend time with his daughter. The mother alleged that he had refused to return the child on several occasions and had failed to comply with agreements generally. The applicant feared that in the absence of a court order, the father would continue to exploit the arrangements to the detriment of the child's welfare. Tadhgh's advice provided the applicant with a path forward and enabled her to choose a less stressful option and not proceed to court.

Tadhgh chose to take on hearings in the lead up to Christmas in 2020 due to the difficulty in finding counsel, taking on two on consecutive days to ensure families had resolution in time to enjoy Christmas.



Charmaine Clubb

42 Bedford Row



Charmaine began and successfully completed her pupillage in the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. She was committed to pro bono work even before her pupillage, having worked as a caseworker at Advocate for a year and a half. During this time, she worked diligently on every case from start to finish and consistently offered applicants a calm, sensitive and caring manner.

When she left Advocate to start pupillage, Charmaine was eager to get involved in pro bono work. On starting her second six, she immediately made it known to Chambers that she intended to accept cases through Advocate and was keen to know how to do so appropriately. Those who have worked closely with Charmaine have noted that even with the time she commits to pro bono work, she is an exemplary pupil who has worked tirelessly to go above and beyond what has been expected of her by her pupil supervisors, barrister colleagues and clerks. Her promptness in responding to requests for help demonstrates her commitment to assisting others. Her strong work ethic has led to her being offered a tenancy.

In one notable case, Charmaine offered advice over the phone and drafted a list of issues for the preliminary hearing. Responding to last minute changes, she made use of Collaborate (Advocate's mentoring scheme) and sought advice on how to navigate the proceedings. Her hard work paid off as the respondent and the Judge agreed to her list of issues and none of the disputed material was struck out. The applicant was incredibly grateful for Charmaine's support and her presence at the hearing acted as an important buffer between the applicant and the respondent, who had litigated aggressively.

Charmaine is now currently working on another pro bono case and will be representing the applicant in the employment tribunal in November 2021.

Daniel Grütters

One Pump Court



Daniel has done significant pro bono work alongside his busy and mixed practice. His contribution is made even more impressive by the diversity of people he has assisted.

Daniel has been part of legal efforts to seek international accountability for victims of the Yazidi genocide, and to prevent the passing of transphobic legislation in Romania. In August of this year, he helped to advise three refugee Afghan families on their entitlement to homelessness assistance, following which they were all able to secure temporary accommodation. Afterwards, he provided training to immigration practitioners on how to assist other Afghan families.

Daniel has also taken an active role in the Muslim Lawyers Action Group, created in 2020 to establish a legal support base for the UK Muslim community and is a leading voice in promoting equality and justice across the legal profession. As one of its most active members, he has persuaded solicitors and barristers to take on over a dozen cases for families who were victimised by Islamophobic incidents, in addition to co-ordinating and taking on cases himself.

Also taking on immigration cases, Daniel drafted a last-minute application stopping the deportation of a Jamaican national with vulnerable children in the UK and appeared for an appellant from the DRC who had worked as a care assistant in the NHS, but who was facing removal for a debt incurred from using the NHS herself.

Daniel has contributed to several inquests, appearing for family members of a deceased young man, advising the widow of a deceased prisoner on the merits of challenging a refusal by the coroner to obtain an independent expert medical report and helping the mother of a deceased (young) prisoner on the merits of an application to re-open the inquest into her son's death.



Rose Harvey-Sullivan

7 Bedford Row



Rose has engaged in significant pro bono work since joining Chambers in 2015. She has committed herself to donating time in areas involving particularly marginalised people, or areas where legal or factual complexity makes it especially difficult for lay people to engage. In all, she has donated hundreds of hours to pro bono activities during the last year.

Rose created a legal guide for fathers in prison after contacting the Prisoners' Advice Service (PAS) in August 2020 to ask how she could contribute to their work. PAS told her that one of their most common requests is for advice on how fathers can have contact with their children, so Rose spent 60 hours drafting the guide, which she created almost entirely alone. Written in an accessible way, the guide covers various aspects of parental rights. It is now being distributed in every men's prison in England and Wales and can be accessed online by those working with prisoners. It will affect hundreds of families nationwide and Rose has already received many letters of thanks.

Rose has represented a father with a murder conviction over four years of legal proceedings, having covered initial hearings a year before this at a reduced fee. She has conducted dozens of hearings, drafted many letters, held conferences, and provided advice and support on a regular basis. Following a lengthy fact-finding hearing, allegations against him were dismissed and positive character findings made, affording him substantial contact with his children. After further complications with the case, Rose continues to support the father and has ultimately committed many weeks of her time to his case. Her assistance has meant that the client has maintained substantial contact with his two sons.

In a case with INQUEST, Rose represented family members of a young woman who died following complications caused by anorexia who had concerns about treatment in the final months of her life. The inquest took place over several days during lockdown. Rose assessed thousands of pages of medical evidence and committed substantial preparation time in a case complicated by physical and mental health factors.

Aaqib Javed

Spire Barristers



Aaqib was involved in the Justice First Fellowship Scheme run by the Legal Education Foundation and spent the year before his Fellowship, as well as the first year of it, as a caseworker for Advocate. During this time, he not only committed himself fully to assisting clients to gain access to representation by barristers, but he also developed a system known as the 'Family Advice Duty Scheme'. This innovative scheme was piloted and is due to be put into practice by the end of 2021, enabling applicants in unallocated Advocate family cases to access urgent advice where they have been unable to secure full representation, so they do not have to go to court without at least having spoken to a lawyer.

As soon as he began his second six months of pupillage, Aaqib started taking on cases through Advocate in conjunction with a busy practice and grappled with the reality of conducting his own advocacy remotely. He regularly takes on Advocate cases and completed 11 in March 2021, demonstrating his incredible commitment. This consistent dedication has continued.

Aaqib regularly and without hesitation picks up last minute or out-of-hours cases within Chambers in addition to his pro bono and other work. He has been described as "empathic" and having a "caring and unique approach...knowing and understanding that the applicants have had a hard journey to reach us". One of his nominators said: "Frankly, Aaqib puts us all to shame and deserves recognition... this nomination and hopefully award will provide a platform to inspire more of us to commit to supporting Advocate."

Aaqib is also a very active Committee Member for the Young Legal Aid Lawyers Group who work tirelessly to ensure future availability of providers of legal services for those who are most in need along with a viable legal aid system.



Adam Kayani

Leducate



Adam created Leducate, a legal education charity that facilitates legal education in schools by providing curriculum materials to teachers. This has led directly to the education of over 600 students on legal subjects, using a sustainable online model. It educates young people on their rights and responsibilities, empowers them to exercise their rights, enables them to become thriving members of society and encourages them to explore careers in law.

Launched by young lawyers straight out of university, Adam has been the driving force and his passion and commitment has led to the outstanding impact it has had. Having created Leducate over two years ago, he has worked diligently alongside many other commitments to educate as many people as possible.

Adam has dedicated his own time to personally educate and mentor young students who aspire to a career in law and worked closely with teachers at various schools to provide the necessary resources for their students. Throughout the pandemic, Adam worked hard to maintain support to schools by offering virtual workshops and creating an online portal for individual schools to use.

A teacher who worked with him and nominated him for this award said: "I am humbled by his work, extremely grateful for the difference he has made to our students, including the young man he supported back in November 2020. That student goes up to Oxford in a few weeks to study law."

Adam has poured countless hours into this project, personally delivering sessions in schools in person and virtually, creating significant amounts of educational material for the website and convening a virtual panel event involving Joshua Rozenberg QC (Hon), Lord Neuberger and Fiona Scolding QC.

Cressida Mawdesley-Thomas

12 King's Bench Walk



At this early stage in her career, Cressida sets herself apart with her willingness to tackle sensitive and complex work and give a voice to vulnerable litigants. As the most junior tenant in Chambers, she has taken on incredibly complex work and demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono, winning praise from clients. Cressida also recently ran a half marathon for Advocate to help raise funds towards access to justice.

Cressida has undertaken three significant pieces of work for Advocate over the last 12 months, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the organisation both in and outside of court. In one of these cases, Cressida acted for a family who lost their 19-year-old son, in a two-day inquest to determine the medical cause of his death. This involved questioning leading experts in neuropathology and toxicology, securing important concessions and ultimately ensuring the inclusion of a head injury as a key contributing factor in the cause of death.

Cressida also recently represented a Polish client with limited English who was facing a costs bill that was more than her annual salary. She advised the client in a conference, presented the case at trial and prepared a skeleton argument, as well as written submissions on the issue of pro bono costs. Cressida ultimately won the case, ensuring the client was not found to be dishonest and did not have to pay a costs bill she could not afford. She also won a pro bono costs order of over £4,000 in aid of the Access to Justice Foundation.

For Cressida's handling of the case, District Judge Buss commended "the outstanding job [she did] for her client...it was a case where, without her and her forensic analysis of the documents in particular, the outcome might have been very different". The client thanked her for her "indispensable help...perfect preparation and implementation of my case, that nobody really wanted to take."



Mary-Rachel McCabe

Doughty Street



Mary-Rachel has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono. Before being called to the Bar she worked at the children's rights charity, Just for Kids Law, as well as sitting on the Board of Trustees at Hackney Community Law Centre. She also worked as a legal journalist, writing for publications including The Justice Gap.

Since moving to the Bar, Mary-Rachel travelled to New Zealand on a Pegasus Scholarship to work at YouthLaw, the country's only dedicated law centre for children and young people. In 2020, she joined the Board of Trustees of KIDS, a national charity providing services to disabled children, young people and their families.

In one significant pro bono case concerning children used as covert human intelligence sources, her work was central to the decision of the Home Office to overhaul its Covert Human Intelligence Sources Code of Practice to make it clear that children can only be used in exceptional circumstances, with significant new safeguards to protect them.

In another case, Mary-Rachel spent several hundred hours on an appeal case in which a woman's grieving family was denied their choice of words on her gravestone on the basis that they were Gaelic and may be interpreted as a political slogan. Due in large part to the significance of her work, the ruling was overturned by the Court of Arches of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which found the decision had been irrational and discriminatory, and in breach of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Over the last year Mary-Rachel's work on wellbeing has been of vital importance. She chaired the launch of Legal Action Group's ground-breaking book, *Vicarious Trauma* in the Legal Profession and has undertaken substantial work to support junior barristers and solicitors under pressure in self-preservation.

Ben Norton

Henderson Chambers



Since joining Advocate's panel in 2020, Ben has spent almost a year acting for a pro bono client facing a difficult claim for fraudulent misrepresentation. The client was acting in person and had already had costs awarded against him. The applicant had only a tenuous grip on the claim being advanced against him and the procedure he was required to adhere to.

Ben represented him at a Costs and Case Management Conference, where he had the other side's costs declared excessive, advised on all the trial preparation and then, during the pandemic, prepared to represent him at trial over three days on MS Teams. Ben handled six witnesses and made submissions. The outcome was a success for the client and a pro bono costs order was obtained in favour of the Access to Justice Foundation.

This outcome is even more significant because Ben was still in his second six months of pupillage when he took the case on. The three-day remote multi-track commercial trial was his first trial in practice. Ben's successful result at this early stage in his career, online and against an experienced opponent, sets his results apart from the crowd. Ben also requested permission from his pupil supervisor to represent the applicant at his trial in October.

Ben continues to be a valued member of the Advocate volunteer panel, possessing a strong understanding of the importance of pro bono work.

Adam Heppinstall QC, who nominated Ben for this award, said that "this is an exceptional achievement which, without doubt, merits this award. Not just to recognise all of the exceptional hard work under difficult circumstances undertaken by Ben, but also to encourage all those at the start of their career to give up their time to assist in a similar way; not only for professional development reasons, but to bolster the ailing justice system in its current hour of dire need."



Christopher Rowe

Broadway House Chambers



Christopher is an incredibly hard working and passionate barrister, skilfully representing his clients in complex cases and dedicating many hours to pro bono work. His nomination is supported not only by some of the people he represented, but also a judge he appeared before and his opposing counsel in another case.

Between February 2020 and February 2021, Chris worked closely with Advocate and undertook many pieces of work after setting himself the personal goal of completing 100 hours of pro bono within 12 months. Following completion of this goal, he continues to dedicate his time to helping Advocate's applicants.

Chris has a significant and impressive commitment to pro bono work and holds a genuine desire to help those in need, in particular parents trying to access justice. He decided to do pro bono work after seeing first-hand how difficult it was for litigants in person to represent themselves. One nominee said: "Having Chris represent me removed so much stress, worry and fear from my life...his generosity has changed my entire life for the better."

Chris has taken on a broad spectrum of family cases, including cases relating to domestic abuse, specific issues in private children work concerning name changes, and applications for removal of parental responsibility. He recently successfully represented a pro bono client in an appeal, drafting grounds of appeal and a skeleton argument, attending the hearing and winning. He has represented one pro bono client at least eight times in court and worked on multi-day fact-finding hearings that required extensive preparation.

In addition, Chris is Broadway House Chambers' Pro Bono Champion, encouraging others in Chambers to take on more pro bono work. He also fundraises for Advocate and is currently training for a marathon for the charity.

Rebecca Sheldon

15 Old Square



Rebecca joined Advocate as a panel member in 2018. She has shown an impressive commitment, establishing a reputation for taking on complex cases, sticking with them and always going the extra mile.

Rebecca put a significant amount of time and energy into one outstanding case which escalated over three years, causing the elderly applicant significant stress and anxiety. Rebecca worked on it through the weekend and night to appear in the RCJ outside her area of expertise. At the end, the applicant said: "When I applied to Advocate, I was extremely anxious and overwhelmed. Rebecca changed that completely. Her knowledge, thoroughness, expertise and empathy was remarkable. I still cannot believe the whole nightmare of the last several years has gone away."

A tax specialist, Rebecca has also provided extensive assistance (involving assessment of papers spanning decades) with an application to the Charity Commission to appoint new trustees, on the basis that the charity was no longer in a position to do so itself (due to the death, or disappearance of, previous trustees). This was both time sensitive and complex, as the charity needed new trustees in order to purchase a new property to operate from as soon as possible.

She also tackled a three-day hearing in the First Tier Tribunal as co-counsel (junior) on a complex and important aspect of interpreting Enterprise Investment Scheme relief which had not been tested before in the courts and that will affect everyone applying for this relief in the future.

Rebecca also stepped up to advise LawWorks when it sought urgent advice on a complicated issue regarding VAT (and LawWorks' ability, as a charity, to reclaim) connected to new office premises and Martin Barnes, the charity's Chief Executive, offered Rebecca a letter of support for her nomination.



Kate Temple-Mabe

7 Bedford Row



Kate has taken on multiple cases while also donating significant time pro bono to an initiative started by the Safe Ground Charity, which provides resources and information to fathers in prison about having contact with their children. She has demonstrated a strong commitment increasing access to justice in ways that make a difference, not just to individuals, but also to the legal landscape.

Kate helped one Advocate applicant in a sex discrimination complaint in which the applicant was unfairly dismissed from her job. The respondent was aggressive and Kate assisted at the preliminary hearing. The applicant's claim was allowed to proceed and she helped until the final hearing in late August.

Kate also spent time this year working pro bono on a ground-breaking case on journalist access to papers in care proceedings, grappling with the tension between the open justice principle, public interest journalism, and the privacy rights of children. Kate was sought out by the journalist applicant when the case was in the High Court. Recognising the case's potential importance, she directed the client to Advocate which instructed Kate to act. Kate brought on board a QC, together with a first junior and a team of solicitors at Howard Kennedy, ensuring that the applicant had the best possible legal representation.

After the decision, the team secured permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal, and subsequently won a landmark decision on costs, protecting their applicant client from paying hefty costs associated with redaction of the material that she had been permitted to see. The case has been referred to in subsequent judgments as having revealed problems in the current framework of transparency in family law, and the applicant was invited to give evidence to the Transparency Review conducted by the President of the Family Division.

Louise Verroken-Jones

1GC Family Law



Louise practices family law and deals with cases that are often incredibly emotionally charged. Since starting her second six in April 2020, she has taken on 17 cases for Advocate, three cases for Not Beyond Redemption, and advised on matters for the Centre for Women's Justice. She has also assisted Advocate with talks to the Inns of Court, worked with Inner Temple on their outreach days, and set up the first Social Corporate Responsibility Committee in her Chambers.

Louise regularly offers to help on urgent matters involving very vulnerable applicants and on cases that are difficult to place.

Recently Louise appeared on behalf of a profoundly deaf father at a multi-day Children Act final hearing. The father had not had contact with his daughter for nearly two years and with Louise's assistance he was able to secure a joint lives order for the equivalent of shared care. This was particularly poignant as the British Sign Language assistance secured by the court did not attend for part of the hearing, requiring Louise to provide additional support.

Working with Not Beyond Redemption to support women in prison to secure contact arrangements with their children, Louise has undertaken challenging work to provide advice and representation in court.

In a recent final hearing on a pro bono matrimonial finance case, Louise secured a pro bono costs award for the Access to Justice Foundation. Appearing on behalf of the respondent wife in a complex case involving issues of coercive and controlling behaviour, Louise was able to ensure a continuation of maintenance payments essential to support the wife and child she was representing.

One applicant that Louise helped said: "We were very aware that Louise was working on this case all hours of the day and night. She is truly dedicated to ensuring that those who do not have funds still have access to justice, and it is clear how strong and close to her heart pro bono is."



Pro Bono QC of the Year

Nominees

Gavin Mansfield QC

Littleton Chambers

Anthony Metzger QC

Goldsmith Chambers

James Ramsden QC

Astraea Group



Gavin Mansfield QC

Littleton Chambers



Gavin has long been involved in activities to support access to justice. He is a long-standing case reviewer for Advocate and undertakes pro bono representation at the Employment Appeal Tribunal through ELAAS. In 2021, he was appointed a trustee of the Access to Justice Foundation, which works to increase the support available to vulnerable people requiring access to the legal system through strategic grant-making and support for the advice sector.

After joining Advocate as a volunteer barrister in 2014, Gavin demonstrated an impressive commitment to Advocate, not only as a panel member but also as a case reviewer, receiving up to four files every month to review. He is known for writing helpful, fair and thorough reviews, whether cases are eligible or not, and processing applications swiftly, ensuring that vulnerable clients are able to access help quickly. He is Chambers Pro Bono Champion and has remained just as committed to his pro bono work since becoming Head of Chambers.

In one case that Gavin accepted through ELAAS, he assisted an applicant on a matter where the EAT Judge allowed the appeal on the basis that there were arguable grounds that the ET Judge erred in his approach. The applicant had claimed whistleblowing, unfair dismissal and detriment, breach of contract and direct race discrimination and victimisation. At the initial preliminary hearing all the claims were struck out on grounds that they were out of time and in respect of the Equality Act claims, they had no reasonable prospects of success.

Gavin is a former Chair of the Employment Law Bar Association and a long-time advocacy trainer at Middle Temple, continuing his advocacy training through the pandemic, taking advantage of remote learning opportunities to train pupils at the South African Bar. He has continued to promote access to the Bar by work with the Urban Lawyers mentoring programme and Big Voice London.

Anthony Metzger QC

Goldsmith Chambers



Anthony has practised and now leads in the diverse fields of crime, immigration, inquests and civil law. He became Head of Chambers in 2013. Anthony's strong commitment to pro bono stems from his early days as a barrister, when he represented many appellants before the Privy Council on death row. His work contributed to the decision to limit the amount of time a person can be kept under sentence of death to five years, which meant that hundreds of inmates on death row in the Caribbean were reprieved.

Over the last year, Anthony has made a significant commitment to access to justice. Alongside Dr Charlotte Proudman, Anthony was instructed pro bono by Centre for Women's Justice on behalf of Nia and Women@TheWell to intervene in a case concerning whether it is lawful for a carer to find a prostituted woman for a disabled person.

In another case alongside Dr Proudman, Anthony represented the mother in a hearing before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The original case concerned a child abduction matter in which the father had applied for the immediate return of the child from India to the UK, which the mother opposed. The mother alleged domestic abuse and coercive control by the father. Anthony made written and oral arguments to the CJEU and was successful.

This year, Anthony also formed a pro bono team in Chambers. He led and had overall control of the team of silks, juniors, a pupil and an intern, who were instructed to advise on the use and extension of international sanctions regimes to finance restorative justice for victims of sexual violence in conflict, with particular focus on the Yazidi victims of Da'esh. This work was wholly novel and has the potential to change the course of international compensation for victims/survivors of sexual violence.

The CWJ said: "He always responds with enthusiasm to all requests for pro bono help" and Julia Needham, his nominator says: "Throughout his tenure as Head of Chambers, Anthony has led by example and actively encouraged others in Chambers to undertake pro bono cases."



James Ramsden QC

Astraea Group



James has demonstrated a longstanding and exemplary commitment to pro bono. During the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, his support for the community and to Advocate helped maintain access to justice for the most vulnerable.

James provided extensive pro bono advice and advocacy in relation to a ten-day trial concerning a couple who were being sued by former business associates. After taking the case on the Friday before the trial was due to start, James read the papers and contacted the applicants over the weekend. When the judgment did not go in their favour, James said he would represent the couple at their appeal, applying through Pro Bono Connect to find solicitors and bring on junior counsel. While the appeal is being transferred to the Chancery Division, it has real prospects of success thanks to James' work.

Throughout the pandemic, James provided free legal advice and representation to independent farmers in his local community of Cornwall. During the early stages of the pandemic, movement restrictions and labour shortages threw many small farming businesses into financial crisis. James was directly involved in renegotiating purchase and supply contracts on more favourable terms for farmers, securing rent holidays and representing small farming businesses who found themselves on the wrong end of breach of contract claims and other disputes. Without his help, a number of these businesses would not have survived and many farmers would have lost their livelihoods.

This year, James set up Astraea Group Limited, a barrister and accountant-led litigation law firm with an international focus. He encourages all his employees to dedicate a portion of their working time to pro bono initiatives.

“My case is settled now, which is great news and a huge relief. Now I can get on with my life and work on my mental health to put all this behind me. I would like to say a massive thank you to my barrister for supporting me through everything. I am eternally grateful to him for all his help, I wouldn't have been able to get through it without him.”

Advocate applicant



Pro Bono

Innovation of the Year

Leducate is an educational charity that aims to promote an understanding of everyday legal rights among secondary school students in England and Wales.

In the space of just over two years, the Leducate team has established a broad legal curriculum covering topics from basic contract law to counter-terrorism. Lessons aim to address the given topic in accessible and novel ways, setting out basic premises of the relevant laws while also providing real-world case studies which cement the learning and allow students to apply it to real-life scenarios. By providing curriculum resources to schools so that students can be taught by teachers as part of their regular Citizenship lessons, Leducate aims to integrate legal education into the existing teaching timetable.

Leducate's chief technological innovation is the delivery of materials through an online learning platform. As well as straightforward PowerPoint presentations, lessons are being built into Leducate's website as an interactive platform. To deliver its programme, Leducate has set up an intuitive online platform allowing teachers to easily navigate and deliver the content, even if they are unfamiliar with the subject matter of the lesson. This allows for extensive flexibility and the opportunity to tailor content to both teacher and student needs. It brings interactive design to the curriculum by illustrating complex legal terms.

Leducate is actively pursuing as wide a network of relevant partners as possible so that it can provide a 'one stop shop' for schools and young people with an interest in the law. It pursues a collaborative ethos and has developed strong relationships with LittleLaw and the Kalisher Trust, National Justice Museum and In2Law, all of whom allow Leducate to recommend and facilitate additional engagement that inspires young people to pursue a career in law.

Founded by several law students straight out of university, the Leducate team works tirelessly on the charity despite many other commitments.



Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

Nominees

Tiffany Daniels

1GC Family Law

Leigh Royall

Spire Barristers

Patrick Sarson

Gatehouse Chambers



Tiffany Daniels

1GC Family Law



Tiffany is an assistant practice manager and active proponent of pro bono work within Chambers. When she receives pro bono cases from Advocate, Tiffany carefully selects barristers whose availability and skillset best match the needs of the case to ensure that the client has the best representation possible. She has an in-depth understanding of the level of experience the cases require due to their complexity. Once she has assessed this, she will actively encourage barristers to take on the case.

Once Tiffany has matched a case to a barrister, she continues to handle the administration throughout. Once documents are sent across, she arranges listings, communicates counsel's details to court, arranges any necessary calls and conferences, lodges documents at court, and will handle significant direct contact with the client. Through her efficiency and hard work, she enables barristers with a large appetite for pro bono work to take on far more than they would otherwise.

In one recent instance, Tiffany handled a complex children's private law case which threw up issues of female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The barrister in question wished to continue with the case and to assist with all the proceedings, which required Tiffany to manage her diary carefully and liaise extensively with Advocate to ensure that the barrister was supported in every aspect of the case and able to stay with it from start to finish.

During the pandemic, Tiffany spoke to Advocate directly to put forward two pupil barristers that had time to take on cases. She felt strongly that this would be beneficial to the pupils to fill their diaries in order for them to gain experience, as well as to the clients who would receive their support. The pupil barristers went on to take on all but two of the cases they were sent.

Leigh Royall

Spire Barristers



Leigh is the senior clerk at Spire Barristers. He has created a close working relationship between Chambers and Advocate, regularly and consistently ensuring that pro bono cases are at the forefront of all members' minds. He actively promotes the requests that Spire receive from Advocate and will approach members directly to try and secure assistance. His success is demonstrated by the fact that Spire has 17 barristers on the Advocate panel and three members were nominated for pro bono awards in 2020.

In a recent demonstration of his dedication, Leigh helped Advocate place a case involving an applicant and her four children who were fleeing an abusive father. She was denied an occupation order before fleeing the home and the applicant's husband reported her for child abduction. The casework team at Advocate reached out to Leigh who was more than accommodating and secured counsel on the afternoon before the hearing.

Leigh is passionate about his role and serves as a member of the management committee for the Institute of Barristers' Clerks, and is their representative on the Bar Council's Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee. He is currently establishing, through Chambers, the Northern branch of the Temple Legal Centre, a registered charity that provides free and independent legal advice to people involved in family law matters. It is comprised of pro bono family law barristers, solicitors, pupil barristers and paralegals.

Leigh also sits on Advocate's new marketing and engagement committee. This is an advisory group that will offer expertise to Advocate in order to develop its communications and marketing strategy. This in turn will increase Advocate's capacity to respond to those who need access to justice and Leigh will bring incredibly valuable insight to this role.



Patrick Sarson

Gatehouse Chambers



Patrick pro-actively reviews all the cases listed on the Advocate website and encourages members of chambers to take on those appropriate to their skillset. His knowledge of individual members' expertise and experience makes him uniquely positioned to identify and approach those that he feels have the ability and time to help. Once the case has been allocated, he takes the lead in ensuring that it runs smoothly, using his ability to handle clients who are vulnerable and emotionally distressed with patience and tact.

Patrick is often heavily involved in the cases. In one instance, after successfully finding a barrister within chambers to take on, he helped her by providing significant administrative and logistical support, including putting carrier bags full of papers in order and copying exhibits to witness statements in an incredibly document-heavy case. Charlotte John, the barrister who took on the case, said that this support "enables us to continue to offer support in circumstances where the practical difficulties of running complex litigation without the aid of a solicitor might otherwise present an impediment to continuing to assist."

Patrick ensures that requests for pro bono assistance are given equal priority with fee earning work and encourages involvement by members and staff in other schemes such as CLIPS, ELAAS and volunteering at law centres.

Patrick also volunteers at Waterloo Legal Advice Centre, working on the front line to provide advice to those who need it. He contributes on the organising committee of FreeBar (an inclusion group for LGBT+ people working as and with barristers). He supports the London Legal Support Trust by taking part in the London Legal Walk and encourages members and staff within chambers to do the same.

“The barrister was incredibly kind and supportive on the phone. Thank you very much for all your support. I feel less scared.”

Advocate applicant



Junior

Pro Bono Barrister

of the Year

WESTGATE

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Nominees

Sarah Abram

Brick Court

Julia Needham

Goldsmith Chambers

Shárin Diegan

Goldsmith Chambers

Sarah Pinder

Goldsmith Chambers

Marcus Grant

Temple Garden Chambers

Dr Charlotte Proudman

Goldsmith Chambers

Samina Iqbal

Goldsmith Chambers

Nathan Rasiah

23 Essex Street

Gráinne Mellon

Garden Court Chambers

Rhys Taylor

The 36 Group

Martina Murphy &

Andrew Watson

12 King's Bench Walk

Amelia Walker

1 Crown Office Row

Christina Warner

Goldsmith Chambers



Sarah Abram

Brick Court



Sarah has been a reviewer for Advocate since early 2017, examining over 150 applications for pro bono assistance, including on an urgent referral basis. When she believes a barrister in Chambers may be suitable and willing to provide pro bono help, she works with the clerks to find representation. Her work has led to representation being offered by at least six members of Chambers, at all levels of seniority and in a range of courts and tribunals. She provides informal support to junior members on pro bono matters and trains other barristers to act as reviewers for Advocate.

Sarah frequently undertakes pro bono cases in her own right. In one example, she was the only barrister willing to travel to Luxembourg to act for ClientEarth, an environmental NGO, at the oral hearing of an important challenge to the European Investment Bank's (EIB's) position that the Aarhus regulation does not apply to it. The challenge was successful and the EIB will have to review whether its financing decisions are compliant with EU environmental law. In this case, the EIB had decided to grant financing for a biomass fuel power station in Spain. The ability of environmental NGOs to challenge EIB decisions to grant financing to highly polluting infrastructure projects will be critical to preserving the environment in future. She was willing to undertake this despite the added complications of travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sarah has worked pro bono as part of a scheme involving ten Chambers, offering a mentoring scheme for underrepresented groups at the Bar, with Sarah being a member of the committee and playing a pivotal role in setting up the scheme. It encourages individuals from underrepresented groups at the Bar to pursue careers as barristers, with a focus on groups including women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, people who spent time in care, and people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Sarah has worked pro bono as part of a scheme involving ten Chambers, offering a mentoring scheme for underrepresented groups at the Bar, with Sarah being a member of the committee and playing a pivotal role in setting up the scheme. It encourages individuals from underrepresented groups at the Bar to pursue careers as barristers, with a focus on groups including women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, people who spent time in care, and people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Shárin Diegan

Goldsmith Chambers



Shárin has dedicated a considerable amount of time to providing pro bono legal assistance, demonstrated by the substantial number of hours of pro bono work she has completed over the last 12 months, with over 50 hours being undertaken in the last three months alone. She has accepted over 21 pieces of work for Advocate since October 2019.

In one significant case, Shárin represented a client at six hearings, including a two-day final hearing in June 2021, when the client's wife had stopped contacting him, making allegations that he intended to abduct his two daughters back to his native Sudan and subject them to female genital mutilation. She provided advice and guidance throughout the case in both conferences with the client and his solicitor as well as by email. As a result, the client achieved increasing levels of contact with his children over and above that recommended by Cafcass.

Earlier this year, Shárin became involved in a long-running case when it was listed for final hearing. It had been adjourned on numerous occasions due to difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Shárin worked hard to make herself available for each adjourned date and has provided advice and conferences with the client. As a result of her advice, the client now has overnight contact with two of her children and there is a steady progression of contact ahead of the final hearing.

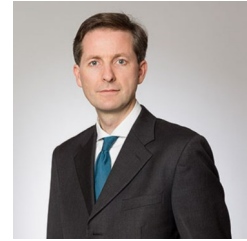
Last year, Shárin took on an urgent case for a vulnerable client at a final hearing in financial remedy proceedings. She represented the client at the final hearing, a further directions hearing, and a three-day final hearing, which concluded in March 2021. She supported the client throughout her engagement in this case by providing ongoing advice on all aspects of the case. Her assistance ensured that the vulnerable client did not have to cross-examine her abusive partner and provided equality of arms both in court and throughout the progress of the case.

One barrister said: "Shárin has earned the respect of her colleagues and she has become a role model in chambers."



Marcus Grant

Temple Garden Chambers



Marcus put himself forward to assist an Advocate applicant with a particularly complex case. This was a fibromyalgia claim following a road accident and the stress of the case was having an adverse effect on the applicant's health. The former lawyers had settled the case for £95,000, however, the applicant contended that it was settled negligently and that she ought to have been advised to reject the amount and be awarded more. Marcus took the case on, drafting first an advice, then a schedule of loss, and arranged for extra expert evidence to substantiate the claim.

Draft proceedings were initiated against the negligent law firm, represented by lawyers with a formidable reputation. The defendant asked for time to respond to the schedule. They commissioned their own expert evidence and reverted with a counter-schedule that contended the original settlement was sufficient. They agreed to attend a joint settlement meeting to discuss their stance and ultimately agreed to pay a further £266,075 to settle it.

Marcus spent in excess of 50 hours on the case, all of which was carried out pro bono. He consistently made himself available to the applicant over the phone and email, read through thousands of pages of documentation, and worked outside of office hours to ensure the best possible outcome.

The applicant said of Marcus that "should it not have been for Mr Grant's assistance, this matter would no doubt be ongoing and most definitely not have concluded in the amicable manner in which it did...he dealt with my matter with great care and diligence and worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible outcome."

Samina Iqbal

Goldsmith Chambers



Samina has contributed her time pro bono to a number of organisations and causes. Samina's most recent efforts were directed at the crisis that unfolded in Afghanistan, when she joined a group of voluntary lawyers organised by the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association across the legal profession to assist those whose work with foreign governments put them at risk at the hands of the Taliban. She worked extensively at short notice whilst juggling other deadlines to help field enquiries for information on evacuation and to make representations on behalf of those who were seeking to be evacuated under resettlement programmes to the UK.

Samina has done extensive work for several voluntary organisations. She frequently provides short-notice casework support to Amour Déstiné which mentors and advocates on behalf of women and young girls, survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and modern slavery. She also provides advice and takes on cases through Here for Good, an organisation that provides European citizens with access to free legal advice.

She is a volunteer mentor with Centre for Women's Justice in the UK, providing support and running regular sessions to aid aspiring lawyers who are underrepresented in the legal profession. She was part of the Windrush Legal Angels, a pro bono organisation designed to assist victims of the Windrush Scheme in relation to their legal issues. Samina also works with the Kent Refugee Action Network and has run a pro bono advice clinic for the Cassandra Centre, a charity supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Samina is committed to pro bono training, aiming to ensure that those left vulnerable by changes in the law, and their representatives, have access to up-to-date information. She jointly devised and presented a pro bono webinar on the EU Settlement Scheme in response to a high level of enquiries from anxious EU nationals following Brexit.



Gráinne Mellon

Garden Court Chambers



Gráinne has done significant work on migrant children's rights during the last year and has provided extensive help around the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

After originally agreeing to take on individual cases for immigration charity, Here for Good, she set up the Here for Good EUSS project between Here for Good and Advocate, which recruited and trained barristers to assist with filing EUSS applications for vulnerable applicants before the June deadline. In only six weeks she registered interest from over 70 barristers and organised training. Ultimately, 75 barristers from Chambers across the country signed up to take on cases for the most vulnerable EU nationals referred to Here for Good. Through Advocate, barristers took on cases directly and used the organisation's caseworkers for assistance.

In one example, Gráinne wrote lengthy representations and gathered extensive positive evidence to support the application of a 22-year-old care leaver. Although he met the criteria for settlement, he had served time in prison for which he had been given a deportation order, thus his application was complex and had a high risk of refusal. While the application is yet to receive a decision, without Gráinne the applicant would be in the UK without permission and at great risk.

In another case, Gráinne supported a nine-month-old baby in the care of Merton Social Services who was born in the UK to a Polish mother. Gráinne was able to support the baby to make an application to the Polish embassy for proof of his Polish nationality, and subsequently support him to make an EUSS application before the deadline. This complex application required several submissions setting out the reasons that the Home Office should exercise discretion in granting the infant settled status outright. Gráinne's extensive work means the application is expected to be accepted.

Martina Murphy & Andrew Watson

12 King's Bench Walk



Martina and Andrew were jointly nominated based on their collaboration on a complicated pro bono case with high stakes for the client involved.

Martina and Andrew represented a consultant doctor in a six-day Medical Practitioner's Tribunal Hearing, undertaking 126 hours and 89 hours of pro bono work respectively. All four charges against the doctor were dismissed, including the allegation that her treatment plan for a patient was inappropriate, that she made false statements to the patient and that she was dishonest. Their work had a profound impact on the client, who suffered a stroke before the hearing and simply could not have represented herself. Because of their work, she is permitted to continue practising, and her career is intact.

This case was especially significant as both Martina and Andrew were operating outside of their areas of established expertise as employment lawyers, within a legal context and before a tribunal with which they were unfamiliar. Their collaboration on this extensive task enabled the strongest possible defence to be advanced for the client and has set a new precedent in Chambers for accommodating larger pro bono cases. Their success in the case has also strongly highlighted the importance of pro bono work within Chambers.

Martina is also extremely proactive in encouraging junior members and pupils to sign up to Advocate and get involved in pro bono work as early as possible in their careers. In her own pro bono work, she took on an employment appeal through Advocate, which established the principle that "ordinary" dismissal can amount to harassment under the Equality Act, and remains the authority on this point.

Martina and Andrew demonstrate a consistent willingness to engage in significant amounts of pro bono work despite their busy and developed employment practices. They also provide a great example of working collaboratively to achieve a shared goal for the client.



Julia Needham

Goldsmith Chambers



Julia's commitment to pro bono work started at law school, volunteering for her local Law Centre, which led her to working for the Free Representation Unit while at Bar School. In 2019, she volunteered to become Advocate's pro bono champion within her Chambers.

Julia co-ordinated an interdisciplinary team of barristers from Goldsmith Chambers to prepare a pro bono Chambers Opinion for Hogan Lovells LLP, whose pro bono unit began a Finance for Restorative Justice project as an attempt to use existing legislation to fund reparations for the Yazidi victims of Da'esh. In the 100-page document, Julia provided an additional opinion to address the possibility of confiscating frozen assets of individuals designated under existing Terrorist Sanctions Regimes as a further source of finance for restorative justice, through legislative change at both domestic and international levels. She has devoted over 100 hours and her work is still ongoing.

Since joining the Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) as a panel member in early 2021, Julia has participated in CWJ's roundtable discussion on specific areas of law regarding disclosure in rape/sexual assault cases. She has also drafted a Rule 16 letter in a Supreme Court permission to intervene on behalf of CWJ, advised on delayed prosecution and abuse of process, helped a solicitor acting for family of a female suicide victim following decades of abuse and control, advised a CWJ in-house advocate in a child sexual abuse case, as well as many others.

Julia has established a proactive relationship with Advocate, finding ways to reach more potential clients in areas of law where Chambers has untapped pro bono capacity. During her tenure, members of Chambers on the Advocate panel have increased from 17 to 40 and Chambers won the award for Pro Bono Chambers of the Year in 2020.

Sarah Pinder

Goldsmith Chambers



Sarah has provided her specialist legal knowledge in immigration and public law to benefit several Afghan citizens who qualified for relocation to the UK. In one instance, she spent many hours assisting an Afghan interpreter who was forced to flee to the UK in 2016 with his family, successfully securing his relocation. She is currently working on another case involving an Afghan interpreter as well as four other pro bono clients who are senior members of the Afghan government or Chevening scholars. She has been adept at maximising access to specialist legal advice via social media and training and has recorded a podcast on the options for Afghan refugees with Free Movement.

Sarah took on several referrals of vulnerable European citizens through Advocate and Here for Good, providing advice on their applications. She helped rectify the poor information available to applicants, juggling a busy caseload to provide short notice assistance to those who needed it. She also jointly set up and ran several webinars on the subject.

She has also devised and delivered specialist training for Amour Déstiné, an organisation which mentors and advocates on behalf of vulnerable women and young girls, who are survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and modern slavery. Her efforts have enabled several people to be helped with their immigration problems. Sarah has been involved with the Cassandra Centre, a charity supporting victims of domestic abuse, where she helps to field legal queries and find legal assistance for those in difficult situations with no financial recourse. She has worked with the Kent Refugee Network, whose volunteers provide advice, education and mentoring for young people who have arrived seeking asylum, jointly taken the lead in discussions.

She was also among a handful of barristers approached to assist the Bar Council to prepare its response to the proposed Nationality and Immigration Bill. She readily agreed to this and has dedicated several hours to attending meetings, providing advice and settling parts of the draft response.



Dr Charlotte Proudman

Goldsmith Chambers



Charlotte has a special interest in pro bono work in the field of ending violence against women and girls. In one significant case, led by Anthony Metzer QC, Charlotte was instructed pro bono by the Centre for Women's Justice on behalf of charities Nia and Women@TheWell to intervene in a Court of Protection case appealed by the government to the Court of Appeal. The case concerned whether it is lawful for a carer to find a prostituted woman for a disabled person. Relying on first-hand evidence, it was submitted that girls and women in prostitution experience exploitative conduct which is a strict liability offence. These complex arguments were distilled into a skeleton argument which was relied upon by counsel on behalf of the government.

Recently, Charlotte and Mr Metzer QC represented a complainant of domestic abuse before the Court of Justice in the European Union (CJEU). This involved High Court hearings and preparation and involvement in the CJEU hearing. In early 2020, she also helped three women by advising them pro bono on whether they had grounds to appeal adverse fact-finding decisions about partnership rape, domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. She appealed these cases, which were leapfrogged to the Court of Appeal and became general guidance cases on how the court should address these allegations.

Charlotte's commitment to this cause extends beyond the courtroom. She is a campaigner for legal change in a pro bono capacity and has worked closely with MPs to draft amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill, including making refuge residential addresses confidential, prohibiting victims of domestic abuse from paying for perpetrator's contact costs, and judicial training in domestic abuse. She has also been a key voice in campaigning for improved transparency, accountability and risk assessments concerning domestic abuse within the Family Courts. She has helped bring public awareness to the issue through media appearances.

Nathan Rasiah

23 Essex Street



Nathan has consistently dedicated time to pro bono, picking up several cases in the interests of ensuring access to justice for all.

In one significant case, Nathan represented at an inquest the family of a man who died while detained in hospital, in circumstances where the family were concerned about medical negligence and lack of communication. In this case, he used his specialist skills as an experienced criminal advocate to cross-examine a consultant vascular surgeon as to why he had not arranged prompt treatment for suspected necrosis, which eventually led to the death of the patient.

In another case, Nathan represented a woman in a human rights claim in the High Court against a local authority about a failure to support her re-establishing a relationship with her son, who was in care. The claimant was registered blind. Nathan conducted numerous conferences, including travelling to locations accessible to the claimant, drafting the claim form and representing the claimant at court hearings, before the case was settled. The client said that “for the first time in so many years, I felt that I had been heard and respected.”

Nathan also acted in a judicial review of the decision of a Magistrate’s Court to dismiss a prosecution for domestic violence because the complainant did not attend from France, due to recently imposed Coronavirus travel restrictions. This involved multiple telephone conferences with the client, analysis of a novel area of law relating to the interpretation of the Coronavirus Travel Regulations, drafting the judicial review claim form and representing the claimant at an oral hearing for permission.

As an incredibly busy practitioner in Chambers, Nathan has consistently found time to devote his unique skills to a range of challenging pro bono cases, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure access to justice for some of the most vulnerable people in society.



Rhys Taylor

The 36 Group



Rhys is best known for his work in the pensions on divorce field and has contributed significantly to this area with pro bono work.

Collaborating with Law for Life and the Nuffield Foundation, Rhys made a significant contribution to the widely praised Pensions Advisory Group (PAG) report on the Treatment of Pensions on Divorce. He offered his expertise, pro bono, on this project to create a user-friendly version of the PAG guide for litigants in person. He contributed extensively throughout the production phases and peer reviewed the final version to confirm its legal accuracy. This ultimately involved many hours of work, on top of which he promoted the guide through lectures and webinars to large audiences, drastically increasing the reach of the report.

In support, HHJ Hess said he “manages to run alongside his practice a remarkable range of pro bono activities to which he devotes his time and efforts in a manner worthy of public recognition.”

Rhys has made a significant contribution to Law for Life through his ongoing assistance. He is a leading member of their expert advisory group, which advises on legal and regulatory issues around the development of an online consent order tool for divorcing couples. If achieved, this will allow people the opportunity to reach financial finality on divorce. Rhys assisted Law for Life to recruit group members, making contacts to better disseminate resources and offer high quality advice within his field of expertise.

Rhys also advised Law for Life on a guide about the law on property rights and cohabitants. This complex area of law helps an increasing number of couples who cannot afford a lawyer. He has also taken on two pro bono cases for Advocate and one for the Legal Advice Clinic. He serves on the Family Procedure Rules Committee, and is a member of the Fair Shares project advisory group.

Amelia Walker

1 Crown Office Row



Amelia began assisting pro bono clients through Advocate in 2019, and since then has demonstrated a strong dedication to helping the most vulnerable litigants in person. She has taken on 12 pieces of pro bono work, helping one particular applicant eight times.

In one exceptionally notable case taken on through Advocate, Amelia supported an applicant with bipolar disorder who is involved in complex litigation with an ex-partner. The core dispute surrounds whether the applicant owes his ex-partner money for funds spent during their relationship. Due to the extreme stress of the situation, his mental health had deteriorated, and he had been unable to comply with court deadlines, causing his defence to be struck out.

Throughout this incredibly complex case, which ultimately saw Amelia becoming entrenched in two distinct sets of proceedings, she was unable to represent due to issues with taking instructions and the trial was not decided in the applicant's favour. However, a secondary appeal is still ongoing which may have an impact on the primary proceedings. Sophie, an Advocate caseworker, said that "while this case may not have had a positive outcome, I am absolute in my certainty that without Amelia's involvement this applicant would have been in a far worse position. She has been more dedicated to this case than I have ever seen from a barrister assisting a client pro bono in my two years at Advocate."

In another case through the Environmental Law Foundation, Amelia helped to challenge the decision of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 2020 to remove a cycling lane along Kensington High Street, one of the most dangerous roads in Central London. After pre-action correspondence, the Council agreed to re-take the decision, but in March this year refused to re-instate the cycle lanes. They have now issued a judicial review, proceeding to a permission hearing. This case supplements a wider process of challenging local authorities' decisions not to implement proper cycling infrastructure.



Christina Warner

Goldsmith Chambers



Christina has done significant pro bono work across several communities. After being diagnosed in early 2021 with a rare genetic condition which causes sight loss, Christina has done extensive work with those living with disabilities.

Christina is an active member of the Lesbian and Gay Lawyers' Association, contributing to all aspects of the organisation on a pro bono basis. She organised the Association's first ever charity event in 2019, raising funds for Galop, the only remaining LGBT+ domestic abuse service in the UK. She has been praised for her tireless dedication to promoting the rights of LGBT+ people and their children through pro bono contributions to charities and projects.

Through Galop, Christina has helped numerous clients seeking both urgent and non-urgent family and criminal law advice, all of which she has received excellent feedback for. She has been particularly invested in cases involving those in the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities who may have faced further challenges as a result of language barriers, assisting with access to medical assistance and housing issues.

Christina also works pro bono on matters concerning animal protection and domestic abuse. Having collaborated with both animal and domestic abuse charities in the UK and internationally, she has advised on the safeguarding and wellbeing of animals in situations of domestic abuse or relationship breakdown. She has been called a "pioneer" in the field of animal protection law and has campaigned to promote the link between violence towards animals and children, and domestic abuse. She has been published in leading legal journals on legislation affecting animals in domestic abuse cases and has been a keynote speaker at international events discussing these topics.

“I do not think I could have got through the legal cases without your tremendous support. Being a litigant in person is the most stressful situation to be put in and you and those barristers that offer their time to people like me truly have no idea of the immense gratitude and relief they provide.”

Advocate applicant



**International
Pro Bono Barrister
of the Year**

Nominees

Rhys Davies

Temple Garden Chambers

Ben Keith

5 St. Andrew's Hill



Rhys Davies and Ben Keith

Temple Garden Chambers and 5 St. Andrew's Hill

Rhys and Ben have worked extensively on a pro bono basis to achieve justice for Ryan, a British national who has been wrongfully imprisoned in Dubai for over 13 years. They have acted as legal counsel on his campaign and have provided the client's family with advice, written advocacy, legal submissions and in-depth legal assistance.

In a real-life David and Goliath situation, their work has involved gaining a detailed understanding of the complex commercial beginnings of the case in order to bring out the full extent of the injustice done to the client, as well as taking on powerful international adversaries who can fund expensive litigation.

Their work has centred around the UN conventions against torture and arbitrary detention, and what is conventionally referred to as the Global Magnitsky Sanctions legislation now in force in the UK, US and Canada. They have made submissions under UN Conventions to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in Geneva and the UN Special Rapporteur against Torture in Geneva. They have also made Global Magnitsky Sanctions submissions to the UK FCDO and the US governments.



Rhys Davies



Ben Keith

Rhys and Ben's work has involved the challenge of using what is still relatively new legislation, both in the UK and internationally, with both of them operating outside of their areas of expertise. It has been an incredibly time-consuming case in which they have drafted lengthy submissions to the UN and to the British, US and Canadian governments. They have made themselves available whenever required for meetings with Ryan's family, towards whom they have shown unfailing patience, professional humility and understanding.

The outcome of this has been a legal framework which has knitted together a far more substantial campaign than the family had been able to mount unaided, which has already garnered support from high profile human rights activists. Although the campaign is still in its opening stages, it is now equipped to achieve its desired result.

Chris Pagett CMG, OBE, who supported their nomination, said: *"Rhys and Ben have throughout this displayed unfailing attentiveness and sensitivity, never losing sight of the fact that they are working to help a frightened and vulnerable family. That family now has grounds for hope."*



**Pro Bono
Chambers
of the Year**

Nominees

12 King's Bench Walk

Cloisters

Garden Court Chambers

Goldsmith Chambers



12 King's Bench Walk

12KBW has collectively undertaken 691 hours of pro bono work over the last 12 months. They have taken on 17 Advocate cases in this time and engaged eight different members of Chambers in this work. This puts them among the top-ranking chambers for this past year in terms of the amount of work done. Their Pro Bono Champions, Georgina Churchhouse and Elizabeth Boulden, are both incredibly proactive in their support for Advocate.

This work spans employment, professional discipline, clinical negligence inquests, data protection and personal injury law. Their members have assisted with advising, drafting, trial and appellate advocacy, and members of chambers at all levels are supported by the clerking team to take time out of their diary to support pro bono work. While many of 12KBW's members have been nominated for individual awards, a huge amount of collective work has been done across Chambers.

In one significant case, Martina Murphy and Andrew Watson represented a consultant doctor in a six-day Medical Practitioners Tribunal Hearing, undertaking 126 hours and 89 hours of pro bono work respectively. By virtue of their assistance, all four charges of misconduct against the registrant were dismissed and they were allowed to continue practising.

Henry King completed 110 hours of pro bono work by taking on three cases for Advocate, including assisting on an Employment Appeal Tribunal case in an appeal against a decision to strike out a whistleblowing claim in the Employment Tribunal. He was successful on all four grounds of appeal and the case was remitted to a differently constituted Employment Tribunal.

Tim Goodwin undertook 100 hours of pro bono work including advising a Claimant on an appeal to the Supreme Court, preparing an Employment Tribunal claim in an unfair dismissal, disability and religious and race discrimination case, and appearing for a litigant with learning difficulties in an Employment Tribunal claim for unfair dismissal and unauthorised deduction from wages.

Cloisters

Cloisters was nominated by the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB), having provided pro bono work to them since its inception. Over the years, their work has allowed precarious migrant workers access to justice and they have been responsible for pursuing and winning ground-breaking test cases. Chambers' involvement in both collective and individual cases has had a huge positive effect on underrepresented communities.

In addition to legal representation at tribunal level, Cloisters has also gone above and beyond to offer the IWGB comprehensive advice on COVID-19 regulations and its implications on employment law. They have been paramount to helping the IWGB's legal department navigate the challenges the pandemic has posed for many workers across the country.

Several barristers provide pro bono legal representation at tribunal hearings for cases of trade union detriment, disability discrimination and equal pay. They are currently providing pro bono representation in lengthy tribunal hearings lasting up to 11 days. In total over the past year, 25 barristers have assisted the IWGB with legal clinics, training, advice and active tribunal representation.

Laura Barroso, Acting Head of Legal of the IWGB, said: "At the beginning of the pandemic we had regular calls with Cloisters chambers' barristers who would provide us with advice on the furlough scheme, health and safety matters and redundancy situations. It was thanks to their advice that we could develop effective strategies to deal with the surge in cases and help thousands of workers who were seeing their life being turned upside down."

Cloisters has also made an enormous contribution to the Employment Legal Advice Network (ELAN) since the beginning of the pandemic. It produced a publicly available document called the Back to Work Toolkit, currently in its 10th Edition, providing expert, detailed and highly practical guidance on topical and complicated issues arising from COVID-19, including health and safety, redundancy, discrimination and more.

Members of chambers have also dedicated many hours to preparing for and delivering six interactive workshops on the rules around the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, subsequent government schemes and policies, vaccines and redundancy for ELAN.



Garden Court Chambers

Garden Court Chambers was nominated by Bail for Immigration Detainees (BiD). Chambers has consistently provided pro bono help to some of the most marginalised people in the UK by taking on cases through BiD, a charity that provides high-quality legal advice and representation to those facing immigration detention.

Over the past year and a half, Garden Court Chambers has provided barristers to represent in 112 out of 147 bail hearings for BiD. Their clerks have consistently helped BiD to find counsel for pro bono bail hearings, often at short notice and outside of the usual rota. This assistance has meant that more vulnerable detainees have received specialist legal representation than they would have had access to otherwise, increasing their chances of securing bail. This help is made even more remarkable due to the fact that many of BiD's clients often have incredibly complex cases.

In addition to providing representation, barristers at Garden Court Chambers have given advice on the next steps in relation to clients' bail, immigration and unlawful detention cases. Many of these cases have been accepted by solicitors on the basis of the initial pro bono advice provided.

As well as providing hands-on casework, Garden Court's pro bono efforts have been incredibly valuable in shaping BiD's policy work, by identifying issues and patterns in cases. They have advised BiD's legal managers, which in turn has influenced BiD's advocacy work with Parliamentarians, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

During the course of the pandemic, BiD produced a publication questioning why the Home Office was detaining people in circumstances where the overwhelming majority were being granted bail. The study focused on the work of Garden Court's pro bono barristers and their many successful outcomes.

Goldsmith Chambers

Goldsmith Chambers has strengthened its relationship with Advocate through its pro bono champion, Julia Needham. Membership of the Advocate panel has increased from 17 in 2019, to 40 in 2021. Members have also made impressive individual contributions, including Shárin Diegan, who has taken on over 21 Advocate cases in the last year.

In addition to supporting Advocate, a strong pro bono thread weaves through Chambers and members are active with many other charities including Bail for Immigration Detainees and Kent Refugee Action Network which provides advice, education and mentoring to young asylum seekers.

Members of Goldsmith's immigration team, including Samina Iqbal, Sarah Pinder and Kezia Tobin, joined a group organised by the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association to assist people whose work with foreign governments made them vulnerable to the Taliban. Members of the team also took on referrals from vulnerable EEA citizens who needed assistance and advice on their application to remain in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme.

During 2020/21, an inter-disciplinary team of barristers from Goldsmith Chambers devoted hundreds of hours pro bono to prepare an Opinion for Hogan Lovells LLP as part of a project to fund reparations for the Yazidi victims of Da'esh. The Opinion ran to over 100 pages and is being used as a basis for further litigation at an international level.

Chambers also supports the Centre for Women's Justice, a legal charity that holds the state to account in relation to violence against women. Eight members of Chambers volunteer to sit on the charity's legal panel. Five of them have assisted with a range of complex cases.

Other members volunteer their time with women's organisations such as the Cassandra Centre, a charity that supports women who have experienced domestic abuse, and Amour Destiné, which supports women who have experienced domestic abuse.



John Collins

Pro Bono

Excellence Award

In partnership with



Nominees

Amritpal Bachu

1 MCB Chambers

Justin Bates

Landmark Chambers

Sarah Blackmore

Spire Barristers

Wendy Frempong

12 Old Square

Maureen Obi-Ezekpazu

Family Matters



Amritpal Bachu

1MCB



Since joining Advocate's panel, Amritpal has quickly demonstrated an impressive commitment and taken on 20 separate pieces of work which would otherwise have been tricky to place. He puts in many expressions of interest to see which cases he can and cannot assist with, responding to us in good time if he is unable to help. This makes a huge difference to our team and helps keep everything running smoothly.

One case that stood out to us concerned our applicant that required representation at a two-hour case management hearing in an employment tribunal claim for discrimination and unfair dismissal. The applicant was a handyman with a long history of employment at the respondent and its TUPE predecessor, the local council. He suffered from serious back problems but repeatedly came back to work after periods of time on sick leave. On his most recent return he says that he was treated differently from colleagues, including being required to use (and insure) his own car for work instead of being provided with a work van. This led to a grievance procedure and ultimately the applicant was dismissed. The applicant had solicitor assistance from a solicitor on the Legal Help scheme, but this does not enable the solicitor to represent him at hearings. Amritpal selflessly committed to assisting the applicant up to and including the settlement.

The applicant said: "We managed to reach an agreeable settlement with my employer, and I could not have done it without the help Amritpal Bachu, who represented me. Amrit really did pull out all the stops for me, working late nights, all weekend and an extension to time on the day. He really did focus in on key areas in a rapid amount of time and put across my case concisely and persuasively. I am happy I can now move on with my life. I can only wish you all the best and thankyou and Amrit, for fighting the good fight!"

Amritpal truly cares and gives clear, helpful advice, taking time provide solid written submissions, which play a vital role in providing our applicants with the high quality service they deserve.

Justin Bates

Landmark Chambers



When lockdown was announced in March 2020, this was devastating news to many vulnerable people. Advocate received a huge number of applications for help and many of our current applicants' cases were adjourned, sparking a lot of uncertainty. This put an immense amount of pressure on all staff at Advocate to ensure we found legal assistance from our panel. The Bar stood with us, and we saw more juniors and seniors than ever coming forward to help us in many ways. Justin in particular has worked on a huge number of cases, both as a case reviewer and a panel member.

He took one case in particular that would have been very hard to place. Our applicant was sued for a Rent Repayment Order (RRO) in the sum of £18,000 by his former tenants on the alleged basis that he let a house for multiple occupation (HMO) without the necessary licence, which is a criminal offence. Whilst the applicant did let rooms in his flat to lodgers, he defended it on the basis that he had a reasonable excuse, by reason of either the local authority's inaction or his own mental health. It appears that the applicant was sectioned under the Mental Health Act shortly after the events that gave rise to the claim and might well have explained his behaviour. The applicant had lost his job and could not afford representation and if an RRO of that magnitude were ordered, his home would be at risk. Justin took on this matter and has been assisting our applicant all the way though.

Over time, Justin has selflessly offered more than 180 pro bono hours to help Advocate's applicants. He has built a great rapport with the casework team and has a strong understanding of our work ethic, contributing a lot during a time when we really needed it. He also selects cases in which he can involve a junior member of Chambers so he can provide mentorship and encouragement to get involved in pro bono work, truly leading the next generation of the Bar by example.



Sarah Blackmore

Spire Barristers



Sarah joined Advocate as a panel member in 2013 and then joined as reviewer in 2019. She has accepted over 13 separate pieces of work since the outbreak of COVID-19, an impressive six of which were taken up this year. As Joint Head of Chambers, Sarah is also great at encouraging members of Spire to take on Advocate cases.

A recent matter concerned an applicant father to a child who had been abducted by her mother to Cyprus. The child was previously the subject of a child arrangements order and lived with her father. Contact with her mother was limited to visiting only. The mother is subject to a European arrest warrant. The mother had not complied with court orders, and it appeared that the mother's father may have assisted her financially. The mother's father has been arrested in the UK for aiding and abetting child abduction. Sarah has committed herself to continue with this case until the matter has concluded.

Sarah has done a remarkable job in her role as a family reviewer for Advocate, consistently giving up hours of her time to read cases and decide whether they are eligible for pro bono help. In most cases Sarah has remained on the matter and reviewed it until the matter has concluded. She has taken the role a step further and played a mentor to the junior end of the Bar and to the casework team. Sarah has an infectious kind nature, one that has inspired a lot of the casework team and office volunteers to look at a career at the Family Bar. The effort Sarah puts into every case is remarkable and Advocate functions all the better for the help of such a robust and caring barrister.

It is not clear how Sarah finds the time to perform so much excellent pro bono work as well as jointly being Head of Chambers. She is instrumental in nurturing a culture of pro bono in her set, along with her senior clerk, Leigh Royall.

Wendy Frempong

12 Old Square



Wendy Frempong has been a panel member since 2012. Since joining, Wendy quickly demonstrated an impressive commitment and has accepted over 30 separate pieces of work, 12 of which were taken on in the last six months.

One of the cases concerned an applicant who is father to four children. He had applied for child arrangements order and a specific issue order to be allowed to relocate as a family. There were a lot of background complexities to this case: the mother fled with the children amidst allegations of domestic violence by the father, whilst the father involved social services due to his eldest son's online activities resulting in a child protection plan. Wendy represented the father at the remote First Hearing and Dispute Resolution Appointment, heard by a District Judge due to the severity of the allegations.

Another case that stood out concerned an applicant father and his two children with his ex-wife. This was a complex case for our applicant, with a number of issues in respect of allegations of abuse, alienation and a protracted history. The Cafcass report made recommendations that there should be supervised contact. The applicant said that he would find this a difficult case to navigate in person and benefited from Wendy at a conference to advise him how to best present his case.

Many of our applicants have expressed their gratitude over the years, demonstrating Wendy's gentle approach to each case. One said: "Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You are so amazing I really don't know what I would have done without you" and another told us that she was "thankful that there is at least someone out here in the world that has not forgotten me".

Wendy is a valued member of Advocate's volunteer panel. She is modest, kind and caring, putting all applicants first and trying to help in whatever way she can.



Maureen Obi-Ezekpazu

Family Matters



Maureen Obi-Ezekpazu of Family Matters has been a panel member with Advocate for a number of years. Since joining, Maureen has taken on more than ten pieces of work, committing to one case throughout.

One case dates back to 2018 and concerns a private law children case brought by a father for his four children to live with him and for permission to remove the children to Pakistan purportedly for the purposes of holidays. Contact with the applicant mother was extremely limited (one hour per fortnight) and supervised. The mother opposed the application, alleging domestic violence during which she tried to protect herself with a weapon. She was subsequently prosecuted and acquitted of attempted murder. The case is factually complex, partly because of cultural issues. Maureen has remained on this case and said she will do so until it concludes.

Primarily Maureen stands out because of her commitment to children and families and to obtaining for each family the best possible outcome. Maureen is deeply committed to this task and works hard to ensure that clients from young children to grandparents and friends of families access the legal system and achieve justice in their case. Applicants remark that they feel safe in Maureen's hands in the knowledge that she will do her utmost to engage them fully in the progress and empower them to make good decisions for themselves.

In another case, an applicant said she had not understood what had happened in the legal process but with Maureen's involvement things were much clearer, allowing her to make different choices. Maureen takes gentle care in each case and treats our applicants with respect and empathy. Her strength of character and dogged determination is also part of the service she provides for all clients. This determination secures outcomes that were often thought not to be achievable.

**“You are all so amazing I
really don’t know what I
would have done
without Advocate.”**

Advocate applicant

Brochure kindly sponsored by the Bar Council



Lifetime

Achievement

in Pro Bono,

the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award

Anthony Speaight QC

4 Pump Court



Throughout his career, Anthony Speaight QC, who retired this year, has dedicated a significant amount of time to pro bono work and encouraged others to undertake it. He has done work for Advocate since the 1990s, and this year alone has assisted on five separate pieces of work, amounting to a total of 70 hours.

He has twice been nominated for a Bar Pro Bono Award. First at the initiative of a client for whom he won a Court of Appeal case on the instructions of Advocate in 2007. He was also nominated in 2020 for his extensive work for Advocate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the recent highlights of his pro bono work was a case for Ruby, an aspiring criminal lawyer whose student finance from the Student Loans Company was withdrawn on the grounds of alleged fraud in respect of a subsidiary claim for childcare. She strongly contested the claim and spent years putting up a fight to clear her name. Anthony wrote two joint opinions and, together with a junior in Chambers, Anna Hoffman, was involved for over two years in the case. His intervention and pre-action letter led to Ruby's finance being reinstated and she graduated this year with a law degree and is currently studying for the Legal Practice Course.

Anna Hoffman, whom Anthony has mentored and who nominated him, says: "Throughout our work together it has been remarkable how grounded and practical and full of empathy Anthony has been (for example, worrying about how many postage stamps the client may have to use to send a pre-action letter) and how much kindness and humanity he brought to the work."

A second recent case he was involved in for Advocate arose from the unhappy conclusion of a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). A couple was provided with an unsuitable financial product by a major bank and failed to understand the implications of a suggested compromise. They ended up having to sell their house to clear heavy debt, giving rise to wider questions about the adequacy of FOS procedures, to which Anthony brought his considerable expertise.





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