
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

1

"The demand for our service has reached new heights, driven by the increased cost-of-living and the financial hardships many households continue to face. Vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of these challenges."

advocate



Rebecca Wilkie
CEO of Advocate

In March, barristers across England and Wales will be renewing their practising certificates through the MyBar portal. When doing so, there is an opportunity to donate £35 or more to Advocate. Ahead of practising renewal opening, our CEO Rebecca Wilkie has written a blog about why these donations mean so much to sustaining our service.

Rebecca shares how Advocate has seen a dramatic increase in requests for help to our service in the last year, receiving an average of 31 applications per working day in 2024. Alongside the increase in demand for support however, she highlights that we have also seen an increase in barristers taking on pro bono work and donating to us, with over 7,000 barristers generously donating to us during practising renewal last year.

[Read the full blog and find out more about donating](#)



TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono

This month, [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) published the TrustLaw 2024 Index of Pro Bono. Now in its sixth iteration, the report maps global pro bono trends gathered from 209 law firms in 123 jurisdictions (comprising almost 100,000 lawyers).

Headline figures showed that 57% of lawyers worldwide are now engaged in pro bono work, donating an average of 35.6 hours over the year. The report revealed growing attention to certain causes to respond to critical needs (e.g. immigration and refugees, climate change), the growing formalisation of pro bono, and increasing attention to the “business case” for pro bono relating to staff training and skills, marketing, and alignment with client interest.

[More about the Index of Pro Bono](#)



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework

We are delighted that 45 sets in England and Wales implemented the Chambers Pro Bono Framework initiative in 2024. Sign up now if you would like your chambers to take part in 2025.

The Framework provides a simple infrastructure for pro bono within chambers. Participating sets commit to four actions: appointing Pro Bono Champions in Chambers, actioning pro bono work, organising a seminar on pro bono work and reporting back on pro bono work done. Our team is on hand to help you get underway and we strongly encourage your set to [sign up](#) this year if they have not done so already. If you have any questions, please email [Faye](#).

[More on the Framework](#)



Young barrister story - Abdallah Barakat



“Access to justice is the fourth pillar of the welfare state, along with healthcare, education and social security. It is a right and not a privilege. In my view, those who provide legal services owe society a duty to lend their skills and expertise to those who need but cannot afford or otherwise access them.”

This month, Abdallah Barakat of 9 Park Place Chambers in Cardiff, shared his pro bono story with us. Abdallah is a young barrister who has been dedicated to pro bono work ever since volunteering with the Cardiff University Innocence Project as an undergraduate student.

Abdallah reveals his passion for pro bono work and why he made it an integral part of his practice since his pupillage. He also offers insights into how others can get involved in pro bono work through Advocate, drawing particular attention to the critical need for greater pro bono legal support in Wales.



Award nominees and judges announced

Congratulations to all the barristers, chambers and chambers' professionals who have been nominated for this year's Bar Pro Bono Awards. The awards will be taking place in May to celebrate the wide-ranging pro bono work happening across the Bar. This year we were pleased to receive over 60 nominations across all the different categories.

Our judging panel for the awards this year consists of leading figures from across the profession, including the Chair of the Bar, Barbara Mills KC, and Vice Chair of the Bar, Kirsty Brimelow KC. At this year's ceremony, we are delighted to be joined by Justice of the Supreme Court, Lord Briggs of Westbourne.

[More about the awards](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

7

Harry Stratton
One Essex Court

We would like to shout-out Harry Stratton of One Essex Court for successfully helping a woman resolve a MeToo defamation claim brought by a prominent public figure. The claimant had previously demanded tens of thousands of pounds in damages and costs. Thanks to Harry, the dispute has now been resolved, and the woman will no longer have to pay damages or costs.

Thank you, Harry

8

Jiahui Huang
Twenty Essex

Our many thanks to Jiahui Huang of Twenty Essex for providing pre-hearing advice to an elderly woman with health issues who did not speak English. Her claim was against a furniture company, which failed to deliver mattresses ordered and paid for in cash by the woman in 2021. After a number of hearings taking place since 2022, the woman has finally won her case thanks to Jiahui's assistance.

Thank you, Jiahui

9

Calum Macdonald
Financial Conduct Authority

Thank you to Calum Macdonald of the Financial Conduct Authority for assisting a former carer with her appeal against the DBS's decision to include her on the Barred List. Calum represented her in the Upper Tribunal, where her appeal was allowed. The DBS has now been directed to reconsider their decision. The applicant wrote to us to express how thankful she is for Calum's assistance.

Thank you, Calum

10

London Legal Walk 2025 - sign up now

The London Legal Walk is back on 17th June 2025. For over 20 years the London Legal Walk has been bringing together the legal community to support free legal advice charities like Advocate who are on the frontline. This is the largest fundraising event in the legal calendar and you can change lives with every step. Lead walkers this year include the Lady Chief Justice, Lord Reed, Sir Geoffrey Vos, and Barbara Mills KC, Chair of the Bar Council. 500 teams have already signed up, including 61 chambers and almost 200 law firms.

[More on the London Legal Walk](#)