

advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten



Welcome back to our first newsletter of 2026! As we begin the year, we are delighted to share that 2026 marks Advocate's 30th anniversary"

Over the past three decades, we have been able to support people with nowhere else to turn for legal assistance because of the extraordinary generosity of the Bar and our partner organisations. This anniversary year is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of that commitment, and the crucial role that pro bono plays in maintaining access to justice and upholding the rule of law.

We are profoundly grateful to the barristers, chambers, and partners who have given their time and expertise to help change lives at moments of legal crisis. It is thanks to your commitment and collaboration that thousands of people have been able to access justice through our service over the years.

As part of our anniversary celebrations, we would love to showcase pro bono stories and testimonials from barristers, chambers, chambers' staff and other partners who have worked with Advocate over the years. These reflections help illustrate 30 years of impact, and provide an opportunity for chambers to highlight their pro bono culture and social impact.

If you or your chambers would like to share a short testimonial or story about your experience working with Advocate, we would be delighted to feature it on our website

and LinkedIn page. If interested, please email communications@weareadvocate.org.uk.

We also encourage you to share your Advocate stories on LinkedIn with the hashtag **#Advocate30Years**, and tagging [Advocate](#) to help us amplify the message.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Read our stories from the Bar

Join the
Pro Bono Recognition List
for 2026!



Join the Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales for 2026!

We are proud to be collecting submissions on behalf of the Bar for the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List. Now in its third year, the Recognition List continues to grow. Over 600 barristers were recognised last year, reflecting the breadth and impact of pro bono work being carried out across the Bar. The deadline to add your name to feature on the 2026 Recognition List is 6th March 2026. The Lady Chief Justice, patron of the Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales, comments:

“...I strongly encourage all solicitors, barristers, chartered legal executives, registered foreign/European lawyers, trade mark attorneys and patent attorneys who have provided 25 hours or more of legal pro bono over the last year to submit their names to the Recognition List, so that their pro bono commitment can be seen alongside others in the profession.”

[Join the Recognition List](#)

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New Scheme in the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber)

New Advocate Lands Chamber Assistance Scheme (“ALCAS”)

We are delighted to announce our latest scheme in collaboration with the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber). This scheme aims to provide assistance free of charge to litigants in person in cases before the Upper Tribunal by offering one-off virtual consultations with a barrister who will provide advice, guidance, and signposting. Our special thanks to all the barristers involved in spearheading this scheme, including James Andrews-Tipler and Cecily Crampin of Falcon Chambers, Brynmor Adams of Exchange Chambers, and Rebecca Campbell at BCLP.

The scheme will cover all areas of the Lands Chamber’s specialist work, including landlord and tenant, land registration, rating, compulsory purchase, restrictive covenants, building safety, and park homes – both as a Tribunal of first instance and on appeals from the FTT. Advocate is actively seeking volunteer barristers who are interested in getting involved with the scheme. To sign up to volunteer, [fill out this form](#).

[More about our partner schemes](#)

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Advocate Statistics



Advocate feature on Inner Temple's new podcast series

We are delighted to feature in Inner Temple's brand new *Movers and Returners* podcast series. The series is designed for barristers planning, managing, or returning from a break in practice, as well as those transferring between practice areas or Chambers.

In the first episode, our CEO Rebecca Wilkie and Engagement Manager Faye Pauffley spoke to Master of the Bench Rachel Spearing KC about how volunteering with Advocate can support barristers who are looking to change practice areas or return to practice after time away from the Bar.



In the second episode released this month, our panel members Sophie Cartwright KC of Deans Court Chambers, Sarah Lucy Cooper of Thomas More Chambers, and Alex Findley of Farrars Building spoke to host Rachel Spearing KC about their experiences taking on pro bono work. They discussed how working with Advocate has helped them expand their practice areas, gain exposure to new areas of law, and access opportunities such as mentoring.

[Listen to the podcast](#)



As we kick off our 30th year, barrister Markus Findlay of Doughty Street Chambers reflects on how his time working at Advocate eight years ago has shaped his career today.

Markus's first job after law school was making burritos in Shoreditch. His second - overlapping briefly - was as a caseworker at Advocate. Eight years on, he no longer remembers the burrito recipes, but he vividly recalls the training, friendships and daily exposure to the Bar's professionalism in serving people in need of pro bono help.

Two cases stand out. One concerned a request for advice on the rights of lobsters. Although the case was refused on the merits, a commercial silk drafted a careful, respectful review that left a lasting impression. It inspired the caseworkers' WhatsApp group name, "Lawyers for Lobsters", and taught Markus the importance of treating every client with dignity, however unconventional the issue.

Lawyers for Lobsters:

Markus Findlay's story

Another led to a call from Sir Geoffrey Nice KC, whose work had inspired Markus to pursue a career at the Bar. That collaboration opened the door to further projects and lasting professional relationships.

After five years of applying for pupillage, Markus joined the Bar and began taking on Advocate cases himself. One regulatory matter, helping a trainee dentist avoid being struck off, was a strong reminder of how even a small amount of support can transform lives.

"I am proud to wish Advocate a happy 30th birthday. May the charity go from strength to strength and continue to produce the next generation of access to justice lawyers."

[Read Markus' story](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Abe Chauhan
Blackstone Chambers

8

Kane Simons
18 St John Streets
Chambers

9

Andrew Skelly
Gatehouse Chambers

We would like to thank Abe Chauhan of Blackstone Chambers for assisting a highly vulnerable homeless man with his section 204A appeal in the County Court. The man had been sleeping rough, despite having several diagnosed physical and mental conditions, as the council did not consider him in priority need for accommodation. Abe assisted with drafting and representation at the appeal hearing and succeeded, winning on 4 out of 5 grounds. The council's decision was not only quashed, but the Court exercised its power under the Housing Act to mandate the council to provide the client with interim accommodation pending the resolution of his main appeal, meaning he no longer has to sleep rough.

Thank you, Abe

Many thanks to Kane Simons of 18 St John Street Chambers for assisting a vulnerable woman who brought a personal injury claim against her former employer. She sustained an injury whilst working as a warehouse operative in 2024, which was captured on CCTV footage. The employer had lost this footage, and a Health and Safety report concluded that they had failed to keep the workplace safe. The employer had denied all allegations and tried to reduce damages. Kane drafted a schedule of loss and provided some tactical advice, allowing her to successfully reach a settlement. The woman shared some kind words thanking Kane and Advocate for the assistance: *"I would not have crossed the finish line with such steadiness and support without the two of you. Your guidance, patience, and*

Thank you to Andrew Skelly of Gatehouse Chambers for helping save the home of a mother who was recently widowed. Her late-husband had been subject to a final charging order made against him in late 2023 for rent arrears, putting the family home at risk. He was very unwell with a number of serious health conditions, and whilst in hospital, the mother attended court to explain his absence. She was subsequently brought into proceedings. Her husband passed away in mid-2024, and she was left dealing with her grief and proceedings alone. Her and her daughter were at risk of being made homeless by the charging order. Andrew stepped in to assist in her appeal against the order. Not only was the appeal granted and the claim dismissed, but the Judge also made a pro bono costs order in the sum of

reassurance made an overwhelming situation feel manageable."

£12,500.

Thank you, Andrew

Thank you, Kane

Congratulations 2026 Silks!

[Take a case with Advocate](#)

We would like to congratulate the 96 barristers appointed King's Counsel this month. This is a significant achievement, and we are privileged that so many KCs continue to support our work. Over 60 KCs regularly review cases for Advocate, and more than 750 silks volunteer on our panel.

Feedback from many of the KCs we work with highlights that pro bono experience can be an important element of a successful silk application. It is frequently used to demonstrate core competencies assessed by the KC Appointments Commission, including leadership, intellectual rigour, flexibility across practice areas, and a commitment to serving people from a wide range of backgrounds. Read our [Guide on how pro bono work can assist with KC applications](#).

For barristers looking ahead to future silk applications, or simply seeking a meaningful way to give back this year, we offer a wide range of pro bono cases that can be undertaken alongside

practice.

We strongly encourage all barristers to take on a case with us this year. If you have any questions about working with us, please email caserworker@weareadvocate.org.uk.

