
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Introducing Zoe Chan, Advocate's new Director of Casework

As a new legal term and legal year has begun, Advocate is delighted to welcome a new Director of Casework, Zoe Chan.

With a decade of experience in access to justice, Zoe practised as an Australian solicitor in frontline services specialising in housing justice and supporting litigants in person. Zoe has led a legal advice service for renters at [Anika Legal](#) and worked with pro bono clearing houses at [Justice Connect](#) and [PILnet](#), gaining exposure to pro bono projects spanning Asia, the US and Europe.

"I'm thrilled to be joining Advocate and contributing to its vital work improving access to justice. It's a privilege to support the incredible pro bono efforts of the Bar. I'm really looking forward to working with barristers across England and Wales this legal term and beyond to help those who need free legal assistance most."

- Zoe Chan, Director of Casework

[View our staff team](#)



Pro Bono Week: 3rd-7th November 2025

Pro Bono Week is just around the corner! Explore the [full calendar of events](#) for the week in recognition of the brilliant pro bono contributions made across the legal profession.

There is something for everyone, with events taking place in every region, from the Greater Manchester Pro Bono Awards, to the Western Circuit Women's Forum Conference. Don't miss the [Pro Bono Week launch event](#) (in London or remotely) featuring the Attorney General the Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC, and opportunities to connect with other legal professionals who are passionate about pro bono work. We are also delighted that a number of chambers are holding seminars with Advocate during the week, events we are very much looking forward to being a part of.

[More about Pro Bono Week](#)



Join us for Carols for Pro Bono on 16th December

Tickets are selling quickly for our eighth annual [Christmas Carol Concert](#) held in partnership with LawWorks in Temple Church. The event is a festive highlight on the legal calendar and we anticipate it to sell out soon. Come along to get into the Christmas spirit, all in support of our two pro bono charities.

The lineup of special celebrity guests includes The Rt Hon Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, as well as actress Rachael Stirling and actor Neil Stuke, best known for his role as Billy Lamb in the BBC legal drama Silk. We will also be joined by flute and piano pair Duo Melus, and renowned Chamber choir Collegium Musicum. There are some tickets remaining - bring your friends, families and colleagues for a wonderful evening of festivities.

[Purchase your tickets now](#)

209 Live cases currently looking for assistance	Summary of live cases: Employment: 29% Family: 15% Immigration: 9% <u>advocate</u> ^
67 Pieces of work placed in October 2025	
36 New Panel Members in October 2025	

New Partner Scheme opens doors for barristers in Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) work

Advocate is pleased to announce the launch of a new pilot scheme, in collaboration with the Competition Appeal Tribunal to provide free legal assistance and representation to litigants in person before the Tribunal.

Running for an initial period of 18 months, the Scheme aims to improve access to justice for individuals and organisations involved in complex competition law proceedings who would otherwise be unrepresented.

This is a developing and important area of law that helps to regulate businesses and prevent unfair and abusive practices, such as price-fixing or monopolisation. The scheme is supported by a panel of almost 70 volunteer barristers, all of whom are committed to delivering high-quality pro bono support.



Sarah Abram KC, who has spearheaded the scheme, has said:

"Competition law isn't just an issue for major companies; anyone in any walk of life can be affected by a competition law problem, including consumers, small businesses and charities. The cost of bringing a claim shouldn't be a deterrent. Sincere thanks to the 70 barristers who have signed up as panel members for the scheme".

Those who are interested in volunteering for the scheme are encouraged to contact Maya, our Schemes & Programmes Coordinator, at catscheme@weareadvocate.org.uk.

[More about our Partner Schemes](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Juan Lopez

39 Essex Chambers

Thank you to Juan Lopez of 39 Essex Chambers for helping a woman - a flat leaseholder - in a property dispute concerning alleged service charge arrears. The landlord had filed a claim for significant arrears despite the person asserting that the landlord had consistently failed to provide adequate services or carry out essential repairs and maintenance works in breach of covenant, and had also wrongly rejected a cross-claim made for equitable set-off in connection with requested rectification. Juan stepped forward to assist, at very short notice, drafting a skeleton argument and attending the final hearing at the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber). Thanks to his assistance, a favourable settlement was reached. This is a further piece of pro bono work that Juan has taken on through Advocate within recent months, helping a number of people in urgent need of help.

Thank you, Juan

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Kendya Goodman

Maitland Chambers

We would like to thank Kendya Goodman of Maitland Chambers for assisting a single mother on universal credit who was being pursued by her ex-in-laws for monies they had advanced to her and her ex-partner before the partnership broke down in distressing circumstances. Her case was that it was a loan made between family members, with no legal effect. Repayments had been paused in 2021 to allow the couple to save for their wedding, but upon the divorce, the defendant's ex-in laws issued a claim against her for the balance of the loan. This came as a great shock to the defendant, whose divorce settlement had not provided for such a liability, and who did not expect to be further embroiled in proceedings while caring for a young child. Kendya advised the defendant on her legal position and successfully assisted her to navigate the pre-trial process and to pursue a settlement. The claim has been settled in full, and the trial is now

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Natalie Nguyen

Monckton Chambers

Our many thanks to Natalie Nguyen of Monckton Chambers for assisting a Turkish national who had been refused asylum in 2024. He felt he had not been listened to by the interpreter and Home Office caseworker, and subsequently lodged an appeal. Through Advocate, Natalie provided him with advice on the merits of his case and on the next steps in his appeal. Thanks to her assistance, he was able to obtain a detailed expert psychiatric report to support the appeal. This has made a huge difference to his case, and he shared some kind words thanking Natalie and Advocate for the assistance provided:

"I want to sincerely thank you for all the support you've given me throughout this difficult process. It truly means a lot. People like you restore hope in the world. I'm deeply grateful to you for believing in me, listening to me, and always treating me as someone who

vacated.

matters."

Thank you, Kendya

Thank you, Natalie



There is still time to be recognised on the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List!

Advocate is proud to be collecting submissions on behalf of the Bar again for 2026. Last year we saw a 30% increase in submissions from the Bar since the inaugural year in 2024.

There is still time to take on pro bono work this year and secure your place on the 2026 Recognition List. Whether through Advocate, a Law Centre or another pro bono scheme, every hour counts!

We have many cases available that can help you reach your 25-hour target – view our full list of available cases [here](#).

If you have any questions about joining the Recognition List, please email our Engagement Manager, [Faye Pauffley](#).

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