

Bar Pro Bono Awards 2024

Kindly sponsored by LexisNexis

1. Each year Advocate facilitates awards for chambers, barristers and chambers’ staff who are recognised for their outstanding commitment to pro bono work.
2. The deadline for nominations is **Friday 2nd February.**
3. The nomination form can be found at the end of this document.

**Rules of Entry**

1. All nominations should return this completed nomination form and **two supporting letters/documents.** Each supporting document should be no more than 500 words.
2. Self-nominations are accepted (with two supporting letters/documents as above).
3. The judges’ decision is binding and final.

**Award Categories:**

There are nine categories in which individuals, initiatives or chambers can be nominated. Please only submit in one award category:

* Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
* Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
* Pro Bono KC of the Year
* International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
* Pro Bono Chambers’ Professional of the Year
* Pro Bono Chambers of the Year
* Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono, the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award
* Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year
* Sustainability Initiative of the Year

There is one further award, theJohn Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award (in partnership with the North Eastern Circuit) in memory of John Collins. Nominations for this award only come from Advocate’s casework team.

**Judging Criteria:**

Nominations should show how the nominee has met the criteria for the specific award.

Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

* Recognising the commitment to pro bono work demonstrated by young barristers in recent years, this award celebrates a barrister at the beginning of their career showing exceptional dedication to increasing opportunities for access to justice.
* Particular consideration will be given to those who have demonstrated a significant time commitment over the last year.
* Nominees for this award must be under 7 years’ call (those currently undertaking pupillage are also eligible) and should demonstrate that they are paving the way in encouraging others to undertake pro bono work.

Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

* This award highlights the outstanding pro bono work of a junior barrister practising in any area of law.
* They must have demonstrated significant commitment to the pro bono ethic over the last year, whether through the dedication of considerable time and expertise, or through the undertaking of cases that have a substantial impact on the client, community, or the access to justice sector.

Pro Bono KC of the Year

* This award is open to a silk of any year appointment who has played a significant role in the promotion of access to justice over the last year through pro bono work.
* Particular consideration will be given to those who can demonstrate the importance and impact of their work and who are a positive force in encouraging others to undertake pro bono cases.

International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

* The winner of this award will be a barrister of any call who over the last year has undertaken significant pro bono work outside England and Wales.
* Leading by example, they will be an excellent advocate for access to justice across different countries.
* Consideration will be given to the time commitment demonstrated by the barrister, as well as the extent of the impact of the pro bono work.

Pro Bono Chambers’ Professional of the Year

* This category recognises the crucial role played by chambers’ staff in championing access to justice through pro bono, including practice managers, clerks, those involved in business development, marketing, and client care, and those managing chambers.
* The winner of this category will be a member of chambers staff who has demonstrably championed pro bono work over the last year and effectively channels pro bono resources to help those who require assistance from legal professionals.

Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

* This award celebrates the outstanding achievement and commitment to pro bono work demonstrated by a particular set of chambers.
* This achievement could be related to the amount or variety of pro bono work undertaken, or the number of practising barristers actively accepting pro bono cases within the chambers.
* Nominees must have gone above and beyond for access to justice, promoting and encouraging others to engage in pro bono work.

Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono

* The Lifetime Achievement Award commends an individual’s exceptional achievement in terms of pro bono work.
* It recognises the long-term contribution made over the course of a career in addition to their work on specific pro bono cases.
* Nominees for this award will have demonstrated strong commitment to the pro bono ethic and through their work been a champion for access to justice for many years.

Sustainability Initiative of the Year

* Innovative sustainability initiatives led by individuals, chambers, employed Bar organisations, or a cross-Bar organisation that demonstrates impact in one or more of the following ways:
  + Reducing carbon emissions
  + Reducing waste
  + Increasing knowledge of sustainability or climate related issues among members and/or employees
* Nominations must provide evidence that programmes or initiatives have a clearly defined purpose and can demonstrate positive impact in practical and measurable ways.

Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year

This category recognises both pro bono initiatives and social responsibility initiatives, so please do submit applications under either of these headings.

* Pro bono initiatives will be recognised for their commitment to deliver pro bono services for a specific project with members of the Bar.
* Social responsibility initiatives will recognise projects led by individuals, chambers or cross-Bar collaboration. For example:
  + Community and/or charitable projects (fundraising, working in schools, projects in the local community, public legal education etc)
  + Diversity and social mobility (access, retention and progression programmes)
  + Supply chains (e.g., innovative ways of auditing supply chains).
* Nominations must provide evidence that programmes or initiatives have a clearly defined purpose and can demonstrate positive impact.

The closing deadline for applications is **Friday 2nd February.**

**What happens after the closing date?**

Our panel of judges will then consider the applications.

All finalists will be published in the awards brochure and on the Advocate website.

All nominees will be invited to an Awards ceremony taking place on **8th May 2024** at which winners of most categories will be announced.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bar Pro Bono Awards 2024 - Nomination Form | | |
| 1. **Details of nominee** | |
| **Name** | |  | |
| **Chambers / Workplace** | |  | |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** | |  | |
| **Email Address:** | |  | |
|  |  | |
| 1. **Your Details** |  | |
| **Your Name:**  **Relation to Nominee:** |  | |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** |  | |
| **Email Address:** |  | |
| **Date of Nomination:** |  | |

1. **Award Category nominated for**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **Please summarise why you feel that this individual/initiative/chambers deserves to win in this category in the 2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards, noting how they meet the category criteria set out above (500 - 1,000 words)**

Some issues to consider include:

1. How has the nominee’s work directly affected the individuals involved, their community or group?
2. What is special about the nominee’s contribution or achievements to set them apart?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **Please enclose with this completed application two letters of support from other individuals or organisations**

Each letter should be no more than 500 words.

Suggested documents include letters of thanks, recommendations from peers, colleagues or pro bono clients, or any other documents which show insight into the pro bono work of the nominee.

**I have enclosed two letters of support – Yes/No**

**Are you happy for Advocate to use information provided in your nomination in external communications? – Yes/No**

**Please return the application form and letters by email to:** [awards@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:awards@weareadvocate.org.uk)