

advocate



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Advocate Monthly Top Ten



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from all of us at Advocate



Thank you so much for all you have done in 2022, whether that has been taking on cases, mentoring or donating, we appreciate your support.

We very much look forward to working with you all in 2023 - keep an eye out for our exciting new initiatives for barristers and chambers launching early next year...



Pro Bono Pledge launching in 2023...

Can you make pro bono a part of your 2023 practice?

In 2023, we will be asking barristers to pledge a minimum of 25 pro bono hours. They can take on this work through any pro bono scheme, charity, law centre, or community group, not just through Advocate.

Once they have reached 25 hours, they will receive a Pro Bono Pledge logo, that can be used on their email signature and Chambers' profile.



Advocate in Legal News Wales

We now have a permanent caseworker for the Wales and Chester Circuit, Stephen Davies.

In this article for Legal News Wales, Stephen explains his role, what he hopes to achieve with the Bar and other stakeholders in Wales, and how barristers and chambers can engage with pro bono - and why they should.

[Read on here](#)

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Advocate Statistics



A case of mistaken identity: Gordon's Story

When Gordon, a 20-year-old student, received a letter from his local authority stating that he had passed away, he was highly alarmed and disturbed.



Adult Social Care Services had accidentally recorded Gordon's details in another file. For Gordon, a vulnerable young man with a mixed personality disorder, the experience was a waking nightmare.

Gordon had experienced paranoid beliefs and hallucinations and was being treated with antipsychotic medication. Reading a letter expressing condolences for his own death caused Gordon extreme anxiety and distress.

Gordon initially advised the local authority of their mistake. However, he continued to receive further mistaken communications related to the deceased individual.

These mistakes were a clear breach of the Council's duty to accurately process personal data under Article 5(D) GDPR, and after the Information Commissioner's Office found that the Council had failed to accurately process his personal data, Gordon sought to obtain damages, under Data Protection Act 2018 s.168, for distress.

Gordon reached out to Advocate and we put him in touch with Ashley Blood-Halvorsen of 3PB.

[Find out how Advocate helped](#)



Carols for Pro Bono

A magical evening at Temple Church

Over 300 people joined us at our annual Christmas carol concert with LawWorks, 'Carols for Pro Bono' last week, on Tuesday 13th December 2022.

The evening was a huge success, **raising over £20,000** which will be divided between the two pro bono charities, enabling us to continue supporting those navigating the justice system alone.

It was a magical evening filled with traditional Christmas carols and spectacular musical performances by chambers choir **Collegium Musicum** and solo soprano **Harriet Burns**.

We had a special line-up of celebrity guests performing readings including actors **Tamsin Greig** and **Juliet Stevenson** and the President of The Law Society of England & Wales, **Lubna Shuja**.

We would like to say a special thank you to our speakers, celebrity guests, and our sponsors for making this night possible. We are also truly grateful to the team at Temple Church for providing the beautiful venue.

We hope to see you all again next year! Thanks once again to everyone who joined us and donated so generously.

[Read on here](#)

Our Volunteer Barrister & Pupil Barrister Success Stories

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Patrick Boch
Old Square Tax
Chambers

A mother and her son have been experiencing anti-social behaviour from

8

Sena Frimpong Agbotse
Vine Court

"I have been under so much stress struggling to cope with the medical

9

Adam Riley
3 Hare Court

"Thank you very, very much indeed. I am immensely grateful to you,

their neighbours for several years, impacting their mental and physical health, and leaving them fearful to leave their property. An anti-harassment order was made and assistance was needed obtaining an extension of this order. From November 2020 to November 2022, Patrick and his paralegal Anna assisted with applications for a warrant of arrest and extension of the anti-harassment order, offering over fifty hours of pro bono advice, drafting and representation.

Thank you, Patrick & Anna

issues as well as the constant threat of litigation. This is very reassuring- thank you so much for working with me and your patience and persistence over the last year with this matter."

Shout out to Sena who received this thank you for representing a vulnerable pro bono client with multiple health diagnoses in a long-running housing dispute. Your support means so much, and has lifted a weight from the shoulders of someone trying to navigate the justice system alone.

Thank you, Sena

the reviewers and to Advocate for all your help. May I wish you a very happy Christmas and 2023"

A huge thank you to Adam. His pro bono client was facing strike-out, but since Adam's assistance, has now received a £12k settlement. That is a life-changing amount of money. This really shows how much of a difference representing someone pro bono can make to that person's life - to go from nearly being struck out to a £12K settlement is fantastic.

Thank you, Adam

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Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated in the Big Give

We are delighted to share that we have raised an extraordinary total of **£17,190** in the Big Give Christmas Challenge this year.

Thank you to all our supporters who donated so generously. We are so pleased to have exceeded our target of £15,000.

The money raised will go towards funding a coordinator who will train volunteers to provide **emotional and practical support for vulnerable people.**

This will enable us to provide far greater support for people in need of our help, who are struggling with increasingly complex problems and poor mental health, which has only been **exacerbated by the rising cost of living**.

Thank you for supporting **equal access to justice for all**.

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