



Advocate Monthly Top Ten



We are taking part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge**, the UK's biggest matched-funding campaign.

All donations to Advocate made from NOW until 6th December will be DOUBLED!

Help us support vulnerable people navigate the maze of justice by **donating via our campaign page TODAY.**

We are trying to raise £15,000 to fund a volunteer coordinator to recruit and train a new cohort of volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to vulnerable people using our services, who are struggling with increasingly complex legal problems and poor mental health, enabling barristers to focus on the legal issues.

[One donation, twice the impact - Click here to donate](#)



Pro Bono in Chambers - A guide for and by chambers staff

This [guide](#) provides useful information on how to make pro bono a part of your chambers' practice alongside fee-paying work.

Pro bono provides the opportunity to enhance the careers and practice of those who take part.

The guide highlights why pro bono is important, the benefits it can bring for all staff, chambers, and members of the Bar, and how to support pro bono in chambers.

The guide has been created by and for chambers' staff in partnership with the **Institute of Barristers' Clerks (IBC)** and the **Legal Practice Management Association (LPMA)**.

Thanks to everyone involved in creating the guide.

[Download the Guide Here](#)



Carols for Pro Bono: Celebrate Christmas at Temple Church

Tuesday 13th December 2022

You are cordially invited to the annual Advocate and LawWorks Christmas Carol Concert.

Held in one of London's most beautiful churches, providing a stunning backdrop for a festive evening packed with traditional carols, mulled wine & mince pies, musical performances and a special line-up of celebrity guests, including **Juliet Stevenson & Tamsin Greig**.



[Purchase Tickets Here](#)



Pro Bono Week 2022 25 for 25 Report Launch

During Pro Bono Week, 7-11 November, we were thrilled to launch [25 for 25: The Pro Bono Challenge Project Report](#).

The Challenge took place from Volunteers' Week June 2021 to Volunteers' Week June 2022; **we encouraged barristers to complete 25 hours of pro bono** through Advocate or any other pro bono scheme, for our twenty-fifth anniversary.

The report details fantastic engagement from the Bar, with **356 volunteers** from **125 Chambers** all across England and Wales having completed a collective total of **15,434 hours of pro bono work**.



The report, created from the information fed back to us, covers where barristers are undertaking pro bono, their reasons for taking on pro bono, and the impact doing pro bono has on barristers.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Challenge!

[To read the full report, click here](#)



Spotlight on Panel Member

Andrew de Mestre KC

We spoke to Andrew de Mestre KC, of 4 Stone Buildings, about his pro bono journey from volunteering with the Chancery Litigants in Person Scheme (CLIPS) to becoming the Chair of the Chancery Bar Association's Pro Bono Sub-Committee.

Q: What was the most memorable pro bono case you worked on, and what did you do?

A: "In one of my early cases I represented a lady who was threatened with the loss of her family home, where she lived with her two children, shortly before Christmas. The claim was that her husband, who was by then in prison for fraud, had charged the property to a business associate... I was able to keep her in the house for Christmas and identify a claim she might have over the property."

Q: What effect did pro bono work have on your career?

A: "It is immensely rewarding and provides a real sense of job satisfaction. As an additional benefit, a Judge that I appeared before on behalf of CLIPS suggested that I apply for Silk and use her as a referee, so I was fortunate enough to be able to rely on two of my pro bono cases on my Silk application form."

[Read On](#)

Our Volunteer Barrister & Pupil Barrister Success Stories

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Timothy Dutton KC
Maitland Chambers

Timothy Dutton KC very generously, and at the last moment, offered his assistance to help with a right of way dispute, that was causing severe distress to the homeowner. This assistance has gone above and beyond. Timothy's

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Maria Scotland
5SAH barristers

Shout-out to panel member Maria who represented a vulnerable mother and successfully appealed a Child Arrangements Order, that gave a father with an Non-Molestation Order against him, on the basis of domestic violence,

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Helen Brander
Pump Court Chambers

We are so grateful to Helen for providing advice, that, even though it was negative, has had a profoundly positive impact on someone's life; "*Thank you so much for your painstaking advice and guidance and keeping me*

communication with those receiving advice has been excellent, and he has offered continued support with the hearings to come.

We are so grateful for Timothy's expertise and desire to help at such short notice.

Thank you, Timothy

extended contact with their children. The reviewer noted the importance of this appeal to raise questions about the children's wishes to not have contact with their father be honoured. Maria has now also offered to represent at the remitted trial.

Thank you, Maria

informed. You are an amazing lady. I will take on board all the advice you have given me, you certainly saved me from looking the fool in court. Again I thank you for your time and advice in making a huge difference to my life"

Thank you, Helen



2022 Bar Pro Bono Awards Meet our Winners

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the 2022 Bar Pro Bono Awards at Middle Temple Hall.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!

We had an overwhelming number of nominations this year, a total of 78 nominations across ten categories, which is testament to all the incredible pro bono work happening at the Bar.

Over the weekend, at the Bar Council's Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference, the winners of the 'Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year Award' and the 'Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono, the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award' were also announced.

[Meet our winners in all categories here.](#)

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