

# advocate



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## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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**IT'S HERE!**  
**6th - 10th**  
**November**  
[probonoweb.org.uk](http://probonoweb.org.uk)

**PRO**  
**BONO**  
**WEEK**  
**2023**

### Pro Bono Week 2023

[Pro Bono Week 2023](#) is here! Back for its 22nd year, Pro Bono Week is dedicated to recognising the impact of free legal assistance offered by UK lawyers, and exploring how this legal support can change and transform people's lives.

The launch event, taking place today, will feature inspiring examples of how pro bono can truly make a difference. Amid the climate crisis, this year's events will include a focus on how pro bono work can make a difference in supporting Environmental, Social and Governance strategies. You can check out the full calendar of events taking place across the week [here](#).

Ten chambers across the country have invited us to join short discussions and seminars in and around Pro Bono Week, which provide the perfect opportunity to

network with our Casework team. If you would like to meet with the Advocate caseworker based in your region, or set up a meeting in Chambers, please do get in touch directly with the caseworker in your circuit. We would be delighted to hear from you.

**Northern Circuit:** [emily@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:emily@weareadvocate.org.uk) & [chloe@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:chloe@weareadvocate.org.uk)

**Midland Circuit:** [charlotte@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@weareadvocate.org.uk)

**Wales & Chester Circuit:** [stephen@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:stephen@weareadvocate.org.uk)

**Western Circuit:** [alice@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:alice@weareadvocate.org.uk)

**North-Eastern Circuit:** [jessica@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:jessica@weareadvocate.org.uk)



## Carols for Pro Bono 2023

The [Advocate](#) and [LawWorks](#) annual Christmas Carol Concert is back this year on **Thursday 14th December**

The concert will take place in the heart of London's legal quarter at the historic [Temple Church](#), the perfect venue for an enchanting evening of music, traditional carols and a special line up of guest readers including the **Lady Chief Justice Dame Sue Carr**, **Stephen Mangan** and **Alex Macqueen**. There will also be musical performances from Chambers choir Collegium Musicum and talented cellist **Wayne Kwon**, who has previously performed solo in several prestigious music venues across the world.

Tickets start at £10 and are available to purchase online.

All ticket proceeds go towards raising vital funds for the people in desperate need of legal assistance that Advocate and LawWorks exist to support.

[Purchase your tickets](#)



## Bar Pro Bono Awards 2024 Nominations Open

We are pleased to announce that **nominations for the 2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards are now open!**

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a fantastic opportunity for the Bar to come together to recognise the remarkable pro bono achievements of barristers and chambers nationwide who have gone above and beyond expectation to support access to justice. Winners will be announced at the ceremony taking place on the 8th May 2024.

Please consider nominating your barristers who have undertaken any pro bono work this year. You can also nominate your professional colleagues, clerks or Chambers itself for an award. We have ten categories in which individuals, initiatives and chambers can be nominated.

Find out more information on the categories [here](#) and read about last year's winners [here](#).

[Nominate](#)

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## Advocate Statistics

**117**

Live cases currently looking for assistance

**920**

Pieces of work placed so far this year

**336**

New Panel Members in 2023

Summary of live cases:

Family:

28%

Employment:

22%

Housing:

15%

advocate



## Advocate's New Trustees

We are delighted to welcome Jude Shepherd and Malvika Jaganmohan as new trustees of Advocate. Jude is an employment practitioner at [42BR Barristers](#) and sits part time as a fee paid Employment Judge in the Employment Tribunal in Scotland. Malvika is a family practitioner at [St Ives Chambers](#) and our first Midland Circuit trustee.

Advocate's Chair, Sharif Shivji KC, offered his congratulations. *"I'm delighted to welcome Jude and Malvika to the Board. Advocate is fortunate to have real depth in skills and experience across its trustees. Jude and Malvika will help further strengthen our Board so that Advocate is fully prepared for the future".*



Reacting to news of her appointment, Jude said: *" I am delighted to be joining Advocate's Board. The work Advocate does in providing access to legal assistance for those in need is more important now than ever and I very much look forward to helping to make that assistance more accessible than ever before."*

Malvika said: *"I wanted to become a trustee so that I could help shape the direction of an organisation I care about enormously and which I think does invaluable work for the community."*

[See our list of Trustees](#)



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## Launch of the Court of Protection (CoP) Scheme

## Launch of the Court of Protection Scheme

Advocates are excited to be launching our new Court of Protection Scheme (CoP) during Pro Bono Week 2023. The Scheme aims to assist Litigants in Person with cases in the Court of Protection that would benefit from more specialist assistance, and to subsequently provide that assistance through the pool of specialist volunteer barristers signed up to assist through the scheme.

Volunteers may be asked to provide a variety of assistance, including initial merits assessments, advice on limitation with a view to assist obtaining legal aid or a CFA, drafting of documentation, or representation at relevant hearings.

The scheme not only provides a route by which we hope many deserving applicants may now access pro bono assistance but, in doing so, it also provides a fantastic opportunity for juniors in particular to build on experience dealing with CoP and CoP adjacent cases.

The scheme has been enthusiastically spearheaded by Ed Lamb, at [Deka Chambers](#), who will kindly be leading the review of cases through the Scheme. Ed will be talking at the scheme's launch, as part of the Family Bar Pro Bono Week event being hosted at [1GC Family Law](#) on Wednesday 8th November 2023.

Ed has said: *"I am delighted to see this scheme launch and grateful to the wonderful team at Advocate for bringing it to life. Advocate and I think this scheme is of fundamental importance to a very specific cohort of applicants who suffer from mental health issues and/or are neurodiverse. This cohort have seen their rights of access to justice perilously undermined by the limits of public funding in this area. We hope this scheme will address this imbalance and should also provide some fascinating work for those barristers signed up to it".*

[Read more about our schemes](#)

## Shout out to Panel Members...

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**Calum Macdonald**  
Financial Conduct  
Authority

We would like to say a big thank you to Calum Macdonald, an employed barrister assisted by students from the University of Law, for representing our applicant in a service charge dispute. Calum responded to a jurisdiction challenge made less than 24 hours before the hearing, successfully resisting this and securing concessions on nearly all of the disputed service charge items.

Thank you, Calum

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**Michael West**  
Twelve Old Square

Our many thanks to Michael West for working on an immigration case with us for over three years. Our applicant was refused leave to remain and received notice to inform her of liability for detention and removal. A second application for leave to remain was made in 2020, but was refused. Michael has supported our applicant to successfully appeal this, allowing her to remain in the UK with her friends and family.

Thank you, Michael

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**Lewis Jukes**  
Magdalen Chambers

We would like to extend our thanks to Lewis Jukes for giving crucial advice to our applicant, who is the single mother of two children with severe mental and physical disabilities. The mother and her children are facing eviction, and Lewis provided written advice on the validity of the s21 notice, setting aside the consent order and claims for disrepair and homelessness.

Thank you, Lewis

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**Levelling the Playing Field:  
Providing access to justice for  
families through expert advice**

## and representation

We are once again taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge this year. The challenge kicks off from midday on 28th November and runs for a week. During this time, all donations made to Advocate will be doubled.

This year, the funds raised will contribute to the salary of our caseworker who supports families and individuals entangled in complex inquests and Court of Protection matters. These people face obstacles, such as grief and the weight of navigating an unfamiliar legal landscape alone. With your donations, our caseworker will be able to support them through our application process and ensure that they have the best chance of finding a volunteer barrister to assist them. Donations open on 28th November, or you can pledge now by contacting our Fundraising Coordinator, Sana, at [sbaig@weareadvocate.org.uk](mailto:sbaig@weareadvocate.org.uk).

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