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# advocate



## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Advocate is proud to share the publication of the [2025 Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales](#), celebrating over 4,800 lawyers - including 642 barristers - for giving 25+ hours of pro bono legal support in 2024. Now in its second year and endorsed by The Lady Chief Justice, Advocate were delighted that the Recognition List saw a **33% increase in barrister participation**.

Advocate has continued to collect submissions on behalf of the Bar for the Recognition List, and supports the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee in championing this initiative. CEO Rebecca Wilkie shared: *"The List pays tribute to the selfless work of barristers and solicitors supporting those who have nowhere else to turn for legal support - those who would otherwise be unrepresented...Both our team and those we help are grateful for the time and expertise volunteered by so many at the Bar."*

We extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all those recognised this year. If you have already completed 25 or more hours of pro bono work in 2025, complete the [submission form](#) to appear on the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List.

[See the 2025 Recognition List](#)



### 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards shortlist announcement

This month, Advocate was delighted to announce the eagerly anticipated shortlist for the 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards. Over 60 nominations across the 8 different categories were received this year, paying tribute to the brilliant dedication across the Bar to delivering pro bono support.

Our many congratulations go to all those who have been nominated, and we look forward to celebrating the winners at Lincoln's Inn on Tuesday 6th May.

[See the shortlisted nominees](#)



### Law School Challenge Winner

The Law School Challenge 2024-25 has ended, and we are thrilled that £18,200 has been raised for Advocate and LawWorks. Congratulations to the winning team, De Montfort University, who raised over £3,000. This is an incredible achievement, and we are so grateful to the students for their support.

Birmingham City University and Swansea University were close runners up. A huge thank you to all the participating teams for their dedication and creativity in fundraising to support access to justice.

[More on the Law School Challenge](#)

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## Advocate Statistics



## Supporting a vulnerable tenant pro bono

### 5 Challenging a rogue landlord: Leanne's story

This month we shared Leanne's story. Leanne was supported pro bono through Advocate after she had been forced to move out of her home in 2022 after two years of living without hot water.

Leanne's boiler broke in March 2020, but the landlord refused to repair it, citing COVID-19 restrictions. Despite repeated complaints, no action was taken, and Leanne had been living in deteriorating conditions, including mould, a crumbling ceiling, and no heating. After falling into rent arrears and facing eviction, she sought legal help.

Leanne was supported by Advocate, with barristers [Patrick Wise-Walsh](#), [Matthew Innes](#), and [Hugh Rowan](#) providing assistance. At trial, the court found the property unfit for human habitation. Leanne's disrepair claim succeeded, and her rent arrears were offset by compensation for disrepair, a failure to protect her deposit, and an unlawful rent increase. We are deeply grateful to Patrick, Matthew and Hugh for their support on this case.

[Read Leanne's story](#)



Calum Macdonald, a barrister at the [Financial Conduct Authority \(FCA\)](#), has volunteered with Advocate since 2022. Despite being early on in his career, he has taken on numerous cases and even founded the FCA's pro bono group. Calum's first case - a Property Tribunal hearing - was a success. Calum was supported by Advocate and a senior mentor.

## Hear from the employed

### Bar: Calum Macdonald

Calum's most memorable case involved defending a special needs teacher falsely accused of misconduct. After key disclosures and witness cross-examinations, the case collapsed, and the teacher was cleared within 30 minutes.

Calum has shared his pro bono journey with us, explaining how pro bono work has helped him to maintain his advocacy skills, broaden his legal knowledge, and offer growth opportunities for junior colleagues. He encourages employed barristers to try pro bono work, calling it deeply rewarding: *"Even when outcomes aren't ideal, clients are always grateful"*.

[Read Calum's story](#)

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## Shout out to Panel Members...

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**Nicola Atkins**  
Crown Office Chambers

Thank you to Nicola Atkins of Crown Office Chambers for assisting a person in a leasehold property dispute since May 2020 relating to repeated water damage traced back to a neighbouring flat. The person asked the County Court to declare who was responsible to order them to pay the repair costs and lost earnings, in addition to compensation for stress and loss of use of the property. Nicola represented her at multiple hearings to achieve a favourable outcome.

Thank you, Nicola

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**Alex Findley  
&  
Aidan Briggs**  
Farrar's Building & New Square  
Chambers

We would like to thank Alex Findley of Farrar's Building and Aidan Briggs of New Square Chambers for assisting a mother who needed support in her wills case. Thanks to Alex and Aidan's assistance, the mother and her children will now be able to keep a house and should gain a further £40,000 in cash from the estate, which was the best possible outcome.

Thank you, Alex and Aidan

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**Elizabeth Darlington  
&  
Annabel Barrons**  
1GC Family Law

Our thanks to Elizabeth Darlington and Annabel Barrons of 1GC Family Law for their dedicated support to a person over the past year. Annabel provided assistance with child arrangements proceedings, and she was led by Elizabeth in financial remedy proceedings against the former husband. At the recent hearing, the judge expressed their gratitude for both Elizabeth's and Annabel's considerable assistance on the case.

Thank you, Elizabeth and Annabel



## The Pupil Pledge is back for 2025

The Advocate [Pupil Pledge](#) encourages pupil barristers to complete just one piece of pro bono work during their second six, helping those most in need whilst gaining valuable advocacy experience. You can take part by completing pro bono work through any pro bono scheme, clinic, or charity - not just through Advocate. Once completed, you'll receive a digital badge for your email signature and be recognised on social media. Join the growing number of pupils making a difference and [sign up](#). If you have any questions or want to find out more, please contact [Faye](#), our Engagement Manager.

[More on the Pupil Pledge](#)

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