

advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards

WINNERS

Haydee Dijkstal

33 Bedford Row

Tinessa Kaur

4BB Chambers

Jake Rudman

Hatton Chambers

Samantha Hillas KC

St John's Buildings

Jennifer MacLeod

Brick Court Chambers

Joseph Sinclair

Mountford Chambers

Dads House

Initiative of the Year

Mark Ronson

Kings Chambers

4PB

Chambers of the Year

On 8th May, we were delighted to hold the Bar Pro Bono Awards ceremony at Middle Temple Hall.

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a unique opportunity in the year for the Bar to come together to celebrate those who are selflessly doing pro bono work to help people who are in desperate need. This year we received a record number of over 100 nominations across the different categories. This is a testament to all the incredible pro bono work happening at the Bar from pupils through to KCs, as well as across Chambers and cross-Bar initiatives.

Our many congratulations to this year's winners for their outstanding contributions to access to justice. [See the full list of winners](#) across the different categories.

The Lady Chief Justice of England & Wales, Lady Carr, who presented the awards noted: *"Although the awards today champion barristers who have shown real dedication to pro bono, even a modest amount of time spent on pro bono can make a material difference."*

Our many thanks to this year's sponsors for making this event possible, and to [Middle Temple](#) for hosting us.

[More about the Bar Pro Bono Awards](#)



Authorisation to Practise (AtP) 2024

We would like to thank all those who donated to us during the ATP process this year. We are delighted to say we received the highest number of donations ever received, with 45% of barristers contributing this year. We are incredibly grateful to all those who donated, enabling us to help the growing number of people with nowhere else to turn to for legal assistance.

Your support makes a huge difference. As one person we recently supported said to us:

"Your time and effort in finding someone for me, to come through even at the last hour, has truly moved me... I will be forever grateful."

[More about donating](#)



Bar Conference 2024

The Bar Conference hosted by the Bar Council is taking place on Saturday 8 June in London, with welcome drinks on Friday 7 June at the Barbican. Come along to learn, network, and engage with colleagues from across the legal profession.

The event will welcome a wide range of expert speakers from across the legal profession and Government. Engaging sessions span topics from the future of international courts, to AI and navigating intergenerational differences.

We are delighted that the Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono Award will be presented at the plenary session at the Bar Conference.

[Book your conference ticket](#)

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Advocate Statistics



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework

- Over 40 sets signed up



We are delighted to share that 43 sets across England and Wales have signed up to The Chambers Pro Bono Framework in 2024.

We are hugely grateful to these sets for establishing their commitment to undertaking pro bono work and making a difference towards access to justice. The Framework makes it possible for all chambers to help address the growing demand for pro bono legal assistance by giving them the opportunity to strengthen their commitment to a pro bono ethos.

Those who have signed up to The Framework have committed to undertaking 4 actions as a chambers: appointing a Pro Bono Champion, actioning pro bono work, organising a seminar on pro bono work and reporting back on pro bono work done. [See the full list of participating chambers.](#)

[More about The Framework](#)



Panel member Lucas Nacif of Farore Law has shared his reflections on his dedicated practice, encouraging other "baby" juniors to take the leap and volunteer. Since joining Advocate last year as a panel member, Lucas has worked over 100 hours pro bono. Lucas was also shortlisted and highly commended for the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award in this year's Bar Pro Bono Awards.

Employed Barrister Story:

Lucas Nacif

In his story, Lucas provides us with his insight into the advantages of the Employed Bar being involved with Advocate. For example, he highlights the supportive work culture, as well as the benefits of having the opportunity to learn how to work with vulnerable clients.

If you are an employed barrister interested in pro bono work, make sure to read the [Guide to Pro Bono for the Employed Bar](#).

[Read Lucas' Story](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Sapna Jain
1GC Family Law

We would like to thank Sapna Jain of 1GC Family Law for assisting a father seeking contact with his young son with drafting and representation for his final hearing. The father previously had no overnight contact with his son, but thanks to Sapna's support, has secured a shared care order. His son's surname has also been changed, and he now has regular overnight contact. The father is very pleased with the result and was grateful to Sapna for all her support.

Thank you, Sapna

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Aleksandr Step-Marsden
HMRC

Our many thanks to Aleksandr Step-Marsden of HMRC (on secondment at Devereux Chambers) for assisting a student to succeed in their Conduct Tribunal case. If Aleksandr had not stepped up to assist, the student would have been left to represent himself against potentially ruinous allegations. A special thanks also to Ivan Hare KC of Blackstone Chambers for mentoring Aleksandr on this case, which was his first pro bono case as a pupil.

Thank you, Aleksandr

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Katherine Boucher
3 Verulam Buildings

Thank you to Katherine Boucher of 3 Verulam Buildings for stepping up to represent a person at an urgent hearing at the commercial court. This was following an application to restrict non-party access to the Court file after allegations that sensitive information against the Claimant's companies had been leaked. Thanks to Katherine's involvement, the application was dismissed and a pro bono costs order of £800 was secured.

Thank you, Katherine

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London Legal Walk 2024

There is still time to sign your Chambers up for the London Legal Walk!

Taking place on Tuesday 18th June, the Legal Walk is the largest fundraising event in the legal calendar and is a fantastic opportunity to come together as a profession to support frontline free legal advice services including Advocate, Free Representation Unit (FRU) and the London Legal Support Trust. Leading the walk will be the Lady Chief

Justice, Lord Reed, Sir Geoffrey Vos, and Sam Townend KC,
Chair of the Bar Council. [Register for the Legal Walk today!](#)

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