
Advocate Monthly Top Ten



As the year draws to a close, we would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported our work in 2023.

Be it through [donating](#) or volunteering as a [panel member](#), [mentor](#) or being part of [Bar In the Community](#), you have all made an immeasurable impact in one way or another.

The ongoing 'cost of living crisis' has made it a challenging year for those who need our help - legal costs remain entirely out of the question for the growing number of people who cannot afford to meet their most basic needs as energy bills, rent and food prices continue to soar.

Nonetheless, with the help of our volunteers and donors, 2023 has been a little brighter for those who have come to us seeking pro bono assistance. Nothing expresses this better than the messages we receive from people supported through our services:

"Your work really is a lifeline and enabler in allowing people to be on a level playing field, particularly as in my case, when it involves such important issues where children's futures are at stake. I remain hugely grateful for the assistance you've been able to provide."

If you would like to get more involved in our work in 2024, do see

our [volunteering page](#) for the latest opportunities and make sure to stay tuned to our social media channels - [X](#) (formerly Twitter) and [LinkedIn](#) - to stay up to date with exciting announcements.



Pro Bono Pledge & Pupil Pledge

As the year is coming to a close, so too is our 2023 initiative [The Pro Bono Pledge!](#)

Our huge thanks goes to you all and we are looking forward to working with you again in 2024. If you have completed 25+ hours of pro bono work this year, there is still time to let us know via the form below and we will be delighted to send you a logo for your email signature or Chambers website.

[Pledge completion form](#)



Nominations now open! 2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards

The [Bar Pro Bono Awards](#) are a fantastic opportunity to recognise the pro bono achievements of barristers and chambers nationwide who have exceeded expectation in supporting access to justice. Nominations close on **Friday 2nd February 2024**. Please do nominate those outstanding individuals in your Chambers, or Chambers itself via the form below.

[Categories and how to nominate](#)

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Advocate Statistics



50 Family Cases target

Following our Pro Bono Week event for the Family Bar, and the recent rise in requests for help with family cases, we asked the Family Bar to help us provide support for 50 family cases in November 2023.

We are delighted to announce that thanks to the incredible dedication and commitment of family barristers in England and Wales, we hit the target!

This is a wonderful achievement and we cannot express enough how grateful we are to the number of barristers who stepped up to take a family case within such a short space of time.



More crucially, all the barristers who took on a case have played a part in helping us to meet the growing demand for pro bono support in family law, one of our largest areas of casework - our huge thanks goes to you all!

[Read more about 50 Family Cases](#)



The Big Give Christmas Challenge has officially come to a close and we are blown away by the generosity and support we received throughout the week. We are delighted to share that we have not only met but exceeded our fundraising target of £15,000 and have raised an incredible £16,850! This is a remarkable achievement, which would not have been achieved without the support of our donors.

The Big Give Christmas

Challenge 2023

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. The emotional turmoil and legal complexities can be incredibly daunting, making these vulnerable people feel alone and unheard.

Thanks to the compassion and kindness of our donors, we are thrilled to be able to bring a sense of hope to individuals and families during this festive season.

[More on donating](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Hazel Samuriwo
42 Bedford Row

We would like to thank Hazel Samuriwo for assisting on a family case concerning a father seeking access to his daughter. Hazel provided advice and represented the father in two hearings, securing a shared care order and generous provisions around the time he spends with his daughter. The applicant expressed how grateful he is to Hazel for allowing him to sustain a long-lasting relationship with his child.

Thank you, Hazel

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**Keith Gordon &
Siobhan Duncan**
Temple Tax Chambers

Our many thanks to Keith Gordon and Siobhan Duncan on their significant success in the Upper Tribunal assisting our applicant with his appeal against HM Revenue & Customs. They succeeded in an appeal on behalf of our applicant, a full-time carer for his dad, in a Capital Gains Tax exemption dispute. Thanks to the assistance from Keith and Siobhan, the applicant is no longer at risk of losing his home.

Thank you, Keith and Siobhan

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Annabel Barrons
1GC Family Law

We would like to extend our thanks to Annabel Barrons for generously offering to provide representation on a pro bono basis on a family case for our applicant seeking contact with his children. The applicant was very pleased with her level of advocacy at the first hearing and Annabel has agreed to provide four other pieces of work for this applicant, including representation at a three day hearing.

Thank you, Annabel

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from all of us here at Advocate!**

**Thank you again for your support this year - we look
forward to working with you again in 2024!**

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