



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework

The Chambers Pro Bono Framework (The Framework) is an opportunity for all Chambers in England and Wales to establish their commitment to undertaking pro bono work and improving access to justice.

Pro bono work is always only an adjunct to, and not a substitute for, a proper system of publicly funded legal services, but Chambers that [sign up](#) to The Framework will aim to encourage their barristers to make use of the opportunities that pro bono work presents. Taking on these opportunities can both enhance practice and career development and make a significant contribution to the community and the lives of those in need of assistance who cannot afford to pay or obtain legal aid.

By incorporating The Framework in Chambers, you are committing to undertake the following four actions in 2023.

1. **APPOINT** Advocate [Pro Bono Champions](#) in Chambers who will oversee the actions outlined in The Framework, and highlight pro bono opportunities or initiatives in Chambers.
2. **ACTION** pro bono work as a Chambers by aiming to reach the aspirational target of **10% of your members** taking on some pro bono work in the calendar year. You would action this by encouraging barristers and all pupils to take on even just a small piece of advice or drafting, undertaken **through any means**, such as with a law clinic, a duty scheme, through Advocate cases or their own personal connections.
3. **ORGANISE** a seminar in Chambers on pro bono. This helps to establish your pro bono ethos among members and helps them to learn of the valuable opportunities. You can incorporate a small section on pro bono into an existing Chambers' seminar, drinks, or tea, or consider inviting the Advocate team to come and speak to Chambers.
4. **REPORT** on the pro bono work done after you have completed the three previous actions. Advocate will send you a short impact form for this reporting.



All Chambers in England and Wales can participate in The Framework from January 2023. All pro bono work between January and December 2023 is included, regardless of when Chambers signs up.

Benefits for Chambers in signing up

- Help the increasing number of people in desperate need of legal assistance who cannot afford to pay and cannot obtain legal aid.
- Support your barristers to make use of the opportunities that pro bono work presents to develop their skills and expand their practice.
- Be listed among the [participating Chambers](#), and display The Chambers Pro Bono Framework logo to demonstrate your commitment to establishing a pro bono ethos in Chambers.

Upon completion of the four actions

- Chambers that complete all four actions will receive The Chambers Pro Bono Framework certificate for that year, alongside our digital marketing pack for promoting your pro bono work and your Chambers' commitment to access to justice. These can be used on your website, social media, award nominations, or submissions for the legal directories.

Where to find further information

Explore [The Framework FAQs](#) to find further information and a detailed outline of how to implement each of the four actions.

To discuss how The Framework can be tailored for your Chambers, please arrange a short meeting with Advocate's Engagement Manager, Bryony at bwells@weareadvocate.org.uk

Sign up to The Framework

Please [sign up here](#) and let Advocate know that you are committed to incorporating The Framework in Chambers.

Advocate will be in touch regularly to support you. We look forward to working with you.