

Advocate Monthly Top Ten

1

Support the Bar's pro bono charity when renewing your practising certificate

"Your organisation gave me access to help I could never have afforded, and you opened a path that has now allowed me to move forward with my life."

-A person supported through Advocate

advocate

^
Celebrating 30 years

The annual Authorisation to Practise (ATP) process is now live through the MyBar portal.

This month, all barristers have the opportunity to support Advocate when renewing their practising certificates. If you can, please choose to donate to Advocate at the donation page just before checkout. Your contribution makes a vital difference to sustaining our work – contributions through this process made up over 40% of our income last year.

A small contribution can make a big difference, helping us continue to connect people to expert representation that can change the course of their lives: a home saved, a family reunited, a fair wage earned.

Bar Council Chair Kirsty Brimelow KC said: *"As a barrister who has undertaken pro bono work throughout my career, I support Advocate. Pro bono work underpins our shared ethos to secure access to justice for those who most need it. It can never be a replacement for a properly publicly funded Bar. However, I have always thought that it highlights our integrity as a profession as well as being a rewarding opportunity to give back."*

If you are on LinkedIn, we would be grateful if you could help spread the word about the importance of this campaign across the Bar by liking and reposting our posts during the ATP renewal period.

Thank you to all barristers, clerks and chambers' staff who support our work and help us continue to give hope to people in need of free legal assistance.

[Find out more about the difference your ATP contribution makes](#)



Recognise last year's pro bono work on the 2026 Recognition List

Be included on the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List, which celebrates the collective contribution of the legal profession to improving access to justice.

If you, or members of your chambers, have completed 25 hours or more of pro bono work in 2025, we encourage you to submit your names. The official deadline is 6 March 2026.

The Recognition List is an opportunity to acknowledge the vital role barristers play in supporting those who might otherwise be unable to access legal representation.

All pro bono work counts towards the Recognition List, regardless of which organisation it was undertaken through.

We were incredibly proud to see over 600 barristers recognised last year, and we hope to see strong participation from across the Bar again this year.

[Join the Recognition List](#)



Chambers' seminar on the Western Circuit

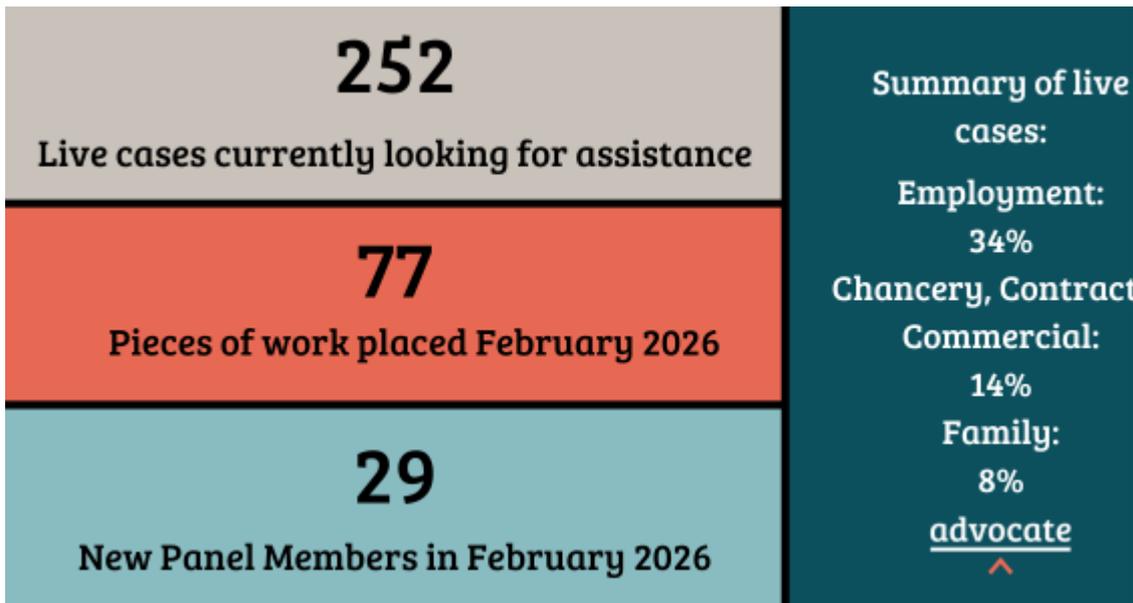
Louis, our Western Circuit caseworker, and Faye, our Engagement Manager, were delighted to attend a recent seminar at St John's Chambers in Bristol to discuss taking on pro bono work through Advocate. The session explored the dual benefits of pro bono practice: making a tangible difference to those in urgent need of representation, while also enhancing professional skills and practice development.

It was great to hear from Sarah Philimore, one of our dedicated case reviewers, who shared insights into assessing applications and the wider value of pro bono work.

Thank you to all who joined us. We look forward to more conversations like this with chambers across the country.

Please get in touch with us if you are interested in hearing more.

[Host a seminar in your Chambers](#)



Growing practice with purpose: Zoe Bushby on pro bono during pupillage



Zoe Bushby of Magdalen Chambers, called in 2024, has embraced pro bono work from the outset of her career. During her second six, she took on a personal injury case with us and completed the Pupil Pledge.

In February, Zoe shared her pro bono journey so far with us, sharing both the impact and the professional benefits of it. She discusses how pro bono work has expanded her experience in public law and judicial review, developed transferable skills, and built her confidence through hands-on advocacy.

She also talks about the support she received from our caseworkers, our Collaborate mentoring scheme, and the benefits of our flexible case listings.

Reflecting on her experience, she says: *“My experience completing pro bono work and the Pupil Pledge through Advocate has been extremely rewarding and insightful. I have been able to help those in need through stressful and complex legal issues, whilst also being able to expand my practice area and develop my transferable skills.”*

[Read Zoe's story](#)

6



Celebrating 2 years of B-CLIPS

Last month we celebrated the second anniversary of Birmingham CLIPS at a reception hosted in partnership with the Midland Chancery and Commercial Bar Association and generously supported by St Philips Chambers.

Established to provide on-the-day advice and advocacy for litigants in person in the Business and Property Courts, the scheme continues to support unrepresented parties at a critical stage of proceedings.

At the event, District Judge Mantle thanked volunteers for their commitment, while Raghav Trivedi of St Philips Chambers received the inaugural 2025 MCCBA Pro Bono Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

We are grateful to all volunteers and chambers who have helped Birmingham CLIPS go from strength to strength over the last two years.

[More about B-CLIPS & partner schemes](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

7

Emma Darlow Stearn
Cloisters Chambers

Our huge thanks to Emma Darlow Stearn of Cloisters Chambers for winning an appeal for one of our help-seekers in the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT).

The person assisted had brought claims of race and disability discrimination and whistleblowing detriment. At first instance, the whistleblowing claim had been dismissed as out of time by the Employment Tribunal. Emma won the appeal in the EAT, meaning the whistleblowing claim is now able to proceed. Emma is now continuing to assist on this case with regards to next steps.

Thank you, Emma

8

Huda Musa
2BR

Many thanks to Huda Musa of 2BR for representing a mental health nurse who was alleged to have assaulted his ex-wife's current partner while going through challenging family court proceedings. His former partner began a relationship with an actress who has a successful television career, and who was the complainant in the case. The Crown alleged that the nurse had assaulted the complainant during a child handover. It was the nurse's case, however, that he had been repeatedly subject to intimidation and demands by his former partner and the complainant. Thanks to Huda's advice and representation, the nurse was finally acquitted at the third trial listing and was able to preserve his career and good character, bringing immense relief after years of uncertainty.

Thank you, Huda

8

Sam Way
Devereux Chambers

We would like to thank Sam Way of Devereux Chambers for assisting a woman who has been trying to claim against her former employer. After the Employment Tribunal held that her claim was only for unpaid wages and failure to provide both a payslip and P45, Sam took on her appeal to ensure the case was properly heard. The Judge agreed that the Tribunal should have considered whether her claims were broader than those involving her pay. Thanks to Sam's assistance, the case has now been sent back to the Tribunal, giving her a fair opportunity to pursue the claims that she had always intended to bring.

Thank you, Sam



Join us at the London Legal Walk in summer 2026

Sign-ups are now open for the 2026 London Legal Walk, taking place on Tuesday 9 June.

As the largest fundraising event in the legal calendar, the Walk brings together barristers, chambers and legal organisations from across the community in support of accessible free legal advice. Funds raised support Advocate and other free legal advice charities that provide life-changing assistance to those who would otherwise go unassisted.

We encourage chambers to rally colleagues and register teams early - it is always a wonderful day where all the legal community comes together to support access to justice. We look forward to walking with you in June!

[Sign up to the London Legal Walk 2026](#)

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