
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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THE
ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

PROBONO
EXPERT
SUPPORT

New resources and support on pro bono costs orders

This month [The Access to Justice Foundation](#) (ATJF) have shared new resources on pro bono costs orders and brand-new additional support has become available through the [Pro Bono Expert Support Scheme](#).

Pro bono costs help level the playing field, by ensuring that there are equal adverse risks for all parties, even when facing a pro bono assisted party. Pro bono costs orders require the losing party to pay costs to ATJF when the winning party has received free legal representation. Importantly, these funds are then distributed to enable advice organisations like Advocate to continue delivering free legal help to those who need it most.

Further information can be found on ATJF's new [pro bono costs home page](#) whilst the tailored [guidance for advocates](#) explains the practicalities of applying for a pro bono costs order.

Also launched this month is a new opportunity for barristers working on pro bono cases to be partnered with a costs specialist to assist with preparing schedule of costs and drafting applications for pro bono costs orders. Barristers can access this help through [Pro Bono Expert Support](#), which also offers access to other specialist litigation experts such as translators, expert witnesses, accountants and strategic communications, all free of charge.

For further information on either of these initiatives, especially when working on Advocate cases, please contact our [Casework Team](#) who can help refer you, or find further detail through the link below.

[Read more](#)

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PRO BONO WEEK 2024

Pro Bono Week 2024

We are delighted that Pro Bono Week is taking place from 4th- 8th November 2024. As ever, this is an opportunity to showcase the vital voluntary contribution of the legal profession in giving free legal help to those in need.

If you are interested in running an event in your Chambers, please [get in touch](#) with the Advocate team. You can also explore the full range of events taking place throughout the week on the [Pro Bono Week Calendar](#).

[More on Pro Bono Week](#)

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M-CLIPS Launch

On the Northern circuit, the Manchester Chancery Litigant in Person Support Scheme ("M-CLIPS") launched earlier this month.

The Scheme provides unrepresented parties with on-the-day advice and advocacy and has been established thanks to the support of Business and Property Court Judges in Manchester, the Northern Circuit, the Northern Business and Property Bar Association and the Local Bar.

[Read more about M-CLIPS](#)

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Advocate Statistics



Advocate barristers successfully assist a grandmother in the Court of Appeal



Barristers [Michael Jones KC](#) of Deans Court Chambers and [Matthew Carey](#) of St John’s Buildings appeared pro bono in the Court of Appeal in a case concerning a grandmother’s wish to be allowed to look after three of her young grandchildren.

The appeal was successful and the care and placement orders were set aside by consent, with the matter remitted to the Family Court for a rehearing. Importantly, the Court of Appeal’s judgment has provided important guidance for local authorities designed to prevent scenarios like this from occurring again.

Reflecting on his experience working on this case, Michael said:

“This was a really great case to work on for a really pleasant and committed grandmother who had not been given a fair opportunity for further assessment as a carer for her grandchildren. It was a pleasure to work with Advocate case workers and with my junior, Matthew, and we obtained a fantastic result (and the right result) for our client.”

[Read the full story](#)



[Samantha Hillas KC](#) of St John's Buildings in Manchester won the Pro Bono KC of the Year award in the 2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards. Samantha specialises in family law, and pro bono work has always been a central part of her practice.

Samantha has taken the time share with us on what the importance of 'accessing' justice means to her, speaking from her wide-ranging experience on the rewards of helping pro bono clients.

Barrister story - Samantha Hillas KC

"We have the capacity and the tools to change people's lives for the better. It's that simple".

Samantha also talks about how pro bono work supported her application to take silk, and advises barristers to make use of our [Collaborate mentoring scheme](#) which matches counsel with a senior member of the Bar "who will be on hand to consult with about the case and tricky issues".

[Read Samantha's story](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Monty Fynn
39 Essex Chambers

We would like to shout out Monty Fynn, pupil barrister at 39 Essex Chambers, for representing a disabled woman whose new car had been seized by bailiffs due to the debts of the previous owner. She was unable to leave the house, missed doctor's appointments and ran out of medication. She made a claim against the bailiffs for the loss and distress she had suffered, but wanted to avoid the stress of court if possible.

Monty successfully negotiated a settlement on her behalf.

Thank you, Monty

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Sophie Lucas
36 Group

We would like to thank Sophie Lucas of the 36 Group for representing an elderly mother in Syria, who is now able to reunite with her family in the UK. The appellant suffers from severe ill-health and was unable to care for herself. The Home Office originally denied her application for an Adult Dependent Visa, but thanks to Sophie's assistance in preparing and presenting the appeal before the First-tier Tribunal, the case was successful. She will now join her family in the UK where she can receive the care she needs.

Thank you, Sophie

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Callum Reid-Hutchings
Gatehouse Chambers

Our many thanks to Callum Reid-Hutchings of Gatehouse Chambers for taking on his first Advocate case. It was a huge success as he was able to secure a £7,500 judgment in his client's favour. This was after she counterclaimed against the claimant for making numerous errors while doing maintenance in her home. Not only this, but Callum's involvement helped to ease our applicant's anxiety, and she was grateful to Callum for making the whole process a lot less daunting.

Thank you, Callum



Is it too early to start thinking about Christmas? Advocate and LawWorks don't think so!

Our Christmas Carols for Pro Bono are back! For seven years, the Advocate and LawWorks Christmas Carol Concert has been a highlight on the legal calendar and remains a popular way for chambers to entertain clients at the start of the festive period.

Come and join us on **Tuesday 10th December** at the beautiful Temple Church in London for an evening of music, mince pies and special celebrity guest readings. Our line-up of special celebrity guests giving readings this year include **The Rt Hon**

Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, Stephen

Mangan and **Rachael Stirling**. There will also be musical performances from talented harpist **Helena Ricci**, and renowned Chamber choir **Collegium Musicum**.

All ticket proceeds raise vital funds for those in desperate need of pro bono assistance. Bring friends, family and colleagues - all are welcome!

[Purchase your tickets now](#)

Follow us for more!

Advocate is now on [Bluesky](#) as well as LinkedIn and X. Please do follow these accounts to keep up to date with the latest news and information.