
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Congratulations
to all newly
appointed KCs

Our huge congratulations to all those sworn in as Silks before the Lord Chancellor at Westminster Hall on Monday.

We are delighted that 49 out of the 96 new KCs appointed this year are volunteers on our panel, and 6 are Case Reviewers - William Davis of 5KBW, Alasdair MacKenzie of Doughty Street Chambers, Richard Mott of One Essex Court, James Weale of Serle Court, Robert Williams of Cornerstone Barristers, and William Willson of South Square Chambers. We feel privileged to work with so many skilled and dedicated practitioners at the Bar who give their time to help people in urgent need of free legal assistance.

Our Chair, Sharif A. Shivji KC, has commented: *“Congratulations to all those appointed KCs in 2026. Becoming King’s Counsel is a badge of distinction in advocacy and leadership. It is particularly heartening to see that so many of those recognised have been long-standing pro bono advocates and supporters of our work. Their dedication, skill, and commitment to access to justice are admirable, and we are delighted to see their contributions recognised at the highest level”.*

For barristers looking to apply for the KC competition in the future, the Guidance for Applicants states that pro bono cases can be included within the 12 cases listed on your application to demonstrate the competencies assessed. These may include, for example, your ability to become familiar with a new area of law, or working with people from diverse backgrounds. We are pleased to have produced tailored guidance on how pro bono work can assist with KC applications by illustrating these competencies. The KC

appointments website also contains useful videos, including a short video with Chair and Lay Member of the KC Selection Panel Monisha Shah, on how undertaking pro bono work can strengthen an application – [watch here](#).

[Read our KC guide](#)



2) Thank you to everyone donating during ATP

We continue to be grateful to everyone who is donating to Advocate when renewing their practising certificates through the MyBar portal. The contributions we receive through this process are vital to sustaining our core service, making up over 40% of our annual income. We were created by the Bar 30 years ago, and we are proud to continue to be sustained by you all to this day. If you haven't renewed your practising certificate yet already, please opt into donating to Advocate when doing so. A small donation can make a huge difference.

Our Vice Chair and Case Reviewer Sarah Abram KC reflects: *"Access to justice depends on everyone being able to bring and defend claims when they need to do so; every day, the brilliant team and barristers who are prepared to act for free provide crucial support to people in dealing with all types of legal problems...Advocate are so lucky to have the support of the Bar, and are incredibly grateful to every barrister who is able to donate to our work through ATP."*

[More about ATP](#)



3) Join the Pupil Pledge for 2026

As pupils enter their second six this April, the Pupil Pledge offers a simple but impactful way to get involved in pro bono: commit to completing just one piece of pro bono work during your second six. Through Advocate, pupils can access opportunities across all areas of law, working on cases from advice and drafting to mediation and representation, in courts and tribunals across England and Wales. It is a valuable chance to build practical experience, develop confidence, and demonstrate a commitment to access to justice at an early stage in your career.

Last year over 90 second six pupils completed the pledge by taking on work through Advocate as well as other pro bono schemes, law clinics or charities. If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact [Faye](#), our Engagement Manager. You can also read our [tailored guide for Pupils and Supervisors](#). One panel member who completed the Pupil Pledge through Advocate said: *"The Pupil Pledge provided me with a wonderful opportunity to get more courtroom experience, interact directly with a client, and complete valuable pro bono work."*

[More on the Pupil Pledge](#)

Advocate Statistics

267

Live cases currently looking for assistance

47

Pieces of work placed March 2026

25

New Panel Members in March 2026

Summary of live

cases:

Employment:

35%

Family:

9%

Immigration:

7%

advocate

 Celebrating 30 years

Insights into pro bono work and judicial appointment: Lord Justice Antony Zacaroli



This month, former Advocate trustee and Lord Justice of Appeal Sir Antony Zacaroli reflects on how despite barristers' practices becoming busier and more specialised, taking on pro bono cases can broaden professional experience and strengthen core advocacy skills. Through Advocate, barristers gain exposure to new areas of law and a wider range of clients. Pro bono experience is also recognised by the Judicial Appointments Commission as valuable evidence in judicial applications, demonstrating key competencies such as adaptability, fairness, and the ability to apply skills in unfamiliar contexts.

As he notes: *"The reality is, however, that the core skills developed in virtually any area of practice – cutting through a morass of material to isolate key points, reading legal precedents and structuring an argument methodically and logically – are readily transferrable."*

[Read Lord Justice Zacaroli's story](#)



Walk and run for justice!

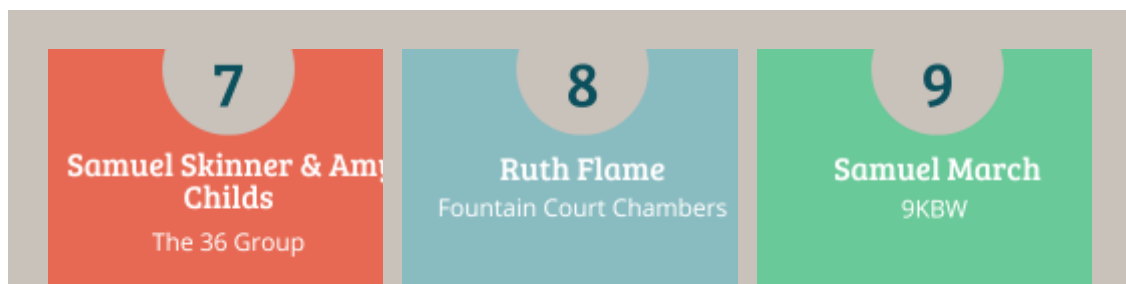
The London Legal Walk - the largest fundraising event on the legal calendar - is back this year on Tuesday 9th June. Over 600 teams including 71 chambers have already signed up alongside thousands of walkers to support access to justice, and our team are delighted to be volunteering to support walkers on the day.

Proceeds from the walk fund free legal advice charities including us, FRU and the London Legal Support Trust. The Lady Chief Justice Baroness Carr, President of the Supreme Court Lord Reed, President of the Law Society Mark Evans, and Bar Council Chair Kirsty Brimelow KC, will all be leading the walk this year - [sign up to the walk today](#) .

Also, a huge thank you and good luck to all of those taking on the London Landmarks half marathon on behalf of Advocate this year. It will be a fantastic event and we couldn't be more grateful for your support. A big shout out to our own Engagement Manager, Faye Pauffley, who is taking it on this year. You can donate to her [JustGiving page](#).

[More on fundraising for us](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...



(TW: Mentions suicide). Many thanks to Samuel Skinner KC and Amy Childs of The 36 Group for helping a bereaved family with the inquest of their son, who died by suicide in January last year. Their son had jumped from the Clifton Suspension Bridge into the River Avon at nighttime. The family had concerns regarding the Clifton Bridge Trust's management of the site and its failure to follow the recommendations of a previous Prevention of Future Deaths report regarding staffing numbers at night. Samuel and Amy assisted with the hearing and made arguments - on human rights and public law grounds - about whether the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust should be classed as a public authority. Following the inquest, the Trust announced a review of its suicide deterrence measures to deter people from attempting to take their lives at the site.

Thank you, Amy & Samuel

We would like to thank Ruth Flame of Fountain Court Chambers, who took on the defence of a summary judgment application the day before it was listed. Ruth acted for our help seeker - the second defendant - who resisted summary judgment of a £150,000 debt claim on the grounds that the sum was not yet due. Ruth sought an adjournment of the proceedings until such a time as the second defendant could participate in them fully. The defendant was incredibly grateful to Ruth for stepping in to support in what has been a difficult time for her.

Thank you, Ruth

Thank you to Samuel March of 9KBW for representing in a landmark 'open rescue' animal rights case. Sam represented one of the five defendants who were animal rights activists tried for a single count of burglary, with the aim of taking 20 beagle puppies away from a facility that breeds puppies for animal testing on-site. Whilst one entered the premises, the other four were charged as accessories and candidly accepted having been runners or drivers. The defendants removed 18 puppies, but two were seized by police and returned. Samuel represented our help seeker in five preliminary hearings, and a 7-day long trial. After over 9 hours of deliberation, the jury returned a not guilty verdict. Our help seeker said: "*Pro bono representation made it possible for me to properly defend myself through a long and difficult case. I'm hugely grateful*".

Thank you, Samuel



HMCTS Public Engagement Conference

Members of Advocate's casework team attended the HMCTS Public Engagement Group Conference last week, feeding their frontline pro bono perspectives into discussions with stakeholders from across the justice system about improvements to court users' experiences. Sessions highlighted developments including more accessible guidance for litigants in person, the responsible use of AI, user perspectives on Employment Tribunal hearings, and progress on the Family Private Law Digital Service.

We were also pleased that our former Chairman and President, Sir Robin Knowles, delivered the closing remarks. The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with others involved in the court user journey, including court staff, practitioners and academics.

We are grateful to HMCTS for the invitation to take part in this important forum focused on improving access to justice and the experience of all court users.

[Watch conversations from the day](#)

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