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Celebrating **30** years

**2026**  
**Bar Pro Bono**  
**Awards**

**Tuesday 19 May**

**Inner Temple Hall**

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# Welcome to the Bar Pro Bono Awards

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the exceptional pro bono achievements of the Bar in England and Wales.

Since their inception in 1997, Advocate has delivered the Awards on behalf of the Bar to honour the outstanding commitment of barristers and chambers to pro bono.

Over the years, this work has expanded in scope, depth and impact. This has made the task of selecting a single winner for each category increasingly challenging for our judging panel.

As we mark Advocate's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are delighted to celebrate the Bar's long-standing dedication to supporting those in need of their time and expertise.

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# About Advocate

We are the Bar's national pro bono charity. For three decades, we have helped people who would otherwise face the justice system alone.

We make it possible for barristers to balance a dedicated practice with making a significant contribution to the community.

Our charity matches people who are unable to obtain legal aid and cannot afford to pay with barristers who generously volunteer their time and expertise to provide free legal advice and representation.

From family and housing matters to employment, immigration and public law, we assist in all practice areas and in every court and tribunal across England and Wales.

Advocate organises the Bar Pro Bono Awards year on year. If you would like to learn more about our work, please visit our [website](#).

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# The Judges

Chair of the Bar Council  
**Kirsty Brimelow KC**

Vice Chair of the Bar Council  
**Heidi Stonecliffe KC**

Founder and President of Advocate  
**Lord Goldsmith KC**

CEO of Legal Aid Practitioners Group  
**Chris Minnoch**

Chair of the Institute of Barristers' Clerks  
**Dave Scothern**

Lord Justice of Appeal  
**The Right Hon. Lord Justice Zacaroli**

Leader of the North Eastern Circuit  
**Caroline Goodwin KC**

Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee  
**Amelia Clegg**

High Court Judge  
**The Hon. Mrs Justice McGowan**

Co-Chair of the Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee  
**Marina Faggionato**

Co-Chair of the Legal Practice Management Association  
**Richard Khaldi**

Widow of the late John Collins  
**Sheila Collins**

Global Bar Editor, *The Legal 500*  
**Will Tolcher**

# The Ceremony

Welcome

**Sharif A. Shivji KC, Advocate Chair of Trustees**

Introduction

**Lady Chief Justice**

Winners announced in the following categories:

*Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*

*International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*

*Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year*

*Pro Bono KC of the Year*

Headline Sponsor LexisNexis Remarks

**Josh Giddens**

*Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year*

*Pro Bono Chambers of the Year*

*John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award*

*Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year*

Close followed by Drinks Reception - kindly sponsored  
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# Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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Chartered Certified Accountants

**Laura Bramall**  
Serjeants' Inn

**Brenda Efurhievwe**  
Goldsmith Chambers

**Acland Bryant**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Alex Findley**  
Farrar's Building

**Abe Chauhan**  
Blackstone Chambers

**Kate Gardiner**  
Henderson Chambers

**Emma Christie**  
The 36 Group

**Daniel Hallström**  
Old Square Chambers

**Harrison Engler**  
Field Court Chambers

**Harry Stratton**  
One Essex Court

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# Laura Bramall

## Serjeants' Inn

**“Laura’s work is an example of the opportunity and the impact that pro bono work provides, and exactly what we seek to promote and support from young barristers.”**



Laura was called to the Bar in 2025 and specialises in public law, police law, Court of Protection, inquests and inquiries, and clinical negligence. Laura has undertaken a substantial amount of work on two SEND tribunal cases. She has provided advice to a mother of an autistic son and provided drafting and representation to a father of a disabled son. Despite this being a new area of law for her, she has excelled in the work she has done. Two of Advocate’s case reviewers have commented on both the quality of the work and on her identifying what further assistance the help seeker would benefit from before then being willing to provide that further help.

In addition to the impact of her work on the two families she has helped, and continues to help, she has assisted the Advocate team in promoting pro bono work as a way to learn, gain experience, and help those in need amongst other young barristers. She has made full use of the support that Advocate facilitates both through the mentoring scheme and through Pro Bono Connect, and has assisted in giving seminars encouraging barristers to undertake pro bono work. Her achievements are all the more notable because she is still only in her second six, having joined as an Advocate panel member as recently as October 2025. All this work has been done amidst an undoubtedly very busy time during pupillage.

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## **Acland Bryant** **Garden Court Chambers**

**“Acland has displayed diligence, creativity and aptitude in everything we have asked him to do. Acland is a committed animal advocate whose pro bono work is creating meaningful impact in a hugely neglected area.”**



Acland was called to the Bar in 2019 and specialises in cases that involve issues of environmental and climate justice. Acland represented Clodagh Miskelly of Stop Whitehead Oil Terminal pro bono, following her successful application for judicial review that resulted in the quashing of planning permission for a multi-million-pound expansion of an oil terminal on the shores of Belfast Lough, as it is re-determined by the local authority. Acland also continues to act pro bono for Friends of the Earth on the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian) Public Inquiry, an Inquiry into Dalradian Gold Ltd’s plans for a £750 million gold-silver-copper mine in County Tyrone, including the upcoming 6-week planning inquiry.

Acland has provided pro bono advice and representation in Tribunals, the High Court, and Court of Appeal on a range of issues, including a university students disability discrimination claim against her university, parents of children with disabilities and special educational needs, animal welfare cases, Europe’s first climate-related OECD complaint, quarrying and major developments affecting local communities. In addition to this work, Acland is a mentor through Lawyers Who Care, an organisation that breaks down barriers to provide care-experienced people with the opportunity and guidance to enter the legal profession. He is a Committee Member for the Legal Vegan Network and a legal panel member for Law for Change. He has spoken at many events hosted by his chambers, NGOs and charities.

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## **Abe Chauhan**

### **Blackstone Chambers**

**“From the outset, Abe demonstrated exceptional professionalism, patience, and empathy. They took the time to understand the case in depth, explained the process clearly, and met with me regularly to ensure I felt supported.”**



Abe was called to the Bar in 2025 and specialises in public law, civil liberties and human rights. In November 2025, Abe represented a neurodivergent person who described feeling overwhelmed by proceedings at a preliminary Employment Tribunal hearing. Abe was successful in all applications and then assisted by drafting a witness statement. Abe has stated his willingness to continue assisting this person pro bono. In December 2025, Abe assisted a mentally and physically vulnerable man with a Housing Act appeal against a decision that he was not ‘in priority need’ for accommodation. The person was street homeless as the Council had refused to provide interim accommodation. Abe initially agreed to provide drafting assistance, and representation at a first hearing. He won on four of five grounds. The Court quashed the Council’s decision and mandated the provision of interim accommodation. Accommodation was provided that day.

Abe’s pro bono clients also include a variety of NGOs – including Liberty and Privacy International – bringing challenges that impact wider communities. Abe is representing various individuals who supported the counterterrorism work of UK Special Forces in Afghanistan and who are now seeking relocation to the UK. These claims highlight systemic failings in the handling of relocation applications and may have a huge impact on the individuals and their families, who are currently in hiding from the Taliban.

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## Emma Christie

### The 36 Group

**“Emma was down to earth and listened carefully without interruption. She quickly identified the key legal issues and reviewed an enormous volume of documents. Her expertise far outweighed any firm I had previously instructed.”**



Emma was called to the Bar in 2022 and specialises in judicial review, immigration, housing, homelessness, education and Court of Protection matters. Over the past 12 months, Emma has delivered outstanding pro bono advocacy across housing and education law, supporting vulnerable individuals with no realistic access to funded representation. She volunteers weekly at Islington Legal Advice Centre’s housing clinic, advising walk-in clients on possession, disrepair, homelessness, and anti-social behaviour matters. Her achievements include securing a £16,000 disrepair settlement and preventing imminent street homelessness for a vulnerable client by securing a same-day emergency accommodation placement.

Emma provides specialist education law representation through Advocate and SEND Dynamic CIC. She represented a parent at short notice in a SEND Tribunal, securing the child’s preferred placement after successfully challenging the local authority’s reliance on s39(4) Children and Families Act. She further advises families on EHCP appeals and judicial review options where plans have not been finalised - expanding access to justice for children with special educational needs. Emma has also volunteered with legal charity Da’aro Youth, drafting practical guidance packs for young asylum seekers and care leavers on housing rights, the asylum process, and working with solicitors to create resources with ongoing community-wide benefit.

## Brenda Efurhievwe

### Goldsmith Chambers

**“The impact of Brenda’s pro bono engagement is felt not only by individual clients whose lives and safety were directly affected, but also by the wider community of organisations and activists responding to the humanitarian crisis at the border.”**



Brenda was called to the Bar in 2019 and specialises in immigration and public law. Brenda has played a critical role in life-saving legal work at the Polish Belarusian border, where people seeking protection are routinely exposed to violence, inhumane treatment, and unlawful pushbacks. In 2025, she substantially contributed to the preparation and refinement of applications for interim measures before the European Court of Human Rights. The templates and legal arguments she helped develop have been widely used by NGOs and grassroots actors working at the border and have become a key tool in emergency litigation aimed at preventing immediate and irreversible harm, including threats to life and physical integrity.

Brenda has also been able to represent clients directly, on a pro bono basis. Most recently, she assisted a young asylum seeker, and recognised victim of trafficking, who was unable to secure alternative representation, while urgently needing to seek permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal. Brenda was able to both prepare detailed permission grounds, and assist them in securing an informal extension to seek reconsideration of the separate decision regarding their trafficking leave.

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## **Harrison Engler**

### **Field Court Chambers**

**“Harrison’s contribution has been outstanding. The matter he took on was complex, sensitive, and of enormous personal importance to the client involved. From the outset, Harrison approached the case with exceptional professionalism, diligence, and empathy.”**



Harrison was called to the Bar in 2023 and specialises in civil, family, housing, property, community care and public law. In April 2025, Harrison assisted an appellant father in relation to appealing a child arrangements judgment from 2022. The father was granted permission to appeal on one of the five grounds and applied to Advocate for help with representation at the hearing in the High Court. Harrison and another member in his Chambers offered to assist the father on very short notice. Based on Harrison’s submissions, the High Court overturned the finding of rape made by the Family Court. Mr Justice Hayden described Harrison’s help to be ‘invaluable’. The father was so grateful for the help he received that he emailed Advocate afterwards expressing his gratitude and commented specifically on Harrison’s excellent communication, empathy and professionalism.

Volunteering with *Not Beyond Redemption*, Harrison provided representation to a woman who had recently been released from prison and was attempting to rebuild stability and contact with her child. His work involved a careful review of the case papers, identifying the key legal and evidential issues, and advising the client on her options at a particularly vulnerable point in her transition back into the community. Harrison prepared a clear and thoughtful position statement, ensuring the client fully understood the proceedings, and supported her through what was an emotionally challenging process. He then represented her in court at a Final Hearing, advocating firmly and sensitively on her behalf. Harrison’s involvement significantly impacted the client, enabling her to strengthen her relationship with her child.

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## Alex Findley

### Farrar's Building

**“He is representing individuals who need help and clearly benefit from his hard work which is the very essence of what the pro bono Bar should be. He is undertaking work he has limited experience of ... and achieving fantastic results.”**



Alex was called to the Bar in 2021 and specialises in employment, probate, property damage and contractual disputes. Alex has undertaken a very significant amount of pro bono work whilst juggling a busy private practice. The breadth of the pro bono work has been staggering. It has covered significant probate work, race discrimination issues in the employment tribunal, and a defence of a director in the High Court. In 2025, Alex represented vulnerable Advocate help seekers in four difficult multi-day trials, achieving a substantial judgment worth over £200,000 for a mother and her children against her partner's estate, which had all been passed to his first family in a constructive trust and Inheritance Act Claim, and was viciously defended.

Alongside this, Alex has provided advice, drafting and support to many other litigants facing financial hardship and potential ruin, including advising and drafting particulars for a survivor of domestic violence against the estate of her former partner to secure her children's inheritance from misappropriation. The majority of his pro bono cases are outside his normal practice at the Bar and are not high profile cases or matters that will benefit his own private practice. Alex also frequently volunteers through Pro Bono Connect and proactively offers representation when requests are made directly to Chambers. His extensive contributions highlight his genuine commitment to access to justice.

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## Kate Gardiner

### Henderson Chambers

**“Kate’s commitment – including turning down paid work – and drive in these circumstances is truly remarkable at her level of call. She has gone above and beyond fighting for access to justice and deserves recognition accordingly.”**



Kate was called to the Bar in 2022 and specialises in commercial litigation, group actions, and public law. In February 2025, Kate obtained an adjournment on the first day of a trial for over £500,000 on the grounds that her client was known to be illiterate, disabled, and mentally ill, but that no adjustments had been made. Despite the matter having then been ready for trial, Kate transformed the litigation through her initiative and dedication. She represented her client with care and compassion in a true David-and-Goliath case against an aggressive liquidator and a major law firm. She has provided advice, obtained vulnerable party directions including for a professional Communicourt intermediary to assist at trial, facilitated the filing of key new evidence, and brought a senior junior on board for the trial listed in February 2026. The impact for her client, who was vulnerable and had initially been overwhelmed and outnumbered in the proceedings, has been immeasurable.

Kate’s commitment and drive in these circumstances – including turning down paid work – is truly remarkable at her level of call, and her colleagues describe her as having gone “above and beyond” in fighting for access to justice.

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## Daniel Hallström

### Old Square Chambers

**"I have no hesitation in wholeheartedly endorsing Daniel's nomination in recognition of how he has made pro bono representation and support a central facet of his professional practice from the very outset of his vocation as a barrister."**



Daniel was called to the Bar in 2024 and practices in employment, personal injury, clinical negligence, and public law work. During pupillage and into early tenancy, Daniel has thrown himself into pro bono work, including the recent Court of Appeal case of *Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v NJ* [2026] EWCA Civ 23, in which he was commended by the bench for his pro bono work on the case. Daniel drafted a successful application for an anonymity order and took on some of the oral advocacy at the hearing in December 2025, barely three months into tenancy.

Daniel gave valuable advice on whether a FRU client who had successfully obtained a liability judgement on an unfair dismissal had reasonable grounds for pursuing an appeal against the decision to impose a 100% Polkey deduction - a reduction in compensation - and then went on to provide draft grounds of appeal which have now been submitted. In both examples, this work was conducted behind the scenes in addition to his regular pro bono representation of FRU (and indeed other Pro Bono) clients in the Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal, demonstrating a thorough commitment to improving access for clients who would otherwise be impeded in accessing the justice system.

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# Harry Stratton

## One Essex Court

**“Harry’s advocacy was outstanding. His written submissions were incisive, persuasive, and meticulously researched. In court, he was fearless, composed, and intellectually formidable.”**



Harry was called to the Bar in 2021 and specialises in international commercial disputes, particularly fraud, bribery, and libel claims. His pro bono work focuses on defending defamation claims brought against MeToo complainants and overseas political activists. In one such case he represented a young woman defending a ‘Me Too’ defamation claim brought by a prominent public figure. He achieved a favourable settlement where the young woman did not pay any damages or costs.

Harry represented 31 members of the *Independent Workers of Great Britain*, a trade union claiming they had been unfairly dismissed by their employer for involvement in trade union activity. This included a high-profile collective dispute involving multiple claimants dismissed in circumstances raising serious concerns of trade union victimisation and unfair dismissal. The matter required rapid mastery of an extensive evidential record, strategic judgement under intense time pressure, and the delivery of clear, tailored advice to individuals with diverse and often vulnerable personal circumstances. Harry has also assisted on discrimination cases, including representing a former student alleging racial discrimination by Oxford University. He won her a rehearing after her claim initially failed for being out of time, and was successful in winning an award of pro bono costs against the University.

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# International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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**Christina Warner**

33 Bedford Row

**Graeme Hall**

Doughty Street Chambers

**Rhys Davies & Ben Keith**

Temple Garden Chambers & 5 St Andrew's Hill

**Zac Sammour**

11KBW

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## Christina Warner

33 Bedford Row

**“Her professionalism, empathy and resilience have made a tangible difference in safeguarding lives and securing justice for those who might otherwise have been silenced.”**



Christina Warner was called to the Bar in 2014 and specialises in Children Act and Family Law Act matters. Last year, Christina worked to redefine the ethical and compassionate boundaries of family law through her pro bono campaign, *Ruby's Law*. As a visually impaired family barrister - and one of the few with a disability - she brings lived experience of resilience and accessibility to her work, championing inclusion and justice for all. She identified a critical legal gap: the absence of protection for pets in domestic abuse cases, a factor that often prevents victims from leaving abusive relationships. Launched as a voluntary initiative, *Ruby's Law* now commands national and international recognition. Christina has delivered over 60 pro bono events and secured endorsements from the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Cats Protection, and the Domestic Abuse Alliance. Her proposals have gained cross-party parliamentary support following two APPG debates in March and October 2025, and on 19 November 2025 the campaign was formally raised as an Early Day Motion by Ruth Jones MP.

Internationally, her work has been cited by the Global Link Coalition in representations regarding the UN's General Comment 26 to government bodies in Morocco regarding the mass culling of dogs ahead of the country's preparation to host FIFA in 2030. *Ruby's Law* has also been referenced in the Northern Ireland Assembly (6 October 2025) and cited in Canadian Animal Law (LexisNexis, 2025). On 13 November 2025, *Ruby's Law* made UK and Irish legal history when its proposals were formally endorsed by Ards and North Down Borough Council, who are now actively seeking implementation.

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# Graeme Hall

## Doughty Street Chambers

**“Whilst the cases we work on with Graeme are often aimed at addressing a wider point of public policy, Graeme never loses sight of clients at the heart of the case and is doggedly focused on achieving the best possible outcome for them.”**



Graeme Hall was called to the Bar in 2011 and specialises in the defence of high-value, complex fraud and international money laundering extradition requests. Graeme has for years volunteered his services to help those on death row. He first set up a project in Uganda in 2011 to assist prisoners in capital cases. This year, Graeme presented the case of Uriah Woods in a capital appeal from Trinidad & Tobago which may now change the law on provocation. The case involved over 100 hours of preparation, research and great perseverance by Graeme. He has also assisted on the appeal for Pasmore Millings and Andre Ennis, both sentenced to 40 years for murder in Jamaica. The case involves serious allegations of prosecutorial misconduct and inadequate disclosure, requiring many hours of Graeme’s pro bono work.

Graeme is advising on the further challenges to the death penalty regime in Taiwan and proposed litigation to restrict the death penalty. He continues work with prisoners in Uganda re-sentenced to lengthy sentences following the abolition of the death penalty. Graeme’s commitment to the cause of those facing the death penalty has twice been commended by the Privy Council.

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## **Rhys Davies & Ben Keith**

### **Temple Garden Chambers & 5 St Andrew's Hill**

**“They gave clear, unflinching advice, even when the truth was uncomfortable. They provided structure and professional steadiness at moments when it would have been easy for any lawyer to step back.”**



Rhys Davies is an international criminal law and international human rights law expert, and Ben Keith specialises in cross-border and international cases. Both were called to the Bar in 2004, and have dedicated substantial time over the years to international pro bono work, with particular focus on prisoners detained overseas and persecuted minorities. Their commitment has yielded significant results in the last year: in August 2025, they secured a judgment at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for Acléo Kalinga, a Rwandan national subjected to torture during two years of secret detention by Ugandan security forces. The Commission found multiple violations of the African Charter and ordered Uganda to investigate, prosecute perpetrators, provide compensation, and implement anti-torture safeguards.

In October 2025, Rhys and Ben obtained a ruling from the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concerning Charles Ridley, a British businessman detained in the UAE since 2008. Despite completing his ten-year sentence in 2015, Ridley remains imprisoned under legislation applied retroactively. The Working Group found his seventeen-year detention arbitrary and called for his immediate release and compensation. Rhys and Ben also made urgent submissions to Interpol preventing Red Notices against Times correspondent Catherine Philp, who faced criminal prosecution threats from Russia after reporting from occupied Kursk territory. Ben and Rhys continue to represent other pro bono clients, including an individual targeted by the Iranian regime who remains trapped in Lebanon due to an unlawful Red Notice.

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# Zac Sammour

**11KBW**

**“He has a rare ability to distil complex legal principles into clear, structured, and actionable advice, ensuring that clients understand their position and are able to make informed decisions.”**



Zac Sammour was called to the Bar in 2014 and practices in a range of areas including commercial, data protection, defamation, employment, privacy, public, public international and sports law. He has a genuine commitment to pro bono work on matters relating to the protection of human rights and dignity. In the last year, he acted as counsel for the State of Palestine in the International Court of Justice case titled *Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*. This involved weeks of pro bono work on matters spanning international humanitarian law, human rights law, the use of force, self-determination and racial discrimination. The ICJ’s Advisory Opinion was heralded as an enormous achievement for the Palestinian people and for international law, and was legally significant in clarifying the peremptory status of self-determination in the context of foreign occupation.

He has advised a group of Afghanistan women on potential claims concerning their dismissal from prominent posts (such as judges and parliamentarians) upon the Taliban’s ascension to power. This work is already having a real impact on the individuals in their journey to seek accountability for sex discrimination within the broader context of the Taliban’s incredibly oppressive rule. This year he has also acted as counsel in connection with a Charity Commission investigation which resulted in an individual being able to retain their position of employment and for him and his organisation to exercise their ECHR-protected rights. He also acted as counsel in the significant case, *Al Haq v SSBT*, challenging the UK’s continued supply of weapons to Israel in the context of its war in Gaza.

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# Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

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**Colin Perrin**  
23 Essex Street

**Matthew Gibbons**  
Deans Court Chambers

**Anita Carroll**  
3 Verulam Buildings

**Steve Sheridan**  
42BR

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# Anita Carroll

## 3 Verulam Buildings

**“She has significantly expanded IADRU initiatives within a short period, combining exceptional organisational skill with sound judgement and a clear understanding of IADRU’s objectives.”**



Anita has rapidly expanded the initiatives of the 3VB International Advisory and Dispute Resolution Unit (IADRU), demonstrating exceptional organisational skills, sound judgement, and a clear understanding of the unit’s objectives. She has been central to the successful growth and delivery of IADRU’s programmes: she has expanded IADRU’s geographic reach beyond Africa to include Asia, supporting initiatives involving countries such as China, Thailand, and Pakistan. She also coordinates with institutions such as the *Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts* to deliver capacity-building initiatives for States and judiciaries.

Anita coordinated a Rule of Law lecture co-hosted with JUSTICE, addressing constitutionalism, human rights, and democratic accountability; a judicial roundtable on crypto and AI involving judges from Ukraine, the Gambia, Vietnam, and the United States; and an IADRU-LCIA international arbitration workshop held in Nigeria. Anita combines professionalism, initiative, and discretion with a genuine commitment to pro bono work. Her contribution has materially strengthened IADRU’s impact and effectiveness, and she is thoroughly deserving of recognition through this award.

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## **Colin Perrin**

**23 Essex Street**

**“Colin’s support for pro bono work is especially impressive because, as a clerk, his performance is naturally measured primarily by the team’s income. But Colin recognises the wider benefits of pro bono work to the legal services market, the community and members of Chambers.”**



As the Senior Business and Property Clerk at 23ES, Colin has been instrumental in Chambers’ exponentially increased support for Advocate and pro bono work in Manchester and beyond over the last three years. Colin has been a key supporter of the Manchester Chancery Litigant in Person Support Scheme (MCLIPS). In the first instance, he supported the launch of the scheme in Manchester, liaising with Advocate, court staff, judges and barristers from various chambers to get the scheme operational. But his most significant contribution was to ensure that every member of the 23ES Business & Property Team signed up to MCLIPS. Whereas other sets have relied on members to volunteer to undertake the duty barrister work involved in the scheme, Colin asked every member of the team to make themselves available. He then juggles the diary each time 23ES is on the rota to ensure a member of chambers is available to cover it and, where possible, without losing the opportunity for paid work.

The net effect of this has been that 23ES has been able to commit significantly more barrister days to MCLIPS than the size of its team would otherwise be able to support. Colin has also supported 23ES in becoming, and remaining, part of the Advocate Chambers’ Pro Bono Framework, and members of the Business and Property team in undertaking pro bono work for Advocate throughout 2025.

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# Matthew Gibbons

## Deans Court Chambers

**“Matt’s leadership style is rooted in empathy and inspiration. He introduced the mantra ‘With great power comes great responsibility’ into Chambers culture, using Spiderman imagery and a welcome note to remind barristers and staff of the importance of client care.”**



Matt’s unwavering dedication to pro bono advocacy and the clerking profession has had a transformative impact on Deans Court Chambers and the wider legal community. In 2022, under his encouragement, three members of Chambers were the only barristers on Circuit to complete the 25 for 25 Pro Bono Challenge by April. He played a pivotal role in promoting Advocate initiatives, including hosting a successful Northern Circuit event and securing silver Pro Bono Patron status, making Deans Court the first set on Circuit to do so.

Matt’s influence extends beyond Chambers. He has organised and contributed to national IBC conferences, delivered training workshops, and serves as the Northern Circuit representative on the IBC education subcommittee. His commitment to inclusivity and access to justice was evident when he organised a landmark “Audience with the Supreme Court” event in Manchester, ensuring a diverse and representative audience. Matt’s contributions also include supporting Bar Council initiatives on gender pay disparity and best practice, mentoring aspiring legal professionals, and raising significant funds for charity through personal challenges.

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# Steve Sheridan

**42BR**

**“Steve consistently goes above and beyond his role, driven by a genuine dedication to supporting those in need and enabling others to do the same recognition.”**



Steve has been instrumental in championing the process of the clerks receiving the weekly updates from Advocate and encouraging them to place the cases with members of chambers, resulting in a much more consistent approach to pro bono work within chambers rather than simply leaving it to individual barristers. This has resulted in significantly more cases being placed with barristers.

He has always made sure that he extolls the virtues of doing pro bono work in practice reviews with junior and senior members of chambers alike. Steve fully appreciates that not only is it important for members to undertake pro bono work in order to assist vulnerable clients who would not otherwise have access to legal advice and support, but it is also an excellent way to develop the junior barristers in chambers, allowing them to do challenging and fulfilling work that may be otherwise beyond their year of call. He also encourages the more senior members of chambers to bear in mind the potential for pro bono work to support an application for silk.

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# Pro Bono KC of the Year

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**James Goudie KC**  
11KBW

**James Leonard KC**  
Outer Temple Chambers

**Justin Bates KC**  
Landmark Chambers

**Marc Willers KC**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Sophie Cartwright KC**  
Deans Court Chambers

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# James Goudie KC

## 11KBW

**“James provided clear and highly accessible legal advice to a group that would not otherwise have had access to the necessary resources or specialist expertise. His involvement enabled the group to articulate and progress their objectives in a way that would not have been possible without pro bono assistance.”**



Called to the Bar in 1970 and appointed Silk in 1984, James Goudie KC is a leading Silk with a broad practice across a variety of areas of law. He has always shows a keen interest in undertaking pro bono work, particular in cases which have significant importance to the public. James successfully appeared in the Court of Appeal, alongside Oliver Mills of 11KBW, in a matter on behalf of an Advocate help seeker that could not afford to pay for any legal representation. James had appeared at the Employment Appeal Tribunal on behalf of the help seeker and continued to act until 2025 in the Court of Appeal and dedicated a significant number of hours to this case.

In addition to this, James undertook work advising on the National Mineworkers' Pension Scheme in which he provided specialist legal advice to a group that otherwise would not have had access to legal resources. As a result, James helped in providing a sizeable impact to the community as the former mineworkers received an increase to their weekly pension. This demonstrates James' ongoing appreciation for the importance of pro bono representation to protect the fundamental right of legal representation, and where possible, to continue to support these initiatives.

advocate

Celebrating 30 years

## James Leonard KC

### Outer Temple Chambers

“That response - steadfast, generous, and composed - is precisely what pro bono work so often requires, and precisely what James gave so willingly. His example will stay with me for the rest of my career.”



Called to the Bar in 1983 and gaining silk in 2023, James Leonard KC specialises in health, safety and environmental law and has an established practice in disciplinary and regulatory cases. He has a considerable background in complex industrial accident cases, fraud and corruption cases, financial services, multi-jurisdictional confiscation proceedings and public law. James is commended for being an outstanding advocate whose pro bono work reflects both exceptional legal skill and remarkable generosity. In late 2024, James led on *Buzzard-Quashie v Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police*. Working with a junior barrister, he stepped in without hesitation to lead a complex and demanding appeal, despite the case's challenges and lack of resources. His calm, patient leadership not only strengthened the legal team but also gave much-needed confidence and reassurance to a client navigating an exceptionally difficult process.

When the case took an unexpected turn shortly before the hearing, James went far beyond what could reasonably be expected. He devoted his time during a family holiday to ensure the case was fully prepared and the client fully supported. James was commended for his humble but pragmatic nature in court, all whilst commanding complete control over the legal points and the factual analysis. He made himself available at all times of day and night for both the client and his junior to deal with complicated legal and factual questions that kept on arising in the case.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## Justin Bates KC

### Landmark Chambers

**“Justin Bates KC exemplifies what pro bono work should look like at its very best: swift to step forward, meticulous in execution, and personally invested in ensuring that vulnerable people are properly heard.”**



Called to the Bar in 2003 and appointed Silk in 2024, Justin’s practice covers all aspects of housing, property and local government law. In addition to working for Advocate as a reviewer and taking on cases, Justin regularly acts pro bono for law centres and other charitable bodies.

Through Advocate, Justin helped a vulnerable, elderly individual over a number of years, in two separate cases. These cases raised complex and technical issues concerning service charges and landlord obligations, with implications extending beyond the individual disputes to the wider residential leasehold sector. Justin recently concluded a second Upper Tribunal appeal on the individual’s behalf, leading Poppy Kemp of Landmark Chambers. This work provided important clarification and authoritative guidance in an evolving area of housing law. Justin’s willingness to undertake successive appeals demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment, particularly in light of the demands of Upper Tribunal litigation. Recently, Justin also assisted homelessness charity *Shelter* pro bono in an appeal before the Supreme Court, instructed by Freshfields LLP. He was commended for his extensive and specialist housing law knowledge and experience, as well as his collaborative, generous and down-to-earth approach.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## **Marc Willers KC**

### **Garden Court Chambers**

**“It is evident that Marc’s motivation for getting involved in cases of this nature is to make a genuine difference to issues of significant public importance.”**



Marc Willers KC was called to the Bar in 1987 and took Silk in 2014. Marc dedicates a significant amount of his time pro bono in environmental law, planning law, public law, human rights and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller law cases. In the last year he has contributed 200+ hours of pro bono and is on the Pro Bono Recognition List for England and Wales. Marc has made significant contributions to multiple high-profile cases, including leading the pro bono legal team in the successful Privy Council appeal in *Mussington and Frank*, challenging the granting of planning permission for a new airport on the island of Barbuda on environmental grounds. Marc presented the oral arguments, and the Board decided that the appellants did have standing and so remitted the case for trial before the Caribbean courts.

Marc also successfully represented Clodagh Miskelly of Stop Whitehead Oil Terminal (SWOT) pro bono in an Application for Leave to Apply for Judicial Review, alongside Acland Bryant of Garden Court Chambers. Thanks to their assistance, the decision to approve the oil terminal expansion was quashed. Last year Marc advised Greenpeace International pro bono on implementing the landmark *KlimaSeniorinnen* judgment, where Marc was instructed and won. Marc is commended for being a genuine force for positive change on environmental issues in the UK and beyond.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# Sophie Cartwright KC

## Deans Court Chambers

**“Sophie Cartwright KC is not only a champion of pro bono - she is a catalyst for change, a mentor to others, and a steadfast defender of justice.”**



Sophie Cartwright KC was called to the Bar in 1998 and took Silk in 2021. As Chair of the Greater Manchester Pro Bono Committee, Sophie has been instrumental in shaping regional strategies, fostering collaboration, and cultivating a strong service-oriented culture within the legal sector. Sophie spearheaded the Manchester Pro Bono Awards in 2024 and 2025, celebrating and elevating the contributions of legal professionals dedicated to voluntary service. Her national influence is evident through her role on the Attorney General’s Pro Bono Committee, where she contributes to strategic discussions on the future of pro bono work in the UK.

Leading by example, Sophie has dedicated a huge number of hours in the past year to complex pro bono cases, including Article 2 submissions and inquest advocacy. She assisted a family who had been managing an inquest on their own after their sister took her own life whilst under local mental health services. Sophie ensured that a Pre Inquest Review hearing took place to ensure proper case management and advised the family in conference. Sophie could not assist with the hearing but she arranged pro bono solicitors and another member of chambers to assist with the hearing - in less than a week, Sophie took the family from having no support to a full legal team. Sophie has worked closely with Advocate, personally engaging chambers across Manchester to boost participation in pro bono initiatives, including recording a podcast to inspire legal professionals returning to practice to take on pro bono cases. Sophie is a tireless advocate and stands out as a leading figure in the UK’s pro bono legal community.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year

**Sponsored by**



**Birmingham Chancery Litigants in  
Person Support Scheme**

**International Advisory & Dispute  
Resolution Unit**

**The Faisal Luke Pro Bono Project**

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Celebrating **30** years

# Birmingham Chancery Litigants in Person Support Scheme



**B-CLIPS**  
Birmingham Chancery  
Litigants-in-Person Scheme

**“The B-CLIPS has been transformational in delivering access to justice for the most vulnerable in society.”**

Launched in 2024, B-CLIPS fills a critical gap by providing on-the-day advice and advocacy for unrepresented parties appearing in the Interim Applications List of the Business & Property Court in Birmingham. These hearings frequently involve complex chancery and procedural issues, yet many parties are ineligible for legal aid and unable to fund representation. B-CLIPS responds directly to this need by providing on-the-day advice and advocacy, delivered by volunteer barristers under the licensed access framework.

The scheme’s impact is immediate and practical: litigants receive expert assistance at the point of maximum vulnerability, court time is used more efficiently, and hearings are fairer because arguments and evidence are presented with clarity and focus. Crucially, B-CLIPS has been commended at the highest level. In 2025, Lady Justice Asplin observed a B-CLIPS list and expressed how impressed she was by both the scheme and its volunteers. The Birmingham Business and Property court staff have also been recognised for their outstanding contribution to B-CLIPS, having recently received an award from the High Sheriff.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## International Advisory & Dispute Resolution Unit



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY  
& DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT

**“During the past year in particular, IADRU has increased both the ambition and reach of its work, benefitting a large number of governments, judiciaries, and lawyers across different countries.”**

The International Advisory and Dispute Resolution Unit (IADRU) is a 3VB pro bono unit dedicated to strengthening the rule of law and access to justice. Launched in March 2025, its *Capacity Building for State Attorneys in Africa* programme addresses a long-standing gap in access to specialist international legal training for government lawyers across Africa. The programme delivers high-level, practical training online for free, across areas critical to government legal work: Sovereign Debt, Arbitration, Investor-State Disputes, and Infrastructure. It is designed for State Attorneys, many of whom engage with complex international legal issues without access to specialist training.

By combining scale, specialist expertise, and accessibility, the programme delivers demonstrable and sustainable impact. Other IADRU initiatives include free sovereign debt advice to African States in partnership with the ALSF and delivering public legal education through rule of law lectures, judicial roundtables and workshops globally.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## The Faisal Luke Pro Bono Project

**“FLPP has not only transformed individual futures but has demonstrably saved lives. By bridging the gap between legal expertise and survivor support, this initiative sets a new standard for pro bono collaboration.”**

THE FAISAL LUKE PRO BONO PROJECT  
*Empowering Women with Free Legal Support*



Empowering women through justice

The Faisal Luke Pro Bono Project (FLPP) is a pioneering initiative delivering life-changing legal support to women experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, and stalking. Operating within *Aurora New Dawn*, a leading charity supporting survivors, FLPP was launched in 2023 to dismantle one of the most significant barriers faced by victims: access to timely, expert legal advice. FLPP unites 11 exceptional female barristers and solicitors who volunteer their expertise to provide specialist family law guidance in a safe, trauma-informed environment. Through in-house clinics, clients receive clear, practical advice on protective orders, court processes, and legal remedies, empowering them to make informed decisions at critical moments. Many leave with renewed confidence and actionable steps to safeguard themselves and their children.

Beyond direct client impact, FLPP enhances Aurora’s frontline response by training staff on legal frameworks and court procedures, creating a coordinated, informed approach to tackling violence against women. Emergency sessions ensure urgent advice is available when lives are at risk.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

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SOLUTIONS  
LLP

**Cloisters Chambers**

**Field Court Chambers**

**Landmark Chambers**

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**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## Cloisters Chambers

**“From the clerks to the KCs there is a culture of respect for the value of pro bono advice as an integral part of the justice system and active support to achieving access to justice for all.”**



Cloisters Chambers has a collective and deeply embedded commitment to pro bono work. Over the past year alone, members of Cloisters Chambers have taken on more than 22 Advocate cases. This commitment extends beyond Advocate referrals and includes significant pro bono work for organisations such as the *Employment Lawyers Advice and Assistance Scheme (ELAAS)*, the *Work Rights Centre*, and the *Free Representation Unit (FRU)*. Through ELAAS, members of Chambers regularly represent appellants in the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Cloisters barristers also undertake employment cases in the Employment Tribunal and County Court through the Work Rights Centre, and provide representation in Employment Tribunal proceedings via FRU. These matters often involve vulnerable individuals facing complex legal and personal circumstances.

Pro bono work at Cloisters is embraced across all levels of seniority, demonstrating that public service is a shared professional responsibility rather than the preserve of a few individuals. Members consistently accept complex and sensitive referrals, bringing the same rigour, care and professionalism to pro bono matters as they do to funded work. Cloisters fosters an environment in which pro bono work is valued, supported and normalised as part of practice at the Bar.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## Field Court Chambers

**“Field Court Chambers is fully engaged in pro bono work through Advocate in every aspect. Barristers in chambers regularly take on work as panel members in a range of areas of law including our in-demand areas in employment, family and housing work.”**



**FIELD COURT**  
CHAMBERS

Field Court Chambers is involved in various pro bono initiatives that positively impact individuals and communities. Through Advocate and with the support of their clerking team, their barristers took on range of pro bono cases last year. In April, two of their barristers acted pro bono for a father in his successful appeal against a private law rape finding made in the family court three years prior, resulting in important guidance being created on aspects of private law fact-findings, clarifying the court’s approach to rape allegations.

In December, Field Court Chambers was one of only three Pro Bono Connect members sets given an engagement recognition award celebrating commitment to its scheme. In a sex discrimination and sexual harassment case one of their barristers assisted on through the scheme, the client received more than £54,000 in compensation. Also in 2025, their barristers volunteered with *Action for Children’s London Advocacy Service* to deliver pro bono advice to the non-legally trained advocates who work with young people in contact with social services. In addition, their barristers have taken on pro bono work spanning family, employment and housing law through the *Child Abduction Lawyers Association*, *Not Beyond Redemption*, *Work Rights Centre*, and *Chelmsford Law Clinic*.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## Landmark Chambers

**“I would recommend Landmark as the best example in the country of a highly regarded chambers that promotes through its very culture the importance of pro bono for lawyers and communities.”**

「**Landmark**  
Chambers」

Landmark Chambers has demonstrated a commitment to championing and expanding pro bono work in the last year. With 65 members signed up to Advocate’s volunteer panel, 20 Advocate cases taken on by 10 barristers in 2025, and eight regular Advocate reviewers giving four hours monthly to assess Advocate cases, Landmark Chambers has shown leadership in embedding pro bono as a valued component of a barrister’s practice. Chambers’ continued participation in the Chambers Pro Bono Framework, with the leadership of their Pro Bono Champions Justin Bates KC and Richard Bolton, showcases their commitment to widening access to justice.

The impact of Landmark’s pro bono work on individuals and communities has been wide-ranging. Members have delivered life-changing outcomes across social welfare, immigration, environmental and public law, including securing education placements for children with complex needs, protecting vulnerable asylum seekers, trafficking victims and supporting community challenges to major environmental and infrastructure projects. Landmark barristers appear pro bono in tribunals at all levels, including a forthcoming Supreme Court case concerning the rights of homeless persons. They have also contributed to complex inquiries, such as the Covid-19 Inquiry, and provided pivotal expertise to grassroots campaigns and NGOs in the UK and internationally. Across hundreds of hours of voluntary work, their barristers have safeguarded housing, protected rights, strengthened communities, and ensured those without means can still access top-tier advocacy. Landmark Chambers stands out for the breadth and depth of pro bono engagement that permeates the entire set.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

**Liam Kelly**

Deans Court Chambers

**Daniel Bunting**

2 Dr Johnson's Buildings

**Anne Moore-Williams**

Financial Conduct Authority

**Scott Morrison**

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# About John Collins

John Collins was called to the Bar in 1956, and practised right up until he passed away in April 2020. He was Head of Chambers in Woodhouse Square, and then later became joint Head of Zenith Chambers in Leeds. When he retired from Zenith, he was 70 years old, and was the longest serving Head of a Common Law set in the entire country. When John died, Richard Wright, who was leader of the North Eastern Circuit at the time and Head of Park Square Barristers said: 'The North Eastern circuit has lost one of its finest'.

John was always committed to helping the underdog, and he championed pro bono work. He was well-known for his kind, gentle and modest demeanor - upon John's death, one pupil said: 'He was modest when he had every right to be immodest.'

John served on Legal Aid committees for many years and was utterly dedicated to pro bono. When he was travelling to and from London on one pro bono case that he worked on for seven years that reached the Supreme Court, he said that he did it because 'it was the right thing to do'. In 2016, he won a Bar Pro Bono award and then in 2017 he won the Yorkshire Lawyers Pro Bono Award on a unanimous vote.

In 2020, posthumously, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Pro Bono. The John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award was then created that same year by Advocate in his name and honour.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## **Anne Moore-Williams**

### **Financial Conduct Authority**

**“Anne went on to offer advice to our Applicant on the merits of Judicial Review of the Inquest decision. This demonstrates Anne’s strong understanding of our work ethic and the significant contribution she has made at a time where pro bono help is needed more than ever.”**



In August 2025, a request to Advocate from a bereaved family was urgently raised for help with a Coroner’s Inquest hearing at very short notice. Anne recognised her skills and experience were a good fit and stepped up to offer her help. Anne reached out with empathy to support the family and quickly got to grips with the extensive case evidence. It was obvious to her that the court was disadvantaged by there being no independent medical evidence that supported the family. With little time before the hearing, she worked quickly to seek suitable medical experts through the Advocate-linked Pro Bono Expert Support Scheme. She also developed a detailed and compelling written request for a hearing adjournment to gain time for the further medical evidence. The Coroner was keen to progress the Inquest. Anne responded by fully preparing to support the family as their advocate at the hearing despite the absence of medical evidence and the complexity and difficulties the case then presented. She conducted cross-examination of all the witnesses, gaining the Coroner’s thanks for her assistance to the court for the relevant oral evidence she drew out.

Anne’s support to the family and the Advocate casework team has continued after the hearing. With determination and commitment, she set about acquiring independent pro bono medical experts and a solicitor to support the family’s further claims. She has succeeded in securing pro bono medical experts. Instructed by Anne, they have provided key reports important for the case. She has continued to help the family consider their legal options going forward. They have expressed their deep gratitude to her for her support and work.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## **Daniel Bunting**

### **2 Dr Johnson's Buildings**

**“Every client is afforded his full attention, careful preparation, and unwavering advocacy, reflecting his deeply held belief that access to justice should not depend on financial capacity.”**



Dan is known for consistently treating his pro bono clients with the same level of importance, respect, and professionalism as those who engage his services through paid briefs. He understands that many individuals face legal challenges at some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, often without the means to secure representation. This awareness compels him to take on pro bono matters with diligence, empathy, and an exceptional sense of responsibility. Rather than viewing these cases as ancillary to his practice, Dan approaches them as essential and meaningful opportunities to uphold the integrity of the legal profession.

Dan has acted as a mentor for a barrister volunteering with Advocate on a particularly complex case involving a mother and her son, who were navigating repeated rejections from Student Finance despite holding settled status. The family faced multiple vulnerabilities as the help-seeker is a survivor of domestic abuse managing PTSD, while her son has endured bereavement, trauma from prior abuse, and ongoing mental health challenges. Dan is a regular crime reviewer who consistently provides thorough, detailed assessments that are often multiple pages long and are invaluable to both caseworkers and subsequent volunteer barristers. In addition, he has offered support for multiple criminal case queries outside of formal reviews and has offered to step in on meritorious cases should no volunteer come forward.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## Liam Kelly

### Deans Court Chambers

**“Liam has a passion for helping vulnerable people. Liam has recently assisted with multiple cases where the parties have severe disabilities and are facing the loss of their homes. Liam always offers his time and expertise to our applicants that need it the most.”**



Liam Kelly joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in May 2020. Liam assisted one help-seeker for several months, offering further assistance each time it was required and without hesitation. The case involved elements of parental alienation and an extended Child Arrangement Order to cover the children until they are 18 years of age. The applicant was particularly challenging as he had become exasperated with the legal system. Liam handled communication with the help-seeker with professionalism, empathy and understanding. His assistance with this case has been invaluable as the help-seeker would have struggled to navigate the very complex proceedings alone. Liam assisted further when it came to an appeal based on an issue of law. Without his extensive legal knowledge and assistance, the help-seeker would not have known the further avenues of appeal open to him. Liam has been truly dedicated to assisting this applicant.

Liam never shies away from taking complex cases. In summer 2024, he advised on a case shortly before the appeal in the Supreme Court was due to be heard. With Liam’s advice, the help-seeker was able to pursue alternative routes to resolving her legal issues, negating the need for the hearing. Liam spoke passionately about the importance of pro bono work and why he is involved during an Advocate event in Pro Bono Week 2024, and is always willing to go the extra mile in support of access to justice.

## Scott Morrison

**“Scott has frequently taken on work during periods of acute demand for pro bono assistance, including over the Christmas period where the need for assistance was high, however, few volunteers were available.”**



Scott has been a dedicated member of Advocate’s panel of volunteers over the last year. Recently he represented a claimant in employment proceedings alleging discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex and age discrimination, as well as victimisation, and harassment. The claimant is neurodivergent and lives with ADHD, autism, depression, and anxiety and was facing a represented respondent employer. Within a day of the judicial mediation being advertised, Scott offered his assistance. Given the claimant’s vulnerabilities and the sensitivity of the issues, effective mediation was crucial. Scott provided advice to the claimant in conference, delivering calm, trauma-informed guidance, and will represent them at the judicial mediation, which has since been re-listed.

Notably Scott also advised and drafted a bankruptcy annulment application for a survivor of domestic abuse involved in complex ancillary relief proceedings. The work was time-critical and essential to preventing serious prejudice to the help-seeker’s financial claims. Scott demonstrated excellent judgement in navigating overlapping insolvency and family law issues, while approaching the case with sensitivity and care.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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**WESTGATE**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**Jennifer Lanigan**  
The 36 Group

**Maria Mulla**  
Maitland Chambers

**Jeremy Ogilvie-Harris**  
Cornerstone Barristers

**Ollie Persey**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Josh Folkard**  
Twenty Essex

**Raza Halim**  
Garden Court Chambers

**Lucy Masoud**  
33 Bedford Row

**Tori Adams**  
4KBW

**Maria Henty**  
Pump Court Chambers

**Yasin Patel**  
Church Court Chambers

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advocate

Celebrating **30** years

## Jennifer Lanigan

### The 36 Group

**“Jenny’s pro bono support has had a profound impact on my life...Her work has been critical in resisting repeated and distressing applications to appeal, protecting the existing orders that safeguard my children and me.”**



Called to the Bar in 2018, Jenny’s work covers all areas within public and human rights law. Jenny’s dedication and commitment to pro bono work is longstanding, predating even pupillage. Having volunteered with the *Free Representation Unit* and the *National Centre for Domestic Violence*, Jenny then provided legal advice during her second six in 2019 as an adviser at her local legal advice clinic, where she attended weekly advice sessions for several years. Jenny has continued to assist Advocate clients, having started doing so in 2020. In 2025, she assisted clients in immigration and asylum claims including two ongoing matters: one in the First-Tier Tribunal and one in the Upper Tribunal. She has ensured that vulnerable individuals are not left to face stressful and complex hearings alone.

Jenny continues to represent clients who are often vulnerable at immigration bail hearings pro bono for Bail for Immigration Detainees. Jenny also helped at the University of Greenwich Legal Advice Centre last year, helping multiple clients who would otherwise lack assistance, and helping students to develop their knowledge and practical skills. Most significantly, Jenny acted pro bono in complex family proceedings on appeal throughout 2025. In a case involving serious domestic abuse and sexual abuse allegations, her client faced repeated attempts by her abuser to challenge multiple orders, including six in 2025 alone. Jenny was instrumental in ensuring that these applications were all dismissed without merit. This representation reflects not only a high level of professional skill but also a substantial and ongoing time commitment in a sensitive context.

advocate

Celebrating **30** years

## Jeremy Ogilvie-Harris

### Cornerstone Barristers

**“Jeremy has always made himself available to accept instructions, despite his incredibly busy caseload, and has consistently gone above and beyond to secure favourable outcomes for a highly vulnerable client group.”**



Jeremy was called to the bar in 2019, completing pupillage in October 2024. He previously worked at *Hackney Community Law Centre*, *Southwark Law Centre* and volunteered for *Liberty*, *Big Brother Watch* and *Friends of the Earth*. He has a broad and busy public law and human rights practice at Cornerstone Barristers. Over the last twelve months, Jeremy has undertaken an impressive range of pro bono work, alongside his regular support for Law Centres, Advocate and a pro bono clinic.

Instructed by a Law Centre, Jeremy secured a Personal Independence Payment award for a former journalist suffering the after-effects of a brain haemorrhage. Through Advocate, he has been successful in the First-tier Tribunal appeal for Employment Support Allowance and advising on challenging a Housing Benefit overpayment. In addition, Jeremy provides Law Centres with regular advice on housing, homelessness, and welfare benefits matters, which intends to not only assist individuals but "upskill" Law Centre solicitors and caseworkers to better serve their communities. Jeremy has also undertaken community-interest work. He was instructed by the *Environmental Law Foundation* to advise a community centre on a challenge to the disposal of the building in which they were located and assisted a campaign group to make representations in a planning inquiry. He was instructed by *Public Interest Law Centre* to assist three British Nationals who were on the Thousand Madleens Freedom Flotilla to Gaza to make representations to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on their duties to provide diplomatic assistance.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

# Joshua Folkard

## Twenty Essex

**“My volunteering experience with Joshua was extremely rewarding and he was very supportive as a leader. My increased confidence to do more pro bono days via CLIPS and Advocate is largely thanks to his proactive efforts beforehand, and his thoughtful leadership on the day.”**



Joshua was called to the Bar in 2013 and has a commercial practice, but he also has a specialism in private international law and is regularly instructed in international and cross-border disputes. In the last 12 months, Joshua has conducted 105 hours of pro bono work in four areas including in CLIPS matters as well as an ongoing Advocate case for an ex-serviceman in a complex personal injury claim. He also attended an oral permission to appeal hearing with the appeal following before the Vice-President and Lewison LJ through the Court of Appeal Scheme. As part of this, he worked with solicitors from Duane Morris LLP through Pro Bono Connect. The client was extremely grateful that his representatives had gone to such lengths to try to salvage his substantive claim, rather than simply making costs arguments at the forthcoming hearing for which we had originally been instructed - he was disabled and on Universal Credit, so the chance to obtain substantial damages were life-changing for him.

Joshua's pro bono lay clients under CLIPS and the Court of Appeal Scheme said that they considered their representation had given them a fair opportunity, compared to previous hearings where they had felt confused and that there had been inequality of arms.

advocate

Celebrating **30** years

## Lucy Masoud

33 Bedford Row

**“Through Lucy’s vision, the project has become an indispensable, life-changing service that demonstrates the law can be accessible, compassionate, and empowering.”**



Lucy was called to the Bar in 2017 and practices in public and private children law, as well as domestic abuse cases. In February 2023, Lucy founded the Faisal Luke Pro Bono Project (FLPP) after recognising a critical gap: many female victims of domestic violence being unable to access quality free legal advice, leaving them trapped in abusive relationships. Lucy recruited 11 female barristers and solicitors who now volunteer their time to support women. She ensures the project operates safely and effectively and delivers regular training for frontline staff.

The impact has been transformative. Through FLPP, over 400 women have accessed legal remedies, secured non-molestation and protective orders, safeguarded their children, and taken steps they previously believed impossible. One client she helped had separated from her abusive partner several years earlier and continued to experience abuse. Lucy helped her receive detailed, reassuring advice, immediately putting her at ease, and ultimately securing the outcome she wanted in court. Through this service, victims now feel empowered, informed, and supported by a legal system that Lucy has made accessible and compassionate. Remarkably, FLPP launched and continues to run without funding, coordinated entirely by Lucy alongside her demanding professional role. Her vision and leadership have inspired both victims and professionals, proving that the law can be a powerful tool for change.

## Maria Henty

### Pump Court Chambers

**“Maria’s clarity of thought, commitment to the case and sensitivities to his needs has shone through. She has appreciated the level of support he has needed day to day, and hasn’t hesitated to assist me where she could.”**



Maria was called to the Bar in 2011 and practices in family law, with a particular interest in family finance. Maria has dedicated hundreds of hours over the last two years to helping one individual client - a father - on their family finance case. Maria has represented the client at a three day contested final hearing in relation to the parties’ child, involving multiple complex applications in relation to the finances. She helped draft a defence to a mortgage repossession claim, and attended the mortgage repossession hearing. She has dealt with multiple applications in respect of the parties’ child, drafted a response to grounds appeal in the financial remedy proceedings, attended an appeal hearing before His Honour Judge Hess; and is ready to represent the client again should the other party be given permission to appeal to the High Court. All of this has been against a backdrop of abusive emails and behaviour from the other party, which colleagues note Maria has weathered with calm professionalism.

Maria has not only attended hearings and drafted documents, she has been available on the telephone and over email whenever her advice was needed. Maria has truly gone above and beyond for this client. Maria has been kind, patient, and empathic with him, and he is extremely grateful for the impact that she has had on his life and his child’s life.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## **Maria Mulla**

### **Maitland Chambers**

**“Whatever the outcome we will be eternally grateful for Maria’s intervention when we were at our lowest ebb. Her professionalism, dedication and understanding shines through to us almost on a daily basis. Her colleagues at the Bar should be very proud of her.”**



Maria was called to the Bar in 2005 and practices in commercial litigation. For over a year, she has been assisting a family pro bono with the inquest of their daughter, a former professional footballer. Maria had heard about the plight of the father, who was trying to conduct the inquest proceedings into her death solo. She was compelled to help, and she also asked Dean Armstrong KC to assist, to which he agreed. Over the past year she has assisted, she has pushed to widen the scope of the inquest and for disclosure to be provided fully to the family. She has conducted several pre-inquest review hearings.

The inquest is listed to take place in the summer of 2026 over a two week period. The FA are also represented at the inquest. It is a very high profile matter that has been in the press due to safeguarding concerns raised. Maria has been able to make a significant impact to a grieving family, and help ensure that the investigation into her death is a rigorous one, with no stone being left unturned.

advocate

Celebrating **30** years

## Ollie Persey

### Garden Court Chambers

**“His work reaches far beyond individual cases and has made a lasting difference to many families. I can say without hesitation that Ollie has made an incredible and meaningful impact on our lives. As the saying goes, not all heroes wear capes. Sometimes they wear a wig in court!”**



Called to the Bar in 2017, Ollie is a public law and human rights barrister at Garden Court Chambers. Ollie is dedicated to representing children and families in school exclusion and special educational needs cases. He contributed more than 300 hours pro bono last year including representing dozens of children in school exclusion appeals before governors and Independent Review Panels, both with *Coram Children’s Legal Centre* and through Advocate. Through the Independent Provider of Special Education Advice, he represented families pro bono in Education, Health and Care Plan appeals in the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal. Ollie also coordinates the School Inclusion Project, a forum bringing together people with lived experience, campaigners and lawyers to address the disproportionate use of school exclusion on SEN and racial minority children.

Last year, Ollie acted in a mental health case pro bono in the Upper Tribunal, including the case that became *Angus Cameron v Secretary of State for Justice* [2025] EWCA Civ 1574 in the Court of Appeal. He advises NGOs on strategic challenges pro bono, including the National AIDS Trust. He is also a founding Trustee of a new law centre project taking place in Newham, a borough with one of the highest levels of deprivation and unmet legal need. This new initiative will open in 2026.

**advocate**

Celebrating **30** years

## **Raza Halim**

### **Garden Court Chambers**

**“Raza’s unwavering dedication and selfless contributions serve as an exemplary model within the legal profession. Raza’s work with Project Pure Hope not only highlights his legal acumen but also his profound compassion and commitment to human rights.”**



Raza was called to the Bar in 2009 and specialises in public law, with an emphasis on refugee law and human rights, at Garden Court Chambers. He dedicates a significant portion of his practice to legal aid and pro bono work. Raza is co-founder and legal advisor to Pure Project Hope (PPH), a pro bono humanitarian initiative committed to facilitating the life-saving medical evacuation of children in Gaza. Thanks to Raza’s advocacy, PPH secured three landmark outcomes. One was the first-ever medical evacuation of children from Gaza to the UK, approved by His Majesty’s Government (HMG). The second was the first-ever medevac of a Gazan child suffering war injuries to the UK, approved by HMG. The third was the Prime Minister agreeing to implement PPH’s proposal for a Government-led scheme to evacuate 50 children from Gaza to the UK for urgent medical treatment. Raza’s advocacy with HMG created a pathway for medevacs to the UK from Gaza – the first ever. These achievements have attracted significant media coverage.

Raza has also acted pro bono in domestic courts on behalf of Syrian refugees in limbo in third countries, destitute and facing forcible return. Raza also advised *Choose Love*, a charity supporting refugees and displaced people, on matters of policy and practice in relation to domestic law. Raza’s interventions as a pro bono barrister have made a real material difference for people facing critical legal issues.

advocate

Celebrating 30 years

# Tori Adams

## 4KBW

**“Tori has stood up to silks and fought fearlessly for clients who would otherwise have been unrepresented. She has made the difference to many families, many children, without thought of payment for her work... She exemplifies what pro bono ought to look like.”**



Tori was called to the Bar in 2016 and has a mixed practice, primarily focusing on family law and Chancery and property work. Tori has an ongoing commitment to pro bono work, particularly in the realm of private law children disputes. On many occasions she has been informed that, following an initial instruction, her client is not able to afford to continue to pay private fees and is not eligible for public funding. On such occasions Tori will almost invariably agree to continue to represent a client in order to support them and in particular to enable a just result where children are concerned.

Tori has supported clients to enable them to achieve results which they would not otherwise have achieved if unrepresented, often against high level professional opponents including silks. In the last twelve months, Tori has been responsible for securing orders that have made a huge difference to families and in particular to children. She has been tenacious and has pushed against what appeared to be near certain outcomes to achieve outstanding results for her clients pro bono.

advocate

Celebrating **30** years

## Yasin Patel

### Church Court Chambers

**“Yasin has given me and others belief we can have justice. [...] That I can be cleared of a wrongful charge.”**



Called to the Bar in 2002, Yasin practices in all aspects of criminal defence, white collar and fraud, international appellate work and regulatory and sports law, amongst other areas. In the last 12 months, Yasin has carried out hundreds of hours of pro bono work for charities, individuals, athletes, community groups and people in need, and advised and represented over 1,000 people. Yasin has advised and represented a number of athletes, coaches and organisations in defending them in legal proceedings brought by governing bodies and agencies because no funding was available to them. Some of them were suspended from working until cleared. He is currently representing a young woman against a governing body finding of sexism and discrimination. Yasin is appealing this young woman’s case to the highest appeal tribunal as many other similar cases exist.

At a young persons charity, located in an area of social deprivation and poverty, Yasin has been running free fortnightly legal workshops for local underprivileged people. He has investigated and chaired hearings on racism, helping to save the organisation tens of thousands of pounds. He has also written and delivered diversity and equality training seminars and workshops on the law to the whole organisation and young users, helping make a lasting difference to their work.

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