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2026 Bar Pro Bono Awards



More than 250 guests from across the Bar gathered on 19th May for the Bar Pro Bono Awards. Hosted by former BBC broadcaster Joanna Gosling and organised by Advocate, the evening opened with remarks from the Lady Chief Justice.

Here are this year's winners:

Cloisters Chambers won Pro Bono Chambers for its collective commitment to pro bono.

Lucy Masoud of 33 Bedford Row won Junior Pro Bono Barrister for her transformative work supporting victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking.

Daniel Bunting of 2 Dr Johnson's Buildings received the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award for his sustained pro bono work. The award was created in partnership with the North Eastern Circuit to honour John Collins' lifelong commitment to pro bono.

The Pro Bono Chambers' Professional Award went to **Colin Perrin** of 23 Essex Street for helping launch the Manchester Chancery Litigant in Person Support Scheme.

Landmark Chambers' **Justin Bates KC** won Pro Bono KC for his longstanding commitment, including multi-year support for an elderly client in a complex housing dispute with wider implications for the leasehold sector, and his work with Shelter in a Supreme Court appeal.

Graeme Hall of Doughty Street was named International Pro Bono Barrister for years of voluntary work supporting prisoners on death row in Uganda, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Taiwan.

Harry Stratton of One Essex Court won Young Pro Bono Barrister for his work on defamation cases involving MeToo complainants, overseas political activists and others.

3VB's International Advisory and Dispute Resolution Unit received the Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Initiative award for delivering specialist training for government lawyers across Africa.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

2026 Bar Pro Bono Awards Winners



Make use of our mentoring scheme: **Collaborate**

Are you a young barrister taking on your first pro bono matter or branching into a new area of law? Or perhaps you are a KC looking for a meaningful way to pass on your knowledge and give back? Good news: **Collaborate**, Advocate's case-based mentoring scheme, is here to support you.

Through **Collaborate**, senior barristers can provide guidance and impart their knowledge to our panel members. This can be through answering case-



Celebrating 20 law schools

The Law School Challenge 2026 came to a close last month, and we have been reflecting on another extraordinary performance from law schools across the country who raised a record-breaking sum for Advocate and LawWorks.

Law students from 20 universities raised £20,161.37 to be split between the two national pro bono charities, a remarkable achievement that will make a real difference to people in need of pro bono help.

specific queries over the phone, to working with a junior barrister as pro bono co-counsel on an Advocate case. They can also offer guidance to barristers who are taking on work in a secondary specialism for the first time.

Mentors share their experience, help with procedural or practical questions, and support professional development. The time commitment is flexible and can be as little as a phone call once a month.

“My experience of mentoring through Advocate was great. It was a painless process for me and I cannot (honestly) think of any ways in which the Advocate team could have made the process easier/smooother.” - Collaborate mentor.

For barristers looking for a mentor: if you accept a case via Advocate and would like mentoring, simply tell our Casework Team when you confirm the case.

For senior barristers looking to become a mentor: you can sign up to be a mentor in minutes through filling out [this form](#).

A special congratulations goes to **Birmingham City University’s Law School** for securing the top spot this year, raising over £4,000. Their achievement is a testament to the dedication and teamwork they showed throughout the campaign, and the team received their award at the LawWorks and Attorney General’s Student Pro Bono Awards on 28th April. Durham University followed closely behind in second place with £3,900 and third place went to the University of Plymouth with £3,800.

We are immensely grateful to all the students who took part, donated, and organised events. The success of this year’s Challenge would not have been possible without their generosity and enthusiasm, and we look forward to building on this momentum in next year’s Law School Challenge.

[Support us](#)

[Find out more about Collaborate](#)

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Advocate Statistics



Barristers supporting urgent cases in the Court of Protection

Advocate is delighted to report that our scheme assisting unrepresented people with urgent cases in the Court of Protection has found pro bono representation for four litigants in person in the past month.



This work provides essential representation for people with hearings listed at short notice, often dealing with time-critical emergencies or urgent issues. Our recent cases have included issues of capacity, end of life care, medical treatment proceedings, and other sensitive matters. It is a salient reminder of the importance of pro bono; our volunteers help people during the most difficult periods of their life, when access to justice can be complicated by a lack of time.

Their careful, thoughtful and expert advocacy can make all the difference to people navigating complex and emotive areas of law.

Our special thanks go to Katie Gollop KC and Emma Sutton KC, who founded the scheme and continue to volunteer with it. We are also grateful to our many volunteers, especially Chloe Lee, Jake Rylatt, David Lawson, Victoria Butler-Cole KC and Anirudh Mandagere, who have all taken on cases this month.

To add your name to our list of

volunteers, email [Maya](#), our Schemes and Programmes Coordinator.

[More about our partner schemes](#)



Celebrating Volunteers' Week 2026

One individual recently matched with a barrister through Advocate said:

“The support I have received has been extraordinary, and I am fully aware that many others have benefitted just as much - people who, like me, would have been left voiceless.”

From 1st June-7th June, we are proud to celebrate Volunteers' Week 2026 - a national campaign recognising the contribution volunteers make to organisations and communities across the UK.

At Advocate, our work simply would not be possible without the generosity, expertise and commitment of the Bar. From pupils taking part in the Pupil Pledge, to panel members taking on cases alongside their already demanding practices, to our reviewers who volunteer their time and expertise to assess requests for assistance. Every contribution plays a vital role in helping us support those who need it most.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to our work. Whether you have volunteered once or supported us over many years, your contribution makes a meaningful difference to many and it is greatly appreciated by all our team too.

Thank you for everything you do.

Since the start of 2026, more than 450 pieces of pro bono work have

[Tell us about your story](#)

been placed through Advocate thanks to the willingness of our volunteers to give their time and expertise in support of access to justice.

Shout out to Panel Members...



Thank you to Hamish Fraser of Crown Office Chambers for providing representation in long-running civil fraud proceedings.

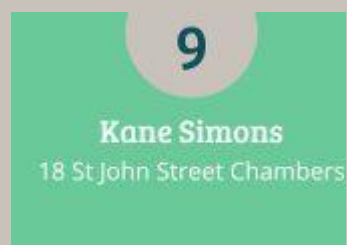
Our help seeker had faced several years of stressful litigation and the prospect of continuing to navigate complex court proceedings without legal representation. The ongoing claim had become all-consuming and placed them under considerable emotional strain.

Hamish provided pro bono representation



We would like to thank Ollie Persey of Garden Court Chambers for representing highly vulnerable children and families in special educational needs, disability discrimination and school exclusion cases, through the School Inclusion Projects that he helps to coordinate.

Many of the children and families supported faced the prospect of education and public law proceedings alone, despite being at risk of permanent school exclusion and the serious long-term



Thanks to Kane Simons of 18 St John Street Chambers for assisting our help seeker in their personal injury claim after he had suffered a sustained injury at work from lifting and manoeuvring, which means he is no longer able to work.

The employer applied to strike out the help seeker's claim, alleging that he failed to comply with directions for expert evidence and a schedule of loss.

The employer denied that any injury took place, denied that they

and support throughout the proceedings, helping to relieve the significant pressure faced by the help seeker and guiding them through the litigation process. Hamish successfully persuaded the claimant organisation to discontinue the claim in its entirety, bringing an end to years of uncertainty and stress:

“...His winning the case for me with a court trial has been a significant moment and a turning point for me. I want to thank him for the great legal work he has done for me because truthfully, he has helped save my life by doing so...”.

Thank you, Hamish

impact this can have on their education, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Through extensive pro bono representation and advocacy, Ollie supported children and families in exclusion hearings, Education, Health and Care Plan appeals and related public law matters.

A recent case involved the representation of a highly vulnerable child who had been criminally exploited and was facing permanent exclusion from school. Following Ollie's representation, the exclusion decision was overturned, allowing the child to remain in education and access the protection and support they required.

Thank you, Ollie

were to blame for any injury, and denied that the ongoing disability was linked to the lifting manoeuvre. Kane assisted by advising the client and representing him at a joint settlement meeting.

Despite the challenges, Kane was successful in negotiating the claim, securing approximately £160,000 for our help seeker, of which he will receive £100,000 directly, and the rest will go back to the Department for Work and Pensions for benefits received.

Our help seeker was delighted with this result and happy that the proceedings have now concluded. In addition, Kane secured an agreement that £7,500 in pro bono costs are to be paid to the Access to Justice Foundation.

Thank you, Kane



Join us for the London Legal Walk & Regional Legal Walks

It's fantastic to see over 100 chambers signed up for this year's London Legal Walk, alongside the growing number of legal walks taking place across the country. These events are always a brilliant public-demonstration of the legal profession coming together in support of access to justice. Leading the walk will be the President of the Supreme Court, the Chair of the Bar Council, the President of the Law Society, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. Register for the legal walk [here!](#)

This year, we're proud that Advocate teams will be taking part in London, Manchester, Southampton, Newcastle and Birmingham.

The energy and support at these walks are always inspiring, and the funds raised make a real difference, benefiting so many incredible charities and the individuals they support.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the day - be sure to look out for the Advocate team and come over to say hello!

For those interested in learning more or getting involved, find out more about the London Legal Walk [here](#), and Regional Legal Walks [here](#).

[Find out more](#)