

# advocate



## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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**2024**  
CHAMBERS PRO BONO  
FRAMEWORK  
advocate

COMMITTED TO PRO BONO  
PUPIL  
PLEDGE  
advocate  
2024

PRO BONO  
RECOGNITION  
LIST  
ENGLAND & WALES

# Mid-year update from Advocate

### Mid-year update from Advocate

As the end of the Trinity term fast approaches, and you all look forward to a well-deserved summer break, we wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate the Bar's contribution to pro bono work and access to justice.

This year is the second year that we have run the [Chambers Pro Bono Framework](#), an initiative for sets wanting to establish a chambers-wide commitment to pro bono work. We are delighted that 44 chambers nationwide have signed up to implement the Framework in 2024. [View the full list of participating chambers.](#)

In June, the first ever [Pro Bono Recognition List for England & Wales](#) was published. Endorsed by the Lady Chief Justice, the Recognition List celebrated 3,746 lawyers, 483 of whom were barristers, who had given at least 25 hours of pro bono work in 2023. The Lady Chief Justice said: " *I take this opportunity to thank each and every solicitor and barrister who appears on the Recognition List. Each has provided at least 25 hours of legal pro bono last year, with many offering substantially more than that. Those lawyers follow the long tradition of the legal profession in volunteering their time to provide free legal assistance to individuals and charities.*"

There is still time to complete 25 hours of pro bono work in 2024 if you would like to appear on next year's Pro Bono Recognition List – [find out more](#).

While the Recognition List rightly celebrates all pro bono work, we wanted to thank those barristers who have taken on work through Advocate this year. Hundreds of people have been assisted through duty schemes and almost 900 pieces of work have been taken on through our core casework service. In addition, we have welcomed 282 new barristers to our panel of volunteers, and an impressive 50 pupils have already completed the [Pupil Pledge](#).

We are very much looking forward to working with barristers in the second half of 2024 to continue making a difference to access to justice for all.

## More about taking on pro bono work

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### Guides for Pro Bono work

#### Useful guides to pro bono work

We have launched a new page on our website that contains useful guides for undertaking pro bono work. We want to make it easier for barristers and legal professionals to make a difference to the lives of people who need pro bono assistance, which is why we have created this page.

It collates a number of tailored guides to help different groups across the Bar get involved in pro bono work. This includes a [guide for chambers](#), a [guide for employed barristers](#) and a [guide for pupils and supervisors](#).

[See the useful guides page](#)

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#### Casework volunteer story: Xhesika Leka

Casework volunteers are integral to the Casework process at Advocate. Since March 2020, Advocate has been running a remote volunteering programme for students and we have been lucky to work with committed and hard-working volunteers.

This month, law graduate and recent volunteer Xhesika Leka took the time to share more with us about her experience on the programme. Xhesika talks about how it has expanded her legal knowledge and why she recommends volunteering.

[Read Xhesika's story](#)

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## Advocate Statistics

122

Live cases currently looking for assistance

886

Pieces of work placed so far this year

282

New Panel Members in 2024

Summary of live cases:

Family:

33%

Employment:

25%

Housing:

13%

[advocate](#)



## Make use of Pro Bono Expert Support on pro bono cases



Pro Bono Expert Support is a scheme jointly delivered by the [National Pro Bono Centre](#) and [Pro Bono Connect](#) to offer free litigation support services to pro bono cases.

The scheme is already being used by multiple Advocate Panel Members and offers support in a range of areas of litigation.

Examples of the support it offers include:

- Expert input from a psychologist at inquest
- A report from a building surveyor to support a client's property claim in relation to flooding
- Interpretation at conferences into the client's native language, in addition to document translation
- Expertise on banking and financial matters in a mortgage fraud case.

[Find out more and request support](#)

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We have been so delighted and grateful to see the enthusiastic fundraising efforts made by a number of Chambers (and a law firm) in support of Advocate this month.

Park Square Chambers held an employment seminar in Chambers earlier this month and very kindly donated the proceeds to Advocate.

Brick Court hosted a fun dragon boat racing event for the second year running to raise money for Advocate alongside three other charities, donating 10% of the money raised to Advocate.

## Celebrating the Bar's fundraising efforts

The Commercial Bar Association held their 35th Anniversary Reception on 9th July at Middle Temple, and generously donated proceeds of over £7,000 to Advocate.

Dechert won the Samuel E. Klein Pro Bono Award for their efforts in the litigation for the victims of the Beirut port explosion, and kindly selected Advocate as the recipient for the prize money of £1,000.

We then ended the month with the London 10K, ran by 3 Advocate staff members, 4 members of Gatehouse Law and a barrister from Brick Court – the final amount raised was £2,250. We are really grateful to all the chambers and individuals involved for their support, which is really vital for funding our service.

[More on ways to support Advocate](#)

## Shout out to Panel Members...

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**Carolina Bax**  
42 Bedford Row

Thank you to Carolina Bax of 42 Bedford Row for stepping up to provide last minute representation for a respondent mother in her pre-trial review hearing in a family court case concerning child arrangements. The mother is a survivor of domestic abuse and was highly nervous about the prospect of facing her abuser, who wants regular access to their children, in court. The mother has expressed how grateful she is to Carolina for her reassurance and support.

Thank you, Carolina

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**Rebecca Henshaw-Keene  
& Alexander Findley**  
12 KBW & Farrar's Building

We would like to extend our thanks to Rebecca Henshaw-Keene and Alexander Findley for representing a man with his criminal injuries claim following an assault. The Claimant developed PTSD and sustained a knee injury that prevented him from working, causing financial hardship for both him and his family. Rebecca and Alexander represented him through his appeal in the First Tier Tribunal, which has now awarded him £24,000.

Thank you, Rebecca and  
Alexander

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**Chloe Yeung**  
Unity Street Chambers

Our many thanks to Chloe Yeung of Unity Street Chambers for providing urgent and last-minute advice on a family case. The father of a child had applied for child contact arrangements, but the mother wished to protect their son from further distress due to a history of abuse. Chloe came forward to assist, considering the papers of the case overnight to provide written advice in time for the morning of the mother's final hearing.

Thank you, Chloe



## Warm wishes for the summer break

Last but not least, we hope you all have an enjoyable summer and we will be back with our next newsletter in September.

The Advocate team will still be available to [get in touch](#) with if you have any questions about how to get involved with us in the summer months. If you are able to do so, please do consider continuing to browse our [weekly case list](#) to see if there is a piece of work you can help with, we would love to hear from you.

All best wishes,  
Advocate