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# advocate



## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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**Advocate are delighted to announce the publication of the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales.**

More than 700 barristers have been recognised on this year's Recognition List, reflecting a 13% rise in submissions on last year. This notable increase underscores the Bar's continued and growing commitment to pro bono service. We warmly congratulate all those recognised for their outstanding contributions, which play a crucial role in advancing access to justice.

Set up three years ago under the sponsorship of the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee, endorsed by the Lady Chief Justice and supported by the the Bar Council, the Law Society, and all the major pro bono organisations, the Recognition List celebrates lawyers across England and Wales who gave 25 or more hours of their time to pro bono work in the previous calendar year. Advocate were incredibly proud to have collected submissions on behalf of the Bar once again.

Commenting on the List's publication, our Chair of Trustees, Sharif A. Shivji KC, said:

*"I welcome the publication of the third annual Pro Bono Recognition List for England and Wales.*

*We are delighted to have been involved in the development of the Recognition List and to see it going from strength to strength each year. As the Bar's pro bono charity, we collate entries, on behalf of the profession, from across the Bar for inclusion in the Recognition List. The List showcases the selfless work that barristers undertake to support those with*

*no other means of accessing legal assistance.*

*Every year thousands of pro bono clients benefit from the time and expertise so generously volunteered by members of the Bar. We are especially pleased to see 700 barristers recognised this year alongside their solicitor colleagues."*

[Find out more about the Pro Bono Recognition List](#)

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**2026 Bar Pro Bono Awards  
Shortlist Announced!**

### **Meet the shortlisted nominees for the 2026 Bar Pro Bono Awards**

This month we are delighted to share the eagerly anticipated shortlist for the 2026 Bar Pro Bono Awards. Since 1997, the Awards have celebrated the contributions of barristers, chambers and cross-Bar initiatives to pro bono work. Over 40 nominees across the categories have reached the shortlist, reflecting the dedication shown across the Bar to promoting access to justice for all.

Each shortlisted nominee has made a significant contribution, generously giving their time and expertise to support those who might otherwise have nowhere to turn for legal assistance. Many congratulations to all those shortlisted - we look forward to announcing the winners at the ceremony on 19th May!

[View the shortlist](#)

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**Sign up to the Chambers' Pro  
Bono Framework for 2026!**

### **Join the Framework for 2026**

The Chambers Pro Bono Framework is back for its fourth year, supporting chambers to demonstrate their commitment to pro bono. The Framework provides chambers with guidance on embedding a culture of pro bono work, helping to formalise existing pro bono work and encouraging participation from both barristers and staff. Participating sets commit to completing 4 key actions within a calendar year: appointing Pro Bono Champions, undertaking pro bono work, hosting a seminar, and reporting on their activity.

In 2025, 49 chambers took part, with 30 already re-signed for 2026. A key benefit of taking part is the tailored Chambers' Framework annual report, showcasing your set's pro bono impact using combined data. We encourage all chambers to [sign up](#) and be part of a growing pro bono community making a measurable difference.

[More about the Framework](#)

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## Advocate Statistics



## Can you commit to doing one piece of pro bono work?

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Take part in the **Pupil Pledge** for 2026!



As pupils enter their second six this April, the Pupil Pledge offers a simple way to get involved in pro bono.

Pupils who sign up to the Pupil Pledge can receive recognition for completing just one piece of pro bono work through any scheme, clinic or charity. 140 pupils took part in the Pupil Pledge in 2025, and we hope more will take part this year!

Through Advocate, pupils can access opportunities across all areas of law – from advice and drafting to mediation and representation - helping to build practical experience and develop confidence.

Support is available through our mentoring scheme, [Collaborate](#), helping you take on your first case with confidence.

*“The Pupil Pledge through Advocate has been extremely rewarding and insightful. I have been able to help those in need (...), whilst also being able to expand my practice area and develop my transferable skills.” – Zoe Bushby, Magdalen Chambers.*

For further support on how to take on pro bono work and managing it alongside your everyday practice, check out the [Pro Bono](#)

Guide for Pupils and Supervisors. Join a growing number of pupils making a difference.

Pledge for 2026



## Acting in a Court of Appeal case pro bono: Anirudh's story

*"I would never have had the opportunity to be in the Court of Appeal without taking up that pro bono case."*

Pro bono work doesn't just transform people's lives, it can also open unexpected doors in practice. Anirudh Mandagere shares how taking on cases through Advocate led to his first appearance in the Court of Appeal.

Since 2022, Anirudh has taken on more than 10 pro bono matters and was recognised on the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List. One of those cases - Roberts v Jones [2024] EWCA Civ 118 - proved pivotal. Acting for the appellant, he helped secure a successful appeal on a complex procedural issue, gaining rare advocacy experience at appellate level.

Anirudh highlights that even small contributions, such as reviewing a witness statement or refining pleadings, can make a significant difference to unrepresented individuals. At the same time, pro bono work can sharpen skills, broaden practice areas, and provide opportunities to appear in new courts and tribunals.

His experience shows how engaging in pro bono is not only impactful but also professionally rewarding, offering development opportunities that might not otherwise arise.

Read on

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**Shout out to Panel Members...**

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**Scott Morrison**

We would like to thank Scott Morrison for assisting and representing our help seeker in their unfair dismissal and employment discrimination proceedings against their former employer. Our help seeker, who has complex mental health needs and disabilities, faced difficulties navigating their employment proceedings. The Respondent argued that our help seeker had failed to particularise their claim, placing them as a litigant in person under considerable stress. The case was listed for judicial mediation, at which Scott provided representation, resulting in a settlement of £29,000, which was combined with further non-pecuniary remedies, a substantial increase from the opening offer of £7,000 made by the Respondent's barrister. The help seeker said *"...Having support with prep and on the day itself was incredibly helpful and it was the first time I went into it calm as I knew Scott had my back there."*

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**Grace Agunbiade**  
4-5 Gray's Inn Square

Our many thanks to Grace Agunbiade for helping a mother and father who were appealing their daughter's Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. The initial ground of the parents' appeal was that EHC plan did not name a placement which was suitable for their daughter but only a type of provision 'General Further Education College'. Grace assisted with advice, drafting, and representation, and widened the grounds of the appeal to ensure the young person's plan reflected the most up-to-date expert evidence. Grace was assisted by James Lack, Anna Storer and Natasha Rix from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP through Pro Bono Connect. At the final hearing, the SEND Tribunal found in the young person's favour and named the independent special school that the parents felt was the only setting that could meet their daughter's needs. The family can now move forward with a plan that better suits their daughter's needs and so

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**Tom Alkin**  
11 South Square

A huge thank you to Tom Alkin, who represented a mother on an urgent basis in a dispute with her ex-husband over the administration of their son's estate, who had sadly passed away late last year. Tom first connected with the mother when she sought help through the Chancery Litigant in Person Support Scheme. He then went on to assist her with this case through Advocate's core casework service. Thanks to Tom's assistance, the court ruled in the mother's favour, securing the outcome she wanted for her and her family. The mother and the family said they were incredibly grateful to have someone dedicated and compassionate on their side to help them during such a difficult and emotional time for them.

Thank you, Tom

Thank you, Scott

she can thrive in a more  
suitable educational  
setting.

Thank you, Grace



## Employment Tribunal Experiences in Sexual Harassment Claims Survey Call

As part of the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA), conducted every five years, the Government asks parties about their feelings regarding the process. In the 2018 survey, 60% of claimants said they were satisfied with the Employment Tribunal process, while 35% said they were dissatisfied.

Whilst SETA may provide quantitative insight into wider Employment Tribunal trends, it does not offer any significant insight into the lived experiences of claimants who encounter these processes.

Jennifer Wright, a former employment solicitor and PhD researcher at the University of Warwick, is conducting a project that explores women's experiences as claimants of sexual harassment cases, focusing on perceptions, barriers, and legal responses. Jennifer is seeking participants who have supported women through Employment Tribunal claims, as well as claimants themselves at any stage. Interviews are conducted via Teams and last around one hour.

If you would like to participate or would like further information, please contact Jennifer at [jennifer.m.wright@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.m.wright@warwick.ac.uk) or fill in the [short form](#).