

advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten – February 2024



Support the Bar's pro bono charity

Please donate £35 to Advocate when renewing
your practising certificate

The Authorisation to Practise portal is now open!

Every year, Advocate asks the Bar to donate when renewing their practising certificates. The donations we receive through this process make up almost 50% of our annual funding, making it a lifeline for our survival and for those in need of the Bar's pro bono help.

The demand for our service has reached an all-time high. Applications for help grew by 24% in the last six months of 2023. In January 2024 alone, we received 348 new applications for help, the highest number ever received in a month in our organisation's history. As the cost of living crisis continues to take its toll on people with already limited financial resource, legal costs are out of the question. We anticipate this need to only grow further in the months to come.

Your support makes a real impact. One of our applicants recently told us: *"I am immensely grateful to Advocate for all the assistance that you have provided to me. Your help has made such a huge difference to the outcome of my case as well as to my mental wellbeing. I don't know if I could've made it so far without the support of all the brilliant barristers that have represented me on numerous occasions."*

We are grateful to the growing number of barristers who donate their time to pro bono. The 2023 Barristers' Working Lives survey (taken from 3,237 barristers) found that 49% of barristers had undertaken pro bono work last year, a 14% increase since 2021. This is a testament to the Bar's commitment to access to justice.

We are also hugely thankful to those of you who may not be able to do pro bono work but can donate to Advocate and support our service this way. Many of you do both, which we are immensely grateful for. **We simply would not exist without your support.**

[Hear more about our Pro Bono 35 initiative from our CEO](#)



Pro Bono Seminar in Manchester

This February, our Northern Circuit caseworkers were invited by Lincoln House Chambers to share about working with Advocate and engaging with pro bono work in the region. They were also joined by speakers Michael Hayton KC, Sophie Cartwright KC and Sam Hillas KC.

We have multiple upcoming seminars in several sets. If your Chambers would be interested in hosting a seminar on how to engage with pro bono work and how it can benefit your practice, please contact our [Engagement Manager](#).

[More on volunteering](#)



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework

27 sets in England and Wales implemented the Chambers Pro Bono Framework initiative in 2023! An incredible commitment to pro bono was shown by these stand-out sets, with all reporting that 10% or more of their members took on pro bono work in 2023.

All sets involved committed to undertaking 4 actions: appointing Pro Bono Champions in Chambers, actioning pro bono work, organising a seminar on pro bono work and reporting back on pro bono work done. Find out more and encourage your set to sign up in 2024.

[More on the Framework](#)

4

Advocate Statistics



2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards:

See the full list of nominees!

Congratulations to all the barristers and Chambers professionals that received a nomination for the 2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards.

Year after year, the award nominations reflect the outstanding pro bono work happening across the Bar. This year was no exception, with over **100 nominations** across the different categories.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in nominations. See the full list of this year's wonderful nominees below.

[Award nominees](#)



This brand new guide aims to help anyone who is considering whether an individual or a case can be signposted to our service.

The guide outlines how our service works, providing an overview of our remit and how to apply for help (specific to each area of law). It also gives an outline of the Court Duty Schemes we partner with.

Get help with signposting to Advocate

This guide is of particular use for legal professionals and those in the third sector who may want to refer an individual or case to us.

Please do help us spread the word and share the guide with those in your networks it could benefit.

[Read the signposting guide](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

7

**Karen Kabweru
-Namulemu**
1GC Family Law

We would like to thank Karen Kabweru-Namulemu of 1GC Family Law for assisting our applicant, a father, on a case concerning seeking contact with his child that has been ongoing for a number of years. The applicant took the time to write to us to say *"My special thanks to barrister Karen Kabweru-Namulemu for all her unwavering professional advice, guidance and representation on numerous occasions"*.

Thank you, Karen

8

**Edward Kemp
& Tom Gillie**
Matrix

Our many thanks to Edward Kemp and Tom Gillie for assisting our applicant, a support worker for vulnerable adults, in her Court of Appeal case after being disbarred from working with vulnerable adults by the Disclosure and Barring Service for theft.

Thanks to the representation, the Court of Appeal ruled in our applicant's favour, saving her career. The Court also ordered that the DBS pay a pro bono costs order of £15,000 to the Access to Justice Foundation.

Thank you, Edward and Tom

9

Mariya Peykova
3PB

We would like to extend our thanks to Mariya Peykova for advising our applicants on a defamation case that was at a critical stage in the High Court, assisting them in obtaining a drop-hands settlement. The applicant emailed us to thank Mariya saying *" My wife and I are extremely grateful for the detailed and frank advice. In telling us what we needed to understand rather than what we wanted to hear, Mariya put us in a good position to achieve a positive outcome"*.

Thank you, Mariya



As we face the busiest period on record, do reach out about giving your time and expertise to help

As we have mentioned, we are facing an unprecedented increase in applications for help, with January 2024 being our busiest month on record for new applications for pro bono help. If you can, please do consider taking on a piece of pro bono work with us. Email the [Casework team](#) and let them know the types of cases you would be interested in helping with, or [explore our website](#) to browse the full list of cases available. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you.

[Advocate](#)

[Support Us](#) - [Volunteer](#) - [What We Do](#)

