



## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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**Welcome Back  
from Advocate**

### **Welcome back from Sharif A. Shivji KC, Chairman of Advocate**

Welcome back and happy new year – I hope you are looking forward to this year as much as we are at Advocate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported us last year. Be that through volunteering, mentoring or donating, you have all made an impact to Advocate and the members of the public who we support.

Nothing illustrates this better than when we look back on the demand we received for our service last year. We experienced an almost 15% increase in fresh applications compared to 2022, and in the last six months of 2023 it was a 24% increase compared to the same six months in the previous year. Over the whole year, we placed over 1,200 cases through our core

casework service, and many more through our pro bono duty schemes. We could not have done this work without your support - thank you.



### Nominate for the Bar Pro Bono Awards

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a great opportunity to recognise those exemplifying a commitment to pro bono at the Bar.

Make sure to submit your nominations for those stand-out individuals, initiatives and Chambers before **Friday 2nd February at 5pm** when nominations close.

[Categories and how to nominate](#)



### Donate your #ProBono35 to Advocate

When renewing your practising certificate, please consider donating £35 to Advocate.

Donations through the ATP process make up almost half our annual income and they are vital in sustaining our service as demand for pro bono help increases. To the extent you can, please consider donating.

[Find out more about #ProBono35](#)

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## Advocate Statistics

100

Live cases currently looking for assistance

102

Pieces of work placed so far this year

25

New Panel Members in 2024

Summary of live cases:

Family:

37%

Housing:

18%

Admin and Public:

17%

[advocate](#)



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### Exeter Family Law Clinic Launch

This month we were delighted to launch the Exeter Family Law Clinic alongside [CASS+](#).

This new scheme will support litigants in person (LIPs) in the South West who have proceedings, or are considering proceedings, in Private Family Law or under the Family Law Act.

Barristers volunteering at the clinic will provide 40 minute pre-arranged appointments to provide advice on areas such as merit, understanding proceedings and next steps.

[Find out more and volunteer](#)

We launched the scheme at an event kindly hosted by Exeter County Court, with support from the Western Circuit. We were delighted that the local judiciary, Bar, law firms, law students and other frontline organisations were also in attendance.

HHJ Horton highlighted the important role that pro bono schemes play in supporting LIPs in the South West and Charlotte Mallin-Martin of [Guildhall Chambers](#) ran through the practicalities of the scheme. Other discussions focussed on the role that frontline

organisations play in facilitating pro bono in the region and how barristers can get involved.



*Lady Carr - photograph credit to Matt Cetti-Roberts.*

Our sixth annual carol concert held in partnership with [LawWorks](#) in December was a huge success. We are pleased to say we raised over £22,000 in total, which will be split equally between our two charities to allow us to continue supporting people who need our help.

Thanks to everyone who bought a ticket and made a donation on the night - without you our work would not be possible.

## Lady Carr joins us to celebrate Carols for Pro Bono

On the night we were delighted to have a reading from the new head of the judiciary of England and Wales, Lady Carr, who read “Christmas at the Cratchits” from Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Reflecting on her reading, Lady Carr said:

*"We should remember the Cratchits and the many people like them whom Advocate and LawWorks help year in and year out, supporting and promoting the administration of the rule of law, and ensuring that there is access to justice for all."*

[Read more on the Carol Concert](#)

## Shout out to Panel Members...

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**James Hannant**  
Guildhall Chambers

We would like to thank James Hannant of Guildhall Chambers, who recently provided urgent drafting and representation for our applicant facing the strikeout of her claim for a five figure sum lost as a result of an alleged fraudulent 'get rich quick' scheme. Strikeout was avoided, and the applicant is now able to move forward with providing significant evidence to support her case.

Thank you, James

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**Rachael Gourley**  
Serjeants' Inn

Our huge thanks to Rachael Gourley for assisting our applicant, a victim of domestic violence, for over 3 years. Our applicant was initially denied any criminal injuries compensation, which Rachael challenged for being discriminatory. The applicant was offered a low award of compensation, but Rachael challenged this, and successfully managed to secure a much higher award at the final hearing.

Thank you, Rachael

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**Charlotte Trayers**  
Government Legal  
Department

Our many thanks to Charlotte Trayers of the Government Legal Department for assisting our applicant with advice around settlement on a case against an employer for racial discrimination. The respondent originally only offered £1,000 to our applicant, but with Charlotte's help, the applicant has now settled for £7,500. This was Charlotte's first case via Advocate.

Thank you, Charlotte

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## Upcoming Seminar: Pro Bono & Your Practice in Manchester

If you are based near Manchester, we would be delighted to see you at our seminar on 14th February at Lincoln House Chambers in Manchester. The event is designed to help you find out more about pro bono work happening on the Northern Circuit and provide the opportunity for you to network with our Northern Caseworkers and other barristers in the region. Hear from barristers Michael Hayton KC,

Samantha Hillas KC and Sophie Cartwright KC on their experiences of pro bono work.

**Secure your spot to attend this insightful seminar.**

Advocate

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