

advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

1

Congratulations to our 2025 winners



On 7th May, Advocate held the 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards ceremony at Lincoln's Inn to celebrate the remarkable pro bono contributions made by the Bar across England and Wales this year.

Former BBC newsreader and presenter Joanna Gosling was our compere and we were delighted to be joined by Lord Briggs of Westbourne on the night. The [category judges](#) presented the individual awards.

Speaking from her own experience of receiving pro bono support, Joanna said:

“As a recipient, it is hard to adequately say thank you when strangers have stepped up and given support that in cost terms is an amount you can't fathom. I found that quite overwhelming. But it's not the pounds and pence that stay with you. It's the feeling of arms being wrapped around that happens when someone you don't know comes forward and says - I believe in you, I want to help you.”

We were also pleased to be joined by the Solicitor General, Lucy Rigby KC MP. Reflecting on the purpose of the awards, she said:

“Pro Bono work is vitally important. It provides crucial help for those facing legal issues, as well as benefiting legal professionals' personal and professional development. I would like to recognise all the excellent winners and nominees. Your commitment and expertise supports

countless people at home and abroad, as well as inspires your fellow professionals."

Our many congratulations to this year's winners for their outstanding pro bono contributions – view the [full list of winners](#) across the categories.

[More on the 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards](#)



Barristers successful in High Court appeal

Advocate panel members Joanna Thom and Harrison Engler of Field Court Chambers were successful in assisting a father in a High Court appeal against a factual finding made in the Family Court. The judgment draws attention to the importance of pro bono work in family law and the complexities courts face when handling serious allegations such as rape and sexual assault in child welfare proceedings.

Joanna and Harrison received high praise from Mr Justice Hayden for their effective pro bono advocacy. The father was incredibly grateful to Joanna and Harrison for their assistance: *"They are outstanding ambassadors of the Bar and a shining example of why pro bono work matters."*

[Read the full story](#)



Walk for justice this June: the London Legal Walk

Organised by the London Legal Support Trust (LLST), the London Legal Walk is taking place on 17th June to raise vital funds to support free legal advice services such as Advocate, FRU and LLST. We are thrilled that 109 chambers have already signed up to take part.

Key figures from the Bar will be walking, including The Lady Chief Justice, Sir Geoffrey Vos, Lord Reed, Lord Hermer KC, and many more. The London Legal Walk is more than just a stroll through the capital – it's an opportunity to come together to support access to justice. The Advocate team will be volunteering on the day to support the walkers and we look forward to cheering them on.

[Join the London Legal Walk](#)

4

Advocate Statistics



Bar Conference and Lifetime

Achievement in Pro Bono

Award

5



The annual [Bar Conference](#), hosted by the Bar Council, is taking place on Saturday 7 June in Birmingham. Come along to learn, network, and engage with colleagues from across the legal profession. The event will welcome high-profile speakers including the Lady Chief Justice and the Chair of the Bar, Barbara Mills KC. Session topics this year include exploring the current state of the justice system, the critical role of statistical reasoning in legal practice, and the evolving culture at the Bar.

We are delighted that the Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono, the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award, will also be presented at the Bar Conference as part of our Bar Pro Bono Awards. Stay tuned to our [LinkedIn](#) and [news page](#) for the announcement.

[Find out more](#)



The Chambers Pro Bono Framework ('The Framework') offers chambers across England and Wales a meaningful way to demonstrate their dedication to pro bono work and improving access to justice.

"The Framework has continued to strengthen our ability to communicate Chambers' commitment to pro bono work, providing both structure and clear, demonstrable goals." – **Pro Bono Champion, Participating Chambers 2024.**

Sign up to the Chambers Pro Bono Framework

We are delighted that 46 Chambers are already participating in The Framework for 2025.

Chambers can continue to sign up throughout the year, and you can see those who are already taking part [here](#). To register or learn more, [sign up here](#) or contact our Engagement Manager, [Faye Pauffley](#).

[More on The Framework](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

7

**Ameer Ismail &
Emma Darlow Stearn**
Cloisters

Our many thanks to Ameer Ismail of Cloisters for assisting a person who was the claimant in a case against their employer. The case went to the Employment Tribunal and the claimant will receive compensation of a net reward of over £230,000 for being unfairly dismissed and victimised. A shout-out also to Emma Darlow Stearn who assisted with this case. The claimant praised Ameer and Emma for all their support in the procedures.

Thank you, Ameer and Emma

8

**James Goudie KC,
Oliver Mills &
George Spence Mills**
11KBW & Gough Square Chambers

Thank you to James Goudie KC and Oliver Mills of 11KBW, and George Spence-Jones of Gough Square Chambers, for successfully assisting in a Court of Appeal case on the extension of time for bringing an appeal. The person had instituted his appeal within the time limit but had omitted to include one of the required documents. The EAT found that this was not a “minor error” that would enable it to extend time for him to bring his appeal. James, Oliver and George assisted him in the Court of Appeal, which found that the EAT’s construction of the meaning of “minor error” was inconsistent with the wording of the provision and too strict to give effect to its purpose.

Thank you, James, Oliver and George

9

Robert Lassey
Nine Chambers

We would like to thank Robert Lassey of Nine Chambers for assisting a nurse, who brought a claim against her former employer for direct disability discrimination, including for harassment, victimisation and unfair dismissal. Her claim was initially unsuccessful at the Employment Tribunal. Robert stepped up to assist in the appeal, and was successful in winning her appeal on one of two grounds in the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The case has now been remitted back to the Employment Tribunal for their reconsideration of the successful ground. The nurse was very grateful to Robert for his assistance.

Thank you, Robert



Get your pro bono work recognised through the Pro Bono Recognition List

Last month we were delighted to see that 4,874 barristers and solicitors were recognised on this year's Pro Bono Recognition List.

We know there is so much brilliant pro bono work being undertaken by the Bar to support those seeking help with their legal problems.

If you have completed 25 or more hours of pro bono work already this year, please [add your name](#) to ensure you appear on the 2026 Pro Bono Recognition List.

[More on the Pro Bono Recognition List](#)

Follow us for more!

Advocate is on [Bluesky](#) as well as [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#). Please do follow these accounts to keep up to date with the latest news and information.