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# advocate



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## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

**Pro Bono  
Pledge**  
& Pupil Pledge

Can you make **pro bono** part of your 2023 practice?

PRO BONO PLEDGE  
25+ HOURS  
advocate  
2023

The banner features a dark teal background with a large red chevron pointing right. On the left, the text 'Pro Bono Pledge & Pupil Pledge' is written in white, with 'Pro Bono Pledge' in a larger font. Below this, a question is posed in orange and white. On the right, a circular badge with a red border contains the text 'PRO BONO PLEDGE' at the top, '25+ HOURS' in the center, the 'advocate' logo (a red chevron) below a horizontal line, and '2023' at the bottom.

**Pledge your pro bono hours today! #ProBonoPledge**

We have launched the **Pro Bono Pledge**, encouraging barristers to pledge 25 hours of pro bono work in 2023, [sign up here](#).

*“Please make the Pro Bono Pledge your New Year’s Resolution in 2023. You hold the key: without your pledge of the hours you can manage, people in real need will go*

***without the help the law can bring or the defence the law provides.” - Sir Robin Knowles CBE***

There is also an initiative for pupils, the **Pupil Pledge**, encouraging pupils to pledge one piece of pro bono work in their second six.

On completion, you will be sent a celebratory #ProBonoPledge or #PupilPledge logo for your email signature and Chambers profile.

The pro bono work can be done through any scheme or pro bono pathway, not just through Advocate, throughout 2023.

**Pledge to make pro bono part of your 2023 practice today.**



**Chair of the Bar, Nick Vineall KC, highlights importance of pro bono in inaugural address**

We are delighted Nick Vineall KC, in his inaugural address as 2023 Chair of the Bar, encouraged all barristers to do pro bono in 2023.

***"On pro bono we will continue to champion the work of the Bar's pro bono charity Advocate. Pro bono is***



**Advocate attended the FLBA conference in Cambridge**

We were delighted to have been invited to the Family Law Bar Association's conference on 14 January. Our Midland Circuit caseworker Charlotte had a fantastic time speaking to barristers about how Advocate works and how to get involved in volunteering, as well as participating in the extensive

*a badge of the Bar's integrity and the Bar's commitment to the public interest... Please consider making pro bono a part of your practice in 2023."*

programme of training and workshops.

Thanks to the FLBA for having us!

[Watch Speech Here](#)

[Share our LinkedIn post](#)

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## Advocate Statistics

180

Live cases currently looking for assistance

85

Pieces of work placed so far this year

33

New Panel Members in 2023

Summary of live cases:

Family:

25%

Employment:

18%

Housing:

14%

[advocate](#)



## Spotlight on panel member... Shárin Diegan

Shárin Diegan, a specialist family barrister at Goldsmith Chambers, speaks to us about how pro bono work kickstarted her career and gave her the confidence and skills to get pupillage and build a successful career as a barrister.

**Q: What effect did pro bono work have on your career?**

*It made my career possible. It was the perfect way for me to build and evidence the skills Chambers were looking for in pupillage applications. Pro bono work also gave me the certainty and confidence to pursue a career at the Bar, even if it took me a few years, and a lot of unsuccessful pupillage applications, to get there.*

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**Q: What advice would you give to any barrister unsure about whether to start doing pro bono work?**

*My advice to anyone is just to do it! Pro bono work is a brilliant way to develop your skills and experience regardless of where you are in your career. Pro bono work allowed me to work with clients, build and run my own cases and be on my feet. It lets you work on a broad range of cases, each with their own challenges and all of which will help you become better at what you do.*

[Read on](#)

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Miranda Butler, co-founder of the Ukraine Advice Project and barrister at Landmark Chambers, writes for *COUNSEL* on how the project came to be, how it has grown and how you can get involved!

## Ukraine Advice Project, Pro Bono Initiative of the Year Winners, feature in *COUNSEL*

Hear the story behind the Ukraine Advice Project and how 600 pro bono immigration lawyers came to the aid of Ukrainians and their families, by helping them come to the UK after the Russian invasion.

Read all about our 2022 Bar Pro Bono Award Winners on Page 12 of *COUNSEL*'s latest issue.

[Read on in COUNSEL](#)

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### Shout out to Volunteer Barrister Panel Members...

**7**  
**Darren Snow**  
Libertas Chambers

Shout out to Darren for swooping in at the last minute with a very kind offer to advise in a

**8**  
**Lucie Danti**  
Farrar's Building

Thanks to Lucie who took on her first piece of work with Advocate before Christmas, an inquest.

**9**  
**Islam Khan**  
Church Court

Shout out to Islam Khan for stepping in last minute to represent a victim of modern slavery and

criminal case where the pro bono client was very anxious and vulnerable. Whilst Darren is unable to represent her, his advice was invaluable to a nervous litigant in person. Darren spoke to her over the phone and sent the most thoughtful and reassuring email about what she needs to do at her hearing. Even what may seem like the smallest bit of advice, could change someone's life.

Thank you, Darren

With the help of mentoring, through our mentoring scheme [Collaborate](#), Lucie represented the applicants from 19th to 23rd December. The inquest led to critical failings being discussed on the public record and a Prevention of Future Death Report being made. This is a fantastic outcome for our applicant and outstanding work by Lucie on her first pro bono inquest.

Thank you, Lucie

domestic violence survivor with a chronic illness. They were represented on a legally aided basis but recently became ineligible for legal aid but cannot afford counsel nor solicitor fees. Islam went above and beyond to rearrange another hearing to be remote, so he could attend this hearing, which is in Birmingham, in-person. We, and the pro bono client you are helping, are so grateful. Thanks also to Duncan Lewis for contacting us to find help!

Thank you, Islam

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## Thanks to all who volunteered in 2022!

We are so grateful to everyone who did pro bono work last year - you are all #ProBonoHeroes

In 2022, a total of **1,162 pieces of pro bono work** were taken on by over 571 different barristers through Advocate. Thanks to every one of you who took on a piece of work, be that drafting, advising, or representation.

This is of course only a fraction of the pro bono work going on at the Bar, as we know more takes place through duty schemes, law centres, clinics and beyond, but is nevertheless a vital contribution.

Thanks also to our committed panel of reviewers who work tirelessly to review cases and ensure the right cases are put forward to our volunteer panel. Thank you reviewers, you are fundamental to the work we do!

We received 21 requests for help every day in 2022 and we helped 2 in 3 people whose cases were accepted by our reviewing panel.

This year we want to be there for even more people, so we encourage you to get involved in whatever way you can.

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