

advocate



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Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Chloe
Northern Caseworker
& Family Lead



Emily
Northern Caseworker
& Commercial Chancery Lead



Alice
Western Caseworker
& Crime Lead

Meet our Regional Caseworkers



Stephen
Wales & Chester
Caseworker



Jess
North Eastern Circuit
& Schemes Caseworker



Charlotte
Midlands Caseworker
& Social Welfare Lead

We are pleased to announce that for the first time in Advocate's history, we now have caseworkers based in every circuit across England and Wales.

This has been an important goal for us to reach as we implement our three-year strategy, aiming to expand our presence and assist more people in need of our service nationwide.

We are delighted to introduce Alice, our new caseworker in the Western Circuit, and our caseworker Jess, who has moved to the North Eastern Circuit. Alice will be working on social welfare cases as well as growing engagement with barristers, Chambers, law centres, clinics and charity partners across the Western Circuit. Jess oversees Advocate's on-the-day duty schemes, but will also be responsible for our engagement in the North East.

For the last year we have seen the success of having caseworkers based in the Northern, Midlands and Wales & Chester Circuits. Pictured above, caseworkers Emily and Chloe have been working on the Northern Circuit, Charlotte in the Midlands, and Stephen in Wales.

Circuit caseworkers play a vital role in engaging with the Bar, front line agencies and partner organisations. They have built and developed networks of locally based Pro Bono Champions (Advocate representatives) in Chambers, held seminars in Chambers on how and why to do pro bono work with us, and put on events in partnership with the circuit. This locally targeted engagement helps us to place local cases with local barristers. In Stephen's words: *"As the dedicated caseworker for Wales, my role is to promote the charity, engage with the Welsh Bar to support their pro bono work, and to give Advocate a real and tangible presence in Wales. I grew up in Wales, studied the Bar here and I am eager to give back to the community that has given much to me"*.

If you would like to meet with the Advocate caseworker based in your region, or set up a meeting in Chambers so that that we can provide a more personalised approach to your members, please do get in touch directly with the caseworker in your circuit.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Northern Circuit

Contacts: emily@weareadvocate.org.uk chloe@weareadvocate.org.uk

Midlands: charlotte@weareadvocate.org.uk

Wales & Chester: stephen@weareadvocate.org.uk

Western: alice@weareadvocate.org.uk

North-Eastern: jessica@weareadvocate.org.uk



Family Law Conference Proceeds

We are thrilled that both 1KBW and 3 Paper Buildings (3PB) have supported us through the recent separate conferences each hosted over the summer. Both conferences brought together legal professionals and experts from across the field to engage in insightful discussions on all things related to family law.

1KBW and 3PB generously donated the conference proceeds to Advocate, raising an impressive £7,000 each, with 1KBW still in the process of tallying their contributions. These donations will help sustain our core service this year and play a vital role in securing access to justice for individuals who will otherwise face their legal challenges alone. If your chambers would be interested in doing something similar, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Sana at sbaig@weareadvocate.org.uk

[More on our Patron Scheme](#)



Pro Bono Week 2023

The 22nd annual Pro Bono Week is back in less than two months! Taking place on 6th-10th November, Pro Bono Week is the chance to celebrate the voluntary contribution made by legal professionals across the UK in giving free legal help to those who need it the most.

Chambers, law firms, legal societies, charities and universities are encouraged to promote the value of pro bono work and share their own pro bono success stories. Many chambers are choosing to run a seminar on pro bono work in Pro Bono Week. Could your Chambers also consider running an event?

Advocate will be taking part in events throughout the week to raise awareness of opportunities pro bono provides, from personal reward to networking with solicitors. Stay tuned to our [Twitter/X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages to find out more.

[More on Pro Bono Week](#)

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Advocate Statistics

113

Live cases currently looking for assistance

818

Pieces of work placed so far this year

291

New Panel Members in 2023

Summary of live cases:

Family:

23%

Employment:

16%

Housing:

14%

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New Term, New Commitment to Advocate?

As the start of the new legal term approaches, **Emma-Louise Fenelon** from [1 Crown Office Row](#) took some time to share with Advocate about her varied and exciting experiences of undertaking pro bono work in recent years.

In 2020, Emma stepped forward (along with **Neil Hart KC, David Hart KC, Tom Beamont and Akash Sonecha**) to act for several victims of the Beirut Port explosion, under the instruction of Dechert LLP and Advocate. Here they successfully brought claims for personal injury against the UK-owned company responsible for the chemicals that caused the biggest non-nuclear blast in history. The High Court awarded the clients over £850,000 in damages in June this year.



Emma writes about the unmatched personal and professional rewards of undertaking pro bono work, including the opportunity to meet leaders in the field, encouraging other barristers to take the leap and join our panel of volunteers.

We hope you are inspired to make a new commitment to Advocate this legal year.

[Read Emma's article](#)

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Sharon's Story



This month we heard from Sharon, an applicant who was assisted through Advocate by barrister **Cathy Mitchell** of [New Bailey Chambers](#) Liverpool.

Sharon, a victim of domestic violence from her violent ex-partner, was told by the police that she needed to accept a caution for damaging her ex-partner's van. She was severely distressed and confused as to why she had been issued a caution after all she had been through.

Sharon approached Advocate and Cathy quickly took up the case. Cathy argued that it was not in the public interest for the CPS to press charges, and was rather a way for the ex-partner to damage Sharon's life, now that he was no longer permitted to have contact with her.

Hear from those we exist to support

Following Cathy's review, the CPS decided to drop the charges.

Sharon's story highlights how invaluable pro bono assistance can be in allowing victims of abusive situations to move on with their lives.

Describing her experience of getting help from Advocate, Sharon said:

"What an amazing resolution. I will continue to move on with my life and put this whole nightmare behind me. I am just very grateful that people and organisations like yourself are there to help and I do not know what I would of done, nor where I would be now, without your help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

[Read the full story](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Joseph Sinclair
Mountford Chambers

We would like to extend our thanks to Joseph Sinclair from Mountford Chambers. Despite only signing up to our panel in March this year, Joseph has already assisted on ten pieces of work with us. We would like to thank Joseph for his outstanding level of support and continued commitment to pro bono work.

Thank you, Joseph

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Adèle Akers
St Philips Chambers

Our many thanks to Adèle Akers of St Philips Chambers for assisting on ten pieces of work with us over the last two years concerning the case of an unfair dismissal of a man who took time off work to care for his sick child. Adèle has shown true dedication and has committed to represent him further at an upcoming three-day hearing.

Thank you, Adèle

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Christie O'Connell
1 Hare Court

We would like to thank Christie O'Connell of 1 Hare Court for assisting on several pieces of work with us so far this year, including recently stepping forward to provide representation on a child maintenance case. The client has praised Christie for all her hard work and dedication on the case.

Thank you, Christie



Christmas Carols for Pro Bono 2023

The annual [Advocate](#) & [LawWorks](#) Christmas Carol
Concert is back!

Come and join us on Thursday 14th December at the beautiful Temple Church in London for a festive evening of music, mince pies and special celebrity guest readings from Stephen Mangan and Alex Macqueen.

All ticket proceeds raise vital funds for those in desperate need of pro bono assistance. Bring friends, family and clients - everyone is welcome.

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