

Pro Bono Champions

About the role

- Pro Bono Champions play a crucial role for Advocate as a key point of contact for us with sets of Chambers.
- The role makes a huge difference to how Advocate is able to engage with Chambers and to the lives of many vulnerable people who would otherwise go without the support of a barrister.
- Through regular feedback provided by Advocate and internal discussions, we hope that Pro Bono Champions will be aware of how much pro bono Chambers is doing, and have a plan for how they will encourage members to take on pro bono work.
- The Advocate team are in touch monthly with resources that you can send around Chambers, and ideas of how to encourage pro bono in Chambers.
- You can get in touch with Advocate at any time if we can help with anything related to pro bono cases in Chambers or your role.
- Key Contact: Bryony Wells, Engagement Manager: bwells@werareadvocate.org.uk

Outlined below are the top ten Pro Bono Champion actions to get you started thinking about the role!

Pro Bono Champions key actions

1. Encourage members to sign up to the Advocate panel via our [sign-up form](#).
2. Organise a short pro bono seminar, either online or to take place during chambers tea / lunch / drinks. An Advocate Caseworker will attend and cover the reasons to do pro bono and how Advocate works in more detail. It is good to run these seminars annually.
3. Get all second six pupils and new tenants signed up!
 - A great way to get experience, get on their feet, etc.
4. Encourage Junior barristers to do more pro bono:
 - Experience of more senior courts
 - Get in front of key judges, meet new solicitors
 - Broaden their experience/areas of expertise
5. Encourage Senior Juniors to do pro bono for silk applications:
 - Good demonstration of ability to work with others
 - Shows skills in relation to diversity
 - Opportunity for high level advocacy
6. Encourage Senior barristers to sign up to our [mentoring scheme](#), Collaborate. [Sign up form can be found on our website](#).

7. Make sure your panel members know about [pro bono costs orders](#), and remember to ask for them. See the wealth of resources on pro bono costs and how to apply for them on the Access to Justice Foundation [website](#).
8. Ensure your set knows about our [Bar Pro Bono Awards](#), and organise nominations where appropriate.
9. Pro Bono Champions can also be a great support in helping with our fundraising initiatives.
 - a. Encourage your barristers to donate £35 at the time of practising certificate renewals.
 - b. Ask your set to consider becoming a [Pro Bono Patron](#) by joining the Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle.
 - c. Share the invitation to our Christmas carols event with your set.
10. Arrange a meeting with Advocate's senior team and your senior team in Chambers to discuss how we can support your members and ensure the best opportunities are coming your way.