
advocate



Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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Merry Christmas and thank you
for supporting us in 2024



As 2024 draws to a close, Advocate would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us this year, whether it be taking on pro bono work with us or donating to support our work.

Thanks to this combination of dedicated volunteers and generous donors, we have been able to support, and most importantly give hope, to many people and households facing desperate circumstances. The Bar's commitment to pro bono is deep-rooted and has continued to grow even further this year. Some highlights include:

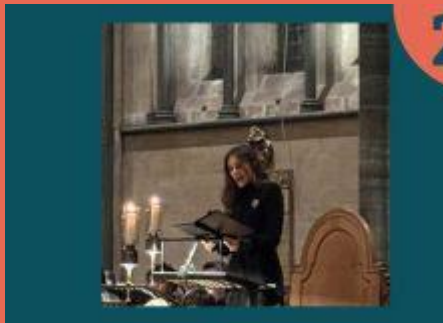
- Over 400 barristers signing up to join our panel of volunteers;
- 483 barristers being recognised on the inaugural Pro Bono Recognition list of England and Wales;
- 45 sets taking part in the second year of the Chambers Pro Bono Framework; and
- The introduction of new on-the-day duty Schemes in each circuit across the country, supporting litigants in person with issues ranging from bankruptcy to family and court of protection.

We feel honoured to facilitate the Bar's pro bono work and we are spurred on daily by the messages we receive from those we connect with a barrister, including one recent

example:

“At a time when I was near homeless, and when my children and home were taken from me, Advocate showed to be a beacon for the type of support which I needed because the legal system was very alien to me and something I simply could not afford or comprehend at the time.”

With many thanks from all the Advocate team for your wide-ranging support this year and we look forward to working with you in 2025.



Advocate celebrate Christmas at sold-out Carols for Pro Bono

Last week we held our seventh annual Carols for Pro Bono in partnership with [LawWorks](#), the pro bono charity for solicitors. Over £21,000 has been raised, which will be split equally between the two charities. We were delighted to have a superb line-up of celebrity readings from the Lady Chief Justice, Elizabeth Hurley, Rachael Stirling and Jon Culshaw. A particular highlight was Jon Culshaw's impromptu rendition of the theme from 'Only Fools and Horses' to the tune of 'Nessun Dorma'.

[See the highlights](#)



Nominate for the 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards

The Bar Pro Bono Awards recognise the pro bono work of barristers and chambers who are making noteworthy contributions to access to justice. Winners will be announced at a ceremony taking place on 6th May 2025. There are nine different award categories and nominations close on 31st January 2025. Find out more below and read about the 2024 winners in parts [one](#) and [two](#) of the coverage in Counsel magazine.

[Nominate now](#)

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Advocate Statistics



Get your 2024 pro bono work recognised

As we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken on pro bono work through Advocate this year, we wanted to remind you about the [Pro Bono Recognition List of England and Wales](#).

If you completed 25 or more hours of pro bono work this year, you can appear on the next Pro Bono Recognition List, a cross-profession initiative endorsed by the Lady Chief Justice to celebrate the commitment of barristers and solicitors to pro bono work. The Recognition List for work undertaken in 2024 is set to be published in April 2025 – submissions to add your name close on 7th March 2025. [Add your name](#) and please do email recognition@weareadvocate.org.uk if you have any questions.



There is still also time for pupils to get their pro bono work recognised this year too. If you or a pupil you know took on a piece of pro bono work during their second six through Advocate or any other scheme or initiative, they are eligible to receive the [Pupil Pledge](#) logo to recognise their hard work. Fill in the [completion form](#) to let us know.

[Find out more](#)



The Big Give Christmas Challenge has successfully come to an end, and we are very grateful for the generosity and support we have received this year.

We are thrilled to announce that we surpassed our ambitious fundraising target of £16,500 and raised an incredible £18,375.

The Big Give Christmas

Challenge - target

exceeded!

This would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors. The funds raised this year will be allocated to our family casework. We receive a wide range of family law cases in areas ranging from serious domestic abuse to child abduction and relocation. Thank you to all those who donated this year so these people are no longer forced to handle their cases alone.

[More about the Big Give](#)

Shout out to Panel Members...

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Ben Thompson
3PB

We would like to thank Ben Thompson of 3PB for his commitment to representing a father at Dispute Resolution Appointment, Interim and Fact Finding Hearings. The father is seeking direct contact with his three children after the mother made serious allegations against him. The judge at the FFH thanked Ben for his pro bono advocacy, describing him as having 'great skill and competence'. Thanks to Ben, the father was granted immediate contact with his three children for the first time in almost two years.

Thank you, Ben

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Joshua Griffin
Gatehouse Chambers

A huge thank you to Joshua Griffin from Gatehouse Chambers for securing a settlement of over £100,000 for a 78-year-old widow in her negligence claim against a letting agent. The agent had been trusted to let her property, which she had bought with her late husband as a retirement investment. The letting agents failed to undertake proper due diligence and arranged a tenancy for a tenant who illegally sub-let the property, accumulated over £50,000 in rent arrears and caused significant damage. The widow is now able to pay off the debts she incurred through the losses caused by the letting agent's negligence.

Thank you, Joshua

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Mohammed Feruje
Holborn Chambers

Our many thanks to Mohammed Feruje of Holborn Chambers, who has regularly provided pro bono immigration advice in several cases with Advocate in the last year.

Most recently, Mohammed provided advice to a French national who was recently widowed, and a Cypriot national who wishes for her elderly husband to join her in the UK from Turkey. Your support to our immigration casework is very much appreciated by both Advocate and our applicants.

Thank you, Mohammed

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Best wishes for the festive season and the new year!

Finally, thank you once again for supporting our work

this year. We hope you have a restful Christmas break

and we look forward to working with you again in 2025.

Follow us for more!

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