

advocate



2024
Bar Pro Bono
Awards

Wednesday 8 May
Middle Temple Hall

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Welcome to the Bar Pro Bono Awards

The Bar Pro Bono Awards are a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable pro bono achievements of the Bar in England and Wales.

Since 1997, the Bar Pro Bono Awards have recognised the outstanding commitment to pro bono demonstrated by individuals, initiatives and chambers.

Since then, pro bono work has developed, broadened and grown, making it increasingly difficult for our judging panel to choose one winner in each category.

We received an overwhelming number of nominations this year, with a total of 110. This is a testament to all the incredible pro bono work happening at the Bar.

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About Advocate

We are the Bar's national pro bono charity. We make it possible for barristers to balance a dedicated practice with making a significant contribution to the community.

We believe that fair and equal access to justice is the foundation of our society, and that the quality of your legal representation should not depend on the depth of your pockets, but the merits of your case.

We match members of the public who need free legal help with barristers who generously donate their time and expertise in deserving cases for those who are unable to obtain legal aid and cannot afford to pay.

Advocate organises the Bar Pro Bono Awards year on year. If you would like to learn more about our work, please visit our [website](#).

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The Categories

Pro Bono KC of the Year

Sponsored by Hewetson & Co

Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Place Campbell

Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

Sponsored by the LPMA

International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Ankura

**Pro Bono & Social Responsibility
Initiative of the Year**

Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Westgate Wealth Management

John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

Sponsored by ABC Chambers Solutions

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2024 Bar Pro Bono Awards Shortlist

Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Place Campbell

Anna Hoffmann – 4 Pump Court
Charlotte Mallin-Martin – Guildhall Chambers
George Penny – 187 Chambers
Joshua Pemberton – Brick Court
Jagoda Klimowicz – Brick Court
Liam Kelly – Deans Court
Nadia O'Mara – Garden Court
Oscar Davies – Garden Court
Susana Ferrín Pérez – No.5 Barristers
Tinessa Kaur – 4BB Chambers

Pro Bono KC of the Year

Sponsored by Hewetson & Co

Andrew de Mestre KC - 4 Stone Buildings
Laura Dubinsky KC – Doughty Street
Samantha Hillas KC – St John's Buildings
Sophie Cartwright KC – Deans Court

International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Ankura

Aarif Abraham – Doughty Street
Ali-Al Karim – Brick Court
Clare Bishop – FOURTEEN
Haydee Dijkstal – 33 Bedford Row

John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

John Platts-Mills - Devereux Chambers
Joseph Sinclair – Mountford Chambers
Lucas Nacif – Fareore Law
Oliver Persey – Garden Court Chambers
Ramby de Mello – No.5 Chambers
Sophie Crampton – 4 Brick Court

Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Sponsored by Westgate Wealth Management

Anna Moradi – 12KBW
Cecily Crampin – Falcon Chambers
Charlotte Pope-Williams – 3 Hare Court
Jake Rudman – Hatton Chambers
Jennifer MacLeod – Brick Court
Matthew Parfitt – Erskine Chambers
Rob George – Harcourt Chambers
Scarlett Milligan – 39 Essex Chambers
William Horwood – St Philips Chambers
Yasin Patel – Church Court Chambers

Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

Sponsored by ABC Chambers Solutions

1GC Family Law
3PB
4PB
Landmark Chambers
Ten Old Square

Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

Sponsored by the LPMA

Agnes Gitau – 3 Verulam Buildings
Luke Carvalho – Brick Court
Mark Ronson – Kings Chambers
Matt Gibbons – Deans Court Chambers

Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year

Dads House
3VB International Advisory & Dispute Resolution Unit
Lawyers Against Poverty
Schools Consent Project

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The Judges

Lady Carr, the Lady Chief Justice

Chair of the Bar Council
Sam Townend KC

Director of Law Centres Network
Julie Bishop

Co-Chairs of the Legal Practice Management Association
Clare Bello and Jemma Tagg

Global Bar Editor, *The Legal 500*
Will Tolcher

Chair of the Employed Barristers' Committee
Heidi Stonecliffe KC

Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee
Amrit Dhanoa

Chair of the Institute of Barristers' Clerks
Geoffrey Carr

Co-Chairs of the Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee
Samantha Singer and Laurie Scher

Leader of the North Eastern Circuit
Jason Pitter KC

The Secret Barrister

Sheila Collins

Founder and President of Advocate
Lord Goldsmith KC

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The Ceremony

Welcome
Sharif A. Shivji KC, Chairman of Advocate

Introduction
Lady Carr, the Lady Chief Justice

Winners announced in the following categories:

Pro Bono KC of the Year
Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year
International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

Headline Sponsor LexisNexis Remarks
James Harper

Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year
Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award
Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

Closing Remarks & Thanks
Sharif A. Shivji KC, Chairman of Advocate

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Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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Place Campbell
Chartered Certified Accountants

Oscar Davies

Garden Court Chambers

Susana Ferrín Pérez

No5 Barristers

Anna Hoffmann

4 Pump Court

Tinessa Kaur

4BB Chambers

Liam Kelly

Deans Court Chambers

Jagoda Klimowicz

Brick Court Chambers

Charlotte Mallin-Martin

Guildhall Chambers

Nadia O'Mara

Garden Court Chambers

Joshua Pemberton

Brick Court Chambers

George Penny

187 Chambers

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Oscar Davies

Garden Court Chambers

“Their tireless efforts of advocating for inclusivity in the legal system serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for young aspiring barristers.”



Oscar provides pro bono support to their community in many different ways, both publicly and privately. As the first barrister to come out publicly as non-binary and use the honorific ‘Mx’ in court, they are a strong advocate for providing legal information on issues affecting non-binary, gender non-conforming and transgender individuals. Oscar's efforts extend beyond theory, with practical impact on both affected communities and the broader public.

Oscar is a fierce proponent for pro bono work, and completed 25 hours via Advocate in 2023. Oscar takes on cases that directly affect minorities, especially those in the LGBT+ community. Oscar has assisted at least 15 transgender or non-binary clients over the last year in employment matters, including for a case via Advocate where Oscar was able to attain a £20,000 settlement and a pro bono costs order. Recently, Oscar was able to help a non-binary pupil who had been permanently excluded from their school by attending the hearing in Liverpool. Oscar advocated on the pupil’s behalf, with the result being that the decision to exclude was quashed.

advocate



Susana Ferrín Pérez

No5 Barristers

“Ms Ferrín’s work is of the very highest quality, she is careful, thoughtful and meticulous.”



Susana’s commitment to pro bono work has been noticed by her clerking team since the beginning of her career at the Bar. As a pupil barrister during her second six, she undertook the Advocate Pupil Pledge in 2023. Following her offer of tenancy at No5 Barristers’ Chambers, she has also become a member of the Birmingham Advocate Bar Pro Bono Group, where she contributes to raising awareness and finding pathways to develop pro bono engagement for both junior and senior members of the Bar.

As an immigration practitioner, she joined the rota at Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) in April 2023, and has continued to be on it ever since. Instructed by BID, Susana has represented vulnerable individuals who are detained under immigration powers in hearings where their deprivation of liberty is at stake. During her second six, she requested that at least two days a month be blocked from her diary for her to be able to undertake this important work.

In addition, Susana has also accepted a referral from refugee and migrant advocacy charity Migrants Organise and has successfully represented an extremely vulnerable asylum-seeker in his protection appeal on a pro bono basis.

advocate



Anna Hoffmann

4 Pump Court

“The pro bono support that Colours Caribbean received from Anna has been exceptional particularly in assisting to navigate a complex and politically sensitive legal matter with dedication and professionalism.”



Anna has had a clear commitment to pro bono work for many years and she is an active voice in Chambers urging more juniors and silks to consider pro bono work. People regularly turn to her for advice on accepting pro bono instructions from both Advocate and other sources.

This year, her commitment to this work and the profile of her pro bono cases has gone up significantly. In 2023, Anna has cumulatively spent well over 3 months dedicated to pro bono matters.

Her work focuses on widening access to justice for excluded and marginalised groups such as LGBTQI+ people, as well as promoting cases that are fundamental to a sustainable future based on the rule of law, most notably for environmental charities and her work on protest laws. Anna has undertaken work to ensure that all sides have excellent legal representation and something closer to equality of arms, if not resources.

Anna is acting for a Caribbean LGBTQI+ organisation with Alex Potts KC in an intervention on a case that is currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights. This case concerns same-sex marriage in Bermuda, but also the wider relationship between the Bermudian Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights.

advocate



Tinessa Kaur

4BB Chambers, Kaur's Legal UK

“Her advice was always grounded in a solid understanding of the law, yet tailored to our specific context, a balancing act that she managed with remarkable finesse.”



Tinessa was called to the Bar in 2019 and secured pupillage in 2023. After facing much adversity, it took Tinessa nine years to obtain pupillage after starting the Bar Course in 2013/14. However, her success today is a testament to her determination and resilience.

Tinessa has dedicated a lot of time to pro bono work for underrepresented communities. She runs a legal clinic and on top of this also founded the Sikh Lawyers Association, where she has hosted and organised a number of successful events. This includes a sold-out workshop on pupillage and training contract applications, as well as arranging mock interviews for prospective applicants. She always makes these events accessible to all regardless of faith or background. Tinessa also runs anti-gang workshops and offers mentoring for young people, sharing from her own lived experiences. Furthermore, she has participated as a Judge in the Young Citizen's Bar Mock Trials for over 200 schools who are at a disadvantage to entering the legal profession, helping promote access to the Bar.

In total, Tinessa dedicates around 30 hours a week to pro bono work, providing pro bono services wherever possible and encouraging other barristers to follow suit.

advocate



Liam Kelly

Deans Court Chambers

“Liam’s skillful and eloquent manner in court shone through and his advice helped me through the long day.”



Liam Kelly was called to the Bar in 2019. Since joining Deans Court Chambers’ family team, he has developed his practice to become an exceptional junior barrister and valued member of the team.

Liam joined the Advocate panel in March 2020 and since then has completed well over 100 hours of Pro Bono work during his short time at the Bar. This includes Advocate’s 25 for 25 Pro Bono Challenge in 2022, as well as participating in the Pro Bono Pledge in 2023, where he completed more than 50 hours of pro bono work.

Liam’s commitment to pro bono work and his clients is evident. For example, while working on a complex case where a mother was about to have her young son removed from her care, he went above and beyond for his client and was able to gain a stay of execution from an out of hours judge at 9pm via video link. He subsequently drafted grounds of appeal and a skeleton argument overnight to gain a further stay, until the matter could be heard by the Court of Appeal several days later. He went on to win the case for the client. The often large and complex nature of Liam’s pro bono cases is extremely noteworthy, especially alongside his already busy case load as a popular junior barrister in Chambers.

His high-quality service and exceptional preparation are unwavering, and he constantly provides a top-class service to all who instruct him.

advocate



Jagoda Klimowicz

Brick Court Chambers

“It is hard to put into words what a world of difference it made having Jagoda represent us.”



Since the beginning of her legal career in 2022, Jagoda has pro-actively sought out a wide variety of pro bono work, despite her limited previous experience in legal practice or the charity sector prior to coming to the Bar. Jagoda dedicated a significant amount of time to pro bono work in 2023, logging over 130 pro bono hours. The pro bono cases she has taken on have been at every level of the court system, both led and unled, and in three different areas of law. All three cases have had a positive outcome for the individuals represented.

Jagoda’s first unled case in practice was a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal via Advocate. The appellant was a vulnerable woman with documented physical disabilities and mental health issues. Despite this, the PIP assessor had awarded her zero points. Jagoda advised the appellant and provided representation at the appeal hearing, heard in September 2022. The appellant was successful, and obtained 11 points for the daily living component and 8 points for the mobility component, entitling her to the standard rate of PIP in each category.

Jagoda also encourages others in Chambers to donate their time and resources to pro bono work and takes part in Chambers’ charity fundraising.

advocate



Charlotte Mallin-Martin

Guildhall Chambers

**“Lottie’s enthusiasm is infectious,
and she is a shining example of
championing pro bono work.”**



Charlotte Mallin-Martin is a 2019-call barrister who has been a member of Guildhall Chambers in Bristol since October 2021 following the successful completion of her pupillage. She is building a busy practice as a junior in Commercial and Employment law.

Lottie is the Pro Bono Champion in Chambers, with a passion for her own pro bono work as well as encouraging and facilitating others in their pro bono efforts. Lottie has been instrumental in driving the development of several pro bono initiatives across the Western Circuit. At a time when pro bono activity outside London needs to be re-energised, Lottie can be relied upon to do just that and more.

Her role as Chambers’ pro bono coordinator ties in well with her voluntary role as the pro bono representative for the Western Circuit, a role she was asked by the Circuit to assume in October 2022, just one year after finishing pupillage.

Lottie has also been heavily involved in re-launching the Exeter Family Law Clinic in the Exeter Combined Court, in collaboration with Advocate and CASS+. Lottie delivered the soft launch for that Clinic in mid-January 2024 to thirty attendees, securing the support of the senior and junior judiciary.

advocate



Nadia O'Mara

Garden Court Chambers

“This holistic approach sets her apart, making her a true champion for justice.”



Nadia has a strong commitment to representing the most vulnerable clients pro bono in highly complex matters where legal expertise is essential. The main focus of Nadia's pro bono work is family reunification, immigration bail and school exclusions. She does most of her pro bono work with charities and organisations including Safe Passage, Just for Kids Law (now at Coram Children's Legal Centre) and Bail for Immigration Detainees.

Examples of cases Nadia has been involved in include successfully representing an 11-year-old boy with ADHD who was permanently excluded from school for pushing the headteacher, as well as representing a young person who was Black, had a diagnosis of ADHD and suffered from mental health issues who was also excluded from school.

Nadia also represented a client who had severe learning disabilities and lacked capacity, on a case where he was assaulted by the police using excessive, brutal force. The family was so grateful to Nadia, telling her she had a “beautiful spirit” and that they were glad that she was representing them because they could see “the fire in her belly to fight injustice”.

advocate



Joshua Pemberton

Brick Court Chambers

“Joshua has demonstrated a real flair for combining formidable legal analysis with superb client care skills.”



Joshua has shown exceptional dedication to increasing opportunities for access to justice since commencing practice as a tenant at Brick Court Chambers in late 2022, in particular (though not only) through his pro bono work on behalf of asylum seekers.

Joshua has worked on three major streams of pro bono work since joining Chambers. One of which, he was (and remains) instructed pro bono by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”) in respect of the legal challenge to the government’s policy of sending certain asylum seekers to Rwanda for their claims to be determined in that country (*AAA and others v. The Secretary of State for the Home Department*). Joshua appeared for the UNHCR in its interventions in the claimants’ successful appeals in the Court of Appeal (a four-day hearing in April, with judgment handed down in June) and the Supreme Court (a three day hearing in October, with judgment handed down in November).

Joshua worked extensively on all aspects of the case, including working on UNHCR’s witness evidence, researching international and domestic law, drafting submissions and preparing leading counsel for oral submissions. Across the course of 2023, Joshua recorded a total of 464 hours of pro bono work on this case.

advocate



George Penny

187 Chambers

“It is remarkable for a pupil to do a case in the Court of Appeal, let alone pro bono and in an area of law which differs from that of their pupillage Chambers.”



George joined 187 Chambers in October 2022 as a pupil, and from the start has shown great interest in pro bono work.

Most special in terms of George’s achievements is his involvement in a Court of Appeal case. The case raised important issues about whether the minimum safety standards which arise under the 2004 Housing Act apply to property guardians. George has now helped to establish that these people are entitled to the protections afforded by the 2004 Act, affecting thousands of property guardians, which is an impressive achievement while still only a pupil.

Furthermore, George has completed advice in one Advocate case and is looking to take on a number of others. For example, time is booked in his diary to represent the client he advised in her upcoming First-tier Tribunal hearing if her matter ultimately reaches trial. The case involves a vulnerable property guardian illegally evicted from her accommodation and with no means by which to pay privately for legal representation. He prepared a lengthy written advice and continued to answer emailed questions, allowing her to get her claim off the ground.

George has been involved with the Criminal Bar Association International Committee. On that committee, he coordinated a group of more senior practitioners in responding to a potential pro bono appeal to the Privy Council from a person serving a murder sentence in the Cayman Islands.

advocate



Pro Bono KC of the Year

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Hewetson & Co

Sophie Cartwright KC
Deans Court Chambers

Andrew de Mestre KC
4 Stone Buildings

Laura Dubinsky KC
Doughty Street Chambers

Samantha Hillas KC
St John's Buildings

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Sophie Cartwright KC

Deans Court Chambers

“Sophie is a stellar advocate, who displays empathy and understanding to her client while always remaining professional and respectful at all times.”



As Chambers Pro Bono Champion, Sophie is one of the first people to emphasise the importance of pro bono work in any practice. She completed the Advocate 25 for 25 Pro Bono Challenge, one of 3 members of Deans Court to do so, and was one of only a few Northern Circuit Silks to complete this. As a Pro Bono Champion, Sophie is passionate and takes her role seriously, regularly being involved in meetings and events about pro bono work.

In recent times, Sophie has been involved in a complex and difficult judicial review matter for an inquest case through Advocate. The Applicant tragically lost their 4-year-old son, and Sophie has spent many hours working tirelessly on this matter and laboured hard to achieve a favourable outcome for her client.

At the recent inquest into the death of Nicola 'Nikki' Bulley, Terry Wilcox of Hudgell Solicitors and Sophie were instructed to represent the family on a pro bono basis with the assistance of both Advocate and Pro Bono Connect. At the end of the hearing, His Majesty's Senior Coroner Dr James Adeley thanked the legal team and noted that they had undertaken representation of the family "on a pro bono basis because they felt that it was the right thing to do."

advocate



Andrew de Mestre KC

4 Stone Buildings

“The work that Andrew has done in developing the CLIPS [scheme] has been of invaluable assistance to Chancery judges in London and the regional centres.”



Andrew de Mestre KC took over the role of the Chair of the Chancery Bar Association Pro Bono Subcommittee in 2019 and has been building a rapport with Advocate, the judiciary, his subcommittee colleagues and volunteers ever since to enhance the smooth running of the CLIPS (Chancery Bar Litigants in Person Support) scheme.

When Andrew took over, volunteering levels were declining. Under his management, they have not just revived but thrived. Last year was a particularly outstanding year for the scheme on its 10th birthday, with virtually every slot filled. As a result, dozens of LIPs received help that would otherwise not have been available, and the Courts were better able to deal fairly and efficiently with their cases. During the course of the year, CLIPS provided a fantastic 248 days of volunteering across the High Court and in Central London volunteers came from a record 56 different sets of Chambers and law firms. The record-breaking volunteering on these schemes is directly attributable to the efforts made by Andrew in attracting new volunteers and persuading the old hands to redouble their efforts.

He also assisted with the setting up of various regional CLIPS schemes by sharing his knowledge of these types of pro bono schemes and giving his time to support them. There are now regional schemes launched in Newcastle, Leeds and Birmingham, all of which benefitted greatly from Andrew's expertise.

advocate



Laura Dubinsky KC

Doughty Street Chambers

“Laura brings a real strategic insight and expertise to her work which is of huge benefit to her pro bono clients and solicitors.”



Laura led a team of barristers, silks and juniors to gather evidence against the Rwanda policy. Here they considered and drafted careful legal observations based on international refugee and human rights law, and explained to the court the fine points of domestic asylum procedure. She worked diligently to get drafts cleared by UNHCR colleagues in Brussels, Geneva, London, Nairobi and Kigali, managing all of their different views and concerns with great skill. This required thousands of hours on a pro bono basis. It also needed tireless advocacy and patience to resolve internal disputes, including amongst colleagues not well versed in UK process, rules of evidence or legal standards.

Laura was the keynote speaker at the UNHCR’s annual European Litigation Conference in Brussels. Her presentation, covering both the Rwanda case as well as other UNHCR work over the years, left the audience better prepared to engage in pro bono litigation.

advocate



Samantha Hillas KC

St John's Buildings

“Sam quickly absorbed all the detail in the case to bring it under her expert management and control.”



Samantha volunteers at the Temple Law Centre providing free legal advice to litigants in person anticipating or within financial remedy proceedings. Although the Clinic is largely set up for advice and only occasionally offers support with applications, Samantha has gone on to represent court clients she has advised at the clinic.

Samantha recently led on a pro bono case alongside a junior barrister and instructed by Advocate. Samantha represented the mother in her application for housing provision for her twin children, one of whom has cerebral palsy. At the time, the mother and her children had been living with the client's mother who was suffering from very advanced Alzheimer's, which was not an appropriate environment for young children to be living in. Samantha agreed to represent the client at several hearings, including at a Financial Dispute Resolution Hearing and a 3-day trial, in order to support the mother and try and achieve the best possible outcome for her and her children.

On top of this, Samantha also offers help and support to pupillage candidates from a variety of backgrounds, and promotes access to the Bar in general. Samantha has played a huge role in the vital work of Advocate. She recently attended a pro bono seminar in Manchester and was on the panel to speak about the work of Advocate and how other barristers can get involved.

advocate



International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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Aarif Abraham

Doughty Street Chambers

Ali Al-Karim

Brick Court Chambers

Clare Bishop

FOURTEEN

Haydee Dijkstal

33 Bedford Row

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Aarif Abraham

Doughty Street Chambers

“He provided comprehensive legal directions to the Panel that issued a judgement which received world-wide attention.”



Aarif, a barrister specialising in public international and international criminal law, has dedicated over 1000 hours to pro bono work in the past year alone. This time has been spent ensuring accountability for international matters including the genocide and other ongoing crimes against the Yazidis in Iraq and Syria, as well as unlawful aggression in Ukraine and atrocity crimes facing several minorities around the world, such as the Uyghurs, Rohingya and Hazaras. A large amount of this work has been done through the international NGO Accountability Unit, which Aarif founded in 2016.

Aarif in the past year has engaged in high impact pro bono work in public international law and international criminal law. This has been valuable to not only his clients but to the greater public, in particular to under-represented and marginalised groups such as the Yazidis, Hazaras, Uyghurs, and Rohingya.

Aarif acted as an external legal and political advisor to various inquiries, initiatives and legislation including on the Genocide Determination Bill, Genocide Prevention Bill, the Hazara Inquiry and various All Party Parliamentary Groups concerning international law and foreign policy.

advocate



Ali Al-Karim

Brick Court Chambers

“Ali is an exceptionally impressive and intelligent barrister who is strongly committed to advancing the rights of refugees and migrants worldwide.”

BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Ali has dedicated over 250 pro bono hours to international legal work in the last year, specialising on key cases to protect and advance rights of refugees and migrants in different jurisdictions and international courts. Ali has been instructed to advise on and intervene in key refugee and migrant rights litigation across the world, including in the Caribbean, Colombia, Mexico, Kenya and Malaysia.

In each of these cases, Ali has been compassionate and dynamic in his leadership. Ali is a kind and thoughtful advocate who takes into account the best interests of the clients at all times. More uniquely, Ali brings his own lived experience as a former refugee from Iraq to the heart of his pro bono work and is sensitive to the struggles of all his clients.

Recently, Ali supported an expert report in an extremely important test-case related to the protection of those seeking political asylum and the principle of non-refoulement as a part of customary international law in Malaysia. If this case is successful in the courts, it will have a significant and in many cases a life-saving impact on asylum-seekers and refugees in Malaysia currently under threat of deportation, despite their risk of persecution upon return.

advocate



Clare Bishop

FOURTEEN

“Clare has a commitment to social justice and is highly recommended for her pro bono work in International Family Child cases.”



Clare has assisted on six pieces of pro bono work in the last year and two of these pieces have been related to international family law. She has dedicated over 75 pro bono hours since becoming a second six pupil, and has appeared in the High Court in relation to these cases.

Her pro bono cases have enabled Clare to develop her experience in the specialist area of international family law. One of her cases involved working on a family case brought under the Hague Convention for a child to return to France and to his father. Clare represented the respondent mother. Despite being up against an international expert who had significant experience in this area of law, Clare managed to dismiss the case on the basis that it should not have been brought under the Hague Convention in the first instance. The case was subsequently moved to the Central Family Courts, where Clare continued to assist the mother.

Clare also provided very detailed advice to a mother on a case concerning whether she should take her children to Iraq in light of concerns from the Local Authority. Clare meticulously examined multiple country expert reports and provided advice to show that the area of Iraq the mother was travelling to was deemed to be safe and that she should be allowed to travel.

advocate



Haydee Dijkstal

33 Bedford Row

“Haydee has brought a sense of understanding, reassurance and clarity to what has been an extremely difficult and challenging time for our family.”



Haydee was named as a finalist for the International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year award in 2022. During 2023, Haydee has completed over 300 hours of pro bono work and assisted on cases ranging from human rights fact-finding missions to conduct trainings.

Haydee has undertaken pro bono work on issues in Ukraine, such as legal representation for Ukrainian victims and trainings to support domestic access to justice for international crimes in Ukraine. Alongside this, her pro bono work has also focused on other global issues. These include assisting British nationals arbitrarily detained or held hostage abroad, as well as assisting their families in order to help see them released and reunited with their loved ones in the UK.

She has also volunteered her time to advancing human rights issues and access to justice through her participation on fact finding missions in countries such as Guatemala and Nepal, where she has spent time gathering information from impacted communities. Much of the pro bono work she has conducted in 2023 is ongoing and continues into 2024.

advocate



Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year

Dads House

**3VB International Advisory & Dispute
Resolution Unit (IADRU)**

Lawyers Against Poverty

Schools Consent Project

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Dads House

“I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the remarkable impact of their efforts and the positive effects their work has on families.”



William (Billy) McGranaghan founded Dads House in May 2020 to deliver free legal advice. They seek to help families, specifically fathers, who are desperately in need of legal help through their family law clinic. Since its inception, Dads House Family Law Clinic has assisted over 400 Mums and Dads.

Their pro bono team comprises of experienced barristers, solicitors, and dedicated student interns, with a recently appointed family law clinic manager, and is based at the Dads House headquarters in Fulham.

Billy and the family law clinic manager, Ceri, manage the clinic and its enquiries. The legal team assists clients on form filling, advice, casework and in court with representation, as well as providing holistic support and coaching.

The impact of Dads House also extends far beyond the legal realm. It provides foodbanks, a breakfast club, cookery classes, football, yoga and guitar sessions, but their main objective is always providing desperate people with access to justice.

advocate



3VB International Advisory & Dispute Resolution Unit

“IADRU’s pro bono efforts, particularly in international contexts, are an extension of 3VB’s longstanding commitment to providing high-quality legal representation, irrespective of financial means.”



International Advisory
& Dispute Resolution Unit

Founded in 2019 by the esteemed members of 3 Verulam Buildings (3VB), the International Advisory and Dispute Resolution Unit (IADRU) represents a pioneering commitment to promoting the rule of law, enhancing access to justice, and building robust legal frameworks worldwide. Guided by the vision of Sir William Blair and Sir Ross Cranston, and led by Ali Malek KC and Jane Davies Evans, IADRU is dedicated to empowering communities and institutions in emerging markets.

IADRU's mission is the commitment to capacity building and the provision of high-quality legal advisory services. Their focus is broad, encompassing governments, state-owned enterprises, and international organisations, with the aim of advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

IADRU’s activities are diverse and impactful, ranging from specialised training and workshops to fostering international dialogues on critical issues such as gender empowerment, financial inclusion, and public international law. Notably, their programs have attracted and benefitted legal professionals and judges from countries like Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, The Gambia, and Brazil, highlighting IADRU’s role in facilitating knowledge exchange and enhancing legal expertise globally.

advocate



Lawyers Against Poverty

“LAP’s sessions empower our clients, giving them the knowledge and the confidence they need to understand the UK system and begin to advocate for their rights.”

**LAWYERS
AGAINST
POVERTY**



The Lawyers Against Poverty (LAP) Community Legal Confidence Programme engages members of the Bar in the delivery of workshops to provide vital information to refugee communities in England and Wales about their rights as individuals living in the UK. The programme has been growing for a number of years and builds on a series of cross-party reports, which have found that people seeking sanctuary are at high risk of long-term destitution due to the absence of legal support during the process of integration.

Building legal confidence is different to providing legal advice, and this is an important gap to fill. This gap in legal provision has been shown to lead to issues with employment, housing, welfare, healthcare, debt, education, and child protection. LAP aim to address this through a volunteer-led approach, engaging members of the Bar as legal educators to deliver legal confidence sessions in partnership with refugee charities, helping beneficiaries to navigate these day-to-day legal issues in order to avoid longer-term hardship and social exclusion.

LAP lawyers connect with refugee support organisations in their communities and work in small volunteer teams to deliver a series of sessions tailored to the needs of organisations and beneficiaries.

advocate



Schools Consent Project

“The charity is helping to break a cycle of silence on the topic of consent.”

**schools
consent
project**

Founded by a criminal barrister, the Schools Consent Project is a charity that sends lawyers and law students into schools to teach 11-18 year olds the legal definition of consent and key sexual offences.

For nearly a decade, they have delivered their work in schools across the UK, successfully educating over 40,000 young people through their network of over 260 lawyers (including barristers, pupil barristers, and Bar students). In 2023, they expanded their work to the Royal Air Force and the English Football League across 72 clubs.

Their lawyer-led workshops explore a wide range of issues ranging from understanding the legal definition of consent and how to communicate consent, to bystander intervention and ways to support a friend's disclosure and options in the event of an assault.

Their volunteers use their legal training to be at the frontline of social change and help change young people's behaviour and attitudes for the better.

The aim of the Schools Consent Project is to increase consent-literacy amongst young people. We believe that education is prevention. They aim to normalise conversations about consent to encourage safe, healthy interactions.

advocate



Pro Bono Chambers of the Year

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SOLUTIONS
LLP

1GC Family Law

3PB

4PB

Landmark Chambers

Ten Old Square

Headline Sponsor



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advocate



1GC Family Law

“Those involved are entitled to respect and gratitude for all that they have done over many hours and days during these past eight months.”

1GC | Family Law

1GC Family Law is a specialist family law Chambers comprising 100 members and a support team of 20 staff.

Barristers at 1GC, from pupils to Silks, recognise the importance of pro bono work and endeavour to incorporate it into their practice. Annabel Barrons has been 1GC’s Pro Bono Champion for the past three years, and this year she handed the baton over to Louise Verroken-Jones. Both are passionate supporters of pro bono at the junior end. Pupils are strongly encouraged to take on pro bono cases in their final six and are supported by senior members when they do so.

In 2023, members took on various cases via Advocate, with nine different barristers in total taking on 25 pieces of work. 1GC also have three members of Chambers who are regularly reviewing Advocate cases: Andrew Bagchi KC, Malcolm Chisholm and John Stocker. To encourage engagement, emails are circulated every week and senior members are encouraged to point out cases that might be appropriate for juniors.

1GC is keen to support Advocate’s work more widely and were delighted to be able to host the Family Bar Pro Bono Week event at which the Court of Protection scheme and Advocate’s successful target to place 50 family cases in a month was launched. Louise Verroken-Jones was instrumental in helping to place this target by encouraging members of 1GC and colleagues at other Chambers to take part.

advocate



3PB

“3PB and their commitment and passion for pro bono work is nothing less than exceptional.”

The logo for 3PB Barristers, featuring the letters '3PB' in a large, bold, serif font, with the word 'BARRISTERS' in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font underneath.

3PB (3 Paper Buildings) has a longstanding history of giving back to the community by offering free legal advice and representation across multiple areas of law. For over 100 years, 3PB’s large and diverse team of barristers, ranging from seasoned veterans to newly qualified practitioners, have dedicated time and resources to pro bono services, whether as advocates in the courts, in specialist tribunals, or advising on specific legal issues.

In total, they have estimated their contribution during 2023 to have been legal services valued at £1.85 million delivered by 42 barristers in Chambers. These barristers have contributed at least three weeks to pro bono legal work every year, and some significantly more than that.

Collaboration lies at the heart of 3PB’s pro bono ethos. They take pride in their active participation in the Employment Lawyers Advice Scheme (ELAS), Community Legal Information and Participation Service (CLIPS), and the Business and Property Courts Appeal Scheme in London.

In 2023, 3PB’s large and diverse team of practitioners ranging from King’s Counsel to newly qualified barristers have advised and acted pro bono for over 70 clients through Advocate, other schemes and for clients directly.

advocate



4PB

“I am sure we couldn’t have reached this point without 4PB’s support.”

The logo for 4PB, consisting of the letters '4pb' in a bold, teal, lowercase sans-serif font.

4PB is established as a leading set of specialist family law barristers in London. With a long history of publicly funded work, 4PB is proud that it plays a vital role in providing pro bono assistance to community projects and individuals, often vulnerable, who lack legal support and advice.

In the last 12 months, nearly 40% of barristers at 4PB - from pupils to silks - have provided pro bono assistance to individuals. This has been done through Advocate, as well as other charities including Not Beyond Redemption and Dads House, working with solicitors (also acting pro bono) and where appropriate by direct access. It has included advising in conference, drafting documents, and providing representation in forums which have ranged from applications before magistrates to hearings before the President of the Family Division in the Court of Appeal.

4PB’s work has resulted in parents securing regular contact with their children, the return of children to the jurisdiction, protection from domestic abuse, and, most importantly, the opportunity for members of the public to participate fully in proceedings which were fundamental to them and their families’ futures.

advocate



Landmark Chambers

“It is clear that a culture of supporting access to justice runs right the way through Landmark Chambers. Every year they find new ways to engage their members in pro bono work, which they do with great success.”

Landmark
Chambers

In 2023, barristers from Landmark Chambers have appeared pro bono in the Supreme Court to represent two charities in their appeals: Crisis (the homelessness charity) and Safer Renting (a charity supporting tenants against rogue landlords). Landmark members have also appeared in the Court of Appeal on behalf of the Housing Law Practitioners Association in a case concerning access to justice for social housing tenants, as well as acted for property guardians in a case concerning whether landlord licensing laws apply to guardian companies. Landmark members have also appeared in various High Court and Upper Tribunal cases on a pro bono basis, including one where a pensioner was represented in a dispute with his landlord over unreasonable service charges, as well as one in connection to a bail application for an asylum seeker. This is in addition to assisting on numerous county court and First-tier Tribunal cases.

26 pieces of pro bono work with Advocate were undertaken by nine barristers from Landmark Chambers in 2023. They have also participated in the Chambers Pro Bono Framework, a pro bono initiative set up by Advocate to encourage pro bono work in Chambers.

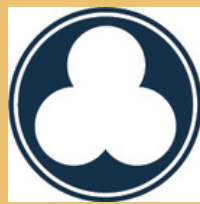
Landmark members have taken on pro bono work beyond Advocate. For example, they have assisted on pro bono cases with charities such as the Environmental Law Foundation and Bail for Immigration Detainees, as well as working on pro bono cases with solicitors.

advocate



Ten Old Square

“We were so grateful for Ten Old Square’s assistance yesterday. First class performance before and in court.”



TEN OLD SQUARE
CHANCERY AND COMMERCIAL BARRISTERS

Ten Old Square is a small, specialist Chancery set of barristers’ Chambers based in Lincoln’s Inn.

Pro Bono work has been at the core of their collective Chambers’ ethos for a number of years, with their Senior Clerk winning a “Pro Bono Hero” award when Advocate was still known as the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

During the past year, 8 members of Ten Old Square, which is around one third of their total membership, undertook pro bono work for Advocate. This work includes taking on individual cases as well as volunteering under the Chancery Bar Association’s Litigant in Person Support Scheme (“CLIPS”). A total of fourteen days were dedicated to the CLIPS Scheme by members of Ten Old Square in 2023.

Individual cases members have worked on this year have included supporting vulnerable applicants with complex proceedings involving trusts, wills, tax and property disputes. Chambers members have also volunteered with local legal advice clinics in other fields including employment, housing and immigration. One member has spent seventy hours doing this in the last year, showing their extended commitment to pro bono in the wider community.

advocate



Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year

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The
Legal
Practice
Management
Association

Luke Carvalho
Brick Court Chambers

Matt Gibbons
Deans Court Chambers

Agnes Gitau
3 Verulam Buildings

Mark Ronson
Kings Chambers

Headline Sponsor



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advocate



Luke Carvalho

Brick Court Chambers

“I have no doubt that his efforts are a key cause of the culture at Brick Court Chambers.”



As Deputy Senior Clerk of Brick Court Chambers, Luke works to encourage barristers at all levels of seniority to make pro bono work a fundamental part of their practice. He also plays a key role in equipping junior clerks to handle pro bono cases effectively.

Luke’s rapport with the Advocate casework team has been pivotal in allowing barristers to be matched with cases suited to their individual skillset and interests. In the past 12-months, Chambers members have dedicated over 600 hours of their time to help those in need of pro bono assistance.

Luke has also led several initiatives to promote pro bono work at Brick Court Chambers. This includes introducing a session on pro bono to the induction process for newly qualified pupils in Chambers. As a result, pro bono is now a standing item on the agenda of practice review meetings between barristers and clerks, and he supervises the process whereby quarterly pro bono activity is monitored.

As well as promoting pro bono work, Luke has been heavily involved in Brick Court’s fundraising endeavours. In 2021, he participated in several events as part of a campaign celebrating the Chambers’ centenary which raised over £265,000 for charities including Advocate and the Access to Justice Foundation. Thanks largely to Luke’s support, Brick Court Chambers is also an inaugural Pro Bono Gold Patron of Advocate.

advocate



Matt Gibbons

Deans Court Chambers

“Matt continuously strives to improve the working environment of staff and members alike both in terms of professional development and personal wellbeing.”



Matt has been instrumental in encouraging members of Deans Court Chambers to take part in pro bono initiatives. For example, in 2022, Deans Court members were the only barristers on the Northern circuit to have completed the 25 for 25 Pro Bono Challenge, thanks largely to Matt’s support.

Matt has assisted in the promotion of Advocate’s pro bono seminars held in chambers across the circuit to show the importance of pro bono work and the practice development opportunities it can provide. Matt also works alongside the Head of Chambers to outline the benefits of Advocate to the Management Committee. Chambers has also committed to donating £3,000 to Advocate as a Silver Pro Bono Patron.

In March 2023, the Supreme Court chose Deans Court Chambers to host an event to mark the historic occasion of the Supreme Court sitting in Manchester for the first time. Matt ensured a diverse and inclusive audience made up the attendance. He invited members from all sets in Manchester, including local solicitors, dignitaries and groups such as the Black Solicitors Network. It was a sell-out event.

advocate



Agnes Gitau

3 Verulam Buildings

“Agnes brings to all these projects energy, administrative skills, and above all, vision and commitment.”



As the coordinator of 3VB’s International Advisory and Dispute Resolution Unit (IADRU) – an organisation that works with international institutions to strengthen the rule of law – Agnes’s work highlights the importance of pro bono work in achieving a meaningful global impact.

Her practice primarily focusses on issues affecting the African continent. She is a board member of the Eastern Africa Association and a partner at the advisory services firm GBS Africa. Her interests also include sustainable trade development and women in trade. To put this into practice, she has committed IADRU to working towards the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals of combating climate change, gender inequality and poverty.

Her 12 years of experience in the field of international business development and public affairs has equipped her with the skills necessary to thrive in leadership roles. Agnes heads the committee responsible for the annual Eastern Africa Arbitration Conference, the authoritative platform on arbitration matters in Africa. She also supports African practice development across leading UK-based international law firms.

Through the IADRU, she has been heavily involved in the promotion of pro bono work in Chambers, as well as encouraging the provision of advice, drafting services and advocacy at reduced rates when clients would otherwise be denied access to representation.

advocate



Mark Ronson

Kings Chambers

“His positive, proactive and encouraging approach to pro bono work has transformed Chambers’ approach.”



Mark has worked closely with Advocate since 2020 and in that time has developed strong relationships with caseworkers and implemented systems in chambers to encourage and facilitate the uptake of pro bono work. He has made efforts to champion the benefits of pro bono work amongst barristers at all levels, organising a number of training sessions. Mark’s dedication and efforts in championing this area has led to an increase in the uptake of pro bono work at Kings Chambers over the last 12 months.

Mark has implemented a number of systems in Chambers to streamline the pro bono process. He has set up email groups for those on the panel and shares a weekly summary of cases with targeted emails depending on preferred areas of law. Mark and his team have clerked many pro bono cases, with 18 pieces of pro bono work undertaken in 2022 and 19 in 2023.

Every year, Mark organises a seminar for second six pupils to encourage uptake and participation in pro bono work. Mark explains what Advocate is, how it works and the benefits of signing up, and calls upon members who have taken on cases to share their experiences. As well as encouraging people to take on pro bono cases, Mark has also played a key role in recruiting reviewers. Mark is responsible for setting up in house training with Advocate as part of Chambers’ commitment to completing a minimum number of pro bono hours. In the last 12 months, ten members have attended these training sessions.

advocate



Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year

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WESTGATE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Cecily Crampin

Falcon Chambers

Rob George

Harcourt Chambers

William Horwood

St Philips Chambers

Jennifer MacLeod

Brick Court Chambers

Scarlett Milligan

39 Essex Chambers

Anna Moradi

12KBW

Matthew Parfitt

Erskine Chambers

Yasin Patel

Church Court Chambers

Charlotte Pope-Williams

3 Hare Court

Jake Rudman

Hatton Chambers

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Cecily Crampin

Falcon Chambers

“She is not one of those who shouts her worthiness from the rooftops: she quietly gets on with a job which she thinks needs doing.”



Cecily has been a reviewer for Advocate since late 2019 in the area of property law. She also regularly offers to mentor cases and has worked to mentor her then pupil, Taylor Briggs, on a complicated mortgage related case for a client who is vulnerable and homeless. Not only has this helped ensure assistance for the client, but it has also encouraged Taylor to implement pro bono work from early in her career.

In Chambers, Cecily is taking a lead on an initiative to encourage the take up of pro bono work amongst second six pupils, mentored by herself or a pupil supervisor. Cecily has also recruited six new reviewers from Chambers to review property law cases, and at a day's notice ran their training session when the scheduled trainer fell ill.

As a member of the Property Bar Association Committee in 2021, she became aware that at an Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) user group meeting, the Deputy President of the Chamber, Martin Rodger KC, was asking practitioners for assistance. She set up a meeting in August 2021 with him and Advocate to discuss the best method of increasing the awareness of Advocate by litigants in person in Lands Chamber cases. Thanks to Cecily, this led to the inclusion of standard Advocate contact information in orders granting permission to appeal or giving case management directions, helping more litigants in need in these cases.

advocate



Rob George

Harcourt Chambers

“His empathetic approach to client care and exceptional professionalism could not have been a greater comfort.”



Rob has engaged in two outstanding pieces of pro bono work this year, alongside more ‘everyday’ pro bono support.

The first is a case before the President of the Family Division in a Step-Parent Adoption case, where Rob acted pro bono for a step-father. The applicant and his 17-year-old step-son sought a step-parent adoption order. However, the client’s wife (the child’s biological mother) had died 3 years earlier, meaning the law did not permit that order to be made in this case. Rob identified this issue at a first hearing and had the case transferred to the High Court, listed before the President. He successfully argued that the provisions were an accidental breach of the step-father’s and the child’s Article 8 rights, and that the court should use section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to ‘read down’ the legislation so as to allow an applicant to obtain a step-parent adoption order after their partner’s death.

Rob’s second major piece of pro bono work was in representing an Advocate Applicant in obtaining the return of his daughter to London following her unilateral removal to the far side of Ipswich by her mother. Rob attended two pre-hearing conferences with the client, and advised on and later reviewed drafts of the client’s statement which he was preparing himself.

advocate



William Horwood

St Philips Chambers

“He is a champion for pro bono work in Chambers as an advocate and as a pupil supervisor.”



William was called to the Bar in 2016 and completed pupillage at St Philips Chambers in 2017. He has always considered pro bono work to be important and was involved in student pro bono work whilst at Law School and Bar School. William is a family law specialist with a particular interest in public law and children work. He has taken on a significant amount of work through Advocate and has also taken on pro bono work from local solicitors.

William represented a domestic abuse victim in a civil claim brought against her by her ex-partner. William was able to cross-examine the ex-partner and ensure that the special measures put in place by the court were adhered to throughout. William succeeded in securing the dismissal of the claim in its entirety, meaning that the client avoided significant financial hardship.

William is also an active member of the Midland Circuit Pro Bono Committee. He is a pupil supervisor and has successfully encouraged pupils in chambers to undertake pro bono work at an early stage of their careers. William was awarded the Pro Bono Award by Birmingham Law Society in March 2023.

advocate



Jennifer MacLeod

Brick Court Chambers

“Jennifer Macleod is an outstanding lawyer and collaborator, who is generous with her superlative knowledge and skills.”



Jennifer has been consistently committed throughout her career to undertaking and championing pro bono work. She is a previous winner of the Young Pro Bono Barrister of the year Award. As she becomes more senior, her commitment to pro bono work is only growing. Not only does she continue to undertake a significant amount of pro bono work from year to year, but she also encourages and facilitates other members of Chambers (and indeed others across the Bar) to undertake such work. She has demonstrated commitment to a pro bono ethic through the dedication of considerable time and expertise and the undertaking of cases with substantial impact.

In her international pro bono work, Jennifer was successful when acting on behalf of the South African Human Rights Commission in relation to the arguments put forward on behalf of Caster Semenya, who complained of unfair discrimination by world athletics organisations (*Semenya v Switzerland, ECtHR*) as well as on behalf of the UNHCR in submitting that sex-based discrimination could entitle women to refugee status (*WS v Bulgaria, CJEU*).

Jennifer has an unwavering sense of fairness and justice, and her pro bono cases have never taken a back seat behind her other work.

advocate



Scarlett Milligan

39 Essex Chambers

“What sets Scarlett apart is that her commitment to her pro bono clients never wavers, no matter the personal cost.”



Scarlett has been committed to pro bono for many years. She has successfully helped individuals on several pro bono cases including working with a blind person to help him succeed in challenging the application of ‘bedroom tax’, as well as representing a single-parent in defending a road traffic claim which was not her fault and led to a series of fraudulent claims. Scarlett has also represented a woman with mental health difficulties and prevented the court ordering an injunction sought by the local council that would remove her from her home and her estate.

Scarlett has spent 60 hours on a pro bono case she took on at the start of 2023, where she agreed to represent a lady in the Court of Appeal to appeal a judicial review challenge. When Scarlett went through the papers, it became clear that the case could more fairly be described as a gordian knot. The client’s claim had been struck out as disclosing no reasonable case, with a costs order against her. Scarlett has spent around 60 hours on this case, and will no doubt spend more as she looks to combat the ethical issues raised by the case.

advocate



Anna Moradi

12KBW

“Despite a demanding schedule, she revealed remarkable professionalism by delivering timely advice, further contributing to our achievements.”



Despite winning ‘Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year (2022)’ and being a finalist for ‘International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year (2022)’, Anna has continued with her commitment to undertaking exceptional pro bono work.

In 2023, Anna’s pro bono services have continued to increase access to justice for individuals and victim groups globally. In the last year, she has worked on a number of pro bono cases in England and abroad including representing bereaved families in complicated inquests, to representing a vulnerable individual detained and tortured abroad in Asia with no free access to food or water.

She has also represented a group seeking to protect their land rights in a country suffering from drought, as well as immigration detainees in the UK, and has assisted an NGO representing the rights and opinions of millions of people with disabilities.

advocate



Matthew Parfitt

Erskine Chambers

“He pours his intellect into crafting crystal clear, excellent arguments.”



Matthew specialises in company and insolvency law, and completed more than 170 hours of pro bono work in 2023.

This time was spent predominantly on a case where he successfully acted for the principal respondent in a shareholders' dispute over a company. Matthew's work on the case began in late 2021 following a request from Advocate for advice only. However, the dynamics of the dispute meant that the case needed to be prepared for trial and required pro bono representation at that trial.

Matthew acted for the client pro bono from 2021 and appeared at the two-week trial in May 2023. Judgment was handed down by ICC Judge Prentis in July 2023. The Judge acknowledged Matthew's pro bono work as "a very substantial commitment to what has turned out to be a successful position".

Matthew obtained what is believed to be one of the largest ever pro bono costs orders in the sum of £345,000, having persuaded the Judge to summarily assess the figure the client would have had to pay if his lawyers had charged for their time even though it was unusually large. The value of the costs order reflects the enormous time commitment by Matthew to the case. By obtaining such a substantial pro bono costs order, their pro bono assistance will improve access to justice not just for the respondent in this case, but for many others in need of legal advice and representation.

advocate



Yasin Patel

Church Court Chambers

“Yasin has provided invaluable advisory support for coroner referrals and medical negligent cases.”



Yasin is a barrister at Church Court Chambers and has always made pro bono work part of his practice. He has worked with several organisations and charities on a pro bono basis including, Frenford Clubs for Young People, Supporting Humanity, and other areas covering family cases and sports.

Yasin set up the legal advice surgery Frenford Clubs for Young People in 2012 with the aim to provide free legal advice to some of the most disadvantaged people. He conducted weekly advice meetings for those who needed legal advice in areas such as domestic violence and fraud. Throughout this initiative, he has supported over 100 individuals, and this number continues to rise.

In addition, Yasin also worked with a charity that supports those who have suffered bereavement. He provided advice to family and friends in need of legal advice and assistance in cases of coroner referrals. Yasin is part of the Advocate volunteer panel and has taken on several pro bono cases. He has represented a number of clients in the Court of Appeal and Criminal Law proceedings.

advocate



Charlotte Pope-Williams

3 Hare Court

“Charlotte’s actions have undoubtedly had a substantial impact on clients, the community, and access to justice.”



Charlotte returned to self-employed practice at 3 Hare Court in April 2023, before which she was a significant proponent of pro bono work as an employed barrister. She continued with her important pro bono work after joining Chambers, and begun by taking on two Advocate cases.

For one case, Charlotte has dedicated over 150 hours of work. She has drafted submissions, correspondence, advised the Claimant and appeared at every hearing since April 2023. She represented the Claimant at a full 2-day multitrack trial despite acting in one of the biggest commercial cases in the UK in 2023 at the same time, the Republic of Mozambique (through its Attorney General) v Credit Suisse case.

Charlotte is the Pro Bono Champion in Chambers and has offered training and support within Chambers for members of all levels of seniority who are interested in undertaking pro bono work through Advocate and other initiatives, such as the Chancery Bar Litigant in Person Scheme. She has delivered and recorded a pro bono session to provide hints and tips in respect of pro bono work. She is also trying to work with Chambers’ internal administration team to provide better infrastructure around the pro bono work undertaken in Chambers.

advocate



Jake Rudman

Hatton Chambers

“Jake’s expert knowledge of the relevant areas of law and his skills as a litigator were crucial to the result.”



Jake regularly advises clients pro bono and has been involved in a number of Advocate cases. The most notable case he has undertaken for Advocate has now concluded, after he first accepted the case whilst on holiday and on New Year’s Eve 2019. He has since spent 250-300 hours on the case including multiple hearings, drafting pleadings, correspondence, negotiations, and extensive advice, culminating in a successful hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice in 2023.

With the assistance of Baker McKenzie, Jake got the claim struck out entirely, meaning the client was no longer under threat of a £60,000 damages claim plus costs. They are also recovering the client’s original legal fees and have persuaded the Court to award a number of pro bono costs orders totaling £100,000.

Jake worked hard to assist the vulnerable defendant in respect of these difficult proceedings. The defendant has been exceptionally grateful to Jake for all he has done to support her.

advocate



John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award

Sophie Crampton

4 Brick Court

Ramby de Mello

No5 Barristers' Chambers

Lucas Nacif

Farore Law

Oliver Persey

Garden Court Chambers

John Platts-Mills

Devereux Chambers

Joseph Sinclair

Mountford Chambers

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advocate



Sophie Crampton

4 Brick Court

“The judge was also very appreciative of Sophie’s work, commending her within a postscript at the end of the judgement.”



Sophie has assisted Advocate’s Applicants on over 10 occasions.

In one stand-out case, Sophie assisted an Applicant who was the grandparent to a child who sustained serious injuries that have been attributed to being shaken. Our Applicant is the intervenor in the proceedings and has been included within a local authority’s pool of perpetrators, in which serious and significant findings are being sought against her. Sophie stepped up to assist just before the deadline to secure counsel, and has committed to remain on the case for the entirety of the matter, helping to ease the Applicant’s anxieties.

Our Applicant shared her gratitude with Advocate: “I cannot tell you how appreciative I was that, through Advocate, Sophie was able to represent me. I obviously went through the means-testing process but because I jointly own my home with my husband, I wasn’t eligible for legal aid as an intervenor/grandmother in this case. With virtually no savings, the only answer would have been to get into massive debt or sell our home. Sophie really went above and beyond what should have been asked of her.”

advocate



Ramby de Mello

No5 Barristers' Chambers

“Mr de Mello represented me at the VTS hearing on Friday and was flawless throughout, so thank you for finding me such fantastic representation.”



Ramby de Mello of No 5 Chambers joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in 2018. Since joining, Ramby has selflessly offered assistance on more than 20 occasions. Ramby has a strong understanding of Advocate’s aim to provide access to justice, and has made his significant contribution at a time where pro bono help is needed more than ever.

Ramby is popular with Advocate’s casework team for taking on a lot of Public Law cases which are either urgent or difficult to place due to their complexity or low interest. He has also been taking on cases as senior counsel to give juniors more experience and has facilitated splitting the workload. This has encouraged more young barristers to take on pro bono cases.

Advocate was initially approached by global law firm DLA Piper to help find barristers who were specialists in immigration to assist with helping people trapped in Afghanistan to find safe routes into the UK. As the project expanded, more firms came on board, and there are currently nearly 100 barristers registered to help. Ramby has offered not only his time to speak to barristers who wish to explore the possibilities of assisting Afghan applicants seeking relocation to the UK through this project, but has also actively taken on these cases too.

advocate



Lucas Nacif

Farore Law

“Lucas has been a champion in promoting our work with not only the casework team but with our engagement team when needed.”



Lucas Nacif of Farore Law joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in January 2023. He was an early completer of the Pupil Pledge, and also completed the Pro Bono Pledge. He is one of only eleven people out of the 323 who took part, who undertook over 100 hours of pro bono work. In the 12 months he has been a member, he has assisted on 10 separate occasions. He is enthusiastic, friendly and very passionate about access to justice and always ready to step in at short notice.

For example, Lucas stepped in with half a day's notice to assist on an Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) for Advocate when previous counsel became ill. The final hearing was listed before the EAT in December 2023 to which Lucas provided robust assistance. He has been a champion in promoting Advocate's work with not only the casework team but also with their engagement team when needed.

advocate



Oliver Persey

Garden Court Chambers

“Ollie will have made a such a positive difference to so very many LGBT lives – and to those who will in future seek to represent these challenging cases in court.”



Oliver has aided on 13 separate pieces of pro bono work over the last 12 months. Oliver initially got in touch with Advocate to collaborate on a project that has been running with Garden Court Chambers called The School Inclusion Project ('SIP'). This project aims to bring together lawyers, advisers and campaigners with expertise in the field of school exclusions and related issues, to address systemic discrimination in the education system.

There are several prominent cases that have stood out to Advocate's casework team that Oliver has worked on. One of which concerned an Applicant challenging her child's permanent exclusion. Oliver and co-counsel Oscar Davies assisted with drafting grounds and representing the family at the Independent Review Panel hearing. The Independent Review Panel quashed the decision of the school to permanently exclude, and ordered that the child be reinstated. The school has chosen to uphold the exclusion despite the risk of a huge fine, and now Oliver is providing advice as to the merits and practicalities of pursuing a judicial review. Oliver has also been supporting families where their children have been suspended from school due to taking part in protests along with other students.

advocate



John Platts-Mills

Devereux Chambers

“Mr John Platts-Mills worked very hard to understand my case and spent a lot of time going over all the important points before the preliminary hearing.”



John Platts-Mills of Devereux Chambers joined Advocate as a volunteer barrister in May 2022. Since accepting instructions, John has selflessly offered his time to more than seven separate pieces of work. He is in the top 3% of active volunteers on Advocate’s panel.

John kindly assisted on a case where he advised with judicial mediation and settlement. John put an interest in this case three days before the preliminary hearing in May 2023, and stepped forward to advise and represent the Applicant, who had been referred from South West London Law Centre. Our applicant expressed their gratitude:

“Thank you for referring my case to Mr John Platts-Mills. I received a lot of advice and assistance for the preliminary hearing and I am very appreciative to you both for the help and support. Mr John Platts-Mills worked very hard to understand my case and spent a lot of time going over all the important points before the preliminary hearing. I am amazed at the work done and the professionalism. I have just signed an agreement with the Respondent to bring an end to the legal dispute. I would have been very lost in the legal process without your good service. Thank you for the information, advice and support.”

John has continued to support the Applicant as the case moves towards settlement.

advocate



Joseph Sinclair

Mountford Chambers

“Joseph has supported our applicant with robust and thorough advice, and has shown an outstanding, ongoing commitment to access to justice more broadly.”



Joseph was one of the top three most active members on Advocate’s panel last year and has assisted on 12 pieces of pro bono work. One of these pieces of work involved assisting a vulnerable adult, who sought assistance following a Crown Court appeal. This was a long-term dispute with ongoing issues where the Applicant could have been evicted and lost her home without the advice and representation of Joseph in court.

Joseph assisted on another matter which concerned an Applicant who was erased from the medical register in 2017 following concerns regarding his clinical ability whilst in practice as a junior doctor. The summary letter indicated that our Applicant's fitness to practice may have been impacted by his route to qualification, having pursued medical studies in the Czech Republic and later in Romania. The Applicant undertook various training placements in the UK, and was now seeking advice as to restoration of his registration following the elapse of the relevant period. Joseph provided robust and thorough advice to best assist him with this process.

advocate



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