

# advocate



## Advocate Monthly Top Ten

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THANK YOU

to the 483 barristers on the first ever  
Pro Bono Recognition List of England &  
Wales



Advocate are delighted to support the publication of the inaugural Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales.

The Recognition List highlighted 3,746 lawyers, 483 of whom were barristers, who have given 25 or more hours of pro bono legal assistance in 2023. It is fantastic to see so many members of the Bar going above and beyond to provide pro bono assistance to those who would otherwise be forced to face the legal system alone.

Endorsed by The Lady Chief Justice of England & Wales, The Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, the Recognition List was set up under the sponsorship of the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee, with the support of the Bar Council, the Law Society, and all major pro bono legal organisations.

Commenting on the publication of the Recognition List, **The Lady Chief Justice** said: *"The judiciary sees first-hand the importance of pro bono advice and representation in assisting those who might not otherwise receive legal help. I am pleased to recognise and thank all those solicitors and barristers who have undertaken 25 hours or more of pro bono work over the last year. I hope that recognition on the List encourages the legal profession to continue its commitment to providing pro bono help to those in need."*

Also celebrating the launch of the Pro Bono Recognition List, **Bar Council Chair, Sam Townend KC** said: *“We are delighted that almost 500 barristers have been named on the first Pro Bono Recognition List in England and Wales. It is great that 483 barristers, together with the other legal professionals named, are celebrated for volunteering to help ensure access to justice and towards plugging the gap in legal aid funding. The 40% real term reduction in government spending on legal aid on barristers over the past 14 years, unfortunately, means that this work is the only means that thousands have of obtaining professional advice and representation. Congratulations to all those named - thank you for championing justice.”*

If you have completed at least 25 hours of pro bono work in 2024, register for next year's Recognition List [here](#).

[See the Recognition List](#)



**London Legal Walk 2024**

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Advocate team volunteered at the 2024 London Legal Walk organised by London Legal Support Trust. This is the largest fundraising event of the legal year, bringing together the legal community to raise money for free legal advice services including Advocate and the Free Representation Unit. Lead walkers included the Lady Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, and the Chair of the Bar.

It was a fantastic day, and we were delighted to see so many professionals in attendance with a record turnout of over 18,000 people from over 1,000 teams walking for justice, including over 100 Chambers. Thank you to everyone that participated, your support is hugely appreciated!

[More about the legal walk](#)



**Second Six Pupils**

117 pupil barristers have signed up to our panel this year, making up almost half of new volunteer sign-ups in 2024. Thank you to these pupils for being especially enthusiastic and proactive about taking cases, with many already having worked on at least one Advocate case.

If you are a pupil in your second six looking to take on pro bono work, don't forget that you can have your work recognised through the Pupil Pledge. Pupils can undertake just ONE piece of pro bono work, and Advocate will send a celebratory Pupil Pledge logo, which can be included in your email signature and Chambers profile.

[Sign up to the Pupil Pledge](#)

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## Advocate Statistics



**Christopher Naish wins the  
2024 Lifetime Achievement in  
Pro Bono Award**



On 8<sup>th</sup> June, Advocate attended the [2024 Bar Conference](#) where the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award for Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono was presented by the Lady Chief Justice to this year's winner, Christopher Naish.

Our many congratulations to Christopher Naish, who is now retired from [Magdalen Chambers](#), for winning this award. When presenting the award the Lady Chief Justice said:

*“Those who know this barrister describe him as humble. He underestimates the huge positive impact that his pro bono work has had on so many, which is why he is the stand-out winner for this award.”*

Christopher has been dedicated to legal aid family work throughout his career and ensured that a commitment to publicly funded work was written into his Chambers' constitution, spurred on by his belief that being a barrister is a public service.

Since retiring, Christopher has volunteered with the [pro bono Community Law Clinic at the University of Exeter](#). He devoted a year's worth of his time to volunteering here. The Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono Award is part of the annual [Bar Pro Bono Awards](#).

[Read more](#)



Advocate are delighted to congratulate two of our Caseworkers, Emma and Andrew, on their recent success securing pupillage. Emma, one of our General Caseworkers, has secured pupillage at [One Pump Court](#) and Andrew, our Triage Caseworker, has secured pupillage at [Gatehouse Chambers](#).

## Two Advocate Caseworkers secure pupillage

This month, both Emma and Andrew shared with us about how their experiences, including working at Advocate, helped them to expand their legal horizons and ultimately secure pupillage. They also share the top tips and advice they would give for mastering pupillage applications, including the benefits of undertaking voluntary work.

[Read more](#)

## Shout out to Panel Members...

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**Robert Cumming**  
2 Temple Gardens

Thank you to Robert Cumming of 2 Temple Gardens for his invaluable impact assisting a healthcare worker who brought claims for whistleblowing detriment and constructive dismissal. The claim was initially unsuccessful at the Tribunal, leaving the person facing £20,000 for the Respondent's costs. The person stood to lose her home if the costs had been ordered. Robert stepped forward to prepare for and represent at the costs hearing. Within 24 hours, Robert successfully negotiated with the Respondent to withdraw the costs application.

Thank you, Robert

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**Emma Darlow Stearn**  
Cloisters

We would like to thank Emma Darlow Stearn of Cloisters Chambers for dedicating over 80 hours to assisting a person we supported on their employment case. The person claimed they were unfairly dismissed and received detrimental treatment for making protected disclosures. Not only did Emma travel to another city to represent the person at their 5-day Employment Tribunal hearing, she also managed to secure settlement on their behalf. This is particularly impressive as Emma is a pupil barrister who was only called to the Bar last year.

Thank you, Emma

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**Tom Mountford**  
Blackstone Chambers

Thank you to Tom Mountford of Blackstone Chambers for assisting two people on their employment discrimination claims. One of the claimants was subjected to racial harassment by a co-worker and victimisation with dismissal by his employer when he complained about the harassment he had endured as a black man. The second was also dismissed by the same employer, apparently on the basis of association with the first claimant. Thanks to Tom's assistance, a settlement was secured for each of the claimants at judicial mediation.

Thank you, Tom



## 2024 Bar Pro Bono Award Winner features in BBC News London

Winner of the 2024 Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year Award, Tinessa Kaur of 4BB, has featured in a video story by BBC News London.

The coverage shows Tinessa collecting her award and provides us with an insight into how she got to where she is today, including her experiences of overcoming adversity growing up and how her faith's teaching of selfless service inspired her to give up her free time to offer her pro bono services to help underrepresented communities.

[Watch the full story](#)