

Take part in the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week

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The 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week will be a pivotal moment to look ahead to the next twenty years of pro bono whilst also shining a spotlight on some of the key moments of the past two decades. This look to the future will also coincide with the focus on climate change taking place in November with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow.

Pro bono is vital to making sure that everyone has access to justice, but it is also a key tool in professional development and wellbeing for lawyers, as well as playing a role in staff retention.

Chambers are encouraged to start planning how to use Pro Bono Week 2021 to celebrate and promote pro bono, whether through private or public events, or through internal or external communications.

It's easy to get involved:

- Submit a standout pro bono case or story from the last 20 years to be featured during the week > [com/pbw20stories](#)
- Share case studies & stories of individuals or organisations your barristers have helped on a pro bono basis on your website or social media;
- Celebrate your pro bono partners > spotlight those you work with and the impact of pro bono work at an event
- Use our "I Do Pro Bono" poster to get barristers and staff members to take selfies for your social media channels explaining why they do pro bono;
- Launch a new pro bono initiative with a press release and event;
- Circulate the Pro Bono Week event list around chambers, as well as a link to the Pro Bono Week [Volunteering page](#);
- Nominate barristers for this year's [Bar Pro Bono Awards](#) by 12th September;
- Join the [Pro Bono Connect](#) scheme, bringing firms and chambers together to work on pro bono cases;
- Join the [Great Legal Bake](#) and help us celebrate our birthday with a 20th birthday cake, 20 candles, and fundraising for a pro bono charity;
- Appoint a [Pro Bono Champion](#) to help you liaise with Advocate;
- Host a Pro Bono Fair or lunchtime drop-in within chambers and get new barristers to sign up to do pro bono;
- Conduct a survey on pro bono work and publish the results in Pro Bono Week;
- Circulate a note reminding barristers and clerks of the importance of recording pro bono time, and claiming [pro bono costs](#).

Resources and updates are available on the Pro Bono Week [website](#), where you can also find plenty of event ideas and tips.

Plan your event now and get it added to the national calendar online by emailing mary@probonoweb.org.uk.

If you want tips on a specific event you would like to host, or details on campaigns you can join, get in touch via the above email and we would be happy to advise.

For the latest updates make sure you follow Pro Bono Week on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Posted: 10/08/2021 at 10:20

Tags: [latest](#)





Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

Your weekly update from The Network for Justice

1 message

Network for Justice <marthadelaroche@atjf.org.uk>
To: mary@dobsonsmith.consulting

30 July 2021 at 09:00

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE

LATEST NEWS

PRO BONO WEEK
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

1st - 5th November
Through the pandemic & beyond

- Celebrating pro bono
- Pro bono pathways
- Effective pro bono

probonoweb.org.uk #WeDoProBono #ProBonoWeek

Theme announced for Pro Bono Week's 20th anniversary celebrations

A special 20th anniversary celebration of Pro Bono Week is set to take place from 1 to 5 November 2021, highlighting the deep commitment of the legal...

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LIPSS Partnership July Updates

The Litigant in Person Support Strategy (LIPSS) is a partnership of national organisations, working together to improve the experience of people facin...

[READ MORE](#)



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- Contact your local advice centre and university clinics to see if you can partner with them and supply volunteer lawyers to their sessions;
- Read through the Pro Bono Week [Volunteering page](#), and work out how your organisation wants to get involved;
- Firms: Consider signing the Law Society's [Pro Bono Charter](#), showing your organisation's commitment to improving access to justice;
- Conduct a survey on pro bono work your employees are doing, publish the results in Pro Bono Week and use this to launch a pro bono programme.

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If you want tips on a specific event you would like to host, or details on campaigns you can join, do get in touch via the above email and we would be happy to advise.

For the latest updates make sure you follow Pro Bono Week on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Latest News

Pro Bono Week turns 20

The legal profession has always been deeply committed to helping those who are unable to afford legal help, society's most vulnerable citizens for whom financial circumstances are a barrier to accessing justice. This year, Pro Bono Week will be marking its 20th anniversary from 1st – 5th November, and brings with it a unique opportunity to celebrate and recognise this deep-rooted and longstanding commitment to provide free legal help to those in need.

This 20th anniversary celebration is a key moment in the sector, a moment both to look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono whilst also shining a spotlight on some of the significant pro bono moments and cases from the past two decades and the inception of this annual celebration. Pro Bono Week's focus on the future will also coincide with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, with climate change being a growing area of pro bono work.

Pro bono work has a vital role to play in ensuring that everyone has access to justice and a fair future, but it should also not be overlooked as valuable experience that enhances both the wellbeing and the professional development of lawyers. It even has a part to play in staff recruitment and retention. We're particularly excited that this year will feature a 'Junior Lawyers Day' on Wednesday 3rd November where we will be focusing on the benefits of and opportunities for pro bono work for legal professionals at the beginning of their careers.

Whether your firm or chambers has a well-established pro bono arm, or whether you are new to legal volunteering and do not know where to start, it couldn't be easier to get involved in this year's Pro Bono Week. 2020's Pro Bono Week saw over 50 events take place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, involving over 2,000 attendees from all branches of the legal profession. This year, for Pro Bono Week's 20th anniversary, it is time to reach an even bigger audience as we recognise, celebrate, share and inspire the outstanding contribution of the legal profession to ensuring that everyone gets access to justice.



Firms/chambers who already do pro bono:

- Submit a stand-out pro bono story to tinyurl.com/pbwstories for a chance to be featured through comms and events throughout the week
- Share your pro bono impact on your website, social media, or at an event (don't forget to use our 'I Do Pro Bono' selfie poster available on probonoweeek.org.uk)
- Spotlight your pro bono programme/partners
- Launch a new pro bono initiative
- Join in with the Great Legal Bake by baking a cake and fundraising for your local advice clinic – have your cake and eat it too at a Pro Bono Fair or lunchtime drop-in where you recruit new pro bono volunteers!

Firms/chambers new to pro bono:

- Launch a pro bono programme
- Publish the results of a survey of pro bono work your lawyers/members do
- Check out probonoweeek.org.uk/volunteering for ways to get involved, contact your local advice centre/university clinic for ways you can help
- Firms can sign the Law Society's Pro Bono Charter to demonstrate their commitment to improving access to justice
- Chambers can nominate a Pro Bono Champion to liaise with Advocate, the national charity of the Bar

Whether you are publishing the results of a survey, joining the Pro Bono Connect scheme to bring firms and chambers together, or promoting the Pro Bono Week Volunteering page, we want to hear about it. You can find media resources as well as inspiration and tips for events on the probonoweeek.org.uk website. If you're planning an event, get it added to the national calendar online by emailing mary@probonoweeek.org.uk.

Finally, make sure you follow Pro Bono Week on Twitter and LinkedIn for all the latest updates on the 20th anniversary Pro Bono Week. Tell us what your plans are, and join us in using this special opportunity to celebrate the legal profession's everyday – yet extraordinary – commitment to pro bono.

The Scottish Legal Walks are back!

After last year's enforced interruption, the Legal Walks to support Scottish advice charities return next month. This article describes the work of the prime mover, the Access to Justice Foundation

📅 16th August 2021 | Rebecca Samaras, Graeme McWilliams



The Access to Justice Foundation (ATJF) is delighted to welcome back the Glasgow Legal Walk on 28 September and the Edinburgh Legal Walk on 11 October 2021.

These events are great fun and an excellent way to meet up with other members of our profession, not-for-profit organisations, students and, indeed, their dogs! They are however fundraising events, and all funds raised are distributed to Scottish charities providing legal support and services to the most vulnerable in our society. For more information, visit atjf.org.uk/legal-walks

Back in 2013, Rebecca Samaras, ATJF trustee for Scotland, and Ruth Daniel, CEO of ATJF, were involved in setting up the first ATJF fundraising event in Scotland. The first Edinburgh Legal Walk kicked off with an inspiring address from Lord Tyre on access to justice, and proceeded from the University of Edinburgh's Old College Quad past various historical and legal landmarks in Edinburgh. ATJF and its events have come a long way since then, and eight years on, the Legal Walks have become annual events held in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Around £40,000 has been raised to date in Scotland by ATJF through event fundraising, and all donations have been distributed to Scottish advice charities, so what is raised in Scotland stays in Scotland.

The Go the Extra Mile for Justice challenge was launched last year in place of the postponed Scottish and other Legal Walks, and due to its success has continued to run throughout 2021.

ATJF is also registered as a charity in Scotland, and is supported by ATJF Scotland whose committee members have been appointed from a broad section of Scottish organisations, all committed to ensuring access to justice for all. ATJF is seeking designation as a Scottish prescribed charity eligible for pro bono costs orders in terms of the Civil Litigation

(Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018. Although no Scottish prescribed charity has yet been designated by the Lord President to receive pro bono costs, the Foundation is a strong candidate and hopes to achieve designated status in due course.

Social justice initiative

The impact of COVID-19 on social welfare legal advice organisations led to a group of independent funders working in partnership with representative bodies to form an alliance for social justice by creating the Community Justice Fund (CJF). ATJF, as one of the funders, was tasked with hosting and distributing this vital funding which distributed substantial sums to several Scottish charities adversely affected by the pandemic. For more information about the CJF and other campaigns, including a list of charities who have received funding, see atjf.org.uk/community-justice-fund-grants

After the success of the first wave of CJF funding, a second wave is underway, to be distributed by the end of the summer. Acknowledgment of the work carried out and the continued support shown by the Law Societies of Scotland, Northern Ireland, and England & Wales has been welcomed by ATJF Scotland, and more broadly, by ATJF.

If you're unable to join a walk, but wish to sponsor an event, or donate to the ATJF, please contact lauracassidy@atjf.org.uk

ATJF hosts online events that give attendees the chance to engage directly with specialist legal advice agencies working on the front line. It is delighted to confirm its first Scottish virtual Q&A event at 9am on Wednesday 15 September, with Kirsty Thomson, partner/managing director at JustRight Scotland, one of its CJF grant recipients. You can register for this Zoom meeting.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the annual Pro Bono Week event, from 1-5 November, which offers an opportunity to recognise and support the voluntary contribution made by the legal profession across the UK in giving free and much needed legal assistance to those in need: see probonoweek.org.uk/

So why not come join, sponsor, or follow us, or get in touch!

Follow ATJF on Twitter (@ScotlandLegal), Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook

The Author

Rebecca Samaras, ATJF trustee for Scotland, Director of Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education at the University of Edinburgh Law School, committee chair of the Access to Justice Foundation Scotland, and member of the Law Society of Scotland's Access to Justice Committee (e: rebecca.samaras@ed.ac.uk)

Graeme McWilliams, Fellow of the Law Society of Scotland, and committee member of the Access to Justice Foundation Scotland (e: gmmcw@aol.com)

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PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE



Regulars

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- › Book reviews
- › Reading for pleasure

Newcastle News

September 2021



Hay & Kilner Law Firm is celebrating its roots on its 75th anniversary by planting a long-term legacy

In this edition....

Over £2000 raised for Maggie's at the Freeman Hospital

The ELIPS Scheme

Court News

Regulation Update

Filling the Gaps: The ELIPS Scheme in Newcastle

Practitioners know only too well the strain under which the Employment Tribunal service continues valiantly to operate. The idea of state-funded legal advice for those seeking justice against their employers is a thing of the distant past, and the Court system remains very low down this Government's list of priorities.

The irony, of course, is that early advice can be a godsend for all concerned: putative claimant, putative respondent, the Tribunal. Stress, time, cost and effort can be saved if an aggrieved individual is put on the right path.

Bearing that in mind, and my own view that the ability to get justice in the workplace has to be one of the cornerstones of a civilised economy, I am determined that some form of free advice ought to be available to litigants who have brought claims in the Employment Tribunal in my native North East. To that end, I approached ELA with a view to us extending the successful Employment Litigants in Person Scheme to the Tribunal in Newcastle (and its satellite in Hull). Schemes have already been operating successfully in London, Cardiff, Birmingham and Bristol and, along with Newcastle, another scheme is being set up in Leeds: we're doing far better in extending the line northwards than those behind HS2.

This, then, is a Cri de Coeur directed at employment law practitioners in the North East: please think about volunteering for the scheme and cajoling your colleagues into it too.

It's easy: our fantastic administrator will give you all the information you need to volunteer on a given day or half-day. Soon before your session you'll be given access to a small crop of vital papers but with no obligation to have digested them fully before the session. The scope of the advice being sought will be made clear: it's usually the sort of thing that an employment lawyer could deal with in her sleep, but which seems stressful and intimidating to a litigant in person ("the Judge says I need to specify what claims I am making, I don't know what he means?" "the Judge said there was a 'time point', what's that?")

Court Information

Good afternoon colleagues

The District Judges in the Northumbria Magistrates' Courts are to issue a standard direction in all cases that are reserved to them to assist with ensuring that all correspondence and applications are dealt with expeditiously.

The direction is that all correspondence, and applications, for cases that are reserved to a District Judge are headed '**Case reserved to District Judge XXXXX**' or if the name of the allocated District Judge is not known '**Case reserved to a District Judge**'.

I would be grateful if you would make your colleagues and support staff aware of this change.

Regards

Karen Embleton
Senior Legal Manager
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria
(email 6.9.21)

employer won't admit I'm disabled but they've seen my medical records, what do I do?" – that sort of thing). You'll log on to Zoom, conduct the session which will last around 40 minutes, giving you 20 minutes or so to send a follow-up advice note in a pro forma. Often you'll be assisted by an enthusiastic student volunteer. Once the advice letter is sent, that's the end of your commitment.

It's worthwhile: litigants in person often feel overwhelmed by the Tribunal system; with just a little bit of your time you can help them breathe easier. You can help a grateful Tribunal get along easier too. CSR points may well be accumulated.

The Newcastle scheme has been running for a little while now but primarily staffed by volunteers from other regions. It would be great if we could build up a head of North East support for the scheme and do our fair share.

Essential information about volunteering is available at <https://www.elaweb.org.uk/content/elips-volunteers> along with the email address to sign up.

Solicitors are covered by insurance we have put in place through LawWorks. Barristers volunteer under the auspices of Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit) and are thus covered by their own indemnity insurance.

If you or your firm would like more information or to discuss the scheme, do please contact me at ganderson@littletonchambers.co.uk

Grahame Anderson, Littleton Chambers

DFJ Practitioner Meeting 6 October 2021- save the date

Dear all

I am arranging a Teams practitioners' meeting on Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 5.00pm. As you know, throughout the pandemic I have been meeting regularly with LAs, Cafcass and practitioners through various different groups, but I thought it would be helpful to have a meeting which more practitioners in particular can attend.

I will email again nearer the time (during w/c 27.09.21 as I am on leave w/c 13/20.09.21) but I wanted to give you the date sooner rather than later to avoid clashes with other meetings for those who would like to attend. Olivia Keane will send a Teams invite to you which I would ask to you forward on to others on your circulation lists.

Many thanks.
HHJ Rachel Hudson
Designated Family Judge for Northumbria and North Durham

Newcastle Civil & Family Courts and Tribunals Centre
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8QF
Administrative support: Olivia Keane
(Olivia.Keane@justice.gov.uk)

Prizes



****Attention Trainee Solicitors, Training Partners and Members of the JLD ****

Newcastle Prize 2021

This Prize has been in existence since 1922 and is awarded to the candidate who having gained a distinction and the highest overall mark from the entries received on any LPC, has after 1st July 2020 but before the 30th June 2021 entered into a training contract with a firm of solicitors practising in the area of the Newcastle upon Tyne Law Society constituency. Our area stretches from Berwick in the North, to Durham City in the South and West as far as Haltwhistle. It does not include Sunderland. The Prize is always awarded one year in arrears so as not to prejudice a candidate who has opted to take some time out. It follows therefore that we are looking for candidates who have passed their LPC in Summer 2020 or earlier. They should have started their training contract between 1st July 2020 and 30th June 2021.

Interested in applying or know someone from your firm who may qualify?

Send details with confirmation of LPC marks to Newcastle upon Tyne Law Society, College House, Northumberland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8SF by (31st October 2021). Email: mail@newcastlelawsociety.co.uk

University of Northumbria MLaw Exempting Degree Prize 2021

This is awarded to the best student (with first class honours) on the above degree course, who subsequently goes on to obtain a training contract in the Society's area. As it is also awarded one year in arrears we are looking at candidates who passed their final examination and left University in Summer 2020.

Those interested in applying should please send their details to the address given above by 31st October 2021. **We require confirmation of your marks from years 2, 3 and 4 of the course.**

Pro Bono advice for Afghan applicants

DLA Piper is coordinating offers of pro bono assistance for Afghan applicants with referrals and has shared the following guidelines for any immigration solicitors who want to volunteer through its hub.

We are all deeply saddened by the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and as a community, we are pulling together to give any support that we can.

If you would like to consider being a volunteer to provide pro bono legal advice, please consider these guidelines.

Please send an email to projecta@dlapiper.com with 'Volunteer' in the subject matter.

If there are any set days/times that you are not available to provide pro bono advice, please do flag that in your email, otherwise, it will be assumed that you can pick up enquiries.

- Your name will be added to the list of volunteers being managed by the DLA Piper pro bono team
- You will be contacted by someone from DLA Piper who will send through a short summary of the client's query and ask for availability. If you are available, DLA Piper will connect you with the client. The DLA Piper volunteers can provide assistance if this would be helpful (for example gathering documentation, asking follow up questions and so on)
- Please remember that it is an offence to provide immigration advice if you are not authorised to do
- Please remember that it is against UK law to advise on irregular routes

Newcastle Business Courts and Property Forum – next meeting

The next meeting of the B&PC Forum will be on Monday 4th October 2021 at 5.15pm. Please see poster for more booking info.

The title is The TCC – Case Update and Future Trends
Speaker – The Hon Mrs Justice O'Farrell DBE

This is an attended event, the first one in a very long time, but we will also stream live therefore the booking page has the option to book as a remote attendee.

Cristina Falzon
Committee Member

David Peel

The Society has been contacted by Lambert Taylor and Gregory to inform us that, sadly, David Peel, a senior solicitor with the firm passed away suddenly on 22nd September. Tim Gregory, Partner with Lambert Taylor and Gregory said 'David was much loved and respected by his clients and all of us here in the office. He is a huge loss and will be missed by us all. He was just 58 years old and had been working with us for the past 15 years.'

The President and Standing Committee on behalf of the membership extend their sincere condolences to David's friends, family and colleagues at this very sad time. An obituary will appear in a future issue.

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If you want tips on a specific event you would like to host, or details on campaigns you can join, do get in touch via the above email and we would be happy to advise.

For the latest updates make sure you follow Pro Bono Week on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Register now for events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week!

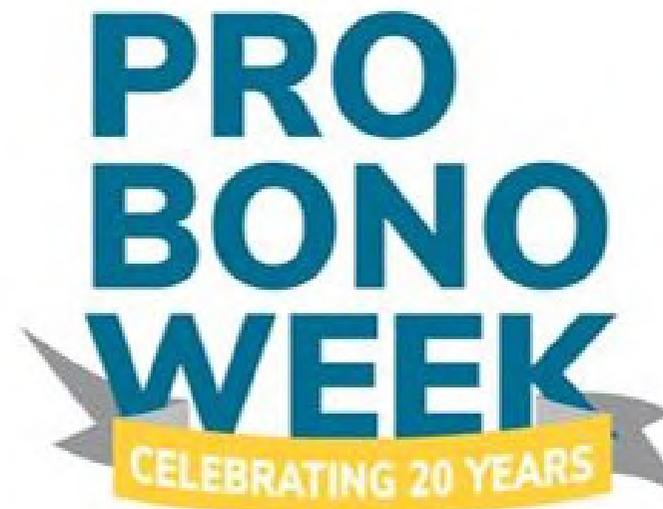
5th November is the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week and events are being added to the online calendar all the time. Look out for events focusing on environmental justice, international pro bono, in house pro bono, criminal justice work and much more.

[Pro Bono Week 2021 Launch panel debate: past, present and future](#)

Monday 1st November, 6pm,
Gray's Inn hall.

[Rule of Law & Access to Justice: where do we go from here?](#)

Panel debate with Lady Hale and Helena Kennedy QC,
Tuesday 2nd November,
5.30pm,
Gray's Inn Bingham Room.





Join us for the 20th Pro Bono Week

Dear <<First Name>>,

Every year LawWorks plays a significant role in organising [Pro Bono Week](#), working collaboratively with a committee of pro bono organisations. Events and activities recognise and support the voluntary contribution made by the legal profession and law schools across the UK in giving free legal help to those in need.



The 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week is a pivotal moment to look ahead to the next twenty years, whilst also shining a spotlight on some of the key moments and cases from the past two decades. The week also coincides with the focus on climate change as the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) meets in Glasgow.

LawWorks has some great events taking place during Pro Bono Week this year:

- [How to conduct a 'legal healthcheck' – for small charities](#)
- [Poverty and pro bono](#)
- [APPG on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education](#)
- [Technology and pro bono: Domestic and global perspectives](#)
- [Late career pro bono](#)
- [Pro Bono and Environmental Justice](#)

For more information on the dozens of events that are taking place this year visit the [Pro Bono Week website](#).

How to conduct a 'legal healthcheck' – for small charities

Monday 1st November, 1:00-2:00pm, on Zoom

With LawWorks and the Small Charities Coalition

Do you know what a Legal Healthcheck is? Have you conducted a Healthcheck before?

Even the smallest of organisations can face big legal issues. That is why preventative measures are a key tool when mitigating these uphill battles. The Small Charities Coalition and LawWorks will be providing a session on how to 'health check' your organisation.

The session will cover key legal issues for small not-for-profit organisations and charities, with topics such as governance, employment, property and more, so that you can identify potential issues before they arise. Alongside a lawyer from the LawWorks Not-for-Profits Programme, LawWorks and the Small Charities Coalition will discuss available resources, pro bono assistance, and support for organisations.

There will be the opportunity for a Q&A following the presentations, although please note that the speakers will not be able to give legal advice / provide specific answers to questions only relevant to your organisation.

Register your place

Poverty and pro bono

Tuesday, 2nd November, 8.30-9.30am, on Zoom

With [LawWorks](#), [Lawyers Against Poverty](#), [CPAG](#) and [Z2K](#)

In this Pro Bono week, we are looking back over the last 20 years of pro bono and forward to the next 20 - after the disruption of Covid, and with so much unmet legal need, what should be the priority for legal pro bono?

There are significant indicators that poverty may increase in future months given the upward pressures on prices, housing, childcare and living costs, the ending of furlough and the universal credit uplift, combined with economic uncertainty and increasing personal debt levels. Most social welfare law issues remain outside of the scope of legal aid, but are these the areas that pro bono should be focused on going forwards? How can pro bono make a bigger policy impact on welfare rights, serve those vulnerable to the on-going impacts of the pandemic and push for positive changes in law and policy?

The focus of the session will be on UK poverty, and where pro bono can make an impact. Subjects that will be covered in the discussion will include:

- The development of pro bono projects working on benefit appeals
- Pro bono and employment rights for low paid and insecure workers alongside access to support and legal education
- Engaging lawyers in policy reform

Panel:

- James Sandbach, London Citizens Advice
- Emma Lough, Director, Lawyers Against Poverty
- Anela Anwar, Chief Executive, Z2K
- Claire Hall, CPAG

Register your place

Are you organising an in person or online event as part of the 20th Pro Bono Week?

If you are remember [let us know](#) so we can share your event and include it on the Pro Bono Week calendar.

APPG on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education

Wednesday, 3rd November, 2:00-4:00pm, Portcullis House, Westminster

[All Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) with the LawWorks Clinics Programme](#)

This APPG meeting will provide a 'drop in' for MPs to find out more about clinics and pro bono in their constituency and region. Please note that due to restrictions on the parliamentary estate, this is an invite only limited event. Please contact [Hannah Brearley](#) if interested in attending.

The event will start with a panel that will:

- Share the latest LawWorks Clinics Report with MPs;
- Launch LawWorks' Clinics Manual (a guide on how to set up a local pro bono legal advice clinic);
- Introduce different clinic models.

The Manual will provide resource for MPs in supporting and facilitating local firms/practitioners and charities in their constituencies to 'partner up' to run a pro bono clinic,

Panel:

- Laura Farris MP, Chair
- The Rt Hon. Suella Braverman QC MP, Attorney General
- Alex Chalk QC MP, Solicitor General
- Rebecca Wilkinson, LawWorks
- Linden Thomas, CLEO (the Clinical Legal Education Organisation)
- Sibon Piri, United Legal Access

[Request an invite](#)

Technology and pro bono: Domestic and global perspectives

Wednesday, 3rd November, 5:00-6:00pm, on Zoom

With LawWorks and A4ID

Technology plays an increasingly important role in pro bono work, and Covid-19 has been a catalyst as more services have pivoted to remote delivery. This session, hosted by LawWorks and A4ID, looks at how technology has progressed pro bono, and the role it is likely to play in the future, including how technology can address organisational issues of pro bono work.

This discussion spans both domestic and global pro bono. Globally there is a huge interest in how technology (lawtech) can facilitate access to legal advice and empower communities to use the law. There are equally concerns that lawtech could deepen the 'digital divide' and leave vulnerable groups further excluded from good legal advice or from the courts.

Our panel of experts will discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with technology for lawyers contributing their time pro bono to ensure equal access to justice for all, in the UK and abroad.

Panel:

- I. Stephanie Boyce, President of the Law Society
- Jennifer Cheshire, LawWorks
- Claire MCGourlay, University of Manchester
- Roger Smith, Consultant
- Ele Enenche, High Court of Nigeria
- Adam Wyner, University of Swansea
- Margaret Hagan, Stanford Law School (tbc)

[Register your place](#)

Late career pro bono

Thursday, 4th November, 12:00-1:00pm, on Zoom

A discussion on how we can better support and encourage experienced, retiring and retired lawyers who are interested to volunteer, even to develop a second volunteer career in public interest law, pro bono work and supporting the community.

Despite the ongoing access to justice gap for low-income and underserved populations, this skilled, experienced and knowledgeable talent pool can often get overlooked when it comes to pro bono. How can we build pro bono opportunities into a new model of transition from retirement or a stepping back from full-time legal practice? The session will focus particularly on the needs of the solicitor profession.

Discussion points:

- What kind of programmes and opportunities are most suitable?;
- Contributing to ongoing skills development;
- The SRA rules which can facilitate greater participation;

Panel:

- Chair, Robert Bourns, former President of The Law Society
- Nicholas Pritchard, retired Partner
- Tim Cave, East Greenwich Legal Advice Centre
- Kate Buchannan, Islington Legal Advice Centre

[Register your place](#)

Pro Bono and Environmental Justice

Thursday, 4th November, 1:00-2.00pm, on Zoom

[With the Environmental Law Foundation \(ELF\) and A4ID](#)

The right of citizens to challenge environmental decisions through legal redress, and being able to access appropriate legal information, support and services on environmental law issues, is fundamental to achieving environmental justice.

Evidence of the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation and climate change on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including those living in poverty, highlights the link with social justice and the law, domestically and globally. The law can be a tool to effect and inform solutions but is rendered useless without effective access to environmental justice. This principle is enshrined in international obligations such as the Aarhus Convention which applies to the UK, although there is no significant enforcement mechanism.

Coinciding with the UN Climate Change Conference (CoP 26th, Glasgow) the 20th year of Pro Bono Week is looking at the 'big picture' on the past and future challenges for pro bono. This session - hosted by LawWorks, the Environmental Law Foundation and A4ID - will discuss the contribution that pro bono can make, and its limitations, at community level to environmental justice (e.g., flooding, planning, nuisance issues, environmental hazards), but also within a global context - and that understands environmental law as deeply connected with development, human rights and social issues.

Panel:

- Chair, Robert McCracken QC
- Wessen Jazrawi, Hausfeld
- Emma Montlake, Environmental Law Foundation
- Matt Hunt, PGMBM
- Richard Owen, Hilary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea

[Register your place](#)

Contact us

For enquiries and further information about any of the LawWorks Pro Bono Week events contact:

[Peter Jackson](#)

To find out more about Pro Bono Week contact:

[Mary Dobson](#)

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Your October Events Newsletter

1 message

Law Society Events <productmarketing@lawsociety.org.uk>
Reply-To: r-ff00836d7744fe5be0ac156c7148b2e4242e006d@email.lawsociety.org.uk
To: Mary Dobson <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

13 October 2021 at 19:18



Your October Events Newsletter

Dear Mary,

Welcome to your October Events Newsletter.

Law Society Awards 2021

Last week, we hosted the Law Society Awards 2021. Congratulations to all those across the profession who have gone above and beyond to deliver for their clients and uphold the rule of law. To view this year's winners, [please click here](#).

Our autumn events programme continues next week with our flagship conferences:

- **Civil Litigation Autumn Conference 19 October**
This year's [panel](#) will cover:
 - the changing approach to drafting witness statements,
 - vulnerability in the civil courts, and
 - legal expenses insurance (LEI).
- **Private Client Section: older and vulnerable client care conference 2021 20 and 21 October**
Join speakers from Martin Searle Solicitors, Wolferstans Solicitors, 5 Stone Building, Official Solicitor and Public Trustee and 39 Essex Chambers, as they discuss the intergenerational sharing of property when a child takes on a parent's care needs.

Complimentary events this month:

- **Let's talk about Mental Health and Employment Law 15 October**
- **State Aid v Subsidy Control Bill – Preparing For Change 21 October**
- **Terrorism Offences in the Crown Court - Dissemination of Terrorist publications 25 October**
- **European Lawyers Webinar: practising rights in England and Wales post-Brexit 28 October**

All our events can be accessed from our [homepage](#), including previous event recordings which can be viewed [on-demand](#).

If you have any queries about our upcoming programme, [please email us](#).

Kind regards,

The Law Society Events Team

Event spotlight

Last chance to book: **The Future of Legal Education** 14 October | Free

As part of the latest “Future of” series with Barclays, we will take a closer look at legal education and the opportunities and challenges in legal education and advances in technology in legal education.

Join to learn more about the evolution of legal education and the use of innovation and technologies driving impact and transformation.

[Book here](#)

What's taking place this November:

Pro Bono Week 2021: panel debate: past, present and future

1 November | Free

The official launch of the 20th Pro Bono Week, recognising and supporting the voluntary contribution made by lawyers across the UK in giving free legal help to those in need. In this year of unprecedented challenges, for both the voluntary and legal sectors, pro bono legal help has never been more important.

[Read more](#)

-
- [An insider's guide to Capital Allowances – where to look, what to challenge, when to ask](#) 9 November
 - [How does the Autumn budget impact you?](#) 10 November
 - [Cyber Security 101 for Legal professionals](#) 11 November
 - [Talking Pensions](#) 16 November

Covid-19 Support

Our [Coronavirus resources page](#) is regularly updated to provide you with the latest news and guidance and we are working closely with commercial partners and industry experts to offer support.

[Cybersecurity](#) [Find a Solicitor](#) [Bookshop](#) [Events](#) [Law Society Learning](#)

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BAR STANDARDS BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Update

Monthly Update from the Bar Standards Board October 2021

Blog: Monthly message from our Chair Baroness Blackstone



Earlier this month, we launched a [consultation on our strategy for 2022-25](#). This latest strategy review looks at the new challenges which the Bar faces as a result of the health emergency, and especially the growing use of technology.

It also looks at the need for us to work with both individuals and chambers to promote high standards and inclusivity. To encourage responses we have made our consultation document as brief as possible and we would welcome your views on the opportunities and challenges we highlight. We would like to know what you think we need to do to deliver our regulatory objectives.

We would like to know whether you agree that our vision for the BSB (we will ensure that the Bar and the BSB deliver diversity and high standards, and promote the public interest) is the right one and what you think we need to do to deliver our regulatory objectives and reinforce our identity as an independent regulator. You can read more about our new strategy in the

online version of this month's [Regulatory Update](#).

We have also recently announced that we will be moving to the next phase of our work to ensure that all barristers' practices comply with the Bar transparency rules. Whilst most practices are complying, a minority remain non-compliant over two years after the rules came into force. We will continue regularly to check compliance with the rules and to provide support and guidance and those who are falling short must now comply or will be subject to enforcement action.

This follows publication of a new report on the impact of the transparency rules on the profession. You can read more about the report and our change in approach to non-compliance in the online version of this month's [Regulatory Update](#). You can read more about the transparency rules themselves and what you need to do to comply on [our website](#).

On the subject of ensuring that your practice complies with our rules, this month's online [Regulatory Update](#) contains helpful information about our requirement that all organisations wishing to offer pupillage apply to us to become Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs). Authorisation is a one-off process and provides real benefits for pupils, pupil supervisors and AETOs themselves. Our online article contains strong endorsements from chambers which have already been through the process. These demonstrate how beneficial it is to become an AETO and to ensure that your pupils receive the standard of training they are expecting and entitled to receive. If you have yet to begin your authorisation application, I urge you please to do so by getting in touch with us as soon as possible.

In this month's online [Regulatory Update](#), you can also find the latest update and guidance for the legal profession from the National Cyber Security Centre. This is an important topic for all of us to be alert to, so please do read the information in their update.

Finally, please do not forget that 1-5 November is *Pro Bono* Week which provides an opportunity to support and celebrate the excellent work of all those who give free legal help to those in need. This year is the 20th anniversary of the Week. For details of events that week, which include a launch event on 1 November and a panel debate featuring Lady Hale and Helena Kennedy QC on 2 November, go to www.probonoweek.org.uk.

Also in this month's online Regulatory Update:

- [BSB seeks a new lay Board member](#)
- [Appointment of new members for the Independent Decision-making Body](#)
- [Service Update from the Authorisations Team](#)

Have we got correct details of your practice address?

Please ensure that you have informed us of your correct practice address in accordance with rS69 of our Handbook. If your practice address changes, you must inform our Records Department within 28 days.

Give us your feedback

If you have any thoughts about how we can improve the Regulatory Update or what content you would like to read, please email us.

Events



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

BarTalk | Justice must be in levelling up plans, Pupillage Fair a success, new legal aid proposals backed, big names to speak at Bar Conference + more

1 message

The Bar Council <The.Bar.Council@r1.dotdigital-email.com>

21 October 2021 at 15:30

Reply-To: The Bar Council <re-4CGD-16AZV-6CE0LE-C16ZK@r1.dotdigital-email.com>

To: mary@dobsonsmith.consulting

[View in browser](#)**BarTalk***Fortnightly newsletter*[@thebarcouncil](#)
www.barcouncil.org.uk

Issue 167 | 21 October 2021

[Levelling up must include justice, says Bar Council](#)["Legal aid is money well spent"](#)[Students praise "amazing" Bar Council Pupillage Fair](#)[Bar's views heard on major policies](#)[Major report on race at the Bar to published](#)[Pro Bono Week turns 20](#)[Find out how to tackle and prevent complaints from clients](#)[What is the Bar reading about?](#)[Vacancies](#)[What's On](#)[Partners for the Bar](#)[Fundraising](#)

Pro Bono Week turns 20

The Bar Council is proud to support Pro Bono Week, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. It is a pivotal moment to look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono and will coincide with the renewed focus on climate change, running concurrently with COP26.

This year, Pro Bono Week will take place from 1-5 November 2021 with a number of virtual and in-person events planned.

[See a full calendar of events](#)

Find out how to tackle and prevent complaints from clients



[View in browser](#)

What's On

Upcoming training and events

[@thebarcouncil](#)
www.barcouncil.org.uk

22 October 2021

Welcome to What's On, bringing you details of upcoming Bar Council training and events and dates for your diary from across the Bar. This week: Find out what's on at the Annual Bar Conference and book your individual online session or full event ticket, sign up for this year's free Law Reform Lecture, join our session on how chambers can tackle client complaints and much more. Don't forget, **BRF subscribers** benefit from a 20% discount on all Bar Council training and events.

Bar Council training and events

28 – 29 October

Public Access for barristers

Online

2 November

Handling client complaints

Online

4 November

Introduction to equality and diversity

Online

5 November

The Bar Council Race Summit 2021

Online and in-person, London

8 November

Mental Health Training

Online

9 November

Advanced equality and diversity

Online

17 November

Mental Health Training

Online

15 - 19 November

Foundation accredited mediator Course

In person, London

25 – 26 November 2021

Public Access for Barristers

Online

30 November

Law Reform Lecture

Online

2 December

Public Access Sharpener

Online

6 December

Litigation Training

Online

7 December

Fair Recruitment and Selection

Online

15 – 16 December

Public Access for Barristers

Online

13 – 17 December

Foundation Mediation training

Foundation Mediation training

In person, London

Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference 2021: ticket options

17 - 20 November

Full conference ticket

Online and in-person (London) or online and live-streamed

17 November

The Vision for Justice 2022 and the State of the Rule of Law

Single-session online ticket

18 November

Leading witnesses and being led in court: Advocacy for the Young Bar

Single-session online ticket

19 November

The hybrid workweek and its future in chambers

Single-session online ticket

19 November

Future Bar: Access and sustainability

Single-session online ticket

Other events for the Bar

26 October

Social Context of the Law: Is There a Case for Anonymity in Social Media?

In-person and online from The Temple Church

27 October

Gray's Inn Employed Bar dinner

Gray's Inn

1-5 November

Pro Bono Week

Online and in-person

3 November

Pro-Bono Work: the gift that keeps on giving

An Advocate, Bar Council and IBC event for clerks and practice managers

London

3 November

Race and the Bar - moving things forward

Online

9 November

Wellness for Law Forum

Emerging from pandemic pressures

Online

15 November

Inner Temple Reader's Lecture:

'Education for Human Flourishing - what would it mean for the Law?'

Online

22 November

The Criminal Bar Association Wellbeing Conference - 'Kindness at the Bar'

Middle Temple Hall

27 November

The Criminal Bar Association Winter Conference - 'Serious Sexual Assault'

London

8 December

The Denning Lecture 2021

BACFI Online Lecture

Online

Much of the Bar Council's work would not be possible without funding from the Bar Representation Fee (BRF): a £12.50 per month voluntary subscription. BRF subscribers get a 20% discount on all Bar Council training – make sure you choose the 'BRF subscriber' ticket type when you book your place.



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

Fwd: Register now for events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week!

1 message

Khadija Khan <admin@flba.co.uk>

25 October 2021 at 13:55

To: Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

As promised...

Khadija Khan
FLBA Administrator*PO Box 857, Haywards Heath RH16 9PR.*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **FLBA Administrator** <admin@flba.co.uk>

Date: Mon, 25 Oct 2021 at 10:02

Subject: Register now for events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week!

To: <admin@flba.co.uk>

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browser](#)



Register now for events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week!

5th November is the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week and events are being added to the online calendar (<http://probonoweek.org.uk/events>) all the time. Look out for events focusing on environmental justice, international pro bono, in house pro bono, criminal justice work and much much more.

You can register now for two events taking place in-person in Gray's Inn as well as online:

> Pro Bono Week 2021 Launch panel debate: past, present and future, **Monday 1st November, 6pm**, Gray's Inn hall: <https://pbw2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

> Rule of Law & Access to Justice: where do we go from here? Panel debate with Lady Hale and Helena Kennedy QC, **Tuesday 2nd November, 5.30pm**, Gray's Inn Bingham Room: <https://ruleoflaw2021.eventbrite.co.uk/>



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

Monday 25th October 2021

1 message

Scottish Legal News <newsletter@scottishnews.com>
Reply-To: Scottish Legal News <newsletter@scottishnews.com>
To: mary@dobsonsmith.consulting

25 October 2021 at 12:25

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NEWS, EVENTS & JOBS IN SCOTTISH LAW

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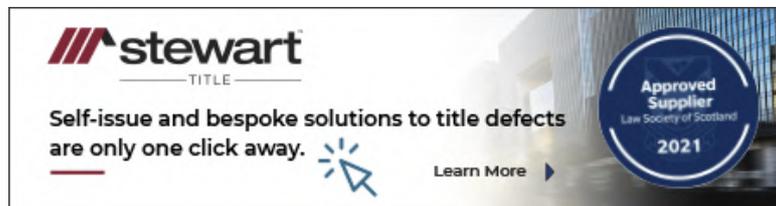
Email: [The Editor](#)

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Scottish Legal News: Monday 25th October 2021

Events

- Personal Injury Conference – The Scots Law Autumn Series – 25 October – 6hrs' CPD
- Rural Law Conference – The Scots Law Autumn Series – 27 October – 6hrs' CPD
- Conveyancing Conference – The Scots Law Autumn Series – 28 October – 6hrs' CPD
- Lawscot COP26 Conference | Law Society of Scotland | Free to members of UK law societies
- Private Client Conference – The Scots Law Autumn Series – 26 October – 6hrs' CPD
- Send your events to Scottish Legal News



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Latest News

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- [Scottish government has 'no understanding' of legal aid problem](#)
- [Academics call on PM to end oil and gas exploration](#)
- [Macdonald Henderson announces six hires and two senior promotions](#)
- [Lauren Smith: Climate legislation is there to be used](#)
- [Harper Macleod advises on double acquisition of bakery businesses in Aberdeenshire](#)
- [Amnesty International to close Hong Kong offices](#)
- [Overdose-reversing inhaler given to outgoing prisoners](#)
- [David Black: COP26 – Glasgow's misadventure?](#)
- [England: Fraud warning after homebuyer conned out of £640,000](#)
- [Pro Bono Week 20th anniversary announced](#)
- [Quote of the day](#)
- [And finally... no short cuts](#)
- [New Scots Law books from Edinburgh University Press](#)
- [Scottish law firms use e-signature to onboard 65 per cent of new clients in less than 2 hours](#)

Criminals are actively targeting property purchases, with the aim of tricking people into transferring over their house deposit and/or the balance of purchase monies to them.

The frauds almost always involve the criminals pretending to be the victim's lawyer to con them into diverting their payment to an account the crooks control.

"We are urging our members to share these flyers with their clients in order to help protect them from these highly-sophisticated and cruel schemes," said Law Society president I. Stephanie Boyce.

"These frauds can involve huge sums of money and have a devastating lifelong impact on the home buyer and their personal finances. Solicitors and their clients can all play a part in making such crimes more difficult for the criminals."

One house buyer was scammed into handing over £640,000. Emails between the buyer and their solicitor had been intercepted by criminals, who were able to collect all the information relating to the house purchase.

They then used a spoofed email account (made to look like that of the solicitor) to request payment. Payment details were provided on headed solicitors paper via the spoofed email, and the amount requested was exactly what the buyer had expected to pay.

The victim was later advised by the genuine solicitor that these payments had not been requested. Most of the money was never recovered, all-but wiping out the victim's equity and savings, and leading to the collapse of their purchase.

"Buyers should be extremely vigilant if there appears to be any change of payment details, and always double-check by calling their lawyer before they transfer their money, as emails can be intercepted or diverted," added I. Stephanie Boyce.

Jon Shilland, fraud threat lead at the NECC, said: "Payment diversion fraud is increasing and it is vital to be alive to the threat as criminals are targeting home-buyers due to the scale of the transactions.

"Whenever a client is making a payment to their solicitor for a house purchase, they should be highly suspicious of any change in account details or new instructions. Remind them to always check with a trusted known contact, and if they have any doubt not to transfer the money."

[Back to top](#)

Pro Bono Week 20th anniversary announced

The 20th annual Pro Bono Week will take place from 1 to 5 November 2021, offering an opportunity to recognise and support the voluntary contribution made by the legal profession across the UK in giving free legal help to those in need.

**PRO
BONO
WEEK**
2021

This milestone anniversary will be a pivotal moment to look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono whilst also shining a spotlight on some of the key moments and cases from the past two decades. This look to the future will also coincide with the focus on climate change

taking place in November with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

As in previous years, during Pro Bono Week organisations will be encouraged to organise events, comms and publications which focus on one of three topics:

- Celebrating pro bono: commending those who give back and recent successes in pro bono.
- Pro bono pathways: exploring the different ways lawyers can volunteer throughout their careers.
- Effective pro bono: sharing best practice and discussing what makes an effective pro bono service.

Law firms, chambers, legal societies, charities, in-house lawyers, law schools and universities are encouraged to plan events or comms campaigns, both internal or external, to take place throughout the week. Many organisations will also take the opportunity to publish reports or launch new initiatives to an engaged pro bono audience. Events will be a mixture of online, in-person and hybrid events.

Pro Bono Week 2020 saw over 50 events take place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, involving over 2,000 attendees from all branches of the legal profession.

For more information and support visit www.probonoweek.org.uk

Please tell us about your plans, or send questions to mary@probonoweek.org.uk.

For updates follow [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

[Back to top](#)

Quote of the day



People who understand quickly frighten me.

Roland Barthes

[Back to top](#)

And finally... no short cuts

A group of schoolkids are suing their local schools over an allegedly discriminatory dress code requiring boys to have short hair.

Seven pupils in Magnolia, Texas have launched a lawsuit against their school district with support from the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas.

The school district requires the hair of male students to be "no longer than the bottom of a dress shirt collar, bottom of the ear, and out of the eyes".

Some pupils – including one of the litigants, a nine-year-old boy – have been suspended from school for refusing to cut their hair.

Pro bono week turns 20

26 October 2021

The focus is on the future as well as the past as Pro Bono Week celebrates its 20th anniversary from Monday. The event, endorsed by the Law Society, will look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono while shining a spotlight on key moments and cases from the past two decades.

Pro Bono Week promotes and supports the work of lawyers who volunteer their services for free to people and organisations who could not otherwise afford legal advice.

'Free legal advice can be life-changing for people who would otherwise have to navigate the justice system without expert help,' said Law Society president I. Stephanie Boyce. However she stressed the importance of adequate public funding for the justice system and legal aid 'so lawyers aren't required to work for free'.

Pro Bono Week is organised by a committee that includes representatives from the legal professional bodies across the UK, pro bono charities, law schools and law firms. It aims to encourage members of the legal profession and law students to volunteer their time, as well as celebrating pro bono work and promoting best practice.

Chair of the national organising committee, Toby Brown, said: "Last year's Pro Bono Week saw 50 online events involving 5,000 lawyers, students and members of the charity sector discuss the challenges, and best practice, in providing pro bono during a pandemic.

This year's launch event will explore the past, present and future of pro bono with speakers Yasmin Waljee OBE, Kirsty Thomson and Emma Rehal-Wilde. Some of this year's events are being held virtually, with others taking place in-person. Details are on the [Pro Bono Week Website](#).



NEWS: Join the 20th anniversary Pro Bono Week celebrations

1 message

Press Office <Press.Office@lawsociety.org.uk>

26 October 2021 at 09:53



Press Release

26 October 2021

Join the 20th anniversary Pro Bono Week celebrations

The focus is on the future as well as the past as Pro Bono Week celebrates its 20th anniversary next week (1-5 November).

Pro Bono Week, endorsed by the Law Society, will look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono while shining a spotlight on key moments and cases from the past two decades.

The annual event promotes and supports the work of lawyers who volunteer their services for free to people and organisations who couldn't otherwise afford legal advice.

"Free legal advice can be life-changing for people who would otherwise have to navigate the justice system without expert help," said Law Society of England and Wales president I. Stephanie Boyce.

"While the pro bono contribution made by lawyers is outstanding, it is vital the justice system and legal aid are properly funded and resourced by the government so lawyers aren't required to work for free.

"I am delighted that my term in office coincides with the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week and look forward to attending some of the many events on offer."

Pro Bono Week is organised by a committee that includes representatives from the legal professional bodies across the four nations of the UK, pro bono charities, law schools and law firms.

It aims to encourage members of the legal profession and law students to volunteer their time, as well as celebrating pro bono work and promoting best practice.

Chair of the national organising committee, Toby Brown, said: "Last year's Pro Bono Week saw 50 online events involving 5,000 lawyers, students and members of the charity sector discuss the challenges, and best practice, in providing pro bono during a pandemic.

"This year for the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week we are looking forward to taking stock at both in person and online events and discussing how in the coming years we can continue to encourage and support the profession's pro bono efforts."

26.10.2021

This year's launch event will explore the past, present and future of pro bono with speakers Yasmin Waljee OBE, Kirsty Thomson and Emma Rehal-Wilde.

Law Society president I. Stephanie Boyce joins Iain Anderson, Baroness Hale of Richmond, James Harper and Baroness Helena Kennedy QC on a panel discussing the rule of law and access to justice.

Climate change also features strongly on the events agenda with the COP26 summit taking place in Glasgow.

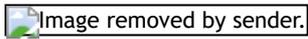
Visit the [Pro Bono Week website](#) for full details of the events taking place. Some of this year's events are being held virtually, with others taking place in-person.

About the Law Society

The Law Society is the independent professional body that works globally to support and represent solicitors, promoting the highest professional standards, the public interest and the rule of law.

Press office contact: [Naomi Jeffreys](#) | 020 8049 3928 | [Nick Mayo](#) | 020 8049 4100

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CLIPS IN PRO BONO WEEK

Next week is the 20th National Pro Bono Week. This year is also the 25th anniversary of the formation of Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit). The Association is a keen supporter of both organisations and encourages all members to consider what they can do to offer their vital skills to those who cannot afford representation.

One easy way to give back is to sign up for CLIPS, the Association's flagship Pro Bono programme. Volunteers are urgently required for 28 October (TOMORROW) and then 1, 5, 8 and 9 November. Please help us to ensure that Pro Bono Week is marked with a full rota of volunteers!

To access the rota, [please click here](#). All the documentation, including remote protocols for both schemes, can be found [by clicking here](#). Any questions, [please email Francesca](#).

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28.10.2021



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

Pro Bono Week 2021: Celebrating 20 Years!

1 message

Legal News Wales <emma@legalnewswales.com>
Reply-To: emma@legalnewswales.com
To: Mary Dobson <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

28 October 2021 at 09:10

Legal News
View in browser



Legal
News



IT'S
COMING!

1st - 5th
November
probonoweb.org.uk

PRO
BONO
WEEK

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Join the 20th Anniversary Pro Bono Week celebrations

Pro Bono Week celebrates its 20th anniversary this year & there are more free, UK-wide events than ever before, taking place from 1-5 November 2021.

Pro Bono Week, supported by Legal News Wales, will look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono while shining a spotlight on key moments and cases from the past two decades.

[CLICK FOR MORE](#)

Our Pro Bono Week 2021 event for Wales

Legal News

Celebrating:

PRO BONO WEEK 2021

With:

LEGAL INNOVATION LAB WALES

LABORDY ARLOESI CYFREITHIOL CYMRU

Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe
Hilary Rodham Clinton School of Law | Ysgol y Cyfra

Plugged in Pro Bono: innovation, law tech & Pro Bono in Wales

3 November 2021

15:30- 16:50 (Free & Online)

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

For the last two years, Legal News Wales has been delighted to lend its support to the committee and in 2020, saw over 300 attendees log onto our free, online event.

This year, our **event** covers a unique research project that spans free legal advice and the wider legal sector, utilising lawtech to enable further access to justice for local communities. The research in Wales (which is mirrored in the South West of England) takes place in Swansea Bay and is backed by UK Government funding, granted to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the ICO.

What to expect & speakers

Legal News Wales is delighted to be joined by **Mick Antoniw MS, Counsel General for Wales and Minister for the Constitution**, who will welcome attendees and help us celebrate the significant work, investment and support of pro bono activities in Wales.

The Counsel General will be followed by our panel of speakers who will offer exclusive insight into the new research project. Our panel consists of speakers from the SRA and the project leads in Wales: the **Legal Innovation Lab Wales** and the **Swansea University Law Clinic**.

Who should attend?

Everyone! The project, its ambitions, outcomes and the challenges that face communities in Wales will be of interest to all legal sector professionals in Wales, as well as those involved in pro bono activities, academics and law students.

We hope to see you there!

BOOK NOW



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28.10.2021



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

FW: New Law Journal, 29 October 2021

1 message

Miller, Jan (LNG-HBE) <Jan.Miller@lexisnexis.co.uk>
To: Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

28 October 2021 at 11:06

Hello, this is sent to our LexisLibrary users (mid to large law mostly and corporate clients) – it went out this morning. Print copies will be delivered today/ tomorrow for subscribers.

Enclosed is the latest edition of your journal. To display the PDF files for articles as they appear in the printed edition, please select the title links below.

New Law Journal

2021 Volume 171, Issue 7954

[Full Journal PDF](#)

[Get onboard with Pro Bono Week - 171 NLJ 7954, p4 \(1\)](#)

NLJ Pro Bono Week edition celebrates two decades of commitment & best practice

[Keeping a close watch on the levy - 171 NLJ 7954, p4 \(2\)](#)

[Support Will Aid this November - 171 NLJ 7954, p4 \(3\)](#)

[Affirmative cyber cover - 171 NLJ 7954, p5 \(1\)](#)

Extra clause submitted to Legal Services Board for approval

[COP26 - 171 NLJ 7954, p5 \(2\)](#)

[Online wills storing up trouble? - 171 NLJ 7954, p5 \(3\)](#)

[View from the Ministry - 171 NLJ 7954, p7](#)

Fiona Rutherford, director, Access to Justice Policy, at the Ministry of Justice, pays tribute to the value of pro bono for lawyers & clients alike

[The insider - 171 NLJ 7954, p8](#)

Dominic Regan shares a witches' brew of the pros & cons of remote working, hot desking & premature career planning

[Intent to deceive? - 171 NLJ 7954, p9](#)

Neil Parpworth reports on offences related to the impersonation of a police officer

[Civil Way - 171 NLJ 7954, p11](#)

[Law Digest - 171 NLJ 7954, p12](#)

[Challenging injustice - 171 NLJ 7954, p14](#)

Jessica Dunk on how collaboration, determination & commitment can combine to overturn injustice

[Welcome: 1 to 5 November 2021 - 171 NLJ 7954, pi](#)

Pro Bono Week epitomises the best of the profession. Over 20 years the week has showcased and encouraged the profession's dedication to providing help to those in need—free of charge. But more than that, the week has been a collaborative effort through which the pro bono sector and the professional bodies have worked with each other to meet a common goal

[National Pro Bono Centre: paying tribute to 20 years - 171 NLJ 7954, piii](#)

Sir Robin Knowles celebrates two decades of collaboration in support of those in legal need

[Environment matters - 171 NLJ 7954, piv](#)

The environment, corporate governance and supply chains as well as climate-related legal issues now feature prominently on the pro bono agenda. Three trailblazers in this vital area describe how they are making the world better, cleaner and safer for all

[The growth of in-house pro bono - 171 NLJ 7954, pix](#)

Pro Bono Week 2021 will mark the extensive work undertaken by the in-house community to assist the most vulnerable in society

[Where it all began: Pro Bono Week 2001—2021 - 171 NLJ 7954, pv](#)

The past, present & future of pro bono work—Lord Goldsmith & Michael Napier in conversation with Catherine Baksi

[There's no I in pro bono - 171 NLJ 7954, pvii](#)

When competition goes out the window: Rebecca Greenhalgh on the importance of working together when it comes to pro bono initiatives

[Pro bono and legal aid—stronger together? - 171 NLJ 7954, px](#)

[Chairs & presidents: view from the top - 171 NLJ 7954, pxi](#)

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29.10.2021



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

COP26: How solicitors can help address the climate crisis

1 message

Professional Update <professionalupdate@lawsociety.org.uk>

29 October 2021 at 16:31

Reply-To: r-ff0084ae1caf18ee8b20b04eff42b182ca2b95e9@email.lawsociety.org.uk

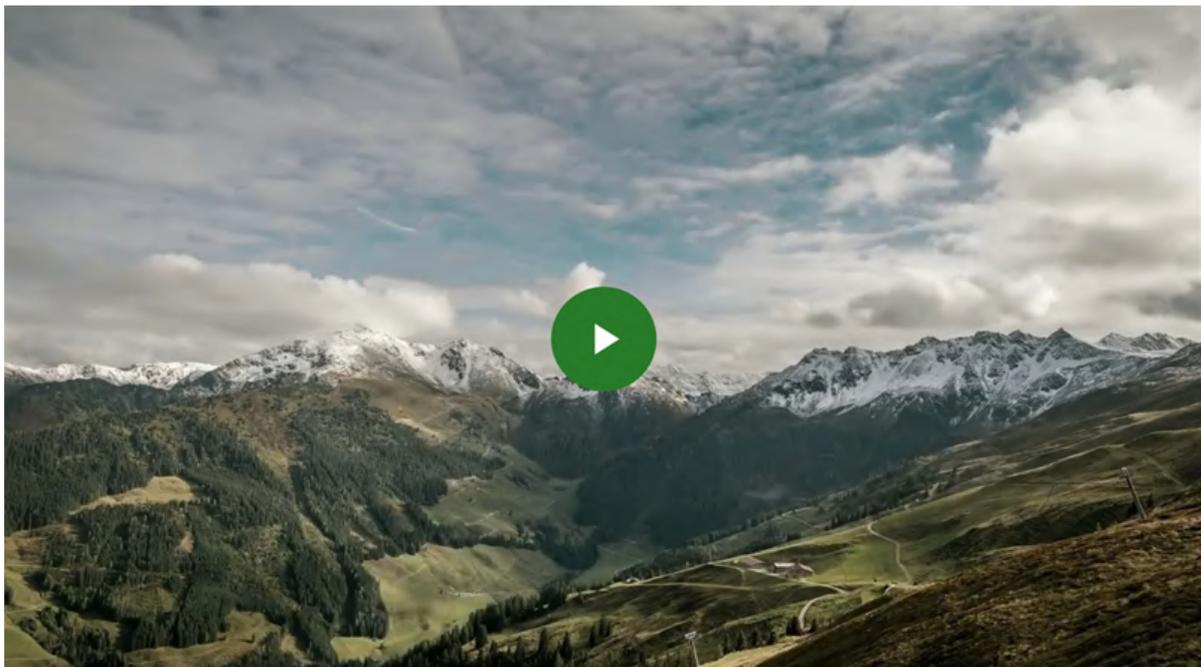
To: Mary Dobson <Mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

The Law Society | [View online](#)

29 October

Professional Update

COP26: How solicitors can help address the climate crisis



Climate change is no longer just the preserve of environmental lawyers. As all eyes are on the COP26 summit, we've published new resources that help you create a climate-conscious approach to legal practice.

We've released a resolution on climate change that outlines the role solicitors can play in addressing the climate crisis. [Read the resolution here](#) and join the debate on social media [#LawSocClimateResolution](#).

Explore the advice and guidance on practical steps solicitors and businesses can take in response to climate change.

[> Explore our climate resources](#)

What will life look like in 2050?

Discover what the long-term future impact of climate change could be by watching our new video on what life will be like in 30 years, which forms part of our Future Worlds 2050 project.

[> Find out what the world will be like in 2050](#)

What is COP26 and how will it affect solicitors?

Find out more about COP26 – what it is, why it's happening and what will be up for discussion.

[> Read up on COP26](#)

Government acts on our calls for crucial investment in the justice system



Chancellor Rishi Sunak MP's autumn budget has delivered a shot in the arm for the justice system. We're pleased that the UK government has listened to our calls for much-needed investment to improve the effectiveness of the courts system, address the backlog and invest in the sustainability of the civil legal aid market. Here we explore five ways that the budget impacts solicitors and the legal profession.

[> Get the full story](#)

20th annual Pro Bono Week set to begin

The 20th annual pro bono week offers the profession an opportunity to celebrate those who provide free legal aid to some of the most vulnerable people in society. A variety of events are taking place next week, and members are also encouraged to run their own events.

[> Find out what events are happening](#)

**PRO
BONO
WEEK**

SIF: We prepare to respond to the SRA's consultation on closure

Having successfully lobbied the SRA to defer the closure of the solicitors indemnity fund (SIF) by 12 months, we are now poised for the consultation on the future of the fund.

New Law Journal

Leading on debate, litigation and dispute resolution

A witches' brew

Dominic Regan on the pros & cons of remote working

Let's be civil

Stephen Gold on tribunal land & concealed penalties

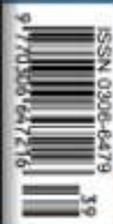
#ProBonoWeek

Lord Goldsmith & Michael Napier reflect on the first 20 years

PRO BONO WEEK

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

1 to 5 November 2021



#WeDoProBono: Pro Bono Opportunities Directory



© Getty images/iStockphoto

View from the Ministry

Fiona Rutherford, director, Access to Justice Policy, at the Ministry of Justice, pays tribute to the value of pro bono for lawyers & clients alike

Pro bono is a rite of passage and valuable training tool for some starting out in their legal careers, for others it remains a constant throughout. For me, at university, it was a way in which I might better understand the landlord and tenant law I was being taught and perhaps a way to support some fellow students who didn't have the benefit of some of my legal lectures.

At Bar School, the Free Representation Unit was a way to put into practice some of the advice writing skills that often seemed a bit like a foreign language. It wasn't until I joined chambers and met Juliet Oury that I truly understood the fulfilment of using my valuable legal skills to help those who hadn't had the same opportunities and who faced sentences ranging from life imprisonment through to the death penalty in the Caribbean. Juliet's passion for helping these young men in Jamaica (and other parts of the Caribbean) was not only remarkable but it was inspirational and enabled me to get involved in casework I felt privileged to do and learnt a huge amount from. For those lawyers reading this and asking should I? Do I have the time? Will it be worth it? The answers are: yes, you will find it, and absolutely!

In my current role as director of access to justice policy at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), I now have a broader understanding of the role pro bono plays as a vital adjunct to publicly funded sources of legal support. The Legal Services Board's most recent legal needs survey found that 64% of adults in England and Wales had experienced at least one legal issue in the previous four years, amounting to almost 30 million people. The variety of legal issues contained within these figures coupled with the differences in the personal circumstances of the individuals facing them mean that it is important to have

a range of legal support services available to meet these needs. Whether helping a client in a neighbourly dispute, challenging an unfair dismissal in the workplace, or settling a client's immigration status, the work of pro bono organisations and many individuals like Juliet provide a vital lifeline to those who are struggling to vindicate their rights.

Beyond the domestic impact, and as I touched on above, the contribution of UK lawyers to justice internationally through pro bono work is equally commendable. Such contributions come in the form of working on individual human rights cases, and schemes like the Rule of Law Expertise Programme in which lawyers have partnered with the judiciary and the UK government to provide technical expertise to promote the rule of law in developing nations. It is not only heartening to see this kind of positive collaboration but the international pro bono work of UK lawyers also demonstrates the high standards of our legal sector to the world, contributing to our status as world leaders in promoting justice.

As well as recognising the positive development of pro bono work itself over the past 20 years, it is important to give due regard to the consistently high standards applied through the development of the Pro Bono Protocol, and more recently the Pro Bono Charter.

The past two decades have also seen a growth in pro bono work taking place in UK universities through the growing number of student advice clinics, including at University College London, the University of Kent and Northumbria University, to name just a few. In November 2018, I was invited by Mr Justice Knowles to the Regional Civil Justice Council Forum event hosted by Exeter University. I met a number of the students involved in innovating how to deliver free legal advice to enable

more people to access it. These university initiatives have the dual benefit of tapping into the minds of those who have new and fresh ideas as well as providing valuable experience and inspiration to the next generation of pro bono lawyers. Events such as the annual Student Pro Bono Awards are an important opportunity to recognise the valuable contributions such initiatives make.

This Pro Bono Week is coming at a challenging time for the legal sector and the wider justice system as we continue to address the impact of COVID-19. Though the challenges are significant, the positive response to meet these challenges provides cause for optimism. Social distancing led the pro bono community to rapidly adapt their operations, enabling the remote delivery of services. Many more organisations are better positioned to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by improving technology. Furthermore, since the advent of the pandemic we have seen improved collaboration within the legal community and advice sector, and in the MoJ we have strongly benefited from their positive engagement.

I have no doubt that the pro bono community will continue to rise to the challenge, diversify and create new and better opportunities to increase access to justice and the MoJ looks forward to continued collaboration over the next 20 years of pro bono.

NLJ



November 1 @ 6.00pm - 8.00pm

OFFICIAL LAUNCH
Pro Bono Week 2021:
panel debate: past,
present and future

Online and in person event

With a welcome from the Attorney General, join the launch event in person or online to explore the past, present and future of pro bono. [...]

<https://pbw2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Fiona Rutherford, director, Access to Justice Policy, at the Ministry of Justice.

PRO BONO WEEK

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

probonoweb.org.uk

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Pro bono and legal aid—stronger together

Chairs & presidents: view from the top

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WELCOME

1 to 5 November 2021

Pro Bono Week epitomises the best of the profession. Over 20 years the week has showcased and encouraged the profession's dedication to providing help to those in need—free of charge. But more than that, the week has been a collaborative effort through which the pro bono sector and the professional bodies have worked with each other to meet a common goal

The world has obviously changed in the last two decades in many ways. So too has the pro bono landscape. But it is difficult to imagine that in the 1990s there were no national initiatives or charities to facilitate or encourage pro bono by the profession. It was 25 years ago that the Bar Pro Bono Unit (now called Advocate) was founded, to help facilitate volunteering by the Bar. This was soon followed by the Solicitors Pro Bono Group, later known as LawWorks, to support pro bono undertaken by solicitors. In 2002 it was recognised that more was needed to be done to showcase how lawyers could volunteer. Pro Bono Week (PBW) was therefore established and many developments followed, as the articles in this special edition and in future issues evidence.

The last 20 years of PBW have continued to strive to meet the aforementioned aim. Highlights of the events which have taken place over that time include a bus which toured the country in 2004 offering advice sessions; national conferences on pro bono taking place sequentially in London and Manchester; annual award ceremonies celebrating the best examples in the profession; and last year, a fully online PBW with over 50 virtual events

during the pandemic and 5,000 participants. It has been particularly special that the last two years of PBW, previously an English and Welsh affair, have officially involved our colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, the work is clearly not done. The legal aid and public authority cuts have left many unable to get help. The need for pro bono has never been greater, and so too is the task of highlighting to the profession how they can volunteer, whilst at the same time showcasing best practice in collaborative and effective pro bono schemes. To that end, as the current chair of the national organising committee, may I express our thanks to all those who have been involved in supporting PBW over the years, and to our current project lead, funded by the National Pro Bono Centre, Mary Dobson Smith. Our gratitude is due to the *NLJ* for its support with this special edition, which we hope will be a further piece in encouraging and supporting the profession's enduring commitment to pro bono.



Toby Brown, Chair, Pro Bono Week organising committee #ProBonoWeek



National Pro Bono Centre: paying tribute to 20 years

Sir Robin Knowles celebrates two decades of collaboration in support of those in legal need

'Pro bono is part of being a lawyer'. This sentence underpinned Pro Bono Week in its tenth year. It reflected the journey that pro bono legal work had made from ad hoc to co-ordinated, from incidental to mainstream.

Pro Bono Week (or National Pro Bono Week as it then was)—putting aside one week a year for events up and down England and Wales—enabled us to see that journey and show it and celebrate it.

Now, Pro Bono Week (PBW) reaches its 20th year. Substantial anniversaries like this are now seen across a mature sector: for example, this is the 25th year of the Bar's pro bono clearing house, Advocate (or the Bar Pro Bono Unit as it was). The National Pro Bono Centre (ten years old as the pandemic began) proudly supports the administration of PBW this year as last.

Growing through the years

The idea for a PBW was first that of LawWorks (or the Solicitors Pro Bono Group as it was). To their credit, its CEO Sue Bucknall and chair Paul Newdick CBE brought the idea to one of the earliest collaborative spaces the sector then had—the Pro Bono Coordinating Committee led by the then Attorney General (Lord Peter Goldsmith QC). His support and that of the Attorney General's envoy, Mike Napier CBE, QC (Hon) (a former president of the Law Society), together with Ming Kong OBE and Rebecca Hilsenrath (who was to go on to lead LawWorks as its CEO), ensured that it happened.

In the years that have followed, alongside PBW and all it stands for, we have seen so much, from the Pro Bono Protocol to the Access to Justice Foundation to the establishment of international pro bono bodies including Advocates for International Development, International Senior Lawyers Project UK, iProbono and more. And seeing Baroness Patricia Scotland, the Commonwealth Secretary General, recently at the Commonwealth Law Conference brought to mind her leadership when Attorney General in bringing a Pro Bono Toolkit into the Commonwealth.

And within PBW itself we have seen fun and adventure, alongside its serious purpose. Zigzagging across remoter parts of Wales was a privilege. Advice dispensed from a double decker pro bono bus has its place in the memories of many. Some of the now many legal walks, started by Bob Nightingale MBE's work to build the London Legal Walk, take place in the week or chart a course to or from the week.

The interest and involvement of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and of the members of the profession who are paralegals has been evident alongside that of barristers and solicitors. The in-house legal community is also a crucial part of this, both in the public sector (including the Government Legal Service) and the private sector (including the general counsel of the top companies in the UK, through GC100). And university involvement in pro bono work has again grown from the incidental to the mainstream.

Cheers to the future

I hope it will already be obvious why PBW is one of the things that the National Pro Bono Centre is proud to support. PBW brings the

pro bono sector closer together. It nourishes the pro bono ethic that is at the heart of the profession. It ensures that good ideas are shared. It refreshes the vital links between the advice agencies and the profession. All this leads to more legal advice and assistance reaching those who need it.

Of course, there are many other channels now that help too. Examples include the cross-sector (LASR) roundtables of sector organisation leaders that commenced with the pandemic, the Network for Justice (or LIP Network as it was), the LIP Engagement Group co-chaired by the HM Courts & Tribunals Service, and the Civil Justice Council's National Forum on Access to Justice for those without means (the tenth annual forum will be on 10 December this year). Each of these examples stands for the certain knowledge that, without coordination and collaboration, the pro bono contribution is less effective. And the need is so great that we cannot afford for any contribution to be less effective. PBW reminds us of this.

Communications have helped fulfil the part of PBW that seeks to celebrate the contributions of the profession. A number of the awards now given for exceptional commitment to a pro bono cause are given or highlighted in the week. More generally, stories, pictures and videos are to be found on social media. Hybrid and online events in PBW mirror the growth in remote volunteering. Technology will enable lawyers to do some forms of pro bono work more easily. We trust that those developing technology now will recognise a responsibility to share their legaltech knowledge and expertise with the pro bono sector.

As an increasing development, the partnership work of National Pro Bono Centre with the Commercial Litigators' Forum (CLF) and GC100 is bringing into the pro bono sector not just lawyers but suppliers of services to the law, including suppliers of technology, document management, forensic services, litigation management, translation, communications, and more. I pay particular tribute to the work of Hilton Mervis of CLF and that of many busy litigation partners across the major national and international firms. Busy, but still determined to find the time, because this matters.

All this and more from PBW. The support from the New Law Journal to support this special week has been welcome and much appreciated. Please take the opportunity yourself to go to one or more of the many events at probonoweb.org.uk/events.

And here's to the next ten years. We hope this will be the beginning of an even stronger focus on access to justice for those without means. To say that this is needed is an understatement. But to say that this is achievable is realistic.

The National Pro Bono Centre pays respectful tribute to the profession and to all involved in putting together the 20th Pro Bono Week. Particular and warm thanks, and admiration, are due to the Pro Bono Week Committee, chaired by Toby Brown, and to Mary Dobson Smith as its administrative lead.



Sir Robin Knowles chairs the Civil Justice Council Standing Committee on access to justice for those without means as well as the HMCTS Litigants in Person Engagement Group. He is the chair of Advocate and the National Pro Bono Centre. He was awarded the CBE in 2007 for service to pro bono legal services.



PRO
BONO
WEEK
2021

Environment matters

The environment, corporate governance and supply chains as well as climate-related legal issues now feature prominently on the pro bono agenda. Three trailblazers in this vital area describe how they are making the world better, cleaner and safer for all

Chancery Lane Project

www.chancerylaneproject.org

The
Chancery Lane
Project

The Chancery Lane Project has exploded in the last year and has just released their Net Zero Toolkit to coincide with COP26. The project facilitates workshops with lawyers and industry experts to create contract clauses to tackle climate change. Clauses which are rigorously peer reviewed and then published as a free resource on its website at www.chancerylaneproject.org/climate-clauses. The key to the success of the project has been the generous donation of pro bono time from its volunteers and participants spanning private practitioners and in-house counsel and many talented industry experts such as construction engineers and procurement professionals. It is this interdisciplinary collaboration which is unique, along with the simple offer that The Chancery Lane Project makes: the offer of using your specialist knowledge to contribute to stopping climate change.

The Project now has over 70 clauses with another 30 in the publication pipeline. These span diverse industries and practice areas from corporate governance and supply chains through to shipping and real estate. Several of the clauses are in use already, championed by law firms such as Bates Wells and TLT LLP. Notably the Salesforce sustainability exhibit and a number of clauses in Environment Agency standard terms and conditions were informed and inspired by the project's clause playbook.

If you want to get involved as the project continues to grow and expand in 2022 and beyond then sign up at <https://bit.ly/3Ch6Y1T>

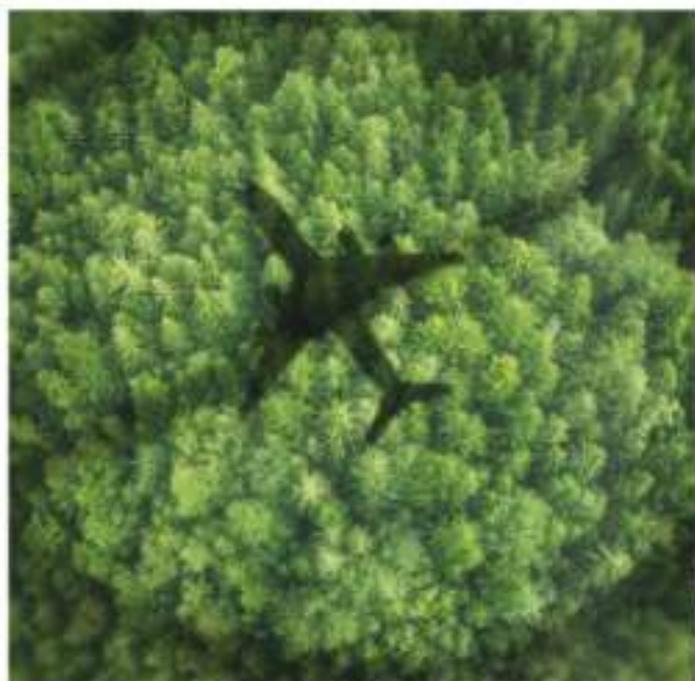
Clyde & Co

www.clydeco.com/en

CLYDE & CO

The Clyde & Co trainee-led Climate Change Group was founded in March 2020 by trainees at the firm with a particular interest in climate-related legal issues. The Group was established to provide opportunities for junior lawyers at the firm to gain first-hand experience of climate-related pro bono and business development work. This enables trainees to develop a range of skills, and to make a positive impact on the work of climate-related charities and projects by providing high quality legal advice on a variety of issues.

The Group has grown rapidly over the past 18 months, and now provides advice and support to various organisations on a diverse range of topics such as rewinding, COP26 and climate-conscious clauses. Trainees in the Group also help fee earners at all levels of the firm develop their expertise in climate-related issues by organising regular learning and development events and producing comprehensive monthly updates on climate change affairs. This helps to ensure that fee earners stay up to date on the latest legal and commercial developments in the climate sphere, and develop Clyde & Co's position as a global leader on climate-related legal issues.



ELF

www.elflaw.org

Environmental
Law Foundation

The Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) works with UK communities to secure access to environmental justice for all. We do this through advice and information, public legal education, and policy work.

ELF helps vulnerable communities have a voice in decisions that affect their environment and quality of life and that of future generations. Over the past 29 years ELF has established a cross-disciplinary network of lawyers and technical consultants which each year provides thousands of hours of pro bono advice and assistance to communities and individuals who have nowhere else to turn to address their environmental concerns. This has been joined by our growing networks of pro-bono environmental legal advice and policy clinics, in partnership with universities across the UK.

Our enquiries cover a broad range of issues such as noise, odours or air pollution from industrial and domestic sources, or the loss of cherished urban green spaces to development, for example, all of which can negatively impact peoples' well-being and quality of life. There is a clear link between environmental and social justice.

A recent success, working with Better Streets for Kensington and Chelsea, was being granted permission to challenge the decision of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea regarding their decision to remove the segregated cycle lane on Kensington High Street.

1-12

November 1 - 12 November 2021

Climate Clauses in Action: The Chancery Lane Project

Hybrid & online events

Throughout Pro Bono Week and COP26, we are running a 2021 Net Zero Toolkit Workshop Series, which includes events across a number of key themes: built environment, corporate governance, finance, supply chains and transactions and deals. Each event includes a Climate Clauses in Action (week 1) and Net Zero Drafting (week 2) workshop [...]

<http://probonoweek.org.uk/tag/environmentaljustice>

**PRO
BONO
WEEK**
probonoweek.org.uk

Where it all began: Pro Bono Week 2001–2021

The past, present & future of pro bono work—**Lord Goldsmith** & **Michael Napier** in conversation with **Catherine Baksi**



Michael Napier (L) with Lord Goldsmith: pro bono trendsetters

Twenty years after it all began, two of the men who played key roles in the creation of National Pro Bono Week look back over two decades of promoting and celebrating free legal help.

Peter, now Lord Goldsmith, was appointed attorney general in Tony Blair's government in 2001. He had a long history of supporting the provision of free legal advice to those in need but without means. As a young barrister, he recalls running the disco at an East End community centre, as a way to talk to the young people who attended about their legal rights. It led to the creation of a law centre. He later founded the Bar Pro Bono Unit, now called Advocate, of which he remains president.

Committee commitments

In office, one of the first things he did was to create the Attorney General's Pro Bono Co-ordinating Committee, and to appoint Michael Napier, a former Law Society president and partner at national law firm Irwin Mitchell, as his pro bono envoy.

Napier too, had a long record of commitment to pro bono work, helping to found Sheffield Citizen's Advice Bureau in 1972. When Irwin Mitchell was a four-partner high street law firm, Napier recalls giving free legal advice on Thursdays to clients who could not pay and did not qualify for legal aid. 'It's just what you did,' he says.

Goldsmith, with his solicitor general Harriet Harman, organised a meeting of all the providers of pro bono legal services—the Bar Pro Bono Unit, the Solicitors Pro Bono Group (now called LawWorks) and the Institute of Legal Executives—and not-for-profit agencies.

Although there was a lot of good work being done across the profession, Goldsmith says: 'there was no coordination and I thought we could do a lot better'. He adds: 'We also wanted to encourage more people to do pro bono work, and thought bringing individuals together would be a good way of doing it.'

In the press release announcing the committee's launch, Goldsmith said: 'Pro bono work should be an accepted part of professional life for every solicitor, barrister and legal firm.'

On his own role, Napier quips: 'It's a good example of what happens if you don't attend a meeting—you get given a job'. It was one he was pleased to accept, although he declined the initial title of Pro Bono Tsar. Napier had high hopes for what the committee could achieve, telling a radio show that he wanted to create 'intergalactic pro bono'—'we were', he says 'thinking big'.

Joining up the dots

His initial challenge was to map the legal pro bono work being done throughout the UK and join up the dots. 'The trouble was, we couldn't even find the dots on the map,' says Napier.

With the committee meeting every quarter, people gradually came round the table and the momentum grew. Crucial to the progress was the publication of the Pro Bono Protocol, setting the standards and requirements for those providing services, and development of the national pro bono website, which launched in 2003.

Another key factor in raising its profile, says Goldsmith, was the involvement of parliamentarians and creation of the MPs' guide to pro bono. Meetings were held in parliamentary premises during pro bono weeks and MPs would drop in, grateful to learn about the services on offer. Public legal education also became a core element, with school and university projects, and the Attorney General's Student Prize, which continues today with LawWorks.

Section 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007 was another giant step forward. It provides for pro bono costs orders to be awarded where the winning party's lawyers had worked free of charge. The money, explains Goldsmith, is paid to the Access to Justice Foundation, which he chairs, and which funds legal advice charities in their provision of pro bono legal advice services. The establishment in 2007 of the Attorney General's International Pro Bono Committee helped to co-ordinate the important work being done overseas.

Time immemorial

Pro bono work, says Napier, has been done by lawyers since time immemorial. A Law Society library exhibition in 2007's Pro Bono Week included legislation passed by Henry VII in 1495 on the provision of assistance to the poor. The Act enabled the chancellor to 'assign suche of the clerks... lerned council and atorneys... without any rewarde taking therefore'.

Pro bono has not always been an easy sell. In 2001 as president of the Law Society, Napier failed to get a resolution from its council to support an aspirational number of annual pro bono hours. 'They passed a watered-down resolution supporting solicitors' pro bono work,' he states. Cynics have suggested that some City law firms got involved as a PR exercise to promote their worthy credentials to their clients. But Napier is adamant: 'It is the work that matters; not the motive'.

With significant cuts to legal aid fees, it is hard to suggest to those lawyers who already feel they are providing much of their work

20 years of Pro Bono Week

The first Pro Bono Week in 2001 was created to help identify the disparate work being done by individuals and groups, and to celebrate, encourage and raise the profile of free legal work. The weeks were filled with practical and informative lectures, seminars and debates. Pro Bono Week 2004 saw an appropriately branded bus travel from Trafalgar Square around the country to spread the message.

In 2006, Pro Bono Week moved from June to November to enable university law students to take part. In 2008, the lord chief justice, Sir Igor Judge, opened his court for a mock trial on the theme of gun and knife crime. The jury was made up of young people from the Behaviour Support Service Resource Base in Camden, North London, and the advocates were students from BPP Law School's pro bono centre. With the backing of successive law officers, Pro Bono Week and the wider work became an established feature of the mainstream legal landscape.



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for nothing, that they should engage in more pro bono work—and critics suggest that pro bono lets the government off the hook from funding the legal aid system. Goldsmith stresses that pro bono can never be a substitute for properly funded legal aid, but insists there is a place for it.

As Napier and Goldsmith acknowledge, the scale of unmet need is greater than ever before—and they expect it to grow. They look forward to continued improvements in collaboration, meaning lawyers' pro bono efforts are harnessed most effectively, and will be at the forefront of those celebrating the dedication of pro bono lawyers for the next 20 years.



November 1 @ 6.00pm - 8.00pm

OFFICIAL LAUNCH Pro Bono Week 2021: panel debate: past, present and future

Online and in person event

The launch event will take place in person online, and will host a panel of speakers, exploring the past, present and future of pro bono. Register to attend via the Eventbrite link: <https://pbw2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Bar Pro Bono Awards

Kindly sponsored by LexisNexis

Supported by: The Bar Council



When the Bar Pro Bono Unit was set up 25 years ago, it immediately recognised the value of celebrating its barristers and publicising pro bono by handing out an award every year. Fast forward two decades and the Bar Pro Bono Awards are a highlight of Pro Bono Week, bringing together chambers from all over the country and showcasing achievements of all aspects of pro bono across the Bar:

- ▶ Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year (sponsored by **Place Campbell**)
- ▶ Junior Pro Bono Barrister of the Year (sponsored by **Westgate Wealth Management**)
- ▶ Pro Bono QC of the Year
- ▶ International Pro Bono Barrister of the Year
- ▶ Pro Bono Chambers' Professional of the Year (sponsored by the **LPMA**)
- ▶ Pro Bono Chambers of the Year
- ▶ Pro Bono Innovation of the Year
- ▶ Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono, the Sydney Elland Goldsmith Award
- ▶ John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award (in partnership with the North-Eastern Circuit)

All nominees are invited to an Awards evening that takes place on 3 November during Pro Bono Week at which winners in most categories will be announced.

We are running an in-person event and will be live-streaming the awards ceremony from 7pm. Watch the event on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/PBW2021awards>. Winners of Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year and Lifetime Achievement in Pro Bono will be presented with their awards at the Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference later in November.

All the highlights will be published and the winners showcased in a future issue of New Law Journal.



November 3 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Pro Bono Work; The Gift That Keeps on Giving! – Advocate, the IBC and the Bar Council Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee

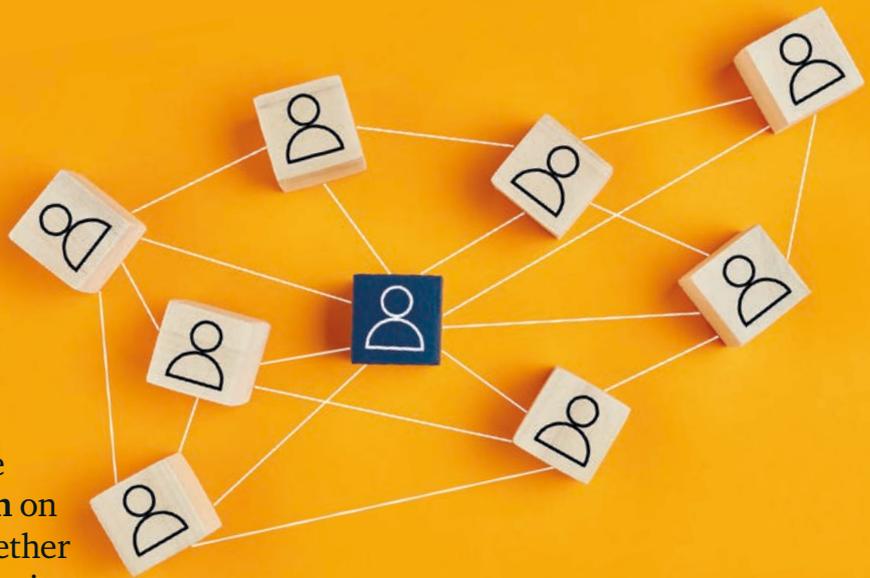
Hybrid: in person and streamed online

A seminar for clerks and practice managers; hear from clerks and barristers to find out how other sets manage the pro bono process and ask any questions you might have. <http://tinyurl.com/PBW2021clerks>

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There's no I in pro bono

When competition goes out the window: **Rebecca Greenhalgh** on the importance of working together when it comes to pro bono initiatives



© Getty Images / iStockphoto

Pro bono support for the everyday operations of charities and not-for-profits has long been a feature of many City law firms. In contrast, finding appropriate pro bono work that supports individuals, as a City firm, is not straightforward. Firms must recognise when a potential matter falls within legal aid and ensure those cases are signposted to specialists in those areas. They must understand the limits of their lawyers' expertise and, if considering any expansion beyond this, ensure they arrange training and supervision by experts in those areas of law. That in turn requires firms to ensure they build and maintain working relationships with those experts—the not-for-profit specialists at law centres, specialist charities and other independent advice organisations—and also that they also keep up to date on wider developments that impact on potential areas of legal need. Firms must ensure that every piece of pro bono work meets the same level of quality and commitment as billable work, which requires the development of stringent internal policies and procedures, and regular engagement, monitoring and reporting across all departments in the firm.

Time to team up

In short: if a large commercial firm wants to ensure the pro bono work its lawyers do for individuals is appropriate and has a positive impact, the firm soon realises it needs a dedicated pro bono professional: somebody who can invest time in learning about and developing relationships across the advice sector; who can scope out, design and roll out legal pro bono projects with an eye across all professional and regulatory requirements; who can monitor and react rapidly to ensure projects stay on track; and who can retain insight for the firm and help it to build and expand a successful pro bono practice in the long term.

And City firms have not only learnt this lesson, but acted on it: in 2006 many firms had corporate social responsibility roles, but fewer than ten had dedicated pro bono roles; in 2021, there are over 60 dedicated pro bono roles in the UK, ranging from apprentices through to partners.

With only one person in role in many firms at the start, it was inevitable that they would find their fellow pro bono professionals to be their immediate professional peers; the people they could bounce ideas off, learn from and be supported by. Joint projects were an obvious progression from such joint discussions, with four City firms teaming up to support the Asylum Support Appeals Project back in 2009.

As that small community of pro bono professionals grew, each new arrival was welcomed into a cross-firm network that encouraged and expected collaboration on pro bono. If firms wanted

to do pro bono for impact, they quickly recognised the benefit of collaboration: the ability to learn from the success and failure of previous pro bono projects by other firms; the ability to combine resources and increase the chance of projects succeeding; and the reduced demand placed on the not-for-profit community by having one firm liaise with an organisation on behalf of several.

The pro bono plan of action

When the PILNet Global Pro Bono Forum took place in London in 2014, this collaboration was formalised in the UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono initiative ('the Plan'): a network that would connect local and international firms directly to each other, allowing them to share structural know-how and help launch more—and better—in-firm programmes, particularly in respect of individual casework.

Through this network, firms with no pro bono professional could access the experience and capacity of firms with pro bono professionals: one firm's pro bono lead might develop and roll out a project that other firms could join; another firm might arrange an open session to share insight on pro bono issues; firms might join a meeting with LawWorks, Law Centres Network, Advice UK or other specialists to discuss and brainstorm ways to support their work. Starting with 12 firms as members (grown to 70 firms employing over 18,000 lawyers as of October 2021), the Plan initiative got underway and a number of multi-firm projects were developed to address specific domestic legal needs, in consultation with Law Centres Network and other specialists.

Joining forces on pro bono projects

An early example is **social welfare benefits**: an area no longer in mainstream scope for legal aid until the Upper Tribunal level, but an area where advice organisations continue to try and provide support to people navigating appeals at the First-tier Tribunal. Eight Plan firms committed funds to partner with Z2K and support its Tribunals Project, with many volunteers now having several years of tribunal appeals under their belt and able to take on increasingly complex cases under Z2K supervision. The project has seen Z2K advisers and legal volunteers represent nearly 1,000 disabled people at appeal—winning in over 90% of cases—and Z2K now has capacity to cover around 450 cases per year.

More recent examples include the scandal of the **Windrush Generation** where eight firms are supporting the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants in their work assisting Windrush victims to apply for compensation from the UK government; and a project between 24 firms and **KIND UK** (comprising Central England Law Centre, Coram Children's Legal Centre, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, JustRight Scotland, and Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit at Islington Law Centre) where volunteers support specialist advice organisations with the preparation of citizenship applications for children.

As familiarity with joint projects has developed, firms have also been able to develop more innovative pro bono schemes. If an application succeeds, **exceptional case funding** (ECF) allows a legal aid adviser to receive additional payment for the work on a case. However, if the application fails, the time spent putting together the application is not compensated. For charities with legal aid contracts, already working more hours than funds will cover, the unpaid time cost of unsuccessful applications is a risk that can restrict their capacity to seek ECF in every case. Discussions with Bail for Immigration Detainees and Refugee Legal Support, two organisations facing this challenge, led to ongoing projects staffed by seven firms, where their lawyers are trained and supervised in gathering evidence and compiling the ECF applications for the organisation. A new ECF project with University House and six firms also launched in September 2021.

Following the **Grenfell Tower fire** in 2017, the pre-existing collaboration between firms enabled North Kensington Law Centre (NKLC) to draw on pro bono help in a different way: seconding Plan firm pro bono manager expertise to help the centre create and operate numerous legal advice schemes in a matter of days when NKLC was inundated with offers of help from across the legal sector. Pro bono managers helped NKLC coordinate support from other law centres, specialist charities such as Shelter, specialist legal aid practitioner members of the Housing Law Practitioners Association and Immigration Law Practitioners Association, and specialist pro bono barristers and solicitors in every area of law.

This capacity to help liaise with specialist not-for-profits and coordinate a multi-firm response that minimised law firm demand on the not-for-profits at a time of high demand from the community has been repeated in a number of other projects since 2017. Since 2019, six firms with offices across Europe have worked with European Lawyers in Lesbos to staff an ongoing rotating full-time secondment (currently remote during the pandemic) through which volunteers support the preparation of asylum seekers for their first instance interviews, family reunification and age assessments. More recently in 2021, as thousands of Afghan people seek asylum from Taliban rule, firms in the UK, Europe and US have drawn on these existing connections to rapidly share updates where pro bono help is requested from firms by specialist organisations across those jurisdictions and to coordinate such help.

The box above shows a small selection from many collaborative pro bono projects that firms have developed over the last 12 years, shared to illustrate the varied ways that firms have worked collectively to support the needs of a specialist advice organisation in assisting impacted communities.

The same approach is seen outside London where firms in Bristol, Birmingham, and Manchester have come together to address access to justice needs in their region as a united community; it is also seen in the in-house community where the In-House Pro Bono Group, formed in 2019 by five people, now has 128 members across 63 in-house teams all working together to understand where they can contribute through pro bono. The Chancery Lane Project was first proposed by an In-House Pro Bono Group member; since then, 1,300 legal professionals from 235 organisations have collaborated to develop and implement new practical contractual clauses that deliver climate solutions across industries and jurisdictions.

This willingness to share insight and project opportunities with other firms—of any size—is somewhat at odds with every other aspect of commercial law firm activity where firms usually attempt to distinguish their offering from their competitors. It reflects the recognition across firms that, if they truly seek to support communities, a combined effort that draws on the strongest or most relevant elements from every participating firm provides the client community with the best possible outcome.

Strengthening the foundations

Of course, the long-term relevance of such efforts will continue to depend on two crucial elements in the wider legal sector. First,

a fully funded, functioning civil and criminal legal aid system: if civil and criminal legal aid are the foundations, floors, walls and roof of a house, then City law firm pro bono is a lampshade: a minor complement to the room, but not remotely intended for or capable of repairing walls that are close to collapse, a leaking roof, or holes in the floor. Large firm pro bono is only useful if the majority of legal needs are being met by dedicated specialist practitioners who are paid for every hour that a case necessitates, leaving smaller gaps outside legal aid to be addressed through pro bono. Consider the 450 welfare benefits cases each year Z2K is able now to support with the benefit of volunteers and funding from ‘plan’ firms in the context of the number of cases removed from the scope of civil legal aid since 2010 (over 140,000 per year).

And second, a vibrant and sustainable not-for-profit legal advice sector: one that has sufficiently reliable funding to ensure it retains specialists with years of expertise; one that works in and knows the communities it seeks to assist; one that can afford to advise people with multiple complex needs—especially when those needs fall outside legal aid—long before their problems reach court. The not-for-profit legal advice sector is the food in the cupboards, the heating that keeps the house warm, the lightbulbs, the water supply—all of the essentials that any home needs before lampshades make an appearance. Large firm pro bono is most successful when firms can partner with those specialist organisations to access training, supervision and the communities that they hope to assist. Without legal aid and the not-for-profit legal advice sector, there is little prospect of access to justice for millions of people, and that is something pro bono can never replace.

The **UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono** is a profession-led initiative for law firms. Each of the participating law firms has a strong institutional commitment to pro bono and access to justice. Participating law firms work collaboratively to develop the systems and infrastructure to allow pro bono services to be effectively delivered to address unmet legal need. Find out more at www.probonoplan.uk.



November 2 @ 12.30pm - 1.30pm am

In House Counsel and Law Firms Doing Pro Bono Together

Online event

The In House Pro Bono Group invites you to join us for a webinar with Clifford Chance and Ropes & Gray on how in house lawyers and law firms can partner effectively to do pro bono together [...]

<http://tinyurl.com/PBW2021InHouse>



November 3 @ 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Pro Bono: What does the future hold?

In person event

Join the Middle Temple Young Barristers’ Association (MTYBA), London Young Lawyers Group (LYLG), and the Junior London Solicitors Litigation Association (JLSLA) for a panel discussion, followed by networking and refreshments. Alex Chalk QC, Solicitor General, will kickstart the event with a welcome speech [...]

<https://bit.ly/3Bh5PyL>



Rebecca Greenhalgh, senior associate & pro bono manager at Ashurst, on behalf of the Collaborative Plan Secretariat (Rebecca Greenhalgh, Paul Yates, Marion Edge & Amy Grunske)

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The growth of in-house pro bono

Pro Bono Week 2021 will mark the extensive work undertaken by the in-house community to assist the most vulnerable in society



The In-House Pro Bono Group

Over the years, there have been several barriers, both perceived and actual, to in-house counsel doing pro bono, including: the need for professional indemnity insurance, which was not readily available to in-house counsel; employment contracts that may restrict employees from providing 'outside services'; and regulations around 'reserved' versus 'non-reserved' legal activities. The in-house community has been working hard to overcome these barriers and find ways to actively offer pro bono volunteering opportunities to their employees.

Lifting these barriers has resulted in an exponential growth in pro bono work undertaken by in-house counsel—the interest in giving back to the community and helping ensure access to justice was clearly there all along. We see this with the number of organisations reaching out to us with queries on how to do pro bono and by the number of matters taken on by the in-house sector. Corporates and financial institutions are hugely supportive of their employees taking on pro bono work.

The In-House Pro Bono Group was set up in 2019 to bring the in-house pro bono community together and has grown rapidly and currently has 130 members over 63 organisations. Some members have established pro bono programmes, others are setting up pro bono programmes or are doing pro bono work on their own within their organisation. This growth is a reflection of the commitment within the in-house sector to assist those most vulnerable in our society and combat climate change.

GC100

GC100 is an association that represents lawyers and governance professionals from some of the largest UK listed companies. It is our observation that there is a compelling need for pro bono legal services and that GC100 can play a pivotal role in promoting pro bono work as an important facet of the profession it represents.

We have noticed that there is an increased appetite for in-house teams to become more involved in pro bono work. This work can provide a great opportunity for not only supporting some of society's most in need but also bringing a diversity of skills and perspectives into the workplace.

Our focus this year has been to start a new conversation with our membership and key stakeholders about the current opportunities and challenges for in-house teams seeking to get involved in pro bono work, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We

also excited to be working with the Law Society, LawWorks and the In-House Pro Bono Group, with the support of the National Pro Bono Centre, on updating the GC100 Pro Bono Guide by drawing together our respective work in this area and providing one essential guide for the in-house community on pro bono. The guide will be made available on the GC100 webpage, the In-House Pro Bono Group, Law Society, and LawWorks websites.

An in-house president



Stephanie Boyce,
president of the Law
Society of England
and Wales 2021-22

"As only the second in-house solicitor in almost 50 years to become president of the Law Society, supporting the in-house sector is one of the goals of my term in office. Issues around insurance coverage and regulatory restrictions mean that many in-house lawyers have felt blocked from doing pro bono work.

"But many of these constraints have now been overcome and in-house counsel are taking advantage of the ample opportunities to carry out pro bono work. As deputy vice-president of the Law Society, I took part in a roundtable launching the in-house pro bono guide in Pro Bono Week 2019.

"The Law Society was pleased to work with the in-house Pro Bono Group, the Collaborative Plan and our long-standing stakeholder, LawWorks, in developing this guide. Two years later, in the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week, it is my pleasure to lead another in-house pro bono roundtable as the guide is set to be relaunched.

"The guidance is important to giving in-house lawyers a steer of how to get involved with pro bono work. I am proud of the outstanding contributions made by my fellow in-house lawyers to provide pro bono advice and access to justice to so many who need it."



November 2 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

In House Counsel and Law Firms Doing Pro Bono Together – In House Pro Bono Group

Online event The In-House Pro Bono Group invites you to join us for a webinar with Clifford Chance and Ropes & Gray on how in-house lawyers and law firms can partner effectively to do pro bono together.
<http://trnurl.com/PSW2021InHouse>



Pro bono and legal aid—stronger together?



Access Social Care: making life better

Across the profession, lawyers recognise the need to secure justice for those who are unable to cover the cost of legal advice and representation. Both legal aid and pro bono ensure that those in need are not denied their right to justice and they demonstrate the profession's commitment to the most vulnerable. As Andrea Dawkins, former South West London Law Centres (SWLLC) chair said in 2002: 'It is a simple fact that many...would have been denied their rights and had no access to justice had it not been for this voluntary effort.'

Integration

Today, a range of organisations have found ways to integrate the two. RCJ Advice established Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors (FLOWS), providing pro bono and legal aid via their online service, CourtNav. South West London Law Centres (SWLLC) are clear that online systems should 'broaden, not restrict access', and CourtNav proves how effective such a system can be at improving access to legal aid and pro bono alike, with legally aided services delivered to 7,998 survivors, and 1,167 survivors completing a successful FL401 application with help from either the FLOWS team or a pro bono lawyer. 'Many survivors [accessing CourtNav],' RCJ Advice say, 'had child cases or divorce enquiries which the pro bono solicitors on the family rota responded to.'

Bristol Law Centre have employed a similar approach, creating the Bristol Pro Bono Group with firms and universities to support the delivery of pro bono advice, while the centre continues its legal aid provision.

Karen Bowers, CEO, says that over the last year, the centre has restructured its triage service to '[establish] when pro bono is the best solution and when the staff team is better placed to respond'. She describes pro bono as a vital supplement', and the centre has a significant pro bono provision, with 50 volunteer lawyers taking 10–15 appointments each week alongside the centre's legal aid services.

A pathway

Kids In Need of Defence UK (KIND UK), who assist children without secure immigration status, describe pro bono as 'a pathway to accessing legal aid that would have otherwise been closed'. While they are primarily a pro bono organisation, they say that 'pro bono is not the whole story'. Each of KIND UK's hubs has a legal aid practice so that eligible cases can be referred to legal aid at any point in their progression. KIND UK says that pro bono contributes valuably in such legally aided cases, providing an 'enhanced service' of advice and representation to the children they support.

Like KIND UK's immigration cases, community care cases are not automatically eligible for legal aid. Access Social Care provides free legal help to adults with care needs and have increased

capacity by working with pro bono lawyers. They have also trained volunteers from law firms 'to develop a secondary specialisation in community care law, and supervised by [Access Social Care's] lawyers, they provide end-to-end casework'. They report that specialists at Fieldfisher have given 'hundreds of hours' of pro bono support to families at inquests into the deaths of their loved ones with learning disabilities. Their work reflects the significant size of the contribution of pro bono in securing access to justice for vulnerable adults. Currently, Access Social Care are working on an internal data-gathering project 'to evidence that there are people with meritorious cases that are not able to find a legal aid lawyer to help them'.

Working in unison

The relationship between pro bono and legal aid can seem contentious at times, with some expressing concern that pro bono is expected to fill the widened gaps in legal aid provision. SWLLC emphasise that pro bono is not a substitute for legal aid, but that legal aid can and should 'work in unison with the goodwill of solicitors' pro bono initiatives to improve access to justice'. SWLLC run one of the largest pro bono advice clinics in the UK, with around 400 lawyers volunteering to advise over 3,000 people yearly. They see complex cases where one-off pro bono advice is not the best solution; where a continuation of advice is needed, but where legal aid is not available to facilitate this.

Pro bono is not a replacement for legal aid, but it makes essential contributions to enhancing the quality and versatility of legal advice for those of limited financial means. The integration of the two services as demonstrated by KIND UK and FLOWS show keenly how each can enhance and support the other to guarantee the best possible service for people in need.

They are an effective pair when given room to flourish as complementary components rather than placed in opposition. There is a breadth of varied opinion on legal aid provision and the role of pro bono, but both areas share a common goal; they seek to protect and provide access to justice for the most vulnerable.



November 2 @ 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Poverty and Pro Bono – LawWorks

Online event

In this Pro Bono week, we are looking back over the last 20 years of pro bono and forward to the next 20. After the disruption of Covid, and with so much unmet need what should be the priority for legal pro bono? There are significant indicators that poverty may increase in future months [...]

[probonoweb.org.uk/events](http://www.probonoweb.org.uk/events)

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The Law
Society

CILEX

Chairs & presidents: view from the top

Backing from the leaders of the three main legal professions has been crucial in raising the profile of pro bono work. Several have been integral to the foundation of groups and services enabling greater participation and wider provision, as need has grown.

But support from the top has not always been universal and there have at times been tensions between the competing views of the representative bodies. Lord Peter Goldsmith QC, who went on to found the Bar Pro Bono Unit (now called Advocate), was chairman of the Bar Council from 1994. Towards the end of his term in office, he recalls receiving a frosty reception from the Law Society when giving a speech in support of lawyers giving their services without fee.

Presidential backing has not always guaranteed the support of members for their pro bono goals. As Law Society president in 1991, Michael Napier, who later became Goldsmith's pro bono envoy, failed to get the support of the body's council to pass a resolution in support of aspirational annual pro bono hours for solicitors.

Instead, the Law Society's governing body passed a less radical resolution in support of legal pro bono. 'In retrospect that was quite an achievement,' says Napier.

Moves by successive governments of all hues to cut spending on legal aid has caused a huge increase in the need for pro bono legal advice, especially in areas of civil law. From 1987, the Conservatives decreased eligibility for civil legal aid, making it available only to those on the lowest incomes.

Becoming prime minister in 1997 Tony Blair maintained the focus on curbing legal aid, demonising 'fat cat' legal aid lawyers. Blair's proposals to scrap public funding for personal injury work and extend the use of conditional fee, or no win no fee agreements, to cover it were introduced three years later in 2000.

'The drastic restriction of civil legal aid which began in 1997 left gaps,' says David, now **Lord Justice Bean**, 'which only public-spirited members of the legal profession could fill.'

Lord David Bean



"The drastic restriction of civil legal aid which began in 1997 left gaps"

Seven years before becoming Bar chairman in 2002, Bean had, with Robin Allen QC, set up the Employment Law Appeals Advisory Scheme. The scheme was one of the early examples of help emerging for those who would otherwise

have had to navigate civil legal matters on their own.

'Twenty years ago, when I was about to start my term of office chairing the Bar Council, the civil pro bono work was at an early stage of development,' he says, noting the work that was being done by the Free Representation Unit (FRU) to help those appearing before tribunals. As time has passed, the need for assistance has increased. Fortunately, says Bean, 'there are still barristers and solicitors—often the modest earners rather than the high earners—who still carry out this vital work and in doing so bring great credit to the profession.'

Nick Hanning was president of the Chartered Institute of Legal

Executives for 2012/13, but his support for pro bono extends further than that. He headed the body's pro bono efforts for over a decade, from 2007 to 2017, including acting as chair of the CILEX pro bono trust in 2012/13.

One of the key goals of the trust, he says, was to work

Nick Hanning



"The concept of matching litigators and advocates on pro bono case survives in the form of Pro Bono Connect"

collaboratively with Advocate, the Bar's pro bono charity, to provide CILEX lawyers to work on cases alongside barristers, in the way that litigation is usually conducted in England and Wales.

Support from Advocate and CILEX members, says Hanning,

permitted the project to run for several years, before regulatory barriers and a lack of resources led to the demise of the project and the trust itself.

CILEX members remain committed to pro bono services, and notes Hanning, the concept of matching litigators and advocates on pro bono cases survives in the form of Pro Bono Connect—the scheme set up by Jamie Goldsmith QC, the barrister and son of Lord Goldsmith. It provides a network of barristers and solicitors willing to work together on pro bono cases for individuals, charities and community groups.

Like many others, **Mrs Justice McGowan**, who was Bar Council chair in 2013, began her involvement with legal pro bono working for a law centre and for FRU. Since those days, she notes the growth in the legal profession's awareness and engagement, with many large law firms creating pro bono departments.

Now, a High Court judge, McGowan says she 'sees from the bench how incredibly valuable the work is' for members of the public who would otherwise be left to struggle alone. As the Latin term *pro bono publico*, suggests: 'It really does do enormous good for the public benefit,' she says.

Mrs Justice McGowan



"Pro bono really does do enormous good for the public benefit"

Nicholas Lavender QC, who is now also a High Court judge, followed McGowan as chairman of the Bar Council in 2014. He points to the nominees for the Bar Pro Bono Award in his year of office to highlight the breadth of work being undertaken by barristers.

'They had provided invaluable help to victims of domestic violence, of human trafficking and of disability discrimination, to whistle blowers, to charities such as Shelter and to the customers of the Hackney Winter Night Shelter,' recalls Lavender. 'Their work was just a small sample of what was being done by so many,' he adds.

Lavender notes the sharp rise in the need for help in the wake of the introduction in 2013 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which removed huge chunks of law from the scope of public funding.

Applications for assistance made to Advocate, the Bar's pro bono charity, he says, grew by 74%, from 107 per month in 2012 to 186 per month in the first nine months of 2014. As need increased, Lavender observes how the Bar expanded its pro bono services, for example with the launch of the Chancery Bar Litigant in Person Support Scheme in January 2014.

Robert Bourns was president of the Law Society during 12 months that witnessed three disasters across the country, and in the wake of each pro bono lawyers were there to provide vital help.

The profession, says Bourns, responded immediately to the aftermath of the bombing at Manchester Arena, the terrorist attacks at Borough Market and Westminster, and the fire at Grenfell Tower.

'In each case the response was immediate and sustained with cooperation between firms, individual practitioners, local law societies and the communities they served,' says Bourns.

Faced with the reality of reduced legal aid and the resulting inequality of arms and displaced burden onto other areas of society, including the health service and MPs surgeries, Bourns says the pro bono community—from law firms and advice centres to universities, local authorities and the judiciary—looked to create a more coordinated strategy to boost access to justice.

'We were keen to avoid allowing barriers or assumptions to colour the debate, for example that provision was focused on London ... or that certain firms would not be able to provide consumer or welfare advice,' he says.

The result was the Law Society's Pro Bono Charter, enabling firms

Christina Blacklaws



"It is vital that lawyers get serious about how we can use our skills for the benefit of vulnerable individuals, communities & societies"

to register their commitment and set out the work they offered.

Five years down the line, with the continued reduction in public funding for legal advice and support, Bourns says 'the issues we seek to resolve are at least as difficult

as they were'.

As a result of the pandemic, the increased urgency to address climate change, and widespread threats to the rule of law,

Christina Blacklaws, who was president of the Law Society in 2018/19, says 'the world has shifted on its axis'.

In response to these threats, Blacklaws says: 'It is vital that lawyers get serious about how we can use our skills for the benefit of vulnerable individuals, communities and societies.'

In a country and world where the gaps between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' are ever widening, Blacklaws insists that lawyers must use their expertise, networks and influence 'to make the world a bit better and brighter for those who lack our privilege and who are suffering'.

With a rallying cry to individual lawyers, she says: 'Let's all step up to the mark and be accountable for being part of the solution. Pro bono changes lives.'

Simon Davis came next in the line of Law Society presidents, leading the organisation in 2019/20 as COVID-19 struck.

'Firms faced financial pressure and solicitors, like many others, faced working from home, juggling childcare and work, being furloughed and uncertainty over the future,' says Davis. But, he continues: 'I was so impressed to see that despite everything going on in their lives, legal professionals' commitment to pro bono was as strong as ever at

Simon Davis



"Legal professionals' commitment to pro bono was as strong as ever at a time when the pandemic meant the vulnerable in society needed their support and advice more than ever"

a time when the pandemic meant the vulnerable in society needed their support and advice more than ever.'

The need to comply with social distancing rules restricted face-to-face services and, as in the courts, increased the use of technology to facilitate the provision of virtual online advice.

Lawyers, who had been furloughed were queuing up to give their

I Stephanie Boyce



"Free legal advice can be life changing for people who would otherwise have to navigate the justice system without expert help"

time to helping others, he says, noting his pride in the voluntary contribution made to ensure those in need had access to justice.

As well as the continued response to COVID-19, the incumbent Law Society president, **I Stephanie Boyce**,

has witnessed the profession's rapid response to the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan following the takeover by the Taliban.

'The Law Society was among several organisations that called for safe passage for judges and other legal professionals working in Afghanistan,' says Boyce.

She commends the efforts of hundreds of solicitors who have offered pro bono advice to Afghans fleeing the Taliban, following an initiative coordinated by the City law firm DLA Piper and the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association.

'Free legal advice can be life-changing for people who would otherwise have to navigate the justice system without expert help,' says Boyce.

While Boyce commends the 'outstanding' pro bono contribution made by lawyers, she stresses the mantra of all pro bono lawyers, that it is an adjunct to, and not a substitute for a properly funded legal aid system.

Boyce calls on the government to ensure that the justice system is properly resourced, 'so that lawyers aren't required to work for free'.

Derek Sweeting QC



"The commitment to pro bono has continued in spite of the pandemic, cuts to the publicly funded Bar and other challenges faced by the profession"

Demonstrating the Bar's continued commitment to pro bono, **Derek Sweeting QC**, the current leader of the profession, says that nearly a quarter of the 16,500 barristers in England and Wales are on Advocate's panel, making themselves available to provide their services for free. Highlighting other work done by the Bar, he says that many lend their support, and give donations to FRU and other legal charities, as well as giving their time to undertake outreach work with schools or to volunteer to sit on and give their expertise to the many Bar Council committees. 'This commitment to pro bono has continued in spite of the pandemic, cuts to the publicly funded Bar and other challenges faced by the profession,' says Sweeting.

While Pro Bono Week is 'an opportunity to recognise that commitment', Sweeting echoes Boyce's plea for a properly funded justice system.



November 3 @ 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Tech and Pro bono: Domestic and Global perspectives

A virtual event

This session, hosted by LawWorks and A4ID, looks at how technology has progressed pro bono, and the role it is likely to play in the future, including how technology can address organisational issues of pro bono work [...]

<https://tinyurl.com/PBW2021techprobono>

Pro Bono Opportunities Directory

This year is the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week and it is easier to volunteer than ever before. Many pro bono opportunities are now offered remotely, making it much easier to combine pro bono work with a busy practice.

This section includes a range of key opportunities to give your time pro bono. This is a non-exhaustive list of ways to volunteer your time; we also suggest you find out if your local advice centre or clinic is looking for volunteers. The National Pro Bono Centre hosts a Volunteer Portal listing a range of current one-off ways to volunteer as well. Check the listings at tinyurl.com/NPBCportal.

Be part of Pro Bono Week by finding out if there's a way you can make a difference, enhance your own practice and contribute to your wellbeing, through giving just a few hours of your time and expertise pro bono.

#WeDoProBono

New Law Journal

A4ID

Email: info@a4id.org
 Telephone: 020 7250 8363
 Website: <http://a4id.org>
 Twitter: @a4id



Advocates for International Development (A4ID) enables legal professionals across the world to use their legal knowledge and expertise to assist a network of over 950 international development actors, in over 100 countries to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and eradicate poverty globally.

Each week, through A4ID's pro bono broker service, legal professionals, including, world's leading law firms, barristers, in-house lawyers, and legal academics can access a range of pro bono opportunities ('projects') covering a wide range of issues. Legal professionals can also get involved in rule of law projects through A4ID's ROLE UK programme. This programme works to strengthen the rule of law in ODA-eligible countries by supporting partnerships that provide high-quality pro bono legal and judicial expertise.

If you are interested in joining our network and getting involved with either of the programmes, please contact us.

Access Social Care

Email: enquiries@accesscharity.org.uk
 Telephone: 02476978903
 Website: <https://www.accesscharity.org.uk>
 Twitter: @AccessCharity1



Access Social Care provides free legal advice and information for people with social care needs. We work with communities to increase knowledge of the law and our rights. With a 98% success rate, our network of lawyers and barristers ensure fair access to justice when things go wrong.

Our pro bono scheme provides support in a number of ways, representing individuals in welfare benefits appeals, supporting disabled people to get the social care they are entitled to and educating people as to their rights through our innovative chatbot.

Currently we are looking for volunteers to support our chatbot project, assisting service users to test it out and develop new content. If you would like to find out more about this or any of our pro bono programmes, please contact our Pro Bono Manager, Danielle Zeider: danielle.zeider@accesscharity.org.uk.

Advocate

Telephone: 020 7092 3960
 Website: www.weareadvocate.org.uk
 Twitter: @weareadvocate



Advocate matches volunteer barristers willing to give their time pro bono with members of the public who have deserving cases and cannot afford to pay for help or qualify for legal aid.

We have an interesting range of cases in all areas of law and across all courts. Barristers can pick cases that suit their interests and expand their knowledge and skillset, particularly to start work in a new area of practice or get on their feet as a junior barrister. Senior barristers can volunteer to mentor on pro bono cases and this can be used on application forms for Silk as cases offer exposure to higher courts and complex matters. Volunteers use their own insurance and operate under Advocate's direct access licence.

We need barristers from their second six to sign up to our panel and take cases. We ask for a commitment of three days a year and all cases have been reviewed for financial and legal merit by a senior barrister. Work is undertaken on a step-by-step basis and consists of advice, drafting or representation with an estimated time limit for how long each piece of work should take. Barristers choose what they want to do and have 48 hours to look at papers before accepting the work.

Barristers interested in volunteering should sign up on our website at www.weareadvocate.org.uk or contact Bryony, bwells@weareadvocate.org.uk.

The Chancery Lane Project

Email: contact@chancerylaneproject.org
 Website: <https://chancerylaneproject.org/>
 Twitter: @chanceryproject



The Chancery Lane Project (TCLP) is a collaborative effort of lawyers from around the world whose vision is a world where every contract enables solutions to climate change.

Together, we create new, practical contractual clauses ready to incorporate into law firm precedents and commercial agreements to deliver climate solutions.

We then work with lawyers to ensure effective and impactful implementation of the clauses, across industries, practice areas and jurisdictions.

Get involved in using these clauses, as well as drafting and peer reviewing new clauses. This can be part of your pro bono activities, or your fee earning work. Sign up to TCLP at www.chancerylaneproject.org/get-involved/

CLIPS

Email: admin@chba.org.uk

Website: <https://probono.chba.org.uk>

Twitter: @chancery_bar

The Chancery Bar Litigant in Person Support Scheme (CLIPS) is operated by the Chancery Bar Association in collaboration with Advocate and RCJ Advice. It provides unrepresented parties in the Chancery Division Interim Applications Court and the Central London County Court Chancery applications list with "on the day" representation and advice from volunteer barristers and solicitor advocates. It is available to all unrepresented parties with no means test and covers any application being made in the relevant Interim Applications court or list.

CLIPS runs in the High Court every day during the legal term and on selected days during the vacation, as well as every Friday in Central London County Court, with one volunteer needed each day.

Volunteers must be a member of the Chancery Bar Association, or one of our partner SBAs (COMBAR, TECHBAR, ELBA, the PBA) and can sign up through the rota at <https://probono.chba.org.uk/>.

Commercial Court and London Circuit Commercial Court Pro Bono Scheme



Email: admin@combar.com

Telephone: 020 7427 4932

Website: www.combar.com

The Scheme aims to provide pro bono assistance and representation for litigants in person (LIPs) appearing in applications with a time estimate of one day or less to be heard in the Commercial Court or LCCC. The Commercial Court and LCCC publicise the scheme to the LIPs.

Eligible volunteers are barristers who have post-pupillage commercial experience and who are members of COMBAR. Instructions are given under the licensed access auspices of Advocate. The Scheme is a collaboration between Advocate, the Commercial Court, the LCCC and COMBAR.

Volunteers (you need to be a COMBAR member) should send their contact details to admin@combar.com.

Court 37

Email: court37@rcjadvice.org.uk

Telephone: 020 3974 7886

Website: www.rcjadvice.org.uk



The Court 37 Pro Bono Scheme seeks to provide representation for Litigants in Person making applications to the Interim Applications Court of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

We are looking for Barristers and Solicitors with Higher Court Advocacy Rights to sign up to our rota and assist those who cannot afford the help they need. Our volunteers sign up for the day and advise any Litigant in Person making an application to Court 37. The advice is limited to urgent matters and volunteers are not expected to do any follow-up work.

Participating in this scheme is a valuable experience for anyone looking for the opportunity to practice Advocacy and get exposure to a wide range of issues.

For more information on how to take part in the Court 37 Pro Bono Scheme, please contact court37@rcjadvice.org.uk

ELIPS

Email: elips@elaweb.org.uk

Telephone: 01895 256972

Website: <https://www.elaweb.org.uk/content/elips-volunteers>

Twitter: @employers

Online ELIPS (the Employment Tribunal Litigants in Person Support Scheme) provides much needed assistance to unrepresented litigants.

It currently covers London Central, Cardiff, Bristol, Manchester, Midlands (West), Newcastle and Leeds Employment Tribunals and we are delighted that with effect from November 2021, to coincide with Pro Bono Week, it is opening up to Manchester Employment Tribunal.

The clinics operate twice monthly via Zoom on a Thursday and ELIPS volunteers provide support in the form of one-off advice in up to six appointments per day, which each last 40 minutes. There is no preparatory or follow up work to do. You can volunteer for a full or half day as often you like.

We always welcome new volunteers so if you are interested in volunteering from the comfort of your own office, from anywhere in the country, please contact elips@elaweb.org.uk.



Environmental Law Foundation



access to environmental justice for all

Email: emma@elflaw.org

Website: www.elflaw.org

Twitter: @ELF_LAW

ELF is a grassroots pro bono environmental law charity that assists communities to participate in local and national environmental decision making and to challenge bad decisions. Through ELF's pro bono professional membership scheme we provide communities with access to a network of professional members, both legal and technical. ELF partners with 15 universities to support and deliver environmental law clinical education.

We are always looking for lawyers to join our ELF membership, our advisory network of specialists to assist our work with advice to grassroots communities and ELF educational clinics.

For more information please contact Emma Montlake at ELF on emma@elflaw.org

FRU

Email: admin@thefru.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7611 9555

Website: www.thefru.org.uk

Twitter: @FreeRepUnit

FRU represents clients in employment, social security and criminal injuries compensation appeal tribunals, and in appeals from any of these tribunals, up to the Supreme Court.

We train aspiring lawyers and facilitate pro bono activity from lawyers in practice. Volunteers take on a case at the point where the hearing has been listed, undertaking all case preparation and advocacy at the hearing. FRU helps to provide access to justice, enabling our clients to put their best case to the tribunal.

We have vacancies for individual lawyers who would like to take on first instance or appellate cases. We are also interested in working with chambers or law firms who would like to discuss a more structured partnership between organisations. We have a group of experienced legal officers to support our volunteers, and the full range of legal resources.

Please email if you would like to discuss possibly volunteering at FRU.



LawWorks

Email: membership@lawworks.org.uk

Telephone: 07834 866 930

Website: www.lawworks.org.uk

Twitter: @Law_Works

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) enables access to justice through pro bono legal advice. We:

- ▶ promote and support pro bono within the solicitors' profession and in law schools;
- ▶ help connect those needing legal advice with pro bono volunteers; and
- ▶ advocate for policy change and the goal of access to justice for all.

Opportunities for pro bono volunteering include:

- ▶ joining a network of over 300 independent pro bono clinics across England and Wales;
- ▶ our Not-for-Profits programme connecting smaller charities with free legal advice;
- ▶ Pro Bono Connect—facilitating barristers and solicitors working together on pro bono cases;
- ▶ Free Legal Answers—a website for individuals on low incomes seeking initial legal advice (currently employment, family, consumer, debt and housing) www.freelegalanswers.org.uk;
- ▶ The Pro Bono Portal UK—working towards the vision of creating a national 'one stop shop' for remote and online pro bono volunteering.



Pro Bono Community

Email: bill@probonocommunity.org.uk

Telephone: 07702 667812

Website: www.probonocommunity.org.uk

Pro Bono Community (PBC) is a charity which seeks to improve access to justice by improving the quality and amount of free legal advice that is available through the use of well-trained volunteers in law clinics and advice agencies. Since it was established, PBC has trained over 1,500 people from law firms such as Freshfields, Linklaters and CMS and universities such as LSE, UCL and Manchester Metropolitan who we estimate have gone on to provide legal assistance and support to more than 30,000 people.

Pro Bono Community works in conjunction with organisations such as law firms and universities who commission training and placement programmes in which their lawyers, trainees and students participate. We don't normally recruit individual lawyers or students onto programmes but are very happy to open up discussions with institutions which may have been prompted by individuals. You can contact PBC's director Bill Skirrow for more information.



Pro Bono Connect

Email: admin@probonoconnect.co.uk

Telephone: 07494 205575

Website: www.probonoconnect.co.uk

Twitter: @Probono_connect

Barristers and solicitors often do pro bono cases separately, but sometimes it is much more efficient and effective to work together. Our vision is that barrister and solicitor assistance should always be available for pro bono cases, where it is needed. We do not initiate new pro bono cases, but help barristers and solicitors collaborate by establishing a network of chambers and firms willing to work together, and providing a simple framework for them to do so.

We are looking for law firms and chambers to join our network. We have 45 participating firms and 48 chambers, specialising in chancery, common law, commercial, public, human rights,



insolvency, employment and tax. The scheme has recently expanded to cover family law, and we are particularly keen to increase the number of participants able to assist with family, property, probate and employment cases.

If your firm/chambers would like to join please email admin@probonoconnect.co.uk.

Toynbee Hall



Email: jasmine.ashley-Tagoe@toynbeehall.org.uk

Website: www.toynbeehall.org.uk

Twitter: @ToynbeeHall

Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre provides advice and assistance on a range of issues within UK law.

We are a volunteer-run advice service, and we provide quality assured legal advice to people across London. Our volunteers are a mix of barristers, solicitors, trainee solicitors and law students.

We are currently looking for lawyers specialising in civil litigation and family law. Please contact Jasmine Ashley at: jasmine.ashley-tagoe@toynbeehall.org.uk

TrustLaw



Email: trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com

Telephone: 020 7542 0240

Website: <http://trustlaw.trust.org>

Twitter: @TRF

TrustLaw is the global pro bono service of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, connecting the world's leading legal teams with high-impact non-profits and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change.

The pro bono projects that are posted on the TrustLaw portal relate to commercial and operational issues faced by its members (such as employment, data protection and contract concerns), as well as cross-border legal research designed to feed into and support NGOs' advocacy and policy-based campaigns (such as gender rights, combating modern slavery and environmental justice).

If you are interested in providing pro bono legal assistance through TrustLaw, please apply online at <https://sforce.co/3CjTWcy>.

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#APPEAL

Challenging injustice

Jessica Dunk on how collaboration, determination & commitment can combine to overturn injustice

There may be a perception that law firms only do pro bono work to improve their public image and to tick a box for their CSR programmes. We disagree. Pro bono partnerships, when done in the right way, can be hugely beneficial for many reasons, and for all involved. At Ropes & Gray, our team in London is particularly proud of our partnership with APPEAL (appeal.org.uk). APPEAL is a charity and law practice made up of experienced and talented investigators and lawyers committed to identifying, investigating and litigating potential miscarriages of justice and advocating for reforms to the criminal justice system.

For a number of years a team of lawyers at Ropes & Gray, along with Latham & Watkins, Edward Henry QC of QEB Hollis Whiteman and Max Hardy of 9 Bedford Row, has been assisting APPEAL with the case of Andrew Malkinson.

The Malkinson case

Andy's case is as appalling as it is compelling. Andy was convicted of the July 2003 rape of a 33-year-old woman, who was violently attacked in the early hours of the morning and left for dead. He has recently been released from prison having served more than 17 years. He remains in the eyes of the law a convicted sex offender, subject to restrictions, and is determined to clear his name. His refusal to admit to the offence meant that he spent many more years in prison than he would have done had he accepted guilt. Now, DNA links an unknown male to the crime.

It would be impossible to do justice here to the many failings that have impacted Andy's case, from evidence destruction to untraced alternative suspects. *The Sunday Times's* social affairs correspondent Emily Dugan is currently examining the many problems with Andy's case as part of the Stories of our Times podcast series (see: bit.ly/2Zi6aUL).

Time and time again, the criminal justice system failed Andy. There has never been

any forensic evidence linking him to this crime; the case against him hinged on the identification evidence of the victim and two purportedly independent and honest witnesses, despite the fact that he did not match several important aspects of the description of the attacker provided to police by the victim. Greater Manchester Police (GMP), the force that investigated the crime, recently disclosed new information regarding those two 'independent and honest witnesses' which it has accepted should have been disclosed to Andy at trial and, had it been, could have been used to undermine their credibility before the jury.

Following his conviction, Andy staunchly maintained his innocence, and as a result was kept in prison for ten years beyond the tariff imposed by the court. GMP has known from the outset that Andy was pursuing avenues of appeal, and that GMP was required by law to preserve the evidence in his case.

Despite this, in 2019, GMP confirmed to APPEAL that on two occasions, in 2011 and 2013, evidence had been 'weeded' from Andy's case file. Key evidence that may have provided crucial samples for forensic testing, including the victim's underwear and a top she was wearing when she was attacked, also cannot be located. GMP has never provided an adequate explanation for this destruction of evidence, or even been able to say who authorised it.

Despite this, the force has seen fit to suspend a misconduct investigation into Andy's case, a decision described as 'deeply troubling' by APPEAL founder and director Emily Bolton.

Forensic discoveries post-conviction

In spite of the failings of GMP, in 2020 and 2021, thanks to the tenacity of Andy and his team at APPEAL, forensic testing was carried out on several samples that remained. This testing detected DNA belonging to an unknown male in samples taken from the victim and her clothing. A sample taken from the victim's left nail

scrapings is particularly significant, as she gave evidence that she used her left hand to cause a deep scratch to her attacker's face. No such scratch was ever seen on Andy.

An application is currently pending before the Criminal Cases Review Commission, and we are hopeful that Andy's case will be referred back to the Court of Appeal and finally overturned. This has been a long time coming for Andy, who has lost close to 20 years of his life to this case. The system also failed the victim; her attacker has not faced justice, and she is now forced to relive this horrendous ordeal.

Invaluable opportunities

We know that we speak for everyone on the team when we say that it has been an enormous privilege, both professionally and personally, to work on Andy's case. There are many parallels and transferable skills between the work we do in our litigation and enforcement practice and with APPEAL. In particular, it is a fantastic opportunity for more junior lawyers to gain exposure to criminal litigation, review and assess evidence and consider the practical and tactical aspects of litigation. There are invaluable opportunities to work closely with clients and within a team of external lawyers and counsel, benefiting from shared experience, as well as to hone legal research and drafting skills while assisting with important and interesting submissions.

APPEAL has also benefited from our commitment to the case, especially with reviewing a huge volume of material, and from our assistance with drafting, enabling this tiny charity and law practice to achieve a greater impact despite its scant resources.

Pro bono work benefits lawyers, firms and communities, and Andy's case is one of the very best examples of a successful pro bono partnership. All of us have our fingers crossed that we are now on the way to having Andy's conviction finally overturned.

NLJ



November 4 @ 5pm-6pm

In Denial – how pro bono lawyers are exposing the flaws in the criminal justice system – APPEAL

Online event

Hear from Andrew Malkinson, serving a life sentence for a rape he didn't commit, and the charity and pro bono legal team working to exonerate him [...]

<https://bit.ly/2ZnjCXp>

Jessica Dunk, associate, Ropes & Gray LLP (www.ropesgray.com).

Profession celebrates 20th Pro Bono Week



Members of the profession will next week (1 – 5 November) celebrate the legal sector's 20th Pro Bono Week.

Pro Bono Week celebrates the work of lawyers who provide free advice to those who could not otherwise afford legal support.

Law Society president, I. Stephanie Boyce, said: "Free legal advice can be life-changing for people who would otherwise have to navigate the justice system without expert help".

"While the pro bono contribution made by lawyers is outstanding, it is vital the justice system and legal aid are properly funded and resourced by the government so

lawyers aren't required to work for free.

I am delighted that my term in office coincides with the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week and look forward to attending some of the many events on offer."

The 20th Pro Bono Week marks its official launch with a special hybrid event – held in-person at Gray's Inn and streamed online – with the attorney general, the Right Honourable Suella Braverman QC MP, and a panel of legal experts.

Speakers include the attorney general and Yasmin Waljee OBE (partner, international pro bono at Hogan Lovells and co-lead of the social impact practice), Kirsty Thomson (managing partner/director at JustRight Scotland) and Emma Rehal-Wilde (law lecturer at London South Bank University).

This event is the start of a week-long programme of events across the UK, focused on recognising, celebrating and encouraging the profession's commitment to pro bono work.

Chair of the national organising committee, Toby Brown, commented: "Last year's Pro Bono Week saw 50 online events involving 5,000 lawyers, students and members of the charity sector discuss the challenges, and best practice, in providing pro bono during a pandemic.

"This year for the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week we are looking forward to taking stock at both in person and online events and discussing how in the coming years we can continue to encourage and support the profession's pro bono efforts."

I. Stephanie Boyce will join a panel comprised of Iain Anderson, Baroness Hale of Richmond, James Harper and Baroness Helena Kennedy QC to discuss the rule of law and access to justice.

Climate change also features strongly on the events agenda with the COP26 summit taking place in Glasgow.

Pro Bono Week's launch event takes place on Monday 1 November 2021, 6pm – 8pm. In-person and online places are available to book [here](#). Visit the [Pro Bono Week website](#) for full details of all in-person and virtual events taking place.

29 Oct 2021 | Forum



ComparetheMarket face collective consumer claim following competition breach

The price comparison site received a £17.9m fine for competition breaches last year

Autumn Budget 2021: Justice system funding 'step in the right direction'

The chancellor blamed covid-19 for the courts backlog

Infected Blood Inquiry: former Treloar's pupil to sue school

The claimant was infected with HIV and HCV following treatment for haemophilia at the school in the 1970s and 1980s

Bevan Brittan advise Sunderland City Council on 5G smart city project

Sunderland will be one of the UK's most advanced 'smart' cities following the project



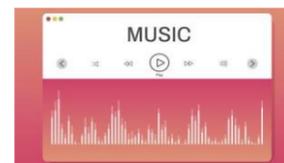
Whiplash portal data: 90 per cent of claimants required lawyers to navigate claims

25 Oct 2021



Controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate relationship

22 Oct 2021



CMA announces probe into music streaming platforms

21 Oct 2021



Fieldfisher announce new managing partner

21 Oct 2021



From surviving to thriving: business development in a post-pandemic era

21 Oct 2021

The next generation of lawyers can help the most vulnerable in society

By Alex Chalk MP | 1 November 2021

From taking on FRU (Free Representation Unit) work as a bar student, to chairing the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pro Bono as an MP 15 years later, I have seen with my own eyes over many years the enormous value of pro bono and public legal education.

Neither is a substitute for a properly resourced legal aid system of course, but both can significantly enhance support for the most vulnerable in society – not only to secure access to justice, but also to help citizens understand their rights and the services available to them.

Law students in our country soon discover that their chosen field is more than a mere career. The pro bono statistics bear out the profound sense of vocation that many lawyers rightly feel. Every year, solicitors and barristers devote thousands of hours free of charge to supporting individuals to better vindicate their rights.

Every hour they spend reinforces both the foundations of the rule of law and the fundamental fairness of our society. As a Parliamentarian, I can see that these devoted lawyers breathe fresh life into statutory protections that might otherwise never deliver what our democratic institutions intended.

At the same time, lawyers who work pro bono will also learn valuable skills that they can deploy in their paid work.

The attorney general and I are the government's pro bono champions, and as part of this chair a panel and committee to help steer and co-ordinate pro bono across England and Wales.

Our vision is for a country where legal capability is spread throughout our society – where everyone, and every group, is able to identify legal issues and seek redress. It is a country where no-one, no community, and no section of society is denied justice through ignorance of their legal rights and responsibilities, or of the actions which they can take to protect them. Nor are they denied justice due to the inability to afford legal expertise.



Alex Chalk MP

This year, as we celebrate Pro Bono Week, in its 20th year, we have a chance to celebrate and recognise some of the extraordinary contributions lawyers make in giving free legal help to those in need.

Those contributions have been especially impressive in recent years. The legal community stepped up to support the many victims of the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, with lawyers running free daily drop-in advice clinics, and often working throughout the weekends to help hundreds of people who needed immediate legal assistance.

In the same year nearly 200 firms, chambers and individuals offered to provide free legal advice to those affected by the Manchester Arena Bombing, following a call for help from the Manchester Law Society.

Most recently, lawyers had to take many of their services online during the pandemic, which came with a unique set of challenges. And yet, despite the hurdles and uncertainties, lawyers continued to volunteer their time and skill, and helped ensure that the most vulnerable in society continued to have access to justice throughout the pandemic.

Many lawyers first start their pro bono work while they are students and continue to deliver on that commitment during their professional career. Those students who provide pro bono advice to thousands of people every year deserve a special thanks.

I and the attorney general will continue offering support for pro bono, driving forward the great work that is already happening. And I encourage everyone in the legal profession, despite the myriad professional pressures I know they face, to think about how they can make their contribution.

As we reflect on the last 20 years, let us recommit to an excellent pro bono service for many years to come.

Alex Chalk MP is the solicitor general

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More Law Firms Opt to Count Pro Bono Hours Towards Utilisation Targets

As Pro Bono Week begins, Law.com research finds two more firms are viewing such work as equivalent to billable time.

By Hannah Roberts | November 01, 2021



Credit: Vadim/Adobe Stock

An increasing proportion of law firms are counting pro bono work towards lawyers' utilisation targets, with Eversheds Sutherland and Reed Smith among the latest to have started including it.

Law.com International research, which coincides with this year's U.K.'s Pro Bono Week, has found that more major law firms are counting pro bono hours when it comes to deciding on how productive lawyers have been throughout the financial year.

Just over 60% of the 43 firms that took part in the survey reported that they count pro bono hours towards utilisation targets, up from 54% last year.

Two such firms to have decided to count pro bono hours towards utilisation targets during the latest financial year include Reed Smith and Eversheds Sutherland.

Other firms where pro bono hours count towards utilisation targets include: Baker McKenzie, Hogan Lovells, Latham & Watkins, Linklaters, Macfarlanes and Weil Gotshal & Manges.

Utilisation targets are used to measure a lawyer's activity against the total amount of time that's available for them to work, and is often used to calculate the amount of value a lawyer adds to the business.

In the context of pro bono work, a lawyer spending time on non-fee-earning work would typically be interpreted as their 'value' to the business as being compromised.

Several pro bono experts say that by incorporating pro bono work into utilisation targets law firm management is sending a message that pro bono work is considered equally as valuable to the business's goals as fee-earning work. They add that this offers a good indication of how seriously a firm takes pro bono internally.

Eversheds' corporate responsibility and pro bono partner Michael Thompson cited increased demand from lawyers wanting to do more work in the pro bono space as a key driver behind the firm's decision.

"We wanted to recognise the pro bono work that our colleagues were already doing and formalise and reward this," he said. "This recognition also supports Eversheds Sutherland's strategy and purpose and is central to our development as a firm."

He added that the firm's intentions to boost pro bono engagement "forms a key part of career development by building secondary specialisms for our lawyers".

Eversheds' pro bono work over its latest financial year has included helping disadvantaged people in the U.K. to make claims for Universal Credit and personal independence payments.

"This work has made such a positive impact and provided significant socio-economic benefits for people who would usually be unable to access legal advice and advocacy," added Thompson. "It also gives our people an opportunity to stretch their legal skills and work closely with their clients to give them greater confidence in making their claim."

Meanwhile Reed Smith's head of pro bono for Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Becca Naylor, said: "Just like billable work, our lawyers work incredibly hard on pro bono matters and so we are very pleased that this is accurately reflected in their utilisation figures. It is testament to the importance that our senior management team places on pro bono as a core element of the work the firm carries out."

Having seen such an uptick in demand for legal services during the COVID-19 pandemic, Naylor said that the firm also took the decision to grow its U.K. pro bono team over the last two years, "from just one full time pro bono lawyer to two full time pro bono lawyers, one trainee, one placement student and a part time secondee."

Do-gooders doing good

By [Paul Rogerson](#) | 1 November 2021

One of my happier responsibilities as editor of this esteemed (I hope) organ is helping to judge the annual LawWorks Pro Bono Awards. These celebrate the best legal pro bono activities undertaken by organisations and individual solicitors, and the positive impact they have had on those who are helped.

Well – it is a ‘happy’ responsibility to a degree. In fact, judging the awards can be a bit of a challenge, requiring as it does a crystal-clear head and a capacity for ruthlessness.

How so? So many solicitors step outside their day jobs to offer free advice that the quality and heft of the awards entries generally leaves one spoilt for choice. It can feel churlish not to give just about everyone an award, because so many deserve to be lauded. Sometimes one needs to be discriminating to the point of pedantry.

Curious, isn't it. To my knowledge there are no pro bono awards for surveyors, accountants, architects or – perish the thought – journalists. And even if there are, or should be, I cannot think of any professions that give as much back as the law.

Well done, if that doesn't sound patronising (which of course it does – sorry). Lawyers deserve a better press.

National Pro Bono Week begins today. As ever, there is a lot going on, both in person and online. This year, too, the event turns 20, which is a good moment to take stock.

I won't reprise here the arguments of those who claim pro bono is a ‘sticking plaster on an open wound’. They have a point, of course, but it has been well articulated. Let me instead accentuate the positive. It is a pity that some years ago the Law Society stopped calculating the aggregate value of free advice. Back in 2014, Chancery Lane estimated that the total annual contribution of pro bono across all private practices exceeded £600m - with that figure rising sharply as lawyers strived to mitigate the worst of government funding cuts.

Those cuts have worsened dramatically in the last seven years. But the profession has responded so stoutly that the value of pro bono would surely top £1bn were a similar estimate to be attempted today.

‘Do-gooders’ have their uses. Someone should tell the PM.



Paul Rogerson

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Freshfields UK Pro Bono Hours Rocketed By More Than 50% Through Pandemic

Lawyers' desire to get involved with pro bono matters during the COVID-19 lockdowns prompted the uptick in hours, as well as exceptional mandates, said the firm's pro bono head.

By Hannah Roberts | November 02, 2021



Credit: LittlePerfectStock/Shutterstock

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer clocked more than 46,000 hours of U.K. pro bono work over the past year, an increase of more than 50% on its 2020 figures, amid a firmwide surge in volunteering due to the pandemic.

The elite firm, which has ranked as one of Law.com's best firms for pro bono in the U.K. in 2020 and 2019, boosted its hours from 29,517 in 2020 to 46,341 in the financial year to April 2021, according to figures compiled by the firm ahead of this year's rankings.

Paul Yates, head of the firm's global pro bono practice, said that he believes the COVID-19 pandemic and the move to widespread remote working across the legal industry played a part in the uptick in numbers, as well as the firm taking on exceptional mandates across the year.

"A lot of [Freshfields] people reached out asking how they can help – I'm not sure if that's because they were feeling a bit isolated at home and wanted to be part of something bigger, or a more existential feeling that the world is in crisis and people naturally want to do something to help. But I think it's linked to the more general surge in volunteering we've seen across society," said Yates.

A key pro bono mandate for the firm over the year included acting for U.K. activist Kate Wilson in her landmark case against undercover policing, after she was deceived into a relationship with an undercover police officer.

Meanwhile the firm's transactional lawyers took on a mandate for the Education Endowment Fund charity on its implementation of the National Tutoring Programme, the Department for Education-funded programme to help children catch up following lockdown school closures and extended periods of remote learning.

Freshfields' increase in pro bono hours was not limited to the U.K., according to Yates. "For us, this is part of a bigger trend. It's been a record pro bono year for us globally – our global hours were over 80,000. And it's not just this year: our pro bono hours have increased every year since we set some ambitious internal targets back in 2016."

"I wouldn't say people generally had more time [to get involved in pro bono] over lockdown," added Yates. "There were some who did, since a lot of things we do for fun were sadly off the table. But many of us had the opposite problem, trying to juggle our jobs with childcare and home schooling, or caring for other dependents.

"The mission for us now is making sure we convert all those people who got involved for the first time into regular pro bono champions."

Research from Law.com International conducted in line with the U.K.'s Pro Bono Week found that an increasing proportion of law firms are counting pro bono work towards lawyers' utilisation targets, signalling greater emphasis being placed on pro bono as a metric of value within law firms.



Source: iStock

Pro bono matters

By Jane Wessel | 2 November 2021

National Pro Bono Week is a perfect occasion on which to pause and reflect on what pro bono work we have done over the last year, the extent to which we have been able to contribute to helping our clients or focusing attention on important societal issues, and how we can improve what we do to achieve our pro bono goals.

Solicitors frequently bemoan the poor state of access to justice in England and Wales. Legal aid has been cut to the bone to the point where it is now non-existent for all practical purposes except in a few narrow areas of law. More and more individuals are in need of assistance to deal with all manner of legal issues - from denial of benefits claims to immigration applications and private disputes. Charities require expert assistance which they can ill afford to navigate the complexities of employment laws, privacy regulations and intellectual property rights. And then there are the cases where important public interests are at stake.

Many law firms have vibrant pro bono practices, offering legal services at no cost to individuals and organisations who meet certain criteria. My own firm, Arnold & Porter, is rightfully proud of the firm's long-standing commitment to pro bono work. In the US our pro bono work has ranged from acting for the victims of Senator McCarthy's anti-communist campaigns in the 1950s, to supporting Black Lives Matter against the

actions of the administration of President Trump in more recent years. That tradition has made the transition across the Atlantic, and in London we work actively with a range of organisations and individuals to pursue cases that are often life-changing for individuals, or which assist charitable organisations, or promote important public interests.

All good solicitors have developed a range of skills including gathering and organising factual evidence, interviewing witnesses, and drafting persuasive submissions, but few of us in commercial firms know much about the law and regulations of benefits, housing and immigration, which is where there is the greatest need for pro bono assistance to individuals. Several outstanding organisations exist to bridge that gap by providing technical expertise in these areas of law, advising and guiding our lawyers as they work on these cases. Kids in Need of Defense (KiND) is a prime example. Their focus is on acting for children who have spent their whole lives in the UK to regularise their immigration status. KiND employs specialists who train and supervise lawyers like us who have little or no expertise in immigration law so that we are in a position to navigate the labyrinthine immigration process to make the necessary applications. Similarly, the Tower Hamlets Law Centre guides us through benefits or housing law issues so that we are well placed to take on cases in those areas.



Jane Wessel

There are a number of pro bono networks in the UK which connect lawyers to projects in a range of areas - TrustLaw and The UK Collaborative Plan fall into this category. Pro Bono Connect is a network which focuses on pairing up counsel and solicitors to take on pro bono litigation cases. And then there are NGOs and charities with a particular focus on social change or protecting human rights, including the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), PILnet, and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Each of these organisations looks to the legal community to work with them on a pro bono basis.

Lawyers in our firm are required to devote a minimum of 20 hours per year to pro bono work. Many do far, far more than this. Why? So many reasons. It is good for society and helps to bridge the gap that has made access to justice so much more challenging in recent years. It is good for the individuals we are able to help - the disabled person whose benefits are restored; the child who has lived in the UK all of their life who finally wins a passport or leave to remain and escapes the constant threat of being deported. It is good for human rights when we make a small contribution to improving conditions for a disadvantaged group. And it is good for the lawyers who contribute their time and efforts to these cases. They learn to apply their skills in an entirely new context; they make new connections to other professionals; and, perhaps most importantly, they have the huge satisfaction of knowing they have made an important difference.

That is why pro bono matters. To all of us.

Jane Wessel is a partner in the London office of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer (UK) LLP where she is head of competition litigation and leads the pro bono practice

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Fifteenth time lucky: advice clinic's legal aid struggle revealed

By [Monidipa Fouzder](#) | 3 November 2021

A legal advice clinic had to contact 15 law firms before it finally found a legal aid provider who could represent their client, a solicitor has revealed at an event to officially launch Pro Bono Week.

Supervising solicitor Emma Rehal-Wilde, a law lecturer at London South Bank University, told the audience – which included attorney general Suella Braverman QC MP – on Monday that pro bono ‘cannot and does not exist in a vacuum - it relies on a fully funded and supported legal aid environment and climate’.

She said: ‘Last week we saw a client who, it became clear when we were speaking to them, was probably eligible for legal aid. My colleague spent a day ringing legal aid firms that do legal aid work to try and get that client referred to them. The 15th law firm was able to take that work on.’

Although the work would have been paid, ‘capacity is completely non-existent so they are stretched beyond comprehension’, Rehal-Wilde said.

Earlier, the attorney general told the event that pro bono work ‘vitaly contributes to a fair and good society, where those who can, offer their skills to those in need, in pursuit of justice’.



Rehal-Wilde: Pro bono ‘cannot and does not exist in a vacuum’

She added: ‘The commitment to

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supporting those who cannot afford legal services runs deep in our profession. Recognising the fundamental place law holds in our society. Supporting the public by providing high-quality legal advice so the government can deliver services effectively and lawfully whilst also supporting your community by taking the time to work pro bono. I offer sincere congratulations and thanks to each and every one of you.'

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The Best Law Firms for UK Pro Bono, 2021

In an increasingly intense contest featuring the majority of the largest firms, 20 stood out for their pro bono efforts, but only 10 made the final list.

By Hannah Roberts | November 03, 2021



Credit: Adobe Stock

After months of research, Law.com International can reveal the 10 best law firms for pro bono in the U.K., as the country celebrates its 20th annual Pro Bono Week.

In what has been a particularly busy year for pro bono matters in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, 45 large commercial law firms submitted their pro bono figures for the past year to be considered as one of the firms with the best practices in the country.

The top 10 firms were selected based on six key metrics: the total number of pro bono hours worked in the U.K. in the last financial year; the number of pro bono hours per fee earner; the percentage of lawyers doing pro bono; the number of full- or part-time pro bono professionals; whether pro bono work counts towards lawyers' utilisation targets; and how the firm's efforts were rated by their peers.

Honourable mentions

Competition for the coveted top 10 places was intense. Several firms took meaningful strides to develop their pro bono practices in the 12 months to April 2021 but did not quite make the ranking.

These included Eversheds Sutherland, which boosted its number of dedicated pro bono professionals by appointing a global head of pro bono and two principal pro bono lawyers in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The firm has also utilised its U.K. geographical spread to provide pro bono advice in major cities including Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham and Cardiff. Eversheds and Reed Smith were among the latest firms to start counting pro bono hours towards lawyers' utilisation targets.

Debevoise & Plimpton, meanwhile, saw its pro bono hours per lawyer jump significantly over the past year, as did Cooley.

Ashurst has worked on a number of meaningful projects this year, including launching its Anti-Modern Slavery initiative – the firm has clocked 744 hours of pro bono support on that project this year alone. The firm also worked alongside Reed Smith to set up an urgent response to the Afghanistan repatriation relief efforts.

Some Ashurst lawyers gave up their own time over the holidays to work on the project.

Elsewhere, Herbert Smith Freehills launched a variety of valuable pro bono initiatives over the past year on topical issues such as increasing pro bono support for organisations that address racial inequality. Meanwhile, while White & Case aided the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their response to the pandemic. Starting in March 2020, more than 200 of its lawyers and legal staff in 33 offices pulled together research on emergency decrees in 77 countries as quickly as possible.

Clifford Chance, Ropes & Gray and Sidley Austin also undertook notable mandates throughout the year and expanded their commitment to pro bono internally. Clifford Chance increased its total number of hours to 33,600, while Ropes and Sidley also saw large increases as well as strong internal engagement, with almost all of their lawyers doing such work.

The Top 10

10. Arnold & Porter

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 5,312**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 93**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 100%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Despite having just 57 lawyers in its London office, Arnold & Porter's workforce racked up the highest number of pro bono hours per fee earner over the past year, with every single lawyer in the office having worked on pro bono matters. The firm also took on a high-profile pro bono case last year as part of the inquest into the death of a newborn baby, Harry Richford, at a London hospital in November 2017. Arnold & Porter's team, led by London partner Jackie Mulryne, brought to light the failings of the NHS Trust in preventing Harry's death, with a coroner finding in early 2020 that Harry's death had been "wholly avoidable".

9. Latham & Watkins

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 23,030**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 48**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 82%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Latham & Watkins' commitment to pro bono in the U.K. is dominated by its dedication to a range of clinics within London, including the Mermaids Transgender Name Change Clinic. The first clinic of its kind in the U.K., the initiative helps transgender individuals with questions on how to change their legal names and is led by lawyers from Latham's LGBTQ+ Lawyers Group, an associate-led, firmwide affinity group for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies. The firm also took on 12 new engagements for long-standing client Save the Children, including a significant matter in response to the devastating port blast in Beirut last year. Meanwhile 82% of the firm's 483 London lawyers took part in pro bono work over the year placing it among the top firms for the metric considering its size in the city, with the firm having added more than 8,000 additional hours to its pro bono count compared to last year.

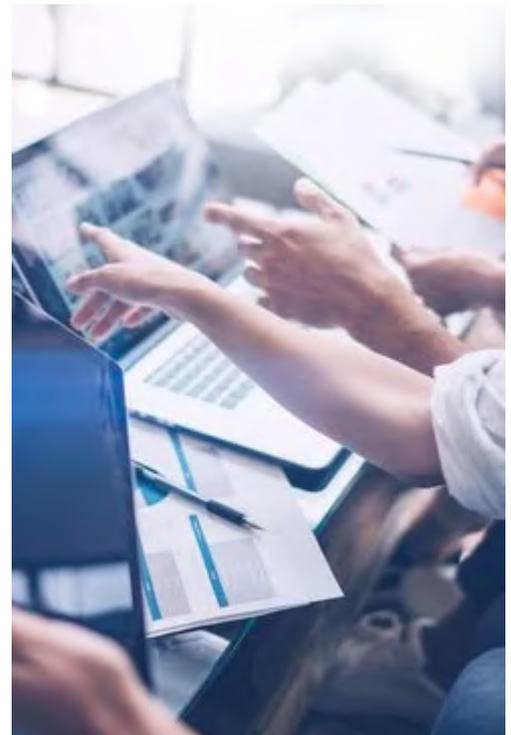


Beirut blast. Credit: Wikipedia

8. DLA Piper

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 29,962**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 37.8**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 74%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? No**

DLA Piper has further grown its dedicated U.K. pro bono team of professionals in the past year, from 4.5 to 6.7, coming in second for the metric. The firm is recognised as a leader in the U.K. pro bono sphere for the depth of its bench strength and its geographical spread of law clinics, which covers major cities including London, Edinburgh and Leeds, but also its determination to stay at the forefront of pro bono innovation. The firm runs 10 end-to-end casework clinics across the width and breadth of the country, including four citizenship clinics just in collaboration with Kids in Need of Defense U.K. The firm is also set to introduce a cutting-edge technology into its international pro bono practice - including in the U.K. - by using a data management platform created by an Australian based NGO called Justice Connect Portal to streamline its efforts. The platform uses artificial intelligence technology to better track and manage the outcomes of each pro bono request the firm receives and to later provide relevant information and data to clients and stakeholders.



Tech collaboration

7. Weil Gotshal & Manges

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 15,013**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 76**

- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 90%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Weil Gotshal took on a major pro bono mandate in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic to advise U.K. charity Social Investment Business, on the execution of £30million worth of emergency loans to charities and social enterprises across England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland via the 'Resilience and Recovery Fund' as the country grappled with the effects of the lockdown. The firm performs strongly on several key metrics for pro bono, with 90% of its nearly 200 London-based lawyers participating in pro bono work in its last financial year – one of the highest-ranking firms of the cohort - and also placed fourth highest for the number of pro bono hours per fee earner, at 76.



Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament at night in London, UK

6. Dechert

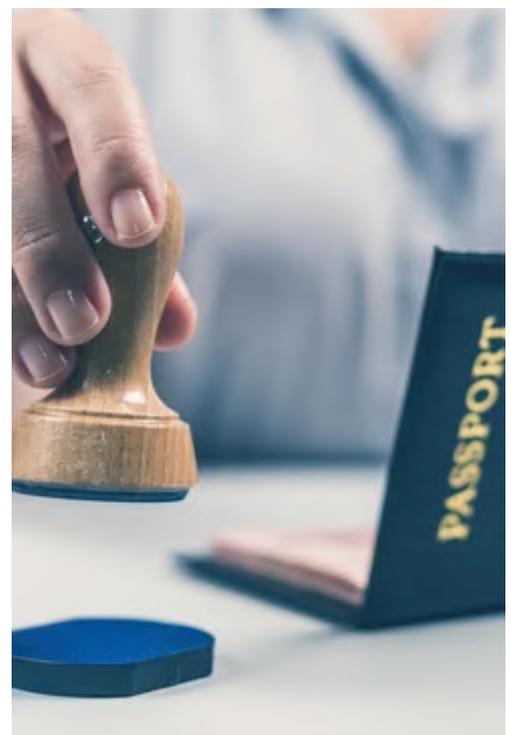
- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 12,782**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 87**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 100%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Dechert's pro bono work during the last financial year is notable for its exceptional variety, as well as the fact that the firm clocked the second-highest number of pro bono hours per fee earner in its 147-strong London office. The firm took on mandates to help asylum seekers from Afghanistan to understand the different legal routes available to them, as part of a collaboration with the Immigration Law Practitioners Association and five other law firms, and also gave advice relating to the Windrush Compensation Scheme alongside six others. The firm also lent its time to collaborate with the Mayor of London's 'Culture At Risk' team and Studio Makers to help affordable artist studio providers avoid short-term cash flow collapse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Reed Smith

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 21,759**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 66.5**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 81%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Reed Smith's commitment to U.K. pro bono is notable not only for its pro bono hours per fee earner undertaking pro bono matters – which, at 66.5, is especially high considering it is larger than many of its U.S. peers in London – but also for having two dedicated pro bono professionals overseeing UK matters. Another key indicator of management buy-in at the firm is its recent decision to include pro bono hours in utilisation targets, putting pro bono hours and billable work on the same level. London lawyers have taken on significant cases on behalf of Kids In Need of Defense U.K, which works to regularising the immigration status of undocumented children. Each case sees teams of eight lawyers clock up on average 300 hours over six



months, and in 2020 the firm had six successful cases to help 15 clients to achieve fee waivers, leave to remain or British citizenship. The firm also has 35 of its lawyers signed up to participate in emergency injunctions work for the National Centre and to date has taken on 39 referrals, amounting to over 1,000 hours of pro bono time.

4. Hogan Lovells

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 30,684**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 39.7**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 71%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Hogan Lovells' pro bono practice is held in very high regard across the industry, with the market-leading insights of newly-promoted pro bono partner Yasmin Waljee touted as "exceptional" by one person at a rival firm. The firm is also credited as having effective strategies in place to get lawyers in transactional practices on board with pro bono work – by all accounts, a relatively difficult feat given billable time pressures. The firm also has a deep bench of pro bono professionals in the U.K., with a full-time equivalent of nearly six lawyers working on pro bono matters, and boasts the second-highest number of total pro bono hours for the last year.



Hogan Lovells' Washington, D.C., offices. Photo: Diego M. Radzinski/ALM

3. Shearman & Sterling

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 12,822**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 82.7**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 88%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? No**

Shearman & Sterling measured the highest number of pro bono hours per lawyer undertaking pro bono work in its 155-strong London office this year, with each fee-earner clocking up 94 hours. Considering the fact that pro bono doesn't count towards targets, the fact that so many lawyers have worked so many pro bono hours is admirable and suggests an office-wide dedication to the sector among its lawyers. In April 2020 as the U.K. continued its first lockdown, the firm partnered with three other firms to support the National Centre for Domestic Violence in tackling a rising wave of domestic violence as vulnerable victims were unable to leave their situations. The firm spent 765 hours throughout the latest financial year on helping individuals injunction applications.

2. Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 4,714**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 68**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 100%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**

Orrick's dedication to pro bono goes not only towards its internal projects but also raises the profile of pro bono across the wider U.K. market. The firm's London-based head of international pro bono Amy Grunske is cited by countless peers as being a genuine leader in the pro bono scene, motivating other firms to get involved with wide-scale, impactful projects as part of the Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono organisation. She has been co-ordinating Collaborative Plan's response to the Afghanistan refugee relief crisis, rallying a raft of firms to direct their resources towards the efforts. The firm is not as large as others in the U.K. but has a 100% pro bono engagement rate in its London office, and an average of 68 pro bono hours per fee earner over the year, making it one of the best for that metric. Orrick was also the first global law firm to launch an Impact Finance and Investment practice, aimed at supporting investors and entrepreneurs who aim to make social and environmental impacts alongside financial returns. Against a backdrop of rising ESG interest across the global markets, such an initiative is crucial in addressing demand for related legal advice without the costly price tag.



Afghan evacuation

1. Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

- **Number of U.K. pro bono hours worked: 46,341**
- **Pro bono hours per U.K. fee earner: 54**
- **Percentage of lawyers of doing pro bono: 62%**
- **Count towards utilisation targets? Yes**



Credit:
LittlePerfectStock/Shutterstock

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer has had a mammoth year for pro bono. The firm boosted its already-impressive pro bono hours total by more than 50% over the past year, to reach

46,341, putting it far ahead of any other firm. Most notably it increased its pro bono hours per lawyer figure to 53.9 – the highest of any large U.K. firm. The firm has maintained its strong reputation in U.K. pro bono over the past 12 months, both in terms of its market-leading mandates and its drive to push pro bono further up the agenda internally. A key pro bono mandate for the firm over the year included acting for U.K. activist Kate Wilson in her landmark case against undercover policing, after she was deceived into a relationship with an undercover police officer. In September, a Freshfields team headed up by the firm's London global investigations group co-head Matthew Bruce won a tribunal case for breaches of Wilson's human rights in a court win that made national headlines.

How lawyers can work together to help those in need

By Lucy Blake | 4 November 2021

Pro Bono Week serves as an opportunity not only to reflect on the remarkable contribution by lawyers around the country in providing free legal advice to those in need, but also to identify where exactly pro bono assistance is most urgently needed and how legal professionals can engage most constructively.

In 2020, Jenner & Block pledged to provide \$250 million (over £180 million) in free legal services to those in need of access to justice over the next five years. Averaging out at \$50 million per year, this annual commitment equates to more than 10% of the firm's most recent annual gross revenue. In London, the office has built pro bono relationships with incredible and inspirational organisations such as Advocates for International Development, Centrepoin, Legal Advice Centre (University House), Lawyers Without Borders, TrustLaw and the Lex Mundi *Pro Bono* Foundation. Working together with other organisations – combining resources and blending different skillsets and experiences – can be an extremely powerful means of achieving the greatest impact.

Following the Taliban takeover of Kabul in July 2021, Jenner & Block has been providing pro bono assistance to over 25 human rights defenders trying to flee the country and resettle in the US or UK. Our clients include a senior female judge, a senior female police officer, a pregnant journalist and activists. All these individuals are at risk of violent reprisals at the hands of the Taliban, on the basis of their work, gender, education, or perceived support for the international intervention in Afghanistan.

In one particular case, the Jenner & Block London Office has been working together with Kingsley Napley LLP in advising a senior Afghan female judge. She is at a particularly immediate and serious risk of Taliban retaliation. Having held senior positions in the Afghan Criminal Court, she sentenced violent offenders, including Taliban members and sympathisers, to long terms of imprisonment. Over the years she was subject to multiple death threats as a result of her work and she and her family frequently had to relocate to new accommodation for their safety. The people who she imprisoned have since been released by the Taliban and are now not only free on the streets, but occupying roles in the Taliban government. We are in close contact with her family in the UK, who are all desperately worried about her.



Lucy Blake

Our work, in partnership with the fantastic immigration team at Kingsley Napley, to help this Afghan judge, as well as other human rights defenders, is ongoing. Pooling our resources with their immigration team, and sharing our experiences, contacts, and skills in our respective practice areas, has allowed us to maximise our impact for our clients. Our two firms have both made commitments to dedicate resources and expertise on a pro bono basis to this important cause. More broadly, our two firms are aligned in their core values of asserting fundamental human rights and challenging miscarriages of justice, abroad as well as in the UK.

My colleague Christian Tuddenham, co-chair of Jenner & Block's pro bono committee, **wrote** during Pro Bono Week last year about how the Covid-19 pandemic had exacerbated the pre-existing issue of access to justice. He spoke of the special responsibility lawyers have to ensure the system is fair and accessible for all. It was hard to envisage at the time that the coming year would bring additional crises of a magnitude that would further shake the foundation of universal access to justice.

Large-scale humanitarian crises such as the one in Afghanistan can often make people feel powerless. Particularly so for lawyers, who know how, at its best, the justice system can work to protect the vulnerable and give them a voice in the face of overwhelming opposition or persecution. But it is also for this reason that these kinds of crises should be seen as a call to arms for lawyers, to engage in whatever way they can, and rally together with colleagues, peers, clients – to help protect the rights of vulnerable people. As the UK legal industry recognises the 20th anniversary of Pro Bono Week, let's look back on the crises of the past two decades, and all the free help provided by lawyers in the UK and elsewhere, to remind us of what the industry can achieve in the next two decades.

Lucy Blake is special counsel in the investigations, compliance and defense team at Jenner & Block in London



Mary Dobson Smith <mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

BarTalk | Budget 2021 funding shortfall, "alarming" report shows justice at breaking point, new wellbeing action plan + more

1 message

The Bar Council <The.Bar.Council@r1.dotdigital-email.com>

4 November 2021 at 16:16

Reply-To: The Bar Council <re-4CGD-16OAN-6CE0LE-C16ZY@r1.dotdigital-email.com>

To: mary@dobsonsmith.consulting

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Issue 168 | 4 November 2021

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November 2021

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Bar backs Pro Bono Week

The Bar has been playing its part in marking the 20th Pro Bono Week. [The Bar Council has taken to social media](#) to celebrate the Bar's pro bono commitment and Chair of the Bar, Derek Sweeting QC has featured in the press to highlight the importance of pro bono work at the Bar and beyond. The Bar Council also supports the [Advocate Pro Bono Awards](#).

[Find out more about Pro Bono Week](#)

[Vacancies](#)

Law, Technology and Access to Justice

A resource for all those interested in the use of technology to advance access to justice around the world

PRO BONO WEEK

Pro Bono and Tech

🕒 November 4, 2021 📁 ODR 👤 Roger Smith

Here in London, national pro bono week – celebrating its twentieth anniversary – is drawing to a close. Yesterday saw a discussion headed ‘Technology and Pro Bono: domestic and global perspectives’. This had a range of domestic speakers (full disclosure: including myself) and contributors abroad including Els Enenche from Nigeria and Cat Moon from the US. The session was organised by domestically focused [LawWorks](#) and externally orientated Advocates for International Development or [A4ID](#). It provides an opportunity to assess the relationship between pro bono and technology in the access to justice field.

Pro bono and the founders of its week have not been without controversy. After a similar event in Pro Bono Week 2018, the Jeanie Project [published](#) a pretty hard headed ‘business case for pro bono’ which paradoxically made its detractors case with commendable succinctness: ‘The marketing and reputational benefits of pro bono outweigh the costs of the lawyers’ time by far.’ This gives support for the well honed argument that pro bono should be seen as PR. The original creators of Pro Bono week were also not without personal controversy. One was [Lord Goldsmith](#), once Attorney General, whose legal defence of UK involvement in the Iraq war, was derided by most of his peers. The other was [Michael Napier](#), once President of the Law Society, whose public career was disrupted by a nasty debate about an alleged conflict of interest in a pro bono matter that reached the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and the courts.

Over the 20 years since the week was first organised, both pro bono and its promotional week have increased in prominence and success. The large commercial firms linked with the City of London have very much taken up the model prominent in the US and, indeed, the amount of work undertaken by US firms directly practicing in the UK has increased dramatically. These large City firms have become the backbone of what has become a correspondingly powerful pro bono movement. And it is no real criticism to argue that it has reflected enlightened self-interest as the Jeanie project identified – in terms of both reputation (as the Jeanie blogger pointed out) and also training/job satisfaction of staff. Indeed, that self-interest gives pro bono a solid foundation which has allowed it to embed itself in practice.

There are two immediate benefits from this effect. First, there has been funding to establish new players in the access to justice field. In the US, [probono.net](#) has become an important organisation with a string of successful and innovative projects. In England and Wales, [LawWorks](#), once a rather fringe Solicitors Pro Bono Group, has become a mainstream player. Elsewhere, much the same has happened. In Australia, [JusticeConnect](#) – increasingly influential in Australia and, as we will see, globally – originated from state-based pro bono clearing houses. Second, following the diaspora of US

firms and their openness to pro bono, there has been a momentum behind the international co-operation displayed in the pro bono week session. The ease of video communication accelerates this and allowed foreign participation to be as easy as that of domestic ones.

The institutional pressure behind prominence for pro bono work has not been without comment from those earning low wages in poorly paid access to justice fields. Here we have a contribution from a rumination on 2011's pro bono week: 'Last month the Legal Action Group **warned** pro bono charities against making too much noise about the amount of pro bono assistance that they are helping to support – and the danger this poses. "The pro bono movement must not fall into the trap of overselling itself to a government that is all too happy to adopt it as an alternative to legal aid and other publicly funded advice services," it asserted.'

But all would probably agree in most jurisdictions that pro bono provides a modest but important element of access to justice provision. London's **National Pro Bono Centre** is careful to advise those seeking help first to try legal aid then the Citizens Advice Service or law centre and thereafter and 'If these services do not meet your needs, you may be able to get assistance from a pro bono solicitor at **legal law clinic** or a pro bono barrister through **Advocate**.' In a jurisdiction like England and Wales, pro bono remains very much a minority provider of assistance – if an important one.

Notwithstanding all this, pro bono can justly claim to have played a leading role in some fields of tech. The first role is more indirect than direct but may be the most important. The big legal firms provided a model for how to run remote services when Covid struck. Most were up and running over at most a weekend. This provided an important example of how it could be done for smaller and less well resourced agencies and offices. Lawyers in pro bono firms were used to sophisticated case management systems that allowed remote working. Student pro bono clinics followed their example. So did others. Pro bono engagement in access to justice has undoubtedly assisted in the 'trickle down' effect of commercial forms of digital case support.

Second, the process of pro bono – carried out in the past by pro bono clearing houses of various kinds – involves matching of offered resources with individual demand. So, it is no surprise that pro bono organisations have led the process of automating this process. The result is that JusticeConnect developed a product for its Australian market based on earlier US forays into the field. This is now being taken up in the UK, Ireland and elsewhere. Illinois Legal Aid Online has its own equivalent and the Legal Services Corporation has Navigator projects in the US doing the same thing. At some stage, these may well provide ripe for the successful integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Third, pro bono is playing a major role in developing what we might call unbundling 2.0. Thus, there are a number of projects which help users through the process of resolving a dispute rather than, as in the original form of unbundling, providing assistance on static segments. Thus, for example, **Citizenshipworks** helps users through the process of making an immigration claim in real time as they move through it. CW 'was created in 2011 by the Immigration Advocates Network, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and Pro Bono Net, three non-profit organizations with over 20 years of experience in the immigration law and technology.' Unbundling in its original form was the idea that you could separate out elements of a case into those with which a person needed assistance and those which they could do themselves. What is evolving are systems which put all this within a case managed context in which the user is helped through the process over time.

Finally, pro bono has played a role in the massive upgrading of how information and assistance is provided on the net. For example, **LawHelpInteractive** is a **probono.net** organisation that advances the use of self-assembly documentation. **Free Legal Answers** is an American Bar Association product which strives to do what you would expect and what its says on the tin. And, for England and Wales,

England and Wales is borrowing the technology with its equivalent (and trade mark protected) [Free Legal Answers](#).

So, pro bono gives us a coherent sector of access to justice provision making an important contribution to the use of technology within the field. Where we need to go next – both nationally and internationally – is to integrate discussion of pro bono and mainstream provision of legal aid and legal assistance. That raises interesting – if rather difficult – questions of how we might institutionally take that forward. The integration of overseas speakers within the domestic event yesterday points out the value – and, indeed, the practicality – of doing that.

[Tweet](#)



Credit: ALM

COMMENTARY

Which Lawyers Are A Force For Good In Society?

Pro bono efforts and climate change: how do firms compare? There is no shying away from big issues in this week's London Lawyer Briefing

November 05, 2021 at 07:51 AM

 6 minute read

[The London Lawyer Briefing](#)

Paul Hodkinson


Editor-In-Chief

Most people like to think of themselves as a force for good in society. Lawyers take this to another level with their crusade to uphold the rule of law.

But lawyers and law firms are also well paid for their work. What differentiates those who are in it for the money from those who are genuinely trying to use the law to help people? Answer: pro bono.

This week was Pro Bono Week and Law.com International demonstrated again why it is clearly the leading legal publication for coverage on pro bono – as well as diversity and mental health – by producing a series of articles demonstrating what efforts corporate law firms are making.

There are so many [life-affirming projects](#) the largest firms do that receive little attention. Helping with relief efforts in Afghanistan, advising individuals affected by the Windrush scandal, aiding family reunions, fighting human

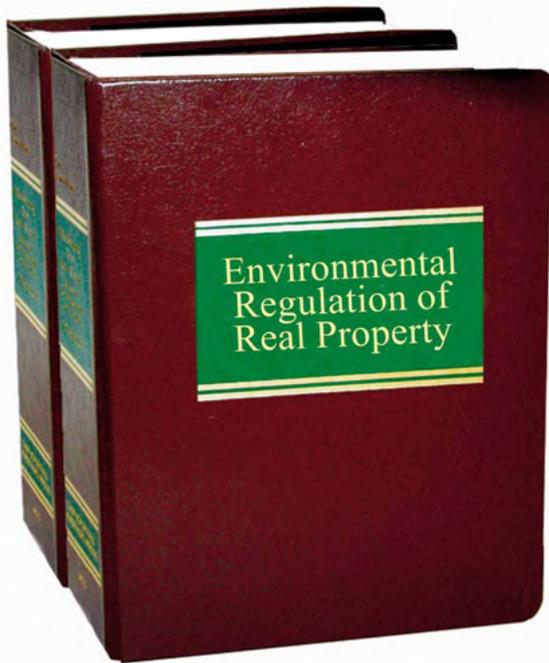


rights violations, supporting pandemic projects, pushing to abolish slavery and more. You can read about the [stand out pro bono mandates of the year here](#).

Every firm is always proud of its pro bono efforts, but that alone is not actually very helpful for potential recruits and others hoping to distinguish between them. That is why Law.com International decided to produce annual rankings showing which firms are the best for pro bono in the U.K.

When we first raised the idea a few years ago there was [opposition from some corners of the industry](#). Surely you can't measure good works? Perhaps not, but you can measure pro bono hours. And you can measure other things, such as the percentage of lawyers who do pro bono work and the number of people devoted to such efforts at each institution.

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



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Environmental Regulation of Real Property

This book not only offers in-depth analysis of federal environmental statutes having a bearing on land use, but also looks closely at rules imposed by state and local g...

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That debate is over and this year marked the widest survey yet on the topic, meaning the contest to enter [the top 10](#) was the fiercest on record.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer topped the ranking after producing a [staggering increase in pro bono hours](#) through the pandemic. But it was by no means the only firm that has had an impressive year. Shearman & Sterling, Reed Smith, Dechert and Latham & Watkins all deserve a mention. And there are [many more](#).

I'd highly recommend [a look at the final article](#), produced by *Hannah Roberts*.

at a Portsmouth 2021
Open Day

Book an Open Day

LAW FIRMS MENTIONED

[Reed Smith](#)

[Freshfields Bruckhaus
Deringer](#)

[Dechert](#)

[Eversheds Sutherland](#)

[Shearman & Sterling LLP](#)

[Latham & Watkins](#)

[Herbert Smith Freehills
LLP](#)

[Ashurst](#)

TRENDING STORIES

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Little Waitrose & Partners High
Holborn

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We only work with farmers and
growers we know and trust

The stats and stories are interesting. But the wider point is not simply about pro bono work per se. The amount of pro bono work a firm is involved in points to the kind of firm it is. It shows graduates – who tend to nowadays be very interested in such things – and others what kind of values they have.

That's why it is important that so many firms now count pro bono efforts as part of their lawyers' utilisation targets, with Eversheds Sutherland and Reed Smith among the latest to have started including it. Nothing shows firms care about pro bono more than when they are prepared to take a financial hit.

It all comes at an interesting time for the industry, when so many firms across the world are attempting to conjure up a stance on what their purpose is in society. The problem many of them face is that they're trying to come up with the slogan first, which will then inform their lawyers and staff about what they stand for.

Perhaps they have it the wrong way around. Firms that are actually diverse – rather than just saying they care – and that do lots of pro bono work – rather than just talking about it – don't really need a slogan to define their purpose. They are already a force for good in society.

Eco Lawyers

Remember remember the fifth of November...

It would be nice if COP26 went down in history as an important event. The Glasgow gathering is, after all, "possibly the most important climate conference of our lifetime", according to Herbert Smith Freehills chief executive Justin D'Agostino.

Law firms are out in force at the event with dozens sending lawyers, providing speakers and hosting events. As well as reporting on firms' efforts, Law.com International has been running a daily blog written by lawyers on the ground from Herbert Smith Freehills and Ashurst. They explain not only what is happening each day, but also what it all means and what the mood is among delegates. Check them out here:

Anna-Marie Slot, Lorraine Johnston and Eleanor Reeves, Ashurst partners at COP26.

[COP26 Blog: Ready, Set, GO](#)

[COP26 Blog: Goodbye Leaders, Hello Negotiators](#)

[COP26, Day 3: Methane, Deforestation and Article 6](#)

[COP 26 Blog: How to Spend \\$130 Trillion](#)

[COP26 Blog: HSF, Ashurst Lawyers Tackle Energy Issues](#)

And in case you're wondering whether we look at firms' environmental efforts rather than just their rhetoric. Yes, we do.

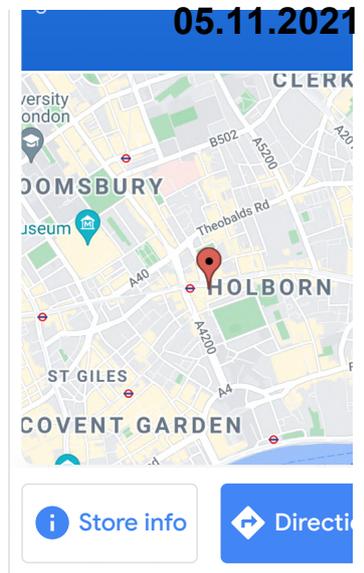
Other Stories Worth Reading:

Hiring

[Six-Strong CMS Team Departs for UK Rival](#)

[Long-time Freshfields London Partner Jumps To Debevoise](#)

[Three More Firms Add London Partners As Lateral Hiring Continues Apace](#)



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- 3 . Latham & Watkins
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- 4 . Davis Polk & Wardwell
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[Dentons CFO Leaves For Global Rival In Latest Senior Exit](#)[Mishcon Partner Leaver Joins UK Firm](#)

Pro bono, sustainability, mental health

[Simmons Looks To Roll Out Global Therapy Sessions For Partners](#)[Six Firms Team Up As Pro Bono Legal Tech Platform Ramps Up in UK](#)[Simmons Will Give £100,000 In Legal Advice To Start Ups Tackling Climate Change](#)[HFW Rolls Out Sustainability Syllabus](#)

Partnerships

[Kirkland Kicks Off European In-Person Partner Conferences With Wellbeing Top of Agenda](#)[Gibson Dunn Latest Firm to Promote Bumper Crop of Lawyers](#)[McDermott Will & Emery Promotes Largest Ever Cohort to Partner](#)

Management

[White & Case Takes on More Space in London, Extends Lease](#)[Knights Makes Latest UK Acquisition, Adds £20M To War Chest](#)[Ropes & Gray Latest to Hike London NQ Pay](#)

Deals

[Ashurst and UK Firm Headline on £850M Daily Mail Take Private](#)[CMS and Addleshaws Tune Into BBC, ITV Hub Sale](#)

Litigation

[Hausfeld Takes On ComparetheMarket.com in Latest UK Group Action](#)[The Rise of Class Actions in Europe: Will London Remain The Preferred Choice?](#)[Prince Andrew Could Face Civil Sex Abuse Trial in US in 2022](#)

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November 05, 2021

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By [Hannah Walker](#)

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October 15, 2021

The London Lawyer: The Latest Pay War Points to a Problem

By [Paul Hodkinson](#)

🕒 5 minute read

November 04, 2021

COP 26 Blog: How to Spend \$130 Trillion

By [Anna-Marie Slot](#), [Lorraine Johnston](#) and [Eleanor Reeves](#), [Ashurst](#)

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What is net zero and what can the legal profession do?

1 message

Professional Update <professionalupdate@lawsociety.org.uk>
Reply-To: r-ff008540c18455fe2a030fa7e84d81319a1577ee@email.lawsociety.org.uk
To: Mary Dobson <Mary@dobsonsmith.consulting>

5 November 2021 at 16:49

The Law Society | [View online](#)

5 November 2021

Professional Update

What is net zero and what can the legal profession do?



As the COP26 summit continues, we're seeing how, for solicitors, climate change is beginning to affect how our businesses are run and how we provide legal services.

Many companies have already started taking action by developing net zero strategies and are increasingly requiring those they do business with, such as solicitors, to adopt similar measures.

You have an opportunity to adopt practical measures and policies to reduce the climate impact of your business. This includes steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to publicly report your progress.

Net zero: what solicitors can do

With an increasing number of governments and companies making net zero pledges, we discuss what net zero means and how it affects solicitors.

> [Find out what net zero is and what you can do about it](#)

Race to net zero: tools to support your business

Find out how you can get started incorporating net zero considerations into your law firm's practice with our helpful tools, initiatives and programmes.

[> Find out what you can do to get started in the race to net zero](#)

Our climate change resolution

Our resolution on climate change outlines the role solicitors can play in addressing the climate crisis.

[> Read the resolution](#)

[> Join the conversation on social media #LawSocClimateResolution](#)

Practical steps you can take

Explore our advice and guidance on practical steps solicitors and businesses can take in response to climate change.

[> Explore our climate resources](#)

Good comes around: pro bono as a sole practitioner

"I'm not a nurse in the NHS, but I gave what I could."

During the pandemic, Yomi Oni-Williams found herself running her law practice single-handedly, home-schooling her two children, and continuing to volunteer for Citizens Advice.



Yomi was highly commended for her pro bono work in the Law Society Awards 2021, after giving free legal advice to over 180 vulnerable people.

As Pro Bono Week draws to a close, we've spoken to Yomi about her story.

[> Read Yomi's story](#)

Get involved with pro bono by signing our charter

If you've been inspired by Yomi's story or by Pro Bono Week, you can sign our Pro Bono Charter.

The Pro Bono Charter is a public statement that we invite law firms, in-house teams and alternative business structures to sign. Signing the charter shows your practice is committed to improving access to justice.

[> Sign up to our Pro Bono Charter](#)

Judicial review reform plans would have chilling effect on justice

After giving evidence to the Judicial Review and Courts Bill committee in parliament, we've said that judicial review is an essential part of our justice system which keeps government accountable.

We oppose the proposed prospective-only remedies which would lead to judgments that apply only in the future, leaving past wrongs to stand.

[> Find out about the plans](#)



[SLIDESHOW](#)

In Pictures: The Stand-Out Pro Bono Mandates of 2021

Several Big Law firms, including Mayer Brown, Ashurst and Allen & Overy took part in a number of global initiatives that have won praise from the industry.

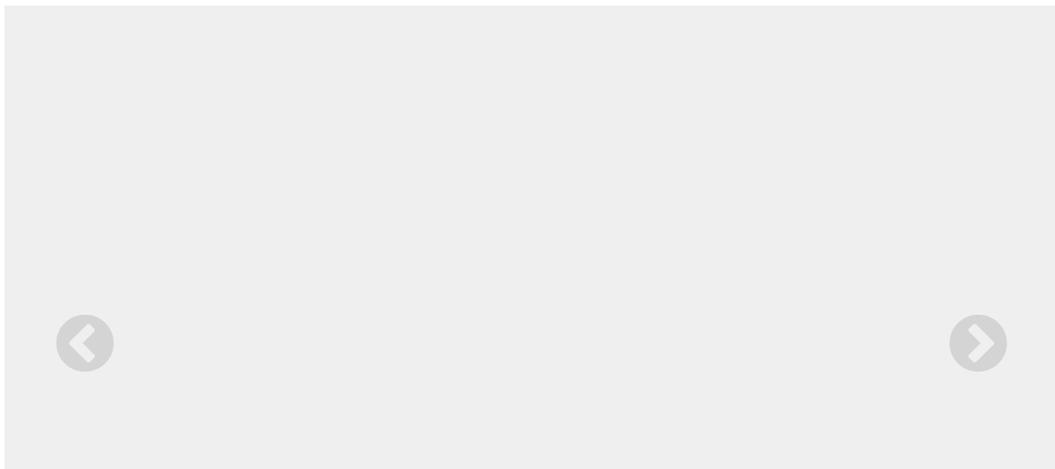
November 05, 2021 at 05:55 AM

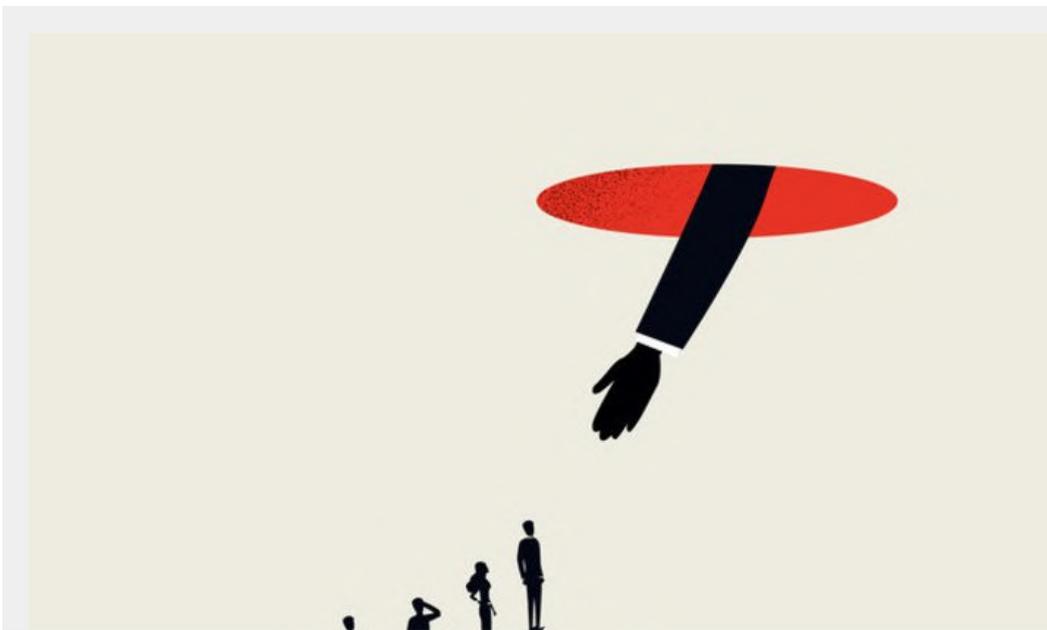
🕒 1 minute read

[Pro Bono](#)



[Hannah Roberts](#) [↗](#)
Senior Reporter





To mark this year's Pro Bono Week, Law.com International is highlighting the market-leading mandates and issues that have grabbed law firms' attention this year. Click through the gallery to find out more.

Other pro bono coverage from this week:

[The Best Law Firms for UK Pro Bono, 2021](#)

[More Law Firms Opt to Count Pro Bono Hours Towards Utilisation Targets](#)

[Freshfields UK Pro Bono Hours Rocketed By More Than 50% Through Pandemic](#)

[Six Firms Team Up As Pro Bono Legal Tech Platform Ramps Up in UK](#)

[Simmons Will Give £100,000 In Legal Advice To Start Ups Tackling Climate Change](#)

['This Is the Future of Afghanistan': US Firm Managing Partner Is Helping Young Girls Evacuate and Find Hope](#)

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'No One Was Asking for This': Brussels Lawyers React To Wilson Sonsini's 'Crazy' Pay Hike

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Deadline: 1st December 2021

NOMINATE TODAY



Earlier this year, 14 major law firms joined forces with Refugee Legal Support and Safe Passage U.K. to help with refugee relief efforts in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover. Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe; Debevoise & Plimpton; Ashurst; Allen & Overy; Reed Smith; Hogan Lovells; Clyde & Co; Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom; Mayer Brown; Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Ropes & Gray; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; Eversheds Sutherland; and Gibson Dunn & Crutcher worked together as part of the Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono to aid the evacuation of Afghans escaping from the country in the days and weeks following the country's political upheaval. Lawyers from a raft of firms dedicated their time to the relief efforts as part of the crisis, with free legal advice systems and initiatives set up in a matter of hours. "It is often surprising to those outside the pro bono sector to learn that firms that are competitors in fee-earning work often collaborate very happily and successfully on large-scale pro bono projects!" said Amy Grunske, head of international pro bono at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, the leader of the project. "The collaborative Afghanistan projects have been no different – we are currently working closely with 22 different firms in total over the three projects in the UK and Europe and it has been the opposite of difficult." Credit: Handout/Bundeswehr/Getty Images



Several law firms have dedicated their resources and lawyers' time to casework for individuals making applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Scheme provides financial compensation to individuals and their families who settled in the U.K. from Commonwealth countries before 1 January 1973, known as the Windrush Generation, who suffered loss as a result of not being able to demonstrate their lawful right to live and work in the U.K. Dechert, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Charles Russell Speechlys, Debevoise & Plimpton, Latham & Watkins, Linklaters, Taylor Wessing, and White & Case have all undertaken work on such complex matters. Credit: chat9780/Fotolia



Law firms have taken on a raft of mandates to help with family reunion projects over the last year, either as part of their affiliated law clinics or through collaborations. One recent example of cross-firm work on family reunion initiatives includes a six-firm project with Refugee Legal Support, which involves Orrick, Allen & Overy, Ashurst, Reed Smith, White and Case and Simmons and Simmons and launched in early 2021. Several other firms are heavily involved in projects assisting non-profit organisation Kids In Need of Defense U.K. (KIND), which focuses on regularising the immigration status of undocumented children. Many families impacted by such issues are often destitute or living under precarious conditions. In 2020, Reed Smith was one such firm to have made great strides in this area, having had six successful cases and helping 15 clients to achieve fee waivers, leave to remain or British citizenship. Sidley Austin, DLA Piper, Arnold & Porter, Shearman & Sterling, Dentons, Ashurst, K&L Gates and Cooley also all spent a considerable amount of pro bono hours working on projects with KIND. Credit: Adobe Stock



Though it isn't a new project for the 2020/21 financial year, several law firms have been involved in the Greece Collaborative Project. In August 2019 five law firms along with two NGOs - European Lawyers on Lesbos and Refugee Legal Support - worked together to send lawyers to the Moria camp on Lesbos, the epicenter of the ongoing refugee crisis. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, law firm volunteers were seconded in person to Lesbos, but the inability to travel since COVID struck has meant that lawyers have switched to support ELIL remotely, to ensure asylum seekers continue to receive the advice they need. The group is considering continuing a hybrid model with both in-person and remote secondments after travel restrictions ease as a result of positive feedback from clients and partners. Credit: Wikipedia

Pro Bono Week: Behind the numbers

Solicitors' pro bono charity LawWorks reports on the vital role of pro bono within the legal support ecosystem

LawWorks is passionate about pro bono and the important contributions it makes to enabling people to access legal support. Every day we see the difference that volunteer solicitors and law schools make—from providing initial advice, to, for example, representing clients at benefit and employment appeal hearings.

However, we are equally clear about the limits of pro bono; it should never be expected to replace an adequately funded system of legal aid nor funding for law centres and advice agencies. Pro bono makes a difference when seen as part of 'an ecosystem' of legal support—it can work hand-in-hand with legal aid, including identifying when legal aid might be available, but is much less able to provide holistic legal support, particularly for complex needs, in isolation.

To understand the impact of pro bono, you need to also look beyond counting pro bono hours and look to the activities undertaken and the service delivered in partnership, the number of volunteers, but more crucially the numbers of people helped, and the impact on the lives of clients. Partnership with the 'third sector' is a vital aspect of pro bono activity and it is important to be realistic about the capacity, scale, and contexts for pro bono—including its appropriateness where there are more complex personal and legal needs. There is no one single model of pro bono; legal needs are diverse and require a range of services and strategies, so our programmes range from supporting clinics, specialist casework projects, brokering legal advice for charities and developing digital platforms, including the Pro Bono Portal UK, to support and facilitate lawyers' capacity to undertake pro bono work.

Inputs, outputs & outcomes
As our clinic reports in recent years

demonstrate, the range of pro bono clinics provided through law schools and advice agencies has grown steadily in recent years (bit.ly/3bef5cd). As of June 2021, there were 300 clinics across England and Wales in the LawWorks Clinics Network, although during 2020 not all clinics were operational due to the pandemic. Clinic services range from providing generalist support across a broad range of legal issues, to specialist clinics focused on identified needs, such as homelessness, immigration or social welfare. In 2020, 49,651 separate enquiries were reported, and 87% of enquiries resulted in either advice (56%) or signposting (31%). This is a reduction in the number of enquiries (77,550) and people helped (70,261) recorded over 2019; however, this reflects the impact COVID-19 had on clinic operations, and the capacity to collect data given their migration to

remote service delivery. Over 9,000 lawyers and law students volunteered in clinics over 2020.

It also important, however, not just to capture inputs and outputs, but also outcomes—how the services provided have made a difference. In the past we have been successful in researching client outcomes, although client monitoring has been harder to do during the pandemic. Our last outcomes monitoring exercise (in 2018) demonstrated, from a representative sample of clients supported by clinics, that 87% reported a better understanding of their situation and next steps to resolve their issues, whilst 68% reported reduced stress (bit.ly/3vKs7rB). Understanding outcomes and impact adds to the incentivising of pro bono engagement, and compliments aspirational hours targets. **NLJ**

LawWorks

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LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) enables access to justice through pro bono legal advice. We:

- ▶ promote and support pro bono within the solicitors' profession and in law schools;
- ▶ help connect those needing legal advice with pro bono volunteers; and
- ▶ advocate for policy change and the goal of access to justice for all.

Opportunities for pro bono volunteering include:

- ▶ joining a network of over 300 independent pro bono clinics across England and Wales;
- ▶ our Not-for-Profits programme connecting smaller charities with free legal advice;
- ▶ Pro Bono Connect—facilitating barristers and solicitors working together on pro bono cases;
- ▶ Free Legal Answers—a website for individuals on low incomes seeking initial legal advice (currently employment, family, consumer, debt and housing) www.freelegalanswers.org.uk;
- ▶ The Pro Bono Portal UK—working towards the vision of creating a national 'one stop shop' for remote and online pro bono volunteering.

For more information on the work of LawWorks and how you can get involved, visit www.lawworks.org.uk.

