

Report on Pro Bono Week 2021

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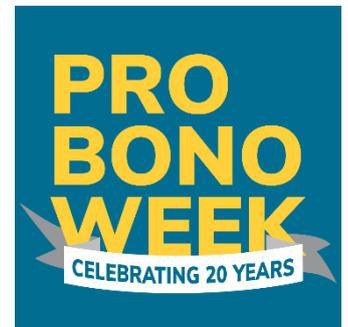
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Pro Bono Week 2021: Key Takeaways

Events

Pro Bono Week 2021 saw 55 events organised, not counting many internal events hosted by firms. An estimated 3,000 people attended events throughout the week, online and in person.

The content of the week's events can be grouped in three ways:

1. **Events about practical delivery of pro bono work;** sharing best practice, focusing on areas of concern and opportunities to learn:
 - Method of delivery; remote, hybrid, online clinics
 - Legal technology
 - Vicarious trauma/burn-out
 - Ethics
 - Pro bono at clinics and MP signposting

2. **Events focusing on pro bono within professional practice:**
 - by area of specialism: family, chancery, housing, employment
 - by stage of career: e.g. students, trainees, young lawyers, late career (retired)
 - by type of lawyers: e.g. in-house lawyers, barristers, government lawyers
 - by where they are in the country: Bristol, Scotland, Birmingham, NI etc

3. **Events focusing on a specific kind of pro bono or cause area:**
 - Advice for small charities
 - climate change, environmental justice & SDGs,
 - refugee rights
 - welfare rights
 - miscarriages of justice,
 - international work & rule of law

Themes and issues

There were cross-cutting themes that emerged from many of the events:

1. **Use of technology and reaching the most vulnerable**
 - Many events explored the benefits of providing **pro bono help online** or remotely over the phone. Many speakers shared examples of online delivery and it was noted that requests for telephone appointments continued to increase.
 - Feedback from many events highlighted that **remote clinics** were working very well, and significantly improved the experience for a lawyer of giving time pro bono; remote delivery is convenient, more efficient and well organised. Asynchronous email advice was noted as useful as it means lawyers can take their time to draft a good response.
 - It was noted repeatedly that not all those in need of pro bono help have access to technology, and **those without technology** will still need face to face services. Some events reflected on the need for creativity and balance in terms of delivery.
 - One event identified a particular challenge supporting those with **mental health issues** remotely, and the difficulty of building trust in this scenario.

- One event questioned whether a big London firm could use legal tech to provide **pro bono services beyond London**, and looked to pro bono services and charities to identify where tech could provide a solution.

2. Training/supervision

- Events noted the importance of ensuring lawyers were trained so they felt properly equipped to do pro bono in an area **beyond their day-to-day specialism**.
- It was commented that otherwise pro bono is hindered (even where there is good collaboration) by the lack of specialism in the areas where the need is needed most.
 - Offering commercial lawyers training in areas of pro bono need via **YouTube videos** was suggested as a future solution.
 - **Firms can organise in-house training** on an area of law where they wish their lawyers to help pro bono
 - There is significant need re **welfare benefits** but lawyers with time to help don't have expertise in this area, suggesting that more training is needed in these areas.
- The delivery limit is often **supervisory capacity**. Organisations would benefit from more resources in order to do more supervision. Remote supervision is much more time-consuming.

3. Particular areas of need

Generally pro bono work was seen as increasing, including through university pro bono.

- It was identified that an increasing number of **charities are in need of pro bono help**. Some legal professionals expressed an interest in helping startups and social enterprises with legal advice.
- The **climate crisis** was seen as a priority for many legal professionals.
- One event explained that a focus on a particular area of need (maternity advice) meant that lawyers could **volunteer on a topic they might be personally motivated by**; strengthening their desire to do pro bono.
- MPs were seen as well placed to identify areas of need, and encouraged to share that with their local university or law clinic.

4. Better coordination and the structure of pro bono

- It was suggested that **firms are well placed** to communicate the most effective way of delivering pro bono. An in-house/firm partnership was identified as working very well due to three reasons:
 - The work was interesting
 - The work could be done at any time
 - The lawyers had the right skillset for the work

- **Local law clinics, centres and university clinics** were repeatedly seen as the hub and engine of need, and the place to start when looking for pro bono opportunities. MP support of local clinics was identified as important as a driver. As in 2020, more than one event discussed the **geography of pro bono**, and the importance of going to where the need is; meeting people in churches, libraries or community centres.
 - In the local community, translation assistance could be key as language differences could create significant barriers to pro bono.
- **Student pro bono** is acknowledged by all as key to embedding a commitment to pro bono which can become part of their future practice.
- There was a seemingly new interest in the power of **retired lawyers** to get involved with pro bono, and a suggestion that it should be easier (in terms of time) for them to undertake pro bono work.
- Referral directories and pathways were seen as a barrier to progress, and that streamlining the **referral process** and getting referrals right first time would have a significant impact. One event called for more collaborative pro bono projects.
- A couple of events noted the importance of **empowering litigants in person** in terms of how they engage with their own case, as well as the impact of promoting public participation in decisions affecting them.
- Pro bono input at a **key moment within a case**, as opposed to all the way through, was noted as a very effective way to propel a case to a solution.
- Improved coordination between the **legal aid sector** and pro bono sector was suggested.

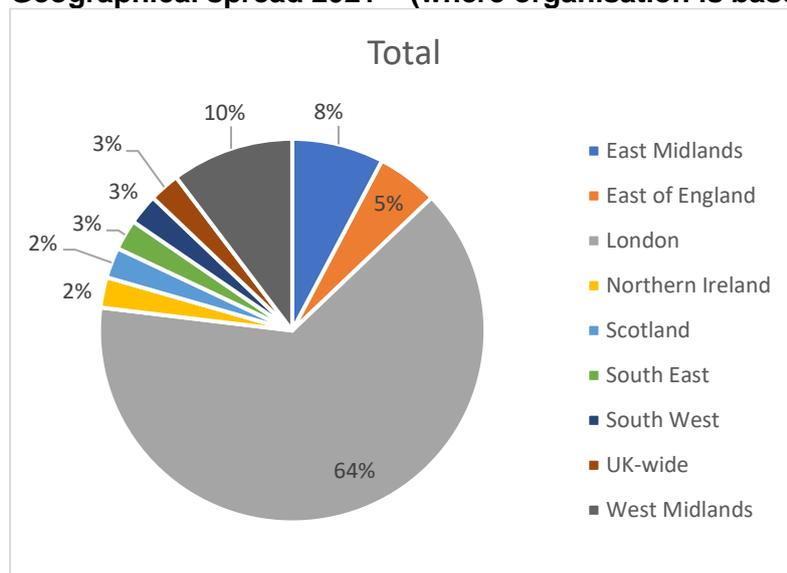
5. The business case and the why of pro bono

A number of events stated or referred to the business case for pro bono.

- It was said that many financial and commercial law firms now recognise that **pro bono is good for recruitment and retention**.
 - The power of junior lawyers to pressure their firm to ensure there is a structured pro bono programme and for pro bono hours to count towards billable hours was identified.
- More than once, lawyers said that pro bono improves a professional as a lawyer. In house lawyers noted that **undertaking pro bono enhances the skillset of a lawyer**, in a range of ways.
- More than one event suggested that **pro bono is the right thing to do**, and that pro bono aligns with the reason many lawyers went into the law; to make a difference.

APPENDIX 1: STATISTICS

Geographical spread 2021 – (where organisation is based)



An estimated 3,000 people took part in events online (2,600) and in person (400).

Detailed feedback summary of 38 respondents:

How did you hear about Pro Bono Week?		
Pro Bono Week organising committee	45%	17
Took part last year	26%	10
I organised this	16%	6
Colleague	8%	3
LinkedIn	5%	2

Was this the first time that you organised an event for Pro Bono Week?		
No	82%	32
Yes	18%	7

Please indicate who the main target audience(s) for your event(s) were. Please tick all that apply		
Lawyers/professionals already doing pro bono	20%	20
Students interested in doing pro bono work	18%	18
Lawyers/professionals interested in doing pro bono work	18%	18
Students already doing pro bono work	16%	16
Pro bono coordinators	14%	14
Voluntary sector organisations	10%	10
Members of the public	4%	4
MPs	1%	1

APPENDIX 2: EVENT LIST 2021

Monday 1 November

Climate Clauses in Action: Finance – The Chancery Lane Project

From 1st – 12th November, and 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. This event will be workshopping climate clauses with a focus on finance and how to incorporate net zero concepts into debt and equity financing arrangements.

Time: 09:30-11:00

Venue: Online

The evolution of Pro Bono – in definition and practice – The Law Society – [invitation only]

To mark the twentieth anniversary of Pro Bono Week, we look to hold this event to explore how the practice of Pro Bono has begun to change and how, as we look to the next twenty years, what the definition of Pro Bono could and should look like in order to most accurately reflect those activities undertaken by the legal profession.

Moderator: I. Stephanie Boyce, President of the Law Society of England and Wales

Kerry Stares: Partner, Responsible Business & Pro Bono – Charles Russell Speechlys

Paul Yates: Counsel and head of global pro bono practice – Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Mia Motiee: Co-lead EMEA pro bono committee – Bloomberg

Rob Powell: Director of Pro Bono & Corporate Responsibility – Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: Online

Pro Bono Fair – University of Edinburgh – [internal]

Kick-off Pro Bono week by joining The University of Edinburgh School of Law, Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education Department and the Pro Bono Society in this year's online Pro Bono Fair!

The event will be online, with different charities and other organisations offering pro bono and access to justice services throughout Scotland and the global community. The charities and organisations will showcase their work and, if available, highlight any volunteering opportunities for students. There will also be an “online café” for more informal socialising and networking!

Time: 12:00-17:00

Venue: Online

How to conduct a Legal Healthcheck – with LawWorks and Small Charities Coalition

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

In this session we will cover key legal issues for small not-for-profit organisations and charities, with topics like corporate and 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 presentation, although please note that the speakers will not be able to give legal advice / provide specific answers to questions only relevant to your organisation.

Time: 13:00-14:30

Venue: Online

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

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.

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.

Welcome Speech: The Attorney General

Chair: Toby Brown, Pro Bono Week Organising Committee Chair

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, Scotland's legal centre for justice and human rights.

Emma Rehal-Wilde: Emma teaches law at LSBU and previously worked in pro bono management within the legal sector for 12 years before moving into academia.

Time: Arrival at 6pm for 6.30pm start, followed by a drinks reception at 7.30pm.

Venue: In person (Gray's Inn Hall) and online

Tuesday 2 November

Poverty and Pro Bono – LawWorks

In this Pro Bono week, we look 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 given the upward pressures on prices, housing, childcare and living costs, the withdrawal 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 focussed on going forwards? How can pro bono make a bigger policy impact on welfare rights, serve those vulnerable to the on-going effects of the pandemic and push for positive changes in law and policy?

The focus of the session will be on UK rather than global poverty, and where pro bono can make an impact.

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

Time: 8:30-9:30

Venue: Online

Climate Clauses in Action: Supply Chains – The Chancery Lane Project

From 1st – 12th November, and 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. This event will be workshopping climate clauses with a focus on supply chains and how to implement net zero across your entire value chain, from procurement to distribution.

Time: 09:30-11:00

Venue: Online

Pro bono: reflections from the wider legal profession – Government Legal Department - Invitation Only

This talk is aimed at lawyers at all stages of their careers, who can learn about the role of pro bono in the wider legal profession and the different ways that lawyers can volunteer throughout their careers.

The talk will be hosted by Peter King, a Legal Director at GLD, who will be in conversation with Legal Directors working for leading international organisations in the private sector, to discuss their pro bono experiences.

Venue: Online

Time: 12:00-13:00

To register: Invitation Only

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

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. The session will cover developing a partnership with an in house team/law firm, considerations when working on a pro bono project together, challenges and how they can be overcome. We will also hear from a charity, Refugee Action, on what is most useful in terms of pro bono support.

David Boyd, Head of Pro Bono for UK & Ireland, Clifford Chance

Felicity Kirk, Head of International Pro Bono, Ropes & Gray

Julie Mansfield, Frontline Immigration Advice Project Partnerships Manager at Refugee Action

Mia Motiee, Compliance, Bloomberg

Sarah Oliver Scemla, Director and Assistant General Counsel, Bank of America

Time: 12:30-13:30

Venue: Online

A Refugee Experience (Day 1) – Fragomen

Marina Brizar, UK Director of Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) will be in conversation with Gemma Hyslop of Fragomen to discuss TBB's pioneering work on complimentary pathways to the UK for skilled displaced people. This is a project with which Fragomen are proud to have partnered since its inception in the UK and we look forward to reflecting on the success to date and what more is to come.

Time: 12:30-13:15

Venue: Online

Simmons & Simmons in conversation with Pro Bono clients - Invitation Only / Internal

Panel event on the importance of pro bono support and collaboration, with speakers from two of our valued pro bono clients Advocates for Animals (Edie Bowles, solicitor) and Amicus alj (Margot Ravenscroft, Director), and our Pro Bono Partner Rob Allen.

Time: 13:00-14:30

Venue: Online

The Role of Law in Climate Action – A4ID, CMS and Bloomberg

This event coincides with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) and UK Pro Bono Week. The event will also see the launch of Chapter 13 of the Legal Guide to the SDGs, as part of A4ID's SDG Legal Initiative.

The aim of this event is to build a greater awareness among the legal community on how the law, and the work of lawyers, can support the fight against climate change; show the diverse ways lawyers and in-house counsel can contribute to the fight against climate change through their client advising capacity and their pro bono work; and share success stories of lawyers and in-house counsel contributing to the fight against climate change.

The SDG Legal Initiative aims to reach every legal professional in the world. Working through our networks of firms and corporations, it seeks to provide the knowledge and opportunities needed to take practical action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Initiative is driven by a Steering Committee with membership from 13 of the world's leading international law firms and corporations including CMS and Bloomberg, invested in achieving change in their sectors. It aims to build partnerships to revolutionise how pro bono and other legal work is carried out, and highlight the business case for all lawyers and law firms globally to adopt the SDGs at the heart of their practices.

David Levine, Chief Legal Officer, Bloomberg

Yasmin Batliwala, Chief Executive, A4ID

Penelope Warne, The Senior Partner and Chairman of the UK LLP Board and Head of Energy & Climate Change, CMS
Valerie Borden Farkas, Head of Legal for EMEA, Bloomberg
Guy Pendell, Partner, Head of Disputes, CMS
Olivia Jamison, Partner, Environment, CMS
Anthony Kenny, Assistant General Counsel – Corporate, GlaxoSmithKline plc
Becky Annison, Director of Engagement, The Chancery Lane Project

Time: 17:00-19:00

Venue: In person (CMS, Cannon St) and online

Rule of Law & Access to Justice: where do we go from here? – Pro Bono Week Committee & LexisNexis [Cancelled]

Following on from successful Rule of Law events in Pro Bono Week 2020 and Volunteers Week 2021, our stellar panel returns! There can be few times in the modern history of the UK where the Rule of Law has remained at the forefront of public attention and discussion for such a sustained period – whether it is governmental “tinkering” with judicial review, the backlog in the court system, to some concerning narrative about lawyers practicing in the immigration and criminal justice systems.

As important as that focus has been, it often leaves a hugely important question unanswered: where do we go from here?

Lawyers almost universally see the Rule of Law as fundamental, but that seems some way off outside of the profession? If we are to protect the Rule of Law (and drive an environment where upholding the Rule of Law is seen as non-negotiable), the public at large need to feel the same way.

Having considered this question previously, the panel will return to give an update on the “state of the union” of the Rule of Law in the UK. From there, we will turn to continue our debate on what can be done to begin to deliver this. Can the law, and justice be rebranded? Can businesses be made to care and champion the Rule of Law? What, or who might get the public to value access to justice?

Iain Anderson (Executive Chairman, Cicero Group)
I. Stephanie Boyce (President of the Law Society of England & Wales),
Baroness Hale of Richmond (former President of the UK Supreme Court),
James Harper (Executive Sponsor Rule of Law, LexisNexis)
Baroness Helena Kennedy QC (Director of the IBA Human Rights Institute)

Venue: In person (Gray’s Inn, Bingham Room) and online

Time: Arrival at 5pm for 5.30pm start, followed by a drinks reception at 7pm.

Real Life Pro Bono: a practical how-to guide – PILS Project

Pro bono cases are often the most memorable. They are the cases that stay with you.

... at The PILS Project, we firmly believe that is true!

To celebrate Pro Bono Week’s 20th birthday, PILS are holding a very special pro bono storytelling event. A stellar panel of pro bono champions will join The PILS Project live to discuss how to do pro bono in Northern Ireland in 2021. This webinar is designed to be inspirational and practical, with real-life examples of how to proactively share your legal skills while avoiding professional burn-out.

After the panel have told their personal pro bono stories, you will have the chance to share your own experiences or ask your burning pro bono questions.

The discussion will be chaired by the PILS Project.
Danielle Curtis, legal manager with the Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA), Dublin
Lauren Taylor, corporate solicitor at A&L Goodbody Belfast
Steven McQuitty BL, barrister and PILS Pro Bono Register volunteer
Claire McVicker, Ulster University Law Clinic alumni

Time: 18:00-19:00
Venue: Online

Virtual volunteering with special guest, Regional Employment Judge Wade – ELIPS

The Employment Lawyers' Association's Pro Bono Committee would like to invite all ELA members and other interested individuals to join a panel discussion about the virtual volunteering opportunities available to its members and in particular, ELIPS and Mumsnet online clinics.

ELIPS (the Employment Tribunal Litigant in Person Scheme), one of ELA's most successful pro bono projects, is now provided via an online platform, and covers the London Central, Cardiff, Bristol, Midlands West, Leeds and Manchester Employment Tribunals. You will hear from ELA members who have volunteered and how this has provided both personal and professional benefits and opportunities; student volunteers; and an ELA member who has taken responsibility for expanding the coverage of ELIPS to her local Employment Tribunal. We are delighted that Regional Employment Judge Wade will also be joining the panel, to talk about the difference that ELIPS can make to litigants in person.

Mumsnet online legal advice clinics are held quarterly with volunteers providing online legal advice on maternity and parental rights at work. Clinics are managed and supervised by Maternity Action, giving volunteers an opportunity to learn more about this area of law and contribute to tackling pregnancy discrimination. You will hear from one of the ELA volunteers who regularly takes part in Mumsnet clinics who will explain how they operate and why she finds this work so fulfilling.

Time: 18:00-19:00
Venue: Online

Pro Bono in the Community – the Bristol Perspective – Bristol Pro Bono Group

Bristol Pro Bono Group is hosting a virtual (Teams) panel discussion entitled "Pro Bono in the Community – the Bristol Perspective" where we will be discussing all things pro bono in Bristol!

In this vibrant city, universities, third sector organisations, the bar and private practice firms all participate in the provision of pro bono legal assistance to those members of the public who most need it. Our panellists from across the legal profession will discuss their perspectives on the highs, lows, challenges and success stories in providing pro bono assistance through legal advice clinics. This is set to be an engaging event, and is open to all.

Chair: Richard Grimes
Omar Madhloom
Rachel Wood
Zak Coles
Eve Farnsworth
Ellen Goodland

Time: 18:30-19:30
Venue: Online

Wednesday 3 November – Junior Lawyers Day

Climate Clauses in Action: Transactions and Deals – The Chancery Lane Project

From 1st – 12th November, and 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. This event will be workshopping climate clauses with a focus on transactions and deals and how to address net zero intervention points in corporate and real estate transactions and diligence.

Time: 09:30-11:00

Venue: Online

Pro bono work at legal advice centres – Government Legal Department - Invitation Only

This talk is aimed at lawyers at all stages of their careers, who can hear about how to get involved in pro bono work, learn about the history and role of two legal advice centres and the experience of being a trustee.

This talk features Chris White, a GLD lawyer, who is also a trustee at South Westminster Legal Advice Centre.

Time: 12:00-13:00

Venue: Online

Voices from the community – Environmental Law Foundation

This year the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) event will be in conversation with some of the grassroots communities that ELF has worked with.

Hear from them about the impact of the pro bono assistance they received from the ELF professional pro bono network and learn what the tangible impact has been on nature protection. ELF works with grassroots communities and we want to hear their story about the intersection between campaigning and the law and how pro bono has assisted them.

The professional ELF pro bono member who assisted the community will be present to discuss how the case was built and developed.

Time: 12:00-13:00

Venue: Online

RPC Pro Bono Week Lunch and Learn - Invitation Only / Internal

An internal session for RPC's London and Bristol offices to celebrate RPC's UK focused pro bono achievements over the past twelve months and the Pro Bono Committee's key strategic priorities looking forward.

The online session will highlight the objectives of future projects planned by the Committee and how these will progress over the next year, through our work with existing and new pro bono partners, hosting training sessions, other events and more. The session will be hosted on Zoom.

Time: 12:30-13:30

Venue: Online

To register: Invitation Only/Internal

The future of pro bono – Scottish Young Lawyers' Association

Jonathan Goodyear (co-founder of probonoskills.com)

Rebecca Samaras (Director of Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education at Edinburgh Law School)

Ryan Whelan (Founder Casus Omissus, The Aberdeen Law Project)

Time: 12:30-13:30

Venue: Online

A Refugee Experience (Day 2) – Fragomen

Anna Simons, Head of Programmes at Breaking Barriers will discuss the invaluable work their charity does to integrate refugees through employment with Fragomen's Russell Hodges. Julia Onslow-Cole, Partner at Fragomen is a trustee of Breaking Barriers and we're delighted to showcase their brilliant work.

Time: 12:30-13:15

Venue: Online

Legal Clinic 101: Practical Tips when Advising at Legal Clinics with Simmons & Simmons – In House Pro Bono Group

Never worked in a legal clinic or feel you could benefit from hearing from some experts in the field? This is a practical session to find out more about what to expect when volunteering at a legal clinic. The session will be introduced by Sharon Blackman, Managing Director & General Counsel with Markets and Security Services Legal, Citi and presented by Charlotte Rendle from Simmons and Simmons and Joshua Smith, in-house counsel.

Charlotte is a Supervising Associate in Simmons' Financial Services Regulatory team and is a regular adviser at Battersea Legal Advice Clinic (run by South West London Law Centre) which covers housing, employment, disputes and commercial queries.

Joshua is a corporate finance lawyer currently working as a legal consultant. Prior to this, he worked as Legal Counsel in Schroder's Investment team, and as a finance solicitor at Travers Smith. He has been advising at various legal advice clinics for over five years and has handled a range of different matters.

Time: 13:00-14:00

Venue: Online

APPG on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education - Invitation Only

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 due to current restrictions this is an invite only limited event.

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 tool for MPs in supporting and facilitating local firms/ practitioners and charities in their constituencies to 'partner up' to run a pro bono clinic, maintaining a close link to their constituency office and caseworkers. MPs will be able to drop in over the afternoon to find out more about clinics.

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

Time: 14:00-15:30
Venue: Portcullis House

Plugged in Pro Bono: innovation, law tech & Pro Bono in Wales – Legal News Wales, Swansea Law Clinic & Legal Innovation Lab Wales

An online event celebrating Pro Bono Week 2021, to highlight an exciting innovation & LawTech project in Wales that aims to connect local communities with accessible legal advice.

Join Legal News Wales, Swansea Law Clinic, (based in the Hilary Rodham School of Law at Swansea University), the Legal Innovation Lab Wales (LILW) and other speakers to see how the work of a free legal advice clinic in Wales is being used as the basis to measure the use of LawTech and innovation in the legal sector, to enhance and enable access to justice. We'll be joined by the project leads in Wales, and other speakers to provide:

- Insight on the six-month project: why Pro Bono has taken centre stage in the research
- The scope of the research: the communities involved, the free legal advice they might receive and the current challenges
- Current observations & reflections of the project to date
- Hope for the impact of the project on how LawTech could further support the provision of Pro Bono and accessible legal services in Wales and in England

Chair: Emma Waddingham, Editor, Legal News Wales & member of the Reaching Justice Wales committee.

Stefano Barazza, Academic Lead at the Legal Innovation Lab Wales
Professor Richard Owen, Hilary Rodham School of Law, Swansea University
Liz Withers, Head of Welsh Affairs, the Solicitors Regulation Authority

Time: 15.30 - 16.50
Venue: Online

Working with Vulnerable Clients & Vicarious Trauma/Self-Care – Collaborative Plan UKademy Committee - Invitation Only

Many of us over the last few years have benefited from attending sessions relating to how to work with vulnerable clients and how to protect ourselves from vicarious trauma. Building on these learnings, this practical session will focus on this topic from a pro bono team perspective, with suggestions on how to best structure programmes, introduce support mechanisms and also discuss some providers that firms are using in this space.

The session will begin with a half-hour discussion with three firms that have liaised with their HR teams to develop comprehensive strategies and programmes in this area, considering both basic obligations on a firm and best practice. We'll finish with a half-hour interactive audience discussion where we invite other firms to share what they do and providers they use and also discuss any issues they have encountered.

Moderator: Amy Grunske, Head of International Pro Bono, Orrick
Aditi Kapoor, Pro Bono Manager, A&O
Becca Naylor, Head of Europe Pro Bono, Reed Smith

Sarah Farrelly, Pro Bono Associate, CRS

Time: 16:00-17:00

Venue: Online

Tech and Pro bono: Domestic and Global perspectives – LawWorks & 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 with their time pro bono to ensure equal access to justice for all, in the UK and abroad.

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

Time: 17:00-19:00

Venue: Online

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

The Institute of Barristers' Clerks, the Bar Council Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee and Advocate invite you to join us on Wednesday 3rd November at 5.30pm as we jointly host a seminar for clerks and practice managers in the 20th annual Pro Bono Week.

Hear from clerks and barristers to find out how other sets manage the pro bono process and ask any questions you might have. Topics include the value of pro bono to:

- An individual barrister's practice
- Career progression generally
- Chambers as a whole and how to sell pro bono in Chambers to your members .

The seminar is kindly being hosted by 1GC for up to 20 clerks and practice managers to join us in person. We are also streaming it live online in case you can't join us or miss out on tickets.

Time: 17:30-18:30

Venue: In person (1GC) and online

The Importance of Giving Back: with Master Treasurer – Middle Temple Students' Association & Middle Temple Hall Committee [Cancelled]

We look forward to you joining us for an evening with our Master Treasurer, looking at pro Bono work. As we sit down with him to learn more about his journey into law, how he became

a commercial and employment QC, with a love of the art of cross-examination, and why giving back to others has always been important to him.

This event will comprise: An interview, Q&A, hearing attendees' stories of pro bono/voluntary work, and socialising over drinks and nibbles.

Andrew Hochhauser QC (Master Treasurer) is a barrister at Essex Court Chambers, a Harmsworth scholar and Master Treasurer of Middle Temple, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Deputy High Court Judge, ticketed in both the Chancery and Queen's Bench Divisions. He is also honorary Counsel to Westminster Abbey, Chair of the Samuel Courtauld Trust, Chair of Paintings in Hospitals, a Governor of the University of the Arts London, a Trustee of the National AIDS Trust, Ballet Black and Courtauld Institute of Art.

Giving back is at the heart of our Inn's ethos; we hope you can join us for what is sure to be a special evening. Open to Members of all four Inns.

Time: 17:45-20:30

Venue: In person (Middle Temple) and online

How can law clinics adapt to tackle climate change? – The universities of King's College London, Strathclyde and York in association with the Clinical Legal Education Organisation

This event, hosted by the universities of King's College London, Strathclyde and York in association with the Clinical Legal Education Organisation, draws its inspiration from the "adaptation" theme of COP26.

A panel of students and other expert contributors will translate this theme into the student law clinic context, with a view to framing activities for the 2021 Student Law Clinic Global Day of Action for Climate Justice (which takes place on 17 November 2021). The panel will reflect on COP26 and afford an opportunity for student law clinics to consider the contrast between the global conversation and local actions. A keynote address will be provided by Alex Goodman, a barrister with Landmark Chambers.

Time: 18:00-19:00

Venue: Online

Pro Bono from the past, present and future – BPP Law School

BPP Pro Bono Centre presents an exciting panel event "Pro Bono from the past, present and future".

David Hansford, Associate at Charles Russell Speechlys

Stephen Cutter, Solicitor at Release

Hannah Lennox, Solicitor at Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre

Frances Hall, Trainee Solicitor at BPP Pro Bono Centre

Time: 18:00-19:30

Venue: Online

Bar Pro Bono Awards – Advocate

All nominees are invited to an Awards evening that takes place on 3rd November during Pro Bono Week at which winners in most categories will be announced. We are running an in-person networking event and will be live-streaming the awards ceremony. Livestream open to all. Link TBC.

Welcome Speech: The Solicitor General

Time: 18:30-20:30

Venue: In person (Gray's Inn Pension Room) and online

Pro Bono: What does the future hold? – LYLG, MTYBA and JLSLA

Join us, the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association (MTYBA), London Young Lawyers Group (LYLG), and the Junior London Solicitors Litigation Association (JLSLA) on Wednesday 03 November between 6.20 – 9.30pm in the Parliament Chamber at Middle Temple for a panel discussion, followed by networking and refreshments.

Alex Chalk QC, Solicitor General, will kickstart the event with a welcome speech. The panel will then reflect on past initiatives that junior lawyers have participated in, look forward to what the future holds for pro bono work, and look at the reasons why it's crucial for junior lawyers to get involved.

Chair: Calum Doherty, Solicitor at DAC Beachcroft and LYLG committee member.

Michael Polak, MTYBA President and barrister at Church Court Chambers

Laura Bell, trainee solicitor at Ashurst LLP

Jessica Tagg, Pro Bono associate at Reed Smith LLP

Time: 18:30-21:30

Venue: In person (Middle Temple Parliament Chamber)

Online #CharityHour – Pro Bono legal help for charities – TrustLaw and LawWorks

An hour of Tweets with #CharityHour, hosted by [@CharityHourUK](#), and with support from TrustLaw and LawWorks, focusing for Pro Bono Week on how charities can access pro bono legal help.

Time: 20:00-21:00

Venue: Online

Ask your questions and tweet along online at [#CharityHour](#).

Thursday 4 November

Climate Clauses in Action: Built Environment – The Chancery Lane Project

From 1st – 12th November, and 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. This event will be workshopping climate clauses with a focus on built environment and how to deliver net zero in real estate, construction and infrastructure.

Time: 09:30-11:00

Venue: Online

In-house Pro Bono: Moving Forward, Staying Ahead – The Law Society – [invitation only]

The Law Society holds a series of Carey Street discussions throughout the year on key issues facing the profession. In marking Pro Bono Week we will be discussing some of the key issues facing in house teams when it comes to providing pro bono, particularly post Covid. We will also look at whether there have been any positive developments for in house teams wanting to provide pro bono, as well as some of the existing or ongoing challenges.

Time: 10:00-11:30

Venue: Online

To register: Invitation Only

Late career pro bono – LawWorks

A discussion on how we can better support and encourage experienced, transitioning 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 solicitors' profession.

Discussion points include:

- What kind of programmes are most suitable?
- Contribution to skills
- The SRA rules which facilitate greater participation of this cohort
- Other ways to contribute legal expertise and skills, eg Boards, CA Honorary Legal Adviser roles etc

Chair: Robert Bourns

Nicholas Pritchard (retired Partner)

Tim Cave (East Greenwich Legal Advice Centre)

Kate Buchanan (Islington Legal Advice Centre)

Time: 12:00-13:00

Venue: Online

Contract Negotiation 101 – LawWorks and Bank of America

Bank of America and Ashurst will facilitate an interactive 'Contract Negotiation 101' workshop aimed at small charities, not-for-profits, and those that provide pro bono advice to them.

The presenters will:

- Guide you through the key clauses of a contract
- Explain what to look out for when reviewing a contract
- Go over an example contract with you
- Allow time to put the negotiation skills into practice

Format: this will be an interactive and practical session, meaning that we will be keeping numbers low. Tickets are limited and are on a first come, first served basis. In the interest of fairness, please only register if you are able to attend on the day.

Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: Online

A Refugee Experience (Day 3) – Fragomen

Rebecca Tester of Fragomen will talk with West Hampstead Welcomes about the role that their community sponsorship group plays in the integration of the refugee family whom they support. Fragomen staff are directly involved with WHW, and we hope that this talk will inspire people to consider establishing their own community groups.

Time: 12:30-13:15

Venue: Online

Pro Bono and Environmental Justice – LawWorks, A4ID and Environmental Law Foundation

The right of citizens to challenge environmental decisions through legal redress routes, and being able to access appropriate legal information, support and services on environmental law issues is fundamental to achieving any notion of 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; 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 Aarhus Convention which applies to the UK, although there is no significant enforcement mechanism.

Coinciding with 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 within a global context that understands environmental law as deeply connected with development, human and social issues.

Wessen Jazrawi, Hausfeld

Emma Montlake, Environmental Law Foundation

Matt Hunt, PGMBM

Richard Owen, Hilary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea

Joe Tan & Thomas Istasse, A4ID

Time: 13:00-14:30

Venue: Online

Pro Bono – how can we do more for you? – The Faculty of Advocates’ Free Legal Services Unit

The Faculty of Advocates’ Free Legal Services Unit is keen to help as many people as possible to gain access to justice. For this online seminar, we have asked all our accredited advice agencies to join us to discuss the Unit’s processes and how we might work together to reach more people. This event is open only to invited agencies.

Time: 15:00-16:00

Venue: Online

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

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. Andrew’s case demonstrates many of the problems which cause miscarriages of justice and prevent them being put right. As featured in the Times podcast “Seventeen Years: The Andrew Malkinson Story”.

Chair: Emily Bolton (APPEAL)
Andrew Malkinson;
Mair Williams (Latham Watkins);
Amanda Raad (Ropes & Gray) and
Max Hardy (9 Bedford Row).

Time: 17:00-18:00

Venue: Online

A Celebration of International Pro Bono – A4ID

As part of Pro Bono Week, A4ID’s virtual event ‘A Celebration of International Pro Bono’ will showcase the ways in which pro bono can strengthen the rule of law around the world.

Join our speakers as they deliver a fast-paced and visual PechaKucha© -style presentation about the successes and lessons learned from partnerships between pro bono legal and judicial experts and their counterparts in developing countries. This dynamic evening will also include breakout events and networking to allow participants to connect and share their own knowledge on best practices for delivering effective international pro bono assistance, as well as opportunities to ask the speakers any questions.

Lloydette Bai-Marrow, Anti-Corruption Lead of UK Sierra Leone Pro Bono Network (UKSLPBN)
HHJ Rachel Karp, International Training Coordinator of Judicial College;
Olivia Clark, Senior Associate at DLA Piper;
Rosalind Morgan, Senior Associate at CMS;
Anne-Sophie Jullienne, Barrister at Afralaw Chambers;
Kersty McCourt, A4ID Consultant
Yasmin Batliwala, Chief Executive at A4ID;
Adrienne Joy, ROLE UK Programme Manager at A4ID.

Time: 18:00-19:45

Venue: Online

Looking ahead to the next twenty years of pro bono – Birmingham Law Society Pro Bono Committee

The Birmingham Law Society Pro Bono Committee invites you to an evening to look ahead to the next twenty years of pro bono whilst also shining a spotlight on the achievements in pro bono from the past two decades.

After over 18 months of online, remote events, come to an evening that celebrates the pro bono work in our city and looks ahead to the future (and for which, unlike remote events, you won't have to provide your own drinks and canapés).

This event is also an opportunity for Birmingham Law Society members to network and link up with other likeminded lawyers. Come and find out how you can volunteer to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people.

Chair: Mark Taylor, Birmingham Law Society Pro Bono Committee (Chair) and Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
Lynne Squires, Access to Justice Foundation,
Lana Afaneh, Support Through Court (Birmingham)
Jason Hadden, St Ives Chambers

Time: 18:00-20:00

Venue: Gowling WLG, Two Snowhill, Birmingham, B4 6WR

Virtual Pupillage Panel – Advocate

Advocate is pleased to invite you to our virtual pupillage panel taking place on Thursday 4th November at 6pm as part of the 20th Annual Pro Bono Week.

Our panel presents an exciting opportunity to hear from previous members of the Advocate team who have recently qualified or obtained pupillage. We are delighted to be able to hear from Benedict Morillo, Nadia Campbell-Brunton, Samuel Marks, Talia Zybutz and Vanessa Reid on their experiences and advice on applying for and undertaking pupillage.

Time: 18:00-19:30

Venue: Online

Friday 5 November

Climate Clauses in Action: Corporate Governance – The Chancery Lane Project

From 1st – 12th November, and 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. This event will be workshopping climate clauses with a focus on corporate governance and how to ensure robust consideration of net zero in corporate decision making.

Time: 09:30-11:00

Venue: Online

Celebration of 50 years of the Free Representation Unit – City University, Nottingham Law School & the Free Representation Unit

The Free Representation Unit, City University Law School and Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre, Nottingham Trent University invite you to hear more about FRU's work and how it connects pro bono legal work with clinical legal education.

FRU was created by law students almost 50 years ago. The aim was to improve the practical legal education of law students and provide a free representation service in tribunals where legal aid was not available. As we enter our 50th year we would love to explain how our service has developed, how it benefits our clients and volunteers and how we partner with leading academic institutions to provide practical legal experience that complements academic and vocational training.

The session will be chaired by FRU Chief Executive David Abbott and speakers will include staff, students and volunteers from FRU, City University Law School and Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre, Nottingham Trent University. Following the speakers there will be a Q & A session.

Please come and help us to start off the celebrations for 50 years of a remarkable legal institution. The session is open to all and would appeal to anyone with an interest in FRU's history, legal education, the legal advice sector or those who are building their legal CV.

Time: 18:30-20:00

Venue: Online

APPENDIX 3: Organisations Involved

Access Social Care
12 King's Bench Walk
1GC Family Law
4 Stone Buildings
9 Bedford Row
A&L Goodbody Belfast
Action against Medical Accidents
Advocate
Advocates for Animals
Advocates for International Development (A4ID)
Afralaw Chambers
Allen & Overy
Amicus alj
Anglia Law School
APPEAL
Arnold & Porter
Ashurst
Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Bar Council of England and Wales
Birmingham Law Society
Bloomberg
BPP University
Breaking Barriers
Brick Court Chambers
Bristol Law Centre
Bristol Law School
Bristol Pro Bono Group
Burgess Salmon
Cambridge Family Law
Cardiff University
Central England Law Centre
Charles Russell Speechlys
Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)
Church Court Chambers
CILEx
Citi
Citizens Advice
Citizens Advice 1066
City University
Clifford Chance
Clinical Legal Education Organisations (CLEO)
Cloisters Chambers
CMS
Community Legal Outreach Collaboration Keele (CLOCK)
Company Insolvency Pro Bono Scheme
DAC Beachcroft
Dads House Legal Advice Clinic
Death Penalty Project
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dentons
DLA Piper
East Greenwich Legal Advice Centre

Employment Lawyers Advice Network (ELAN)
Employment Lawyers' Association
Environmental Law Foundation
Evans and Co
Eversheds Sutherland
Evolve Foundation
Faculty of Advocates
Field Court Chambers
FM Family Law
Fragomen
Francis Taylor Building Chambers
Free Representation Unit
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Garden Court Chambers
Gatehouse Chambers
GlaxoSmithKline
Goldsmith Chambers
Government Legal Department
Gowling WLG
Gray's Inn
Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre
Hausfeld
Hertfordshire Law Clinic
High Court of Nigeria
Hogan Lovells
Horsfield Menzies
Hudgell Solicitors
Hugh James
In House Pro Bono Group
Independent Workers Union of Great Britain
Inner Temple
Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA)
Inside Justice
Institute of Barristers' Clerks
International Justice Mission (IJM)
Islington Legal Advice Centre
Jan Solicitors
Jenner & Block
Judiciary
Junior Lawyers Division Cardiff & South East Wales
Junior London Solicitors Litigation Association
JustRight Scotland
KCL Pro Bono Society
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND UK)
Kirkland & Ellis
Landmark Chambers
Latham Watkins
Law Centres Network
Law for Life
LawWorks
Lawyers Against Poverty
Leducate
Leeds Law Society
Legal Innovation Lab Wales
Legal News Wales

LexisNexis
Libertas Chambers
Lincoln's Inn
Liverpool Law Society
London Citizens Advice
London Legal Support Trust
London South Bank University
London Young Lawyers Group
Macfarlanes
Manchester Metropolitan University
Maternity Action
Middle Temple
Middle Temple Students' Association
Middle Temple Young Barristers Association
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
MSB Solicitors
Newcastle Law Society
Norfolk Community Law Service
Northumbria University
Nottingham Law School
Open University Open Justice
Orrick
Oxford Brookes University
PGMBM
Praxis
Pro Bono Connect
probonoskills.com
Protect
Public Interest Law Alliance
Queen Mary University London
RCJ Advice
Reaching Justice Wales
Red Lion Chambers
Reed Smith
Refugee Action
Release
Rook Irwin Sweeney
Ropes & Gray
RPC
Scottish Young Lawyers' Association
Simmons & Simmons
Slaughter & May
Small Charities Coalition
Social Change Initiative
Solicitors Regulation Authority
South West London Law Centres
South Westminster Legal Advice Centre
Spire Barristers
St Ives Chambers
Stanford Law School
Stewarts Law
Support Through Court
Swansea University
Talent Beyond Boundaries
Taylor Wessing

Tees Law
Temple Legal Centre
The [Chancery Lane] Project
The Aberdeen Law Project
The Access to Justice Foundation
The Bar of Northern Ireland
The Law Society of England and Wales
The Law Society of Northern Ireland
The Law Society of Scotland
The PILS Project
The Supreme Court
The University of Central Lancashire
Thrings
Toynbee Hall
TrustLaw (TR Foundation)
UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono
Ulster University
United Legal Access
University of Bristol
University of Chester
University of East London
University of Edinburgh
University of Hertfordshire
University of Law
University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Salford
University of West England
Vauxhall Law Centre
Wards Solicitors
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Willkie Farr
Windrush Compensation Project
Work Rights Centre
Working Families
West Hampstead Welcomes
Young Bar Committee
Zaccheus 200 Trust (Z2K)