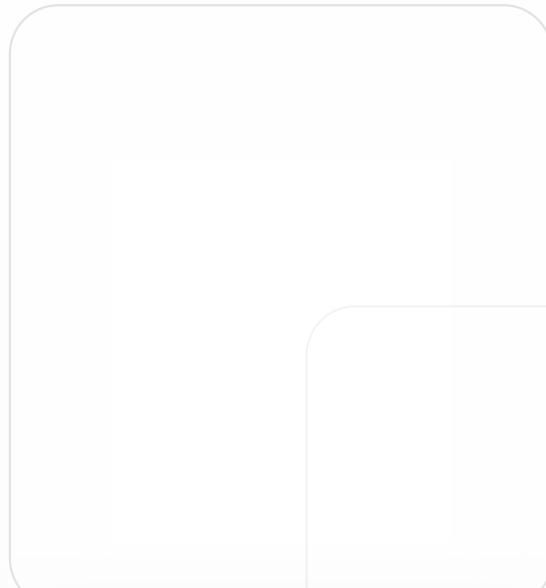
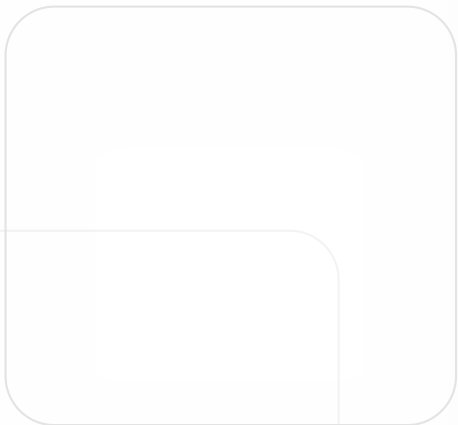




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Celebrating National Pro Bono Week: The Power of Pro Bono (7 November 2024)

Date: 07/11/2024

As Pro Bono Week 2024 shines a light on this year's theme, "Power of Pro Bono," we at Duncan Lewis Solicitors are reminded of the significance of this commitment—a commitment that is woven deeply into our identity. As a proud chartered signatory of the Pro Bono Charter since 2018, Duncan Lewis stands on a strong foundation of charity, philanthropy, and an unwavering mission to "give people a voice." Our dedication to equal access to justice fuels our drive to provide high-quality legal services for society's most vulnerable. From advocacy to impactful partnerships, the work we do is a testament to the transformative potential of pro bono efforts.

Our firm's dedication was recently recognised at the 2024 Modern Law Awards, where we were honoured as Pro Bono Team of the Year. This award not only celebrates our commitment to accessible justice but also acknowledges the tireless efforts of individuals who champion our pro bono initiatives. Among them, Emma Holmes, our Family and Childrens Director and Head of our Pro Bono Committee, has become a cornerstone of our mission.

Discussing the impact of our pro bono work, Emma said, "Pro bono work allows us to reach those who might otherwise be unheard, offering them not just legal support, but hope and empowerment. It's incredibly rewarding."



Summary



32

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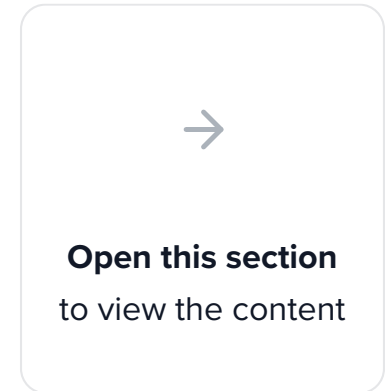
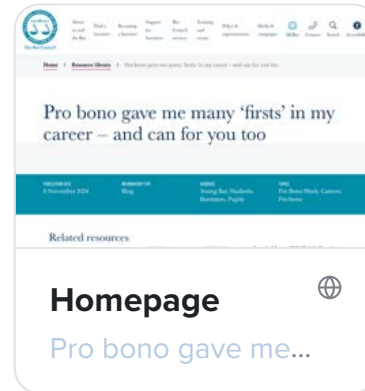
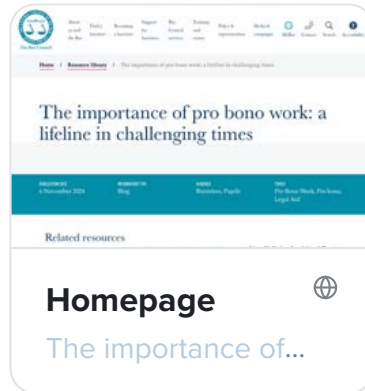
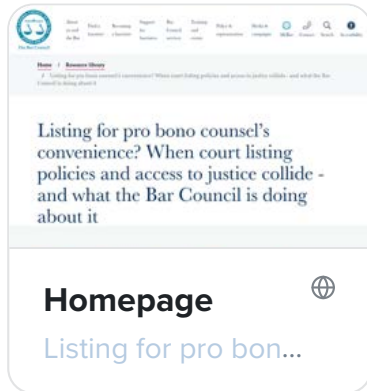
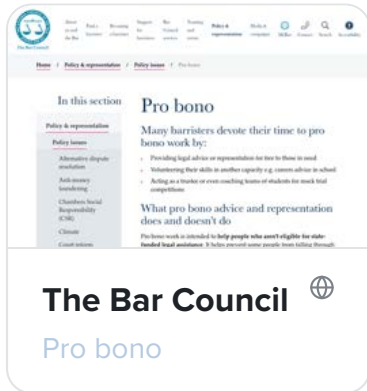
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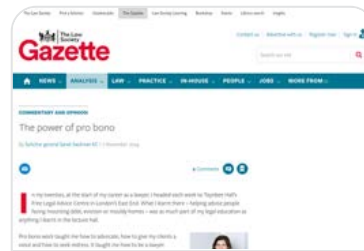
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Pro bono

Many barristers devote their time to pro bono work by:

- Providing legal advice or representation for free to those in need
- Volunteering their skills in another capacity e.g. careers advice in school
- Acting as a trustee or even coaching teams of students for mock trial competitions

What pro bono advice and representation does and doesn't do

Pro bono work is intended to **help people who aren't eligible for state-funded legal assistance**. It helps prevent some people from falling through the holes in the legal aid safety net.

It is not a substitute for legal aid; there is wide support within the legal profession for an increase in legal aid provision for those in need.

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PUBLICATION DATE
4 November 2024

INFORMATION TYPE
Blog

AUDIENCE
Chambers and AETOs,
Barristers

TOPICS
Pro Bono Week, Pro bono

Related resources

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Guidance on Pro
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13 JUNE 2024 | GUIDANCE



Samantha Singer is co-chair of the Bar Council's Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Committee. Samantha practices from QEB, specialising in matrimonial finance. She appeared pro bono, alongside Tim Amos KC, in the groundbreaking decision of [Cobb LJ in A and B \(Schedule 1: Arbitral](#)

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Edward Lamb KC's practice includes the most important private children cases with complex cross jurisdictional issues, inflicted non-accidental catastrophic injury on children, and clinical negligence/PI cases involving life-long disability (both children and adults), lack of capacity and birth injury. His expertise in these areas frequently places Edward in important and complex cases that involve multi-jurisdictional issues that span these specialisms. Edward is listed in the legal directories across all of his



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'Building stronger partnerships is key': Pro bono charity CEOs mark UK Pro Bono Week

November, 08 2024

The leaders of the the UK's three main pro bono charities look at how to increase participation



l-r: Rebecca Wilkinson, Yasmin Batliwala and Rebecca Wilkie

Credit: LawWorks, AgD, Advocate

By



Rebecca Wilkie



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The power of pro bono

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COMMENTARY AND OPINION

The power of pro bono

By Solicitor general Sarah Sackman KC | 7 November 2024



2 Comments

In my twenties, at the start of my career as a lawyer, I headed each week to Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre in London's East End. What I learnt there - helping advise people facing mounting debt, eviction or mouldy homes - was as much part of my legal education as anything I learnt in the lecture hall.

Pro bono work taught me how to advocate, how to give my clients a voice and how to seek redress. It taught me how to be a lawyer.

The 'power of pro bono' is the theme of this year's Pro Bono Week (PBW). I was proud to launch PBW in a room full of brilliant lawyers who volunteer their time to take on cases that would otherwise go unheard.

The power of pro bono lies in its people. That starts with the clients. This week I heard from individuals, from the small business owner who avoided bankruptcy to the women reconnected with their children in prison, all of whom were represented by dedicated, tenacious, pro bono lawyers.

As the MP for Finchley and Golders Green, I draw on my experience from pro bono work every day. From welfare to immigration cases, being an MP also deals with a range of complex needs that often carry a legal dimension.



Sarah Sackman KC

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PRO BONO BLOG

Pro Bono: Good for your professional expertise, contacts and soul

6 November 2024

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In 2022 Fred Banning, a professional services communications expert, founded Fifth Day, an organisation with a mission to promote professional pro bono work among business professionals within law firms. His personal experience of being diagnosed with terminal cancer led him to write in *The Lawyer* that "if I were to start again, I would do four days a week at the firm and one day a week doing a comms role at a charity pro bono. It's good for your professional expertise, contacts and soul".

The sentiment was so resoundingly echoed by colleagues across the sector that it inspired him to establish Fifth Day. When we consider pro bono we often do so through the lens of the value that our skillsets can bring to the organisation or cause we are contributing to. However, there is much to be said for Fred's sentiment about the personal gain that comes with it.

When we ask our Fifth Day volunteers what drives them to get involved with pro bono work they talk about the satisfaction they feel for using their professional skills for a good cause. It fosters a sense of purpose and connection. It allows them to contribute to causes they care about and see the tangible results of their efforts.

Yet perhaps the less obvious, but most common benefit, is the indirect impact pro bono can have on our own professional development. By leveraging our professional expertise to support non-profit organisations, we can make a significant impact on our communities while also enhancing our own careers. Pro bono work provides an opportunity to step outside our usual roles, face new challenges, and develop a deeper understanding of different sectors and issues.

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November, 04 2024

Week of events taking place up and down country to celebrate The Power of Pro Bono

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Pro Bono Week kicks off amid rising demand...

legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/p...



Pro Bono Week kicks off amid rising demand and provision



5 November 2024
Posted by Neil Rose

Demand for, and provision of, pro bono legal services are both increasing, it was reported this week to mark the 23rd annual Pro Bono Week.

There is a multitude of events to mark the week, including the launch at Parliament of an updated signposting guide for MPs to assist with constituency casework, published on a [new website](#) by the pro bono committees of England and Wales, which includes the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee.

This year's Pro Bono Week theme is 'The Power of Pro Bono', with a focus on three specific topics:

- Barred from justice – the powerful, everyday stories of the impact of lawyers and law students who give their time to protect the rights of those most disadvantaged in society.
- Embedding pro bono in your organisation and career – placing pro bono at the heart of everyone's practice and hearing from those at the forefront of establishing business structures for pro bono within law firms, chambers, in house, universities and charities.
- How technology can enhance access to justice – existing and new tools to ensure pro bono is innovative and effective.



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Salford's pro bono law clinic supporting north west renters whose homes are in disrepair

University of Salford
November 4, 2024

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Housing issues faced by renters are on the rise, according to the University of Salford's pro bono law clinic, SILKS, which has seen a considerable 17% rise in enquiries compared to 2023, despite two months of the year still remaining.

Releasing the data in line with this year's Pro Bono Week, which takes place between the 4 and 8 November, the stark figures have already surpassed last year's, with the clinic's pro bono



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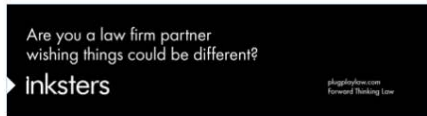
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The power of pro bono



Author

Ella Fincken - Global Legal Group

Related Jurisdictions

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Published at 04 Nov 2024



This week, legal professionals and organisations will come together across the UK to celebrate pro bono achievements and discuss strategies for enhancing access to justice.

The 23rd annual Pro Bono Week will take place this week from 4 November to 8 November across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The official event launch kicked off today simultaneously at the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh and Norton Rose Fulbright's offices in London with a panel hosted by solicitor general Sarah Sackman and advocate general for Scotland Catherine Smith KC, alongside the Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC, discussing the life changing potential of pro bono.

Organised by a committee comprising representatives from law firms, pro bono charities, law schools, the UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono and the In House Pro Bono Group, the week-long event recognises the

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Pro Bono Week 2024 (4-8 November) highlights the legal profession's voluntary work in providing free legal help

Support Pro Bono Week 2024: A Call to Action for Legal Aid

With legal aid under increasing pressure, Pro Bono Week 2024 offers a vital opportunity to celebrate and support the legal profession's contribution to helping those in need. Scheduled from 4 to 8 November across the UK, Pro Bono Week recognises the voluntary work lawyers do to provide free legal help to

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'Building stronger partnerships is key': Pro bono charity CEOs mark UK Pro Bono Week

November, 08 2024



The leaders of the UK's three main pro bono charities look at how to increase participation



For: Rebecca Wilkinson, Yasmin Batliwala and Rebecca Wilkie

Photo courtesy: Legal Women

By

-  [Rebecca Wilkie](#)
-  [Rebecca Wilkinson](#)
-  [Yasmin Batliwala](#)

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To mark this year's Pro Bono Week, which concludes today, the CEOs of the UK's three main pro bono charities – A4ID, LawWorks and Advocate – look at why such work is so important and what can be done to increase participation from legal professionals.

What is the theme of this year's UK Pro Bono Week and why?

Pro Bono Week offers 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. This year's Pro Bono Week theme is "The Power of Pro Bono" and three subtopics which have been a focus within that are:

Barred from justice – the powerful, everyday stories of the impact of lawyers and law students who give their time to protect the rights of those most disadvantaged in society.

Embedding pro bono in your organisation and career – placing pro bono at the heart of everyone's practice and hearing from those at the forefront of establishing business structures for pro bono within law firms, chambers, in house, universities and charities.

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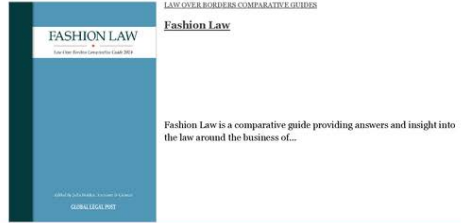
Building stronger partnerships is key Pro...

Can you quantify the amount of pro bono work taking place annually, and is it increasing?

Each year, thousands of lawyers across the globe contribute significant hours and resources to pro bono work, with a substantial portion coordinated through organisations like A4ID, LawWorks and Advocate in the UK. The thousands of hours dedicated in the UK alone represents a vast commitment to supporting social causes and vulnerable communities. Recent data shows a positive trend: the volume of pro bono work has been steadily increasing year after year. Many law firms now have structured pro bono programmes, often motivated by both internal and client-driven demands for greater corporate social responsibility. Increasing numbers of Chambers nationwide are formalising their pro bono work as participants in The Chambers Pro Bono Framework.

This increase is especially noticeable in regions facing heightened challenges, such as those affected by climate change or post-conflict instability, where legal expertise can support rebuilding efforts and safeguard rights. Through collaborations with law firms, A4ID helps to direct this effort towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that vital areas such as education, human rights, and environmental protection receive the legal support they need.

Meanwhile, in the UK, there has been a remarkable increase in the uptake of pro bono work across the legal sector, demonstrating the collaboration across the sector in the pursuit of meaningful and impactful pro bono work. By the end of October 2024, Advocate's core casework service had placed as many pro bono cases with barristers as for the whole of 2023 – with 49% of respondents in the Bar Council survey reporting that they had undertaken pro bono work in the last year, while LawWorks have placed 217 requests for pro bono legal advice from small not-for-profits so far this year, which already exceeds the total cases placed in each of 2023 and 2022.



Why is it so important?

Pro bono work is essential because it ensures that legal support reaches those who might otherwise be excluded due to financial constraints or geographic barriers. Access to justice is a fundamental human right, and through pro bono legal support lawyers help marginalised communities navigate complex legal systems that can impact their rights, security, and livelihoods. Whilst pro bono must never be, and can never be, a replacement for the vital work of legal aid, it has the ability to highlight gaps in the system and support the work of civil society.



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The Power of Pro Bono

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Celebrating National Pro Bono Week (7 November 2024) Date: 07/11/2024



As Pro Bono Week 2024 shines a light on this year's theme, "Power of Pro Bono," we at Duncan Lewis Solicitors are reminded of the significance of this commitment—a commitment that is woven deeply into our identity. As a proud chartered signatory of the Pro Bono Charter since 2018, Duncan Lewis stands on a strong foundation of charity, philanthropy, and an unwavering mission to "give people a voice." Our dedication to equal access to justice fuels our drive to provide high-quality legal services for society's most vulnerable. From advocacy to impactful partnerships, the work we do is a testament to the transformative potential of pro bono efforts.

Our firm's dedication was recently recognised at the 2024 Modern Law Awards, where we were honoured as Pro Bono Team of the Year. This award not only celebrates our commitment to accessible justice but also acknowledges the tireless efforts of individuals who champion our pro bono initiatives. Among them, [Emine Mehmet](#), our Family and Childcare Director and Head of our Pro Bono Committee, has become a cornerstone of our mission.

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PRO BONO WEEK



To celebrate Pro Bono Week, we have spoken with members about their current and ongoing Pro Bono matters:

[James Goudie KC](#), [Oliver Mills](#) and [Aliya Al-Yassin](#) acted pro bono for the Appellant in Melki v Bouygues E&S Contracting UK Ltd [2024] EAT 36 ([link](#)). This was the first case to consider the application of new EAT rule 37(5), which introduces a power for the EAT to extend time where an appellant has made a minor error in submitting the documents required to institute their appeal. The Appellant has been granted permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal. James Goudie KC and Oliver Mills, alongside George Spence-Jones from Gough Square Chambers, are acting pro bono for the Appellant in the Court of Appeal.

[James Goudie KC](#) also acted pro bono in Dr Christopher Garrard vs Information Commissioner and The British Museum (see Panopticon blog [here](#)), which was an appeal concerned Dr Garrard's request to the British Museum in 2022 for information relating to sponsorship negotiations between the British Museum and BP. Dr Garrard challenged the British Museum's reliance on the commercial interests exemption under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. James has also advised a number of individuals whose pensions are administered by the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

[Peter Lockley](#) has acted pro bono for The Watchdog, a new initiative by investigative journalists seeking to use the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to access material for public interest stories on environmental issues. As well as advising the group on strategy, Peter appeared for the requester in Amin v Information Commissioner & Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government (FT/EA/2024/0078), a case about civil servants' advice to Ministers prior to approval of the controversial Whitehaven coal mine. Peter also acts pro bono, or on a low fee basis, for a wide range of environmental groups campaigning on issues such as climate change, air pollution and water pollution.

[Oliver Jackson](#) is acting for Chris Garrard, an investigative journalist, who is seeking information about meetings between the former Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Gautam Adani, one of the wealthiest industrialists in the world, which happened shortly before the Adani Group announced its sponsorship of the Science Museum's Adani Green Energy Gallery.

Related barristers



James Goudie KC



Oliver Mills



Aliya Al-Yassin



11KBW Celebrates Pro Bono Week

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Home > ... > 2024 > November > Leveraging Technology Pro Bono Clinics: Step Forward Access Justice



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Join us in a unique opportunity to support climate-conscious legal work!



We're developing a Large Language Model (LLM) that helps lawyers identify opportunities for climate aligned clauses. Our first step is to teach the LLM to what real world, climate aligned contracts look like. Once it recognises these patterns of language, it can then be used to identify where they are being used and where they are missing.

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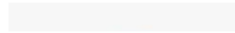
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Pro Bono Week runs this year from 4-8 November, with the theme of "The Power of Pro Bono". Read about why Pro Bono is an integral part of the firm's

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