



Pro Bono Awards 2024

The LawWorks Pro Bono Awards

Wednesday 4th December 2024

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Welcome to the LawWorks Pro Bono Awards 2024

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the Annual LawWorks Pro Bono Awards. The Awards are a high point in the LawWorks' calendar, and provide the opportunity to come together and celebrate pro bono commitment and achievement over the past year.

I would like to thank Mark Evans the Vice President of The Law Society of England & Wales for joining us this evening to present the awards, and to Tamara Cohen for hosting the evening.

We have received many truly inspiring and high-calibre nominations, all are worthy of recognition. We know that the pro bono work recognised at these Awards is only a snapshot of the valuable and important work undertaken across England and Wales and internationally – pro bono which makes a difference to individuals, local communities and the charities and not-for-profit organisations supporting them. We hope that the Awards help to raise awareness of the commitment of our members and the profession to pro bono, and the importance of partnerships and the contribution of law schools, law centres, charities and others.

On behalf of LawWorks, I would like to thank all those who took the time to submit a nomination, those who were nominated and all the short-listed nominees. I would also like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the panel of Judges, who have given their time and consideration to agree on the winners. Thanks also to our sponsors, LexisNexis who have been sponsoring our annual awards for ten years, LEAP, and to the Law Society for hosting us this evening.

Most of all, my congratulations go to those short-listed and to the winners; we hope that your achievements, recognised and celebrated here tonight, will encourage and inspire others.

If you would like to find out more about LawWorks and our work, including how to support us, it is included at the end of this programme.



Alasdair Douglas
Chair of Trustees

Order of proceedings

Time	Event
6:30pm	Welcome by Tamara Cohen
6.35pm	Welcome from Mark Evans, Vice-President of The Law Society of England and Wales
6.40pm	A word from James Harper, LexisNexis
6.45pm	Awards presentations
8:00pm	Drinks and canapés in the Reading Room

The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1P

Host

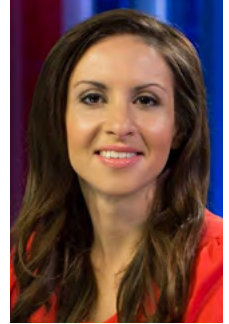
Tamara Cohen

Tamara Cohen is a political correspondent, reporting and analysing the latest developments from Westminster.

She joined Sky News in 2016, covering the run-up to the EU referendum, fall of David Cameron, and the 2017, 2019 and 2024 election campaigns.

Tamara has broken a number of exclusive stories and interviewed senior figures including Prime Ministers and leaders of the opposition.

Before joining Sky, Tamara worked in national newspapers for ten years, as a general news reporter and science correspondent, before specialising in politics.



Judging Panel

Mark Evans, Vice President of The Law Society of England and Wales

Mark Evans is the vice president of the Law Society. He will become president in 2025. Mark practised property and private client law for more than 28 years at a cross-border general high street law firm with offices in North Wales and Chester. Currently, he teaches various courses on real estate, private client and professional skills at the University of Law, based at the Manchester campus.

James Harper, Executive Sponsor, Rule of Law and CSR for LexisNexis UK & Ireland

James is the General Counsel for the Global Nexis Solutions business at LexisNexis, and the Executive Sponsor for Rule of Law in the UK. His pro bono journey started early in his career in private practice, volunteering at Toynbee Hall. He now supports a number of organisations with projects supporting access to justice, with a particular focus on the potential for technology to delivery efficiencies (such as the Digital PIP form filling service). James is a trustee of the London Legal Support Trust and a Patron of the International Law Book Facility.

Chris Minnoch, Chief Executive, Legal Aid Practitioners Group

Chris is CEO of Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG), the membership body for legal aid lawyers in England and Wales which campaigns for a fair, accessible and sustainable legal aid system. Chris has many years of legal practice, management and policy experience in the legal aid and advice sector and as a charity trustee. Chris' recent policy roles have included being a member of the Ministry of Justice's Legal Support Advisory Group, the Advice Sector Panel of the Administrative Justice Council and the Review of Civil Legal Aid's Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Professor Richard Owen, Chair of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee

Richard Owen is a Professor of Law and Director of Swansea Law Clinic, a pro bono clinic, at the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law at Swansea University. He is currently the Chair of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee and has been appointed by the Welsh Government as the Independent Chair of the Swansea Neath Port Talbot Regional Advice Network. Previously, he has been Chair of the Association of Law Teachers and was a Visiting Professor at Fudan University in the People's Republic of China.

Paul Rogerson, Editor-in-chief, Law Society Gazette

Paul is a journalist who has been the Editor-in-chief of The Law Society Gazette since 2007; before that he was a business journalist on a variety of publications – most latterly as the City Editor of The Glasgow Herald.

Rebecca Wilkie, Chief Executive, Advocate

Rebecca is Chief Executive of Advocate, the Bar's national pro bono charity. Prior to this Rebecca was the programme director for the Litigant in Person Support Strategy at the Access to Justice Foundation. Rebecca originally qualified as a solicitor at Hogan Lovells and she is currently Vice Chair of Money Advice Trust, having previously held a number of non-executive director roles including at the Advice Services Alliance and Blackfriars Settlement. Rebecca holds a number of government and professional advisory roles including sitting on the HMCTS Strategic Engagement Group.

The Awards

Tonight's award categories are:

- Best Contribution by a Small or Medium Firm
- Best Contribution by a Large Firm
- Best Contribution to LawWorks
Not-For-Profits Programme
- Best Contribution by an In-house Team or
In-house Solicitor
- Best Contribution by a Junior Lawyer
- The Stephen Denyer Pro Bono Award
for Best Individual Contribution

- Best Contribution to LawWorks
Secondary Specialisation Programme
- Best Pro Bono Contribution in Wales
- Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic
- Best International Pro Bono Award
- The Pro Bono Connect Award
- Best New Pro Bono Activity
- Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership

Best contribution by a Small or Medium Firm

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Crowell & Moring

“As a small charity, ...having the professional support of Crowell was simply invaluable. Their attention to detail and comprehensive approach, involved many of their team. We were delighted that we were able to access this level of expertise as a pro bono client and cannot thank the team at Crowell enough”.

Crowell’s London office established its pro bono practice over 2020 and 2021, but in a short time frame its impact is already being felt. Across 2023 it opened a total of 26 new pro bono matters, a number which looks set to increase further in 2024.

Crowell’s London office has advised on a wide variety of far-reaching matters of pivotal significance in different legal disciplines. This includes advising the DISARM Foundation, a pioneering US charity focused on tackling the spread of online disinformation, by enabling them to establish an entity in the UK. They also supported the Bath Welcomes Refugees, whose mission is to facilitate the settlement and the path to independence of refugees. The charity described the pro bono work they received as “empathetic, professional and timely”.

Crowell was also proud to have 40% of their London team named on the inaugural Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales.

Hodge Jones & Allen

“The clinic provides more than just outcomes; it empowers clients with knowledge of their rights, providing them with a voice in a complex legal landscape.”

Hodge Jones & Allen have partnered with sixteen universities to run a remote Personal Injury (PI) Clinic. The PI clinic has been instrumental in the universities’ strategic approach towards clinical legal education and some universities have incorporated the clinics into a course model. The clinic

has been described as both 'transformational for the law students but also 'instrumental' in helping clients navigate complex legal situations.

The firm's pro bono work not only includes training hundreds of university law students on how to run a PI case, but also advising approximately 150 clients through the remote PI Clinics over the last year.

In addition to working with these universities, Hodge Jones & Allen have also collaborated with Norfolk Community Law Service and Chelmsford CAB to provide a monthly PI Clinic and the firm works closely with AccessLaw to offer free Personal Injury advice to any member of the public who contacts them.

MTC Solicitors

"MTC's pro bono work is a powerful testament to our firm's core values. By providing high-quality legal services to those who cannot afford them, we ensure that the principle of access to justice for all remains a reality."

MTC is a small high-street law firm that specialises in criminal, human rights, and immigration law. The firm offers pro bono services to clients across these areas of law as a means of supporting access to justice. MTC believe that the pro bono services offered are crucial in demonstrating a belief that high-quality legal representation should not be a privilege reserved for those who can afford it but a right accessible to all.

The MTC team's dedication, particularly in sensitive areas such as immigration law and criminal defence, demonstrates the depth of their commitment. The immigration system is often daunting, particularly for vulnerable individuals and families seeking refuge or a better life. The tireless efforts of MTC lawyers on behalf of those facing deportation or seeking asylum underscore the firm's passion for fighting for those who are often voiceless. By providing expert legal services on a pro bono basis, the firm have helped countless individuals navigate complex legal systems, offering hope and practical solutions to those in desperate need.

Ropes & Gray

"The lawyers that supported my case pro bono were not corporate machines, they were kind, clever, supportive human beings that have really looked out for me over the years – they were also great lawyers."

Since its inception in 2015, Ropes & Gray's London pro bono practice has flourished and now includes projects and programmes covering a huge spectrum of sectors and organisations, from large international NGOs

addressing geopolitical concerns, to grass-root charities and community organisations addressing hyper-local issues, on a range of subjects both within and outside of their main areas of expertise.

One such collaboration is with United Legal Access (ULA), where volunteers help individuals affected by the Windrush Scandal to make a financial compensation applications under the Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS). To date, 10 individuals have received successful awards, ranging from £20k – £93k, many via a review process where initially they received a ‘nil award’. Many more are awaiting a decision... Volunteers also provide triage and support at ULA information clinics.

Other projects include the award-winning Green Tech Legal Collaborative – which provides holistic support to green-tech start-ups; working with qLegal, offering legal advice to start-ups and entrepreneurs; assisting undocumented minors in the UK to obtain UK citizenship with KIND UK; and many years work in collaboration with APPEAL on the high-profile case of Andrew Malkinson, a man who spent 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Last year Ropes & Gray volunteers contributed over 8,000 pro bono hours.



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Best contribution by a Large Firm

Addleshaw Goddard

“Without legal aid, many [current and ex-servicemen and women] are left unadvised because they cannot afford to pay for a lawyer to help secure appropriate entitlement.”

Addleshaw Goddard’s (AG) collaboration with the Royal British Legion (RBL) began following the pandemic and has involved partners, solicitors and trainees from their offices across the UK, contributing 1,300 pro bono hours to the project so far. The legal team at RBL support service men and women at War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation tribunals. During the pandemic the tribunals hearing appeals by current and ex-servicemen and women against compensation and pension decisions were halted. This created a huge backlog of cases that subsequently challenged the resources of the RBL to provide advice and support to individuals, including some severely wounded and mentally traumatised by their experiences.

Since becoming involved, AG volunteers have handled over 100 appeals, with a high success rate and in some cases increasing awards by as much as 40%. In one case a settlement was secured for a serviceman with multiple conditions as a result of injuries suffered during active service, for £1.3 million. Many others have received life-enhancing awards in the tens of thousands of pounds.

Baker McKenzie

“I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your tremendous support, hard work, and dedication throughout my [parent]’s appeal process. The news that my [parent]’s appeal has been allowed [...] has brought us immense relief and gratitude.”

Baker McKenzie has undertaken over 16,400 hours of pro bono work in the London office this year, targeting their support on four key areas: Access to Justice; Pride in Pro Bono supporting LGBTQ+ communities; BakerEarth which focuses on nature and net zero-centred NGOs; and Strengthening the Third Sector. Baker McKenzie has launched a new pilot legal clinic called Pride Beats Prejudice, supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community with employment queries. Through their BakerEarth work, they have provided support to Legal Response International, conducting extensive research on almost 150 countries’ commitments to climate change mitigation and

adaptation both internationally and domestically. They have also worked with WWF-UK to research amendments to deforestation legislation in a South American country and the extent to which they might breach international law. Through their access to justice strand, they have worked to secure British citizenship for 11 young people which has resulted in them being able to access GP, housing and education services seamlessly when the needs arise.

Dechert

“From the bottom of my heart, I cannot thank you enough for supporting me through this gruelling time. There were many times that I felt like giving up completely, but you kept me strong and resilient throughout. I could not have achieved this outcome without your help and expertise.”

Dechert undertakes a diverse range of pro bono matters, reflecting the differing needs of the community and the broad range of skills sets and interests of its lawyers. They advised UnLtd on a joint venture with Big Issue Invest to establish a £25 million evergreen fund which invests in diverse led social enterprises tackling poverty and inequality. They work with Islington Law Centre (staffing a regular clinic for local residents) and with University House (assisting disabled people to appeal incorrect disability benefits decisions). Dechert have advised on compensation claims for those affected by the Windrush scandal, and are currently working on a research project on the value of legal advice in Windrush Compensation Scheme applications with JUSTICE and the University of Sussex. They have also worked on a new collaborative project assisting lawyers at risk in Afghanistan with applications to the German resettlement scheme, taking on 23 cases since January 2024.

Kirkland & Ellis

“K&E’s efforts with Refugee Legal Support are vitally important to ensure both family unity and to protect vulnerable children from trafficking and other exploitation while separated from their families abroad.”

Kirkland & Ellis (K&E) engages in substantial and expansive pro bono work, from legal assistance with welfare benefits and housing matters to intellectual property and corporate governance. In 2023, their pro bono efforts had a particular focus on the needs of children and families. More than 20 K&E lawyers worked with Refugee Legal Support to assist refugees in Europe who are seeking to reunite with family members in the UK. These efforts are vitally important to ensure family unity and to protect against the exploitation of vulnerable children. K&E has provided valuable support to 14 different

child and family-focused charities. These include assisting a charity that provides tutoring services to disadvantaged young people and helping a charity that advocates for healthy eating habits among children. The impact of this support has been varied but critically it has enabled each entity to maintain their focus on the important work they do, such as raising money for childhood cancer research and supporting the mental health of children and families affected by disaster.

Milbank

“When Mr. Stagg had lost his life savings, he closed his curtains, pulled down the blinds and hid. They [Milbank] defended him during aggressive litigation, and over the course of two years of ongoing advice and support helped Mr. Stagg and his family regain their confidence and trust.”

Mr Stagg is a widowed 77 year old pensioner who served in the Royal Air Force for 22 years. He was the target of a sophisticated fraud in which criminals convinced him to invest in a fake cryptocurrency investment. This ultimately led to Mr. Stagg losing his life savings and his home totalling a loss of over £1,650,000. The Milbank team, alongside barrister Iris Ferber, helped to ultimately return Mr. Stagg’s home to him. They defended him during aggressive litigation, and over the course of 2 years of ongoing advice and support helped Mr. Stagg win his house back. The story has been reported by the BBC, who interviewed Mr. Stagg to help raise awareness of fraud, especially around targeting pensioners. The Stagg family have said they are speaking out to warn others how dangerous fraud can be. Milbank’s involvement has demonstrated to other victims of fraud that support is available.

Travers Smith

“I really can’t imagine a better service or team of wonderful people to help those who are helpless and going through such a traumatic time. I truly feel like the lucky one to have been helped by DARA...thank you so much for EVERYTHING.”

Travers Smith (TS) is a leader in tackling domestic abuse and human trafficking. In 2021, TS built a multi-firm advocacy alliance with the goal of representing survivors of domestic abuse who are ineligible for legal aid but cannot afford to pay for private representation: Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA). DARA has expanded to 10 law firms, a large pool of barristers and over 350 volunteer lawyers. Collectively they have spent over

20,000 hours acting for over 200 domestic abuse survivors aged 18-36. It is the largest pro bono project assembled to provide end-to-end representation and advocacy for survivors seeking protective orders against their abusers. TS also works with Justice Care supporting survivors of human trafficking. In the first half of 2024 alone, their lawyers secured awards totalling £50,000 for two exceptionally brave survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking. These sums are life-changing and will help both individuals rebuild their lives and move towards a happier future.

Best Contribution by an In-house Team or Solicitor

In-house team, The University of Law

"This is just a quick note to say thank you both so much for that session and the amazing support you gave me. You really helped to put a bit of perspective on the whole process, which has made it a lot easier for me to prepare myself for the hearing. I think the power of that kind of support is very underestimated"

The University of Law has a small team of in-house solicitors who design and deliver all the pro bono programmes at each of its 18 campuses. Five of whom were acknowledged in the inaugural Attorney General Pro Bono recognition list. This year marks 25 years of The University of Law delivering invaluable pro bono support throughout England.

Last year, they worked with local and national partners to deliver 140 different pro bono activities, affording more than 6,000 students the opportunity to engage in pro bono. One such national project is The Small Business Advice Line Clinic, a collaboration between the in-house team and supported by several law firms. Best practice is shared so the clinic is constantly reviewed and improved. Other pro bono projects offer advice in a range of areas including wills and probate, and family law, they also offer support to litigants in person as they navigate the Employment Tribunal.

Omar Madhloom, University of Southampton

"Omar's dedication and the time and energy he commits to pro bono work is remarkable. In a relatively short time, he has become a genuine champion for people in Southampton and their access to justice."

Dr Omar Madhloom is the driving force behind the University of Southampton's pro bono initiatives. He is currently an in-house solicitor and

Director of the University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic where he trains aspiring solicitors and barristers. He also co-Chairs the Hampshire and Isle of White Pro Bono Group Committee and since October 2023 established clinics for animal rights, environmental law, personal injury, family law and a drop-in business hub at the University. In November 2023, he developed the University of Southampton's first Junior Lawyers Against Poverty programme which works with schools, the Student Union, and local charities to raise to raise awareness of clients' rights and how to access legal services.

Locally, Omar works closely with Citizen's Advice Southampton. Nationally, he is a trustee for Lawyers Against Poverty, a UK-based charity dedicated to eliminating societal inequalities. In the academic year 2023-2024, he has dealt with 271 enquiries, supported 140 clients, and supervised/provided 45,206 pro bono hours.

Visa Legal, Ethics and Compliance Team

"The team's willingness to volunteer their time and expertise, often outside of regular working hours, speaks volumes about their commitment to social justice and the legal profession's pro bono ethos."

Several years ago, the Visa Europe Legal, Ethics and Compliance (LEC) Team created the European Pro Bono Programme (EPBP) to provide a framework for the delivery of their pro bono projects. Their work in the past year includes working with multiple charities via LawWorks Not-for-Profits Programme, providing corporate, IP, commercial, employment and privacy advice; developing the guide on child-friendly justice principles across UK/Europe and assisting asylum seekers with DLA Piper; volunteering at the Islington Legal Advice Centre; drafting a legal memo on how the criminal justice system can better serve female prisoners through counsel's visitation rights with Morrison and Foerster and the charity APPEAL; supporting environmental charities, e.g. workshops with Linklaters and Pilotlight for World Environment Day; volunteering at the LGBTQ+ Community Centre.

They also organised LEC Global Volunteer Week and participated in several events including In-house Pro Bono Day. All pro bono hours are tracked through Benevity, which enables Visa to match-fund all pro bono hours undertaken, providing further resources for the charities they support.

Best Contribution to LawWorks Not-For-Profits Programme

The LawWorks Not-For-Profits Programme supports small and medium-sized not-for-profit organisations that help people in need in England and Wales. Their work for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society varies enormously but, for example, commonly deals with poverty, disability, abuse, social exclusion, and special educational needs.

These organisations are working at the very heart of our communities and would otherwise struggle to pay for legal advice. With the support of our members LawWorks helps them access legal assistance for free, thereby supporting them to help their wider communities.

Our nominees this evening are:

- Covington
- Crowell & Moring
- Proskauer Rose

Best Contribution by a Junior Lawyer

Lauren Beattie, Milbank

“It is the rare combination of vision, dedication and technical ability that distinguishes Lauren as an outstanding pro bono lawyer and a deserving candidate....”

Since joining Milbank Lauren has made significant contributions to a range of pro bono cases, and has also been instrumental in overhauling the way pro bono is conducted in the London office. Pro bono hours in London have grown by 30% in the last 4 years. Lauren herself has spent 177 hours on a range of cases, from supporting death row prisoners in the US, an arts centre with its tax affairs, a small charity with its regulatory and property issues, and individuals with asylum cases.

Lauren has pushed the firm to widen the scope of its pro bono work, leading the firms asylum work with Safe Passage Sudan, and paving the way for the firm to work on a wider range of projects. Lauren’s drive and enthusiasm has led to a positive culture change at Milbank encouraging and increasing number of lawyers to take on pro bono matters.

Abigail Curry, Baker McKenzie

“Abigail was notable in her determination to progress the case and not be put off by the extra work that would entail.” “She developed a positive relationship with the client who trusted her and was incredibly appreciative....”

Abi is a trainee solicitor who has become a powerhouse for social justice clocking up over 760 pro bono hours since joining the firm. She has worked on employment and immigration matters as well as helping vulnerable children through LawWorks Voices for Families project. She has helped to design new policies for the British Red Cross and was instrumental in the delivery of a research project to identify the capacity of legal aid providers to take on new immigration cases. The research raised the profile of the issue and was submitted as evidence in the recent Civil Legal Aid Review.

Abi has also supported death row inmates with the appeals process, including one case which involved her coordinating the review of many thousands of documents. Abi has shown herself to be an unflinching advocate for her pro bono clients whose energy and commitment has allowed her to champion some of the most vulnerable people in the UK.

Shereen Goh, Herbert Smith Freehills

"I have been really impressed by her passion for the cause and her ability to drive forward the project. One cannot underestimate the impact of Shereen's work."

Shereen played a pivotal role in a landmark project aimed at addressing the result of Malaysia's abolition of the death penalty in July 2023. This existed for 33 separate offences and left no scope for mitigation or defence in sentencing. The abolition left a strict time limit for application for re-sentencing of just 3 months. Shereen worked with Reprieve to create a database of those affected. As there was no complete central record, this was a huge project involving identifying those affected, collating documents, reviewing the cases (via a global team of reviewers) and initiating outreach. Shereen then identified cases with specific fact patterns to inform strategic litigation, and facilitated targeted outreach and legal support for those in dire need of representation. She then helped with tracking the re-sentencing cases and monitoring sentencing trends in those cases. The database was crucial in ensuring all eligible inmates were accounted for and not lost in the bureaucratic process. Shereen's pro bono work on this project was the key to its success.

Sarah Hill-Smith, Clyde & Co

'...[Sarah] has proven to be a key asset to the team, thanks to her strong legal and people skills, positive attitude, enthusiasm and dedication.'

Sarah has been extremely active in pro bono work since joining Clyde and Co as a trainee in 2020. Her work has focused largely on tackling climate change via pro bono work, and this has included extensive involvement with the Chancery Lane Project (TCLP), Legal Response International (LRI), and Legal Voices for Future.

Through her work with TCLP Sarah has provided advice and produced free resources and training sessions to support organisations to implement climate clauses within commercial contracts. Sarah worked with LRI to support negotiators from climate vulnerable countries to better advocate for country's needs during international climate negotiations. Supporting negotiators in-person at both COP26 and COP28, Sarah also delivered workshops and undertaken specific research projects ahead of COP26, 27 and 28.

Sarah is also Vice-Chair of Legal Voices for Future, a project which aims to 'democratise education around climate change' through free training aimed

at junior lawyers, and has also worked on two pro bono immigration cases during her time at Clyde and Co.

Richard Rowlands, Covington

‘[Richard] has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice and equality through his pro bono immigration work’

Richard has contributed a huge amount of pro bono hours to various projects since joining Covington in 2021, including an incredible 477 pro bono hours in one year alone!

Through his work with Kids in Need of Defence (KiND), Richard assisted two families through the complex process of successfully securing British Citizenship for their children in the past year alone. Richard has now started working closely with a third family for the same purpose. As well as providing representation in his client’s immigration cases, Richard has also responded to other legal issues his KiND clients have faced, including securing more appropriate housing for one family.

Richard also provides ongoing support to a number of small not-for-profit groups, by assisting them with various legal enquiries and needs, answering employment queries, and helping one non-profit in the creation of their employment processes.

Finally, Richard is also active in international projects, which have included his undertaking research on how best to hold Russia accountable for its actions in Ukraine.

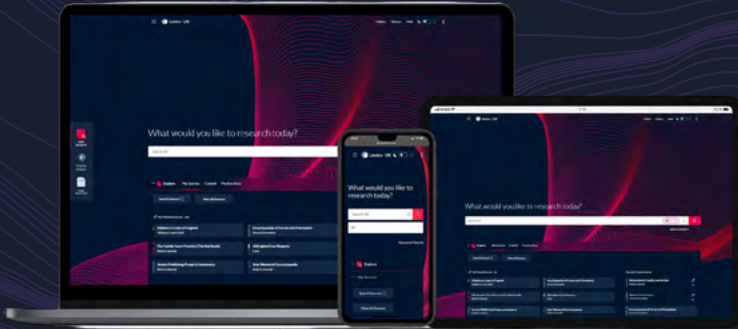
Tom Wyer, Herbert Smith Freehills

“Tom’s work on a variety of challenging cases has demonstrated his exceptional legal abilities and his unwavering commitment to defending fundamental human rights.”

Over the past year, Tom has dedicated 270 pro bono hours to various projects which address human rights violations of refugees in Europe. Through his work with the Rule 39 Initiative, Tom has worked on several complex and challenging human rights cases with some incredible results, including one asylum seeker being granted refugee status by the Greek authorities after two decades in legal limbo. Tom is also working on two group cases regarding migrants who are trapped at international borders. Though ongoing, the decisions in these cases will likely set very significant precedents which will have a long-lasting benefit for the rights of migrants in Europe.

In addition, Tom also works with the Refugee Legal Service supporting refugees experiencing violence at Greek borders. Tom has led on several projects with the RLS, including identifying complaint mechanisms available to refugees, and producing a guide and screening and triaging tools for practitioners supporting refugees in the area.

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The Stephen Denyer Pro Bono Award Best Individual Contribution

Following the passing earlier this year of Stephen Denyer, and in recognition of his ability to bring people and organisations together from different parts of the profession, we are pleased that our Best Pro Bono Contribution by an Individual award is being dedicated to his memory. Stephen was a true advocate for pro bono work and believed in the power of solicitors to come together and make the world a better place. The nominees for 2024 are:

Sarah Clover, South Westminster Legal Advice Centre and Clyde & Co

“Sarah always has a smile and a warm welcome for every new volunteer, from nervous intern or law student to senior fee earner; she takes the time to get to know them; and she ensures that the whole team feel well-supported when she is supervising.”

Sarah has been a cornerstone of the South Westminster Legal Advice Centre (SWLAC), advising clients and running the centre as trustee and then CEO. Sarah has provided training and supervision for volunteers. She has helped to build relationships with SWLAC’s ten partner law firms and in-house legal teams and worked to expand the cohort of volunteers, personally interviewing volunteers who come to SWLAC directly rather than via SWLAC’s partner organisations. She was instrumental in the hire of Clyde & Co’s first legally qualified pro bono manager in 2020 and has since been appointed as a UK partner representative on the firm’s inaugural Global Pro Bono & Social Impact Steering Group which has delegated authority from the Management Board to advance the firm’s pro bono programme.

Additionally, Sarah has mentored junior lawyers and law students, in Clyde & Co, SWLAC and beyond, inspiring them to participate in pro bono work.

Daniel Denton, Hodge Jones & Allen

“Daniel is an incredibly valued member of our rota and shows compassion and the human touch when dealing with vulnerable clients.”

Daniel has collaborated with 16 universities in England and Wales over the last academic year to run a remote personal injury clinic. His pro bono work includes training presentations to hundreds of university law students on how to run a personal injury case. Daniel has advised approximately 150 clients through the remote personal injury clinics over the last year. Through the

clinic members of the public are offered up to 30 minutes free legal advice on any personal injury matter irrespective of their financial position. In more complex matters, Daniel will offer additional time until the issues in the case are properly understood. The personal injury clinics take place in the presence of law students who will either lead the meeting under Daniel's supervision or take an attendance note. Following the meetings, Daniel discusses the structure of the letters of advice to the clients and the students draft letters of advice. Daniel checks the letters and provides feedback to the students.

Thomas Jennings, Herbert Smith Freehills

"In my experience it is rare to find a commercial lawyer who is willing to stay involved in a multi-year project of this kind, and who also never loses sight of the centrality of the individual claimant despite the strategic nature of the litigation."

Thomas has led the Herbert Smith Freehills team in seeking to address the criminalisation of same-sex intimacy in 68 commonwealth jurisdictions. These discriminatory laws, inherited from British colonialism, have a profound impact on local LGBTQ+ communities. Working alongside the Human Dignity Trust (HDT), Thomas, a Senior Associate in HSF's commercial litigation team, played a pivotal role in the successful constitutional challenge in Mauritius. He conducted and supervised the analysis of various legal arguments, advised HDT on their merits, and engaged with local NGOs, civil society and local counsel regarding the litigation. In October 2023 the Supreme Court held that the laws criminalising same-sex intimacy violated the Mauritian Constitution and were void to the extent of such non-compliance.

Thomas' work has had a real impact. In Mauritius, the decision has not only impacted the life of the individual plaintiff but also the entire LGBTQ+ community, who had previously lived under the threat of arrest and prosecution.

Jake Savile-Tucker, Herbert Smith Freehills

"He (Jake) is an enthusiastic and dedicated advocate who never shies away from complex cases."

Jake's dedication to pro bono is truly exceptional. As a volunteer advocate for Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP), he supports individuals from minoritised communities who are in danger of destitution and homelessness if their appeals are unsuccessful. Many do not speak fluent English, are unfamiliar with the UK legal system and have suffered severe trauma; it would

be almost impossible for them to effectively represent themselves.

Jake meticulously reviews every case, exploring every possible argument to provide the best possible advocacy. He provides exceptional technical legal advice, treating clients with compassion and empathy mindful of the barriers they often face to providing clear instructions. Jake's advocacy has led to one of his cases being used by ASAP as a precedent for other advocates.

Jake also volunteers as a team leader for the Whitechapel Legal Advice Clinic providing free end-to-end support on housing, employment and consumer disputes. These cases often run for many months, sometimes years and yet Jake consistently secures favourable outcomes for the clients he represents.

In addition to all this, Jake has supported yet more individuals by accepting cases from Advocate.

Ruth Scoles Mitchell, Covington

"We truly felt that Ruth and the team went above and beyond to support us every step of the way, being patient at explaining legal terminology and demystifying the process. Ruth listened to our needs, which meant she really understood the project and the charity."

Ruth is involved in a variety of pro bono projects. Her greatest passion is for the prevention of violence against women and girls, assisting those impacted by it. As part of a team, Ruth successfully represented a survivor of domestic violence, accompanying the client to court where the barrister commented that she "went above and beyond" for the client on the day.

Ruth is the lead lawyer for her firm's Schools Consent Project, going into schools to teach about consent and sexual offences. Her engaging workshops empower young people to have open and honest conversations helping them to understand their rights and responsibilities.

She leveraged her experience in content licensing work to assist a charitable theatre company for women, who have experienced the criminal justice system or are at risk of entering it and currently co-leads an international research project looking at the barriers to prosecution for female genital mutilation, drafting responses for the UK.

Ruth has worked on a number of other projects including helping university students prepare presentations on legal issues such as consumer protection and advertising.

Best Contribution to LawWorks Secondary Specialisation Programme

The LawWorks Secondary Specialisation Programme enables volunteer solicitors from participating law firms and in-house teams to support individuals beyond initial advice. Volunteers build up knowledge over time and develop expertise through structured training, supervision and mentoring provided by LawWorks.

Projects within the programme focus on areas of greatest need in employment and community care law, and use legal pro bono as effectively as possible to provide in-depth and broader support to those seeking justice.

Our nominees this evening are:

- Baker McKenzie
- Pallas Partners

Best Pro Bono Contribution in Wales

LGBTQ+ Law Clinic CIC

"It is evident that the need for legal advice in the LGBTQ+ community is prevalent, unquestionably due to the ever present societal and systemic discrimination the community faces."

The LGBTQ+ Law Clinic has been providing LGBTQ+ people with access to justice since 2021. The clinic initially only provided help to those in Cardiff but has now expanded across Wales and the rest of the UK. In 2023 the LGBTQ+ Law Clinic received 238 enquires, over 50% of the people helped identified as transgender and 64% reported having a disability or mental illness. In 2023, the top areas of enquires were immigration/asylum, employment, discrimination, family, Gender Recognition Acts and housing.

The clinic has also produced a 'Know Your Rights Guide' which gives an overview of transgender peoples' rights, and a 'Brief Guide on How to Change Your Gender' which also provides a simple guide on the steps needed to change one's gender.

The clinic provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ people in vulnerable situations to be contacted by LGBTQ+ volunteers, and works closely with other charities and organisations in Cardiff to provide outreach to vulnerable people.

Veterans Legal Link, Aberystwyth University

"I felt like for the first time someone had taken the time to properly explain why everything happened in the way that it did."

Established in 2015 to address the legal advice deficit in Wales which was having a particularly adverse effect on armed forces veterans and their families, the Veterans Legal Link (VLL) Clinic offers advice and support on a range of legal and social issues. Initially set up to serve the tri-counties, partnerships with the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and other national organisations helped VLL to launch on a much wider scale and reach even more beneficiaries across the whole of Wales, including creating a remote service to ensure those who live in rural areas can access support.

As of 2024, the service assists in the region of 500 veterans per annum providing free legal advice, casework and support for all armed forces veterans, blue light workers, NHS workers and their families. VLL also continues to undertake research in social legal justice, and since 2020 has published a number of academic research pieces to help understand and explore why veterans experience legal issues.

Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic

Dads House Family Law Clinic

"The team truly understands the struggles parents face in family separation, and their compassionate approach has helped me rebuild my life and focus on being the best father I can be."

Setup four years ago Dads House Family Law Clinic is run from their charity premises, which also provides additional community services such as a foodbank, lunch club and social activities.

The clinic offers free legal advice to dads and mums about the law relating to their children and is supported by a small but dedicated team of law students and lawyers from several law firms and chambers. Since 2020 the clinic has provided over 1,000 advice appointments, and recent growth to the volunteer team has enabled the clinic to double the number of single parents helped each week.

Over time the service has evolved, becoming more sophisticated and holistic, recruiting mediators and arbitrators, offering pro bono access to the app family wizard, and life coaching and a clinical psychologist all available to support clients. If a value were to be placed on the pro bono advice and representation given to families through the clinic it would very likely surpass £1,375,000!

Employment Tribunal Support Service, University of Law

"Thank very much for your advice and encouragement you made feel more confident in my approach to a tribunal. I feel you and your team do a wonderful job in giving me a glimmer of hope in my tribunal case thank you."

The Bristol Employment Tribunal Support Services was launched in 2022, following a huge increase in the number of Litigants in Person (LiPs) attempting to navigate the Employment Tribunal procedure. Without representation ET proceedings can be overwhelming and extremely stressful for all those involved.

Running weekly, the 90-minute information sessions are offered to all claimants, in advance of their appearance before the Bristol Employment Tribunal. Attendees are offered a tour of the Tribunal, provided with information about the Tribunal process, the language of the Tribunal, how to prepare a case most effectively and leaflets to take away with them. If further advice is required effective signposting for tailored advice is offered – notably

to ELIPS in Bristol. Which in turn raises awareness of that invaluable service offered in the Bristol ET. The following year the scheme was expanded to the Leeds ET, where the session now run monthly.

Legal Advice Centre, University of East London

“The support you provided me was above and beyond my expectation.”

The University of East London Legal Advice Centre is a student-led service that provides free legal advice to the community on a wide range of matters, ranging from housing, family law, employment, personal injury, special educational need, criminal matters to immigration matters through the Newham Council Renewal Programme. The centre partners with several of solicitors firms to provide its pro-bono services. In collaboration with the charity APPEAL they run a criminal justice project, representing clients who have suffered miscarriages of justice in their appeal through the court system.

Located in one of the most diverse and deprived areas of Newham, with a high population of immigrants including refugees, the centre serves as a crucial service for individuals who would otherwise struggle to access legal support. Their clients are facing complex legal challenges, though lack the financial means to get legal representation.

For the students, the centre bridges the gap between academic theory and real-world practice. This hands-on experience allows them to apply their legal knowledge to genuine cases under the guidance of supervising solicitors and is invaluable in developing not only their legal skills, but also their empathy, professionalism, and ethical grounding.

University of Southampton Global Legal Clinic

“The students involved in the clinic consistently demonstrate professionalism, compassion, and a deep commitment to serving the community.”

The clinic was established with the aim of providing much needed support locally, nationally, and internationally. It has partnered with charities supporting individuals, animal welfare and the environment to address systemic inequalities and empower individuals and communities.

The clinic provides advice in-person or online and has a pop-up mobile clinic. Clinic students intern with local charities, such as Citizens Advice and the Southampton Advice and Representation Centre, allowing these charities to increase their client support.

The clinic promotes pro bono on an international level through its work with

Lawyers Against Poverty and the Global Pro Bono Bar Association, having a direct impact on the education and training of public and private international pro bono lawyers. The clinic's Junior Lawyers Against Poverty works directly with Lawyers Against Poverty and the University's Director of Widening Participation and Social Mobility in the drafting of literature designed to empower individuals through increasing their knowledge about their rights. The clinic's innovative approach to pro bono engages students with a wide variety of clients and legal issues which helps instil a commitment to social justice.

Best International Pro Bono Award - in partnership with Advocates for International Development



Five years ago Advocates for International Development (A4ID) and LawWorks launched this joint Award to recognise lawyers' growing contributions to work in the arena of international pro bono and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The nominees for 2024 are:

Face Equality International in partnership with Reed Smith, Bank of America and Amazon

"Knowledge is power. It is with thanks to the pro bono teams that we can build knowledge."

Face Equality International (FEI) reached out to Reed Smith about conducting an international scoping exercise to better understand if and how people with disfigurements are protected by law against ill-treatment and/or discrimination across various jurisdictions.

Reed Smith worked with Bank of America and Amazon so that the research could cover more jurisdictions and increase the impact for FEI communities around the world. The collaborative work was split between researching the relevant legal protections against discrimination and ill-treatment of people with facial disfigurements and assessing the effectiveness of these protections/laws through analysis of available evidence.

Reed Smith, Bank of America and Amazon are all hoping to help FEI reposition facial difference, legally and socially, so that it will be recognised as an independent equality and human rights issue and as part of the wider disability rights umbrella.

Having this research will enable FEI to engage meaningfully with state parties on their duty to represent and protect the disfigurement community and is already proving to be invaluable to FEI's organisational members who otherwise had little to no insight into the legal positioning of disfigurement in their countries.

Herbert Smith Freehills, Human Dignity Trust and Blackstone Chambers

“The UN in Mauritius and internationally welcomes the decision of Mauritius to join the growing list of African countries protecting the human rights of everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) people.”

Several years ago, Human Digital Trust (HDT) working with Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) identified that Mauritius was one of several countries retaining colonial era laws that effectively criminalised homosexuality and was suitable for a legal case. Section 250 was inherited from the British and kept upon independence in 1968, only shortly after the corresponding law was removed from the statute books in England in 1967.

The team identified a Plaintiff and worked with local activists to draft claim forms, gather evidence and attend the oral hearings. With the support of Mauritian lawyers and Tim Otty KC and Isabel Buchanan of Blackstone Chambers a case was filed in the Supreme Court of Mauritius. On 4 October 2023, the Supreme Court handed down their decision, finding section 250(1) to be unconstitutional and therefore of no legal effect. This victory has empowered the LGBTQ+ community in Mauritius, while also giving hope to LGBTQ+ communities across the rest of Africa, who are currently facing a heightened onslaught of persecution and violence.

MPF Afghan BAP Project

“When the team contacted us to write our case and spoke to us, it was a ray of hope and a small heal to our pains ...”

Before the Taliban takeover in August 2021, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law (MPF) was delivering capacity building programmes to Afghan legal professionals on international law and human rights. Following the takeover, legal professionals were sacked and are actively persecuted by the Taliban. In October 2022 the German Government pledged to allow resettlement in Germany for at risk Afghans, but the application process is involved and complex. Referrals for resettlement are only allowed through a limited number of authorised agencies and the small team at MPF could not process the thousands of requests they received. At the start of 2024, Clyde & Co, Dechert, Eversheds Sutherland and Squire Patton Boggs launched a collaborative pro bono project with MPF to assist at-risk Afghan legal professionals to relocate to Germany. Following training the pro bono volunteers have almost tripled MPF’s capacity to process referrals for those at risk.

The Pro Bono Connect Award

The Pro Bono Connect scheme, supported by LawWorks, links solicitors and barristers acting pro bono on civil matters for individuals, charities and community groups who cannot afford legal advice or representation. Often a claim or piece of work may reach a stage where it needs input from a barrister perhaps by way of specialist advice, or representation at a hearing, or a barrister may benefit from the skills and support of a solicitor to further the claim.

The scheme enables solicitors to be matched up with suitably experienced barristers, and vice versa quickly. The effect is a seamless pro bono litigation service for clients.

Our nominees this evening are

- Brabners
- Dechert, Maitland Chambers, Astraea Group
- Morgan Lewis & Bockius
- Morrison Foerster and Cloisters Chambers

Best New Pro Bono Activity

Crowell & Moring

"I just want to thank the Crowell team for their wonderful skills and timeliness, and thought and care they put in to supporting us at DISARM, as we took the important step of establishing an entity in the UK, enabling us to act more globally"

In the list of risks and threats which the modern world faces, dis- and mis-information rank high, not only in impact but also in difficulty to combat. Once spread, disinformation is rapidly consumed, influencing the decisions people make and altering the course of history.

The team from Crowell advised the DISARM Foundation, a US charity focused on tackling the spread of online disinformation and preserving the integrity of democratic systems, on how best to setup a UK presence allowing the foundation to further collaborations, and to seek funding in the European Union and the UK.

Ethnicity Business Growth Programme, Addleshaw Goddard

"The EGBP seeks to foster the growth of under-represented communities in business through mentor-ship support and aims to create a space for cooperation and growth for those that may lack access to corporate opportunities or guidance."

In early 2024 Addleshaw Goddard launched the Ethnicity Business Growth Programme (EBGP) which aims to address the disproportionate representation of ethnically diverse owned businesses across the corporate sector. As part of the programme, participants receive a dedicated legal mentor from Addleshaw Goddard and a dedicated business mentor both of which they meet with three times during the programme. Participants also receive at least ten hours of legal advice and access to seminars, relevant legal updates and other publications and a dedicated network which links members of the cohort and alumni with each other and acts as a depository for self-service legal information. Feedback from the participants has been extremely positive and empowering and Addleshaw Goddard are looking forward to launching the second round of the programme later this year.

McKenzie Friend Service, BPP University

“When in attendance in my court I have found the students provide an invaluable support and knowledge base for what can be very vulnerable parties....Just to have a supportive person with a litigant in person will calm the nerves and assist the Court in a smoother hearing.”

BPP Family Legal Advice Clinic launched a McKenzie Friend Service in March 2023 in partnership with the East London Family Court (ELFC). The service supports litigants in person (LIPs) in private family law proceedings by offering emotional, practical and general support in addition to legal advice. BPP students explain the service to the LIP, taking particular care to highlight its free and confidential nature, and each litigant is then able to explain their situation before receiving legal advice. By providing litigants with essential information, they are empowered to voice their position in court. Following the hearing, students draft attendance notes, and outcome letters are sent to the LIP providing them with a clear summary of the hearing and next steps. Despite operating at capacity, the service has accommodated further hearings, drafting of statements and more. The service has supported 49 LIPs at ELFC and 22 in other courts with 22 students taking part.

Toynbee Hall & Herbert Smith Freehills Housing Clinic

“The clinic’s innovative approach includes drafting letters to landlords and offering on-the-spot advice, ensuring that clients leave with clarity and actionable steps. Additionally, the clinic employs a psychologically informed approach, acknowledging the complex emotional needs of clients who often come from trauma backgrounds.”

In January 2024, Toynbee Hall, in collaboration with Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) launched a new housing law clinic to address the large demand for housing law advice from residents in East London, and in particular Tower Hamlets which is a community with high levels of poverty and housing affordability challenges. Lawyers and trainee solicitors from HSF provide face to face advice, supervised by a lawyer at Toynbee Hall on a full range of housing law issues for private and social tenants, including disrepair, eviction, rent increases, social housing applications. The clinic also drafts correspondence for clients to send to landlords, housing associations and local authorities. The Housing Clinic’s impact extends beyond the legal outcomes as many individuals have reported feeling empowered and reassured after receiving advice from the clinic. Since the beginning of

2024, the clinic has advised 95 clients including 18 households dealing with disrepair issues and over 20 tenants threatened with eviction.

UCL iLAC Form Filling Initiative

“This partnership has changed the game. We are now confidently able to meet the needs of families – sometimes through multiple appointments – and really make a positive change to their situation and their lives.”

The UCL iLAC offers free legal advice on social welfare matters and has been working with the Magpie Project to support mums and pre-school children in insecure accommodation in Newham. The 2 organisations identified demand from service users for support in registering as homeless with the local authority as well as applying for housing benefit. In September 2023, Clyde & Co started working with UCL iLAC to help provide additional capacity to meet this need by seconding a trainee to support and set up a form filling clinic, amongst other things. The Clinic began operating in April 2024, not only offering advice but also a crèche, refreshments and reimbursing travel costs for parents to allow them to fully focus on the issues at hand. The clinic has thus far assisted 45 clients with 27 volunteers spending just under 400 hours both in training and working at the clinic, enabling them to not only provide legal advice but a supportive and trusting environment for their clients.

Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership

City Community Legal Advice Centre

“CityCLAC has been an incredibly invaluable addition to the partnership giving residents the access to the justice they deserve so crucial with the rising cost of living”

City Community Legal Advice Centre (CityCLAC) has nurtured a strong partnership network with 7 law firms, the City Law School and multiple charities, including mental health trusts and community services, to deliver a robust service in response to unmet legal need due to the continuing legal aid crisis.

CityCLAC provides a broad range of legal advice on ‘out of scope’ issues, including family, immigration, employment, housing disrepair, welfare benefits, school exclusion, general civil litigation, consumer, small business and applications to the CCRC.

Part of the social prescribing network, On your Doorstep, and the Westminster Refernet partnership, CityCLAC have also established referral pathways from Mental Health Trusts, Children’s Services, Probation Services and a GP Federation. Through their extensive partnership network they are able to refer clients directly to over 200 organisations. By surveying their referral partners and working closely with them to develop services, CityCLAC are able to respond quickly and effectively to need. By embracing technology to offer hybrid, online and in-person sessions they’re able to help more people, especially those who would not otherwise be able to access the service in person such as the disabled and those with limited income to travel.

Connect Legal Advice Clinic, Centrepont, Goldman Sachs & Herbert Smith Freehills

“I think it was the best thing I’ve ever done, I feel like I’ve been supported, and no one has let me down. I’m happy that someone heard my voice, and took action on it. I now have more of an idea about how the legal system works, and what they can offer, and in the future I would know what to do and who to approach for help”.

Connect Legal Advice Clinic (‘Connect’) is a collaborative pro bono initiative involving Centrepont, Goldman Sachs International (‘GS’), and Herbert Smith Freehills (‘HSF’). Established in 2016, Connect provides legal advice to young people aged 16-25 supported by Centrepont who have experienced or

been at risk of homelessness, and who have often faced severe challenges, including mental ill health, family breakdown and placement into care.

Each clinic is conducted by volunteer lawyers from both HSF and GS who, with a diverse array of legal knowledge, expertise, and resources, are able to advise on a wide range of legal issues, including housing, employment, civil liberties, consumer claims and housing benefits.

HSF and GS also partners with the Centrepoin Advice, Information & Money Manager and the charity Shelter, to ensure that clients receive comprehensive, well-rounded assistance quickly, tailored to their specific needs.

Employment Legal Advice Service, The Growth Company

“This service saved my life. I had been searching for help for weeks. I sent the Growth Company an email explaining my situation they called me the same day. Because I am experiencing financial hardship at present, I was so happy there was some guidance available without being faced with any fees.”

The Employment Legal Advice Service (ELAS) set up by the Growth Company, Citizens Advice and a network of legal partners, was launched in 2020 to specifically help individuals across Greater Manchester access free employment-related legal support.

ELAS supports people facing a wide range of employment issues including employment tribunals, dismissal, discrimination, settlement agreements and pay issues.

Working with a large number of services, including Job Centre Plus, local Councils, GP surgeries, Stockport Homes, Pathways CIC, and Manchester Law Centre, ELAS has supported over 900 people with employment law issues since its launch. In the past 12 months its network of partner law firms has grown from six to nine, more than doubling the number of pro bono appointments offered.

With a strong commitment to supporting people in their time of need, the service's positive impact goes beyond providing employment-related legal support, enhancing people's overall well-being, financial situation, and future prospects.

Hertfordshire Law School & Shelter Court Runner Scheme

“This scheme is a great experience for the students (seeing the real life ‘ins and outs’ of the judicial system); it is (I hope) a massive help to the duty advocates who often work alone but are incredibly busy; and, as I have seen myself, it is hugely helpful to those clients who need extra support and reassurance on what is an incredibly stressful day for them.”

In 2019 Shelter and the University of Hertfordshire developed the Court Runner Scheme in response to the extremely high demand for Shelter’s housing possession court desk service that provides urgent, bespoke legal advice to people facing possession proceedings.

The Court Runner Scheme gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience by supporting Shelter’s duty solicitor: interviewing vulnerable and often very anxious defendants, shadowing advocacy and negotiation, seeing judges in action and learning to spot familiar patterns of housing problems.

The Scheme gives clients more time to tell their story to someone who will make a difference; the duty solicitor is able to focus their time on conducting negotiations and advocacy; and students benefit by getting to see real cases and understand how the things they learn in academic theory play out in real life.

The project has been so successful there are similar schemes being replicated in London, Liverpool, Manchester and Norfolk.

Reach out to Survivors, University of Chester

“The students are a significant asset to the open access group in Chester and the support that they offer every week is invaluable. The team is extremely grateful for this continued support.”

‘Reach out to Survivors’ is a project providing legal support to survivors of domestic abuse in the Chester area. This nomination seeks to recognise the partnership between students from the University of Chester Law School; the local authority-funded Cheshire West and Cheshire Domestic Abuse Intervention and Prevention Service (DAIPS); Tomorrow’s Women (a Chester-based charity which supports women who have been in contact with the criminal justice system); and local solicitors who volunteer to supervise the student-led team. Students attend weekly open access groups for women and provide on-the-spot legal information, guidance and moral support to service users who need assistance because of being in an abusive relationship, and

they also produce leaflets on topics including Non-Molestation, Occupation, Child Arrangement and Restraining Orders. In its first year of operation, the student volunteer team provided information, guidance and advice to over 250 service users at DAIPS and Tomorrow's Women.

Working Families' Legal Advice Service

"The Hackathon was an excellent example of Working Families taking an innovative approach to cross-firm pro bono volunteer collaboration and legal services project delivery, bringing practitioners together to make a prompt but impactful contribution to the Legal Advice Service's work supporting fair access to workplace rights and entitlements."

Working Families is the UK's national charity for working parents and carers. With an award-winning Legal Advice Service, which has been continuously Advice Quality Standard accredited for over 20 years, each year they provide bespoke legal advice to 1,500-2,000 working parents and carers, around two thirds of them from households earning below the Minimum Income Standard. Working with long-standing supporter Linklaters, in February 2024 they put on a "Hackathon" which brought together 20 employment law specialists from 11 firms, with four further firms supporting remotely, to review and suggest edits to their online resources. This resulted in 20% of 130 employment law pages being reviewed, some of them running to the equivalent of 15 pages of A4. This is an enormous contribution, saving the team a huge amount of time and allowing them to focus on those with complex legal queries and cluster problems who contact the helpline.

About Advocates for International Development



Advocates for International Development (A4ID) is an organisation whose mission is to harness the power of law and the legal profession to combat global challenges such as the eradication of poverty. With a focus on sustainable development, human rights, and the rule of law, A4ID mobilises pro bono legal support to address some of the most pressing issues facing our world. By partnering with development organisations, governments, and private sector entities, A4ID amplifies the impact of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), transforming legal expertise into a powerful tool for positive change.

A4ID brings together international law firms with organisations, in the international development sector, that need their expertise but may not have the resources to access it. Through these partnerships, A4ID addresses critical issues such as gender equality, environmental protection, access to justice, as well as economic development.

A4ID's Impact

A4ID's impact is rooted in its commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which makes its work particularly inspiring for legal professionals looking to make a difference. By addressing issues in the legal and regulatory systems, A4ID helps establish durable pathways for human rights protection, inclusive economic growth, and environmental resilience. A4ID's extensive network of legal professionals from global law firms and corporates enables it to bring the best legal minds to bear on some of the most complex problems, creating long-lasting, change on a global scale.

A4ID also provides educational opportunities, such as training programmes and workshops, where professionals can deepen their understanding of the intersection of law and sustainable development. With both local and global impacts, A4ID's work requires lawyers with expertise in all areas of the law to play a part in advancing a more just and equitable world.

Partner with A4ID

Join A4ID's network of top international law firms, barristers' chambers and law associations to gain access to pro bono opportunities to work with the vast array of A4ID's Development Partners and use your expertise to successfully contribute to the sustainable development agenda.

More information about becoming a Legal Partner of A4ID can be found at a4id.org. Alternatively, you can contact the Pro Bono Legal Services team at probono@a4id.org. If you are interested in getting involved with the SDG Legal Initiative or in knowing more about it, please email us at SDG.Legal.Initiative@a4id.org.



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About LawWorks

Supporting and celebrating pro bono

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) aims to promote, support and facilitate pro bono legal services that extend access to the law for individuals and communities in need and the organisations that support them.

We champion pro bono because of the positive contribution and difference it makes for individuals, communities and society.

We work (in England and Wales) with the solicitors' profession and our member firms and in-house teams, the Law Society, law schools and law students, law centres, advice agencies and others to develop and support pro bono legal services, and to promote access to justice for all.

While pro bono is not, and should not be, an alternative to legal aid, it makes an important contribution to accessing legal information, advice and representation. It also plays an important role in driving forward innovative and nuanced responses to access to justice crises.

At LawWorks we enable the provision of pro bono through:

- Supporting a growing network of around 300 independent pro bono clinics. We work with lawyers, law schools, advice agencies, charities and others to establish or develop new clinics, and provide on-going support, information, training and webinars and legal resources (including the online legal research tools Lexis[®]+);
- Our Not-for-Profits Programme, which facilitates volunteer solicitors from LawWorks members to provide free legal advice for smaller charities and not-for-profit organisations. We also provide legal training for charities, through documents, videos and live sessions developed by pro bono lawyers;
- Supervising and training volunteers to undertake in-depth end-to-end pro bono casework ('secondary specialisation'), in areas of social welfare law;
- Connecting barristers and solicitors to jointly litigate civil cases on a pro bono basis through the Pro Bono Connect scheme;
- Overseeing the intellectual property initiative IP Pro Bono, which provides intellectual property advice and legal support for individuals and small businesses who find themselves involved in intellectual property disputes;
- Digital platforms and tools, including the Pro Bono Portal UK, which links

firms and in-house teams to pro bono opportunities easily and quickly, and Free Legal Answers, enabling individuals to receive initial or one-off legal advice.

Addressing barriers to justice: a 'policy voice' for pro bono

We work to remove barriers to pro bono and use evidence from the work of local clinics, our members and others to advocate for positive policy change to better enable access to free legal advice and to justice.

We have supported various fora for policy engagement including the newly constituted APPG for Access to Justice. We also work with a range of legal and access to justice organisations to address issues and challenges that arise in the sector.

Student pro bono

The pro bono contribution of law schools and students is significant and growing. LawWorks encourages and supports student pro bono (many law school clinics are part of the LawWorks clinics network), and the important contribution students make is recognised and celebrated through the annual LawWorks & Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards. The growth in the range and scale of pro bono activities undertaken by students is analysed in more depth in our [Law School Pro Bono and Clinic report](#).

Membership of LawWorks

The support of our members is vital to our work. Membership of LawWorks makes an important contribution towards the achievement of our charitable objectives and supporting our work in enabling and celebrating pro bono and the importance of access to justice. We have around 170 members, including some of the largest City and international firms, national, regional and local firms, and in-house teams, as well as law schools and charities.

We assist our members in a number of ways, including providing information, guidance and advice (for example, in setting up or developing a pro bono initiative), and facilitating pro bono activity through our Not-For-Profits Programme and our other programmes.

Members have the opportunity to nominate for our annual awards and have access to our training, online resources, newsletters and networking opportunities (including our annual conference and regional events).

By joining LawWorks you will be supporting our charitable work to encourage, support and celebrate pro bono, and also our work to highlight - and address - barriers to accessing justice.

The membership fee depends upon the size of the firm or in-house legal team - with other categories also for charities and other organisations.

For more information about membership of LawWorks and the difference your membership can make, please get in touch with Sarah Yates, Membership Officer, membership@lawworks.org.uk or visit our website: www.lawworks.org.uk/join-us

Other ways to support LawWorks

The need for pro bono support has increased due to cuts in legal aid, the closure of some law centres, and the ongoing cost of live crisis, which has exacerbated the problems faced by disadvantaged individuals across the UK. As a charity, LawWorks is almost entirely dependent on donations, grants and other philanthropic funding, and the amount we are able to raise determines the scope and reach of our work.

We welcome one-off and regular donations; sponsorship of our events or platforms; and long-term support for our programmes. You can also leave a gift to LawWorks in your will or take part in a fundraising challenge.

The support of our donors enables LawWorks to sustain our vital work and ensure access to justice for those without means. If you would like to discuss supporting LawWorks financially, please contact Sarah Mweene, Head of Fundraising, at sarah.mweene@lawworks.org.uk, or visit our website: www.lawworks.org.uk.

Our special thanks to:

Our judges - Mark Evans, James Harper, Chris Minnoch, Professor Richard Owen, Paul Rogerson and Rebecca Wilkie for generously giving their time, guidance and support; to LexisNexis UK for their continued support sponsoring these awards; and to the team at LEAP - we hope to welcome you back next year; the Law Society of England and Wales for hosting the event; the amazing Tamara Cohen for hosting the ceremony; to Yasmin Batliwala and the staff of A4ID; and all the staff of LawWorks who helped putting this programme together and deliver a stunning a night.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made time to make a nomination and share the inspiring and tireless activity of the pro bono volunteers and champions in our community.

See you in 2025!

LawWorks

The LawWorks Annual Pro Bono Awards
are kindly sponsored by




LawWorks is a charity working in England and Wales to connect volunteer lawyers with people in need of legal advice, who are not eligible for legal aid and cannot afford to pay, and with the not-for-profit organisations that support them.

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