

Pro Bono Opportunities Directory

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

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

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

#WeDoProBono

New Law Journal

A4ID

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



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

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

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

Access Social Care

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



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

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

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

Advocate

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



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

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

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

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

The Chancery Lane Project

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



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

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

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

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

CLIPS

Email: admin@chba.org.uk

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

Twitter: @chancery_bar

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

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

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

CHANCERY BAR 

Commercial Court and London Circuit Commercial Court Pro Bono Scheme

combar
The Commercial Bar Association

Email: admin@combar.com

Telephone: 020 7427 4932

Website: www.combar.com

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

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

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

Court 37

Email: court37@rcjadvice.org.uk

Telephone: 020 3974 7886

Website: www.rcjadvice.org.uk

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

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

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

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



ELIPS

Email: elips@elaweb.org.uk

Telephone: 01895 256972

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

Twitter: @employers

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

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

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

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



Environmental Law Foundation



access to environmental justice for all

Email: emma@elflaw.org

Website: www.elflaw.org

Twitter: @ELF_LAW

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

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

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

FRU

Email: admin@thefru.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7611 9555

Website: www.thefru.org.uk

Twitter: @FreeRepUnit

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

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

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

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



LawWorks

Email: membership@lawworks.org.uk

Telephone: 07834 866 930

Website: www.lawworks.org.uk

Twitter: @Law_Works

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

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

Opportunities for pro bono volunteering include:

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



Pro Bono Community

Email: bill@probonocommunity.org.uk

Telephone: 07702 667812

Website: www.probonocommunity.org.uk

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

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



Pro Bono Connect

Email: admin@probonoconnect.co.uk

Telephone: 07494 205575

Website: www.probonoconnect.co.uk

Twitter: @Probono_connect

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

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



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

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

Toynbee Hall



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

Website: www.toynbeehall.org.uk

Twitter: @ToynbeeHall

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

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

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

TrustLaw

TrustLaw



Email: trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com

Telephone: 020 7542 0240

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

Twitter: @TRF

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

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

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

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