



**Student
Pro Bono
Awards
2018**



The LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards

Wednesday 25th April 2018
Members Dining Room
The House of Commons



Welcome from the Attorney General

I am very pleased to welcome you to the House of Commons for the LawWorks and the Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards 2018.

I commend the many law students providing pro bono advice to thousands of people who don't qualify for legal aid but can't afford to pay for a lawyer. Advice is given in a variety of areas such as family, welfare benefits, personal injury, employment, housing and small claims. Over 3,000 students have willingly given their time to provide pro bono advice, which has helped make a real difference to people's lives as well as their communities.

In return, students are gaining legal skills and experience which will be of benefit to them throughout their professional career. I sincerely hope the enthusiasm shown for pro bono by today's nominated students will stay with them for the rest of their careers. Pro bono not only brings a sense of responsibility but also a tremendous sense of achievement and pride.

These awards celebrate the best in the pro bono field and every year I look forward to seeing the passion and enthusiasm that students bring to their work. These awards present a wonderful opportunity to appreciate a group of committed and hardworking law students who have gone to great lengths to help increase access to justice in their community.

All students nominated across the four categories have demonstrated a tremendous amount of skill, initiative and selflessness of spirit and should be very proud. The awards also incorporate the Access to Justice Foundation Award and the winners of the Law School Challenge.

I would like to extend my gratitude to this year's panel of Judges: Christina Blacklaws, Vice-president of the Law Society; Peter Farr, Trustee of CILEx Pro Bono Trust; James Harper, Executive Sponsor, Rule of Law and CSR for LexisNexis UK & Ireland; Alison Padfield QC, Co-Chair of the Bar Council Pro Bono Panel; and Josh Richman, Senior editor, LawCareers.Net, who have given their time and cast their expert eye over the shortlist and agreed the winners of this year's awards. I would also like to thank LexisNexis for kindly sponsoring this event.

Most of all, I commend and thank all this year's entrants for their outstanding contributions to pro bono.



Jeremy Wright QC MP
Attorney General

Welcome from the LawWorks Chair of Trustees

We are very pleased to welcome this year's shortlisted nominees to the House of Commons for the annual LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards.

The most recent LawWorks clinics network report highlights that 40 per cent of clinics in the LawWorks clinics network operate with law schools. These clinics alone received over 18,000 enquiries, a significant increase on the previous year.

It is clear that the pro bono work being done by law students across the country is playing a significant role in the delivery of free advice to those in need. At a time when many face barriers to accessing legal advice, it is reassuring to see that student pro bono is now embedded at so many UK universities.

Today, we come together to recognise this commitment and hard work. The Student Pro Bono Awards play a central role in LawWorks' involvement with students and offers a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the innovation, commitment and dedication of law students and law schools. On behalf of LawWorks, I am hugely grateful to all the students nominated, to the teachers and lawyers working within the law schools and to local solicitors' groups which support them. For me, it is one of the most inspiring aspects of our work and gives us great hope for the future.

LawWorks received a number of high-calibre nominations and the diversity of projects nominated across the four categories is particularly impressive. The Award categories are: 'Best contribution by a Law School'; 'Best contribution by a Team of Students'; 'Best contribution by an Individual Student'; and 'Best New Student Pro Bono Activity'.

The Student Pro Bono Awards also include the Access to Justice Foundation Award for an educational body or student which has made a significant contribution to promoting access to justice.

We also welcome the winners of the Law School Challenge to the Award ceremony for the fifth year. Their imaginative efforts in raising money for LawWorks and our sister charity, the Bar Pro Bono Unit, is greatly appreciated. We are also joined this year by the runners-up.

We are delighted that this year's awards celebration will be hosted by His Honour Sir Robin Knowles CBE.

Congratulations to all the shortlisted candidates; you should feel extremely proud of your achievements and the contribution you have made in enabling access to justice. I sincerely hope that you will continue with your commitment to pro bono as you move forward in your career, demonstrating that participating in pro bono is an essential part of a being in the profession and serving the society we live in, as well as making us all better lawyers.

Alasdair Douglas
Chair of Trustees



The Law Society

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION



Access to Justice Foundation Award

Celebrating our 10th year anniversary, the Access to Justice Foundation works to bring additional financial resources to support free legal help for those in need. We are delighted to be part of the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards at the House of Commons.

The work of the Foundation is strategic and focuses on generating new sources of funding to support the free legal advice sector.

The Foundation receives funds from pro bono costs, introduced in October 2008 by s 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007, donations of dormant client account funds and works with a matrix of Legal Support Trusts to support the pro bono and advice sector.

The Access to Justice Foundation Award aims to recognise the work of individuals and educational bodies in promoting and supporting access to justice. Reflecting the work the Foundation itself does, we received nominations from law schools across the country which promote, support and fundraise for the work of the pro bono sector.

The shortlisted nominees for this year's Access to Justice Foundation Award are:

- Plymouth University Law Clinic
- Edinburgh University Free Legal Advice Centre

The nominations were judged by the Foundation's trustees and we are delighted to be announcing the winner at the Student Awards celebration at the House of Commons.



**Student
Pro Bono
Awards
2018**



LawWorks and Bar Pro Bono Unit Law School Challenge 2017/18

LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit would like to congratulate and thank the eleven teams who participated in the Law School Challenge 2017/18. Their amazing hard work and dedication to our charities is greatly appreciated.

This year saw one of the most competitive challenges yet, with teams leapfrogging each other in their determination to win up until the final hours of the challenge. All kinds of fundraising activities took place, from an end of year ball to a mini pancake pop up, a campus-wide raffle and countless pub quizzes and bake sales. The winning team had the idea of selling branded hoodies to their law school, and their success suggests that they have dressed the entire campus.

LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit would like to congratulate Nottingham Law School at Nottingham Trent University for winning the 2017/18 Law School Challenge.

The University of Exeter Law School and University of Huddersfield are recognised as this year's immediate runners up. We also commend University College London, Anglia Ruskin University and the University of Birmingham.

The other participants in the Law School Challenge were from University of Nottingham; University of Brighton; City, University of London; Royal Holloway, University of London and the University of Manchester.

LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit would like to extend their gratitude to Charles Raffin, barrister at Hardwicke Chambers, and Esther Lemmon, solicitor at Allen & Overy, for donating their time and expertise for the midway Challenge prize.

Once again we would like to say a big thank you to all the law schools that participated in the Challenge, for the valuable contribution you have made to LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

Information on the shortlisted finalists for the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards 2018

Best Contribution by a Law School

Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham

“The commitment of the University of Birmingham in supporting PSU Birmingham has been unwavering...without such a partnership hundreds of people would face court proceedings alone and without any guidance.”

Over 208 students have volunteered with Birmingham Law School’s Pro Bono Group this academic year. Examples of work undertaken include collaboration with Oxfam and Action4Justice in order to provide research on environmental law; delivering public legal education through a number of Streetlaw projects (e.g. by providing presentations on employment tribunal procedure fortnightly to litigants in person and delivering workshops to the homeless and drug/alcohol dependent); and by providing legal advice and assistance at the Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group. At this clinic, under supervision, students provide written advice on family law, wills and probate, employment law, landlord and tenant and on discrimination law. They assist solicitors at Birmingham Community Law Centre at a weekly immigration

clinic, volunteer with the Personal Support Unit in providing emotional and practical support to litigants in person, and conduct casework on cases of alleged miscarriages of justice referred by the Centre for Criminal Appeals.

Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, Sheffield Hallam University

“The Helpdesk and Law Clinic are to be commended for seeking to remedy the injustice of unmet legal needs...even more so over the last 12 months when the effects of further public funding cuts have begun to be felt more deeply.” His Honour Judge Graham Robinson

The Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice (HKC) offers an extensive portfolio of pro bono and charity projects which provide access to justice to all at a time when it is needed most. Students at the Law Clinic provide free legal advice to members of the public (as well as staff and students) on issues such as family and consumer law, and have also worked with the Personal Support Unit at the Helpdesk at the Sheffield Combined Court in order to

provide emotional support and guidance to over 140 litigants in person. HKC operates a Refugee Family Reunion Clinic which has made 48 successful applications in order to reunite families with children from Syria, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, while the HKC Criminal Appeals Clinic investigates convictions and assists prisoners with preparing applications to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University

“The Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law (HRCSL) is at the forefront of creating innovative developmental student opportunities which also deliver beneficial services for the local community.”

The Swansea Law Clinic was launched by the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law (HRCSL) in September 2017 and has already provided legal advice to the local community in 20 cases, involving education, neighbour disputes, relationship breakdowns and employment issues. The clinic has also established good relationships

Best Contribution by a Law School *(continued)*

with community groups such as Maggie's Cancer Care where students provide outreach clinics. Over the past year, over 100 students have taken part in pro bono activities at HRCSL including supporting the Public Law Project on Exceptional Case Funding applications, working on miscarriages of justice with Inside Justice and the Centre for Criminal Appeals, participating in the Little Voices Project (whereby law students teach professionals how to engage with children for the purposes of policy and law reform), working with the Prisoner Advice Service in order to advise prisoners on aspects of prison law, and carrying out research for the Children's Legal Centre on issues such as the rights of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University

"From start to finish [my representative] was very approachable, listened to what I had to say and [was] analytical to details and facts. Every step of the way I was informed and made to feel that my case mattered..."

Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nottingham Trent University and last year provided opportunities for 250 students to provide legal services to 400 clients. Working closely with the Free Representation Unit in Nottingham, students over the past three years have recovered more than £1 million in compensation and recovered benefits on behalf of clients. Students also volunteer with the Personal Support Unit and support those who believe themselves to be miscarriage of justice victims by making applications to the Criminal Cases for Review Commission. Last year, the Centre launched the Business and Enterprise Law Service, which provided advice to 48 local small businesses and hosted seminars on topics such as intellectual property law, data protection, bringing small claims and commercial property issues. The Autism Law Service was also launched last year and is targeted at and sensitive to the needs of those affected by autism.

Plymouth Law School, Plymouth University

"[Student] volunteers...provide...an exceptional contribution and crucial service to the people in the local community...who depend on us and are in desperate need of our support." Citizens Advice Plymouth

Plymouth has a large number of deprived neighbourhoods and the South West region has been cited as an "advice desert" so pro bono services in the city are critical. 54% of students at Plymouth Law School are involved in pro bono activities at the Plymouth Law Clinic. For example, students volunteer at the Employment Law Clinic and are engaged from initial instructions to ACAS negotiation and sometimes representation at Tribunal. Students in the Family Law Clinic have provided advice to 130 people so far this year, going through divorce or needing help with cases involving children. The Refugee Family Reunion Clinic is a partnership with the British Red Cross in which students help to reunite vulnerable families forcibly separated by conflict and

Best Contribution by a Law School (continued)

persecution. The newly created Welfare Tribunal project assists those needing help with Personal Independence Payment appeals. Students also deliver lessons to Year 11 pupils on international humanitarian law, deepen their research skills and provide information to local groups through a Streetlaw project.

School of Law, Queen Mary University of London

“qLegal has provided a great opportunity for me to get answers to some of the questions which have worried me whilst being in the early stages of setting up a business and has also helped me to know which questions I should be asking.”

Queen Mary University of London, School of Law runs two pro bono centres: The Legal Advice Centre (LAC) and qLegal in which undergraduates and graduates (respectively) participate. LAC focuses on client need in the local community of East London and provides free legal advice to 300 clients a year on 25 different areas of law. Often these clients would have nowhere else to turn for help. In

addition, students have worked on four large criminal cases with the Freedom Law Clinic in order to review convictions to see if there are grounds for referring cases to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. One of these cases has been referred to counsel to take forward. qLegal provides pro bono legal advice to 300 social enterprises, charities and entrepreneurs each year through workshops, online resources and one-to-one advice. qLegal also facilitates a Streetlaw project, Teach Tech Law, where students visit local schools to teach the legal elements of developing a business idea.

School of Law, Ulster University

“Your clinic is a lifeline for the ordinary person that has no-one to turn to. It provides exceptional advice and guidance to its clients in a manner that is easy to comprehend in simple layman’s terms.”

The Ulster University Law Clinic is core to its Access to Justice LLM through which 31 students have provided over 5,000 hours of pro bono support in over 140 social security and employment law cases for clinic clients, with

additional casework in housing law and new enquiries having now opened in criminal appeals and family law. Since its start in 2012/13, the clinic has built partnerships with the local community in order to maximise its impact including the Law Centre (NI), Citizens Advice, Women’s Aid, Housing Rights NI and the Chartered Institute of Housing. One example of assistance given was to a visually impaired client in relation to a claim for Disability Living Allowance. The student advisor had a number of meetings with the client, ensured all paperwork was in large font, and represented her at the tribunal appeal where she was awarded DLA (including over £1,500 in arrears).

Best Contribution by a Team of Students

Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group Coordinators, University of Birmingham

“Without the coordinators commitment to the role and their professionalism and efficiency... the clinic simply would not be viable, as the demand for the service would be too overwhelming.”

Birmingham contains 26 of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country and there is therefore significant local need to which the Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group (FLAG) responds. The FLAG coordinators are a team of nine dedicated student volunteers who are on the frontline in dealing with all public enquiries in relation to the clinic. They process each enquiry in order to book an appointment with one of the FLAG's partner firms and chambers, or to signpost the client to alternative sources of assistance. The role is busy and demanding - already this year the team have processed 337 enquiries in five months which requires a minimum commitment of three to five hours a week (and often longer). The team liaise

with the FLAG partner firms and chambers, co-ordinate clinic appointments, ensure professional compliance requirements are carried out (such as money laundering checks) and guide other volunteers through the process.

Employment Team Project, Legal Advice Centre, University of Manchester

“I didn't think that I would receive any payment never mind being awarded the 90 days' protective award and this is all down to the students' hard work.”

When a local employer ceased trading and dismissed all of their staff without notice, consultation, or payment of redundancy, an opportunity was spotted by staff the University of Manchester Legal Advice Centre. Created from a pool of student volunteers, the Employment Team Project was set up to work on what became a multi-claimant employment tribunal case for a total of 21 employees. Split into groups, the students each took responsibility for a number of the clients. Meetings were organised, information needed to lodge their claims was gathered and lost

earnings were calculated. Taking additional studies, the students learnt the relevant case law and statutes and took practical steps to prepare for taking the case to Tribunal. During this process, the team had a significant impact on the lives of the clients by maintaining regular contact, answering queries and addressing their concerns. In addition to the clients receiving £75,000 in redundancy pay and £12,000 in notice and holiday pay, Manchester Employment Tribunal issued a judgment without hearing, which led to the clients being awarded a Protective Award of around £110,000.

Legal Advocacy Support Project Team, Greater Manchester Law Centre and Manchester Metropolitan University

“They bring a high level of dedication and commitment to their work which is... grounded in their empathy for our clients, and a determination to help those clients overturn extraordinarily unjust decisions. Their presence at the Law Centre has changed clients' lives.”

Best Contribution by a Team of Students (continued)

The Legal Advocacy Support Project (LASP) was set up in order to help vulnerable people, who are no longer entitled to legal aid, to access free legal representation when challenging welfare benefit appeals. The team consists of four students at a time who receive specialised training in all aspects of welfare benefit appeals before they run their own caseload. The work involves interviewing and advising clients, preparing legal submissions and witness statements before ultimately representing their clients at the tribunal appeal hearings. Their aim is to secure a reversal of the decision that a client is deemed to be fit for work so that the client receives arrears of benefits, together with a continuing entitlement to the benefit. The team is extremely committed – they are required to give four hours per week for 30 weeks but often exceed these hours. Since January 2017, LASP has supported 90 clients at tribunal hearings and won 52 of the cases, recovering in excess of £80,000 for clients.

Student Advice Team, London South Bank University Legal Advice Clinic

“Fabulous team. Fabulous support. Thank you.”

The student-led London South Bank University Legal Advice Clinic provides generalist and specialist advice in social welfare law through a face-to-face drop-in service, and this year expanded from four to five advice sessions a week. The clinic opened in September 2011 and is part of the Southwark Legal Advice Network, providing an advice service to local communities in Southwark and Lambeth (ranked 23 and 22 respectively of the most deprived boroughs in England). 47 students commit to at least 10 advice sessions of four to five hours, with over 1,800 advice session hours delivered. Students give (supervised) generalist advice in all non-immigration social welfare law matters, with 191 clients assisted since October 2017. In 2012 the Clinic was praised in ‘Teaching that Matters’ – a report by leading thinktank Million+ on innovative teaching in modern UK universities. Since September 2014, the clinic has been

surveying each client assisted and 97% say the advice they received helped them understand their rights; 98% say they have confidence in the advice given; 96% rate the service overall as excellent or good and 99% would use the service again or recommend the service to others.

University of Exeter Access to Justice Clinic Students, University of Exeter Law School

“The success of this clinic is without a doubt due to the pure dedication and hard work of each and every student. They are a true team.”

Exeter no longer has a legal aid housing solicitor and nor does it have a Law Centre and therefore there is a pressing need for free legal advice in this area. This led to the creation of the University of Exeter Access to Justice Clinic which has seen over 40 clients since October 2017. 12 students were selected out of 45 applicants for an Access to Justice module which includes volunteering fortnightly at the clinic. Working in pairs and supervised by faculty members, the students interview, gather information and help

Best Contribution by a Team of Students *(continued)*

clients with the various tasks associated with their problems, including writing letters, referring them to further services or simply informing them of their options to enable them to choose what to do next. The clinic has quickly made a name for itself by providing a quality and dependable service in Exeter. Valuable partnerships have been formed with Magdalen Chambers, local solicitors and the Personal Support Unit. The clinic has become a trusted and valuable member of the local legal services community.

Best Contribution by an Individual Student

Andrea Garvey - Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University

“Andrea has deployed imagination and skill investigating one aspect of the case which had flummoxed investigators and lawyers for years. Her resourcefulness embodies the very best aspects of student involvement in pro bono work and will instil in others a determination to do this difficult work in their professional lives in the future.”

Andrea has been heavily involved in one murder case at Swansea University’s Miscarriage of Justice Project which looks at criminal cases post-conviction, where all appeals have been exhausted but doubts remain over the safety of the conviction. Andrea has investigated this complex case which requires a grasp of difficult issues, including disclosure and forensic evidence, as well as working in an interdisciplinary way with lawyers and other professionals. Andrea applied her IT skills to look at existing evidence which raised significant new issues, and went on to devise a test which casts doubt on

whether the physical evidence at trial was properly understood. The findings were so original that experts from a number of different disciplines were astounded and Andrea was asked to present her work to the Inside Justice Advisory Board in January 2018.

Samantha Maher – Manchester Metropolitan University & Greater Manchester Law Centre

“...the work Sam has done with clients is often life-changing. Sam is extremely supportive, and excellent at helping her clients manage the stress of having no money whilst their benefits are under appeal.”

In January 2017, Sam and three other student volunteers joined the newly formed Legal Advocacy Support Project (LASP), which was set up in response to the need to help individuals through the complexities of the welfare benefits appeals process. Sam engaged in extra-curricular training in all aspects of benefits appeals before starting to run her own cases.

Between January 2017 and March 2018, the team of 16 at LASP assisted 90 clients at tribunal hearings. They won 52 of the cases and recovered in excess of £80,000 for clients with a variety of physical and mental health problems. Sam worked with ten clients and appeared at seven hearings, successfully winning cases for six of her clients. She has not only helped individual clients, but has also raised awareness and increased public education about the appeals process through her involvement in campaigns. Sam has remained on the project beyond the required time commitment and is planning to undertake further training to become a full welfare benefit appeals caseworker.

Niki Mehta – BPP Law School, BPP University

“A knowledgeable and enthusiastic student director volunteer; both arranging and delivering high quality legal presentations and seminars that have enriched the education of many of our students.”

Niki is a Student Director for the BPP Pro Bono Centre’s Streetlaw Project in London,

Best Contribution by an Individual (continued)

a free legal education project which empowers individuals by making them aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society. Through this project, Niki has delivered fun and interactive legal presentations between September and December 2017 to over 200 primary and secondary school students in disadvantaged communities. Niki also took on the responsibility of organising and running events for the Streetlaw Mock Trials initiative which involves running mock trial workshops at local schools, giving students an introduction to the criminal justice system and the court process. Niki also coordinates and prepares fellow students to deliver Streetlaw workshops on issues such as knife crime and sexting and revenge porn, as well as securing new venues for the project.

Maddison Redgwell – University of Westminster

“Maddie has an exceptional ability as an undergraduate student to understand the needs of vulnerable clients and provide an appropriate legal service. This is reflected in the fact that she consistently achieved positive benefit decisions for her clients”.

Maddie has an impressive and overarching commitment to pro bono work and volunteers for two pro bono projects delivered by the University of Westminster Student Law Clinic, namely, the Family Law Clinic and the Z2K project. Due to her involvement in these projects, she was also offered the first student volunteering placement with the charity, Coram Voice. Maddie’s support of both projects, including the setting up of much-needed administration systems, reception cover, note-taking and research, has allowed these services to continue to provide vulnerable clients with good quality legal advice. Her consistent enthusiasm, commitment and work standard has widely promoted the projects beyond the clinics, for example, by speaking at Aspiring Solicitors

events. At Coram Voice she takes thorough and compassionate referrals from the young people who call the helpline, who are often upset or in crisis, and her commitment makes a significant difference to the level of support the charity is able to offer.

Catherine Ruta – University of Birmingham

“Catherine embodies the spirit of pro bono. As a volunteer she is giving of her time and legal knowledge for the benefit of others, as a leader she has repeatedly brought out the best in her fellow students and as a future lawyer, she has proved herself to be a passionate advocate for access to justice .”

Catherine is a committed member of the Birmingham Law School Pro Bono Group and her contribution has had a significant impact on her fellow students and on her clients. She volunteers with the Personal Support Unit in Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and offers emotional and practical support to litigants in person who are navigating their way through the court process. In 2017, she took over as Chair of the pro bono committee and

Best Contribution by an Individual *(continued)*

through this role has overseen fundraising activities, organised recruitment and has worked hard to promote pro bono to fellow students by speaking in lectures, creating vlogs and rejuvenating the Group's social media. She has been an excellent ambassador for the Group and has represented it externally at several events, e.g. at Birmingham Law Society's flagship pro bono event during National Pro Bono Week, and also spoke eloquently and passionately to the Attorney General about her experiences of pro bono.

Rebecca Smith – University of Greenwich

"A recent client had a PIP appeal overturned which was in part due to Rebecca's contribution to the casework. If a client forgets their papers, she actually drives to their house and picks up the documents. Nothing is too much trouble... we cannot praise her highly enough... she is one in a million."

Established in 1975, Greenwich Association of Disabled People was one of the first Centres for Independent Living in the UK. Rebecca has worked as a volunteer caseworker at the

Centre for two days a week for the past two years. Her commitment has allowed the Centre to extend the services they offer, covering hospital and home visits for clients with benefits problems and form-filling for those who are homebound. During this time, Rebecca has transformed the way the Centre undertakes blue badge applications, and has advised 210 clients on their disabled badge applications, with a very high success rate. Rebecca is a consummate professional and always goes the extra mile, despite bringing up a family and studying full time. She shows a real commitment to disabled people and a passion for access to justice.

Georgia Steaton - London South Bank University

"Georgia works with our specialist immigration, housing and domestic advisers to try to resolve what are often complex and interlinked issues... [she] is smart, highly competent and shows great initiative [and] her commitment to the hub and access to justice is second to none."

Georgia has made an outstanding

contribution to pro bono by volunteering with several organisations throughout her time as an undergraduate. She currently volunteers at three advice centres: at the London South Bank University Legal Advice Clinic, where she gives supervised advice on social welfare law such as housing, welfare benefits, debt and family law; at the Greenwich Migrant Hub, where she supports specialist advisors and offers practical support to clients (including children) who are often distressed and have complex needs, and at St Mungo's, a charity working to help those who have been, or who are, at risk of homelessness. Georgia's role at St Mungo's involves visiting clients with a support worker and helping them to complete applications for disability benefits, such as Personal Independent Payment, and drafting appeals against refusal of benefit claims, a particularly challenging role for her as she had no prior knowledge of this area of advocacy.

Best New Student Pro Bono Activity

Autism Law Service, Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre, Nottingham Trent University

"...[you] have done an amazing job pulling this together and I think it reflects on NLS in an amazing light. What an inclusive, progressive and innovative thing to do..."

Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre (LAC) has seen a significant rise in demand for support for the autistic community, particularly in relation to social security and employment legal issues. As a result, the Autism Law Service has been created to make LAC services more accessible to the autistic community and to provide them with specialist legal provision. Students and supervisors have worked with the National Autistic Society and Autism East Midlands and are now trained, for example, to help those who find it difficult to attend a face-to-face consultation, in relation to claiming Personal Independent Payment or the Employment Support Allowance, or to ensure that sensitive questioning of such clients at tribunals takes place to ensure

an accurate picture is given of the client's condition. Students also organised a seminar for staff, students and external employers on autism and discrimination in the workforce, and will be producing a series of information toolkits which will be available on the LAC website.

BPP Enterprise Legal Advice Clinic, BPP University

"Very informative and very professional conduct and advice. I have no more questions to ask after this because they have all been answered. Brilliant."

Due to the increasing importance of 'micro-businesses' in the UK and the development of the so-called 'gig-economy', in March 2017 the BPP Enterprise Legal Advice Clinic (ELAC) was launched to provide free legal advice to start-ups and small businesses that would otherwise not have access to legal services. Since its inception, ELAC has partnered with The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN), a social-enterprise that sees the business potential within the refugee community, despite the trauma sometimes experienced. ELAC clients have

one-to-one appointments with student advisors (in both London and Manchester) who can offer a range of services including advice, drafting of documents and templates. ELAC also delivers training to TERN participants on various aspects of UK business law. ELAC disseminates its knowledge and learning through an online resource. To date, 83 students have volunteered through ELAC giving 570 pro bono hours to 60 businesses in both Manchester and London. Feedback has been very positive with all clients indicating that they are either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied', and TERN praising the project as "the most effective referral and training partnership that TERN engaged with in 2017."

BPP Law Ambassador Programme, BPP Pro Bono Centre, BPP University

"We are excited about what the scheme has to offer, both in terms of improving legal education in schools and also identifying and supporting talented young people from a diverse range of backgrounds."

In September 2017, the BPP

Best New Student Pro Bono Activity *(continued)*

Law Ambassador Programme (LAP) was launched by the BPP's Pro Bono Centre in Leeds in order to advance public legal education (PLE) across Yorkshire. Secondary school pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 become 'Law Ambassadors', and participate in a range of legal experiences involving the criminal justice system, run by students and practitioners. In the first year, pupils take part in a series of workshops, participate in a mock trial and then attend a day in court to see a trial process for real. In the second year, BPP students deliver an interactive Streetlaw workshop to pupils who then research and deliver their own Streetlaw session, ultimately to their own peers. The LAP is a trailblazing partnership with schools and law firms that has the potential to become a comprehensive, national PLE programme for 16 to 18 year olds.

Children's Social Care and SEND Clinic, University of Liverpool

"The project has provided an outstanding service to people with disabled children with multiple problems living in disadvantaged communities."

The project, set up in October 2017, provides free legal advice and assistance concerning Special Educational Need & Disability (SEND) and social care advice to parents and carers of disabled children who would otherwise not be able to afford the services. The clinic operates within a healthcare setting, i.e. the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, and is unique. The project has fostered a wide reaching system of referrals, including from hospital staff, MPs, councillors and charitable organisations. The clinic aims to plug the gap between public law remedies, which are often unrealistic for families, by providing pre-litigation alternative dispute resolution information and assistance. The advice takes in a range of issues, including support at school, exclusions, learning and other difficulties, such as autism, disability, and challenging assessment decisions. Where disputes are unresolved, the clinic has provided representation in the First-Tier (SEND) Tribunal. To date, approximately 60 third-year students have taken part, providing advice and assistance to over 50 clients. Feedback from clients and stakeholders has been very positive.

Family Justice Project, Northumbria Law School, Northumbria University

".... It was very reassuring for me to see how promptly and thoroughly this case [a non-molestation order] was dealt with by your team and I am under no illusion that [the client] would not have been able to access the legal support she urgently required if it had not been for the student law centre."

The Family Justice Project (FJP) identified a "drastic surge" in need for pro bono family law advice and representation in the North East following the enactment of LASPO 2012. With a commitment to using creative and innovative ways to engage members of each minority community identified as in need, the FJP set up bespoke advice and representation family law and domestic violence clinics, as well as using blogs and activism to promote change and better understanding among students and the wider community. Projects include: Empower4Justice, a drop-in legal advice clinic for Black and Minority Ethnic Women,

Best New Student Pro Bono Activity *(continued)*

concerning issues such as FGM and honour-based violence; AFamilyAffair blog, and the screening of the human rights themed documentary film, Banaz. The projects have seen successful representation in court on matters such as an occupation order. 42 students have taken part to date and the feedback has been extremely positive.

Liverpool Law Clinic Court Project, Liverpool Law School, University of Liverpool

“The unique contribution of the Liverpool Law Clinic lies in providing legal advice from a practising solicitor together with the support of well-trained and supervised students for parties without representation at court on the day of the hearing.”

Since June 2017, the Liverpool Law Clinic Court Project has been providing free legal advice from a specialist family law solicitor for litigants in person at first hearings in cases involving child arrangements orders. Students take initial instructions from clients, listen to an advice interview and support the client at the hearing in a McKenzie

Friend capacity. Following the hearing, students draft detailed letters of advice to clients and provide follow-up appointments later in the proceedings. So far, 81 clients have been helped and the majority of cases involve allegations of domestic abuse, concerns about one or both party’s mental health, and allegations of drug or alcohol abuse. Legal advice on the likely outcome, and the strengths and weaknesses of their case, can help the parties to reach an agreement early on – the outcome of the proceedings will affect the relationship between parents and their children for years to come.

The Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre, University of Manchester

“I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all the support and work that has been put in. You brought light to a dark place.”

The Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre (MJRC) was launched in September 2017, and currently 30 students are working on the cases of two clients, one in partnership with Inside Justice and the

other with Garden Court North Chambers. Students meet three times a week, have identified significant issues in both cases, visited both clients in prison and traced missing witnesses, all with a view to submitting an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. The clients and their families frequently tell the students how much this work means to them. In addition, students organised a very successful national training conference on Miscarriage of Justice cases, with highly regarded speakers, which was attended by 150 delegates. They are also working on a national website and database with the Clinical Legal Education Organisation, which will include news and training information for all students interested in this issue. The MJRC is also part of the global Innocence Project and has developed links with several other countries.

About LawWorks

Supporting and celebrating pro bono

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) is a charity committed to enabling access to justice through free legal advice. We encourage, facilitate, support and celebrate the contribution of pro bono (by solicitors, law schools, law students and others) across England and Wales.

While pro bono is not, and should not become, an alternative to legal aid - it makes an important contribution to accessing legal information, advice and representation. Supported by the Law Society, our members and funders, our work is informed by advice and support needs, developed in collaboration with partners and stakeholders and delivered by a network of committed volunteer lawyers and law students. We enable the provision of pro bono through:

- Supporting a growing network of over 230 independent pro bono clinics. We work with lawyers, 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®Library and Lexis®PSL);
- Our Not-For-Profits Programme facilitates the provision of free legal advice for smaller charities and not-for-profit organisations, supported by volunteer solicitors from among LawWorks members. We also provide free online training videos for charities, covering many of the common legal issues they face;
- We support more in-depth pro bono ('secondary specialisation'), in areas of social welfare law. This includes supporting solicitors to provide representation at First Tier social security tribunals (for Employment and Support Allowance and Personal Independent Payment appeals), piloting an unpaid wages project, and, working with the charity Together for Short Lives, to provide legal advice and case-work for the parents and carers of children with life-limiting conditions.

Supporting litigants in person

LawWorks is a partner organisation for the Litigant in Person Support Strategy, working with Law for Life, the Personal Support Unit, RCJ Advice, the Bar Pro Bono Unit and the Access to Justice Foundation. Funded by the Ministry of Justice, the Strategy works to improve the experience of people involved in legal proceedings who do not have a lawyer.

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 begun to build a ‘policy voice’ for LawWorks and pro bono, including co-ordinating a briefing for the Justice Committee on legal aid and the review of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) (supported by 15 organisations). LawWorks provides the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education.

Student pro bono

The pro bono contribution made by law schools and students is significant and growing. LawWorks encourages and supports student pro bono (for example, 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, held at the House of Commons. Student teams help raise awareness and fundraise through an annual Law School Challenge, to support the work of LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

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 over 150 members, including some of the largest City and international firms, national, regional and local firms, and in-house teams, law schools and charities. We support our members in a number of ways, including information, guidance and advice (for example, in setting up or developing a pro bono project), and facilitating pro bono activity and connections through our Not-For-Profits Programme (including an ‘Honorary Counsel’ role for solicitors as a source of ongoing advice and support for a specific charity).

Members have the opportunity to nominate for our annual awards and have access to our training, online resources, newsletters and networking opportunities (including a quarterly pro bono forum and regional events), and have the opportunity to contribute to our growing policy work.

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 fee depends upon the size of the firm - with other categories for in-house teams and organisations.

For more information about membership of LawWorks and the difference your membership can make, please get in touch with Shani Wilson, Membership and Engagement Officer, at shani.wilson@lawworks.org.uk or on 020 7092 3941, or visit our website at: www.lawworks.org.uk

Other ways to support LawWorks

LawWorks is grateful for the support of trusts and foundations, and the donations and fundraising of individuals and organisations. If you would like to support our work, please contact Kate Buchanan, our Fundraising Consultant, at kate.buchanan@lawworks.org.uk or on 020 7092 3947, or visit our website at www.lawworks.org.uk

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.

www.lawworks.org.uk

Twitter: @Law_Works

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group)
National Pro Bono Centre
48 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1JF

Registered charity number 1064274



**Student
Pro Bono
Awards
2018**