



## PRO BONO CONNECT

Helping barristers and solicitors collaborate on  
pro bono cases

### ANNUAL UPDATE 2024

#### WHAT IS PRO BONO CONNECT?

The only scheme to connect solicitors with barristers to litigate civil pro bono cases. We can also connect lawyers to pro bono expert support.

Supports all types of civil litigation including breach of contract, chancery, family, commercial, human rights and more.

Cases are referred by barristers, which have been taken on through Advocate to match with solicitors on our panel.

Solicitors seeking barrister assistance are matched with barristers on our panel.

Members adhere to the Pro Bono Protocol.

Pro bono costs orders are encouraged to help fund pro bono projects.

## MEMBERS

60 solicitor members, up 20% from 2022.

Includes international, city, regional and smaller firms.

56 barristers' chambers, up 10% from 2022.

Includes regional and specialist sets.

Individual barrister members and in-house solicitor members.

There is no obligation to take on cases.

## CASE REFERRALS

Over 40 cases successfully placed in 2023.

Cases were referred by Advocate, legal advice centres, university clinics, firms and chambers.

Cases were held in the Employment Tribunal, the County Court, Court of Appeal, High Court and Coroners Court.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A working collaboration with LawWorks, Advocate and the National Pro Bono Centre

Now includes Pro Bono Expert Support to match lawyers with experts and others providing pro bono litigation support.

Administration and fair allocation through the UK Pro Bono Portal

Increasing number and range of cases.

Many successful pro bono costs orders.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Requests received, processed and distributed through the UK Pro Bono Portal and by the Executive Officer and Pro Bono Connect volunteers.

Members are given 48 hours to offer to take on a case - most cases placed during this time.

If there are multiple offers, a fair allocation process is used to select solicitors firms, and client preference to select counsel.

If there are no offers, cases are distributed again and then advertised externally by LawWorks or Advocate.

Seamless process for completing matches and getting the collaboration under way.

## **BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME**

For clients – a complete pro bono service.

The opportunity for early settlement, quicker and more favourable outcomes than if proceeding unrepresented.

For lawyers – the chance to work and develop relationships with new firms, chambers and other litigation professionals.

For solicitors – the opportunity to take on discrete pieces of litigation covering a range of practice areas.

For barristers – the ability to take on more cases with a shared workload.

## **FEEDBACK**

There are regular meetings with members and potential members.

All cases are reviewed after 6 months and followed up with lawyers every 3 months thereafter.

Client feedback is obtained and case studies are available on the Pro Bono Connect website.

## TO JOIN OR FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website [probonoconnect.co.uk](http://probonoconnect.co.uk)

Or email [probonoconnect@lawworks.org.uk](mailto:probonoconnect@lawworks.org.uk)

## THANK YOU

We are grateful to Advocate and the National Pro Bono Centre for their assistance in delivering the scheme, and to the organisations who have funded LawWorks to deliver it:

- Access to Justice Foundation
- Eversheds Sutherland (International) Charitable Trust
  - Farrer & Co Charitable Trust
  - Lord Goldsmith KC
- Simmons & Simmons Charitable Foundation
- The Law Society of England and Wales



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](http://www.lawworks.org.uk)

Twitter/X: @Law\_Works

LawWorks, Lincoln House,  
296-302 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7JH

DX 115 London/Chancery Lane

Registered charity number 1064274