



**Pro Bono
Awards
2022**

The LawWorks Pro Bono Awards
Tuesday 6th December 2022

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Welcome to the LawWorks Pro Bono Awards 2022

I am delighted to 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.

We are very grateful to Lubna Shuja the President of The Law Society of England & Wales for joining us this evening to present the awards, and to Sangita Myska for hosting the evening.

We have again 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 shortlisted 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 sponsor, LexisNexis for their continued support, and to the Law Society for hosting the event this evening.

Most of all, my congratulations go to those shortlisted 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, information about the charity and our work, including how to support us, it is included at the end of this programme.



Alastair Douglas
Chair of Trustees

Order of proceedings

Time	Event
6:30pm	Welcome by Sangita Myska
6.35pm	Welcome from Lubna Shuja, President of The Law Society of England and Wales
6.40pm	A word from James Harper, Lexis Nexis
6.45pm	Awards presentations
8:15pm	Drinks and canapés in the Reading Room

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

Host

Sangita Myska  @SangitaMyska

Sangita Myska is an experienced journalist and broadcaster. She presents an afternoon show (1-4pm) every Saturday and Sunday on the network news and current affairs radio station LBC. Sangita is editorial lead on her show which tackles a wide range of political, economic and social issues. She is also presenter of the BBC Radio 4 flagship solutions journalism series 'Positive Thinking'.



Sangita started her work with the BBC on Radio 4, tackling subjects from racism and care workers to feminism and slavery. Through her work, she has helped tell the stories of childless women and uncovered the poor working conditions of domiciliary care workers and the failing social care system.

In 2019 Sangita won Gold at the British Podcast Awards for her reporting on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry podcast for BBC Radio 4. In 2012 she won the international Asian Woman of Achievement in the Media award.

Sangita was born in Tanzania and is of Indian heritage.

Special guest

Lubna Shuja

Lubna Shuja is the first Asian, the first Muslim and only the 7th female to become President of the Law Society of England and Wales, which was established in 1825, almost 200 years ago. The Law Society represents, promotes and supports over 200,000 solicitors.



Lubna is originally from Bradford and qualified as a solicitor 30 years ago in 1992. She is a sole practitioner at Legal Swan Solicitors in Birmingham, a firm she set up in 2007, where she now specialises in litigation, professional discipline and regulation. She has experience in dealing with family law, litigation, personal injury claims, wills/probate and conveyancing. Prior to 2007, she was a Partner in a high street firm in West Yorkshire where she worked for 14 years undertaking litigation and personal injury work.

Lubna is a member of the Law Society Board and a past Chair of the Law Society's Strategic Litigation Group. She was the inaugural Chair of the Law Society's Membership and Communications Committee for 3 years and previously a member of its Membership Board as well as the Finance and Investment Committee. Lubna has been a member of the Law Society Council since 2013 representing the interests of sole practitioners.

Judging Panel

Yasmin Batliwala, Chief Executive, Advocates for International Development

Yasmin Batliwala is the CEO of Advocates for International Development (A4ID), which sources lawyers to provide free legal advice and assistance to support organisations working in the international development sector and whose principle aim is the eradication of poverty by focusing on the 2030 Agenda.

She has held a number of significant leadership positions over the years within the Public and Third Sectors. She has undertaken work for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in this regard. She Chairs WDP, the largest provider of drug and alcohol services in London.

Yasmin was a recipient of the City of London Woman of Achievement Awards in respect to her work in the Public Sector. This year she was recognised in the Queen's New Years' Honours List for her work in Human Rights, Rule of Law and International Development for which she received an MBE.

Suzanna Eames, Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division

Suzanna was Chair of the Law Society's Junior Lawyers Division from November 2021 - 2022. The Junior Lawyers Division represents and supports all solicitors up to 5 years PQE and, as Chair, Suzanna has been vital in ensuring that junior voices are heard within the profession.

In addition to her role as Chair, Suzanna is an Associate at Farrer & Co, specialising in private family law with a particular emphasis on complex financial remedy cases.

Chris Minnoch, Chief Executive, Legal Aid Practitioners Group

Chris is CEO of Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG), the representative body for legal aid lawyers in England and Wales. Chris qualified in New Zealand and then worked within the law centre movement as a youth advocate before moving to the UK in 2001. After a brief stint in the civil service he joined Greenwich Housing Rights, a specialist legal advice and policy charity. Chris has many years of legal practice, management and policy experience in the legal aid and advice sector and as a charity trustee supporting volunteering, student and pro bono initiatives. In 2016 Chris joined LAPG as Operations Director

and became the CEO in 2018. Chris is currently leading LAPG's drive for a fair, accessible and sustainable legal aid scheme. Chris is a member of the Ministry of Justice's Legal Support Advisory Group and the Advice Sector Panel of the Administrative Justice Council.

Lindsey Poole, Director, Advice Services Alliance

Lindsey has been the Director of the Advice Services Alliance since 2013. Her career began in the advice sector working for a frontline housing advice service, and then for FIAC (now AdviceUK) followed by Citizens Advice. After working in the criminal justice as a social researcher, she became a Civil Servant in the Home Office for 6 years, including a secondment to the Cabinet Office. Returning to the voluntary sector, she found her way back to advice via a series of interim roles all with a strong emphasis on access to social justice.

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 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 Reform Programme, Litigant in Person Engagement Group.

The Finalists

Award categories:

- Best Contribution by a Law Firm
- Best Contribution by an In-house Team or In-house Solicitor
- Junior Lawyers Division Pro Bono Award
- Best Contribution by an Individual
- The LawWorks Cymru Award
- Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic
- Best International Pro Bono Award
- Best New Pro Bono Activity
- Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership

Best contribution by a Law Firm

Duncan Lewis Solicitors

“Their dedication, expertise and approach have been completely exceptional ... everyone threatened with removal to Rwanda under this dreadful scheme owes the team a huge debt of gratitude.”

Duncan Lewis’s pro bono public law team has fought the Government’s Rwandan asylum removal plan on various fronts, including a (successful) last minute appeal to the ECHR, as well as acting for individuals facing deportation. The Home Office having conceded Duncan Lewis’s pro bono application to the High Court for an injunction on behalf of Public & Commercial Services Union, Care4Calais and Detention Action, as well as eight individuals facing deportation, the matter then began what turned out to be a tortuous procedural path through the courts, both domestic and international, ending (domestically) with a refusal of the Court of Appeal to appeal its (unhelpful) decision to the UK Supreme Court. This led to Duncan Lewis’s application to the ECHR, resulting in the ECHR’s interim decision preventing deportation within an hour of a scheduled flight. Following the ECHR’s interim decision no removals to Rwanda have taken place to date. Duncan Lewis will represent the applicants at the upcoming final ECHR hearing.

Duncan Lewis’s pro bono work has potential to impact future Government policy in this area: *“They are ... undermining everything that we’re trying to do...”* [Boris Johnson].

Sidley Austin

“Charities can sometimes feel like second-class customers, but with Sidley, we never feel anything but top, front and centre of their priorities. The impact of this on our ability to do our job as a charity, helping people and transforming society, is immeasurable.”

Sidley Austin is the first firm to launch a partnership with Not Beyond Redemption (NBR), a charity providing legal advice to women in prison, having taken on over 30 cases, including Child Arrangements Order hearings.

The firm’s Real Estate team provides ongoing support to the Women’s Inclusive Team (WIT), including concluding a two-year period of negotiations and site inspections regarding a lease. WIT supports black and ethnic minority communities in Tower Hamlets.

Volunteer lawyers also work on other projects, such as LawWorks' Voices for Families project, Asylum Support Appeals, Free Family Representation & Advocacy, as well as providing opportunities for transactional lawyers to advise start-ups with ESG goals, partnering with qLegal at Queen Mary University of London.

Sidley Austin has seen 100% participation rate in its pro bono programme from London trainees for the last eight years. Trainees are invited to apply to the firm's Pro Bono Fellowship Programme, under which newly qualified associates are sponsored to undertake three-month secondments at non-profit organisations of their choice..

Travers Smith

"DARA was incredibly helpful and I was delighted with the outcome of my case. I felt supported, heard and safe with the team members, without whom I would not have been able to have succeeded... I never once had to convince my lawyer to believe me or to understand how much danger I was in."

Travers Smith works to address domestic abuse and human trafficking in a number of ways and in 2021 built the Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA), a multi-firm advocacy alliance with the goal of representing survivors of domestic abuse who are ineligible for legal aid but who cannot afford to pay for private representation.

DARA officially launched in February 2022 and has expanded to nine participating law firms, a large pool of barristers and over 250 volunteer lawyers. In addition, since 2016 Travers Smith have co-run a domestic abuse clinic, advising over 300 clients on domestic abuse, divorce, child arrangement orders and property. Travers Smith also work with the charity Justice & Care to support survivors of human trafficking; and have advised the charity Refuge on policy work regarding the protection of women and girls from online abuse.

Best Contribution by an In-house Team or Solicitor

FCA Pro Bono Group, Financial Conduct Authority

“Setting up this project has not only impacted the clients who will ultimately receive help from FCA lawyers when otherwise they would not, but it also creates a significant positive impact on the FCA lawyers themselves.”

Until this year, there was no mechanism through which the nearly 300 lawyers employed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) could undertake pro bono work. In 2021, a group of FCA employees formed a committee to explore different models and ultimately created an innovative risk-based model and launched the FCA Pro Bono Group in summer 2022.

A high proportion of the 300 lawyers employed by the FCA have already signed up to receive regular updates about pro bono opportunities. Volunteers have participated in LawWorks’ Secondary Specialisation Programme, taken cases through LawWorks’ Not-for-Profits Programme, and expressed interest in volunteering with a legal advice clinic registered on the LawWorks Clinics Network. The new FCA Pro Bono Group has enabled these lawyers to have a direct impact on clients whilst also bolstering job satisfaction and professional development. The ambition is to share this model more widely across the public sector and inspire other public sector bodies to set up their own pro bono schemes.

Omar Madhloom, University of Bristol Law Clinic

“Omar is a constant advocate for pro bono support across the West of England’s legal community. He has been instrumental in harnessing a broad range of targeted pro bono expertise for the region’s voluntary and community sector.”

Omar is an in-house solicitor at the University of Bristol Law Clinic where he provides pro bono housing law advice to tenants and acts for small businesses by providing legal and holistic support in relation to setting up a business entity. Omar supervises aspiring solicitors and barristers at the clinic, seeking to widen participation from under-represented groups. With ten years of experience, having previously worked at Sunderland and De Montfort universities, Omar inspires and transforms students’ attitudes to the importance of pro bono. In 2018 he established a public legal education initiative reaching out to many charities in and around Bristol and in 2019 developed Bristol University’s first Armed Forces Clinic recognising the needs of this overlooked social group. Throughout the pandemic, Omar continued to support clients and supervise

students online, not only providing legal advice here in the UK but also partnering with an HIV clinic in Spain.

As co-Chair of the Bristol Pro Bono Group, his work has resulted in a significant increase in membership.

Regulatory and Compliance Team, Visa Europe Legal

“The Visa team has shown great commitment... and we are working seamlessly together to make sure that our clients get the best representation that they can for their PIP appeals.”

The team at Visa Europe Legal has engaged in a variety of different pro bono activities over the past year. Through the LawWorks Not-for-Profits Programme they have provided legal advice to multiple small charities on issues such as corporate, intellectual property, commercial and employment law and have ongoing relationships with four specific charities in the role as their Honorary Counsel. The help that the team gives enables organisations to save money, find practical solutions to legal challenges and to feel supported.

Visa Europe Legal also works with Morrison & Foerster and the Zacchaeus 2000 Trust to provide support to low-income individuals who need to challenge decisions made by the Department of Work and Pensions at the tribunal in relation to their sickness or disability benefits.

The team have also provided pro bono commercial law training and clinics for small not-for-profit organisations to help them effectively manage their commercial law and data privacy challenges.

Through Benevity, Visa match-funds all pro bono hours undertaken, which provides further resources for the charities they support.

Junior Lawyers Division Pro Bono Award

Georgia Crossman, Reed Smith

“Georgia uses this expertise to provide guidance and strategic advice... adding extra value for our clients and increasing our pro bono capacity.”

Georgia has undertaken a significant amount of valuable pro bono work since joining Reed Smith. She coordinates the London office’s work with Kids in Need of Defense UK, playing a pivotal role in organising and enabling volunteers to work with the organisation. In 2021 alone, Reed Smith had five successful cases, helping 12 clients to achieve fee waivers, leave to remain or British citizenship.

Georgia also leads on the firm’s relationship with charity Face Equality International, an international alliance of charities and support groups trying to tackle discrimination and stigma in relation to facial disfigurements. Georgia’s work has enabled the organisation to advise its clients in a clear way by providing a simplified summary of the rights that people with facial disfigurement have under UK, US, EU and international law. The report exceeded expectations and Georgia continued to support the organisation in the second phase of this project. The research was of such importance Georgia was invited as a speaker at its International Members’ Forum.

James Hutchens, Dechert

“James has shown incredible commitment to the firm’s pro bono practice.”

James has worked on a variety of different matters since joining the firm as a trainee, including providing advice to multiple charities and social enterprises on structure and governance, reviewing documents to screen criminal cases for APPEAL, assisting with an application for exceptional case funding for Bail for Immigration Detainees UK and working on a disability benefits appeal. In a matter advising two siblings on their application for British Citizenship, James went above and beyond, staying in regular touch with the family and ensuring that the application was completed successfully within the deadline.

In 2021 Dechert provided pro bono support to the JUSTICE working group which reviewed the structure and operation of the Windrush Compensation Scheme. James was keen to support this project and carried out significant research into comparable government compensation schemes. Since publication, changes have been made which reflect the recommendations in the report including the way in which compensation for homelessness is provided. James is a reliable and enthusiastic volunteer at the advice clinic at Islington Law

Centre, where advice is given to residents on a wide range of civil law issues, predominantly housing and employment.

Hussein Mithani, Herbert Smith Freehills

“Hussein’s dedication and passion...has been instrumental in ensuring access to justice and positive outcomes for some of the most vulnerable segments of our population.”

Hussein has delivered extensive pro bono support on a variety of projects and individual matters, including advising at Whitechapel Legal Advice Clinic (‘WLAC’) and the national charity Working Families. At WLAC, Hussein takes ultimate responsibility for each matter covered and is an active mentor to the trainee advisors, reviewing their advice and steering them on the best way forward.

Hussein has been a long-standing contributor to the Working Families project and for the past year has been co-lead for this project. He has done an excellent job of coordinating the project and developing and maintaining enthusiasm and commitment from volunteers. Hussein trains and onboards new volunteers, provides support and supervision to existing volunteers, and looks for opportunities to grow the relationship with the charity. The charity has recognised Hussein’s exceptional efforts by repeatedly awarding him ‘Volunteer of the Month’ from the large pool of volunteers across various City law firms. His contributions to Working Families, alongside his other substantial pro bono contributions make him stand out amongst other junior lawyers.

Sophie Naughton, Travers Smith

“Sophie is a superstar and the time and energy she pours into her pro bono work on top of a demanding day job is exceptional.”

Since joining Travers Smith in 2018, Sophie has proactively involved herself in numerous pro bono initiatives with a particular emphasis on supporting women. She has put hundreds of hours of her own time into these initiatives, frequently working late into the night to ensure that her often vulnerable clients receive the best possible support. Her work includes the Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA) which is the largest pro bono response to domestic abuse ever assembled, Project Veritas, Project Gateway and the Legal Advice Centre for Family Law. Sophie believes that justice should be accessible to all, especially those who are vulnerable and in need. She is particularly passionate about providing legal support to survivors of domestic abuse and victims of trauma.

She believes that undertaking pro bono work in this space should be a primary responsibility for all solicitors, and this belief underpins all the work that Sophie does. Sophie understands the importance of using her acquired knowledge to encourage and facilitate other lawyers at Travers Smith to participate in pro bono work.

Jake Savile-Tucker, Herbert Smith Freehills

“Jake is always full of positivity – no case is too big or too small for him...his determination and hard work have led to excellent results for our clients.”

Jake is a long-standing contributor to pro bono, being actively involved in Whitechapel Legal Advice Clinic (‘WLAC’), as well as leading a partnership with the Asylum Support Appeals Project (‘ASAP’) and undertaking advocacy for individuals on matters referred from Advocate.

In his work with WLAC, Jake co-leads a team of 23 advisors, supervising approximately ten matters at any time. Jake has an excellent grasp of the law and has developed impressive secondary specialisation in housing and employment law – the most common legal issues seen at WLAC. He always makes efforts to share knowledge learned on other pro bono cases with his WLAC team.

Jake is also responsible for his firm’s partnership with ASAP and manages all aspects of the project. He is an extremely enthusiastic and able volunteer, taking on extra cases and frequently winning appeals due to his expert and conscientious preparation. Jake explores all possible options for clients and never loses sight of the person amongst the legal issues.

Bethany Wise, Sidley Austin

“Since joining the firm as a trainee, Bethany has shown dedication and commitment to serving vulnerable individuals and communities through the provision of pro bono legal advice.”

Bethany has worked on several pro bono projects including a complex case with the LawWorks Voices for Families project which supports families of children with life-limiting conditions. In one case, Bethany’s client had been refused an assessment by social services for her daughter with cerebral palsy, even though as a result of her conditions, the child had to be held at all times, including while the parent slept. Thanks to Bethany’s work, the client was assessed and confirmed as eligible for life-changing support and received a care package that exceeded the local authority’s stated maximum number of hours per week.

Bethany has also provided significant support in several other matters, including

a modern slavery case and COVID-19-related matters for the Life Sciences team. Through the firm's Not Beyond Redemption project, Bethany has been representing a mother in prison who is seeking a gradual reintroduction of contact between herself and her two youngest children with a hope, eventually, to meet them face-to-face again.

Best Contribution by an Individual

Simon Bruce, Dads House

"Dads House feels like they are family members and Simon's level of professionalism was outstanding. He gives his whole heart and energy helping and always puts others first... Without Simon I don't know where I would be."

Simon is the legal driving force for Dads House. A key element of his dedication is that he had to go outside his usual practice area and re-specialise in child law cases (including those involving abduction) specifically to ensure the success of the clinic. Simon does not limit his assistance to the clinic hours, and it is common for him to work throughout the week on more demanding cases. He has been known to work exceptionally long hours on complex matters or to travel to represent clients in court and mediations. It is not only his legal expertise that has ensured the success of Dads House; his conscientious approach ensures that the goodwill shown to Dads House by Coram Chambers' barristers is pivotal to their professional partnership. Applying his years of expertise, clients are confident in his tailored advice and are welcomed into the Dads House community. Simon is a true mentor, who embodies the warmth of the Dads House spirit.

Naga Kandiah, MTC Solicitors

"Naga's contributions in the areas of access to justice, pro bono representation and highlighting the urgent legal needs of the Jamaican community have been beyond valuable; they have changed lives and protected families."

An example of the impact of Naga's work is with the Jamaica50 charter flights. Naga represented two Jamaican clients who were due to be removed from the UK and had been let down by previous solicitors with no one else able or willing to take them on at the last minute. Naga managed to obtain an injunction to stop their removal and successfully secured their release on bail. As a result of his continued efforts in assisting the Jamaican community, the Jamaican High Commissioner formally recognised and appreciated his contributions.

Naga successfully represented a client in an immigration case who was trafficked to the UK at the age of three. She lived in limbo, suffered sexual abuse over the years and at the age of 13 was raped by more than ten men. In another immigration case, Naga successfully represented a client with reduced mental capacity who was raped and contracted HIV by the rapist. Naga also arranged access to social housing and other support for the client.

Hannah Martin, Ashurst

“Hannah is one of Ashurst’s pro bono stars. Hannah has a strong interest in pro bono work protecting the rights of girls and women, particularly work to end female genital mutilation (FGM).”

Hannah led Ashurst’s work in reviewing the laws regulating FGM across Europe in collaboration with the charity 28 Too Many (now part of the Orchid Project), with whom she developed an evaluative framework and research methodology. She then coordinated a team of 53 lawyers from nine Ashurst offices to carry out research on the laws and trends in each jurisdiction of the countries reviewed and prepared an analysis for 28 Too Many.

Hannah also has worked to protect the rights of children and has been involved in Ashurst’s work with Kids in Need of Defense UK, working with the Migrants and Children Legal Unit at Islington Law Centre. She successfully acted for a child client and their parent on an application for both to have leave to remain based on the child’s long residence in the UK and family and private life, and on an application for the child to have British citizenship by discretion of the Home Secretary. The child can now begin their adult life as legally British.

Jenny McGrandle, Dechert

“In the context of the global pandemic, a heavy caseload and the challenges of home-schooling, Jenny led the ELA pro bono committee in their attempts to support litigants in person once face-to-face advice was no longer an option. They took the decision to transition the ELIPS clinic to delivery virtually and to expand its geographic reach.”

Enabling the Employment Tribunal’s Litigant in Person Support Scheme (ELIPS) to move online both preserved and improved the provision of free legal advice to those users of the employment tribunal system who do not have the resources to pay for legal advice. The move to the provision of an online clinic, as a new and innovative response to the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, enabled ELIPS to expand in scope and coverage as well as become

more effective for clinic users and volunteers alike.

Jenny's leadership of this project, her commitment and work to its delivery and success, and the work she and her colleagues have done to publicise ELIPS, both amongst potential volunteer advisers in the employment law committee and potential clinic users through her engagement with the employment tribunal system, has been pivotal to the maintenance of the project and its continued success and expansion.

Dr Zoe Picton-Howell, The Adam Bojelian Foundation

"The project led by Zoe compliments NHS England Improvement's Interim People Plan which sets out a vision and ambitions for addressing NHS workforce challenges..."

Zoe established and runs the Adam Bojelian Foundation CIC which provides training and education to health and social care professionals and others in healthcare law and ethics. Zoe draws on her own experience following the death of her son Adam in 2015 and all her time is provided on a pro bono basis.

Zoe creates free downloadable and web-based resources covering key aspects of health and social care law, and resources related to mental health, disability, regulation and more. Zoe works directly with NHS trusts to create bespoke education programs, e.g., Project Hope, working with a large mental health trust. The aim is to empower professionals by addressing their fears around law and regulation, thereby improving wellbeing and patient outcomes. She also provides a quarterly ethics update and hosts a free legal advice clinic to provide preliminary advice on legal and ethical issues.

Finally, Zoe hosts activities for health professionals including an online safe space, to improve their wellbeing. This, along with the resources and other support, leads to better care and outcomes for staff, patients and families.

Eleanor Ruiz, Reed Smith

"The impact of the work carried out by the Reed Smith team cannot be underestimated and is a key resource in upholding principles of international justice and human rights for individuals who are often forgotten."

Ellie was the lead associate in the representation of Channel Rescue by Reed Smith in a challenge to the government's pushback policy for migrants crossing the channel. She coordinated a team of 15 lawyers as well as external experts and barristers who worked over the Christmas period in 2021 to finalise the challenge. Ellie was at the forefront of the work and the witness statements

and applications for disclosure of policy documents that she drafted were highly influential. The team which was ultimately successful – the home secretary abandoned the policy a week before the judicial review hearing – and the impact was significant for migrants and asylum seekers as well as the reputation of the UK.

Additionally, Ellie is one of the project leaders on the partnership with Amicus supporting death row defendants in the US. She helps to manage a team of over 80 volunteers across multiple offices providing critical assistance on death penalty appeals. The impact is literally lifesaving in some cases.

The LawWorks Cymru Award

The winner will be announced on the night.

Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic

BPP Legal Advice Clinic, BPP University

“To say I’m extremely grateful for all the help you and your team have provided to get me to this point is an understatement. These have been very difficult times, so to have had your guidance and support at various points over the last few months, when I had nowhere else to turn, was invaluable.”

In the academic year 2021-22, BPP Legal Advice Clinic received over 2,300 enquiries, advised 434 clients, represented or acted as a McKenzie Friend for 20 clients, recovered over £36,000 in damages or costs and had a 90% client satisfaction rate. The work involved 435 students and 57 volunteer supervising solicitors/barristers.

The clinic also gave advice to The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network, inmates at HMP ISIS Young Offenders Institute and clients of Latin American Women’s Aid.

The advice is wide-ranging, including domestic abuse, divorce, child arrangements, transfer of tenancies, cohabitation enquiries, and Special Guardianship matters, breach of contract, intellectual property, commercial property, Universal Credit, disability benefits (PIP, DLA and SDP) entitlement, service charges and Section 20 consultations, eviction and advice on homelessness and allocations.

The Online Legal Clinic, Brixton Advice Centre

“I thought because it was free it wouldn’t be very good. How wrong I was. Thank you for your professional and attentive service. It was a very bleak time for me and my family. We feel we can move on now. You should be receiving more praise for what you do.”

The Online Legal Clinic, a LawWorks-supported pro bono service, is provided by Brixton Advice Centre. The service is a pro bono legal advice clinic re-imagined for the 21st Century. From a London suffering under a global pandemic to dealing with the fallout of the cost-of-living crisis, the clinic has become a dynamic and fully online service providing legal advice, making the best use of available technologies, and enabling dedicated solicitors and barristers to volunteer time to improve access to justice.

As well as self-referrals, the clinic receives referrals from a number of different organisations including other advice agencies, medical professionals, local

councils, ACAS, Shelter, the Metropolitan Police and local MPs. Lawyers respond to clients in writing, by telephone or video call. During the last financial year, the Online Legal Clinic supported close to 500 clients.

Dads House Legal Advice Clinic

“During this extraordinary case, Dads House helped the client prepare her submissions, prepare the evidence, and review the father’s evidence. Due to the hard work of the Dads House team, Mr Justice Williams found that the father had caused the poisoning on the balance of probabilities.”

The Dads House Legal Advice Clinic, which provides family law advice to individuals unable to pay for legal support, has recently been involved in two high profile cases that show the breadth of what the clinic does and its commitment to pro bono. Furthermore, it adds weight to the evidence of the broken legal aid system and the current cost of living crisis which forces families to face the impossible task of representing themselves. The court found that the father had attempted to kill both the mother and the grandmother and had succeeded in killing the grandfather by poisoning. This case’s progression from the High Court to the Court Appeal was also significant, as it added to considerable precedents supporting the ‘importance of oral evidence’ in fact finding hearings. The mother succeeded in limiting the father’s contact with the children, as well as, very unusually, removing parental responsibility from him.

Hertfordshire Law Clinic, Hertfordshire Law School

“Without fail, the students step up to all that I ask of them - be that interviewing a client, getting papers from an opponent, liaison with the usher or just simply keeping an eye on the waiting room, so that we can be sure that everyone who needs help, gets it.”

Hertfordshire Law Clinic provides free one-off legal advice to individuals in Hertfordshire and beyond, in family, employment, housing, property and consumer law. The clinic also provides Intellectual Property and commercial advice to start-ups and SMEs; has a specialist LGBT+ Law Clinic; helped relaunch a Shelter Court Runner Scheme; participates in the Stevenage Welfare Benefits Appeals Project; and in 2021, established the Young Asylum Seekers Legal Advice Clinic.

The clinic became more accessible with the launch of Hertfordshire Community Mobile Advice Clinic, going to village halls in rural communities, as well as local job centres, food banks, and a community café.

The clinic addresses unmet legal need in the community whilst giving law students valuable hands-on work experience. In response to access concerns, the clinic has been embedded into the curriculum giving all students the opportunity to take part.

King's Legal Clinic, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London

"The whole King's Legal Clinic experience was absolutely invaluable to us. It alleviated a huge amount of pressure, both mentally and financially. Being able to talk to someone personally about our situation made it feel more human and much less daunting – we had no other alternative. We will be forever grateful."

King's Legal Clinic (KLC) has developed an extensive pro bono portfolio, consisting of six in-house legal advice clinics ('LAC'), several collaborative community projects and research projects. Advice is offered in partnership with specialist law firms to ensure a high-quality service.

KLC provides an expansive hybrid service to clients which empowers vulnerable and disenfranchised groups to make informed decisions. The advice service, which is supported by an average of 186 students per year, caters to more than 350 enquiries a year, responding and providing advice and representation to 80 clients on average each year. In feedback to the LAC service, 100% of clients have called the students well-informed, felt that the law and procedures were well-explained and said the advice was delivered with speed, was helpful and that the service was good. The word 'invaluable' has been shared by clients and partners alike.

Legal Advice Centre, Liverpool John Moores University

"Liverpool John Moore University (LJMU) Legal Advice Centre (LAC)... is one of the only street-front city centre university law clinics accessible to members of the public five days a week. This is a significant contribution to one of the most deprived communities in the UK."

Last year, the LAC provided £0.6M worth of free advice and representation. Currently, in 2022-23, 520 students are conducting casework or ongoing court representation in civil, commercial, criminal, employment, environmental, family, housing, and human rights law matters involving over 40 solicitors from law firms and in-house practices across the Liverpool City Region.

LAC is unique because in just three years it has become one of the largest law clinics in Europe, in terms of the number of participating students and amount

of client-facing work undertaken and is one of the only fully curricular law clinics in the UK available to students at all levels.

The LAC also seeks to build confidence in students with disabilities, who are underrepresented in the legal profession. LAC's current curriculum and client-facing processes support neurodiverse and dyslexic students and students with a physical disability. They also supported employment rights advice at two key events in 2021 and 2022 which aimed at enhancing the employability of disabled students.

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



Three 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 winner will be announced on the night.

Best New Pro Bono Activity

Bail for Immigration Detainees & Allen & Overy

“Terrified, bereaved and marginalised; the clients represented through [BID’s] collaboration with A&O re some of the most vulnerable people in the UK today.”

Allen & Overy, in partnership with Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID), launched a project in July 2022 to assist with the submission of bail applications for asylum seekers who are currently in immigration detention. It specifically targets those who have been issued a ‘notice of intent’ upon arrival by small boat and are therefore at risk of removal from the UK under the Government’s Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda. Volunteers help to prepare the bail application form, draft the grounds for and proposed conditions of bail and prepare evidence bundles. Every asylum seeker that the project has helped has been successfully granted bail.

One individual had been in detention for over three months and had reported a history of torture including physical abuse and electrocution. He also had severe mental health issues and, despite medical reports expressing the damage that prolonged detention would do, the client had not been granted bail. Volunteer lawyers were successful in securing his release from detention into Home Office accommodation.

Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA), Travers Smith, Reed Smith, Hogan Lovells, Latham & Watkins, Slaughter & May, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Debevoise & Plimpton

“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.”

For many survivors of domestic abuse, legal protection is beyond reach. To meet this need, in 2021, a multi-firm advocacy alliance was launched to represent survivors of domestic abuse who are ineligible for legal aid and who cannot afford to pay for private representation: the Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA). DARA has created a bespoke case management system which permits the Board to oversee the total client base across all firms. The DARA firms have monthly operational committee meetings where they share knowledge and resolve issues. Real time analysis of challenges faced by survivors is captured through feedback forms and fed into DARA’s processes and broader policy work to improve survivors’ experience and outcomes.

DARA provides support to an entire cross-section of society who are unable

to access legal aid and cannot afford to pay privately for legal representation. Without DARA, this group of particularly vulnerable people would be left to navigate a complex legal system and unpredictable family court procedures without any support.

Family Law Service, NLS Legal

“With support and representation at the final hearing, she said she felt less bullied and intimidated by her ex-partner and she had the confidence to attend court and see the proceedings through.”

Nottingham Law School launched the Family Law Service (“FLS”) on 1 September 2021 for two key reasons: there was a clear unmet need in the area of family law and a large number of law students expressed an interest to volunteer in cases involving family law matters.

FLS offers three levels of service to clients: one-off advice; carrying out further work by drafting court applications, witness statements and facilitating negotiations; and providing representation at court hearings. In the past 13 months, the service has supported 27 clients, achieving transformative impact. The service has secured approximately £85,000 in financial settlements and in five cases was able to settle the proceedings to avoid clients having to go through the ordeal of a contested hearing. Three of the cases ended up in final hearings, with successful outcomes achieved in all of them, which the clients would have been unlikely to achieve without the service. FLS has also had an extremely positive impact on the learning experience for students.

Growth Impact Fund: Big Issue Invest, UnLtd, Dechert and Kirkland & Ellis International

“The Growth Impact Fund has a unique approach to making social investment work better for social businesses.”

Dechert LLP and Kirkland & Ellis International LLP provided pro bono advice to UnLtd and Big Issue Invest respectively on the creation of a new potential £25 million social investment fund designed to level the social investment playing field.

The Growth Impact Fund has been designed to support social enterprise founders from underrepresented backgrounds and will ringfence a minimum of 50% of its fund for investment in them. Social entrepreneurs are represented across the fund’s Advisory Board and Investment Committee, bringing their lived experience and expertise to making decisions for their peers.

Since August 2021, teams from both law firms' corporate finance, investment funds and financial services departments have provided advice on all aspects of the joint venture on the structure and establishment of the Growth Impact Fund. This was a substantial and complex matter, which required significant partner engagement. The firms will offer continued support as ongoing fund counsel and as it invests in the social enterprises. One social enterprise already helped is Hey Girls which, through its "buy one, give one" model has donated 25 million period products to people in need.

Letter Completion Clinic, Access Social Care & Baker McKenzie

"There is a national shortage of community care lawyers and an increased demand for their expertise. The clinic has a light touch solution and a success rate of 85%."

Developed with the help of volunteers from Baker McKenzie, the Letter Completion Clinic set up by Access Social Care offers one-off support to individuals, referred from its London Hub, to draft formal letters with the aim of getting their social care issue resolved. Individuals receive help through an online legal chatbot, designed to take the user through a set of questions and identify a template letter that can then be personalised. Through the clinic, those in need of additional support to access and complete the templated letters available on the chatbot, have access to volunteers.

The clinic's aim is to support community groups and organisations (with a focus on BAME) that are the least likely to know their rights in relation to community care law. To date, all the letter completion matters have involved a failure or delay in carrying out social care needs assessments by a local authority. The work that volunteers are completing provides the intelligence needed to develop a wider strategy on how to tackle a systemic issue in the Hub area.

Ukraine Advice Project

"I have a great deal of respect and affection for what UAP has managed to achieve - in terms of supporting Ukrainians who needed urgent help to escape the Russian invasion, but also in building capacity for, and with, the third sector."

The Ukraine Advice Project was founded to provide urgent, free and professional legal advice and information about UK resettlement options to people displaced and at risk due to the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine. For a number of weeks, it was one of very few sources of information and

immigration support available after the start of the war. The project evolved and developed rapidly in response to both the introduction of, and subsequent changes to, the various visa schemes, to ensure volunteers provide information and advice that is accurate and up to date.

It soon became clear that people fleeing Ukraine needed guidance and support in areas such as housing, education, access to benefits and medical care following their arrival in the UK. To address this need, the lawyers worked hard to create bespoke resources on these key topics, including translating them into Ukrainian.

Windrush Legal Initiative: Latham & Watkins, Charles Russell Speechlys, Linklaters, Dechert, Debevoise & Plimpton, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Taylor Wessing, White & Case and the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

"[The] volunteer lawyers [involved]... have gone above and beyond... utilising their resources to achieve life-changing results for... clients."

In 2017, it emerged that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens had been wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights. Numerous individuals were falsely deemed 'illegal immigrants' and lost access to housing, healthcare, bank accounts and driving licenses. Many were placed in detention centres, prevented from travelling and threatened with forcible removal. The Government scheme set up to compensate individuals who suffered is complex and legal aid is unavailable.

In 2020, eight law firms established a working group and conducted research; identifying that legal assistance was needed. In 2021, the Windrush Legal Initiative was formed, transferring to the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit in 2022. So far, 110 lawyers have worked together to obtain compensation for Windrush survivors. The Initiative helps survivors apply for compensation; this includes evidence gathering, drafting witness statements and working with family members. It engages with experts to provide medico-legal reports and with Ernst & Young UK to prepare forensic accounting reports. The Initiative also works to raise awareness of the scheme, remove barriers and engages in policy reform to identify failures and improve the process at a systemic level.

Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership

Afghan Pro Bono Initiative: Safe Passage International, Refugee Legal Support, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, Allen & Overy, Ashurst, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Clyde & Co, Debevoise & Plimpton, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Eversheds Sutherland, Hogan Lovells, Mayer Brown, Orrick, Reed Smith, Ropes & Gray and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

“The impact of the Afghan Pro Bono Initiative project will be long lasting and life-changing to the people we work with.”

In March 2022, following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Refugee Legal Support, Safe Passage International and 14 leading law firms launched the Afghan Pro Bono Initiative. Up to 150,000 people applied for evacuation following the Taliban takeover, but less than 5% received any legal assistance. APBI was formed to offer much needed pro bono representation to Afghan refugees seeking legal advice and support. The ability to be able to access the right advice at the right time can be a matter of life and death for Afghans urgently seeking safe routes to sanctuary.

APBI helps refugees apply to be reunited with their family in the UK and access the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme, as well as providing information on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement scheme. Through extensive community outreach including community events, online sessions and monthly newsletters, the APBI is able to connect with affected communities and disseminate legal and practical information in their preferred language. Since March, the APBI has successfully resettled seven Afghans in the UK, as well as providing vital advice and support to around 250 Afghans nationals.

Dads House Legal Clinic, Dads House and Coram Chambers

"I really hope you know just what an amazing job you all do and just how much of a life changing difference you have made to not only me and my family, but so many more. I can't find the words as they just don't seem enough, to let you know how much I appreciate everything you have done for me and the children, and I would love to help out in the future in any way I can."

Dads House law clinic and Coram Chambers' innovative partnership addresses the lack of legal aid and the increase in litigants in person in family proceedings. It has continued to develop over the last year, to the extent that it now offers formidable help to clients in London and elsewhere. Due to this innovative relationship, 20% of Dads House clients have had pro bono representation in courts.

However, this is not the limit of the partnership, as Coram Chambers consistently offers regular contact with their barristers beyond court hearings, including conferences with counsel between court dates. Dads House and Coram Chambers' partnership has dramatically changed the lives for many in the local community and for those who cannot access quality representation.

Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA): Travers Smith, Reed Smith, Hogan Lovells, Latham & Watkins, Slaughter & May, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and Debevoise & Plimpton

"I didn't just feel like I had support from a team of professional lawyers, but from caring confidantes too. Thank you for making me and my family feel safe"

In 2021, a multi-firm advocacy alliance was launched to represent survivors of domestic abuse who are ineligible for legal aid and who cannot afford to pay for private representation: the Domestic Abuse Response Alliance (DARA). DARA is unique. It comprises a special combination of expertise to deliver social justice: legal prowess and manpower from seven of the world's top law firms, governance from LawWorks, clients from the National Centre for Domestic Violence and specialist family law oversight on every case from specialist firm Beck Fitzgerald.

The result is the largest pro bono project ever assembled to provide end-to-end representation and, crucially, advocacy for survivors seeking protective orders against their abusers. Since February 2022, DARA has supported over 40 clients seeking legal protection against their abusers. DARA lawyers have

appeared as advocates across the London Family courts and even in Wales, each time leading to a life-changing outcome for the client.

Not Beyond Redemption and Sidley Austin

“They have helped me in a way I could never have done on my own, due to finances and the professionalism they provided me.”

Not Beyond Redemption (NBR) was founded by Camilla Baldwin, a leading UK family lawyer. Sidley Austin’s partnership with NBR began in 2021 to provide mothers in prison with pro bono family law advice and representation to help them gain access to their children. 66% of women prisoners are mothers of children under 18. Often their incarceration leads them to lose access to their children.

Following extensive training, Sidley Austin’s team of 50 pro bono lawyers undertake full scope casework, advising on family law proceedings both during and after prison sentences. Each case can involve meeting the clients in prison, informing them of their legal rights, drafting correspondence to third parties, filing applications for Child Arrangement Orders and providing representation in family courts.

NBR is the only charity that provides legal advice to mothers in prison, who are some of the most vulnerable individuals in society. Working closely with the Prison Advice & Care Trust further ensures holistic support is available as needed.

Rainbow Migration & Arona St James Solicitors, Bates Wells, Bindmans, Bishop and Sewell, Doyle Clayton, Henry Hyams, Islington Law Centre, Penningtons Manches Cooper, Wesley Gryk Solicitors, and Wilson Solicitors

“The [Rainbow Migration pro-bono solicitors] provided much needed guidance and care to me when I needed it and to hundreds of other couples who thought their lives were going to be torn apart.”

Rainbow Migration has been in existence in different forms for almost 30 years. It started back in 1993 when a group of immigration lawyers met at the offices of Stonewall to discuss what they could do to help lesbian and gay couples who needed immigration advice so that the foreign partner of the couple could enter or remain in the UK. At that time, the law did not recognise lesbian or gay relationships and many couples faced very difficult situations. Rainbow Migration has partnered with lawyers and law firms to provide free immigration

advice through monthly advice sessions serviced by pro-bono lawyers from several law firms where they meet with couples affected by the discriminatory immigration laws, answer questions, and give one to one free advice. Thousands of people have been helped and the impact of these monthly meetings has been life-changing for those they have advised. The scheme has been crucial to changing the law positively over the years.

Shelter Court Runner Scheme, Hertfordshire Law School

“The court runner scheme is an inherently collaborative project, where our students take centre stage. The benefit is universal – to the students, to the duty solicitor, to the ushers, to the judge but importantly, to our clients.”

Hertfordshire Law School collaborated with the national homelessness charity Shelter to initiate the Court Desk Volunteer Scheme in October 2019. Shelter estimates that 50% of the 11 million private renters in the UK have no savings and, as the cost of living bites, the court are facing a barrage of cases involving people with high arrears, benefit and debt problems. Every time there is a court possession list at Watford or Hertford County courts, two student volunteers attend to support Ruth Camp, Shelter’s solicitor, as she advises and represents vulnerable defendants facing homelessness and possession orders. Students have helped to support 281 acts of assistance over an 11 month period and contribute to the smooth and efficient running of the court day.

The project has evolved as a partnership of mutual help and support. Publicity about the scheme has spread, with many law clinics reaching out to see how the scheme could be replicated which is hugely impactful as more people may be supported with help so desperately needed.

Toynbee Hall’s Free Legal Advice Centre and Allen & Overy

“FLAC is one of the oldest running pro bono services in the world. Over the years it has become a beacon of hope to many. It has consistently provided legal support on a wide range of topics, including housing, employment and immigration.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the partnership between Toynbee Hall’s Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) and Allen & Overy (A&O). As a result of both volunteer time and funding, FLAC has been able to support some of London’s most disadvantaged people through precarious legal issues, most recently due to the cost-of-living crisis. It currently offers remote sessions three evenings a week and two Saturdays a month.

Initially A&O volunteers provided consumer law advice, which evolved into

housing law advice as a result of London's housing crisis. More recently, volunteers have focussed on supporting vulnerable women on issues such as domestic violence, family breakdown and eviction, through a trauma-informed delivery model.

FLAC and A&O also work with other partners to create accessible, targeted and shareable public legal education resources in both written and video format which have been accessed over 2,500 times in the past year.

About Advocates for International Development (A4ID)

A4ID is the leading international charity that believes the law can, and should, be used more effectively to advance fair and sustainable development. A4ID aims to inspire and enable lawyers to join the global fight to eradicate poverty through advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A4ID wants to see the law used to its full potential to achieve the SDGs. With access to over 50,000 lawyers and more than 900 development organisations in its network, A4ID has facilitated projects with far reaching impact in over 130 countries.

A4ID works with leading global law firms to align their pro bono practice with the SDGs. Through practical training courses, pro bono broker services and contributions to global policy, A4ID ensures that lawyers and development organisations have the skills and knowledge to use the law as an effective development tool. Supported by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, A4ID has also collaborated with UK government, judiciary and lawyers to strengthen the rule of law in developing countries.

SDG Legal Initiative

With less than a decade remaining to achieve the SDGs, the legal community has a crucial role in realising these SDGs. By adopting responsible business practices that align with the SDG agenda and by providing SDG integrated advice to clients, lawyers can take concrete steps to achieve the SDGs. The work to realise SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) that focuses on promoting the Rule of Law, addressing corruption, participation in global governance, and developing transparent institutions, squarely rests on the competence of the legal community. A4ID is committed to support the legal community in adopting the SDG Agenda. As part of its SDG Legal Initiative, A4ID is publishing a Legal Guide, comprising 17 chapters, that highlight how the law can be applied to promote implementation of the SDGs. Several of these chapters are now available on the A4ID website.

A4ID's work has inspired and enabled lawyers and development organisations to use the law as an effective development tool. A4ID supports its Legal and Development Partners to use their expertise and apply the law to ensure no one is left behind on the path towards sustainable development.

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 www.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.

Here at LawWorks we enable the provision of pro bono through:

- Supporting a growing network of over 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®Library and Lexis®PSL);
- 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;
- 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 All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education. We help facilitate the Legal Advice Sector monthly Roundtable with a range of legal and access to justice organisations to address issues, challenges and legal 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 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, law schools and charities.

We support our members in a number of ways, including providing 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.

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).

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 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, at sarah.yates@lawworks.org.uk or visit our website: www.lawworks.org.uk.

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 effects of the pandemic, 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 Carrie Cuno, Head of Fundraising, at carrie.cuno@lawworks.org.uk, or visit our website: www.lawworks.org.uk.

Our special thanks to:

James Harper and LexisNexis UK for their continued support sponsoring these awards; the Law Society of England and Wales for their sponsorship and hosting the event; the staff of A4ID; Sangita Myska for hosting the ceremony; our judges - Yasmin Batliwala, Suzanna Eames, Chris Minnoch, Lindsey Poole, Paul Rogerson and Rebecca Wilkie for generously giving their time, guidance and support; Kate Buchanan & all the staff of LawWorks who helped putting this programme together.

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

See you in 2023.

LawWorks

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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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