



**Student  
Pro Bono  
Awards  
2025**



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## **The LawWorks and Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards**

**Wednesday 23rd April 2025, 3:30-5:00**

**Cholmondeley Room and Terrace  
House of Lords**





## Welcome from the Attorney General

Pro Bono work makes a lasting impact on both the community and those that undertake it. It provides students with a unique opportunity to engage directly with clients from diverse backgrounds, fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those in need of legal support.

With an ever-increasing demand in the need for support, the LawWorks Clinic Report shows that over half of clinics available are attached to a university law school. The learning opportunities through pro bono enhances a student's legal knowledge and embeds their academic learning.

I am a passionate believer in the rule of law as a fundamental value that binds our society together, increasing trust and promoting security and prosperity for all citizens and communities. The rule of law is the cornerstone of our democracy. It facilitates the Government's delivery of key missions by providing a stable framework for economic growth, safer streets and opportunity for all. Pro Bono work is essential in upholding the rule of law, promoting access to justice and reinforcing the vital principle that all individuals deserve equal protection under the law.

It is why recognising the remarkable contributions of students, who, through their dedication, passion, and commitment to social justice, have made a significant impact on their communities. Pro bono work shows what an incredible difference future leaders of the legal profession can make in the lives of ordinary people.

To the students being honoured for an award, I applaud your hard work, perseverance and sense of responsibility. The work you have done so far in the community exemplifies the very best of the legal profession – you are ambassadors for the rule of law

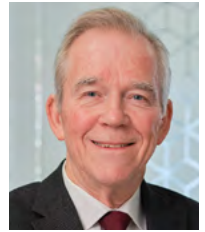
I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the panel of judges who have given their expertise, time and thoughtful consideration to the applications and achievements and it is truly appreciated. I would also like to thank LexisNexis for sponsoring this event, the team for putting this event together and entrants for their contributions.



Lord Hermer KC,  
Attorney General

## Welcome from LawWorks Chair of Trustees

I am very pleased to welcome this year's shortlisted nominees to the House of Lords for the annual LawWorks and Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards. We are grateful for the continued support of the Attorney General and his office for the awards and today's celebration.



The Awards play a central role in LawWorks' involvement with students and offer a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the innovation, commitment and dedication of law students and law schools.

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 gratifying to see that student pro bono is now embedded and growing at so many UK universities. Today, we come together to recognise this commitment and hard work.

On behalf of LawWorks, I would like to pay tribute to all the students nominated, to the teachers and lawyers working within the law schools and to local solicitors, barristers, legal executives and others who support them. For me, it is one of the most inspiring aspects of our work and gives us great hope for the future.

Each year a large number of innovative and diverse projects are nominated across the award categories, this year is no different. The award categories this year are: 'Best New Student Pro Bono Activity'; 'Best contribution by an Individual Student'; 'Best contribution by a Law School' and 'Best contribution by a Team of Students', and our winners are chosen by an independent panel of judges.

We also welcome the winners of the Law School Challenge to the Award ceremony. Their imaginative efforts in raising money for LawWorks and our sister charity, Advocate, is much appreciated.

Congratulations to all the nominees; 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Alasdair Douglas'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Alasdair Douglas, Chair of Trustees

# The Awards

- Law School Challenge
- Best New Pro Bono Activity
- Best Contribution by an Individual
- Best Contribution by a Law School
- Best Contribution by a Team of Students





## **LawWorks and Advocate Law School Challenge 2024/25**

LawWorks and Advocate would like to congratulate and thank the nineteen teams who participated and raised funds in the Law School Challenge 2024/25. Their amazing hard work and dedication to our charities is greatly appreciated, collectively they raised more than £18,200!

LawWorks and Advocate would like to congratulate the De Montford University team for winning the 2024/25 Law School Challenge. The teams from Birmingham City University and the Swansea University are recognised as this year's runners up, placing second and third.

The other participants in the Law School Challenge were Anglia Ruskin University; City, St George's University of London; Durham University; Hertfordshire Law School; London School of Economics; Nottingham Law School; University of Birmingham; University of Huddersfield; University of Manchester; University of Sheffield; University of South Wales; University of Surrey; University of Westminster; University of York; Winchester University; and Worcester University.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the students that participated in the Challenge, for the valuable contribution you have made to LawWorks and Advocate.

## Best New Pro Bono Activity

### **Bangor University Legal Advice Clinic, Bangor University**

*"The legal advice clinic is an excellent addition to Bangor University's already rich law provision. It provides our students with invaluable real world experience.... while also offering meaningful support to the local community."*

Bangor University Legal Advice Clinic was launched in October 2024 and has already helped over 170 clients. With the nearest alternative being in Chester, this provision was badly needed. Offering a bilingual service in English and Welsh, the clinic covers a wide range of civil matters including family, employment, probate and consumer law; and has developed a provision to support specialist rural issues including 'right of way' and agricultural law. Students provide detailed letters of advice, offering practical solutions to legal concerns.

The students also draft helpful articles and publish blogs online to support litigants navigating their legal issues. The clinic also provides street law presentations on domestic abuse and child arrangements to charities supporting families in North Wales.

Operating from a shared space on Bangor High Street with a community partners ensures accessibility for clients in a location where additional community support is also available. The clinic is extremely well used with a diverse referral base and a 3-week waiting list for appointments.

### **Welcome Immigration Service, The City Law School, City, St George's University of London**

*"The service is humanised. I felt welcome."*

The Welcome Immigration Service was established to address the urgent legal needs at a local hotel housing asylum seekers and migrants by The City Law School's Community Legal Advice Centre.

The pioneering pro bono initiative launched in October 2023, and initially offered student led streetlaw workshops. The interactive legal education sessions were designed to empower migrants and frontline professionals, sharing knowledge and bringing them together to build trust and grow community cohesion. Following the successful launch, in 2024, the service was expanded with the appointment of a specialist solicitor who provides the capacity to supervise nearly 100 student-led client appointments annually.



The service has advised and assisted 73 clients to date, volunteers are often from diverse immigrant backgrounds themselves, and many provide translation in client appointments and a trauma informed approach is practiced.

The students deliver the workshops in the community they serve, at the Help on Your Doorstep office, the Vibest Community Centre and Hillside Club, meeting clients and professionals in their premises.

Feedback of the service has been hugely positive with 100% of clients stating they better understood their rights and recommend us to others.

### **Emma Ritch Law Clinic, University of Glasgow School of Law**

*“The Emma Ritch Law Clinic is a brilliant and groundbreaking initiative which substantially improves the ability of survivors of rape to navigate the criminal justice process. At Rape Crisis Scotland, we hear directly from survivors about the positive difference the clinic has made. By involving students, the Clinic is helping to develop a new generation of lawyers with experience of trauma informed lawyering.”*

The Emma Ritch Law Clinic (ERLC) is a unique and exciting new pro bono legal initiative that seeks to address an unmet legal need in Scotland by providing support to survivors in sexual offences cases. They are the only law school clinic in the UK to provide specialist pro bono legal representation to survivors of sexual violence in a criminal justice context.

Launching in November 2023, in their first year the clinic worked on more than 30 cases. ERLC training in partnership with Rape Crisis Scotland has helped to build capacity to use the law and a rights based approaches, for example in relation to privacy rights and entitlements in the criminal justice process.

Establishing a network of partner organisations providing referrals (17 regional rape crisis centres, Aura Domestic Abuse Service and the Scottish Centre for Women's Rights). The Clinic has improved partnership working within the legal profession and across civil society to better support complainants in sexual violence cases.

## **University of Hertfordshire Parole Clinic, University of Hertfordshire**

*"The parole workshops at HMP The Mount [were] a valuable and eye-opening experience, providing a unique insight into the complexities of the parole process."*

This innovative project, in partnership with law firm Wells Burcombe, provides prisoners at HMP The Mount with interactive training on the parole process. Student volunteers from University of Hertfordshire provide three sessions in which prisoners learn in detail about the process, draft statements and engage in mock parole hearings in order to improve their understanding. The project has proven hugely popular, with 40 people already on the waiting list, and 100% of course attendees stating that they would recommend the course to someone else. The project has also been very popular with students who have gained invaluable experience, both through working both with this client group and with a specialist solicitor.

## **Windrush Community Law Clinic, Liverpool John Moores University**

*"Myself and my wife...have been extremely touched by the time and dedication that has been shown in support of our Windrush application"*

The Windrush Community Law Clinic (WCLC) in collaboration with Liverpool Advocates for Windrush launched in July 2024, led by local lawyers Tonika Stephenson and Martyn Rodmell, with Rachel Stalker of Liverpool John Moores University supervising both volunteers and students.

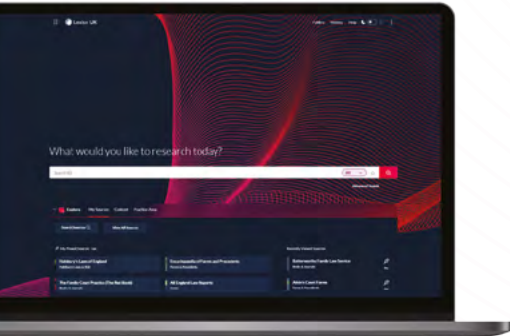
The clinic provides two-fold support to people eligible for the Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS), of which there are suspected to be around 1,200 in the Merseyside area. The first aspect involves casework support to apply to the WCS and/or signposting for other immigration law advice. The second aspect involves the creation of a user-friendly web-app allowing members of the public to check their eligibility for the WCS. Both aspects of the project are supported by 15 students from Liverpool John Moores University.

To date, the project has provided casework support to 32 individuals and has reached the pilot and feedback stage of the app design, as well as promoting the availability of the WCS through events and regular media appearances.

# Hey students! Time to get certified

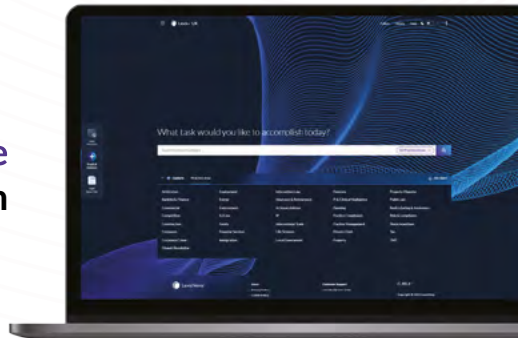
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## Best Contribution by an Individual

### Julius Balchin, BPP University

*"Julius has made outstanding contributions through his pro bono work."*

Julius's dedication to pro bono initiatives has been remarkable, making a significant and lasting impact on both the clients he assists and the broader community. Julius has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the BPP Legal Advice Clinic, where he has provided valuable support in the Housing, Consumer, and Environment clinics. His willingness to take on complex legal matters showcases his eagerness to expand his legal expertise, while also making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable clients.

What sets Julius apart is not only his technical skills, but his empathy and commitment to client care. He has dedicated numerous hours to assisting individuals who do not qualify for legal aid and would otherwise struggle to access legal support. As a committed Streetlaw volunteer, Julius has delivered both online and in-person workshops to a range of clients from primary school children to service users of a charity supporting survivors of domestic abuse and modern slavery. Through his dedication and hard work, Julius has made a meaningful difference across multiple areas of law, demonstrating both legal acumen and a strong commitment to access to justice.

### Mia Beckford-Brown, University of Surrey, School of Law

*"Mia has been instrumental in deepening my understanding of the UK, its legal system, and human rights...Mia's dedication and passion for education not only enhanced my knowledge but also empowered me to navigate my rights with confidence. The sessions were invaluable, leaving a lasting impact on my awareness of the law and its role in everyday life."*

Mia is a dedicated volunteer with the Surrey Access to Justice Clinic, helping to organise and run their Legal Confidence Workshops. This project, in collaboration with Big Leaf Foundation Charities, brings together law students and displaced young people to engage in meaningful discussions on human rights, democracy, and employment rights in the UK.

During her time as a volunteer, Mia has demonstrated exemplary leadership, enthusiasm, tenacity, communication, coordination, and professionalism, leading a team of law student volunteers in educating displaced young people about their rights and available resources.

Inspired by her own challenges accessing the opportunities needed to become a lawyer, Mia has mentored tens of students from all backgrounds on how to tackle commercial law firm applications and provided academic advice. Mia has also volunteered with mental health charity, Oakleaf Enterprise, to fundraise and connect students with the charities support.

### **Susie Brown, University of Dundee**

*“Susie Brown embodies the true spirit of pro bono work... Susie’s contributions have not only benefited her community but have also inspired and empowered her peers to follow in her footsteps.”*

Susie Brown is a 4th-year Scots Law student at the University of Dundee. Her pro bono journey began with a vision to create a platform where law students could contribute to their community while gaining practical legal experience. She co-founded the University of Dundee Pro Bono Society, a student-led society committed to providing free legal assistance to those in need. Under Susie’s leadership, the Society has grown, attracting a diverse group of passionate students who share her commitment to social justice.

One of her most significant contributions has been her ability to inspire and mobilise her peers. She emphasises collaboration and teamwork so that students can make a tangible impact on their community.

Susie has been a vocal advocate for public legal education and has spearheaded campaigns to raise awareness about important legal issues. This included establishing a Street Law Project within the Pro Bono Society where she is both a teacher and coordinator for other students.

### **Eli Goldsobel, The City Law School, City, St George’s University of London**

*“I would like to thank Eli for the dedication he has brought to the CityCLAC team. He has been a role model to all student advisors.”*

Eli advanced to Student Director at CityCLAC, after starting as a Student Advisor in May 2024. Eli quickly set themselves apart with their commitment to going above and beyond; expanding the service’s reach to provide support to a greater number of clients. Eli has played a crucial part in case triage, legal research and supporting solicitors, and is deeply committed to ensuring clients maximise the value of their limited time with volunteer lawyers by conducting thorough research into their cases. Eli’s approach to client triage

is meticulous, leaving no detail overlooked. Their lived experiences drive their passion to help and this is evident when working with clients.

Eli has boosted student participation in pro bono work through proactive recruiting and mentoring fellow student advisors, creating a collaborative atmosphere that inspires students to get involved in legal volunteering. Their genuine approach has significantly improved both the quality and diversity of students applying to join the service. Their skill in combining legal knowledge, research, and advocacy has expanded conversations around legal accessibility, inclusivity, and human rights.

### **Megan McLennan, The Aberdeen Law Project**

*“During Megan’s time in the Project she has helped over 100 school pupils and has engaged worldwide through her social media campaigns. This signifies that Megan’s work does have an impact on the community, and the people she helps is not just limited to Scotland but has an impact internationally.”*

Megan joined the Aberdeen Law Project in 2022 and was involved in the Health and Addiction Awareness Project (“HAAP”) from its inception when it focused solely on drug addiction awareness. Megan then became the Project Lead for HAAP in her third year and, recognising the need for a broader approach, supported the project’s transition to cover a wider range of health and well-being topics which also expanded the project’s focus from schools to the broader community. Megan’s dedication to health and addiction awareness has been instrumental in the success and growth of the project. She has launched five new initiatives including the Addiction Awareness Social Media Campaign raising awareness of less-recognised addictions, Secondary Schools Project aimed at preparing secondary school pupils for university life and a Take 5 Campaign which places physical reminders in high-traffic areas, encouraging students to take breaks and practice self-care during stressful times.

### **Maddy Nicholl, University of Southampton**

*“Maddy’s consummate professionalism, dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to client care make her stand out from someone at her academic level.”*

Maddy, a second-year Law student and current Co-Vice President of University of Southampton Law Clinic’s Student Committee has been

instrumental in developing pro bono initiatives at the university. Maddy played a vital role in encouraging students to join the Clinic when it launched in early 2024 and in the 2024-25 academic year Maddy has helped to recruit 150 students. Most recently, Maddy has supported the Clinic Director in launching two ambitious projects offering a court form filling service and a McKenzie friend service to litigants in person. In addition to providing legal assistance to clients through her work in the Clinic and supervised support on LawWorks' Free Legal Answers website, Maddy also supports a number of other pro bono initiatives in the community. These include supporting Lawyers Against Poverty by preparing documents designed to empower communities and delivering workshops to women's rights charities; being a student member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Pro Bono Committee, volunteering with the Environmental Law Foundation, and supporting local business with their CSR objectives.

### **Chintankumar Parmar, University of Hertfordshire**

*"Chintan is calm, confident and reliable. He has a happy and approachable manner which means he builds rapport with clients and others he works with... He understands how important pro bono work is and shows that he really wants to help those in need."*

Chintan, is a second year LLM student, specialising in International Human rights. Despite studying in a second language, Chintan has found the time to volunteer with various pro bono projects whilst being at UH.

He began with Streetlaw presentations and their research clinic, before becoming a Student Advisor at the law clinic. Passionate about helping society's most vulnerable, he completed extra training to assist in the SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) clinic as well as the Support at Court project aiding litigants in person during Children Act hearings, and the Duty Solicitor Scheme assisting local solicitors to support self-represented individuals in family courts. Recently he joined the Justice Bus initiative, attending pop-up clinics at local food banks to extend legal assistance to those in need.

Through these roles, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to legal outreach and advocacy, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable individuals whilst fostering a supportive learning environment for his peers.

## Best Contribution by a Law School

### **LawIRL at The City Law School, City, St George's University of London**

*'City Law School has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to pro bono, evidenced by the breadth and range of its services, their innovative approach and putting the client front and centre.'*

City Law School's LawIRL consists of six projects focused on addressing community needs in advice deserts, fostered through strong community relationships. The City School Exclusion Service provides vital representation for excluded pupils. Through the Company Insolvency Project, Bar students assist in the representation of beleaguered businesses at the insolvency court. City Community Legal Advice Centre offers a wide range of services including disability benefits, housing, consumer, family and employment rights. The small business clinic advises BME & unemployed people in this area. The most recent developments are the Welcome Immigration Service providing level one immigration advice, and an Innocence Project.

These services were developed in response to conversations with local community leaders and are funded centrally ensuring their longevity. This connects the law school with the community, an area of high social deprivation. The services have supported over 1400 clients in the last 16 months. Feedback from all projects is excellent, demonstrating the impact LawIRL services have on clients' lives.

### **Community Law Clinic, University of Exeter**

*"The fact that your service is available to people like me, who would otherwise be entirely on their own, is absolutely a lifeline. I am utterly grateful for the part you and your team have played in the attempt to keep my children safe."*

The Community Law Clinic (CLC) is a student-led free legal advice clinic providing pro bono legal services to those who would be otherwise unable to access justice owing to barriers, such as financial, health-related or lack of understanding of a complex legal system. The CLC provides support to litigants in person, many who are vulnerable, to help them access justice and navigate their disputes. Since 2017, the clinic has grown from strength to strength. The main areas include employment, housing, property, immigration, consumer and family law. From June 2024 to present, the clinic has received over 730 requests for assistance. Many clients are vulnerable,



with approximately one-third identifying as disabled. The team comprises hardworking individuals making a real difference, each with a passion for pro-bono work and a wealth of experience. The clinic has hosted an Access to Justice Conference and Housing Conference, bringing together local law firms, lawyers, and charities to discuss critical issues in legal services provision.

### **Glasgow Open Justice Centre, University of Glasgow School of Law**

*"I felt like a massive weight has been lifted off me by discussing these issues with someone who is actually listening... it's nice to finally talk to someone about it."*

The mission of Glasgow Open Justice Centre (GO Justice) is to empower communities and individuals to use the law to access justice and achieve social and economic inclusion. Since 2023, GO Justice has significantly expanded their pro bono outreach and currently has 140 students engaged in 14 different projects. Their work includes a programme of Community Legal Education for homeless service users in partnership with the Marie Trust charity. In evaluation feedback, 100% of learners reported feeling more knowledgeable about the law because of the programme. A recently launched Lawyering for Social Change Clinic involves students working under staff supervision to tackle racial injustice. The Emma Ritch Law Clinic, the first of its kind in the UK, provides independent legal advice and representation in sexual violence cases supporting more than 30 individual clients and advocacy workers in relation to often complex issues of criminal evidence and procedure. Students overwhelmingly report the value of their experiential learning through the pro bono activities.

### **Pro Bono Network, Manchester Law School, Manchester Metropolitan University**

*"Having these opportunities has been incredibly rewarding. The team has been super helpful, warm and welcoming, as well as supportive during the training process and during times of difficulty. I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering, and I am now much more confident with my abilities."*

Manchester Law School's Pro Bono Network delivers a wide range of pro bono services to underserved communities with the support of student volunteers and community partners. Each year the network generates around 400 volunteer opportunities for students across 13 different projects. Since launching, students have delivered over 100,000 hours of pro bono legal

services through clinical and public legal education initiatives to more than 38,000 individuals.

The Legal Advocacy Support Project (LASP) was set up in response to welfare rights changes and help clients to navigate complex appeals processes. Launching with a team of 4 students, this successful partnership has grown in scope, last year 28 students participated in the project generating £193k in awards for 69 clients. To date the LASP has recorded benefit gains of over £500k for 216 clients. The network's partnership with Support Through Court has also proved hugely successful, with student volunteers delivering 19,600 volunteer hours to support litigants-in-person.

### **Justice Hub, University of Manchester**

*"Thank you for the letter of advice - it has been impossibly helpful, and I'm eternally grateful. Please send my heartfelt thanks to the students for doing such a fantastic job!"*

The Justice Hub at the University of Manchester incorporating the Legal Advice Centre, Manchester Free Legal Help, Manchester Innocence Project and many other projects, offers free legal advice to members of the public who are most in need. Students can sign up to work on projects either as part of the year 3 Law in Action module, or as volunteers from second or third year. Since September 2023, 289 clients have been assisted by the work of the Justice Hub with the support of 575 students and 27 volunteer lawyers. So far this year, nearly a third of eligible students have supported the project. The students have been working with volunteer lawyers on projects including the provision of immigration and family law advice to marginalised communities, as well as helping the wrongfully convicted and promoting positive change in the justice system. Having received exceptional feedback from clients and volunteer lawyers, the students are making a hugely positive difference to their community through their work with the Justice Hub.

### **Hallam Legal Advice Centre and Justice Hubs, Sheffield Hallam University**

*"SHU students arrive well-prepared and committed. Their involvement has been invaluable, enabling our firm to expand services to vulnerable clients."*

The Hallam Legal Advice Centre handles hundreds of clients matters each academic year, spanning family law, Criminal Injuries Compensation (CICA),

criminal appeals, prisoners' rights, and civil disputes. The service provides crucial assistance to those from underrepresented communities or low-income backgrounds. By establishing the Refugee Rights, Community Justice and Green Hubs, SHU services have evolved to respond to emerging social issues and legal needs. The Refugee Rights Hub has helped over 2,500 family members world-wide with a 98.8% overall satisfaction rating; and the Community Justice Hub, in partnership with a London-based charity, was set up to tackle knife crime prevention and youth engagement, supporting at-risk communities.

Their services extend beyond resolving immediate legal issues; they safeguard basic rights, restore family ties, bolster financial stability, and promote long-term community resilience. With Pro Bono fully embedded into SHU's curriculum, and external partnerships with law firms, NGOs and government bodies, the University ensures every law student gains supervised, real-client experience, shares vital resources and creates robust referral pathways, to enhance the longevity and reliability of SHU's services.

### **The University of Law Pro Bono Team, The University of Law**

*"An excellent service which allows people like me not to be bullied by large companies because of lack of money to get proper legal advice. I found the advice given to be thorough and well researched. Very happy with and grateful for the help I received"*

The University of Law has been delivering invaluable Pro Bono support throughout England via its in-house law clinics and Pro Bono programme for the past 25 years. Its 12 in-house supervising solicitors design and deliver Pro Bono programmes at each of its 18 campuses and support and supervise 14,000 aspirational students wanting to play their part in helping Access to Justice.

The team offer schemes in campus locales tailored to address local legal need, and also collaborate at a national level with the launch of the national pro bono centre to ensure effective pro bono delivery to the public in areas of family law, small business advice and wills trusts and probate matters.

The in-house university team has created collaborations with over 40 firms, lawyers and organisations including Shoosmiths, HMCTS, Freeths, Baker McKenzie, Mischoon De Reya, Schools Consent Project and Citizens Advice, for more tailored and effective Pro Bono advice and support delivery



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## Best Contribution by a Team of Students

### Public Legal Education Student Team, BPP University

*"We can't thank the team enough, all of the volunteers that deliver the sessions are always really approachable and help explain the topics in a way which really simplifies it for attendees."*

The public legal education student team is made up of 55 law students who volunteer their time and skills to provide the public with vital information about their legal rights and / or how to gain entry into the legal profession, via in-person and online workshops. The team deliver free public legal education to a broad range of people including schoolchildren, women's support groups, Employment Tribunal users and service users of mental health charities. The legal topics covered in these sessions are broad, and include crime, employment, family, consumer, intellectual property and housing. In feedback 96% of participants marked the team highly for their professionalism, being knowledgeable about their subject matter and being easy to understand. The team also deliver Law Experience Days which aim to raise awareness and aspirations amongst young people. Here, the team co-deliver day-long legal skills workshops to 16 to 18 year olds, aiming to boost their confidence and help them make informed choices about studying and working in the legal field.

### University of Derby CLAS - Refugee Law Clinic

*"The kindness of the students was noted by refugees attending the clinic, many said they were feeling much better, fears had been allayed, and they felt safer knowing they now had UKVI accounts, could see their status and knew how to find the essential share codes."*

Those carrying biometric residence permits were required to register for an eVisa account by 31st December 2024. For asylum seekers, refugees and victims of human trafficking this was challenging because key material was in English, with seemingly ambiguous questions. Registration required scanning and uploading facial images, and reliance on smart technology that some refugees did not have access to.

The clinic operated drop-in workshops for refugees. In total, 9 students supported 111 clients in setting up their eVisas, showing refugees how to find share codes that they would need in the future to access housing, health and education. Additional eVisa casework, where onboarding problems occurred

is still being worked on. A guide to making the applications was co-written and produced by the students and circulated to all the key agencies across Derbyshire. The clinic has been registered with the IAA at Level 2 Asylum and Protection.

### **LSE European Court of Human Rights Intervention Clinic, LSE Law School**

*"I was really impressed with the students' dedication to the project. The issues were complex and the students worked well together to prepare an excellent brief in record time."*

This pro bono initiative intervenes in European Court of Human Rights cases around digital freedom. In collaboration with the European Information Society Institute (EISI), it identifies cases where expert input can shape the Court's interpretation of human rights law, enabling EISI to intervene in cases it would otherwise lack the resources to address.

LLM students prepare detailed intervention briefs for the Court engaging directly with live cases. This year they focused on *Boyarov v Ukraine*, examining the balance between national security and freedom of expression in the context of state-imposed website blocking.

The clinic has a remarkable track record, with the Strasbourg Court frequently citing its arguments in cases where it has intervened, ensuring that issues of digital freedom are brought to the forefront of legal discourse. Their work highlights the growing importance of safeguarding freedom of expression online, ensuring that the right to access information remains a cornerstone of democratic societies, particularly as governments worldwide increasingly impose broad internet restrictions under the guise of national security.

### **Employment Law Clinic, University of Plymouth**

*"I have received valuable input from the students who have helped me process essential paperwork which can be so baffling to a lay person, and who have kept abreast of the many complex issues in my case."*

The Employment Law Clinic at PLymouth University helps litigants in person with employment issues. The clinic consists of 18 final year students, supervised by an employment law solicitor. They simplify legal jargon and guide clients to resolution, either at final hearing or through an appropriate alternative. Work includes drafting grievances, drafting ET1

forms, taking notes at Preliminary Hearings, drafting witness statements, discussing schedules of loss, rebutting conduct allegations and discussing the significance and appropriateness of settlement offers. The clinic prides itself in showing compassion to those in life-altering situations, ensuring advice is not only accurate and easy to follow, but also empathetic and reflects their emotional needs. The clinic also runs an outreach project advising people with previous convictions on their employment rights and responsibilities. The aim is that former prisoners understand their rights and responsibilities when applying for employment, helping them back into employment to break the cycle between employment, money and crime.

### **Bethan Lloyd and Elli Bainton, Support Through Court Cardiff**

*“Their work is not just about assisting individuals - it is about driving systemic change, making the legal system more accessible for everyone.”*

Elli and Bethan have spearheaded the establishment of a dedicated Welsh-speaking service, ensuring that fluent Welsh speakers can access legal assistance in their preferred language. They have taken a hands-on approach in every aspect of the project - actively promoting the service, recruiting and training Welsh-speaking volunteers, translating key legal documents and outreach materials to ensure accessibility, providing direct client support and attending hearings to take notes and clarify next steps for clients in Welsh. Many Welsh speakers, particularly those in vulnerable situations, face language barriers when navigating the legal system. By proactively embedding Welsh support into legal aid services, Elli and Bethan have set a precedent for how language accessibility can be meaningfully integrated. Offering legal support in Welsh has empowered individuals to engage with legal processes confidently, reducing stress and ensuring they fully understand their rights and options. Elli and Bethan's work is not only supporting individuals but also shaping a more inclusive legal system by advocating for language accessibility in legal aid.

## **School Tasking Student Team, Warwick Law School**

*"They have been the most reliable, hardworking and dedicated team of students that I've worked with in my 13 years in academia. I couldn't be prouder of them or of their impact on the next generation."*

School Tasking is an outreach project, created at Warwick Law School, in which law students introduce school children, aged nine to ten from less advantaged backgrounds to the law through fun and interactive tasks. The project uses the format of the hit Channel 4 television show, Taskmaster, to teach pupils a little bit about law, to build positive connections with university more broadly, and to encourage them to be enthusiastic about their learning.

School Tasking aims to introduce elements of law that are particularly interesting, but that also encourage the advancement of core skills, such as creativity, lateral thinking, reasoning, problem-solving and teamwork.

A twenty-eight strong team of law student volunteers at Warwick Law School, ten of whom are now in their third year of being on the project team, ran the project this year. They lead fortnightly sessions across a two-month period at six participating primary schools.







# Thank you to our Judges

- **I. Stephanie Boyce**, former President of The Law Society of England and Wales (2021-2022)
- **Marina Faggionato**, Joint Chair of the Bar Council Pro Bono & Social Responsibility Committee
- **Peter Farr**, Head of Civil Law Policy, Ministry of Justice
- **James Harper**, Executive Sponsor, Rule of Law and CSR for LexisNexis UK & Ireland
- **Deborah Smith**, Executive Director and Senior Counsel, Goldman Sachs and LawWorks Trustee
- **Victoria Speed**, formerly Director of Trust for London's Employment Legal Advice Network & Director of Pro Bono at BPP Law School

## About LawWorks

### Supporting and celebrating pro bono

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

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

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

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

At LawWorks we enable the provision of pro bono through:

- Supporting a growing network of around 300 independent pro bono clinics. We work with lawyers, law schools, advice agencies, charities and others to establish or develop new clinics, and provide on-going support, information, training and webinars and legal resources (including the online legal research tools Lexis®+);
- Our Not-for-Profits Programme, which facilitates volunteer solicitors from LawWorks members to provide free legal advice for smaller charities and not-for-profit organisations. We also provide legal training for charities, through documents, videos and live sessions developed by pro bono lawyers;
- Supervising and training volunteers to undertake in-depth end-to-end pro bono casework ('secondary specialisation'), in areas of social welfare law;
- Connecting barristers and solicitors to jointly litigate civil cases on a pro bono basis through the Pro Bono Connect scheme;
- Digital platforms and tools, including the Pro Bono Portal UK, which links firms and in-house teams to pro bono opportunities easily and quickly, and Free Legal Answers, enabling individuals to receive initial or one-off legal advice.

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

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

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

## **Student pro bono**

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

## **Membership of LawWorks**

The support of our members is vital to our work. Membership of LawWorks makes an important contribution towards the achievement of our charitable objectives and supporting our work in enabling and celebrating pro bono and the importance of access to justice. We have around 160 members, including some of the largest City and international firms, national, regional and local firms, and in-house teams, as well as law schools and charities.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Other ways to support LawWorks**

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

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

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



The LawWorks & Attorney General's Student Pro Bono Awards  
are kindly sponsored by:



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

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