



Supported by
The Law Society

A black and white photograph of a group of young people, likely a school drumline, playing their drums in a dark room. The scene is lit with a strong green light, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The drummers are wearing patterned t-shirts and are captured in various stages of their performance.

LawWorks Not-for-Profits Programme

Annual Report 2018

"A lifeline for small organisations!"

Applicant

About LawWorks

LawWorks is a charity working in England and Wales which enables access to justice through free legal advice. We 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.

We gather information and publicise evidence from across our network about the requirements of people and not-for-profit organisations in need, and use this to advocate for and influence change to policy in order to promote access to justice.

About the Not-for-Profits Programme

Our Not-For-Profits Programme supports small and medium-sized not-for-profit organisations that help people in need in England and Wales. Their work for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society varies enormously but, for example, commonly deals with poverty, disability, abuse, social exclusion, and special education needs.

These organisations are working at the very heart of our communities and would otherwise struggle to pay for legal advice. LawWorks helps them access legal assistance for free, thereby supporting them to help their wider beneficiaries.

Our volunteer lawyers

LawWorks engages with solicitors to support, promote and encourage a commitment to pro bono.

We have created a pro bono community across a network of over 65 member law firms and in-house legal departments. Our volunteers are from some of the country's top legal teams.

“Absolutely fantastic, top class, and invaluable”

Applicant



Free legal assistance

Volunteer lawyers advise not-for-profit organisations on a range of discrete legal matters.

Last year, the main areas of law advised on were **property**, **commercial**, and **employment** law, as well as **corporate** matters (such as constitutions and transfers of assets). We also provided advice in **dispute resolution** (including in relation to property and commercial contracts), **intellectual property**, **tax**, **insurance**, **insolvency**, and **data protection** law. Volunteers are unable to advise on detailed charity law matters, nor do they help to set up charities or other not-for-profit legal structures.

“Outstanding professional service”
Applicant

Examples of what we can help with:



Our history

Then

The Not-for-Profits Programme was established in 2001, when LawWorks was 4 years old. Our aim was to increase the number of individuals we assist by helping the organisations which help them: helping one charity helps all the individuals it works with.

The programme launched under the name “LawWorks for Community Groups Project” in September 2001 with a full-time employee and in 2002, our first full year, we placed 100 cases and facilitated free legal advice worth almost £500,000. The programme changed its name in 2015.

Now

**HELPING A CHARITY MEANS HELPING
THAT CHARITY’S BENEFICIARIES. THE
NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS
OUR VOLUNTEERS HELPED THIS YEAR
WORK WITH AN ESTIMATED**

2,229,523

INDIVIDUALS.





**148* CASES TAKEN ON BY
LAWWORKS MEMBERS THIS YEAR**

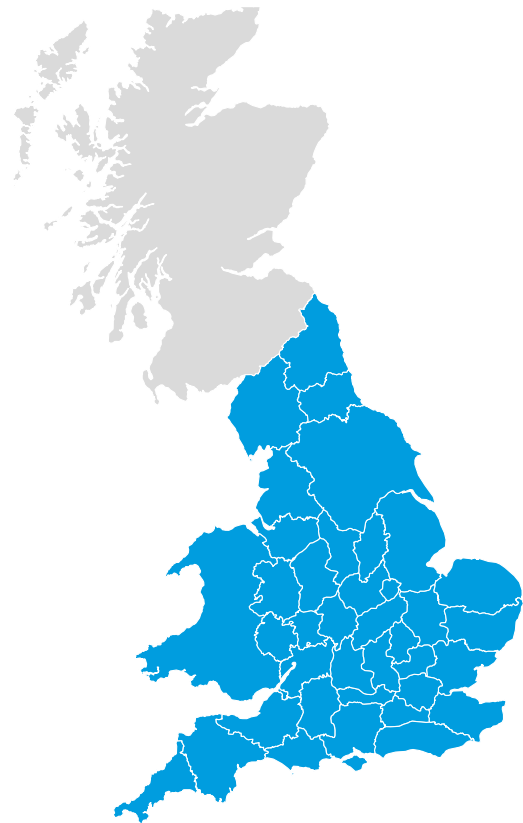


100%

**OF ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS WERE
SUCCESSFULLY PLACED WITH A
VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR**

**THE ORGANISATIONS OUR
VOLUNTEERS ASSIST WORK WITH
VULNERABLE OR DISADVANTAGED
INDIVIDUALS FROM A RANGE OF
BACKGROUNDS:**

- those affected by poverty
- those affected by disabilities or physical/mental health
- those affected by homelessness
- those affected by crime or discrimination
- refugees and asylum seekers
- LGBTQI
- Children and young people
- Elderly people
- Current or ex-offenders
- Black and minority ethnic communities



**THESE NOT-FOR-PROFIT
ORGANISATIONS WORK ALL OVER
ENGLAND & WALES AT ALL LEVELS:
FROM LOCAL, NEW ONES HELPING
10 INDIVIDUALS TO ESTABLISHED
COUNTRY-WIDE ONES HELPING
TENS OF THOUSANDS.**

* the programme was paused over the Summer

How it works



Review applications

- Not-for-profit organisations apply online at www.lawworks.org.uk
- We assess applications, ensuring they meet our eligibility criteria

Prepare cases

- We gather relevant background information, documents, and details for conflict checks
- We produce concise briefing sheets for potential volunteers

Broker

- We approach member law firms and in-house legal teams who volunteer to take on particular cases

Connect

- Volunteers take the matters forward and advise the not-for-profit organisations directly
- We remain available to help with any issues

Develop and improve

- We evaluate experiences of the service to develop and improve it

“Knowledgeable, friendly and fast”

Applicant

“They were able to appoint professional solicitors that we could feel confident about very quickly”

Applicant

Case studies

Case Study – Drum Works

Drum Works is a small non-profit organisation based in the Barbican in London. It began in 2007 when a Brazilian cultural group collaborated in a samba project with a nearby secondary school.

Today, Drum Works is a flourishing Community Interest Company and Barbican Artistic Associate, working with children in six state secondary schools in some of the most deprived London boroughs. It empowers children by giving them a sense of belonging and achievement, and helps them develop concentration, teamwork and social skills. The children perform throughout the year culminating in an annual summer performance.

Drum Works first sought legal help from LawWorks several years ago when it was being formed. In 2018 it joined our Honorary Counsel scheme and was partnered with Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe LLP which has been able to provide advice on a range of issues including freelance contracts, partnership agreements, and policy documents.



“The legal support we’ve received from Orrick so far has been invaluable to our organisation, and knowing we can turn to them for further support when it is needed gives us peace of mind. I’d recommend the [Honorary Counsel] scheme to any small charity or social enterprise.”

Jenny Beer, the CEO of Drum Works

Carers Centre Case Study

The Carers Centre is a charity which provides information, advice, independent advocacy, training and a wide range of other support services to unpaid carers looking after people who lives in Tower Hamlets. These carers provide substantial support to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals.

The Carers Centre support carers in Tower Hamlets both as carers and as individuals. It provides emotional support and guidance in navigating the benefits, health and social care systems; and social activities, advice and relaxation sessions to allow them to remain well-rounded people.

LawWorks first helped the Carers Centre in 2016 by connecting it with volunteer lawyers who helped it to renegotiate a lease, allowing it to continue its work without making cuts.

The Carers Centre joined the Honorary Counsel scheme in 2017 and was paired with Covington & Burling, who in the last year has provided legal advice on a range of topics: staff manuals, an employee settlement agreement, data protection and GDPR policies, privacy notices and the charity's Articles of Association.



“I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful lawyers at Covington & Burling for their absolutely top notch expert legal advice. I would not have been able to do it without making cuts to much needed and valued services to unpaid carers who rely on us for their wellbeing. I would also like to thank LawWorks for being brilliant at what they do – connecting charities with the best legal firms – I have very much appreciated their ‘can do’ attitude and friendly professionalism.”

Neil Hardy, the charity's Chief Executive

Honorary Counsel

The Not-for-Profits Programme will be launching its honorary counsel scheme in 2019 following a successful pilot.

The Honorary Counsel scheme matches not-for-profit organisations with a volunteer lawyer who provides long-term pro bono assistance - an “Honorary Counsel”. Like a company’s General Counsel, the Honorary Counsel is the first port of call for initial, brief advice about potential legal issues and carries out legal “health checks” of the organisation’s documents.

We have so far matched 13 organisations with Honorary Counsel, who have been providing pro bono assistance.

Feedback shows that not-for-profit organisations benefit from “peace of mind” offered by the scheme. Volunteer lawyers get enhanced responsibility and client contact and appreciate that they can use their skills to “give something back.”



Making a difference

How not-for-profit organisations benefit:

- ✓ Increase confidence to deal with legal issues
- ✓ Dedicate more time and resources to beneficiaries
- ✓ Protect the organisation's best interests
- ✓ Increase sustainability

94%

FELT THAT THEIR
CONFIDENCE TO DEAL
WITH LEGAL ISSUES
IN THE FUTURE HAD
INCREASED

"We would have lost our premises if LawWorks did not help"

Applicant

"A real advocate and support for not-for-profits that is helping and making a real difference."

Applicant

100%

OF NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS SAID THEY WOULD SEEK (OR HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT) LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM LAWWORKS AGAIN

How lawyers benefit:

- ✓ Opportunity to give back to the community
- ✓ Exposure to new clients and interesting work
- ✓ Increase pro bono hours
- ✓ Increase organisation's CSR footprint

“We really truly love doing pro bono work... we know we are making a real difference to people's lives”

Volunteer

“Our relationship with the other person in the dispute has improved which will make future dealings much easier to manage. Thank you.”

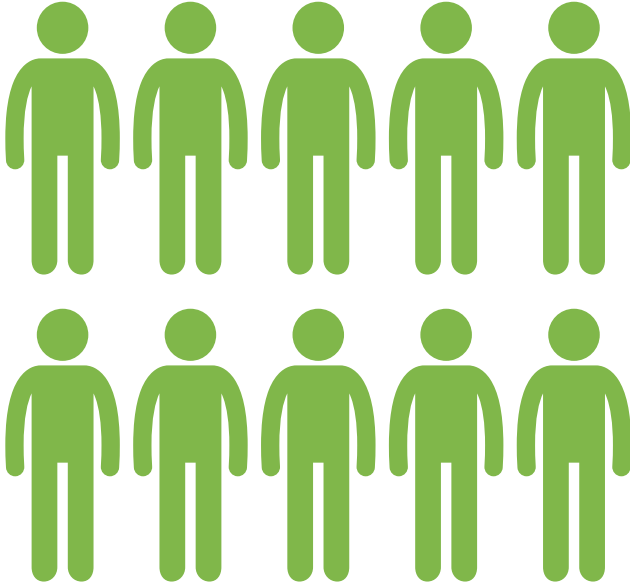
Applicant

“She is the kind of lawyer one always hope to meet but rarely does! Professional, accessible, responsive and a very good communicator who can explain things to a non lawyer without being patronising.”

Applicant

100%

OF VOLUNTEERS WOULD TAKE ON ANOTHER CASE AND/OR RECOMMEND COLLEAGUES TO DO SO



Free Talks

LawWorks Free Talks are short online videos specifically aimed at small not-for-profit organisations.

The videos focus on common legal issues they face such as renewing leases, managing redundancies, Charity Commission registrations, protecting intellectual property rights, and lots more. They are all free to watch from the LawWorks website and aim to help when making important decisions.



To watch, visit:

[www.lawworks.org.uk/
legal-advice-not-profits/
resources-not-profits](http://www.lawworks.org.uk/legal-advice-not-profits/resources-not-profits)

Signposting

Where we cannot assist a not-for-profit organisation, our team signposts them to more appropriate sources of help or information wherever possible.

Training

We offer a training programme to all our volunteer lawyers, ranging from legal training to professional and advice skills courses.

***“It is essential
community
groups have
access to
LawWorks”***

Applicant

Get involved!

LawWorks is hugely grateful to the many member law firms and in-house legal teams that support the Not-For-Profits Programme, and especially to the individual volunteers from those organisations who give their time so generously.

We are also very grateful to our partners in the not-for-profit sector that continue to help LawWorks in promoting and supporting the programme.

Take a case

If you are a law firm or in-house legal team and would like to get involved, join our growing team of members and give something back to your community by providing pro bono advice. Please email nfp@lawworks.org.uk.

“It’s the right thing to do”

Volunteer

Ask for advice

If you are a small or medium-sized not-for-profit organisation in need of free legal advice, you can apply to us for help online at www.lawworks.org.uk/legal-advice-not-profits.

If you are a stakeholder interested in our work generally, please email nfp@lawworks.org.uk.

Pro Bono Awards

All cases taken on through the Not-for-Profits Programme are eligible to be nominated for the annual LawWorks Pro Bono Awards www.lawworks.org.uk/solicitors-and-volunteers/get-involved/lawworks-annual-pro-bono-awards.

Consider nominating your firm or organisation for one of our awards.



All statistics and quotes relate to cases and feedback from 2018. Front cover image is provided courtesy of Drumworks (an organisation that has been supported through the programme) and photographer Mark Allan.

Thank you!





✉ nfp@lawworks.org.uk

🌐 www.lawworks.org.uk/legal-advice-not-profits

🐦 @Law_Works



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