

PRO BONO CONNECT

ANNUAL UPDATE 2022

Helping barristers and solicitors collaborate on pro bono cases

WHAT IS PRO BONO CONNECT?

The only scheme to connect solicitors with barristers to litigate civil pro bono cases.

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

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

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

Members adhere to the Pro Bono Protocol.

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

MEMBERS

47 solicitor members, up 10% from 2020.

Includes international, city, regional and smaller firms.

51 barristers' chambers, up 10% from 2020.

Includes regional and specialist sets.

Individual barrister members and in-house solicitor members.

There is no obligation to take on cases.

CASE REFERRALS

Over 40 cases successfully placed in 2021.

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

Over 20 firms and 15 chambers made offers to accept cases.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A fully embedded LawWorks Programme.

Improved systems for administration and distribution of cases.

Enhanced relationships with Advocate, member firms and referral agencies.

Increased number and range of cases.

Several successful applications for pro bono costs orders.

ADMINISTRATION

Requests received, processed and distributed by the Executive Officer and OEC volunteers.

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

If there are multiple offers the solicitor or barrister and client select their pro bono match.

If there are no offers, cases are distributed again on a first come, first served basis; if no offers are received they are then advertised externally by LawWorks and Advocate.

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

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

For clients – a complete pro bono service.

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

For lawyers – the chance to work and develop relationships with new firms and chambers.

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

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

FEEDBACK

There are regular meetings with members and potential members.

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

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

TO JOIN OR FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website probonoconnect.co.uk

Or email probonoconnect@lawworks.org.uk

THANK YOU


We are grateful to the organisations who have helped us fund this scheme:

- Access to Justice Foundation
- Eversheds Sutherland (International) Charitable Trust
 - Farrer & Co Charitable Trust
- Simmons & Simmons Charitable Foundation



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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