



**Pro Bono
Awards
2019**

The LawWorks Annual Pro Bono Awards and Lecture

Tuesday 3rd December 2019

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Welcome to the LawWorks Pro Bono Awards 2019



Alastair Douglas
Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to welcome you to the LawWorks Annual Awards. The Awards are a highlight of 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 Lady Hale, for kindly agreeing to give the annual talk and to present the awards, and to Matthew Stadlen for hosting the evening.

This year we again received many truly inspiring and high-calibre nominations. We know that the pro bono work recognised here tonight is a snapshot of the valuable and important work undertaken across England and Wales – 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 also 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 gratitude to the panel of Judges, who have given their time and consideration in order to agree on the winners. Thanks also to our sponsors, LexisNexis, 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 is included at the end of this programme.

Order of proceedings

Time	Event
6:30pm	Welcome by Matthew Stadlen
6:35pm	A welcome from Simon Davis, President of the Law Society
6:40pm	A word from James Harper, Lexis Nexis
6:45pm	Annual talk by Lady Hale
7:05pm	Interview with Lady Hale by Matthew Stadlen
7:25pm	Award presentations
8:30pm	Drinks and canapés reception in the Reading Room

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

Guest Speaker

Lady Hale, The Right Honourable Baroness Hale of Richmond, DBE PC

Brenda Hale is the most senior judge in the United Kingdom. She became a High Court Judge in 1994, having taught law at the University of Manchester for 18 years and promoted reform of the law at the Law Commission for over nine. In 1999 she was promoted to the Court of Appeal and in 2004 to the appellate committee of the House of Lords, then the top court for the United Kingdom. This became the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in 2009. She was appointed Deputy President in 2013 and its first woman President in 2017. She is also President of the United Kingdom Association of Women Judges and a past President of the International Association of Women Judges. She was Treasurer of Gray's Inn in 2017 and Master of the Company of Fellmongers of Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Host

Matthew Stadlen

Matthew is a radio and television presenter, producer and writer. He has presented the weekend early morning shows on LBC since October 2016. He previously wrote The Matthew Stadlen Interview column for The Telegraph and presented and produced the BBC interview series 'Five Minutes With...'; and the BBC documentary series 'On the Road With...'. His interviews and documentaries have appeared across the BBC, including on BBC One. His book, 'How To See Birds', is available to buy now.

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. Her portfolios have included HIV/Aids, Drug and Alcohol dependency, and Criminal Justice. She has undertaken work for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in this regard. She is Chair of WDP, the largest provider of drug and alcohol services in London. And is also the President of HACRO, a service which caters for the rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-offenders. Yasmin was a recipient of the City of London Woman of Achievement Awards in respect to her work in the Public Sector.

Amy Clowrey, Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division

Amy is the Immediate Part Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) and an Associate Solicitor with Switalskis child abuse team representing victims of historical abuse and exploitation. Amy is also a committee member of the Huddersfield Law Society Twinning with Uganda Group and in 2017 travelled to Uganda to deliver training to Ugandan lawyers – one of her chosen topics to deliver was on the benefit of pro bono. This year she spoke at the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division conference. In recent years Amy has also held posts with the Leeds JLD and the Huddersfield and Halifax JLD. In 2018 Amy was awarded the Rising Star of the Year Award at the Modern Law Awards.

Andrea Coomber, Director, JUSTICE

Andrea Coomber has been Director of JUSTICE since February 2013. Between 2002 and 2012 she was Equality Lawyer and then Legal Director at INTERIGHTS, litigating key cases before the Strasbourg and African human rights courts. Before joining INTERIGHTS, she lived and worked for human rights organisations in Geneva and New Delhi. Andrea has a BA/LLB (Hons.) from the University of Western Australia and an LLM (Dist.) from the London School of Economics. She is qualified as a barrister and solicitor in Australia. In addition to serving on a number of advisory boards, Andrea is a trustee of BAILII; is an Honorary Master of the Bench of Middle Temple and serves as a Lay Member of the Conduct Committee of the House of Lords.

Ruth Daniel, Chief Executive, Access to Justice Foundation

Ruth Daniel is the Chief Executive of the Access to Justice Foundation, a grant making charity which aims to improve access to justice for the most vulnerable in society. She works closely with the advice and pro bono sectors to help improve access to legal advice for those who need it but cannot afford it.

Ruth has a background in law and finance, qualifying as a solicitor at Charles Russell before working in-house. She volunteers at several charities and is a member of various legal advice sector advisory groups and committees.

Simon Davis, President, the Law Society of England and Wales

Simon Davis became President of the Law Society of England and Wales in July 2019. Simon studied Law at Oxford and qualified as a solicitor in 1984. He has been a commercial litigation partner at the London office of Clifford Chance since 1994, having joined the firm in 1982. Simon was the firm's recruitment partner between 1995 and 2000, and spent two years as President of the London Solicitors' Litigation Association. Since 2008, Simon has also been a member of the Court of Appeal Mediation Panel.

In 2014, Simon was appointed to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the provision of potentially sensitive information to The Telegraph by the Financial Conduct Authority, ("the Davis Review").

Jeremy Miles AM, Counsel General for Wales and Brexit Minister

Jeremy Miles is the Counsel General and Brexit Minister for Wales. He was born and brought up in Pontarddulais. As a Welsh speaker, he was educated at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in the Swansea valley and New College, Oxford where he studied law. Straight after graduating, Jeremy taught law at Warsaw University in Poland. Later, he practised as a solicitor in London and then held senior legal and commercial posts in media sector businesses, including ITV and the US television network and film studio NBC Universal. After returning to live in Wales he set up his own consultancy working with international clients in the broadcast and digital sectors. Jeremy was elected to the National Assembly for Wales for the Neath constituency in May 2016 as the Labour and Co-operative party candidate, following the retirement of Gwenda Thomas AM.

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 before moving to the UK in 2001. After a brief stint in the civil service he joined Greenwich Housing Rights (GHR), a charity specialising in housing advice and undertaking policy work, training and public education to improve housing conditions and access to justice. He co-ordinated GHR's housing possession duty schemes and trained and supported pro bono lawyers and student volunteers

before becoming the supervisor of their specialist housing advice services. Chris later became the Director of GHR before joining LAPG as Operations Director.

Paul Rogerson, Editor-in-chief, Law Society Gazette

Paul is a journalist who is currently the Editor-in-chief of The Law Society Gazette where he has worked since 2007; before that he was a business journalist on a variety of publications – most latterly as the City Editor of The Glasgow Herald.

Adam Tear, Chair of the Solicitors' Association of Higher Court Advocates

Adam is currently a Partner within Public Law at Hodge Jones & Allen, and a Deputy District Judge. He is a solicitor advocate, and regularly appears in the High Court and Court of Appeal dealing with some of the most complex and interesting public law cases. As an advocate he has appeared pro bono for the Court 37 and the Chancery duty judge rota.

He is the Chair of the Solicitors Association of Higher Court Advocates. He is also the Chief Assessor of the immigration accreditation scheme and also a principle trainer for AMT Training solutions.

In 2014 Adam was recognised as solicitor advocate of the year at the Law Society Excellence awards, and in 2017 was highly commended. In 2018 he presented the award on behalf of SAHCA.

Linden Thomas, President, Birmingham Law Society

Linden Thomas became President of Birmingham Law Society in April 2019, which is one of the largest local law societies in the country. She chaired the Society's Pro Bono Committee for several years. She is a Senior Lecturer and in-house Solicitor at the University of Birmingham Law School, where she runs the School's pro bono programme.

Linden has a particular interest in pro bono, clinical legal education and public legal education. She carries out research on those topics and recently published an edited collection entitled 'Reimagining Clinical Legal Education' with Hart Publishing. She also edited the 'Clinical Legal Education Handbook', which is due to be published with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in early 2020.

Until October 2019 Linden was a trustee and Chair of the Board of Citizens Advice Birmingham. She is still a trustee and Co-Chair of the Clinical Legal Education Organisation.

The Shortlisted Nominees

Award categories:

- Best Contribution by a Small Firm
- Best Contribution by a Medium Firm
- Best Contribution by a Large Firm
- Best Contribution by an In-House Team
- 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 Small Firm

A City Law Firm

Founder and principal Karen Holder has committed her firm to championing equalities, and has undertaken several cases on a pro bono basis this year. One case involved a transgender parent who was forced to register as the mother on his child's birth certificate when he was legally a man. Whilst not successful, this case has formed the basis of a campaign to change the law by engaging the press and courts – the decision is currently being appealed. A second case involved challenging a large company which withheld thousands of pounds from a young family. In this case all the money was returned to the family who would otherwise not have been able to obtain legal assistance.

Emma Williams Family Law

“Emma herself was a tower of strength throughout the whole process and thanks to [the clinic] I am now able to offer my family the safe future they deserve.”

Emma Williams Family Law offers a monthly pro bono clinic from its office in Carmarthenshire to people from the surrounding locality, which is categorised by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation as being in the top 20% of deprived areas in Wales. As well as offering advice sessions, the clinic completes paperwork for service users (routinely preparing divorce petitions and applications for child arrangements orders) and generally runs two to four complete cases at any time for clients who are particularly vulnerable or who have cases that are complex and would otherwise not be able to obtain legal advice.

The most significant recent case undertaken on a pro bono basis was an application to the Family Court for a ‘no contact’ order and to discharge parental responsibility for a father who had been convicted of a number of sexual offences against children. The case lasted over 12 months, involved six court appearances and the case file comprised several thousand pages of documents. After protracted proceedings and a final contested hearing, the application was successful.

Fry Law

“[Fry Law] accepted without question that our voices needed to be heard... without [them] this would never have taken place as our organisation has little funding and, more importantly, we needed legal advice, guidance and advocacy in order to have the confidence to make such a challenge.”

Fry Law not only provides pro bono legal support, but also assistance with legal strategy and campaigns, especially for disability groups. This year the firm was retained pro bono by the charity Not Dead Yet UK to represent the voice of disabled people in the assisted dying case of *Conway v Secretary of State for Justice*. The charity’s concerns around the issues of legalising assisted dying included safeguards for people who might be at risk of coercion, the difficulties in predicting death within six months, and whether any scheme might be extended.

The team has also provided pro bono assistance to leading London-based advocacy group ‘Transport for All’ as interveners, representing the interests of disabled passengers in the Judicial Review case of *Association of British Commuters Limited v Secretary of State for Transport*. Having succeeded with the Supreme Court case of *Paulley v First Bus Group*, the team continues to campaign for wider and more strategic improvements in disabled people’s access to public transport.

MTC & Co Solicitors

“His generous spirit is infectious; he takes on numerous clients [on a] pro-bono [basis] and is always willing to help out when someone is in need of assistance.”

Naga Kandiah, a Consultant Solicitor at MTC & Co, goes to significant lengths to represent and advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable people in society. His most recent cases have included a client who was at risk of being deported after the Home Office falsely accused him of a crime and terminated his indefinite leave to remain. He investigated the case, found that the Home Office were unjustified in their decision and obtained an apology from the Home Office. He also fought to enable a pro bono client to settle in the UK after escaping the Sri Lankan Civil War, and then encouraged him to pursue his educational aspirations; the client went on to study at Teesside University and graduated with BSc Honours in Cybersecurity as well as volunteering with the local police force.

Best Contribution by a Medium Firm

Curtis Law Solicitors

“Having nearly completed its 5th year, the clinic has grown in popularity and in particular has gained the trust of the judges at the Civil Justice Centre who refer a stream of litigants in person for advice and assistance.”

Every Monday since mid-2015 a pro bono family law clinic has been held at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre. The clinic runs in association with LawWorks, the University of Manchester and Curtis Law Solicitors. The clinic aims to provide litigants in person with quality legal advice in order to help them understand how to resolve their issues and allow them to go through the court process with a clearer understanding of the law. With assistance from Support Through Court, the clinic operates on a first-come first-served basis and often runs over. Clients who are not seen on the day are therefore generally called the next day. The clinic receives client referrals from Citizens Advice in and around Manchester and various courts (including the Civil Justice Centre) and local councils on an almost daily basis. It provides advice and assistance to first-time litigants, those who are partially through their proceedings and litigants at the final hearing or appeal stage.

Milbank

“Milbank share the belief that no one should have to face problems that can seem complicated or intimidating without good quality, independent advice.”

Milbank lawyers are active on several long-term projects. The firm partners with Amicus International, a charity that defends the right to due process and ensures equal justice before the law to those on death row. A team of lawyers is assigned to track and record updates on death penalty cases and to review disclosure, thereby processing thousands of disclosure documents for the charity. Milbank also works with LawWorks on its Unpaid Wages Project which involves assisting low-income individuals who have not been fairly paid for the work they have done. Milbank has seen success in numerous cases on this project, and continues to work hard to ensure clients receive the money they have earned and deserve. Additionally, Milbank supplies volunteers at Citizens Advice in order to give members of the public a better understanding of their legal rights and their options. Milbank lawyers have also provided legal research and a report for The Circle regarding the right to a living wage in the garment industry. The Circle advocates for women’s rights, and has supported over 160,000 women and girls in more than 16 countries.

Morrison & Foerster

“This partnership is invaluable to a small charity like Z2K and for our clients who otherwise would find it difficult to navigate such a complex system. With the support from Morrison & Foerster, they have tremendous success with representing people to receive the benefits they were wrongly denied.”

Since 2018, pro bono lawyers from Morrison & Foerster have been working with the charity Z2K (Zacchaeus 2000 Trust). Z2K helps low-income individuals navigate the UK’s complex social security and welfare benefits system by handling their disability benefit appeals. Since 2016 the charity has seen a steady increase in the number of people seeking help with disability benefits in London that have been stopped or reduced by the Department for Work and Pensions.

As legal aid does not cover disability benefit appeals to the First-tier Tribunal, many people have to navigate the appeals process alone. Pro bono lawyers from Morrison & Foerster meet the client, collect evidence, prepare a brief and then attend the tribunal hearing as the client’s advocate. So far, the team has taken 30 individual cases to tribunal hearings, achieved a success rate of over 90% for appeals and secured a total financial benefit of over £500,000 for clients.

Best Contribution by a Large Firm

Herbert Smith Freehills

“We are eternally grateful for all of the support that we have had from Herbert Smith Freehills and feel like they are fully invested in our mission.”

Since 2018, Herbert Smith Freehills has provided Steel Warriors with pro bono legal support across a wide range of practice areas. Steel Warriors is a charity that strives to combat UK knife crime with young people and engage them in physical activity to instil confidence and body positivity. Steel Warriors achieves this by melting down knives confiscated by the police and turning them into outdoor calisthenics gyms, which are in public parks and free for anyone to use.

In the first year, Herbert Smith Freehills assisted Steel Warriors in securing a funding agreement with the Co-op which has made a multi-million pound commitment to fund the construction of 20 gyms around the country. Last year, Herbert Smith Freehills also advised Steel Warriors on the appointment both of a project manager and a community support manager, and provided legal advice, for example, on planning, construction and real estate matters which expedited the smelting and construction process. With two gyms officially open, Herbert Smith Freehills are now advising Steel Warriors in negotiations with other local councils for several more gyms.

Howard Kennedy

“Our lawyer was patient, responsive and diligent. He really rooted for us and gave me a significant boost of confidence that we were on the right track and could achieve our goals....We were very, very happy. Thank you.”

Created a little over two years ago, the Howard Kennedy pro bono programme continues to grow. In addition to its existing pro bono work advising clients at Toynbee Hall, the last year has seen the programme expand, with the inclusion of three further projects.

A remote advice service has been established in partnership with Toynbee Hall which offers free and impartial expert advice over the telephone to members of the community who otherwise would be unable to gain access to justice. The firm has also joined the LawWorks’ Unpaid Wages Project, helping clients in insecure work to claim unpaid wages from their employers. Finally, the firm is participating in the LawWorks’ Honorary Counsel scheme and is working on a long-term basis with the national charity Action on Postpartum Psychosis. In the past year, 34 fee-earners have assisted 30 different not-for-profit organisations and charities in a wide range of cases including data protection issues, property, corporate and commercial litigation matters.

Kirkland & Ellis International

“The impact of this work for those assisted is significant because it provides them with free legal advice in relation to their rights within a specialist area”

Disability Law Service (DLS) is a London charity that has been providing free legal advice to disabled people and their carers since 1975. Last year, DLS approached Kirkland & Ellis about ways to help individuals who are seeking assistance with care and support assessments. The assessments, which are undertaken by social services, consider the care and support requirements for individuals with disabilities, and determine the help for which they are eligible. DLS has been approached by an increasing number of individuals whose care packages have been reduced without the required reassessment having taken place, the results of which can be devastating.

The innovative virtual clinic was launched in Spring 2019. Supervised by DLS, volunteer lawyers take clients through the steps a local authority must take prior to adjusting a care package. The lawyers can also assist clients by writing to local authorities to make formal complaints.

The involvement of Kirkland & Ellis has meant individuals have had the confidence to achieve the outcomes they need to manage their disability, health and wellbeing, thereby enabling DLS to help more people.

Latham & Watkins

“[I appreciated] the calmness, clarity and their level of understanding considering it was a complicated situation and I wasn’t the best at communication. They understood my feelings really well and were able to analyse the situation.”

Latham & Watkins first became involved in BPP’s Enterprise Clinic at the start of 2019. They have been extremely supportive, volunteering to supervise over 70 per cent of the clinic’s appointments. Their involvement has meant that the Enterprise Clinic has been able to grow and offer a further day of appointments per week.

Volunteering their expertise in a wide variety of subject areas from capital markets to intellectual property and civil litigation, Latham & Watkins have helped ensure that the Enterprise Clinic has met the needs of small business owners who are often in their vulnerable first year of trading, when quality legal advice can have a large impact on whether or not that business succeeds.

The team at Latham & Watkins has been instrumental in encouraging their colleagues to volunteer and have made excellent supervisors to the students who volunteer with the clinic.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

"It seems incredible, but it looks as though the estate will not, after all, be redeveloped! ...Our heartfelt thanks once again for all the help you've given us."

In 2016 Saving Sutton Estate (SES), formed by local residents, began its four year long fight to stop a developer from demolishing the Sutton Estate in Chelsea to make room for pricier properties. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius represented SES in all aspects of its fight over the period, including during a public inquiry and in connection with the developer's unsuccessful appeal of the local authority decision in favour of SES.

Since 2016 Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has partnered with the Borne Foundation (a medical charity that researches ways to prevent premature births) by providing a range of commercial and licensing advice.

For the past two years, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has partnered with Hostage International, a charity that supports families during a kidnap of a loved one and hostages who have returned home. Lawyers have provided advice on the charity's policies and procedures, as well as employment and commercial contracts.

Finally, in its work on behalf of the merger of Yellow Door and Southampton Women's Aid, the firm helped strengthen the provision of services to individuals and families escaping domestic abuse.

Shoosmiths

"The pro bono legal support given by Shoosmiths to our community of students and recent graduates really is priceless."

In the last twelve months alone, Shoosmiths and its lawyers have established several new pro bono projects across its UK offices, including a housing and employment law clinic in Milton Keynes, partnering with the Manuel Bravo Project in Leeds (supporting asylum seekers), volunteering at a Citizens Advice centre in Edinburgh and advising at a bespoke intellectual property law clinic for students at the Royal College of Art.

In addition to these new pro bono projects, Shoosmiths continues to support the CommuniCare Legal Advice Centre (Thames Valley) operated in conjunction with the University of Reading School of Law. It jointly runs a pro bono clinic with Citizens Advice Central & East Northamptonshire and the University of Northampton School of Law. The Shoosmiths Family Law team provides monthly advice at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre as well as supervising students from the School of Law at the University of Manchester. Finally, the firm holds an annual first year trainee challenge which requires pro bono work to be undertaken to support charities in the UK which are addressing the global Sustainable Development Goals.

Best Contribution by an In-House Team

NatWest Legal

“There are over 100 Dentons and NatWest Legal lawyers and trainees who have signed up to the National Centre for Domestic Violence rota. Together, we have invested over 2,800 hours of pro bono support and have been successful in obtaining non-molestation orders for over 80 applicants.”

Since January 2018, Dentons and its client, NatWest Legal, have collaborated with the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) to provide support to victims of domestic violence in need of urgent assistance by obtaining emergency protection from the court.

Most clients are referred to NCDV by the police, who may be concerned for the client’s safety but unable to find sufficient evidence to discharge the high burden of proof required in criminal law to arrest the abuser. Dentons and NatWest Legal assist clients in obtaining non-molestation orders which contain the power of arrest, thereby giving clients greater peace of mind and security and which can also act as a powerful deterrent to the abuser. A recent example is the obtainment of a non-molestation order from a court for a 16 year-old client. Notably, the court granted the order, dispensing with the need for a return hearing, which is extremely rare.

Visa

“The unique part of having a Visa team member serve as Honorary Counsel is that each of these organisations had the strength of the Visa legal team behind them to help with a myriad of requests.”

Over the past 12 months Visa’s legal team has participated in a broad set of pro bono projects. Visa is an active participant in the UK In-House Pro Bono Group, helping to draft guidelines to be used by others intending to create in-house pro bono teams. The team has worked with Working Families at the Employee Litigant in Person Scheme’s clinic to provide crucial employment law advice to families in need. One member of the team has created a child safety policy for Sparkly Hearts, a charity which provides accessible ways for children and young people to talk anonymously with a counsellor.

In addition, Visa has provided advice and support to the Samaritans, Breast Cancer UK and The Fardad Foundation, by serving as Honorary Counsel for their organisations through the LawWorks’ Not-for-Profits Programme. Visa’s Peruvian-Spanish in-house lawyer has provided legal assistance on an on-going basis to non-English speakers through Latin American Women’s Aid, a charity that supports Latin American and ethnic minority women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Junior Lawyers Division Pro Bono Award

Imene Hamdi-Cherif (Ashurst)

"[This] project...required excellent and critical thinking as well as creativity in presenting detailed legal information...Imene was more than up to the task."

Over the past year, Imene has undertaken a wide range of pro bono activities for NGOs and individuals. She is dedicated to advancing laws and policies that promote gender equality and has undertaken a substantive amount of research for Women's Aid, in particular in connection with a response to a government consultation on safe accommodation and also with the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. Imene also played a key role in establishing a research project in partnership with Equality Now relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence in Georgia.

Imene is committed to the protection of human rights and ensuring access to justice for refugees and stateless individuals which led to her undertaking substantive research on states' use of emergency powers to deprive citizens of their nationality for the Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion. She also worked on the Greece Refugee Collaborative Plan, spending two weeks in Lesbos providing legal assistance to asylum seekers, using her French and Arabic skills. Finally, Imene has worked alongside other lawyers to assist clients at an evening clinic at Toynbee Hall Legal Advice Centre, reflecting her commitment to ensuring everyone has access to justice, regardless of their means or vulnerabilities.

Emily Henderson (Milbank)

"Emily has influenced a huge number of companies and individuals, including those at Milbank, and is always one of the first volunteers to help on a matter or case."

Emily joined Milbank as a trainee in September 2018 and has been heavily involved with pro bono projects since her arrival at the firm. Since January 2019, she has contributed to ten different projects, and is currently Milbank's top pro bono contributor. Emily also volunteered to join the firm's Pro Bono Committee and is keen to bring more of her legal colleagues into the pro bono network.

The largest contributions she has made to pro bono are represented by her work for The Circle and on an unpaid wages case. The Circle is an organisation of women working together to achieve equality for women and girls in a fairer world. Emily assisted by carrying out legal research in relation to the right to a living wage in the fashion and garment industry. The Unpaid Wages Project is a new partnership with LawWorks assisting low income individuals who have not been fairly paid for their work. Emily has been involved in an ongoing case where the client received no income from an employer upon resignation.

Maryam Oghanna (Herbert Smith Freehills)

“The impact that these [pro bono] hours have across the range of projects Maryam supports cannot be understated; it is the commitment of the few individuals like Maryam that lays the groundwork for other volunteers to get involved.”

Maryam is one of the most dedicated pro bono lawyers at Herbert Smith Freehills and is involved in a range of pro bono projects. The breadth of her involvement in the pro bono practice is unparalleled and she demonstrates a commitment to these projects on a daily basis. Maryam has taken on a leadership role in various pro bono projects: she coordinates all of Herbert Smith Freehills’ volunteers as the associate lead of the Asylum Support Appeals Project and has represented clients at over 50 appeals; she supervises 20 trainees and associates on end-to-end casework as team leader of the Whitechapel Legal Advice Clinic, and she was one of the first associates at the firm to support the development of a secondary specialism in charity law. She has furthermore been praised as the most committed volunteer on the RCJ Advice scheme. Maryam’s efforts have an impact both directly on the clients she supports and other lawyers who are encouraged to do the same.

Aoife O’Reilly (Allen & Overy)

“Senior and supervising lawyers have remarked on her excellent client skills, as she manages to inspire trust and confidence whilst also maintaining a professional distance.”

Aoife has demonstrated an enduring commitment to pro bono work throughout her time at Allen & Overy. With other colleagues, she launched volunteering at Toynbee Hall’s women-only clinic and provides monthly legal advice to vulnerable women on a range of issues including family law and housing. She has supported eight cases securing citizenship for marginalised children with Coram Children’s Legal Centre and has successfully represented two clients on their disability benefits appeals with the charity Z2K.

In addition to her involvement in UK-based access to justice advice for individuals, Aoife has worked on diverse pro bono projects for NGOs on reproductive rights, public interest law and legal aid, child protection and institutionalisation. In September 2019, she travelled to Lesbos to work with the NGO European Lawyers in Lesbos (ELIL) to advise refugees and asylum seekers as part of a collaborative project between ELIL, Refugee Legal Support and four other law firms.

Laura Pattison (Baker McKenzie)

“It is not only the amount of pro bono work that Laura has undertaken that is impressive, but also the breadth of projects. Laura is always willing to help, whether that be through presenting training, drafting documents or attending a legal advice clinic. Laura is not afraid to take on projects in areas of law that are unfamiliar to her, and her willingness to upskill is very impressive.”

Laura is a true pro bono champion within Baker McKenzie. In addition to her pro bono client work, Laura holds the role of Pro Bono Coordinator for the Dispute Resolution Team, promoting participation across the department and ensuring that the team understand the importance of pro bono work. She also sits on the firm’s Pro Bono Committee, helping to drive pro bono strategy and engagement.

Laura has delivered successful training sessions for several UK charities, for example on drafting witness statements for case workers who assist prisoners on death row, and on product regulation and liability for the online sales team at Macmillan Cancer Support. Every month, she attends the Legal Advice Centre in Bethnal Green, a drop-in evening clinic, where she advises on debt and landlord and tenant issues.

Jacob James Turner (Baker McKenzie)

“Jacob’s commitment to pro bono is impressive and should serve as an inspiration to his peers, both those junior and senior to him.”

Jacob gives regular pro bono legal advice on employment, housing, bankruptcy and consumer issues at Bethnal Green Legal Advice Centre to vulnerable clients who often face complex or extremely time-intensive issues. Through Jacob’s work, several clients have been able to apply for adequate housing support and avoid what would otherwise have been certain homelessness.

With the UK-based charity Consortium for Street Children, Jacob has also drafted several chapters for a Legal Atlas for Street Children. The Atlas is an online guide for street children across the globe and summarises their basic legal rights on a variety of issues such as truancy, vagrancy and running away from home. Jacob has also assisted in drafting and editing a global report for the World Congress on Justice for Children which focused on how neurological development and traumatic brain injury are accounted for (if at all) in the prosecution and sentencing of minors across the globe.

Jacob has also reviewed several death row cases alongside the UK-based charity Amicus and regularly volunteers as part of the Legal Experts in Schools program.

Best Contribution by an Individual

Nazir Ahmed (Lincoln's Chambers Solicitors)

"Nazir Ahmed is one of the most well-known and well-respected [legal] personalities in the British-Bangladeshi community."

Nazir is principal solicitor at Lincoln's Chambers Solicitors. Since qualifying in 2004 he has undertaken a range of pro bono activity, including volunteering at Tower Hamlets Citizens Advice where he advised on issues including immigration, asylum, housing, and employment law; writing a weekly legal advice column in the UK's first Bengali broadsheet, which involved responding to readers' questions; and writing a monthly column in a student magazine for aspiring and current foreign students in the UK, which included advice in relation to immigration law and common problems for foreign students.

Nazir also volunteers on a regular basis on television, where he gives briefings on relevant legal issues to the Bengali community and provides pro bono advice to callers on a number of community-based television channels. Since qualifying he has spent thousands of hours on these programmes, which have made a huge impact on those who need free legal advice. He continues to work tirelessly for the betterment of the community.

Jasmine Ashley-Tagoe (Toynbee Hall Free Legal Advice Centre)

"Jasmine has set the example for us to follow. [Her] commitment and dedication to providing and promoting access to justice is apparent in every interaction with her."

Jasmine manages Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC). FLAC provides pro bono advice on specialist legal issues including employment, immigration, and housing, and offers a women-only service two Saturdays a month, which Jasmine supervises. In addition to managing FLAC, Jasmine contributes her time and immigration law expertise as an adviser, and provides specialist training to volunteers in relation to vulnerable clients.

Being both deeply empathetic and practical, Jasmine always makes the time to discuss the best approach to help someone in need while also focusing on innovation and growth to increase FLAC's engagement with clients and volunteers. For example, her care for clients' mental health led her to introduce a scheme whereby clients meet with a volunteer psychotherapist before their legal adviser; she has successfully set up a remote advice service; and she has worked with volunteer firms' other charity partners in order to maximise their pro bono potential. She also regularly visits firms to talk to prospective volunteers, which has also led to non-lawyers becoming involved in FLAC.

Samantha Burns (Aston University)

“Sam has worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to establish Aston University’s first law clinic – this is an exciting and important development. [She is] both an outstanding role model for the students that we teach and an excellent mentor to colleagues.”

Samantha is senior special counsel at Aston University where she set up its first legal clinic. The clinic has a commercial focus, providing free legal advice to charities, social enterprises, small businesses and start-ups, and is one of a kind in the West Midlands area. Advice is provided by Aston Law School students with Samantha as supervising solicitor. The clinic provides tailored advice on an appointments basis, on areas of law including commercial, property, employment and intellectual property. Every available appointment was taken up during the clinic’s first year.

The clinic also provides training for organisations, based on local needs identified by Samantha, which has led to a focus on intellectual property. Samantha arranged for the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to visit the university in order to provide training for the students – the first training of its kind by the IPO, which will be repeated next year.

Dianne Cowie (Duncan Lewis Solicitors)

“[Dianne] explained everything in a language I could understand regarding my housing situation. I know how to move forward and ask the right questions to the Council. I can’t thank her and Citizens Advice Merton & Lambeth enough.”

Dianne is the housing director at Duncan Lewis’ Croydon office and supervises a team carrying out a wide range of social housing work throughout London. She also coordinates and supervises a range of pro bono clinics and partnerships in conjunction with Citizens Advice Merton & Lambeth which assists vulnerable individuals, from those at risk of homelessness to those suffering from domestic violence. The clinic involves weekly half-day sessions of advice on issues including housing disrepair, homelessness, family law, neighbourhood problems and possession proceedings.

Dianne also provides training to Citizens Advice volunteers and caseworkers, to whom Dianne makes herself available for urgent queries in relation to social housing.

Charity partners say that Dianne goes above and beyond the call of duty and always finds the time to talk through their queries. Her work demonstrates an unwavering commitment to pro bono work, and she is passionate about helping the most vulnerable members of the community.

Andrew Lidbetter (Herbert Smith Freehills)

“Andrew undertakes all of his pro-bono work for the AIRE Centre with the same dedication, eye to detail, and no less regard for risk management in respect of our status as a small charity, as he would apply to a fee-paying instruction.”

Andrew is a long-standing pro bono advocate within Herbert Smith Freehills’ London office and has been leading teams of volunteers on numerous high-profile strategic court case interventions for charity clients for over a decade, including JUSTICE, Liberty, Child Poverty Action Group, Public Law Project and the Centre for Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (the AIRE Centre). A recent successful intervention with Child Poverty Action Group involved the 2018 Supreme Court Judicial Review case, *McLaughlin*, which established that limiting the receipt of a bereaved parent’s allowance to married parents is incompatible with human rights legislation. This decision was widely reported, including by the BBC.

Andrew was instrumental in setting up and leading a letter writing project for the AIRE Centre where volunteer lawyers provide lengthy letters of advice on some of the more complex EU law questions the organisation receives. Andrew has also overseen trainee secondments to Liberty for over 15 years and, more recently, to the AIRE Centre.

Ravi Kaur Mahey (Duncan Lewis Solicitors)

“What is crystal clear in Ravi’s approach is the ability to provide high quality legal representation and legal knowledge to individuals and families who would otherwise not be able to access this.”

Ravi dedicates significant time to assisting those who cannot afford legal representation or speak out for themselves. Her fluency in four languages allows her to provide advice to a wide range of vulnerable clients and she often advises on culturally sensitive matters. In the past 12 months, Ravi has represented several pro bono clients, including at a Court of Appeal case on female genital mutilation (FGM) that has now been successfully re-heard in the High Court. She also represented a Romanian mother with five children in a case involving a Forced Marriage Protection Order and a number of other clients seeking Special Guardianship Orders.

Ravi and her team attend the fortnightly clinic ‘Fathers Group’ in Southwark to assist them in achieving their goal of having contact with their children. Her team has also begun providing advice at Chrysalis, an organisation that supports survivors of domestic violence. Ravi has been instrumental in running several other pro bono clinics and is currently involved in setting up a national clinic to provide legal advice on FGM.

Cherry Swift (DLA Piper)

“Cherry is rightly acknowledged as a driving force in pro bono in her office, her local community and the wider pro bono network and is an inspiration to lawyers at all levels of our firm.”

Cherry passionately promotes pro bono as DLA Piper’s Pro Bono Coordinator for Manchester. This year, Cherry has been heavily involved in establishing a clinic with the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, which will help children obtain British citizenship and will be supported by Cherry’s latest initiative, the North West pro bono group, which aims to address the access to justice crisis in the North West region.

Cherry has recently established a mini-secondment programme with Hope for Justice, which fights modern slavery and human trafficking. She was a panellist for a pro bono management session at the UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono’s annual conference in September 2019 in London. Most recently, Cherry provided on-the-ground legal support to refugees in Samos, Greece, where she spent two weeks working with Avocats Sans Frontières preparing applicants for their asylum interviews. She has continued to be involved with the project, working to improve the scheme and inspire future volunteers.

The LawWorks Cymru Award

Aberystwyth University Family Legal Clinic

“In an area of financial deprivation in combination with being an area defined as a legal aid desert, these service users would otherwise have been denied access to justice.”

The Aberystwyth University Family Legal Clinic (run in conjunction with Emma Williams Family Law) is non means-tested and is available to any member of the public. However, the clinic’s service users almost exclusively fall under the Joseph Rowntree Foundation minimum income standard. The users predominantly come from Aberystwyth and wider Ceredigion, a rural area at the centre of an ‘advice desert’ as defined by the Law Society. There are no legal aid providers within thirty-five miles and no other legal advice clinics or opportunities to obtain free legal advice within an hour’s travel time.

Over the past twelve months, 67 service users received free legal advice from the clinic. As well as offering advice sessions of 30 minutes, the clinic completes paperwork for service users (routinely preparing applications for divorce and applications for child arrangements order), and provides ongoing support and assistance to clients who are particularly vulnerable or who have cases that are complex and would otherwise not be able to obtain legal advice.

Cardiff Law School Pro Bono Clinic

“The astonishing victory was the culmination of six years of unpaid work by students, solicitors and barristers who were determined to expose the miscarriage of justice.”

Since 2005 Cardiff Law School has fostered the creation of an extensive and unique pro bono portfolio which now comprises of five in-house and thirteen partnership schemes. These projects cover national and local community needs in both social justice and commercial advice arenas, as well as one global scheme. Typically, 200 students participate annually in the clinic, with involvement from ten academic colleagues, more than thirteen charities and other external partners, supported by practising lawyers.

The schemes are varied and include the Cardiff Law School Innocence Project, a criminal appeals clinic which has responded to over 400 public requests and reviewed over 50 serious criminal appeals cases. Two convictions have successfully been overturned by the Court of Appeal. The NHS Continuing Healthcare Scheme has assisted over 60 clients and recovered over £130,000 in wrongly-paid nursing fees. Students have worked with Asylum Justice to provide legal research assistance to asylum seekers, collaborated with Mencap to create legal toolkits for adults with learning disabilities and worked with the mental health charity, Hafal, to assist vulnerable people in police station interviews.

Duncan Lewis Solicitors

“Duncan Lewis... has a particular focus on assisting those vulnerable clients who may not possess the means or awareness to access justice.”

The firm’s solicitors are involved in a number of projects. Members of the housing department attend a weekly drop-in clinic established in association with Cardiff HUB, work with Support Through Court to run a housing law clinic, offer advice at a fortnightly drop-in clinic for the homeless at the Wallich Night Shelter, had an integral role in the inception and formation of the Housing Pro Bono Surgery at Cardiff Civil Justice Centre and, having identified where access to legal aid is scarce, subsequently established two housing clinics in association with Caerphilly Citizens Advice.

One of the firm’s trainee solicitors attends a weekly drop in clinic through Asylum Justice and a Child Care solicitor collaborates with Support Through Court, taking part in a fortnightly clinic on family law. The immigration department also carries out significant pro bono work for highly vulnerable individuals who fall out of the scope of legal aid, as well as for Commonwealth nationals - providing essential advice to those who have been let down by the Windrush Scandal - and veterans who have experienced significant historical injustices post-discharge from the army.

University of South Wales Legal Advice Clinic

“There are no words lovely enough to compliment all the staff on the wonderful advice, respect and kindness shown to me at a very distressing time in my life.”

The University of South Wales Legal Advice Clinic has a significant impact on the local community and is an invaluable local resource. It advises on high-demand areas of law and assists clients in a variety of ways depending on their needs, including one-off advice, ongoing casework and support at court.

Every law student is offered an opportunity to participate in the clinic, whether integrated into the curriculum, an optional module or an extracurricular opportunity. The students lead the work and also reflect on the skills developed and on problems facing the community.

The clinic’s pro bono activity has been broadened through offering student summer placements so the clinic can remain open year round, and it provides legal services through Welsh and via the only Deaf BSL solicitor in the UK. It engages in a number of community-based projects through collaborative partnerships where students provide on-the-day advice at several Citizens Advice offices, work with the Employment Litigants in Person Support Scheme Student Triage Service and deliver presentations to unrepresented claimants through the Streetlaw project.

Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic

Anglia Law School Law Clinic

“The establishment of the Law Clinic and the Support@Court project by the Law Department at Anglia Ruskin University has been of enormous support to litigants in person in Cambridgeshire... the staff and students are to be commended for the training that has been given so that the litigants feel they have had a real opportunity to have good advice and assistance both before and at court.”

Anglia Law School Law Clinic primarily offers advice on family law matters. The clinic offers 30 minutes of face-to-face advice from a fully qualified local lawyer, after being triaged by student advisors. The clinic initially responded to client need by setting up a service offering help with the completion of child arrangements court forms. It then became apparent that litigants in person were in need of additional assistance, so the clinic set up a Support@Court service which offers support and guidance in the family court.

To date, Anglia Law School Law Clinic has seen over 1,000 clients in an 18 month period. It is also collaborating with the judiciary, alongside practitioners and students, in the development of a practical website designed to provide information and guidance to litigants in person appearing in the family court.

Cardiff Law School Pro Bono Clinic

“A team of university law students have succeeded in overturning the conviction of a care worker who was wrongly jailed for sexually assaulting a dementia patient. The astonishing victory was the culmination of six years of unpaid work by students, solicitors and barristers who were determined to expose the miscarriage of justice.”

Cardiff Law School has created an extensive and unique pro bono portfolio, comprising five in-house and thirteen partnership schemes. 200 students participate annually in extra-curricular pro bono/skills activities, with more than thirteen external partners.

Cardiff Law School Innocence Project is one of the few remaining university criminal appeals clinics, the only UK university innocence project to have had a case referred by the Criminal Cases Review Commission to the Court of Appeal, and the only case subsequently overturned, followed by a second in December 2018. This led to extensive media interest and raised awareness of university pro bono work.

Cardiff Law School's other in-house schemes include the NHS Continuing Healthcare scheme, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) pro bono scheme, Mencap Cymru Legal Toolkits for adults with learning disabilities, and the Global Justice scheme.

Cardiff Law School's partnership schemes include working with the Environmental Law Foundation and assisting vulnerable people in police station interviews with the mental health charity Hafal.

Exeter Family Court Clinic

“Staff are very helpful and know what they are advising on very well, [they] also make you feel welcome. Excellent service. Having some genuine legal advice has given me a greater sense of control and I feel more prepared for the court case.”

Exeter Family Court Clinic was established in May 2017 to help litigants in person (LiPs) with private law children cases and in non-molestation and/or occupation order cases. The clinic empowers LiPs who cannot afford legal advice through the provision of face-to-face expert advice, free of charge. It serves the entire county of Devon, which is a large area with limited legal resources in places.

Responding to client needs across a rural county, they also recently assisted two clients in Cornwall. The clinic runs on a monthly basis and offers up to five 30-minute appointments at each session. Each client is provided with a written summary of advice after the clinic. The clinic has assisted clients with child arrangements applications and non-molestation/occupation orders. No enquirers have been declined. As a result, 100% of clients surveyed knew more about the Family Court, 100% felt more prepared and 89% felt better able to handle their case.

Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic

“SULAC’s intention to be a connected and truly civic university... is supported by the diversity of SULAC’s clinics... and the students who show exceptional commitment and dedication... trying to address the needs of all of the local community.”

Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic (SULAC) provides free legal advice to people across Staffordshire, including a service to constituents of two local MPs. In its first year SULAC assisted 187 clients.

SULAC has embedded its clinic within ‘Signpost Stafford’ a grassroots community hub in the middle of a council estate. The Signpost service includes access to counsellors, a food bank and computers for residents to use. Basing the clinic within this community resource has promoted access to legal advice to the local community, and the regular student presence on site has built trust between clients and legal advisors.

SULAC works across a range of sectors in Staffordshire, including officers and staff at HMP Stafford, staff at County Hospital and Royal Stoke University Hospital, cancer patients within Staffordshire via Macmillan Cancer Support, and military personnel at Beacon Barrack. SULAC also hopes to develop research opportunities to improve the lives of prisoners, staff and military personnel.

University of South Wales Legal Advice Clinic

“There are no words lovely enough to compliment all the staff on the wonderful advice, respect and kindness shown to me at a very distressing time in my life.”

The University of South Wales Legal Advice Clinic has a significant impact on the local community and is an invaluable local resource. It advises on high-demand areas of law and assists clients in a variety of ways depending on their needs, including one-off advice, ongoing casework and support at court.

Every law student is offered an opportunity to participate in the clinic, whether integrated into the curriculum, an optional module or an extracurricular opportunity. The students lead the work and also reflect on the skills developed and on problems facing the community.

The clinic’s pro bono activity has been broadened through offering student summer placements so the clinic can remain open year round and it provides legal services through Welsh and via the only Deaf BSL solicitor in the UK. It engages in a number of community-based projects through collaborative partnerships where students provide on-the-day advice at several Citizens Advice offices, work with the Employment Litigants in Person Support Scheme Student Triage Service and deliver presentations to unrepresented claimants through the Streetlaw project.

Best International Pro Bono Award - in partnership with A4ID

The legal sector's invaluable pro bono work extends increasingly beyond our own borders to impact upon individuals, organisations and communities around the world. Since its inception in 2006, Advocates for International Development (A4ID) has shaped the course of international legal pro bono across the globe. Working in collaboration with its law firm partners and development partners which comprise Non-Government Organisations, social enterprises, governments as well the United Nations and the World Bank, to date, A4ID has undertaken some amazing work. It is currently working with its partners to contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, A4ID's leadership in the sphere of international legal pro bono and the SDGs, makes the organisation a natural partner to join LawWorks in bestowing this new award.

This is the first A4ID and LawWorks Award dedicated specifically to work outside the area of domestic pro bono. The A4ID/LawWorks Best International Pro Bono Award recognises lawyers' growing contributions to work in the arena of international pro bono and the UN SDGs.

"The calibre of applications for the International Pro Bono Award has been very high which has made judging a veritable agony of choice. The scope, creativity, excellence and above all ambition of the international pro bono contributions shows just what is achievable. Through A4ID we create such opportunities which enable our law firm partners to contribute to the developing community and to do so with passion!"

Yasmin Batliwala, Chief Executive, A4ID

The breadth of work covered by the law firms nominated for the Best International Pro Bono Award is testament to the far-reaching impact of the UK legal sector's pro bono assistance. This year's nominees ranged from advocating for women's reproductive rights in Latin America, to promoting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in East Africa, with many other important causes in between. Those who have been nominated have worked with grass-roots organisations, bar associations, NGOs, international organisations and social enterprises, highlighting the crucial importance of building partnerships for sustainable development.

With just 10 years left to achieve the SDGs, realising the goals' call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity will require strong leadership, robust partnerships and a commitment to the values of justice and fairness. The firms shortlisted for the Best International Pro Bono Award are pioneering the way in this effort and they are a positive example for other law firms seeking to align their work more closely with the sustainable development agenda.

Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Morrison & Foerster and Norton Rose Fulbright

“We are proud to work with A4ID and this cohort of leading international firms to contribute to the development of the Business and Human Rights agenda amongst lawyers across the East Africa region. The participants from firms have delivered high-quality, thought-provoking and engaging sessions which have been well received by participants.”

Over the last two years, solicitors from Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Morrison & Foerster and Norton Rose Fulbright have been providing pro bono training in the area of Business and Human Rights to members of the East African legal community.

The cohort of volunteers delivered over ten professional development workshops in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda, each based around the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This is particularly pertinent in the East African region, which has seen rapid economic growth and mounting challenges in Business and Human Rights compliance.

As a result of the training, over 500 lawyers in private practice, in-house counsel, state attorneys and policymakers in government and private corporations were further educated regarding international standards on the responsibility of businesses to respect human rights. It is envisaged that yet more professionals will become informed through resulting peer-to-peer exchanges.

Debevoise & Plimpton

“This work provided legal tools to be able to reignite the women’s sense of dignity and agency. It was an opportunity to bring some element of justice to them after having survived the most egregious of human rights abuses.”

Since 2017 Debevoise & Plimpton has collaborated with the Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood Global and local human rights NGOs in order to represent four female clients from Ecuador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The clients were systematically abused and raped when they were children by trusted members of their families or communities, resulting in unwanted pregnancies by the ages of 14 or younger. All of them were denied the right to abortion.

Since its initial involvement, Debevoise & Plimpton has dedicated volunteer lawyers to provide research, advice and drafting on the matter, culminating in two associates from the firm accompanying two of the victims to Geneva in May 2019 to file a petition with the UN Human Rights Committee. The petitions sought to find Ecuador, Nicaragua and Guatemala in breach of certain recognised international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and have the potential to shift the landscape of human rights law dramatically with regards to reproductive rights and protection from sexual violence.

Dechert

“The dedication to the client shown by all members of the Dechert team was exemplary and played a major part in ultimately securing his release in July 2019.”

For the past seven years, Dechert has worked in pro bono partnership with Freedom Now, a non-profit organisation set up to seek the release of prisoners of conscience around the world. Since the partnership began in 2012, Dechert’s lawyers have helped secure the release of eight prisoners of conscience, including individuals from Ethiopia, Iran, Myanmar, Rwanda and Uzbekistan.

Most recently, Dechert helped to secure the release of Mohammed Ould Mkhaitir, a Mauritanian accountant who in 2013 was arrested and charged with apostasy after publishing an allegedly blasphemous blog post. At the end of his trial, he was sentenced to death by firing squad.

Mkhaitir’s case was quickly identified and developed by a Dechert trainee, then staffed with volunteer lawyers from the firm’s London, Paris, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C. offices. The team focused primarily on preparing and filing a petition with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which resulted in the Working Group finding that Mkhaitir’s detention violated international law and calling for his immediate release – granted in July 2019.

DLA Piper

“Since our partnership began in 2013, DLA Piper lawyers around the world have provided invaluable pro bono support to help UNICEF uphold children’s rights globally and ensure that more children are able to realise their full potential.”

Uzbekistan has a relatively young population with 42% of its citizens under the age of 24. However, an estimated 40% of all cases in the Uzbek courts involve children, without there being any specific training for judges or separate courts for children. UNICEF Uzbekistan therefore initiated a dialogue with the Uzbek government, following which UNICEF’s child protection team approached DLA Piper to request legal assistance in developing child safeguarding in Uzbekistan’s justice system through a sustainable, nationwide programme.

DLA Piper’s pro bono team approached this task by conducting a rapid assessment of Uzbekistan’s justice sector reforms; identifying any gaps in compliance with international standards; and drafting suggested legislative amendments.

DLA Piper also identified the need for key legal actors to fully understand their roles and responsibilities and how to fulfil them, and accordingly led an interactive roundtable with Uzbek Supreme Court and District Criminal Court judges and representatives of the Prosecutor General Office, Ministry of Interior and Higher Judicial Council. This forms part of a wider strategy to establish inter-institutional collaboration.

Equal Rights Trust, Praxis, Sandzak Committee and Ashurst

“By leveraging pro bono help to support Serbian lawyers to challenge the most critical gaps and inconsistencies in Serbian law, ERT and Ashurst aimed to provide a foundation for future litigation through improved jurisprudence, identifying further gaps in the law, and raising awareness.”

In January 2017, the Equal Rights Trust (ERT) and its two Serbian partner organisations – Praxis and Sandzak Committee – commenced a two year project in Serbia entitled “Improving the equality legal and policy framework in Serbia and monitoring implementation of equality norms and policies”.

As a result of Ashurst’s pro bono support, ERT and its partners were able to develop and deliver strategic litigation in a larger number of pro bono cases and with a deeper level of strategic and technical support than would have otherwise been possible. This project increased the number of Serbian lawyers with the capacity to bring strategic litigation on matters of equality and non-discrimination; increased strategic cooperation between civil society organisations, those lawyers and other stakeholders in challenging discrimination and inequality through strategic litigation; and generated improved jurisprudence on the right to non-discrimination. The project has assisted towards ensuring access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in Serbia.

Best New Pro Bono Activity

BID Exceptional Case Funding Project: BID, Ashurst, Debevoise & Plimpton, Dechert and Orrick

“The offer of pro bono assistance from Ashurst, Debevoise & Plimpton, Dechert and Orrick provided a lifeline, both for the project and for the clients who now have a real chance of securing legal aid for their cases and be supported in their attempts to avoid deportation.”

In the wake of the Windrush scandal many lawyers wanted to support those at risk of deportation. It raised awareness around the immigration rules and cuts to legal aid funding, and in January 2019 Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) and four law firms launched this project. Trained volunteers make applications for Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) on behalf of clients who are currently in prison, detention centres or on bail, and facing deportation. The client group for this project is particularly vulnerable; many have children in the UK who are British Citizens and deportation would separate them from family, friends and their support network.

Crucially the work does not stop once the ECF application is submitted; if ECF is granted, BID then search for a legal aid lawyer to provide specialist advice to the client. 45 volunteers have worked on 22 referrals which has so far resulted in eight successful applications for ECF.

Dracaena Webcam Advice Project: Dracaena Community Centre, Legal Advice Centre (University House), Charles Russell Speechlys, Ropes & Gray and White & Case

“The Dracaena Webcam Advice Project is more than just another advice project! Right from the beginning, it was important to us that our local partners took ownership of discrete components of the project as it developed.”

The project is a partnership between the Legal Advice Centre (University House), the Dracaena Community Centre in Falmouth, Cornwall and three international law firms. Since October 2017, legal advice has been provided to users in Falmouth by lawyers in Bethnal Green via a webcam platform that has been developed by the Legal Advice Centre. The project’s aim is to develop partnerships with law firms in London so that access to justice projects are established in places in the region which are most in need. In November 2018 a family law duty desk at Truro Combined Court was launched, and in October 2019 a family law duty desk went live at Bodmin Combined Court. Both services are staffed remotely by lawyers using webcam enabled computers and smartphones. The use of technology has been embraced in a way that is very mindful of the realities of the client users’ lives. It also allows busy lawyers to undertake the work remotely and have maximum impact in a region that needs it the most.

Remote Advice Service: Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre and Howard Kennedy

"[The Remote Advice Service]has become an immensely popular option for our users: 77% of people who have completed our online advice request form have indicated they are willing to receive remote advice."

Toynbee Hall and Howard Kennedy have collaborated to provide a new pro bono Remote Advice Service which is flexible for both lawyers and clients. Providing free, impartial and expert advice over the telephone has allowed Howard Kennedy to maximise the use of fee earners' time and resources to provide pro bono support to disadvantaged people in the local communities that Toynbee Hall serves. Howard Kennedy advisors are able to provide advice over the phone, making it easier for them to fit pro bono volunteering around work commitments and in turn improving accessibility for key groups of FLAC clients who, for reasons ranging from mobility to family commitments, find attending evening clinics challenging.

Following a successful pilot, the Remote Advice Service became a permanent element of Howard Kennedy's pro bono support in the summer of 2019 and has since expanded with the impact of further increasing the accessibility of free legal advice.

Right to Care Pro Bono Programme: Mencap, Fieldfisher, Orrick and Shearman & Sterling

"Thank you so much for the invaluable support and guidance. You gave us hope (when) there wasn't any."

The Right to Care Pro Bono Programme is a collaborative project between the learning disability charity Mencap, and city firms Fieldfisher, Orrick and Shearman & Sterling. Volunteers undertake end to end casework representing vulnerable clients denied support from social services or denied welfare benefits. Since launching in May 2018, 86 volunteers across the three firms and from across all areas of practice, from trainee to partner level, have taken part.

The project has achieved positive impact by providing representation and support for vulnerable individuals in areas of law not covered by legal aid. Disputes concern individuals denied disability benefits or community support and by challenging these unlawful decisions, volunteers bring to an end the financial hardship clients experience and ensure clients are given the support they need to live independent and fulfilled lives.

An impressive success rate showed 83% of challenges to disability benefit being overturned with 100% of community support challenges successfully overturned. By increasing the numbers of clients Mencap can assist, more data can be collected to evidence wider policy reform work challenging these issues on a systematic scale.

Rights of Women: Sexual Harassment at Work Advice Line

“This advice line is a huge development in ensuring that all women are supported wherever we work.”

Pro bono legal advice is provided by fully qualified women lawyers from our staff and volunteer team in a range of legal areas: family, criminal and immigration and asylum law to women across England and Wales.

In 2019, to expand our pro bono services, Rights of Women included a new legal helpline providing employment law advice to women experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace. Our new advice service has already had a significant impact since its launch in August 2019. We worked with our funder (the Rosa Justice and Equality Fund), TIMES UP UK and the actor Emma Watson to carry out a high profile launch to ensure that women across England and Wales are aware of the service.

Feedback indicates that 95% of service users gained an increased understanding of the law, their rights and legal options. 90% said their confidence to deal with their legal problem had increased and 100% said they were satisfied with the service. Sadly, 35% of callers have experienced some form of sexual violence at work including sexual assault and rape, strongly suggestive of a legal justice system that is not working well enough.

Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic

“SULAC’s intention to be a connected and truly civic university... is supported by the diversity of SULAC’s clinics... and the students who show exceptional commitment and dedication... trying to address the needs of all of the local community.”

Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic (SULAC) provides free legal advice to people across Staffordshire, including a service to constituents of two local MPs. In its first year SULAC assisted 187 clients.

SULAC has embedded its clinic within ‘Signpost Stafford’; a grassroots community hub in the middle of a council estate. The Signpost service includes access to counsellors, a food bank and a bank of computers for local residents to use. Basing the clinic within this community resource has promoted access to legal advice to the local community, and the regular student presence on site has built trust between clients and legal advisors.

SULAC works across a range of sectors in Staffordshire, including officers and staff at HMP Stafford, staff at County hospital and Royal Stoke University Hospital, cancer patients within Staffordshire via Macmillan Cancer Support, and military personnel at Beacon Barrack. SULAC also hopes to develop research opportunities to improve the lives of prisoners, staff and military personnel.

Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership

Asylum Support Appeals Project: Herbert Smith Freehills and Freshfields

“ASAP’s small staff team relies on the huge contribution of our volunteer lawyers to achieve this positive impact. We have at least one volunteer lawyer at the asylum support tribunal almost every day of the year.”

The Asylum Support Appeals Project is a duty scheme where volunteer lawyers provide free legal advice and representation to vulnerable asylum seekers at the First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support). It is run by the Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP), a national charity which reduces destitution amongst asylum seekers by protecting their legal rights to food and shelter. Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) and Freshfields provide around 50% of ASAP’s duty scheme volunteers, alongside barristers and lawyers from other firms.

In 2018, Freshfields and HSF volunteers represented on a combined 211 occasions at the tribunal. In 2018-19, ASAP staff and volunteers on the duty scheme represented 585 people, amounting to 88% of all appeals listed at the tribunal. 69% of these appeals achieved a positive outcome, meaning that each time someone secured a roof over their head or avoided having it unlawfully taken away from them.

Mencap Legal Network Pro Bono Programme

“Thank you so much for the invaluable support and guidance. You gave us hope at a time when there wasn’t any.”

The Mencap Legal Network programme is a collaborative project between the learning disability charity, three City Law Firms (Fieldfisher, Orrick and Shearman & Sterling), the University of Liverpool, the technology company IBM and a panel of over 30 barristers. The programme was launched in May 2018 and has been growing ever since.

The Legal Network’s vision is to ensure that people with learning disabilities can live fulfilled lives by enabling them to access justice to secure the social care to which they are entitled. Law students from the University of Liverpool have drafted precedent letters and factsheets to help. Additional legal education (including IBM’s support to build a chatbot) for frontline care managers and access to legal help is provided through a network of pro bono lawyers. The Legal Network also gathers data on patterns of unlawful public body behaviour to bring about systems change, otherwise the legal advice would simply be plugging a gap in a broken system.

Volunteers from the three firms and the panel of barristers represent vulnerable clients who have been refused support from social services or denied welfare benefits with 83% of disability benefits challenges successfully overturned.

National Centre for Domestic Violence, Dentons and NatWest Legal

“A senior associate successfully obtained a non-molestation order having attended court with his 16-year-old client. The court granted the order and dispensed with the need for a return hearing, which is extremely rare. This was a great result for a young, vulnerable person.”

For many in-house lawyers, participating in pro bono projects is complex, with legislative and insurance restrictions. Dentons has developed a structure which enables corporate clients to work on a consultancy basis to undertake pro bono work. The structure is unique as it allows corporate clients to become consultants for the purposes of pro bono work.

Through this structure, Dentons has worked with NatWest Legal to provide pro bono support to the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) since January 2018. NCDV is a nationwide not-for-profit organisation which provides free advice to victims of domestic violence who are ineligible for legal aid. There are over 100 Dentons and NatWest Legal lawyers and trainees who to date have supported 94 victims of domestic violence in need of urgent assistance by obtaining emergency protection from the court. Together, they have been successful in obtaining non-molestation orders for over 80 applicants.

Open Justice Prison Partnership: The Open Justice Centre (The Open University) and St Giles Trust

“Open Justice & St Giles Prison Partnership is an outstanding example of how a university law school can work to support and enhance the outreach work of an established civil society organisation and, in doing so, have a direct impact in addressing the unmet needs within our custodial environments.”

Open Justice Prison Partnership is a nationwide prison-based legal information and guidance project. St Giles Trust trains highly-motivated serving prisoners to become Peer Advisors in order to provide advice, guidance and support to their fellow prisoners. Since 2017, the trust has been working with the Open Justice Centre to provide additional support to these Peer Advisors. The Partnership involves final year Open University law students visiting groups of Peer Advisors in prison, under the supervision of qualified lawyers. Students undertake legal research into topics suggested by the Peer Advisors, based on their experience of the needs and interests of the local prison population. Open University students also work with the Peer Advisors to develop information and guidance resources that the Peers Advisors are able to use when providing advice to other prisoners. To date, over 60 law students have worked to support a similar number of St Giles Peer Advisors across nine UK prisons.

Partnerships in Clinical Legal Education: Central England Law Centre, Coventry University and Allen & Overy

“The results from this clinic speak for themselves. It is providing a vital lifeline for people who are in low paid, often insecure employment to be able to have their legal rights upheld.”

Central England Law Centre leaves no stone unturned in the quest for social justice for society’s most vulnerable people. It focuses its resources on the sections of the community that other services do not reach. Central England is something of a legal advice ‘desert’ and therefore the three-way collaboration between Central England Law Centre, Coventry University and Allen & Overy is an example of their innovative approach and manages to overcome geographical barriers in the provision of pro bono advice.

During term time, the weekly legal clinic runs with the assistance of law students from Coventry University while Allen & Overy provides in-person training and over the phone remote advice for employment issues on unpaid wages, maternity rights and statutory sick pay. This service is accessed by people who are in low paid, often insecure employment who would struggle to navigate an employment dispute resolution process without guidance.

Safe Passage, Ashurst and Reed Smith

“The success of this project is exemplified not only by Safe Passage’s transition into a charity that can provide legal advice and representation, but also by its ability to attract funding...[which] ensures the long term sustainability of [its] work.”

The charity Safe Passage developed from the challenges of the 2015 European refugee crisis when hundreds of unaccompanied children became stranded in the Calais camps of northern France and were unable to be reunited with their family members legally residing in the UK.

At a point when Safe Passage was in transition and needed help to fill a key post during a maternity leave, Ashurst and Reed Smith jointly seconded two part-time pro bono lawyers to cover this role for one year. During this time, the lawyers were able to build up a key internal legal function (including becoming regulated with the Office for Immigration Services Commissioner) and recruit additional staff to enable the charity to establish its own in-house legal team. As a result, Safe Passage now has a regulated legal team capable of providing advice to individual refugee children as well as identifying strategic issues which can be advocated or litigated.

Women Only Advice Clinic and PIE Project: Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre and Cleary Gottlieb

"Underpinned by an open and collaborative approach and an ongoing commitment to improve access to justice to people in East London and beyond, the partnership is leading the way in how we can support those most in need of free, expert legal advice with sympathy and understanding of their wider needs."

The core activity of the Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) and Cleary Gottlieb partnership is the women-only advice clinic that runs twice a month and provides a safe, welcoming and understanding environment for women from diverse backgrounds to access advice on sensitive legal issues. Over the past four years, Cleary Gottlieb's volunteering and funding support has enabled Toynbee Hall to double the number of women-only clinics at FLAC and therefore the number of appointments provided.

In addition, Toynbee Hall and Clearly Gottlieb have worked together to develop a new model of legal advice that is more responsive to complex human issues, including mental health needs, that many vulnerable clients face. Known as the "Psychologically Informed Environment" (PIE), this project has developed from the recognition that to maximise the effectiveness of legal advice, it needs to be provided alongside additional supportive infrastructure that is sympathetic to the wider needs of the client.

Working Families Legal Advice Service

"Working Families' help impacted me more than I can say. I can't thank them enough for supporting me through a very stressful and upsetting time."

Working Families has developed a partnership with a number of city law firms including Dentons, Freshfields, Herbert Smith Freehills, Kingsley Napley, Lewis Silkin, Linklaters, Reed Smith and Shearman & Sterling in order to provide a free legal advice helpline on parental rights and discrimination for parents and carers (most of them on low income).

Over the past year, the service has provided advice to over 1,700 parents and the team also successfully intervened in a Court of Appeal landmark decision on the interplay of sex discrimination and shared parental pay. Volunteer lawyers help to update guides available to parents including a new guide for parents of disabled children, a timeline of rights and benefits for pregnant and new mothers and a comprehensive toolkit for new parents. The impact of the partnership can be seen by the fact that this year over 760,000 people accessed at least one online advice article on the Working Families' website.

About A4ID

Advocates for International Development (A4ID) is the leading global non-profit that believes the law can, and should, be used more effectively to eradicate global poverty and advance fair and sustainable development.

Through A4ID's pro bono broker service, the world's top lawyers offer free legal support to organisations working to advance human dignity, equality and justice. A4ID also operates as a knowledge and resource hub with a range of training courses, publications and events exploring the role of law in sustainable development. A4ID's Rule of Law Expertise programme, funded by DFID, provides a unique collaboration between the UK government, judiciary and lawyers to strengthen the rule of law in developing countries.

A4ID's work has inspired and enabled lawyers and development organisations to use the law as an effective development tool. Thus far, A4ID's network includes over 50,000 lawyers and more than 800 development partners, for whom the organisation has facilitated pro bono projects in 130 countries.

A4ID's key services

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 by:

- Enabling lawyers to strategically align their pro bono work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more easily measure the impact of this work
- Providing training and expertise for NGOs and development organisations on how to harness the law to advance their work
- Facilitating high quality pro bono legal advice for international NGOs, charities, governments and social enterprises
- Strengthening partnerships between the UK legal and judicial sector and their counterparts in developing countries in order to promote the rule of law
- Publishing pioneering research and resources on key legal issues at the heart of law and development, and in particular, contributing to policy discussions on law and the SDGs and Business and Human Rights.

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 A4ID at probono@a4id.org or 020 3559 6244.

About LexisNexis

LexisNexis was established over 200 years ago, when Henry Butterworth set up business on Fleet Street in London in 1818. His bookshop soon grew into the renowned legal publisher Butterworths, and later became known as LexisNexis.

Over more than two centuries, we have published laws in the UK and around the world; documented countless cases; produced leading texts and content guiding professionals and academics in their work; released decision tools; trained judges and supported the development of legal infrastructure.

In each case, we have been following our central objective, which sits at the very core of our strategy: to advance the Rule of Law around the world. This is vital for the well-being of citizens, businesses and society as a whole and we are committed to playing a positive role in our communities, through advocacy, partnerships and the provision of high-quality information.

But we also go further than that. We look to use our skills, knowledge and assets to help those who support the Rule of Law – including the free legal advice and pro bono community. Whether it is helping to develop strategy, promote outcomes or design new ways of working, we are proud to partner with those making a difference in the world around us.

We define the Rule of Law as requiring the presence of 4 factors:

- **Equality Under the Law** – all people, regardless of social, economic, political or other rank or profile, are treated the same by the law and the law applies to them equally.
- **Transparency of Law** – everyone should have access to the law.
- **Independent Judiciary** – the law should be administered by judges who are not subject to external pressure, corruption or political interference.
- **Accessible Legal Remedy** – everyone should have a fair and equal access to the legal and judicial system.

In the UK, our most significant challenge sits in the category of accessible legal remedy. Unmet legal need has long been an issue in the UK and is only deepening.

Today, we estimate that only 30% of legal issues receive advice from qualified sources. The rest either self-serve, rely on family or friends, or leave their legal issue unresolved. The Ministry of Justice's own reports suggest that over 7 million individuals have no access to legal advice, especially in areas such as immigration and family law.

We are immensely proud of our long partnership with LawWorks and with others across the access to justice community, and we look forward to continuing our efforts with all of our partners over the coming year.

It is a pleasure to support these Awards for another year, and to be with you all to celebrate and promote the fantastic, selfless and inspiring actions of many. We warmly congratulate and commend all those nominated and shortlisted for their tireless efforts, without which so many would be left behind.

James Harper

Executive Sponsor, Rule of Law and Corporate Social Responsibility, LexisNexis UK

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 members, 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 become, an alternative to legal aid - it makes an important contribution to accessing legal information, advice and representation.

We enable the provision of pro bono through:

- Supporting a growing network of over 280 independent pro bono clinics. We work with lawyers, 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 facilitates the provision of free legal advice for smaller charities and not-for-profit organisations, supported by volunteer solicitors from among LawWorks members. We also provide free online training videos for charities, covering many of the common legal issues they face;
- We support more in-depth pro bono ('secondary specialisation'), in areas of social welfare law. This includes supporting solicitors to provide representation at First-tier social security tribunals, an unpaid wages project and, working with the charity Together for Short Lives, to provide legal advice and case-work for the parents and carers of children with life-limiting conditions.

Supporting litigants in person

LawWorks is a partner organisation for the Litigant in Person Support Strategy, working with Law for Life, Support Through Court, RCJ Advice, Advocate and the Access to Justice Foundation. Funded by the Ministry of Justice, the Strategy works to improve the experience of people involved in legal proceedings who do not have a lawyer.

'Free Legal Answers'

In early 2020 LawWorks will be launching a new online pro bono resource called 'Free Legal Answers'. The project aims to enable access to initial legal advice, complementing existing services and sources of support. It will make it easier for lawyers to provide pro bono advice through the flexibility of an online platform.

LawWorks has been granted a licence for the 'Free Legal Answers' website supported in

the United States by the American Bar Association (ABA). Deloitte Legal have assisted LawWorks in configuring and testing the website to fit the legal environment in England and Wales.

For more information about the project please contact our Chief Executive, Martin Barnes, at martin.barnes@lawworks.org.uk.

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.

In building a 'policy voice' for LawWorks and pro bono, we have engaged with the Government's review of LASPO (the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012) and subsequent Legal Support Action Plan, as well as other strategic policy reviews and consultations such as the Taylor review of modern working practices, and on court and tribunal modernisation.

LawWorks provides the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education, which has developed a public legal education vision and strategy with the support of the Law Officers, and recently hosted an event with legal sector regulators on legal needs and supporting legal capability.

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, held at the House of Commons. Student teams help raise awareness and fundraise through an annual Law School Challenge, to support the work of LawWorks and Advocate.

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 130 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 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), and have the opportunity to contribute to our growing policy work.

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 Jade Luchterhand, Membership & Administration (Casework) Officer at jade.luchterhand@lawworks.org.uk or on 020 7092 3941, or visit our website www.lawworks.org.uk.

Other ways to support LawWorks

LawWorks is grateful for the support of trusts and foundations, and the donations and fundraising of individuals and organisations. If you would like to support our work, please contact Kate Buchanan, our Fundraising Consultant, at kate.buchanan@lawworks.org.uk or on 020 7092 3947, or visit our website www.lawworks.org.uk.

Our special thanks to:

James Harper and LexisNexis for their continued support sponsoring these awards and printing this brochure; the staff of A4ID; Lady Hale for kindly speaking this evening; Matthew Stadlen for hosting the event; our judges - Yasmin Batliwala, Amy Clowrey, Andrea Coomber, Ruth Daniel, Simon Davis, Jeremy Miles AM, Chris Minnoch, Paul Rogerson, Adam Tear, and Linden Thomas for generously giving their time, and 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.

LawWorks

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

www.lawworks.org.uk

 @Law_Works

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Registered charity number 1064274



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