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The Law Society

# LawWorks Not-For-Profits Programme

*"A lifeline for small organisations!"*

Applicant

# About 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.

## Who we help

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

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

***“Absolutely fantastic, top class, and invaluable”***

Applicant

## Our volunteer lawyers

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

We are fortunate in working with a network of over 65 member law firms and in-house legal departments. Our volunteers are from some of the country's top legal teams.





# Free legal assistance

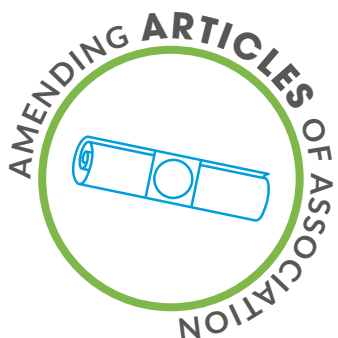
Volunteer lawyers advise not-for-profit organisations on a range of one off, discrete legal matters.

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

**“Outstanding professional service”**

Applicant

## Examples of what we can help with:



***“Knowledgeable,  
friendly and fast”***

Applicant

## How it works



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

Applicant



**144 CASES TAKEN  
ON BY LAWWORKS  
MEMBERS LAST YEAR**



**100%**

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

# Free Talks

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

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



To watch, visit:

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

# Signposting

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

# Development

We pilot projects to help expand our services, both to small not-for-profit organisations in need of free legal advice and to volunteer lawyers wanting to assist.

Last year we developed a new pilot scheme to respond to the growing interest from both volunteer lawyers and not-for-profit organisations for more in-depth assistance and involvement. A proposal to match not-for-profit organisations with their own 'Honorary Counsel' for longer-term pro bono assistance has therefore been initiated.

***"It is essential  
community  
groups have  
access to  
LawWorks"***

Applicant

# Case studies

## ***“Helped to potentially save the organisation”***

A charity supporting people with a rare form of brain tumour was accused by one of its members of passing an invalid resolution to make fundamental changes to the organisation.

LawWorks found a law firm to advise the charity on the validity of its voting process and clarify the status of this important resolution. The advice helped the charity to move forward with its proposal with confidence and implement a vital change in structure, saving it precious time and resources.

## ***“The services we received from the solicitor were first class”***

A small charity which donates monetary gifts to vulnerable residents in its neighbourhood was experiencing difficulties recovering rent.

Through LawWorks, the charity received pro bono assistance to help it grant a lease to a new tenant and complete the necessary Land Registry filings. This ensured that an essential source of income was restored, allowing the charity to make further grants to those in need.

## ***“The bottom line is that now our work can continue”***

A team of volunteers from a LawWorks member firm supported a small breast cancer charity through the process of transferring its assets and liabilities to a larger charity as part of a merger.

The pro bono assistance ensured that the small charity was fairly represented and that the terms under which it would exist after the merger were favourable. This guaranteed that the crucial work which it does for women with breast cancer could continue on a more equal and sustainable footing.

***“It is so nice to work on a charitable basis and help organisations that would not otherwise be able to afford the services of a firm like [ours].”***

Volunteer

# Making a difference

## How not-for-profit organisations benefit:

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

71%

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

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

Applicant

*"The support we have  
received has been beyond  
our expectations"*

Applicant

98%

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

### How lawyers benefit:

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

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

Volunteer



APPROXIMATELY

**2,350**  
**PRO BONO**  
**HOURS**

GIVEN BY VOLUNTEERS  
LAST YEAR

**100%**

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





# With thanks to

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

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

***“It’s the right thing to do”***

Volunteer

## Get involved

If you are a law firm or in-house legal team and would like to get involved, or if you are a stakeholder interested in our work generally, please email [nfp@lawworks.org.uk](mailto:nfp@lawworks.org.uk).

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



✉ [nfp@lawworks.org.uk](mailto:nfp@lawworks.org.uk)

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

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