



**Student
Pro Bono
Awards
2019**



The LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards

Wednesday 1st May 2019
Members Dining Room
The House of Commons



Welcome from the Attorney General

I am very pleased to welcome you to the House of Commons for the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards 2019. I commend the many law students providing pro bono advice to thousands of people every year. Advice is given in a variety of areas such as family, welfare benefits, personal injury, employment, housing and small claims, and volunteering takes various forms.

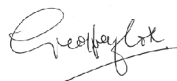
Over 4,000 students willingly gave their time to provide pro bono advice, which has helped make a real difference to people's lives as well as their communities. In return, students gain legal skills and experience which will be of benefit to them throughout their professional career. I sincerely hope the enthusiasm shown for pro bono by nominated students will stay with them for the rest of their careers. Pro bono not only brings a sense of responsibility but also a tremendous sense of achievement and pride.

These awards celebrate the best in the pro bono field and I look forward to hearing about the passion and enthusiasm that students bring to their work today. The awards present a wonderful opportunity to appreciate a group of committed and hardworking law students who have gone to great lengths to help increase access to justice in their community.

All students nominated across the five categories should be very proud. I hope that they will consider a career in the Government Legal Department where they can find a home for their skill, enthusiasm and commitment to public service.

This year's awards include a new category to reflect the role of technology, and also incorporate the Access to Justice Foundation Award and the winners of the Law School Challenge.

I would like to extend my gratitude to this year's panel of Judges: Christina Blacklaws, President of the Law Society; Peter Farr, Trustee of CILEx Pro Bono Trust; James Harper, Executive Sponsor, Rule of Law and CSR for LexisNexis UK & Ireland; Leanne Targett-Parker, Chair, Bar Council Pro Bono Committee, and Josh Richman, Senior editor, LawCareers.Net, who have given their time and cast their expert eye over the shortlist and agreed the winners of this year's awards. I would also like to thank LexisNexis for kindly sponsoring this event, and the Honourable Mr Justice Robin Knowles CBE for once again introducing the awards. Most of all, I commend and thank all this year's entrants for their outstanding contributions to pro bono.



Rt Hon Geoffrey Cox MP QC
Attorney General



Welcome from the LawWorks Chair of Trustees

We are very pleased to welcome this year's shortlisted nominees to the House of Commons for the annual LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards.

The most recent LawWorks clinics report highlights that 40 per cent of clinics in the LawWorks Clinics Network operate with law schools. These clinics alone received over 19,000 enquiries, a significant increase on the previous year.

It is clear that the pro bono work being done by law students across the country is playing a significant role in the delivery of free advice to those in need. At a time when many face barriers to accessing legal advice, it is reassuring to see that student pro bono is now embedded at so many UK universities.

Today, we come together to recognise this commitment and hard work. The Student Pro Bono Awards play a central role in LawWorks' involvement with students and offers a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the innovation, commitment and dedication of law students and law schools. On behalf of LawWorks, I am hugely grateful to all the students nominated, to the teachers and lawyers working within the law schools and to local solicitors, barristers, legal executives and others who support them. For me, it is one of the most inspiring aspects of our work and gives us great hope for the future.

To recognise the contribution that technology makes in improving access to justice and the delivery of pro bono we have added a new category 'Best LegalTech Contribution' for the 2019 awards.

LawWorks received a large number of high-calibre nominations and the diversity of projects nominated across the five categories is particularly impressive. The Award categories are: 'Best contribution by a Law School'; 'Best contribution by a Team of Students'; 'Best contribution by an Individual Student'; 'Best LegalTech Contribution' and 'Best New Pro Bono Activity'.

The Student Pro Bono Awards also include the Access to Justice Foundation Award for an educational body or student which has made a significant contribution to promoting access to justice.

We also welcome the winners of the Law School Challenge to the Award ceremony for the sixth year. Their imaginative efforts in raising money for LawWorks and our sister charity, Advocate (the new name for the Bar Pro Bono Unit), is greatly appreciated. We are also joined this year by the runners-up.

We are delighted that this year's awards celebration will be hosted by the Honourable Mr Justice Robin Knowles CBE

Congratulations to all the shortlisted candidates; you should feel extremely proud of your achievements and the contribution you have made in enabling access to justice. I sincerely hope that you will continue with your commitment to pro bono as you move forward in your career, demonstrating that participating in pro bono is an essential part of a being in the profession and serving the society we live in, as well as making us all better lawyers.



Alasdair Douglas
Chair of Trustees



THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Access to Justice Foundation Award

The Access to Justice Foundation works to bring additional financial resources to support free legal help for those in need. We are delighted to be part of the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards at the House of Commons.

The work of the Foundation is strategic and focuses on generating new sources of funding to support the free legal advice sector.

The Foundation receives funds from pro bono costs, introduced in October 2008 by section 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007, donations of dormant client account funds and works with a matrix of Legal Support Trusts to support the pro bono and advice sector.

The Access to Justice Foundation Award aims to recognise the work of individuals and educational bodies in promoting and supporting access to justice. Reflecting the work the Foundation itself does, we received nominations from law schools across the country which promote, support and fundraise for the work of the pro bono sector.

The shortlisted nominees for this year's Access to Justice Foundation Award are:

- Leeds Beckett University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Lucy Chapman, City, University of London
- Plymouth Law Clinic, University of Plymouth

The nominations were judged by the Foundation's trustees and we are delighted to be announcing the winner at the Student Awards celebration at the House of Commons.



LawWorks and Advocate Law School Challenge 2018/19

LawWorks and Advocate would like to congratulate and thank the nineteen teams who participated in the Law School Challenge 2018/19. Their amazing hard work and dedication to our charities is greatly appreciated.

The 2018/2019 challenge was a record-breaker; more teams took part than ever before, we saw the largest team fundraising total and the highest total amount raised in the challenge. All kinds of fundraising activities took place, from a Great Gatsby Ball to a silent auction, a Halloween movie night, candy cane deliveries and countless pub quizzes and bake sales. The winning team staged a charity boxing match, and their success suggests that it was a knockout!

LawWorks and Advocate would like to congratulate Liverpool John Moore University for winning the 2018/19 Law School Challenge.

The University of Leeds and University of Huddersfield are recognised as this year's immediate runners up. We also commend Nottingham Trent University, University College London, Swansea University, University of Birmingham and University of Cambridge.

The other participants in the Law School Challenge were Anglia Ruskin University; Aston University; City, University of London; Staffordshire University; University of Exeter; University of Lancaster; University of Lincoln; University of Liverpool; University of Nottingham; University of Portsmouth and University of Winchester.

LawWorks and Advocate would like to extend their gratitude to Charles Raffin, barrister at Hardwicke Chambers, and Esther Lemmon, solicitor at Allen & Overy, for donating their time and expertise for the midway Challenge prize.

Once again we would like to say a big thank you to all the law schools that participated in the Challenge, for the valuable contribution you have made to LawWorks and Advocate.

Best Contribution by a Law School

Brunel Law School, Brunel University, London

"The most important contribution that the Brunel Law School volunteers have [made] is to continuously reaffirm to these children that they are part of a society that listens to them."

Through an initiative and contacts of a Greek academic at Brunel Law School, the Athens Refugee Project started in late 2015 at the height of the refugee crisis. Six groups from Brunel (44 students in total) have volunteered at various refugee centres in Greece as a regular commitment to refugees, especially unaccompanied minors. The volunteering has included working with Faros, a shelter for unaccompanied minors; and with Network for the Rights of the Child which supports a youth centre. In recent trips students worked with the Ombudsman for Human Rights in Greece, and assisted with document translation.

As one of the first European universities to volunteer assistance, the Greek Secretary General for Migration Policy recognised Brunel's efforts as have other partners in Greece. Partner NGOs have commented on the positive impact of Brunel students' contribution on the lives of the refugee children and women. The project has also had a long-lasting effect on students, with many describing it as a life-changing experience.

Leicester Law School, University of Leicester

"We recognize that by...offering more pro bono opportunities for students, we can help to foster in our students a commitment to pro bono work which may last throughout their careers."

The University of Leicester's pro bono activities have involved around 300 students participating in nine diverse projects. Developments over the past year include a Litigants in Person (LiP) Project helping LiPs with court forms and process; a legal advice clinic offering free initial advice on employment, consumer, contract, housing and most recently family law - providing both city centre appointments and telephone/Skype interviews; and an Immigration and Asylum Project which has supported more than 20 local asylum seekers with applications for refugee status. Other projects range from working with Amicus (the death row charity), a Miscarriages of Justice Project, Street Law, Lawyers without Borders supporting Leicester's Racial Equality Centre, and Project Light working with 'The Bridge' homeless charity. The Pro Bono Committee co-host the Leicester Legal Walk and hold events with local lawyers and the University Careers Service. The LiP service and advice clinic have been able to extend their offer and opening times – including beyond term-time – and all projects have excellent feedback, demonstrating a positive impact.

Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University

"My advisor really understood my needs and struggles and was very reassuring throughout the whole process and on the day of the tribunal in court. If we hadn't won the appeal I would not have all the help and support I have now, which enables me to be mobile inside and outside my home."

Run by nine members of staff and with over 320 students participating in the last academic year, Nottingham Law School's Legal Advice Centre was the first Solicitors Regulation Authority regulated law firm integrated into a law school in the UK. It also acts as the Free Representation Unit's only representative outside London. Between 2017 and 2018 the Centre provided pro bono legal advice and assistance to 449 individuals, businesses and organisations. Over the last five years the Centre has recouped over £3 million in compensation and benefits for their clients. Students also provided representation at 85 Social Security Tribunals, 14 Employment Tribunals and five County Court Hearings. In addition, the Centre is in the process of introducing a digital case management system which will equip students with skills and experience surrounding legal technology and will also vastly reduce paper usage.

School of Law, Queen Mary University of London

"It's hard to know where to start when looking into rights and potential breaches. QMLAC were invaluable, they listened carefully and neutrally, took time to research and responded within two weeks. They were amazing to work with."

With a focus on client need in its local east London community, around 300 undergraduate law students are involved with the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre (QMLAC), giving supervised free legal advice to 350 clients a year. The clinic runs two programmes engaging with students at primary and secondary schools, and collaborates with a further two clinics. These initiatives have delivered workshops to over 2,200 secondary school students and 30 primary school students; between December 2017 and March 2019 the clinic held 608 one-to-one advice appointments covering 30 different areas of law.

Based in the QMLAC, qLegal allows postgraduate students at the university to provide free legal advice to charities, social enterprises, startups and entrepreneurs – assisting over 300 with their legal issues in the last year. They are also able to engage with students at local schools to further expand their skillset by teaching the legal elements of developing a business idea.

School of Law, University of Manchester

"Volunteering at the legal advice centre was my first opportunity to use my knowledge of the law to help real people confronted by real challenges. For me, it brought the law to life and showed me what a force it can be, not just for the individual client, but as an agent of social change."

The Law School and University has a proud history of social justice being integral to students' education. In order to synchronise, co-ordinate and expand the extensive pro bono work being undertaken, the Law School has established a pioneering and innovative 'Justice hub'.

The Justice Hub brings together a diverse variety of components including the Legal Advice Centre; Manchester Free Legal Help; Dementia Law Clinic; Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre; Legal Tech and Access to Justice, Legal Advocacy Support Project; Student Pro Bono Society and Vacation Scheme. One successful Justice Hub case involved seeking judicial guidance to ensure vulnerable individuals are projected when using the internet.

The success of the Justice Hub is grounded upon the commitment and collaboration of students, academics and partners, including solicitors, barristers, the court, law centres, charities and medical practitioners. Since January 2018, over 1,000 clients have been assisted through the Justice Hub.

School of Law, Ulster University

"Despite having more than 20 hearings and being emotionally and financially exhausted throughout the time period, I still had a hope that I could succeed. But I wouldn't have done so without the help and support I received from [the Ulster University] Law Clinic.

Through the Ulster University Law Clinic, all LLM Access to Justice students provide advice and representation for clients at social security and employment tribunals throughout Northern Ireland. The clinic has developed from closing ten cases in its first year, to progressing 146 cases to various levels of hearings in social security, employment and family law by 2019. In total, approximately 6,500 hours of pro bono advice and representation have been provided.

Funding from the Garfield Weston Trust and Ulster University has been used to create the University's Social Justice Hub in Derry/Londonderry, which will house clinic staff, students and clients from 2019. This means that, following a pilot clinic, students will be able to provide advice in the areas of social security, employment and family law.

Clinic staff and students are also working alongside victims of domestic violence and University Art School staff, making an art installation and film which tells the story of victims of domestic violence for an international conference on women's rights.

School of Law, University of South Wales

"The involvement of USW students has been an extremely positive development in the growth of the clinic. Their contribution means that the Employment Tribunal is able to deal with cases far more efficiently, reducing hearing listing length, freeing up judicial and ET resources for other claims to progress".

The Legal Advice Clinic at the University of South Wales (USW) Treforest campus in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) is the cornerstone of the Law School and provides advice on employment, family, consumer, litigation and housing law. In the last 12 months, over 100 law students participated in the clinic, supervised by six Law School lecturers. As well as providing one-off advice, they also undertake casework and are currently working on 76 cases (including during the summer holidays). The clinic is able to provide services in Welsh and can also assist BSL Deaf clients.

The clinic's location enables the students to plug a gap in access to justice within the South Wales Valleys where limited pro bono advice is available. In addition, students engage in Streetlaw, provide a triage service for ELIPS (Employment Litigants in Person Support Scheme), and have established a family law 'drop in clinic' at Citizens Advice in Risca and providing support for another clinic at Citizens Advice RCT.

Best Contribution by a Team of Students

Access to Justice Advice Clinic and Immigration Law Clinic, University of Exeter Law School

"The students have already made a significant difference to vulnerable individuals living in the Exeter area through their work."

Students at the University of Exeter Law School participate in pro bono in two different areas. The south west region is often described as an 'advice desert' and this led to the establishment of an Access to Justice Advice Clinic. As part of a 30 credit module, 12 third year students participate in the fortnightly clinic which provides advice to individuals through various stages of their legal problems on housing, employment, welfare benefits, debt or criminal matters.

The availability of immigration advice in particular in the south west is very limited and in Exeter there is no law firm with a legal aid contract for immigration advice. As a consequence, the Immigration Law Clinic has also been set up to meet this need and is a free, by appointment, service, run by trained law students under supervision. Types of cases include Article 8 right to family and private life claims, refugee family reunions and registration of children as British citizens. The clinic receives referrals from various organisations such as Action for Children, Age UK and the Red Cross.

Cardiff Law School Innocence Project, Cardiff University

"Delivering justice to a wrongfully convicted person in England and Wales is possibly the most challenging undertaking a lawyer will ever face. The law students at Cardiff University Innocence Project took on this challenge and prevailed..."

The Cardiff University Innocence Project provides a free legal service to people who claim to be factually innocent of the crime of which they have been convicted. 60 student volunteers currently investigate claims of innocence and seek help on a pro bono basis from a range of experts in the field, including appeal lawyers and forensic experts. If a client has a valid claim, an appeal is submitted directly to the Court of Appeal or a submission is made to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

On 21 December 2018, the Court of Appeal overturned Gareth Jones' wrongful conviction of the sexual assault of an elderly woman as a result of six years of research and investigation carried out by law students. Painsstaking investigation by the students showed that the medical evidence against Mr Jones was flawed and their work was acknowledged by Lord Justice Simon in his judgment.

Mr Jones, who had contemplated suicide, described the team as *"like a second family"* adding, *"I owe my life to them, basically."*

Liverpool Law Clinic Family Court Project, University of Liverpool

"If it wasn't for you, I don't know where I'd be today!! You helped me massively and I will be forever grateful and thankful to you for that."

The Family Court Project at the Liverpool Crown Court, run by specialist family law solicitors with the support of law students, provides free legal advice for litigants in person at first hearing in child arrangement cases. Students pro-actively identify litigants in person at the court, offering them help on the day by attending hearings in a 'McKenzie friend' capacity. Afterwards, students draft detailed letters of advice for clients and, for the most vulnerable clients, offer follow up appointments to help them draft their statements.

Eighteen students are currently involved in the project, attending at court from 9am to 2pm on clinic days with follow up work of at least half a day. The majority of cases involve allegations of domestic abuse, concerns about one or both parents' mental health and allegations of drug or alcohol abuse. For example, in one case, students attended three hearings with a father whose child had not been returned by the mother from a contact visit. In the end, the child was returned.

Refugee Family Reunion Project, Plymouth Law Clinic, University of Plymouth

"The partnership with the Law Clinic has been really important and valuable. Students work in the Red Cross office on cases for people which are very challenging. People separated from their family, many of whom have suffered previous trauma, are distressed and fearful about close family members who may [still] be in danger."

Based in the offices of the British Red Cross (BRC), and in partnership with Plymouth Law Clinic, law students work with the BRC team to deliver pro bono assistance to vulnerable refugees seeking to reunite with family members from whom they have become separated due to persecution and conflict.

Students assist in the preparation of statements from family members, often with the assistance of interpreters, and in evidence gathering to establish family relationships. They develop skills in working with vulnerable people and handover effectively to each other to ensure tasks are fully completed. The application process is complex and can be stressful, and this project provides vital casework support to people who would be unable to make the applications themselves.

The project aims to assist 30 to 40 families a year and this year has reunited family members from a range of countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Cameroon and Malawi.

Swansea Law Clinic, Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University

"Practising solicitors...have been very impressed by [the students'] professionalism, and their commitment to client care...including those with severe mental health issues."

Each year Swansea Law Clinic pairs up their student advisers into small teams and last year one team had a huge impact. Contributing over 750 hours of their time, Isabel Francis and Tahmid Miah's year culminated in giving oral evidence to a Committee in the National Assembly for Wales.

At Swansea Law Clinic, their work included drafting initial advice letters, providing assistance at the Litigant Helpdesk at Swansea Civil Justice Centre, assisting in a Legal Aid Exceptional Case Funding Clinic and supporting the charity Haemophilia Wales in its preparations for the Infected Blood Inquiry. When they volunteered their time over the summer it enabled the Swansea Law Clinic to remain open, offering a service to the public when most university based clinics close.

The pair impressed their supervisors who have all commented on the professionalism with which they approach client interviews and the clarity and accuracy of their initial advice letters. As a result of having had so much clinic experience in a relatively short time, they were able to participate in a law reform clinic on the Legislation (Wales) Bill.

University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

"The Law Clinic simply would not run without the time and dedication of students who volunteer their time pro bono to the Executive Committee."

University of Strathclyde Law Clinic is a clinic with students operating at every level: volunteer students provide the advice, coordinate projects, and comprise the majority of the Executive Committee which manages the clinic. In this way students are responsible for engaging the wider student membership, ensuring a high-quality and dedicated service.

The clinic provides access to justice to Glasgow and the surrounding areas; a 2018 research project found that its clients live in the top 5 per cent most deprived areas in Scotland. Its diverse range of projects are designed to meet clients' needs and include: drop-in sessions at local foodbanks; immigration advice; and a unique collaborative project which provides free information, advice and representation to women affected by gender-based violence and abuse.

These projects and the clinic's expansion are thanks to the Executive Committee. Since 2003 the clinic has helped 3,698 people; won or saved almost £1 million for clients; and in cases requiring representation has a success rate of 85 per cent.

Best Contribution by an Individual Student

Abigail Fernandes – Aston University

“Abigail has worked tirelessly in order to promote pro bono to her fellow students and to increase their understanding of what pro bono involves... She is a very impressive individual and has worked tirelessly for the good of society and pro bono in the local area.”

Abigail is President of Aston University's Pro Bono Society and a volunteer for its Employment Law Clinic. As President she has enthused students about pro bono through fundraising initiatives, an “alternative careers” event, and talks by prominent figures in the pro bono community. She is also personally working with the Birmingham Law Society Pro Bono Committee on its referral database, a network of around 100 organisations which provide free advice across Birmingham. As an adviser she advises charities, start-ups and small businesses on employment law issues and produces work of a standard exceeding what would be expected of a student of her level.

Overall her work and commitment has improved fellow students' awareness and understanding of the challenges facing the pro bono sector. As President she took on the challenge of running a society which did not have clear objectives; her work has given it a defined purpose and set of goals.

Anthony Dillon – BPP Law School (London Holborn), BPP University

“Anthony continues to be an asset to BPP's Pro Bono Team as a whole and we are very impressed by his enthusiasm and commitment to giving back his time to his community through so many of our projects.”

Anthony volunteers for a number of roles across the BPP Pro Bono Team, including the Enterprise Clinic, Legal Translation Service and Housing Clinic. In his role as student director for the Enterprise Clinic, Anthony coordinates the project in BPP's London Holborn office, helping to organise over 40 of his peers to deliver quality advice to the community. He has shown exemplary organisation skills, professionalism and commitment to the role, working with his co-director to ensure that appointments run smoothly. In addition to his student director role, Anthony volunteers as a student advisor, working in pairs with fellow student volunteers to conduct client interviews with small business owners and subsequently researching and drafting letters of advice for clients. Anthony has also taken over the BPP Human Rights Law Journal as its editor-in-chief to lead the editorial team, with a view of encouraging students to put forward their views on pressing human rights issues and campaigning for equal access to justice.

Catherine Duggan – School of Law, University of Essex

“Catherine has had a direct impact in providing access to justice to the law clinic clients... Catherine is an enormous asset to the Essex Law Clinic, and in turn to the community that it serves.”

Catherine joined the Essex Law Clinic as a first year student in October 2017. As a student adviser she was an eager and enthusiastic participant, taking on responsibility with relish; when transport to outreach sessions became an issue she drove fellow volunteers to their appointments. As the 2017-18 academic year came to an end Catherine successfully applied for a summer placement to keep the clinic running. As the 2018-19 academic year approached Catherine was appointed as one of two student directors for the

law clinic. She played a crucial role in planning for an intake of over seventy new students in that academic year and planning the training for these new recruits. Catherine has become an important link between the law clinic management and volunteers, and has helped to place the clinic in a position whereby it may grow and flourish in the future.

Giulia Mazzu – Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London

“[Giulia] stands out in light of her unwavering commitment to help some of the most vulnerable members of society in any way possible.”

Giulia is a final year law student and has worked in a number of areas of pro bono. She was a legal research volunteer for Action4Justice, carrying out research on the definition of a refugee and the asylum processes in different countries. She worked as a volunteer caseworker with the Freedom Law Clinic and assisted in preparing a case for referral to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. In summer 2018 she worked as an intern at the Stahill Foundation (which works to stop orphanage trafficking in Kenya) by drafting legal documents, covering issues concerned with the Kenyan authorities. More recently, Giulia has been a student volunteer with the Article 8 ECHR Project at King's Legal Clinic, which provides pro bono representation to immigrants who are seeking to remain in the UK on human rights grounds.

In addition to her pro bono work, Giulia is active in encouraging others to get involved in pro bono activities and fundraising. She is also the President of the King's College London Pro Bono Human Rights Project which aims to open pathways for students interested in a career in human rights.

Jessica Latham – Law School, Staffordshire University

“Jessica is committed, conscientious and passionate about enhancing procedural justice and advocating for prisoner's rights.”

Jessica works at the Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic and volunteered to undertake a collaborative research project with HMP Stafford, aimed at improving outcomes for the men incarcerated in the prison. She has conducted intensive quantitative and qualitative research to inform her recommendations, which will be published in a report and presented by her to senior management at HMP Stafford. The prison governor and deputy have expressed gratitude for Jessica's impartiality and unfettered dedication. Her recommendations and innovative ways of enhancing prisoner quality of life will be implemented by the prison, thereby positively impacting on the prisoners' experience at the prison, their rehabilitation success and consequently on wider society.

Jessica has also provided practical and emotional support to the residents of the prison and hosts forums to ensure that their voices are heard. Members of the prison staff have also benefited from her dedication to providing access to justice in her work at the Legal Advice Clinic.

Martyna Proczek – School of Law, Aberdeen University

“Martyna Proczek ... is passionate about furthering our legal pro bono work and increasing access to justice... We are tremendously grateful for the work she has done on behalf of the Aberdeen Law Project...”

As deputy student director of the Aberdeen Law Project (ALP), Martyna managed the interview process and allocation of new members, and encouraged and inspired members to participate in pro bono activities. She kick-started and developed ALP's Language Barrier Initiative (LBI), which bridges the justice gap by pairing those who need assistance with legal advisors who speak a language of their choice. So far, ALP has Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Bengali legal advisors and will be able to offer Spanish and Bulgarian later this year. Since launching the LBI in November 2018, ALP has assisted 23 people who would otherwise have been unable to access its service. Martyna was fundamental in making necessary links that resulted in a partnership between ALP and the Scottish Social Services Council (which regulates over 100,000 social service workers in Scotland); ALP now offers free legal advice and representation to social workers whose fitness to practise is under investigation. Martyna became ALP's student director in April 2019.

Mozes Salvatore – Westminster Law School, University of Westminster

“Mozes is a marvel... he has brought his energy and enthusiasm to the team... he is a fantastic person and really committed to the support of the vulnerable through the law.”

Mozes has been volunteering with the University of Westminster Student Law Clinic (UWSLC) and with North Kensington Law Centre (NKLC), in the heart of the Grenfell Tower community, since November 2018. In partnership with these organisations, Mozes has set up 'Project Empower' (PE), which informs, educates and empowers people in respect of their legal rights. The first stage of PE is an employment advice drop-in service based at NKLC, at which students volunteer to triage clients by taking initial details and information about their case. This is then given to an employment solicitor who prepares written advice. The service has recently started but is already proving successful. Mozes and PE have also set up a Streetlaw project, to educate people through workshops on their legal rights, and to reach people in the community who do not normally access legal advice or training. Mozes has encouraged other students to become involved in pro bono and his contributions are highly valued by the directors of both UWSLC and NKLC.

Best LegalTech contribution

Online Project, University of Strathclyde Law Clinic

“[The project] has...allowed a far larger geographical area to be provided with services which would be virtually impossible should they have to come direct to our clinic.”

The University of Strathclyde Law Clinic's Online Project provides free initial legal advice and assistance for enquirers via the internet, and has provided advice to 93 clients from all over Scotland in the past few months of operation. It is available to anyone with access to the internet, and provides a platform for clients to seek out help when more traditional routes may not be possible. 59 students are involved in the operation of the clinic and have 15 days in which to draft a response to questions from clients which are then checked by supervisors for accuracy. The impact of the service is twofold; it provides a platform for students to meet an unmet demand for help and assistance in legal matters, and it gives the general public a forum to raise such enquiries. It has also been used as a signpost to other advice streams within the clinic for representation by other law students.

Open Justice Law Clinic, The Open University Law School

“Thank you very much indeed for this tremendous work. I am very appreciative of you assessing and advising on my situation. Thank you for this facility and for taking my case forward. I appreciate how much time and effort was spent on my case.”

The Open Justice Law Clinic is a 'virtual' legal advice clinic led by law students under the supervision of qualified solicitors. It began in September 2017, covers advice on contract, tort, consumer and employment law and is accessible to anyone in the UK with an internet connection. Once a case is allocated, a student 'firm' (comprising 3 or 4 students) prepares for and arranges an interview with the client via Adobe Connect at the client's convenience, mostly during the evening. Students then provide a detailed letter of advice which explains the relevant law and also sets out practical next steps to empower the client to address their legal issue. 50 students participate in the clinic which is an integral part of the Open Justice Centre, and furthers the Open University's social justice mission by providing the public with a source of free legal advice, education and guidance.

Best New Pro Bono Activity

Anglia Law School Law Clinic, Anglia Ruskin University

"To me their work was invaluable for the technical side of the case but also ... [for] the courage they instilled in me."

The Anglia Law School Clinic's objective is to provide a service that is of value to the local community's needs, whilst enabling students to learn from practitioners and to give those practitioners the opportunity to share their expertise and experience with the next generation.

Cambridge is one of the UK's most unequal places in terms of wealth and a large section of the local community is unable to afford access to justice, particularly in family law.

The clinic currently has 57 student advisors who work together with 14 barristers and 15 law firms on a pro bono rota. Since the clinic was launched in April 2018, 86 advice sessions and 24 court support sessions have been held, providing advice and support to 515 clients. The clinic has been responsive to issues it has identified, for example introducing a student-led service to assist with child arrangement applications and, as a consequence, volunteers have given 43 hours of form-filling assistance across Cambridge, Chelmsford and Peterborough. In collaboration with Cambridge Citizens Advice, litigants in person are offered help through Support@Court.

Anti Trafficking Legal Project, Liverpool Law Clinic, University of Liverpool

"It is highly innovative and brave to reach out to this incredibly vulnerable group, developing a new model to service clients in a pro bono setting with no precedent to follow."

Established in October 2018 after being approached by the British Red Cross in Liverpool, this project aims to provide advice and assistance to the victims of trafficking before they enter the National Referral Mechanism. Its approach aims to help clients move to a situation where they can make informed choices about the processes they are involved in, and give clearer information about what has happened to them.

There are 16 student caseworkers who attend interviews with the clients to take notes and read back and amend statements of evidence, as well as providing research, drafting letters and assisting with other casework as needed. Four student interpreters also attend most weekly casework sessions. The project has advised 31 clients and has had some notable successes in what are often very complex cases.

The project has continued to work with the British Red Cross, as well as other agencies who appreciate an "exceptional team bringing about remarkable change by advising victims of trafficking in very challenging conditions."

Business Law Clinic, University of Central Lancashire

"The structure of the clinic is unique with three employed graduates and up to 20 student volunteers providing free legal advice for not-for-profit, small business and start-up organisations, under supervision."

The Business Law Clinic was established in September 2018. Graduates and students are provided with an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills whilst gaining experience in commercial law. Over 88% of trainees in commercial law firms are recruited from Russell Group universities with most of those coming from middle class backgrounds. 40-48% of UCLan students come from working class backgrounds and 15-30% from BME backgrounds. Commercial law experience and the jobs that can flow from it often evade them. This new venture is attempting to level the playing field giving access to these opportunities.

The clinic's structure allows the work experience to be meaningful where graduates and students can build relationships with clients and see their work being used in the commercial world. 42 clients have been signed up since the start seeking assistance on a variety of matters including contracts, GDPR and intellectual property. Many clients have been recommended by Boost Business Lancashire supported by Lancashire County Council – feedback has demonstrated a huge need for the service.

St Hilda's East Legal Advice Clinic, St Hilda's East Community Centre

"Weavers Ward, where the community centre is sited, is marked by some of the highest levels of income deprivation in Britain... Within this context, reliable and easy to obtain advice is crucial for a great many residents."

St Hilda's East Community Centre runs a food Co-op Project providing affordable fresh fruit and vegetables to the local community, along with social enterprise training. It was thought that running the legal advice clinic in conjunction with the food Co-op would maximize the engagement from the local community, particularly those who are most vulnerable and on low incomes, encouraging residents to use the drop-in sessions as they would already be attending the centre.

Since the clinic was set up in November 2017, BPP Pro Bono Centre student volunteers, in partnership with Macfarlanes LLP, have provided free legal assistance to 179 clients at 52 evening sessions. This represents over £356,000 worth of legal advice had it been obtained in the private sector.

Clients were asked why they decided to use the St Hilda's clinic and the two common responses were "I had nowhere else to go" and "I needed proper legal advice." These answers set out perfectly the motivation for starting the clinic.

Staffordshire University Legal Advice Clinic, Staffordshire University

"The head of Macmillan in Stoke told us of one situation where a cancer patient refused chemotherapy because she was so worried about losing her job. Whilst we cannot stop this occurring, being able to provide some reassurance may provide a little comfort."

Staffordshire University launched the Legal Advice Clinic (SULAC) in October 2018. The service provides free legal advice to communities across Staffordshire and Shropshire. The clinic is run as a module in the final year of the LLB. Following a supervised face-to-face interview, the students provide written legal advice on a range of issues covering housing, family, consumer and employment law.

SULAC runs clinics in a range of community locations, including a local prison, for staff members at Shrewsbury hospital, a military base, a community hub on a council estate and through the local MP, Gareth Snell. In addition to providing legal advice the students are forging links and integrating with the local community.

SULAC also offers a virtual priority link to cancer patients within Staffordshire, via Macmillan cancer support. Most of the enquiries received relate to employment problems after treatment.

The students show exceptional commitment, with a focus on building partnerships with the community as well as serving those in need.

University of South Wales Legal Advice Clinic, University of South Wales

"The judges at the employment tribunal are extremely grateful to all volunteers and students... Their contribution means that the ET is able to deal with cases far more efficiently, reducing hearing listing length, freeing up judicial and ET resources for other claims to progress."

The University of South Wales (USW) Legal Advice Clinic is a student led advice clinic, offering pro bono legal advice on employment, family, litigation, consumer and housing law. In the past 12 months over 100 students have participated in the clinic's work.

The clinic undertakes full casework on behalf of clients, and also runs a number of pro bono projects including the Employment Litigants in Person Support Scheme (ELIPS) Student Triage Service, which commenced in October 2018. Once a month 3 students attend the employment tribunal (ET) volunteering alongside legal professionals to help 'triage' clients, assisting volunteers by taking initial instructions, and attending advice conferences and ET hearings to take notes. The attendance of students is of great benefit to the volunteers and parties, relieving pressure on a busy service (where there can be as many as nine hearings listed in one day).

About LawWorks

Supporting and celebrating pro bono

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) promotes, supports and facilitates 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 240 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 (for Employment and Support Allowance and Personal Independent Payment appeals), 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, the Personal Support Unit, 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 2019 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, reducing the need to physically attend centres to meet clients at specific times.

LawWorks has been granted a licence for the 'Free Legal Answers' website supported in the United States by the American Bar Association (ABA). Deloitte UK is providing management and technical expertise to assist 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 recent review of LASPO (the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012), including submitting a briefing for the Justice Committee supported by 15 organisations.

LawWorks provides the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education. A new public legal education (PLE) vision statement was launched by the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, at a meeting of the APPG as part of Justice Week 2018.

Student pro bono

The pro bono contribution made by law schools and students is significant and growing. LawWorks encourages and supports student pro bono (for example, 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 and 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.

About LexisNexis

LexisNexis was established in 1818 and, throughout more than 200 years, we have consistently been at the forefront of our markets: The Future of Law. Since 1818.

In that time, 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.

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, as without knowing what the law is, you cannot enforce it, or demand its protection, or hope to comply with it.
- **Independent Judiciary** - the law should be administered by judges who are not subject to external pressure, corruption or political interference. They should have no interest in who wins as long as the result is in accordance with the law.
- **Accessible Legal Remedy** - everyone should have fair and equal access to the justice system.

In the UK, the most significant challenge we have to the Rule of Law sits in the category of accessible legal remedy. And yet this is fundamental: if you cannot get access to the legal system, the law can simply be ignored, and if there are no consequences to ignoring the law, then you don't really have the Rule of Law at all.

Today, we estimate that only 30% of legal issues receive advice from qualified sources – with only 10% being paid for by the client. The remaining 70% 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 incredibly proud to sponsor these Awards and the work that all of the nominees have done to help those that otherwise might be denied access to our legal system. We stand with you all and look forward to continuing to support your efforts for many years to come.

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) is a charity working in England and Wales that promotes, supports and facilitates pro bono legal services that extend access to the law for individuals and communities in need and the organisations that support them.

www.lawworks.org.uk

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**Student
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2019

