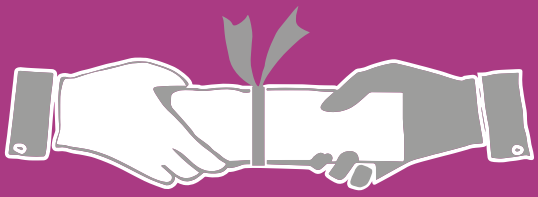

PRO BONO CONNECT

Helping barristers and solicitors collaborate on pro bono cases

ANNUAL UPDATE 2026

WHAT IS PRO BONO CONNECT?

The only scheme to connect solicitors with barristers to litigate civil pro bono cases. We can also connect lawyers to pro bono expert support.

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

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

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

Members adhere to the Pro Bono Protocol.

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

MEMBERS

90 solicitor members, up 50% from 2024.

Includes international, city, regional and smaller firms.

67 barristers' chambers, up 10% from 2024.

Includes regional and specialist sets.

Individual barrister members and in-house solicitor members.

There is no obligation to take on cases.

CASE REFERRALS

48 cases successfully placed in 2025.

Cases are referred to Pro Bono Connect by Advocate, legal advice centres, university clinics, firms and chambers.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A working collaboration with LawWorks, Advocate and the National Pro Bono Centre

Now includes Pro Bono Expert Support to match lawyers with experts and others providing pro bono litigation support.

Excellent member engagement with scheme, with 11 firms and chambers achieving bronze, silver or gold recognition in 2025.

ADMINISTRATION

Requests received, processed and distributed through the UK Pro Bono Portal by the Executive Officer and Pro Bono Connect team.

Members are given 48 hours to offer to take on a case - most cases are placed within 72 hours of going live on the UK Pro Bono Portal.

If there are multiple offers, a fair allocation process is used to select solicitors firms, and client preference to select counsel.

If there are no offers, cases are distributed again and then advertised externally by LawWorks or Advocate.

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

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

For clients – a complete pro bono service. The opportunity for early settlement, resulting in faster and more favourable outcomes than if proceeding unrepresented.

For lawyers – the chance to work and develop relationships with new firms, chambers and other litigation professionals.

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

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

FEEDBACK

There are regular meetings with members and potential members.

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

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

TO JOIN OR FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website probonoconnect.co.uk

Or email probonoconnect@lawworks.org.uk

THANK YOU

We are grateful to Advocate and the National Pro Bono Centre for their assistance in delivering the scheme, and to the organisations who have funded LawWorks to deliver it:

- Access to Justice Foundation
- Eversheds Sutherland (International) Charitable Trust
- Farrer & Co Charitable Trust
- Lord Goldsmith KC
- Simmons & Simmons Charitable Foundation
- The Law Society of England and Wales

Supported by

advocate

LawWorks

THE NATIONAL PROBONO CENTRE

probonoconnect.co.uk

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