

Pro bono organisations and initiatives*

Organisation / initiative	Website(s)	Contact
<p><u>Advocate</u></p> <p>Advocate, formerly The Bar Pro Bono Unit, is the Bar’s national pro bono charity, finding free legal assistance from barristers who generously volunteer their time and expertise to those in need of legal help but who are either not eligible for legal aid or cannot afford to pay.</p> <p>Advocate cover all areas of law and all courts and tribunals. Over 4600 barristers are signed up to take on cases, either in their usual practice area or in a new area of law. Work could include written legal advice on a case or legal advice in person, as well as representation in courts, tribunals and at mediation.</p> <p>Solicitor Advocates are also able to take on cases through Advocate, provided they or their firm can provide the necessary personal indemnity insurance. There are currently no opportunities for solicitors to work directly with Advocate. However, we do work closely with Pro Bono Connect, an organisation which matches our barristers with solicitors on applications we receive which warrant solicitor support.</p>	<p>For more information on Advocate: https://weareadvocate.org.uk/</p> <p>For more information on Pro Bono Connect: https://probonoconnect.co.uk/</p>	<p>Bryony Wells, Director of Development bwells@weareadvocate.org.uk</p>

* This list was produced on 29.08.2024. Please refer to the pro bono organisations' websites for the most up to date information.

<p><u>IP Pro Bono (LawWorks)</u></p> <p>IP Pro Bono was set up as a collaboration between several leading IP organisations, including: the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA), the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA), the Intellectual Property Lawyers' Association (IPLA), The Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom (UK IPO), the IP Bar and The Law Society. The scheme was originally established in 2017 in response to a need identified by His Honour Judge Richard Hacon of the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC) for free legal support for businesses and individuals who find themselves in a dispute and lack the financial means to access professional representation in the usual way.</p> <p>Last year the service transferred to LawWorks, a charity committed to enabling access to justice through free legal advice, but remains funded by contributions from CIPA and CITMA. Firms that join the scheme through LawWorks have access to opportunities which are posted through a portal, making it possible to register interest and review the background to assess suitability before commitment and necessary conflict checks. Applications to the scheme reflect a wide range of IP issues including copyright infringements, trade mark disputes and oppositions. Not all cases relate to disputes; some applicants are seeking a legal assessment of their situation and advice on how to proceed to avoid court proceedings.</p>	<p>http://www.ipprobono.org.uk/</p>	<p>Kate O'Rourke, Immediate Past President of CITMA and Stephen Jones, Immediate Past President of CIPA at ipprobono@lawworks.org.uk</p>
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<p><u>JUSTICE</u></p> <p>JUSTICE is a cross-party law reform and human rights charity working to build a fairer UK justice system within everyone’s reach. Over our 67-year history we have transformed the legal landscape for the better, led by evidence, expertise, and a focus on practical solutions. Our vision is of a fair, accessible and efficient legal process, in which individual’s rights are protected, and which reflect the country’s international reputation for upholding and promoting the rule of law. Our work spans the whole of the UK justice system – from family and housing law to criminal law and policing, benefits decision making and much more.</p> <p>JUSTICE is a membership organisation and our members are among our greatest assets. Being a member of JUSTICE will not only mean you support our vital work but have the opportunity to get involved with our work, access to our member only events, discounts to our Human Rights conference and other events, the opportunity to network with your peers and ensure you are the first to hear about upcoming working parties. As well as the warm glow of knowing you are supporting a small charity punching way above its weight.</p>	<p>https://justice.org.uk/</p>	<p>admin@justice.org.uk</p>
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<p><u>Support Through Court</u></p> <p>Cuts in legal aid and funding for advice agencies mean more people than ever face court alone. People have no choice but to represent themselves at a moment that could have life-changing outcomes such as loss of access to children or homelessness. They find themselves in a legal system that was not designed for people to navigate without the help of a lawyer, desperate for somewhere to turn.</p> <p>Support Through Court, formerly the PSU, provides a safe space, with over 600 dedicated, trained volunteers across England and Wales. We listen to each client's story, help them to problem-solve and decide next steps, source reliable legal information, explain complex procedures, complete court forms, and clearly present statements. Last year our volunteers helped people on over 50,000 occasions.</p>	<p>https://www.supportthroughcourt.org/</p>	<p>Ali Evans, Deputy Senior Corporate Partnerships Manager A.Evans@supportthroughcourt.org</p>
<p><u>The Royal Courts of Justice Citizen Advice Bureau Voluntary Advisor scheme</u></p> <p>Our organisation offers a range of free legal and general advice services. Our free legal advice offering centres on clinics giving civil legal advice to litigants in person held at our office in the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand.</p>	<p>http://www.rcjadvice.org.uk/</p>	<p>Rebecca Scott – Director of Legal Services rebecca.scott@rcjadvice.org.uk 0203 869 3177</p>

<p>We have around 200 volunteer lawyers from about 60 firms volunteering on a rota basis and we ask that lawyers are qualified and confident in litigation procedure. Clinics take place weekdays between 10am and 1pm or 2pm and 5pm and there is no preparation or follow up work required. Support is given before you start and on site.</p>		
<p><u>TrustLaw</u></p> <p><u>TrustLaw</u> is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono service and the world's largest legal pro bono network. TrustLaw's team finds and scopes pro bono legal projects and connects lawyers in more than 175 countries with NGOs and social enterprises who need assistance. Our network has over 5500 members, consisting of nearly 1000 law firms and in-house legal teams and 4500 NGOs and social enterprises. TrustLaw's legal members can engage in advisory work, for example: corporate governance and structuring advice, intellectual property advice or employment advice. They can also conduct research on human rights or other social issues such as modern slavery, women's rights or the climate emergency; or help to prepare legal guides for the social sector. Our publications can be found on our website under <u>Tools & Resources</u>. Read our latest <u>Stories of Impact</u>, featuring the lawyers and NGOs using the law to fight for social change.</p>	<p>http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/</p>	<p>Alex Webster, trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com</p>

<p><u>University House Legal Advice Centre</u></p> <p>The Legal Advice Centre (University House) is one of the oldest independent advice centres in London. It was originally established during World War 2 to, amongst other things, advise local people on bomb damage claims.</p> <p>Today, the centre provides a significant amount of specialist advice and support to vulnerable users. It holds the Specialist Quality Mark and operates out of two offices in Bethnal Green.</p> <p>Most of the centre's work is project-based, and most of its projects are pro bono friendly. University House has developed partnership working with a number of commercial law firms.</p>	<p>https://legaladvicecentre.london/</p>	<p>020 3606 0372</p>
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