



PRO BONO CONNECT

ANNUAL UPDATE 2021

Helping barristers and solicitors collaborate on pro bono cases

WHAT IS PRO BONO CONNECT?

The only scheme in England and Wales to connect solicitors and barristers to litigate civil pro bono cases.

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

Cases 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 encouraged to help fund pro bono projects.

MEMBERS

42 solicitor members, up 25% from 2019.

Includes international, city, regional and smaller firms.

47 barristers' chambers, up 20% from 2019.

Includes regional and specialist sets.

Individual barrister members and in-house solicitor members.

No obligation to take on cases.

CASE REFERRALS

47 cases referred in 2020 with 75% successfully placed. 18 cases referred Jan-March 2021.

Cases referred by legal advice centres, university clinics, firms and chambers.

Over 35 firms and 16 chambers made offers to accept cases.

Cases in the Employment Tribunal, County Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

LawWorks took over governance of the scheme in late 2019.

Pro Bono Connect managed by an Executive Officer since April 2020.

Enhanced relationships with member firms and chambers, and new members welcomed.

Increased number and range of cases.

ADMINISTRATION

Requests received, processed and distributed by Executive Officer and volunteers.

48 hours for members to offer to take on a case
- most cases placed during this time.

If there are multiple offers the client selects.

If there are no offers, cases are distributed again on a first come, first served basis and then advertised by LawWorks and Advocate if no offers are received.

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 and quicker and more favourable outcomes than if proceeding unrepresented.

For lawyers – the chance to work and develop relationships with new firms and chambers.

For solicitors – to be able to take on discrete pieces of litigation covering a range of experience.

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

FEEDBACK

Regular meetings with members and potential members.

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

Client feedback obtained and case studies available on our 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 the organisations who have helped us fund this scheme:

- Access to Justice Foundation
- Farrer & Co Charitable Trust
- Simmons & Simmons Charitable Foundation



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

LawWorks (the Solicitors Pro Bono Group)
DX 50-52 Chancery Lane,
London, WC2A 1HL

Registered charity number 1064274