

## BPP Pro Bono Centre's global links

29 Bedford Row Chambers  
Addleshaw Goddard LLP  
Advocates for International Development  
Amicus  
Amnesty International  
Apex Trust  
Arts & Business  
Ashurst LLP  
Baker & McKenzie  
Bar Pro Bono Unit  
Bates Wells & Braithwaite  
Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP  
Brent CAB  
Business in the Community  
Camden Education Business Partnership  
Cancer Research UK  
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution  
Chapelton and Harehills CAB  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Citizenship Foundation  
Clyde & Co  
Collyer Bristow LLP  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
Dechert LLP

DLA Piper UK LLP  
Education Leeds  
European Human Rights Advocacy Centre  
Employment tribunals  
Employment Lawyers Association  
Environmental Law Foundation  
Eversheds LLP  
Faegre Benson Hobson Audley LLP  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP  
Free Representation Unit  
Friends of the Earth  
Government Legal Service  
Hackney Community Law Centre  
Herbert Smith LLP  
Housing Law Practitioners' Association  
Independent Housing Ombudsman  
Interights  
International Bar Association  
IP Centre of Excellence for the North  
Irwin Mitchell  
Justice  
Lambeth Law Centre  
LawWorks  
Leeds Citizens Advice Bureau

Leeds Community Mediation Service  
Leeds Law Society  
Legal Services Commission  
Liberty  
London Rent Assessment Panel  
Lovells LLP  
LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Lupton Fawcett LLP  
Macfarlanes LLP  
Manuel Bravo Project  
Marriott Harrison  
Mary Ward Legal Centre  
Mayer Brown LLP  
New Bridge Foundation  
Northern Film School  
Norton Rose LLP  
Olswang  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Penrose Housing Association  
Pentonville prison  
Personal Support Unit  
Pinsent Masons LLP  
Prisoners' Families and Friends Service

Pro Bono UK  
Public Interest Law Initiative  
Reed Smith LLP  
Reprive  
Residential Property Tribunal Service  
Russell Jones & Walker  
Shearman & Sterling LLP  
Shelter  
Simmons & Simmons  
South West London Law Centres  
Southwark Mediation Centre  
Southwark Youth Offending Team  
Streetlaw  
Tooting Law Centre  
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership  
Toynbee Hall  
Walker Morris  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Wragge & Co LLP  
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust

For more information please contact:

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**PRO BONO CENTRE**  
**LAW FOR COMMON GOOD**



# BPP Pro Bono Centre Leeds



# BPP Pro Bono Centre

## About the centre

BPP Pro Bono Centre opened in Leeds at BPP Law School in Whitehall Quays in September 2004. The centre works closely with BPP Pro Bono Centres in London (Holborn and Waterloo) and Manchester. Kara Irwin is BPP's director of pro bono.

The Leeds centre operates with a team of Leeds-based supervisors and students, developing a number of student-led projects through which they volunteer their time and legal skills and knowledge to help those who may not otherwise have access to such services. Student volunteers gain practical legal experience and an understanding of the role of law in society while providing important services to the community under the supervision of volunteer BPP lecturers and practitioners.

The centre's projects have won several awards, including *The Lawyer's* award for pro bono activity of the year 2005 and finalist status for the same award in both 2004 and 2007, plus two high commendations in the Attorney General's student and law school pro bono awards 2007.

## Our philosophy

We recognise the inequality and injustice inherent in our society's unmet legal needs and strive to enhance access to justice by promoting and facilitating the provision of pro bono legal services.

## Our goals

- To provide an opportunity for our students to participate in pro bono work that matches their interests and level of commitment
- To help the local and broader community by offering pro bono legal services
- To express our students' and staff's commitment to the pro bono ethic
- To contribute to the legal profession in Leeds, the UK and abroad by researching and publicising pro bono initiatives

## Our projects and activities

### Speaker Series

The centre hosts speakers from various law firms, chambers and non-profit organisations who come to discuss their pro bono work.

### Newsletter

We publish a newsletter twice a year, providing updates on our activities at all of our sites. It describes pro bono work undertaken during the year and provides an opportunity for our current students to give advice to prospective students. The latest issues can be seen at: [www.bpplawschool.com/probono](http://www.bpplawschool.com/probono).

### Internship placements

Our students provide pro bono services while at the same time gaining practical experience (and possibly travel) by undertaking internships with national and international non-profit organisations. We provide research resources, advice and individual counselling to help them find such opportunities.

### BPP Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC)

With the assistance of BLAC's staff and supervisors (volunteer lecturers and practitioners), our students interview and advise individual clients on legal problems, including housing and employment matters. BLAC's aims are to offer free legal advice to the community and to provide our students with the opportunity to gain practical legal experience.

## Human Rights Unit

The Human Rights Unit includes a variety of student human rights initiatives, through which our students provide supporting legal research to various human rights organisations. Through BPP Liberty Letters Clinic, our students draft replies to human rights queries from the public. This project is co-ordinated by BPP Pro Bono Centre in London, with the support of a Leeds-based student director for each human rights initiative.

## Immigration

Our students work with volunteers on the Manuel Bravo Project providing assistance to asylum seekers in the local area with their appeals. This assistance includes conducting country research, being involved in the interview process, assisting with reviewing documentation and preparing appeal bundles. This project has won a Yorkshire and Humber regional award for excellence.

## Intellectual Property Pro Bono Group

The group's aims are to promote our students' understanding of the field of intellectual property (IP) law while facilitating IP lawyers' provision of pro bono services to the community. The group has three main branches of activity - providing interviews and letters of legal advice to a small number of individuals and charities; designing and delivering presentations on IP law to music, film and art students; and replying to IP queries submitted to the online advice service of our partner organisation Own It, a non-profit group providing free IP advice to the creative industries.

## Mediation Friends Project

We are hoping to develop an initiative pioneered by BPP Pro Bono Centre in London in which our students are trained in mediation and provide free support to otherwise unrepresented parties to mediation. The project's goals are to provide assistance to the unrepresented parties and to promote the use of mediation as a form of alternative dispute resolution.

## Parent Partnership Project

Run in conjunction with Education Leeds, this project provides our students with the opportunity to assist families whose children have been permanently excluded from school to appeal that decision. Our students are fully trained by Education Leeds and provided with an opportunity to enhance their interviewing, research and advocacy skills, as well as providing an excellent support service for the families involved.

## Streetlaw

Streetlaw is based on the philosophies of the US-based Street Law Program and Streetlaw UK to promote education about the law, democracy and human rights to citizens who would not otherwise have access to legal knowledge or education. Our students provide interactive learning presentations on the law to various groups, including primary and secondary school pupils, prison inmates, community groups and the homeless. Our Bar Vocational Course students also assist school children to prepare for the Citizenship Foundation's mock trial competitions and help organise the mock trials themselves.

Throughout the academic year the student-led Leeds pro bono team will continue to research pro bono opportunities and projects in order to involve as many students as possible in a wide variety of activities.

If you have an idea for a new project, please let us know by emailing the Leeds pro bono team at: [clairedaniel@bpp.com](mailto:clairedaniel@bpp.com).