

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 of 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
Reprieve
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
Wai Yin Chinese Women Society
Walker Morris
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Wrage & Co LLP
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust

PRO BONO CENTRE
LAW FOR COMMON GOOD



BPP Pro Bono Centre London

For more information please contact:

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BPP Pro Bono Centre

About the centre

BPP Pro Bono Centre serves as the headquarters for a wide variety of projects in which our students can volunteer their time, legal skills and knowledge to help those who may not otherwise have access to legal 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 our students with the opportunity 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 London, the UK and abroad by researching and publicising pro bono initiatives

Our activities

Speaker Series

We host pro bono talks by speakers from various law firms, chambers and non-profit organisations. Recent speakers include representatives from the International Bar Association, LawWorks and the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

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.

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.

Our projects

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, employment, family and immigration 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.

Employment Law Project

The project involves our law students delivering valuable pro bono employment law services to the public in a number of ways. Student advisers work together with legal advisers (volunteer barristers and solicitors) to provide members of the public with initial advice over the telephone on employment law issues. The advice lines are open to individuals referred from charities including the Apex Trust as well as Citizens Advice Bureaux and law centres. Through other parts of this project, our students attend tribunal hearings as observers and to take notes for clients, refer clients to other pro bono organisations and work together on Free Representation Unit cases.

Environmental Law Pro Bono Group

The group's goals are to promote our students' understanding of the legal aspects of environmental issues and to assist environmental non-profit organisations, including the Environmental Law Foundation and Friends of the Earth, with their legal work. Our students can listen to talks on a range of environmental issues and volunteer to conduct relevant pro bono legal research.

Human Rights Unit

The Human Rights Unit includes a variety of student human rights initiatives, through which our students provide supporting legal research to organisations such as Amicus, Amnesty International, Interights, the Solicitors' International Human Rights Group, the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Reprieve and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. Through BPP Liberty Letters Clinic, our students draft replies to human rights queries from the public.

Innocence Project

Through this project, our students work under a barrister's or solicitor's supervision and investigate cases of convicted persons who maintain innocence but have exhausted the initial appeals process. They seek evidence that will assist the clients in making applications for such cases to be reviewed by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) for referral back to the Court of Appeal. The project is part of the Innocence Network UK.

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.

Law Firm Pro Bono Shadowing Project

In this project, our students are teamed with law firms to assist solicitors with their pro bono assignments. In one model, they accompany Norton Rose solicitors to their advice sessions at Tooting Law Centre and then assist with the follow-up work. This project benefits our students by giving them practical legal experience as well as contact with practising solicitors; it benefits the firms by providing them with assistance in conducting pro bono work and promoting their reputation in the law school; most importantly, it benefits the pro bono clients.

Legal Translation Service (LTS)

Our students who have native or fluent foreign language abilities are trained in basic interpretation and translation techniques to take part in the LTS. The project's goal is to provide legal advice centres with interpreters to assist the provision of legal advice to clients with limited English language abilities. The LTS also offers translation services to non-profit organisations.

Mediation Friends Project

This is a pioneering initiative 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.

Personal Support Unit Volunteering Project

Our Bar Vocational Course students can volunteer in the Personal Support Unit (PSU) at the Royal Courts of Justice and the Principal Registry of the Family Division. They provide practical and moral support to litigants-in-person (LiPs) by meeting them to talk through their cases informally and to accompany them around the courts and in hearings.

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 schoolchildren to prepare for the Citizenship Foundation's mock trial competitions and help organise the mock trials themselves.