

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
Reprise
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 Manchester

For more information please contact:

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BPP Pro Bono Centre

About the centre

BPP Pro Bono Centre opened in Manchester at BPP Law School on Oxford Street in September 2005. The centre works closely with BPP Pro Bono Centres in Leeds and London (Holborn and Waterloo). Kara Irwin is BPP's director of pro bono.

The Manchester centre operates with a team of Manchester-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 enhance access to justice by providing 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 Manchester, 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.

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 Community Challenge

Throughout the year teams of students organise, manage and participate in team challenges which concentrate on helping our local community on a practical rather than legal level.

BPP Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC)

With the assistance of BLAC's staff and supervisors (volunteer lecturers and solicitors from Manchester law firms), 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 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.

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 is developing three main branches of activity - providing interviews and letters of legal advice to a small number of individuals; 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. The students also produce an IP newsletter.

Personal Support Unit Volunteering Project

Our students work as volunteers in the Personal Support Unit (PSU) at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre. 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

The Streetlaw project 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 secondary school pupils, community groups and charities.

We aim to expand opportunities for our students to get involved in pro bono activities. Throughout the academic year the student-led Manchester 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 Manchester pro bono team at: andrewilliams@bpp.com.