

Pro bono projects Leeds

BPP Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC)

BLAC gives students the opportunity to gain practical legal experience by interviewing and advising clients (under supervision) and giving free legal advice to the community. There are also ad hoc opportunities to provide additional support to clients. We also run a Commercial Clinic in partnership with law firms, giving advice to start-up businesses and social enterprises.

Course eligibility: LPC, BPTC as advisers; GDL, LLB* as assistants

Criminal Appeals Project

In this project, our students work under a barrister's or solicitor's supervision investigating cases of convicted persons who maintain innocence but have exhausted the initial appeals process. Our students seek evidence that will assist them in making applications for such cases to be reviewed by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, for referral back to the Court of Appeal.

Course eligibility: all*

ECRE research and case summary project

The European Database of Asylum Law (EDAL) is a unique online database which provides free access to key asylum and refugee case law from 17 European Union Member States as well as the European Courts. Without the database States, practitioners and the judiciary are unaware of potentially better practices, how provisions are being interpreted and with what instruments. The database is maintained by the European Council for Refugees and Exiles ('ECRE'). Student volunteers who are fluent in English and are native/fluent speakers of one or more of the following languages (German, French, Czech, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Slovenian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish) support the ECRE by completing and proof reading case summaries which are published on the database and contributing to the EDAL blog, which provides legal commentary on recent asylum jurisprudence as well as asylum legislation.

Course eligibility: LPC and BPTC

Employment Law Telephone Advice Line (ELTAL)

Students interview clients on the telephone, obtaining the case background to pass to volunteer solicitors who then provide initial free telephone advice to the public. Students develop interviewing, note-taking and client handling skills.

Course eligibility: all*

Human Rights Unit (HRU)

HRU educates students on the importance of human rights laws by running a series of talks from external speakers. HRU publish articles on human rights issues via the blog and get practical experience of legal research by assisting charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Course eligibility: all*

LEASE Case Summaries

This is a joint-working project with the Leasehold Advisory Service, LEASE, where students summarise cases from the Residential Property Tribunal which are then made available to the public on the LEASE website.

Course eligibility: all*

Legal Translation Service (LTS)

The LTS aims to provide legal advice centres and not for profit organisations with free interpretation and translation, both in writing and in person, by involving students with native or fluent foreign language abilities. Students develop good listening and client skills and are exposed to varied real life legal issues.

Course eligibility: all*

Manuel Bravo

Student volunteers are trained as interpreters and court support workers to assist this Leeds based charity with providing free legal advice to asylum seekers who wish to appeal against a negative first decision or submit a fresh claim for asylum and who cannot obtain Legal Aid.

Course eligibility: all*

Personal Support Unit

The Personal Support Unit is a charity that gives practical and emotional support to unrepresented litigants at court. Students meet unrepresented litigants to talk through their cases informally and to accompany them around the courts and into hearings.

Course eligibility: BPTC, LPC and GDL

Research Project

This involves students working in groups to research areas of law relevant to the pro bono sector including all areas of social welfare law and environmental law. Students will research and write articles to be published on BPP University Law School Pro Bono Centre social media. Their work will be supervised by a qualified lawyer and may be used as the basis of future Streetlaw presentations.

Course eligibility: all*

Schools Consent Project (SCP)

The SCP is a lawyer-led initiative established by criminal barristers and tackles some of the trickiest issues facing young people, including consent, sexual offences, revenge porn and bodily boundaries. Law students are trained to deliver SCP workshops with schools across Yorkshire. For more information: schoolsconsentproject.com

Course eligibility: all*

Shadowing

We have relationships with a number of pro bono advice clinics in Leeds that provide shadowing opportunities, and offer students the chance to shadow solicitors working in the Leeds Combined Court Centre or the judiciary in the Social Security and Child Benefit Tribunal.

Depending on the opportunity, students may be required to interview clients, complete questionnaires and research areas of law.

Course eligibility: all*

Streetlaw

Streetlaw promotes understanding about legal rights and responsibilities to individuals who would not otherwise have access to legal knowledge or education. Streetlaw projects benefit both the wider community and law students, who learn valuable legal and professional skills.

Law students research, design, draft and deliver interactive presentations on the law to a range of community groups, including school children, youth groups and the homeless.

Course eligibility: all*

Streetlaw - Mock Trials

Students visit local schools and run mock trial workshops, giving young people an introduction to the criminal justice system and the court process.

Course eligibility: all*

StreetLeeds

This project aims to develop Streetlaw in the wider community, through a collaboration of local law firms, law students, and a number of service providers supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable communities across Yorkshire. Solicitors supervise and mentor teams of law students, who work to provide relevant and engaging Streetlaw sessions.

Course eligibility: all*

Tribunal Services

From time to time, student volunteers will have the opportunity to support a client in a moral and administrative capacity at the Leeds Employment Tribunal, particularly by taking notes during hearings. Tribunal Services is a project that enables students to develop a number of career-ready skills and gain first hand experience of the Tribunal process.

Course eligibility: all*

For more information

✉ probono@bpp.com

🌐 bpp.com/bpp-university/pro-bono

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All information is correct at time of print. *LLB students must generally be Level 5 before taking part in any pro bono project, although they can undertake training in the first term.



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