

Pro bono projects London

Article 8 ECHR Project (A8)

A8 is an immigration and human rights law project run in conjunction with Islington Law Centre. Pro bono representation is provided to immigrants who are seeking to remain in the UK on human rights grounds. Students assist in the preparation of human rights applications, including drafting witness statements and representations, collating evidence and preparing appeal bundles.

Course eligibility: all*

Benefits Law Support Clinic

Students attend Dalston Library to help individuals complete certain benefit forms. Students have direct client contact and develop good listening skills, whilst being exposed to varied real life legal issues.

Course eligibility: all*

BID Project

Bail for Immigration Detainees ('BID') is an award winning national charity which provides immigration detainees with free legal advice, engages in research, policy advocacy work, and strategic litigation. BID runs a bi-annual survey of legal representation across immigration detention centres and prisons. Student volunteers administer the survey.

Course eligibility: all*

BPP Legal Advice Clinic (BLAC)

BLAC, which holds the Advice Quality Standard, gives students the opportunity to gain practical legal experience in interviewing and advising clients (under supervision), giving free legal advice to the community in either enterprise (commercial), housing or family law. BLAC also provides advice to unrepresented litigants at the Residential Property Tribunal. There are also opportunities to attend hearings, act as a McKenzie Friend or provide representation. This project provides an experience as close to legal practice as possible, to work under the supervision of lawyers and enables you to develop a range of legal skills.

Course eligibility: all*

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 over the telephone to obtain case background information. This information is then sent to volunteer solicitors who provide free legal advice to the client over the phone. Depending on availability, students may get the opportunity to "sit-in" on the advice calls with the solicitor or, where appropriate, attend the Employment Tribunal to observe and take notes for a litigant in person. Participation in this project helps students to develop interviewing, note taking and client handling skills.

Course eligibility: all*

Housing Drop-In

In partnership with Law Centres we run a triage service where people with housing problems attend on a drop-in basis. Students interview people in pairs to determine whether their case qualifies for Legal Aid. Those that don't qualify are signposted to other services.

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, for example on the use of drones and on forced marriages. HRU students have the opportunity to write articles for the BPP Human Rights Law Journal and access to research opportunities at leading human rights organisations.

Course eligibility: all*

Immigration Tribunal Friends (ITF)

Students attend asylum and immigration appeals with litigants in person or those with lay representatives to assist them by taking notes of the hearing and providing administrative and moral support. Students are not authorised to give any legal advice. Students will gain invaluable experience of immigration tribunal proceedings and an increased understanding of the perspective of a litigant in person.

Course eligibility: all*

Law Firm Shadowing Project

Students attend evening clinics at Law Centres/CABs with qualified solicitors from different partner law firms. The clinics (which cover a range of legal issues) are aimed at improving access to justice for the local community. Students observe the volunteer solicitors giving legal advice to clients and take notes of the meeting. Depending on the projects students may also be asked to undertake research or draft an initial letter of advice.

Course eligibility: LPC, BPTC, sometimes GDL and LLB

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*

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. Students must complete 16 days' volunteering during the academic year.

Course eligibility: GDL, LPC and BPTC

Pop-Up Advice Clinics

This project comprises of two pop up clinics; one providing debt and consumer law advice to Hackney residents and one giving consumer and employment law advice to Lambeth residents. Students interview clients on the telephone to obtain background information on their legal query. Students then shadow volunteer lawyers at clinic appointments where initial legal advice is given to clients.

Course eligibility: GDL, LPC and BPTC as clinic assistants; all as telephone assistants

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*

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 and deliver interactive presentations on the law to a range of community groups including school children, youth groups, young entrepreneurs, prisoners, ex-offenders, homeless shelters and charities.

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: Usually BPTC and LPC

Stepping Stones

Students assist caseworkers in South West London Law Centre and Zaccheus 2000 Trust (Z2K) in providing vulnerable debtors with free and confidential support, advice and information.

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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