



UKademy 2018

UKademy grew from a Plan meeting discussion that focused on how law firms could share knowledge with each other to help expand their respective pro bono practises. An initial suggestion to arrange some professional development sessions quickly snowballed – with support from [The Association of Pro Bono Counsel](#) – into multiple sessions spread over two days in September 2016, all provided completely free to attendees. A successful repeat in 2017 means that UKademy is now a regular event on the calendar.

9:15am – 9:45am	Networking breakfast	
9:45am – 9:55am	Welcome	Paul Yates and Marion Edge
9:55am – 11:10am	Topical debates in pro bono	<p>Three debates on topical questions affecting your pro bono practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does pro bono for individuals harm access to justice? • Should firms ever receive a fee for “pro bono”? • Will technology solve the access to justice crisis? <p>Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the debaters.</p> <p>The debaters...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Hynes: Director, Legal Action Group. • Paul Yates: Head of Pro Bono, Freshfields Deringer Bruckhaus • Kat Barry: Strategy Manager, Mishcon de Reya • Roger Smith: Tech Researcher and Writer • Becca Naylor: Pro Bono Manager, Reed Smith • Yasmin Waljee OBE: International Pro Bono Director, Hogan Lovells
11:30am – 12:30pm	Welfare benefits and pro bono	<p>Going Digital: A session led by Diane Sechi, Senior Pro Bono Lawyer (Simmons and Simmons), Nicholas Eakhurst, User Researcher (HMCTS), Steven Wise, UX Designer (HMCTS), with a demonstration of the online resolution procedure for disability benefit appeals.</p>

12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Risky business: assessing reputational risk	<p>Risky Business: assessing reputational risk <i>In the pro bono sector, reputational risks are considered especially heinous. In commercial law firms, the dedicated professionals who must assess and somehow avoid these risks are members of an elite squad known as the Pro Bono Unit. These are their stories.*</i></p> <p><i>*Stories have been highly fictionalised and do not reflect the experience of any firm, pro bono manager or other person.</i></p> <p>Facilitators: Brenna de Vaney, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP Olivia Loxley, Linklaters LLP</p> <p>Panellists: Sophie Brambley, Linklaters LLP Emma Rehal-Wilde, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP Byron Spring, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</p>
2:30pm – 2:50pm	Break	
2:50pm – 3:50pm	Housing and pro bono	<p>This session led by Diane Astin (Deighton Pierce Glynn, Brunel University) will highlight current issues in housing law and the availability of legal aid funding. We will end with a discussion about effective pro bono models in this area.</p>
3:50pm – 4:00pm	Break	
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Open discussion	<p>Led by David Lash (O'Melveny & Myers) and Becca Naylor (Reed Smith)</p>
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Networking	

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