



Impact case studies from member firms: 2019

Supporting survivors of human trafficking

We act directly for survivors of human trafficking, working in collaboration with frontline charities and legal aid lawyers to bring and enforce claims against those who have exploited them. We also aim to bring about systemic change through strategic cases, for example acting in judicial review proceedings relating to the provision of legal aid to survivors.

Tribunal representation - ESA

In April 2018, we secured Employment and Support Allowance, a type of disability benefit, for a homeless client at an appeal tribunal hearing. This case was particularly complicated due to the client suffering from multiple interrelated mental health issues. The tribunal not only granted the client the allowance at the highest level, but also guaranteed this benefit for 24 months.

Tribunal representation – PIP

Through our partnership with a learning disability charity, we represented a young man with multiple disabilities. Appealing a Personal Independence Payment decision, the tribunal granted our appeal and awarded the young man the benefits he is entitled to for the next five years. The client's mother said *"the stress I have been under with benefits claims has been extreme and without the charity I may well have given up the fight. I cannot thank you all enough."*

Exceptional Case Funding

Since 2015, we have worked in partnership with a London law centre to draft exceptional case funding applications – an application to access legal aid - to help enable vulnerable clients obtain access to justice. Initially this was to unlock immigration advice for undocumented young people and expanded to help a broader range of clients access immigration advice through legal aid, including victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Holistic support to legal centre

We provide support to London-based individuals through our pro bono housing law clinic, run in collaboration with a legal advice centre. We have a long-standing history of collaboration with the centre, seconding a full-time trainee solicitor to their housing team, taking on direct case referrals and providing commercial legal support and funding to the centre itself. We are also proud to fund the salary of the centre's Justice First Fellow.

Advocacy support in the family courts

Our lawyers attend a help desk at a London Family Court, providing free advice and advocacy support to Litigants in Person at First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointments. These appointments help the court to identify issues between the parties at an early stage, encouraging resolution, and our partner charity is the first to provide this 'on the day' advocacy support in a family court.

Entrepreneur advice clinic

We partner with a UK youth employment charity to offer discrete one-hour pro bono legal clinics to young entrepreneurs seeking legal advice.

Crucial law reform – 'upskirting'

In 2017 our associate began representing an activist who was the victim of 'upskirting'. The associate worked to generate a legal opinion supported by leading academics, calling for the criminalisation of upskirting in England and Wales. Having galvanised cross-party support including through meeting with those at the highest levels of government, a bill was passed and received royal assent in February 2019, including sentencing guidelines.