

University House (Legal Advice Centre)
Family Law Project

Name of project	Family Law Project
Delivered by	University House (Legal Advice Centre)
Type of work / opportunity	Complex casework which can include Family Law Hearings.
Topic area	Family Law and Childrens Act.
What is it?	Casework concerns domestic abuse, child arrangement cases and other family law matters.
Where is it?	This is a twice-weekly virtual clinic. Most advocacy is also conducted remotely.
Duration	Time involved depends on the complexity of the case.
Frequency	Commitment is flexible. The volunteer is encouraged to engage when they have free-time. Some firms are on the rota each week, whereas others are on it monthly.
Who is the opportunity open to?	Any trained lawyer (USA/UK qualified) and trainees. Works best in 'pairs'.
What expertise does the lawyer need to have?	No previous knowledge of relevant law is expected. Training and supervision are provided.
What do the pro bono volunteers do?	Help users to engage with family law court processes.
Insurance position	Our own insurance covers all our volunteers.
Other support from organisation/charity	We provide training videos, templates and written guidance. We also provide in-person Q&A as part of a breakfast or lunchtime training event.
Fee/cost	Yes, minimum annual donation for an organisation to take part in the clinic is £8K.
Contact	Please contact NPBC In House Pro Bono lead mary@dobsonsmith.consulting for a direct introduction
Background to project/scheme	We hold a twice-weekly Family Law clinic. Its focus is on Section 8 children's arrangements and domestic abuse. We have also incorporated work on LGBTQ+ issues within our Family Law Clinics. These are full casework clinics. There are 8 large law firms currently engaged with our Family Law clinics.