

Advocate Case Reviewers

Name of project	Case Reviewers
Delivered by	Advocate
Type of work / opportunity	Every application received by Advocate is initially assessed by a senior barrister who specialises in the relevant area of law. This review is essential to meet the requirements of the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund and to ensure that any barrister subsequently instructed directly by the applicant is appropriately insured. Reviewers consider a range of factors when deciding whether a case is suitable for assistance. These include the legal merits of the case, any relevant deadlines and the urgency of the application. They also consider whether the applicant can obtain or fund assistance elsewhere, the nature and extent of the work required, and whether the case specifically requires the expertise and services of a barrister. Our reviewers play a vital role in ensuring that applications are assessed fairly and carefully, and that Advocate's limited volunteer resources are directed to cases in which barristers can make a meaningful difference.
Topic area	Reviewers fall into two categories: general and subject-specific. On the whole, applications in the following areas will be sent to a subject-specific reviewer for review: a. employment, b. crime, c. intellectual property, d. personal injury, e. planning, f. social security, g. housing and h. family. General reviewers will be asked to review applications in all areas – including on occasion those areas for which there are subject specific reviewers. If you think that the case is outside your expertise, let Advocate know as soon as possible.
What is it?	A review is an initial assessment by a senior barrister to decide whether a case is suitable for pro bono assistance from Advocate.
Where is it?	This role is virtual.
Duration	We contact reviewers just before the start of every quarter asking them to indicate their availability for the next three months. You are then on the rota according to your availability and receive all your review dates at the beginning of the quarter and well in advance. Whilst most of our reviewers tend to work with us for a prolonged period of time, we understand that it can be a lot alongside a busy

**Advocate
Case Reviewers**

	practice so we do try and accommodate for our reviewers to be able to forgo reviews or even whole quarters of the year where necessary, and you can step down at the start of each quarter.
Frequency	In line with the availability you have provided us with, you will receive four files, on one occasion per month and are asked to return your review form within a week. We will never send more than four cases, but sometimes a reviewer will only receive one or two. It's approximately 30 minutes per review. We say on average 2 hours per month, however in the early days of reviewing it might be more like 2-4 hours per month.
Who is the opportunity open to?	English qualified lawyers with a practising certificate. As an important note, Reviewers must be at least seven years call/PQE. Lawyers interested in becoming reviewers will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
What expertise does the lawyer need to have?	The lawyer must be at least seven years call/PQE and be happy to review case-papers as outlined below. Reviewers fall into two categories: general and subject-specific. On the whole, applications in the following areas will be sent to a subject-specific reviewer for review: i. employment, j. crime, k. intellectual property, l. personal injury, m. planning, n. social security, o. housing and p. family. General reviewers will be asked to review applications in all areas – including on occasion those areas for which there are subject specific reviewers. If you think that the case is outside your expertise, let Advocate know as soon as possible. Lawyers interested in becoming reviewers will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
What do the pro bono volunteers do?	Reviewers assess for the rest of the Bar all the cases that Advocate process and ensure that the right cases are put forward for pro bono assistance. Our reviewers safeguard people's incredibly valuable and limited time and confirm that we are only looking for pro bono help for deserving cases.
Insurance position	Covered by our BMIF insurance for our volunteers.

**Advocate
Case Reviewers**

Other support from organisation/charity	If you decide to register, your application will be considered, and if successful, we will contact you with a series of online training resources, including a full set of reviewer guidelines. You are supported by Lead reviewers who are also Advocate trustees. We never disclose the identity of our reviewers to the applicants. Our reviewers also become a close part of the Advocate team. We hold two reviewers' evenings each year, one in Spring and one in Autumn and it is a great opportunity to meet the other reviewers.
Fee/cost	None
Contact	Please contact NPBC In House Pro Bono lead mary@dobsonsmith.consulting for a direct introduction
Background to project/scheme	As above.