

**LawWorks
Clinics Network**

Name of project	The Clinics Network
Delivered by	LawWorks
Type of work / opportunity	The nature of the work will depend on which clinic a solicitor decides to volunteer with (for more information, see below).
Topic area	Clinics cover a wide range of legal issues, often including housing, employment, consumer rights, welfare benefits, family and small claims.
What is it?	The LawWorks Clinics Team can help match volunteer solicitors with suitable existing clinics on our network of over 300 independent free legal advice clinics across England and Wales. The team can also work with in-house teams to help you develop a new pro bono clinic suitable to your requirements. Clinics on the LawWorks Clinics Network generally provide free initial advice to individuals who cannot afford to pay for legal services and are not eligible for legal aid. Some clinics also assist individuals with form-filling, casework and representation. Clinics cover a wide range of legal issues, often including housing, employment, consumer rights, welfare benefits, family and small claims.
Where is it?	Most clinics on the network operate a hybrid model allowing volunteers to advise clients in-person, online or a mixture of both.
Duration	This will depend on the individual clinic. However, clinic appointments often range between 30 minutes – 1 hour. Some clinics may ask volunteers to see more than 1 client per session. Depending on the model of the clinic, volunteers may be required to meet with law students before and after the client appointment and supervise the drafting of an advice letter.
Frequency	Clinics are generally very flexible requiring no fixed commitment and work around volunteers' availability. Operating hours vary, with some clinics running during the day, some in the evening, and many offering both.
Who is the opportunity open to?	Each clinic has their own criteria. The LawWorks Clinics team can help match volunteers with appropriate clinics.
What expertise does the lawyer need to have?	Often clinics will require volunteers to have expertise in the particular area of law they are advising in, but this is not always the case. Clinics cover a wide range of legal areas, and solicitors from many disciplines can contribute. Even those in commercial practice often have highly transferable skills that enable them to provide valuable initial advice.
What do the pro bono volunteers do?	The nature of the work will depend on which clinic a solicitor decides to volunteer with. However, most clinics on the Clinics Network focus on initial, one-off advice (either orally or in writing).

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	Often in university law clinics, volunteer solicitors will supervise students interviewing a client and drafting a letter of advice.
Insurance position	Insurance arrangements vary, but most clinics have their own professional indemnity insurance, which covers advice provided by in house solicitors.
Other support from organisation/charity	The LawWorks Clinics Team can help with: • Finding appropriate pro bono opportunities with clinics. • Guidance, templates and resources to help set up and run a clinic. • Training and networking opportunities for clinic coordinators and volunteers. • Ongoing support from the LawWorks Clinics team, who are available to advise on clinic management and operational issues that may arise. • A focus on flexibility: volunteers can commit to clinics in line with their capacity and expertise.
Fee/cost	Free – support from the LawWorks Clinics team (including access to relevant training opportunities) does not require LawWorks membership.
Contact	Please contact NPBC In House Pro Bono lead mary@dobsonsmith.consulting for a direct introduction
Background to project/scheme	The LawWorks Clinics Team provide support and assistance to a network of over 300 independent free legal advice clinics across England & Wales, supported by volunteer solicitors. The team also help to set up new sustainable clinic partnerships between law firms, in house legal teams, law schools and advice agencies to help address unmet legal need in the community. LawWorks is a charity which facilitates and supports the contribution of pro bono by solicitors, law students, law firms, legal teams, and law schools across England and Wales. We collaboratively develop impactful programmes that fit with the CSR objectives of our members. Regardless of a team's areas of expertise, LawWorks can develop and provide pro bono opportunities, training and support.