

## TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono - Regional Analysis

### England & Wales

The United Kingdom has a well-developed and supportive ecosystem for pro bono, with a number of specialist NGOs supporting solicitors, barristers, retired lawyers and law students to access pro bono opportunities. Enthusiasm for pro bono work continues to grow amongst law firms, with many now including pro bono hours in lawyers' billable targets. There has also been a rise in the number of in-house legal teams who are setting up formal pro bono programs within their corporations. In-house lawyers are typically not covered by professional indemnity insurance for pro bono work but lawyers are finding ways around this barrier by, for example, collaborating with law firms on joint pro bono projects.

The UK government's legal aid cuts have had a significant impact on the demand for free legal support, particularly from individuals. The legal community has consistently warned that pro bono cannot fill the gap left by the cuts and many firms in any event lack expertise on the areas of law that have been most affected, such as family law. Nonetheless, firms are interested in supporting individuals and some firms offer bespoke training to their lawyers on key areas such as immigration and refugee law, which is much needed in the wake of the European refugee crisis.

Pro bono support for NGOs is readily available in London where there is a high concentration of lawyers but smaller, regional firms are less likely to have institutionalised pro bono practices. One helpful development is that the Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono (which sets an aspirational annual target of 25 hours of pro bono per fee earner for its law firm members) is now offering a free conference aimed at firms who are starting or developing a pro bono programme.

Index participation among law firms with offices in England & Wales increased considerably this year, with 37 participating firms in 2016 compared to only 26 firms represented in the 2015 Index. Analysis of pro bono data submitted this year by law firms with offices in England and Wales show a small decline in fee-earner participation and an incremental increase in pro bono engagement by partners. Fee earners performed an average of 21.6 hours of pro bono each in the past year, a moderate decrease in fee-earner engagement from the 22.5 hours reported in the previous year. However, the percentage of fee earners who did ten or more hours of pro bono work

last year dropped markedly, from 35.8 percent reported in the 2015 Index to only 27.6 percent reported this year.

Despite a slight decline in lawyer participation, partner engagement remains strong and continues to show small but consistent levels of annual growth. Partners based in England and Wales did an average of 12.6 hours of pro bono each over the past year, a small decrease from the number of hours reported in both the 2015 and 2014 Index. However, the percentage of partners who spent any time on pro bono work increased over the past year, from 37.8 percent reported in the 2015 Index to 40.5 percent reported this year.

## ENGLAND & WALES

FIRM NAME	COUNTRY	AVERAGE HOURS PER FEE EARNER	FEE EARNERS WITH 10+ HOURS OF PRO BONO
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP	UK – England and Wales	7.58	15.91
Anglo-Thai Legal (ATL)	UK – England and Wales	50.00	100.00
Arnold & Porter LLP	UK – England and Wales	55.91	100.00
Ashurst	UK – England and Wales	22.37	37.92
Atsumi & Sakai	UK – England and Wales	0.00	0.00
Bates Wells Braithwaite	UK – England and Wales	24.42	47.83
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	UK – England and Wales	14.00	28.21
Clyde & Co LLP	UK – England and Wales	2.51	9.22
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP	UK – England and Wales	31.16	56.64
Dechert	UK – England and Wales	56.63	99.07
DLA Piper	UK – England and Wales	29.31	37.65
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP	UK – England and Wales	33.86	47.62
Farrer & Co LLP	UK – England and Wales	1.92	7.83
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	UK – England and Wales	31.12	-
Gowling WLG	UK – England and Wales	4.27	7.95
Hogan Lovells	UK – England and Wales	39.89	55.63
K&L Gates	UK – England and Wales	21.65	27.64
Kirkland & Ellis LLP	UK – England and Wales	24.55	42.05
Latham & Watkins LLP	UK – England and Wales	46.02	61.64
Linklaters LLP	UK – England and Wales	15.47	25.48
Mayer Brown International LLP	UK – England and Wales	10.12	28.03
McDermott Will & Emery LLP	UK – England and Wales	39.23	62.50
Mishcon de Reya	UK – England and Wales	8.07	11.11
Morrison and Foerster	UK – England and Wales	49.34	63.16
Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe LLP	UK – England and Wales	18.97	50.70
Paul Hastings	UK – England and Wales	51.53	91.55
Reed Smith LLP	UK – England and Wales	26.68	44.14
Ropes & Gray LLP	UK – England and Wales	12.62	24.41
Seyfarth Shaw LLP	UK – England and Wales	61.13	40.00
Shearman & Sterling LLP	UK – England and Wales	13.52	28.86
Simmons & Simmons	UK – England and Wales	34.60	-
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP	UK – England and Wales	35.42	46.21
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP	UK – England and Wales	56.77	56.58
White and Case	UK – England and Wales	13.66	31.28
Winston & Strawn LLP	UK – England and Wales	5.17	16.67