

# The Commercial Court and London Circuit Commercial Court Pro Bono Scheme

## EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR PERSONS WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

*To accompany any notice of listing where a party is an individual and is not known to be represented*

There is a scheme available to provide assistance and representation free of charge to litigants in person appearing in applications before the Commercial Court and the London Circuit Commercial Court with a time estimate of one day or less.

If you wish to seek free legal representation, you must complete a copy of the relevant Individual Application Form (available at: <https://weareadvocate.org.uk/apply-for-help.html> ). Please note you do not need to fill out section 2 ('Referrer details') and should instead simply enclose a copy of this note with your application. Please send a copy to the following address: Advocate DX, 50-52 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1HL.

**YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FURTHER ADJOURNMENTS WILL BE GRANTED TO ALLOW YOU TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE.**

In your application form you should give details of: (a) the nature of the application for which assistance is sought; (b) the type of assistance that you will need; and (c) the volume of papers (and whether there is any hearing bundle available).

You should provide a copy of the application bundle for the hearing (if one is available) and any other relevant papers to Advocate by delivering them to the address above. You must **at a minimum** provide a copy of the application notice and evidence filed in support of the application. Advocate will make those documents available to the barrister who has agreed to help you. If you do not provide the relevant documents, the barrister will be unable to prepare properly for the hearing. You must also ensure that Advocate has been provided with all relevant and up to date details of the hearing.

Advocate will try to find a barrister who is willing to represent you at the hearing. While every effort will be made to find a barrister, there is no guarantee that Advocate will be able to do so.

Assistance under this scheme is only available for applications listed with a time estimate of one day or less. It is not available for longer applications, or for full trials or other final hearings.

Under the scheme, the barrister will only be available to help you with the hearing for which he or she has been appointed. If you need further help after this hearing, you will need to speak to Advocate (who may be contacted at the address set out above). Further help might be, for example, detailed advice, or appearance at the next hearing. At least 3 weeks' notice is normally required and there is no promise of further help.

The scheme is designed for those unable to afford to pay for legal representation. The advocates are acting voluntarily and will not be paid for any work they do for you. Please remember that:

- The advocate is acting as a volunteer and is working for free.
- He or she will try to help you on this hearing but there will be limits to that help.
- If you want the advocate to help you, you can ask him/her to make all of the arguments for you, or to make only some of the arguments for you. However, there may be points that the

advocate is not able to make (for example where the barrister does not consider the point to be properly arguable). You can choose to make these points yourself.

The scheme has been set up with the assistance of COMBAR (the Commercial Bar Association) and is operated through Advocate, which is one of the country's main "pro bono" (free of charge) legal charities.