

About our pro bono culture

Ashurst is a leading global law firm with a rich history spanning almost 200 years. Our in-depth understanding of our clients and commitment to providing exceptional standards of service have seen us become a trusted adviser to local and global corporates, financial institutions and governments on all areas of commercial law. With 25 offices in 15 countries and a number of referral relationships covering 10 time zones, we are able to offer the reach and insight of a global network, combined with the knowledge and understanding of local markets.

We believe all individuals should be able to have access to the legal system to protect or assert their rights, irrespective of their financial situation. This belief is at the heart of our global pro bono practice, ensuring that we focus our efforts where access might otherwise be denied.

Paul Jenkins, Managing Partner

At Ashurst, we see the law as a profession that comes with ethical obligations, including that of making the law available to all.

Our global pro bono practice allows our lawyers to fulfil this obligation and meaningfully contribute to communities. We operate pro bono as a stand-alone legal practice, where our pro bono clients experience the same levels of service as our commercial clients. Our legal services are provided in accordance with our established pro bono criteria which state that pro bono is the provision of legal assistance free of charge: to disadvantaged and marginalised people of limited means; to non-profit organisations and social enterprises assisting people who are disadvantaged and marginalised, where payment of legal fees would unreasonably deplete the organisation's economic resources; and in matters for the public good of broad public or community concern.

Our pro bono practice is coordinated by the full-time global pro bono team and local Pro Bono Champion lawyers. Our Board has set a pro bono target of 52 hours for each of our lawyers per year.

In Italy, our pro bono lawyers are active since the beginning in the Pilnet Probono Round Table and work steadily with World Bank (in the survey "Doing Business report"); moreover, they recently worked for Associazione Antigone ("*Know Your Rights - brief guide to your rights before the police*" 2017), and for Citizen's UK Safe

Passage, a non-profit organization (in a project directed to assist young unaccompanied refugees that have reached the Italian territory and want to rejoin their family members legally resident in the United Kingdom).

We continue to develop focus areas globally, regionally and at a country level with a view to effecting positive change in those areas. Our work comprises three strands of legal work:

- Access to Justice work: in Europe these projects focus on social welfare assistance, special educational needs, assistance to refugees and stateless individuals, and EU related rights.
- Skills-based work, through which our lawyers can apply their commercial legal skills directly to the charity and non-profit sector.
- Human Rights case work and research, through which we can provide more focused support on topics of local, regional or global interest.

Alongside our pro bono legal work, we also play an active role around the world in supporting the development of local pro bono culture and collaboration.