

# SPOTLIGHT ON: PRO BONO WEEK 2022

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RICHARD BAKER



advocate



WE COMPLETED  
#25FOR25  
THE PRO BONO  
CHALLENGE

advocate

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*For #Probonoweek2022, Chambers speaks to Richard Baker about his recent pro bono cases, as well as his motivation behind getting involved in pro bono.*





Tell us about a recent Pro bono case of yours



I represented the family of Archie Batten pro bono earlier this year. This was a major inquest, lasting for over two weeks, arising out of the East Kent Maternity Scandal. At the inquest the coroner returned a conclusion that Archie's death was contributed to by neglect. Families should not need to have pro bono representation at inquests. In the case of Archie's family, they were struggling to come to terms with the avoidable death of their newborn baby, their first child together. The other interested persons were represented by teams of solicitors and senior barristers, including a silk and the evidence was highly complex and challenging. They could not have been expected to navigate that process on their own whilst simultaneously trying to manage their grief.





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What motivates you to do a Pro bono case?



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I don't do pro bono work because I want to, or because I find it rewarding. I do it because I have a social conscience and believe that families should have proper representation. At the same time as agreeing to act pro bono for families, which I try to do when I can, I'm vocal about the need to provide funding to allow for equality of arms between the families of the bereaved and those accused of causing the death. I would encourage everyone to do the same. Representing families at inquests helps the bereaved to find out the truth about why their loved ones died, and in some cases can help to save other lives.