



Annual Review

for the year ended December 2016



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A Message from our Chair

Free legal advice services change people's lives, providing them with expert help to reduce debt, poverty and homelessness, and combat discrimination and injustice. London Legal Support Trust (LLST) works with the charities we fund to ensure every pound raised goes as far as it possibly can.

In 2016, LLST made grants to 171 organisations. The total of these grants was £840,328. LLST's small grants focus on supporting new pro bono surgeries; keeping doors open of existing free legal advice and pro bono surgeries; one off capital costs and encouraging the development of legal advice agencies where there are none. 80% of funds raised by LLST go to support and expand the Centres of Excellence scheme. LLST continue to work towards fair access to justice for all by supporting the vital work of legal advice charities.

I am grateful for the continued support of the board of Trustees. We are fortunate to work with a range of legal professionals, students, interns and volunteers, all of whom are vital to the work of the Trust.

We are also grateful to those who continue to see value in our work and whose generous sponsorship and funding ensure the Trust can continue in its mission to support free legal advice services in London and the South East.

Thank you to everyone who has supported LLST during 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. ...'.



Fundraising

LLST raises funds from events, donations and grants from other charitable foundations to provide grant funding and other support to free specialist legal advice agencies in London and the Home Counties. LLST's work means that many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the region receive legal advice and/or representation who otherwise would be unable to access it. This help is needed to overcome social and welfare problems to help relieve poverty and distress.

Funds raised and grants made

LLST has four core strands of work in support of free legal advice services in London/the South East:

-  Raising funds to distribute as grants
-  Collaborating with others to raise funds for the free legal advice sector
-  Supporting the improved management and infrastructure of the sector
-  Helping to reduce costs and save money through pro bono or discounted schemes

The total amount raised by the Trust in 2016 was **£1,155,636**. Income from the sponsored Legal Walks and other sponsored activities, which was received directly by the Trust, came to **£918,059**. LLST's events generated a further £30,646.24 donated directly to advice agencies without passing through the Trust's accounts.

A number of individuals and companies took it upon themselves to organise fundraising events for the benefit of LLST in 2016 for which we are very grateful.

Stuart Wilks of Hill International organised Expertise Rocks, ABC Chambers Solutions held a golf day, Kirkland and Ellis organised a special quiz night, Clyde & Co held book sales and David Smith of Outer Temple Chambers and Howard Charles of Legal Harmony organised the Music Gala.

The number of individuals supporting the trust through regular or ad hoc donations has also grown in 2016. A few undertook their own challenges to raise funds for LLST - Alex Titmuss ran the Budapest marathon and Jason Yip ran the Paris marathon.

Other income has come from general donations (including substantial donations from **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Allen & Overy**) and the **Allen & Overy Client Account Interest Scheme**. **Barnet Law Service's** administrators donated a residual balance of £20,000. We

also received the second of a three year grant of **£150,000** from the **City Bridge Trust** in support of the Centres of Excellence project. Hogan Lovells provided their generous annual donation for 2016 at the end of 2015.

We continue to receive ad hoc amounts from the dormant client account donations managed by the **Access to Justice Foundation**. 2016 saw us receive over £3,600 from Anthony Gold Solicitors through this scheme.

The amount LLST received and distributed in "hosted pages or payments" significantly reduced because the charities that previously relied on our fundraising infrastructure developed their own and were able to host this income themselves.

Grants

In **2016 £840,328** was distributed in grants by LLST.

£338,039 (40%) of these were directly linked to LLST's events, with teams having nominated an organisation to receive up to 50% of their fundraising, or the free legal advice teams themselves raising 100% of funds for their own organisation.



Of the remaining pot of £502,289 that LLST distributed:

£345,000 (69%) was distributed in unrestricted grants through the Centres of Excellence / M.O.T. programme

£142,289 (28%) was distributed through the small grants (up to £5,000) scheme and

£15,000 (3%) was emergency funding.

The amount distributed in grants fell from 2015 due to a surplus from 2014 being spent out in 2015, and a larger proportion of LLST raised funds going directly to free legal advice services.

For full information, see [LLST's annual accounts](#) on the Charity Commission website.

Collaborations to raise funds

The sums our collaborative work have facilitated (that do not come through our bank account) rose sharply. These included a joint project with the Future Advice Fund (FAF) to upskill advice agency staff/volunteers and allow them to build upon existing relationships to enable greater individual fundraising.

This pilot comprising both training and one to one support was devised by LLST, FAF and a consultant working together and funded by FAF. It was very positively received by the 8 agencies involved. Results have included ATLEU taking part in the London Legal Walk and the Great Legal Quiz for the first time, raising over £6,400, around half of

which went to them directly without coming through LLST account.

We also worked with the Legal Education Foundation on a joint approach to City Bridge Trust, seeking further funding for the Justice First Fellowships to enable more social welfare law training contracts to be offered across the Centres of Excellence network. This was successful, with a grant of £320,000 over two years to support the recruitment of six new trainees in this area in 2016-2018.

These collaborative initiatives have a large impact on the sector, for relatively low input by LLST, utilising our leveraging capabilities through relationships and knowledge of the sector.

Centres of Excellence

The majority of LLST's grant funding (**approx 80%**) is directed through this project, also supported by the City Bridge Trust. It provides not only money for organisations, but also in kind help and support.

The programme is not a quality mark or simply a pass/fail assessment. It is an offer of support through an ongoing process of continuous development with some funding attached.

Purpose

Following cuts to legal aid, there has been a huge rise in the need for funding from LLST. This scheme aims to be strategic in the distribution of funds, as well as formalising and improving upon the support LLST can offer organisations. The aim is to provide a core grounding for the best free specialist legal advice agencies in London, to help them become stable and remain viable in this particularly difficult climate. We want to help these brilliant organisations go

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beyond constant fire-fighting, and be able to focus on the work they do best - helping people with their legal problems.

The scheme reflects LLST's culture of wanting to fund organisations that have a progressive attitude, are client centred, and want to continuously improve what they do.

How does it work?

The programme is based around a diagnostic process that looks at how the organisation is being run. A brief file review considering process and compliance. A review of expenditure, and whether money could be saved / effectiveness increased.



Lewisham Refugee & Migrant Network (LRMN) giving free legal advice. LRMN has been offering free independent and confidential advice to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since 1992.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 29 CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

AIRE CENTRE
ASAP
ASYLUM AID
ATLEU
CITIZENS ADVICE BARNET
BID
CAMBRIDGE HOUSE
CANTERBURY HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
EALING LAW CENTRE
GREENWICH HOUSING RIGHTS
HARROW LAW CENTRE
ISLAND ADVICE CENTRE
ISLINGTON LAW CENTRE
JUST FOR KIDS LAW
LEWISHAM REFUGEE & MIGRANT NETWORK
MARY WARD LEGAL CENTRE
NORTH KENSINGTON LAW CENTRE
NUCLEUS
PRAXIS
PRISONERS ADVICE SERVICE
PUBLIC LAW PROJECT
RCJ ADVICE
RELEASE
SOUTH WEST LONDON LAW CENTRES
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
CITIZENS ADVICE SUTTON
TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Who is helped?

Godwin's story

Godwin (not his real name) and his mother were in Nigeria, having been refused the right to remain in the UK. He was just 5 years old. His mother had been in psychiatric care for a long time and he had been in foster care. There were signs he had been neglected but there had been no assessment of what would be in his best interests since he was 10 months old. Judicial Review proceedings were brought against the Home Office for unlawful removal of Godwin and his mother to Nigeria given the failure to consider Godwin's best interests.

The Law Centre represented Godwin in making an asylum application. He had long residence in the UK, and significant compassionate factors and the lawyer felt strongly that if he were returned to Nigeria with his mother, he would be at risk of child-specific persecution. His mother's mental health meant that she was unable to look after him on her own. Godwin was in real danger of physical and emotional abuse from his mother and there would be no one able to support his education, nor any safety net available to him. He was likely to be at high risk of trafficking and exploitation.

The lawyer obtained significant expert evidence of Godwin's needs, his mother's health and parenting difficulties, and the support they needed to live safely together. The lawyer said: "This evidence was crucial to setting out Godwin's specific needs and vulnerabilities. Further, it was essential to demonstrating that Godwin's mother was unable to look after him or keep him safe if removed from her community in the UK and returned to Nigeria. As a result of the evidence submitted, Godwin has been recognised as a refugee and now has permission to remain in the UK."

How does LLST support the vital work of the law centres and advice agencies

Harrow Law Centre was able to acquire additional office space to enable them to provide a new tribunal unit and to take on additional volunteers to work on the project. They had an agreement with Advice UK to find suitable volunteers and the Law Centre would provide some initial basic welfare benefits training. This project aimed to provide representation for at least 100 beneficiaries each year in their tribunals regarding welfare benefits. Harrow Law Centre often secure in the region of £6000 in unpaid benefits for claimants when they are able to provide representation. LLST provided £2,300 for office furniture.



Z2K helps vulnerable Londoners facing poverty and debt by providing individual advice and support, championing individual rights and working with others to try to create a more just society. It specialises in welfare benefits and housing advice. Their existing computers were very old and slow and they did not have enough for their volunteers, which hampered their ability to work at maximum efficiency. LLST was able to provide £1,700 for PCs and mobile phones to be used at outreach advice surgeries, enabling them to provide a service for particularly vulnerable clients.



Every Penny Counts

LLST continues to support free legal advice organisations through providing money saving groups, education about discounts or exemptions available to charities and managing in-kind donations from law firms or chambers. This element of our work is called the **Every Penny Counts** project and has involved building core relationships with suppliers to ensure best value for the group of charities as a whole. Specific arrangements exist to save money for charities with regard to stationery, photocopiers and printers, franking machines, energy costs, software, hosted cloud solutions, CRM systems and more.

LLST estimate this work saved the advice sector over £72,000 in 2016.

Planned additions to the programme in 2017 include group buying arrangement for document archiving and storage, costs services and training for staff and volunteers.

The time LLST staff spend on sup-

porting the free legal advice through activities that are not LLST fundraising events is estimated to be around 21%.



LLST have an exciting new partnership this year (2017) with the Archive Warehouse.

Legal Advice charities that have joined have saved between 20-40% annually

The Stationery Buying Group continues to help 65+ free legal advice agencies and law centres make significant savings on stationery and office supplies.



Thanks

We would like to give a huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

The Law Society - Headline Gold Sponsors of the London Legal Walk
Kain Knight Costs Lawyers
More Drinks

The continued growth of the London Legal Walk owes a huge amount to the support received from the **Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Supreme Court, The Director of Public Prosecutions, the President of the Law Society, the Chairman of the Bar Council and the President of CILEX**, as well as a large number of leading judges, leading partners of City firms and heads of chambers who participate.

LLST thank all of the firms, chambers courts and organisations that took part in the 2016 London Legal Walk. The highest fundraisers per category were **Clifford Chance (firms), Cloisters (chambers), GC100 (corporate) and The Royal Courts of Justice (Ju-**

diciary) in which Lord Justice Jackson was the individual star. 37 of the teams received match funding or a donation of over £1,000 from their law firm, chambers or company. This continues to make a large impact, with all of the match funding received for the London Legal Walk adding over **£80,000** to the fundraising.

Mr. Justice Haddon-Cave



once again led Walk the Thames, running the Marathon length event and encouraging increased participation following his incredible fundraising efforts for LLST at the London Marathon.

Some individuals and companies have put in huge efforts for LLST this year on their own initiative and LLST are so grateful for that support. A big thank you for the

fundraising efforts of Stuart Wilks of Hill International for organising Expertise Rocks, **ABC Chambers Solutions** for holding a golf day, **Kirkland and Ellis** for holding a special quiz night and David Smith of Outer Temple Chambers and Howard Charles of Legal Harmony for organising the Music Gala spectacular.

We would also like to thank **Docu-land** for their continued in kind support.

We are indebted to our regular volunteers and interns mentioned above, but also to numerous other colleagues, friends and ad hoc volunteers without whom our events could not happen.

Finally, LLST wish to thank everyone who donated to LLST directly, or sponsored a friend, colleague or family member who took part in one of the LLST events.

It makes a tremendous difference.