

A message from Nick Gallagher, CEO

I'm delighted to start my message this quarter by offering a huge thank you to all who supported our 2018 Spring Raffle. You raised a record-breaking £6,006, which will help over 200 people facing the courts alone. It was wonderful to have with us at the Royal Courts of Justice to make the draw, our founder and Life President, Diana Copisarow (pictured below).

As part of our determination to help more litigants in person [PSU Coventry](#) opened its doors on 22nd January 2018. This service is open every Monday in Coventry Combined Court, and is already helping increasing numbers of people

I can also announce that Eileen Pereira is to be the next CEO of the PSU, taking over the reins from me when I step down in August. Eileen has long experience of the legal world having previously been CEO of Surrey Family & Mediation Services and the Civil Mediation Council Ltd.

I have loved working at the PSU and am proud to be associated with all that our staff and volunteers achieve, making an important and effective difference to the lives of so many people facing court alone. I came to the PSU initially for 6 months and will have been with this wonderful organisation for nearly three and a half years when Eileen starts. I'm sure she will find that time really does fly when you work for such an inspirational charity.

In closing, thank you for your continued support and interest in our work. You have a huge impact on what we are able to achieve.

With best wishes.



Nick Gallagher
CEO



Our upcoming events from around the country

Visit: www.thepsu.org/events

Contact: events@thepsu.org.uk

[Legal Walks, Nottingham 10 May, Leeds 14 May, Newcastle 15 May and London 21 May](#)

Join the PSU team and enjoy the fun atmosphere of the Legal Walks. Your 10k challenge will help raise both funds and awareness for the PSU.

[Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge, various dates](#)

Conquer the highest 3 peaks of the Yorkshire Dales. Open to all, you will complete a 25 mile hike within 12 hours, whilst enjoying the stunning views at your own pace.

[Tour De France, 12-16 Sept](#)

Whether you are a professional cyclist or a beginner, take part in a once in a lifetime opportunity to cycle from London Crystal Palace to the Eiffel Tower.

[Tough Mudder, various dates](#)

Test your toughness and take up the gauntlet for a range of muddy obstacles. Locations across the country from London to Yorkshire.



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Edna's story

I arrived at court to find a solicitor waiting to speak urgently to a PSU volunteer. She explained that she had given one-hour's free advice to Edna*, who wanted access to her two-year-old grandson, but she couldn't help further without payment or legal aid funding.

The solicitor explained that the grandmother's daughter, the child's mother, had taken her own life just two days before, aged 23. Edna was deeply concerned about the ability of the father to care for the child, as he had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and allegedly had issues with drugs, and had made several attempts to remove him from Edna's care since the mother's death.

"She was very upset, so we took frequent breaks, to prevent the process becoming too overwhelming."

I accompanied Edna to the court counter to make them aware of the impending urgent application, and they were extremely helpful and understanding. I helped Edna to complete all the relevant applications along with a supporting witness statement.

After an hour's wait, the court team came to tell Edna that the judge had looked at the applications and made an interim decision: for the time being, Edna's grandson would remain in her care.

This case, in particular, made me feel emotional. I teared up several times throughout the day as Edna described her daughter. She had been the same age as me, which made the situation difficult.

"When Edna left the PSU, she remarked how a weight had been lifted off of her shoulders."

Without the help of the PSU, Edna would not have coped. She couldn't afford legal representation, nor obtain legal aid, and would have had to navigate the complexities of the court process on her own, just two days after her daughter had taken her own life.

It was extremely rewarding to make such a difference to that family, and it re-affirmed why I love what we do at the PSU.

(*names have been changed for confidentiality)

How you can help: [Leave a gift in your will:](#) with your help we can continue supporting people in the future (www.thepsu.org/support-us/leave-a-gift)

Staying in Touch webpage

We are excited to announce PSU's new [Staying in Touch](#) webpage where you can tell us:

- How you would like to be contacted - whether by post, email, phone, or all three
- What information you would like to receive from us

To view the webpage and let us know your contact preferences, [CLICK HERE](#).

Why have a new webpage?

The new webpage makes it easier for you to let us know how you would like to stay in touch, and help ensure we are GDPR compliant.

If you prefer not to use our website, you can still let us know your contact preferences by:

- Calling our Friends manager on 0207 073 1703
- Emailing friends@thepsu.org.uk

Your details will only be used by us. We will never give your information to other organisations to use for their own purposes.

What is GDPR?

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on 25th May 2018. GDPR aims to strengthen peoples' rights over their data, and gives direction to organisations in storing and processing data.

Being GDPR compliant will help ensure the PSU is acting as a responsible organisation and protecting the information that has been entrusted to us by our clients, supporters, volunteers and partners. It will also mean that our donors get the best experience, tailored to their requests, when supporting our work.

[Click here to view our new website page and let us know how you would like to hear from us](#)



Donate: Donate online (www.thepsu.org/support-us/donate-now) or by a cheque made payable to 'Court Based Personal Support'.