

Ian had difficulty leaving his home – he called for help

Ian was dependent on a wheelchair following a serious accident, was partially blind and suffered from severe agoraphobia. He was only able to leave the house occasionally, and then only to spend time in his garden.

Ian was facing civil court as a defendant without legal help

His claim concerned some work done to his home to make it more accessible for his wheelchair, which had not been completed. Ian refused to pay and the builders brought about legal action to resolve the dispute.

After receiving a court letter summoning him to a hearing, Ian reached out to the PSU

Over the phone, David, a PSU volunteer, listened to Ian about his case and his problems leaving the house to attend a hearing. With David's support, Ian wrote a letter to the court explaining his disability and health issues, and requesting a hearing by phone.

Ian was successful in his request and was able to join the hearing by phone, and put his case across. He thanked the volunteer David for taking time to listen carefully, and help him navigate the court system without him having to struggle with leaving home.

Without help, Ian remarked, he would not have been able to participate in the hearing at all. Thanks to our supporters Ian had someone to call.

Names have been changed for confidentiality



Support by phone – New PSU line launched

We are pleased to announce that a new PSU helpline pilot launched on 19 March, increasing our reach to people facing court alone across England and Wales.

Our research showed that there are many areas where there is little or no provision of support to Litigants in Person. Additionally, evidence suggests significant amounts of people who live within travelling distance of a PSU are unable to travel into our offices due to disability or work.

We initially have four volunteers in Birmingham delivering the service. We provide practical, procedural and emotional support over the phone to those without legal representation. The phone service has taken off quickly, helping people 599 times in April. The pilot will run until 19 July and we hope to secure support to continue this vital help.

Litigants in Person can contact the helpline on 0300 081 006

For more information on supporting or volunteering, please contact Manager Charlotte Rook on birmingham@thepsu.org.uk



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The difference you've made - supporter news

Thanks to our new [PSU Partners](#) Osbourne Clarke and the Chambers of William Clegg QC, making 21 companies who've joined our network. Get a legal company involved by calling Carmen O'Loughlin, Corporate Partnerships Manager on 020 7947 6358.

Thank you to Rev. Richard Coles, who was interviewed by our Chair, Peter Crisp, at our most recent Friends event. It was a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable evening hosted at Kings College, London. **Thanks also to our Friends committee** who help arrange supporter events. If you are interested in joining the Friends Committee please email friends@theapsu.org.uk

Thanks to everyone who was part of our Legal Tech breakfast this March looking at how legal tech could help improve access to justice. Hosted by the Law Society, we heard from Lord Briggs and an informed panel. The event was spearheaded by Catherine Bamford as part of the London Volunteer Fundraising Board. If you would like more information about the board please contact carmen.oloughlin@theapsu.org.uk

Thank you to Irwin Mitchell who hosted our first ever PSU Masterclass: Securing Training and Pupillage Contracts. Aspiring lawyers, barristers and solicitors joined us for an inspiring careers talk followed by drinks and networking. Join the Alumni Network and be first to hear about our events by visiting www.theapsu.org/volunteer/alumni-network

Thank you Maddie Turner. Maddie is a dedicated volunteer who has completed several events and has just taken on the Manchester marathon to support people going through court in Chelmsford.



Our upcoming events 2019

Visit: www.theapsu.org/events to buy tickets

Contact: events@theapsu.org.uk or 020 7073 1703

Support the Judges' cycle 19 May

18 brave Judges across Wales are cycling 55 miles, from Brecon to Cardiff along the Taff Trail.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/psucycle>

Legal walks May and June, across [London](#), [Birmingham](#), [Bristol](#) and [Leeds](#)

Join or support the PSU team for one of the fantastic legal walks across the country. Contact your local PSU Service Manager to find out more and register to walk www.theapsu.org/contact-us

Wine tasting evening 26 July, 6.30pm, New Hall Vineyard, Chelmsford

Enjoy a wonderful evening of wine to support the Chelmsford PSU. With Pimms on arrival the event includes a tour, wine tasting and a jazz band. Tickets are £35 and available [online](#)

[London to Brighton](#) 15 Sep

Inspired by the Cardiff Judges? Take on a cycle of your own, leave London behind and head for the coast in this 55-mile challenge which you can achieve in a day.

Fee £50, sponsorship target £150

Other tour locations and dates are available [online](#)

How you can help: **Donate as you shop** Sign up to easy fundraising and choose the PSU to donate while you shop www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Organise an event From pub quizzes, to cake bakes, do something you love and raise funds to help people going through court www.theapsu.org/events/organise-your-own-event/