

## The Access to Justice Foundation student competition 2010

### ***Pro Bono Costs Orders: levelling the playing field?***

The Access to Justice Foundation is a cross-profession initiative involving the three branches of the legal profession, together with the voluntary sector. It acts in the public interest to bring additional resources to support free (pro bono) legal help to those in need.

Pro Bono Costs Orders were introduced in October 2008 by Section 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007. These allow successful parties represented by pro bono lawyers to seek a costs order reflecting the financial value of the pro bono help provided. The costs are paid to The Access to Justice Foundation so that they can be distributed to pro bono organisations using a national, strategic approach. The first distribution of funding took place in November 2009.

The Foundation and [LawWorks](#) are now inviting law students to enter their competition by submitting an article between 500 and 1000 words entitled:

#### **“Pro Bono Costs Orders: levelling the playing field?”**

The article should be aimed at the legal profession, as the winning entry will be published. In addition to discussing the extent that Pro Bono Costs level the playing field for pro bono assisted parties, the writer may wish to comment on the role of pro bono legal help, and the importance of the Foundation in bringing additional funding.

The winner will receive the inaugural The Access Justice Foundation Student Prize, which will be presented by HM Attorney General at the student awards at the House of Lords. They will also receive £300 of book vouchers kindly donated by LexisNexis to be spent on books from their range.

Please submit your article in Word or PDF format to [competition@atjf.org.uk](mailto:competition@atjf.org.uk) by the deadline of 9am, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Undergraduate and postgraduate law students may apply, including LPC and BVC students. Included are those awaiting commencement of their law course or their training contract/pupillage. The competition will be judged by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation chaired by former Attorney General Lord Goldsmith QC.

*For more information about The Access to Justice Foundation and Pro Bono Costs visit*  
[www.accesstojusticefoundation.org.uk](http://www.accesstojusticefoundation.org.uk)