

The 331 barristers on the Western Circuit on the list held by Circuit who are willing to undertake Free Representation has been recognised by Victim Support in the first Awards ceremony to mark those who help in the efforts for Victims and Witnesses.

Gill Richards made reference to those who undertake the work in her remarks upon receiving a certificate for Outstanding Help for Victims and Witnesses at a event held on Friday 8th June at Hampshire Police Support Headquarters at Netley.

"This award should not be just seen as for me but for the 331 barristers on the list and they are but a phone call away", she said.

To all those on the list - see under the FRU link - she extends her grateful thanks especially to 3 Paper Buildings who provide so much help in the particular form of Guy Opperman who heads the FRU Scheme team and holds regular surgeries for CAB and Victim Support.

Jo'Anna Black, of Victim Support South-West, in her citation for the award said:

"Gill is the Administrator of the Western Circuit Free Representation Unit, based at Winchester. It is through Gill that we have been able to access the services of Barristers to help us with our Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals. The knowledge and expertise the WCFRU are able to contribute has undoubtedly increased the success rate of our CICA Appeals. Gill has worked tirelessly with VS for well over a decade and has been a constant source of support and advice. Her energy and commitment has never wavered and we very much appreciate all her efforts on behalf of VS."