



EVERYTHING MATTERS

Manuel Bravo Project

BOOK SIGNING INVITATION

8 November 2011

As part of Pro Bono week, the Manuel Bravo Project will be hosting a book signing event at the offices of DLA Piper Leeds on 8 November 2011. The Project is a charitable organisation whereby lawyers, law students and other volunteers help asylum seekers who are unable to find adequate legal representation to prepare their cases before the Asylum Appeals Tribunal.

The author Chris Cleave will attend to discuss his experiences of the UK asylum system and to read from his New York Times bestselling book “Little Bee/The Other Hand”, scheduled to be made into a major motion picture starring Nicole Kidman, which was in part inspired by the story of Manuel Bravo. Manuel was an Angolan asylum seeker who had been sent to Leeds, whose legal representative failed to attend his final appeal hearing resulting in the failure of the claim. He was subsequently detained pending imminent deportation. In order to allow his 13 year old son to remain in the country, Manuel committed suicide. A later review determined that, had Manuel had proper legal representation, there was a strong possibility that his asylum claim would have been successful.

Since being founded the Project has helped numerous asylum seekers with both appeals and fresh claims. Through our work, many of the asylum seekers have obtained legal aid and full legal representation. In many other cases, our volunteers have helped asylum seekers, who had otherwise been refused representation, to bring successful appeals and/or fresh claims. Most important of all, in all our cases (regardless of their merits) we have ensured that people, often with limited or no understanding of the English language and with limited or no formal education, have had some formal legal representation in a judicial process which for them will be fundamental to the future course of their lives.

The evening will also feature presentations regarding the work of the Project, the role law firms play and will hear from asylum seekers that have successfully applied, with the Project’s assistance, for leave to remain.

We would be delighted if you could attend. The event commences at 18.30 and will finish by 21.00 – complimentary refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to jessica.peacock@dlapiper.com

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