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Advocate to the Court

From: the Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith QCA little belatedly the amicus curiae, or friend of the court, is getting a make-over.

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4.

It is important to bear in mind that an advocate to the court represents no one.

His or her function is to give to the court such assistance as he or she is able on the relevant law and its application to the facts of the case.

An advocate to the court will not normally be instructed to lead evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or investigate the facts.

In particular, it is not appropriate for the court to seek assistance from an advocate to the court simply because a defendant in criminal proceedings refuses representation.⁵

