



Country Report

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

The Voice of the Legal Professionals

Inception of BASL in 1974

The legal profession in Sri Lanka was recognized by the Charter of Justice in the year 1802 and the Bar Association of Sri Lanka was established in 1974 with the amalgamation of the both branches of law namely the Advocates of Sri Lanka and Proctors of Sri Lanka by the Administration of Justice Law No 44 of 1973.

Prior to the introduction of this new Law, Bar Council of Sri Lanka represented the Advocates of Sri Lanka and Law Society of Sri Lanka represented the Proctors of Sri Lanka in all matters affecting their respective professions. With the introduction of this new Law both these branches of the legal profession was mingled, in to a one group of legal practitioners as 'Attorneys- at- Law' leading to establish the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as the apex body of all lawyers in Sri Lanka.

Membership

'Every person who is an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka shall be and, every person who is herein after enrolled as an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka shall on enrolment become a member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka'.

BASL Constitution Article 3.1

BASL scope in terms of the their membership is vast and not limited to

- a) Maintenance of the honour and independence of the Bar of Sri Lanka;
- b) Promotion and protection of the interests, welfare, rights and privileges of the Bar including the establishment of Provident and Welfare Schemes;
- c) Promotion of good relations and cooperation between the Bar and the public, the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive and Lawyers of the other countries;

- d) Maintenance of standards of professional conduct by the promotion of honourable practice, prevention of malpractice and other conduct unworthy of an Attorney-at-Law, the formulation and interpretation of rules of professional conduct and etiquette, the settlement of dispute points of practice and decision of all questions of professional etiquette, usage of courtesy between or among Attorney-at-Law;
- e) The appointment of such Committees as the Council may consider necessary either on its own or in consultation with the Judges of the Supreme Court, in connection with and for the maintenance of discipline in the profession;
- f) The consideration of all questions affecting interest of the profession and if need be, making of representations to the Legislature or other authority in relation to legislative measures affecting the profession as well as the public;
- g) The furtherance of legal education and study of the Law and to foster international and regional co-operation in the study of Law and Administration of Justice.
- h) And to perform of any other acts for or conducive or incidental to the carrying out of the foregoing objects

As Article 3.1.a of the BASL Constitution mentioned above, an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka shall on enrolment become a member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. And Accordingly, Judicial Officers of Sri Lanka and Legal Officers representing the official bar are all deemed as members of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as they become a member on their enrolment as an Attorney-at-Law in the Supreme Court.

BASL Constitution describes the membership categories as;

- Ordinary Members
- Life Members (Ordinary)
- Life Members (Honoris Causa)
- Associated Members
- Associated Member Associations

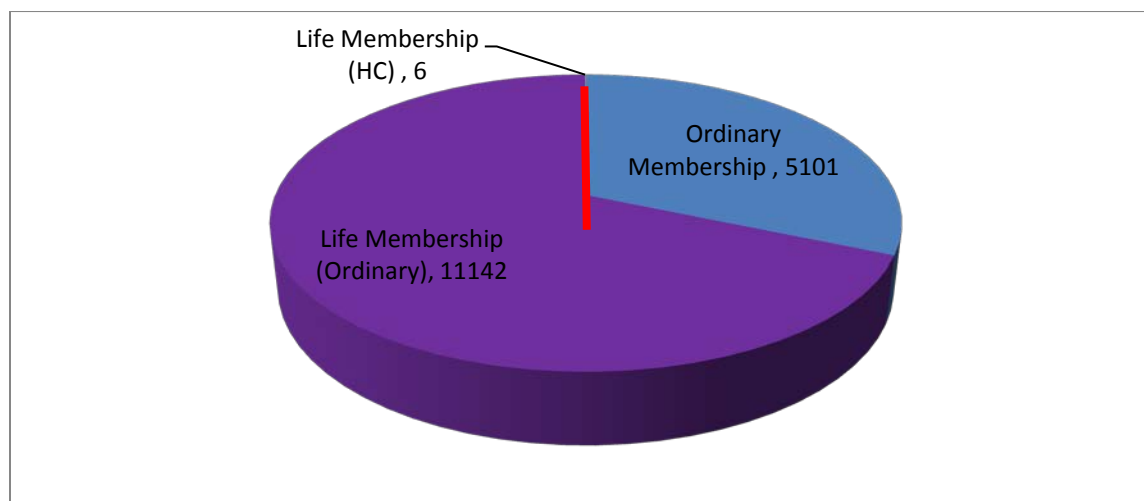
Fees

Category	Fees	BASL ID	Membership Certificate
Life Membership	Rs. 7,500	ID Fee Rs 2500 Renewable only in every 10 years	Issued only to Life Members
Ordinary Membership			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 3 Years at the Bar More than 3 years at the Bar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs. 500 per year Rs. 1000 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID fee Rs 2500 To be annually renewed for a fee of Rs 2500 	N/A

BASL Secretariat maintains the membership registry, and accordingly there are 18,198 registered members from out of which 13,816 are paid up members. Members who have not paid their annual subscription up to date will lose their right of voting until their have paid all subscription due.

It is important to note that the BASL recognises the eminent practitioners in the profession who have rendered distinguished or special services rendered to the Association or the legal profession or administration of justice or the development of the Law. Such members are given the special membership Life Member *Honoris Causa* (Latin *For the Sake of the Honour*)

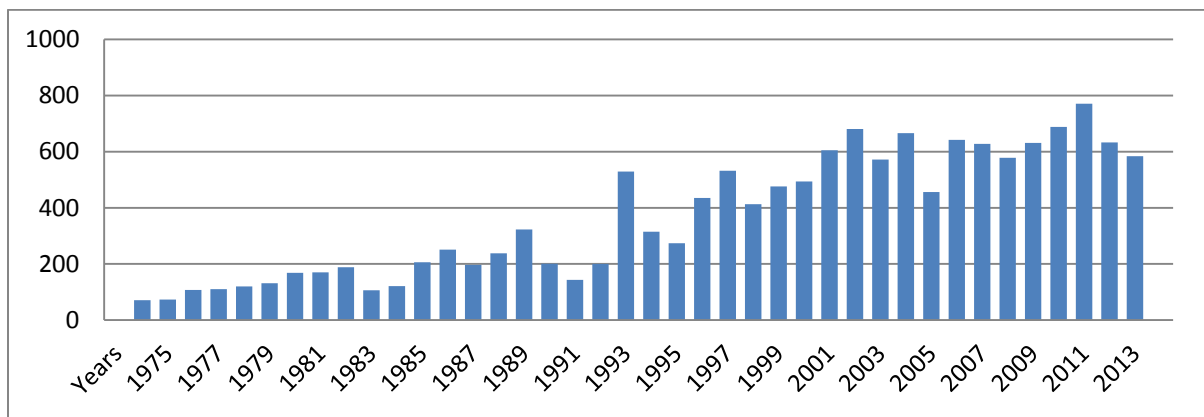
Figure 1 – Categories of membership



Source: BASL Membership Registry

There is a clear growth in the membership from its inception in 1974. The members of the then Bar Council and The Ceylon Law Society became members of the newly established Bar Association of Sri Lanka by its Constitution. In its first year of inception (1974) BASL enrolled 71 members together with approximately 800 members who were former Advocates and Proctors and later became Attorneys-at-Law after the amalgamation of the profession which came to effect from the 1st January 1974. Enrolment from its inception is shown in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 BASL Membership Enrolments from 1974



Source: BASL Membership Registry

The records of the BASL show an average membership growth of 13% per year for its four decades starting from 1974 and, where ten years from 1984 to 1993 shows the highest growth rate of membership with 28% average growth per year.

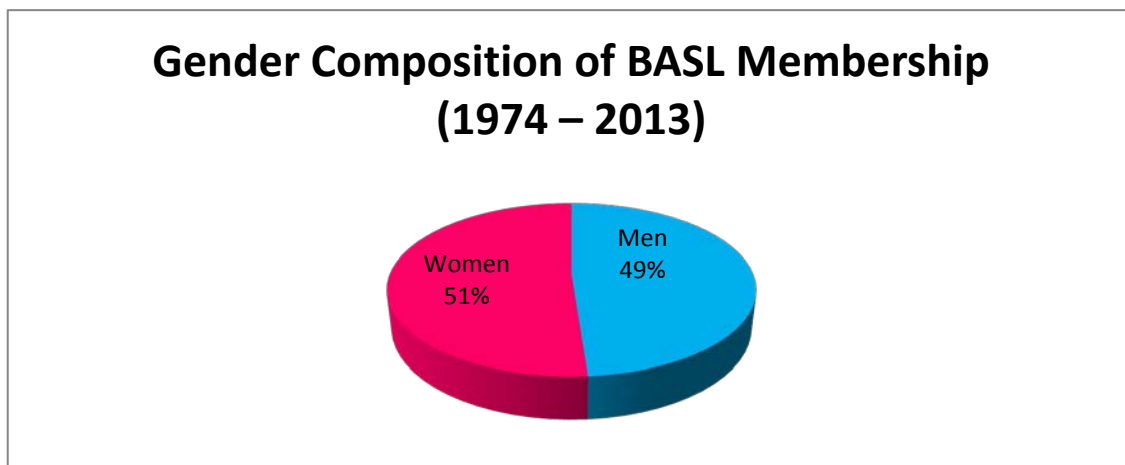
Table 1

Period	Average growth per year in the membership
1974 – 1983	0.07%
1984 - 1993	28%
1994 - 2003	15%
2004 – 2013	2%

Gender Diversity of Membership

From current figures maintained, among the members there are slightly more women than men. As at 2013, out of the total registered members 51% are female and 49% Male.

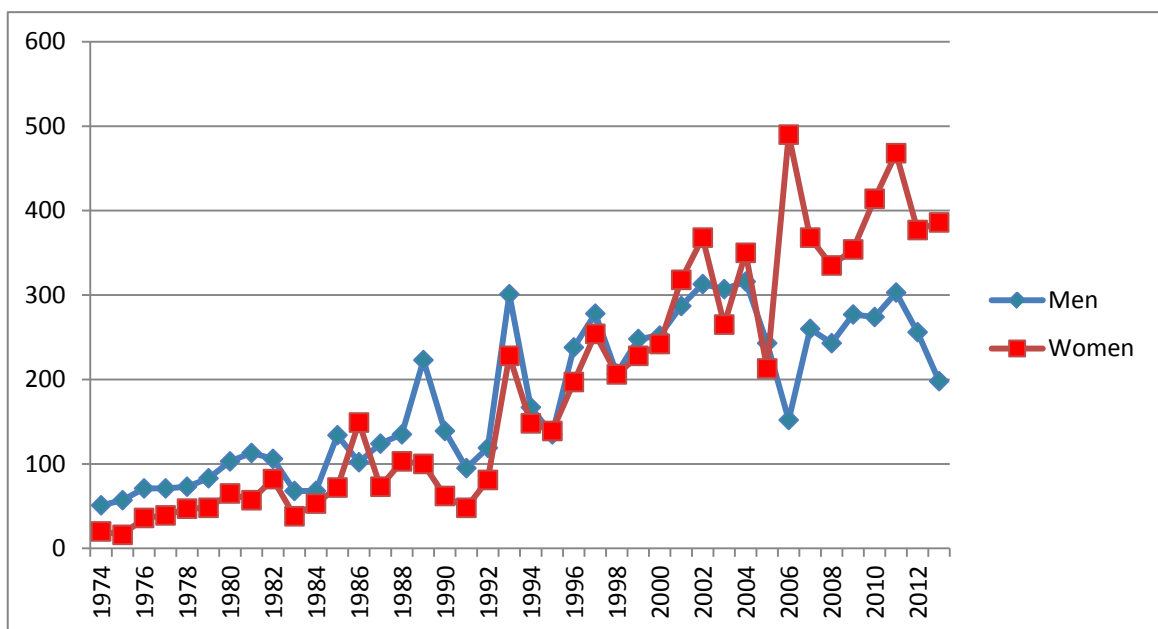
Figure 3 Gender Composition of BASL Membership (1974 – 2013)



Source: Membership registry (2013)

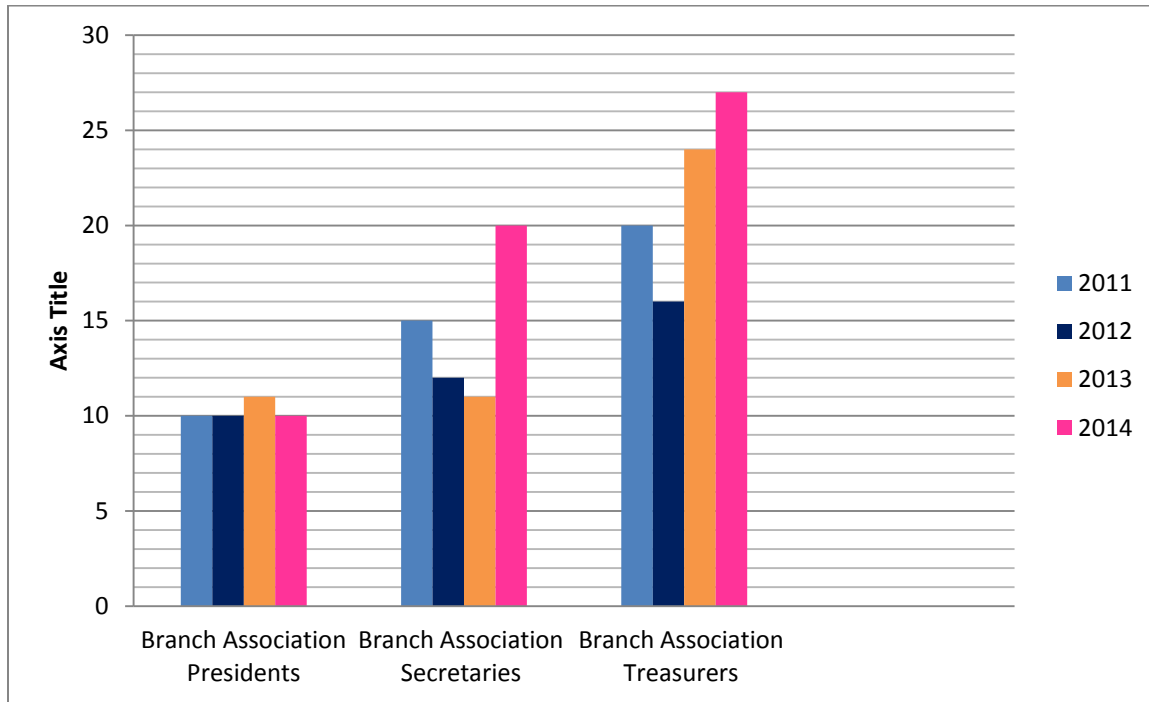
The increasing visibility of women members was highlighted in the figure 4 below.

Figure 4 Gender composition of the BASL Membership over four decades



Source: BASL Membership Registry

Figure 5 Representation of women in Branch Associations



Source: BASL Membership Registry

As at 2014, there are 78 Branch Associations of BASL out of which representation of women members as Presidents of Branch Associations is 12.82%. Female representation in terms of Branch Association leadership has slightly decrease from last years 14% and as to the post of Branch Association Secretary there is a 11% growth from 14% in 2013 to 25% in 2014.

Experience of the Membership

The membership registry provides details of the year in which every member enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law which is used as the indicator of the years of experience of the BASL Membership.

Figure 6 Work experience of the membership (2013)

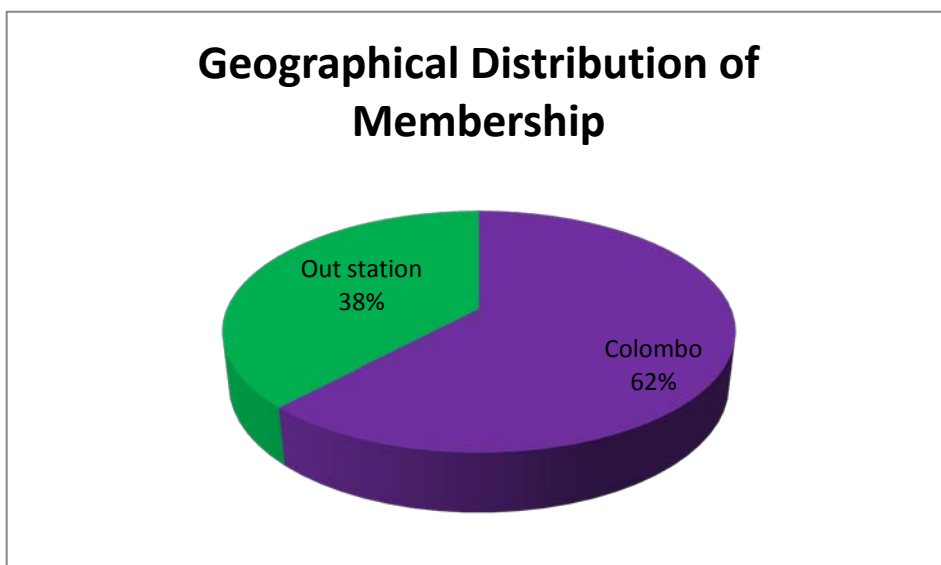


Source: BASL Membership Registry

Geographic Distribution of the Membership

According to available data 62% of the total membership is attached to the Colombo Branch Association popularly known as the Colombo Law Society.

Figure 7 Geographical Distribution of Membership

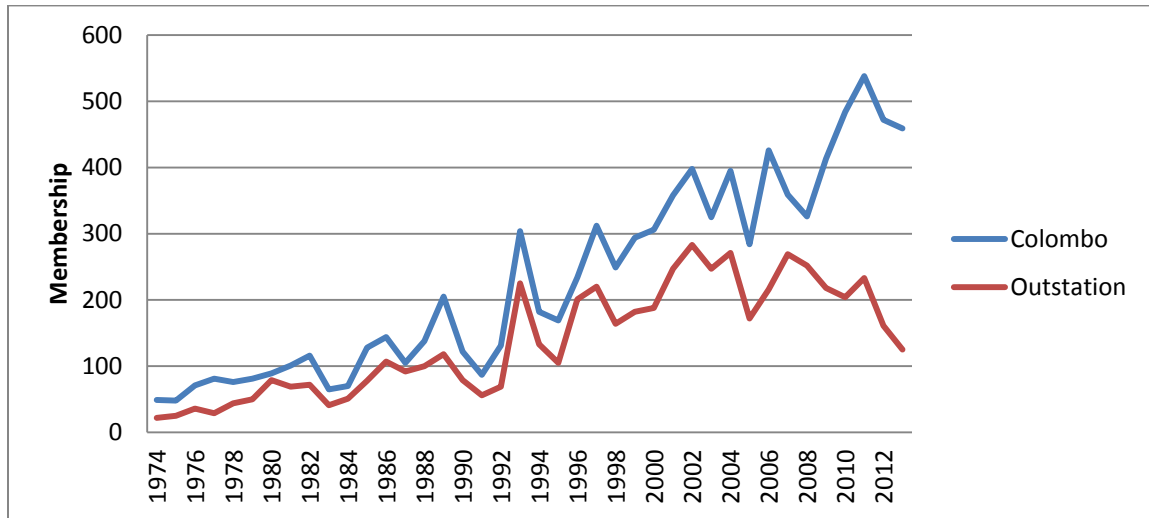


2

Source: BASL Membership Registry

And over four decades membership distribution has been as seen on figure 8 below which shows a clear gap between the numbers which shows that Sri Lanka’s legal profession is highly urbanised.

Figure 8 Membership Distribution over four decades (Colombo – Outstation)



Source: BASL Membership Registry (2013)

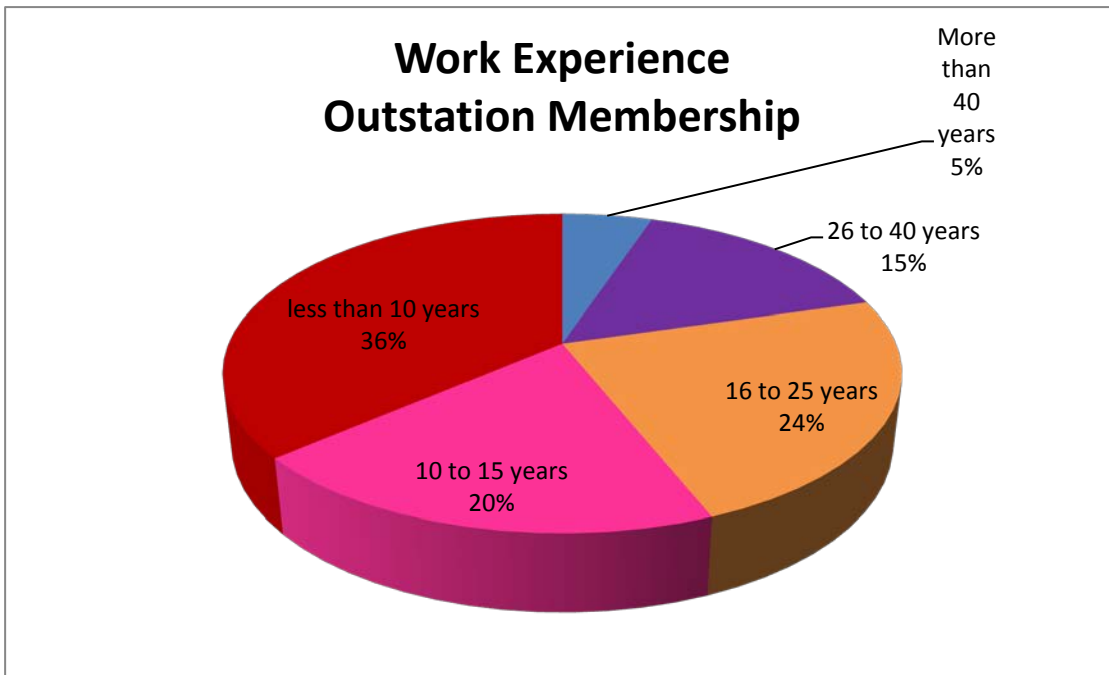
It is important to consider the locations of the Institutions providing Legal Education in Sri Lanka. Table 2 shows the location of Institutions

Table 2 Legal Education providers of Sri Lanka

Institution	Location
Sri Lanka Law College	Colombo
Law Faculty University of Colombo	Colombo
Legal Studied Department Open University of Sri Lanka	Colombo
Department of Law University of Peradeniya	Peradeniya, Kandy
Department of Law, University of Jaffna	Jaffna

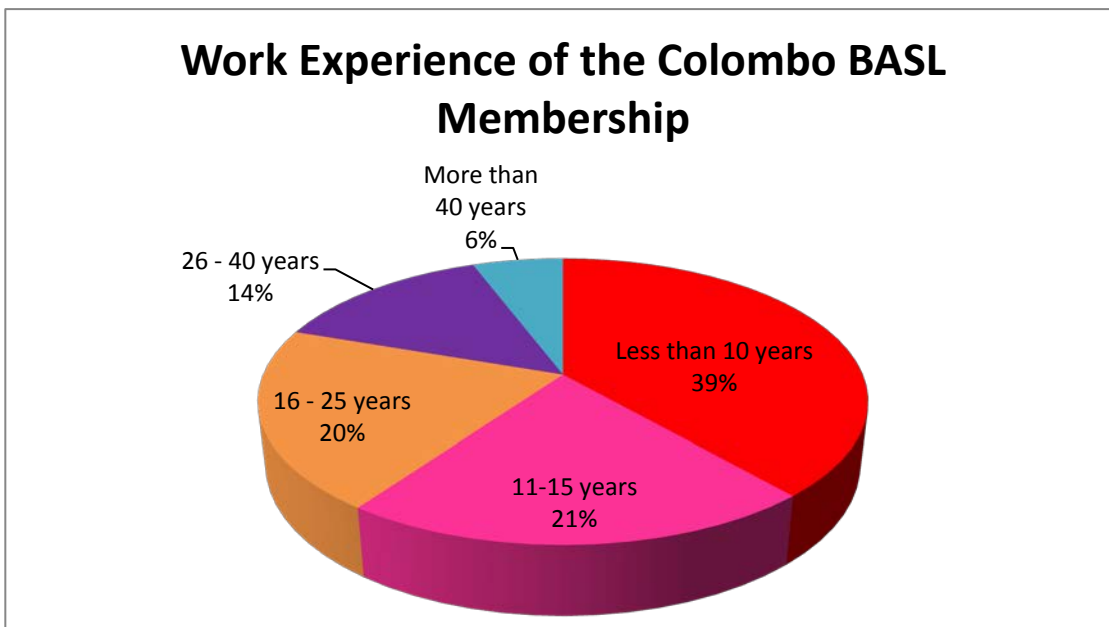
Apart from this major national institution following local legal curriculum, there are few institutions who offer foreign Law Degrees out of which majority is located in Colombo and Kandy.

Figure 9 Work experience of the out station branch membership



Source: BASL Membership Registry

Figure10 Work experience of the BASL Membership attached to Colombo Branch Association



Source: BASL Membership Registry

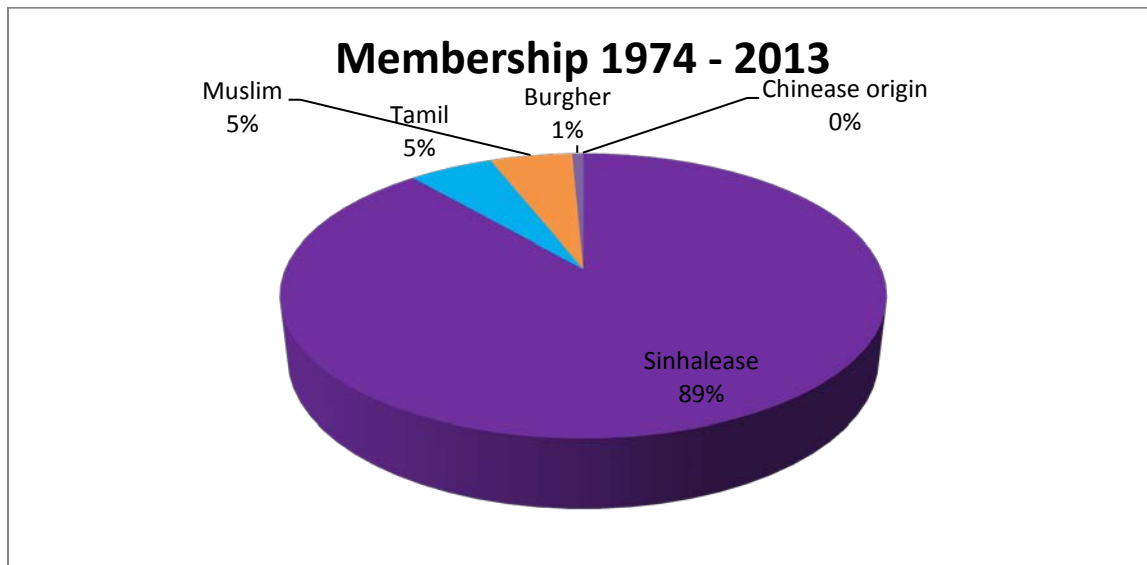
Ethnic Diversity of the Membership

Ethnic diversity in the legal profession is an important aspect of the delivery of justice that has become increasingly vital for the development of post-war Sri Lanka. Even before the inception of the Sri Lanka Bar Association in 1974, Faculty of Law started teaching and conducting examination in Tamil Medium to harmonise equal opportunities given to the ethnic minorities. The proportion of ethnic minorities at the private bar is seeing a steady increase over the past four decades.

For the year 2013, 6% of the newly registered members were Tamil origins and 8% represented the Muslim legal professionals. Total visibility of the minority was 15% out of the total population of new registrations to BASL membership in the year 2013.

Out of the total population of legal professionals from 1974 to 2013, 11% represents the minority.

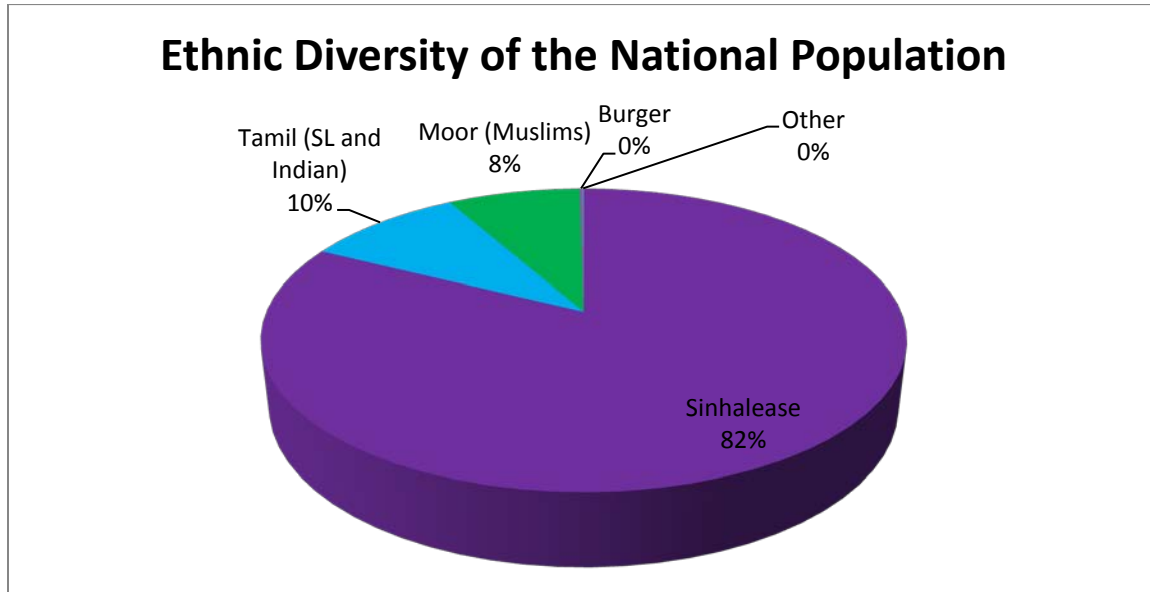
Figure 11 Ethnic Diversity of BASL Membership (1974 – 2013)



Source: BASL Membership Registry (2013)

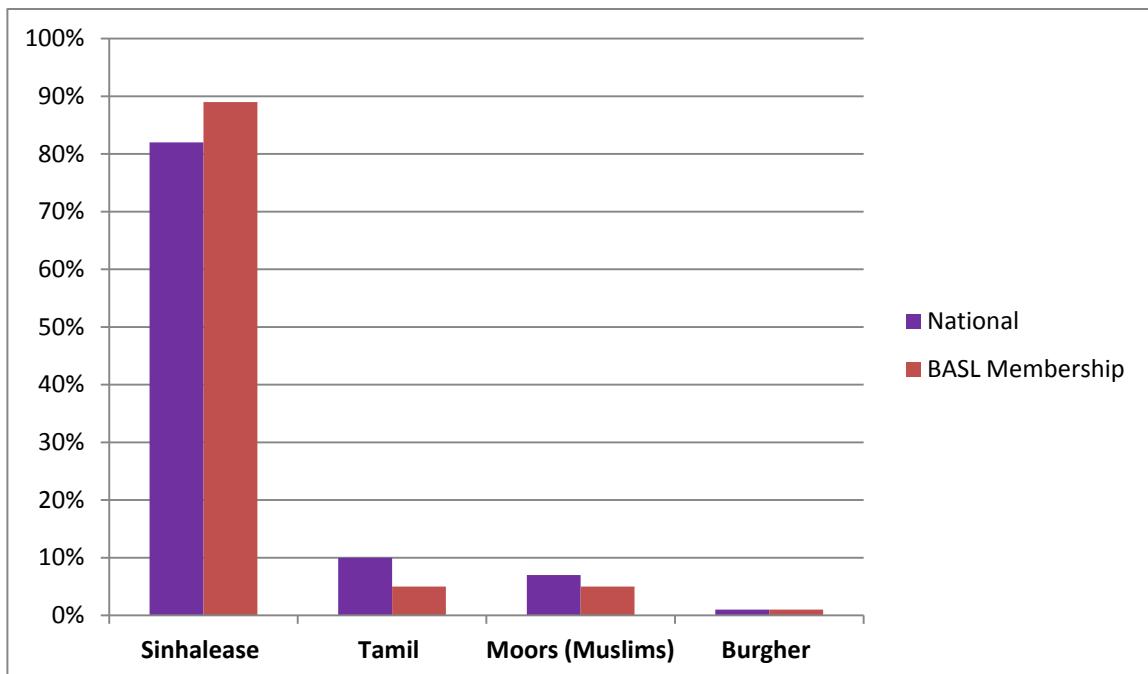
With this data it is important to consider the Sri Lankan National Ethnic diversity to figure out whether any of the minority groups are under-represented in terms of the legal profession.

Figure 12 Ethnic Diversity of the National Population



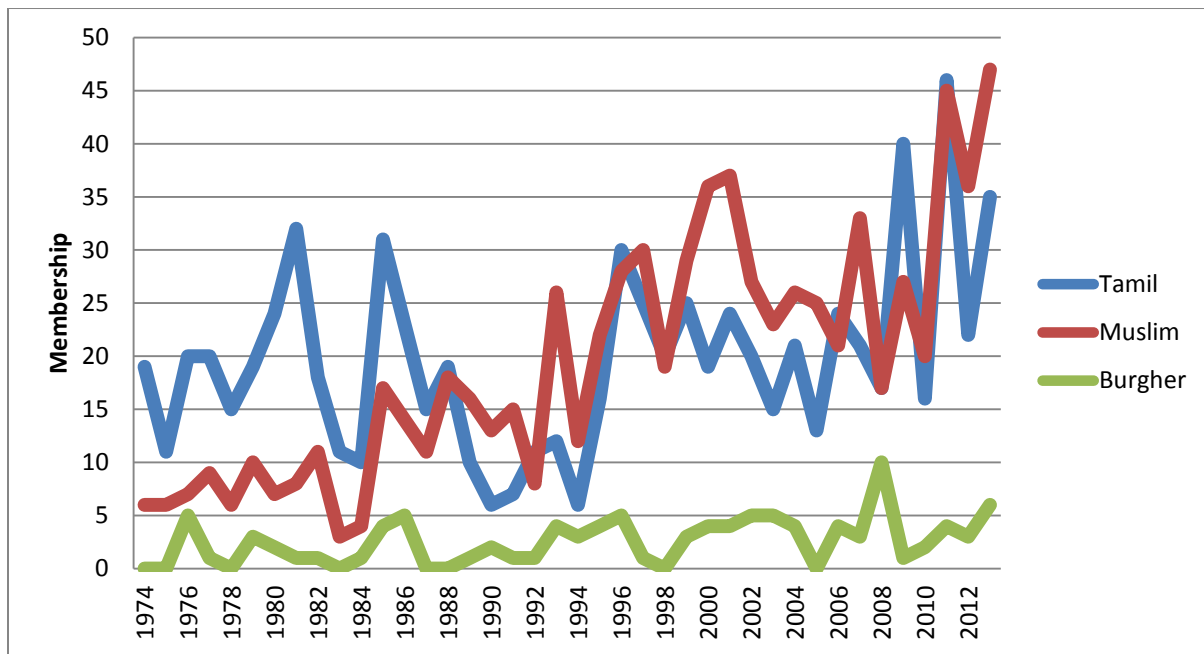
Source: Department Census and Statistics (Ethnicity in Population 2001)

Figure 13 Comparison of the Ethnic Diversity in the National Population with the BASL Membership



Diversity in the Legal Profession is not consistent with the diversity of the general population of Sri Lanka. According to this figures the BASL Membership is under represented in terms of Tamil Legal Professionals from 50%. Muslims are also slightly under-represented where the Muslim representation is 5% from BASL membership and nationally Muslims count for a 8% of the total population.

Figure 13 shows the growth if minority representation of the BASL membership over the past four decade.



Source: BASL Membership Registry

Table 3 Average Growth in the four decades

Period	Tamil Legal professionals average growth	Muslim Legal professionals average growth	Burgher Legal professionals average growth
1974 - 1983	2%	2%	(36%)
1984 – 1993	16%	54%	57%
1994 – 2003	15%	6%	(9%)
2004 - 2013	32%	17%	27%

Source: BASL Membership Registry

Branch Network of BASL

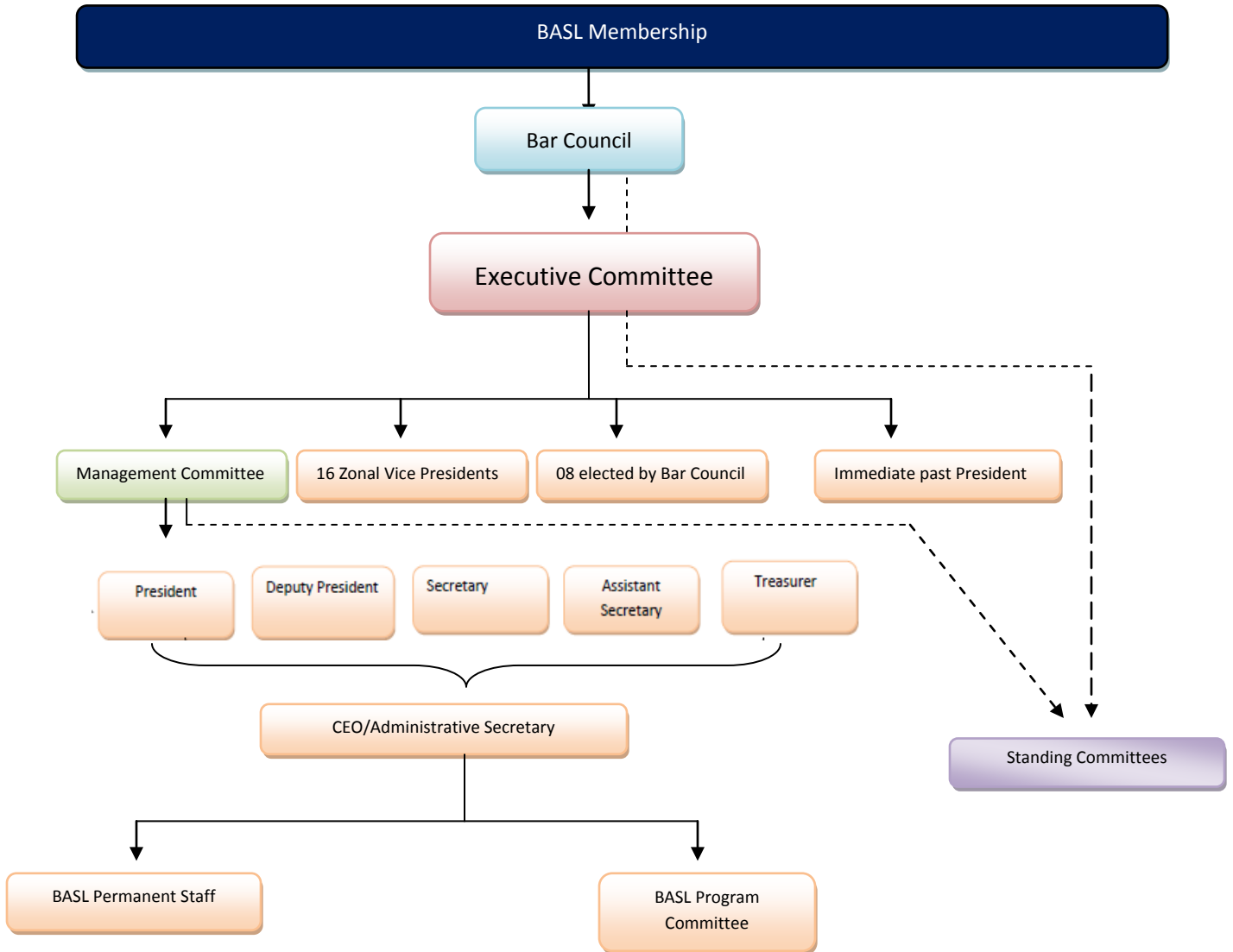
There are 81 branch associations recognized by the Bar Council and, an Attorney at Law can be a member of the BASL as well as a member of one Branch Association. No Attorney-at- Law shall be a member of more than one Branch Association of BASL.

Province	Judicial Zone	Branch Bar Associations
Southern	Galle	Baddegama Lawyers' Association
		Balapitiya Lawyers' Association
		Galle Law Association
	Matara	Bar Association of Elpitiya
		Matara Law Society
		Morawaka Bar Association
Sabaragamuwa	Undecided	Bar Association of Tangalle
		Bar Association of Hambantota
		Pelmadulla Bar Association
	Rathnapura	Rathnapura Bar Association
		Bar Association of Sri Lanka – Embilipitiya Branch
		Balangoda Bar Association
North Western	Kegalle	Kegalle Lawyers' Association
		Bar Association of Mawanella
		Bar Association of Ruwanwella
	Chilaw	Bar Association of Awissawella
		Chilaw District Bar Association
		Bar Association of Marawila
Central	Kurunegala	Bar Association of Sri Lanka Wariyapola Branch
		Bar Association of Kurunegala
		Hettipola Lawyers' Association
		Kuliyapitiya Lawyers' Association
		Maho Bar Association
		Nikaweratiya Bar Association
Western	Colombo	Nawalapitiya Bar Association
		Gampola Bar Association
		Hatton Bar Association
		Kandy Bar Association
		Matale Bar Association
		Bar Association of Nuwara Eliya
Western	Colombo	Warakapola Magistrate's Court Lawyers' Association
		Bar Association of Welimada
		Colombo Law Society
		Colombo Mc Lawyers' Association

		Colombo Fort Mc Lawyers' Association Maligakande Bar Association Bar Association of Homagama Pugoda Lawyers' Association Bar Association Nugegoda Bar Association of Kaduwela Bar Association of Mount Lavinia Moratuwa Lawyers' Association Wattala Bar Association Association of Corporate Lawyers
	Gampaha	Gampaha Bar Association Bar Association of Sri Lanka – Minuwangoda Mahara Bar Association
	Kalutara	Attanagalla Bar Association Kalutara Bar Association Bar Association of Matugama Panadura Bar Association Horana Bar Association
	Negombo	Negombo Law Society Anuradhapura Bar Association
North Central	Anuradapura	Bar Association of Pollonaruwa Bar Association of Sri Lanka – Puttalam Branch Bar Association of Kekirawa Lawyers' Association of Dambulla Galgamuwa Bar Association Hingurakgoda Bar Association
North	Jaffna	Bar Association of Sri Lanka - Chavakachcheri Branch Bar Association of Jaffna Bar Association of Kayts Bar Association of Mallakkam Bar Association of Sri Lanka – Mannar Branch Point Pedro Lawyers' Association Bar Association of Vauniya Mulativu Law Society
Eastern	Baticoloa	Ampara Bar Association Akkaraipattu Bar Association Bar Association of Baticoloa Kalmunai Lawyers' Association Bar Association of Trincomalee Kantale Bar Association Samanthurai Bar Association
Uva	Badulla	Badulla Bar Association Monaragala Bar Association

Bar Association of Mahiyangana
 Bar Association of Sri Lanka Wellawaya
 Bandarawela Bar Association
 Bibile Bar Association

BASL Management



The BASL is governed by **the Bar Council of Sri Lanka** and the Council, the House of Delegates serves as the Governing Body of this entire association. Under *Article 7.1 of the*

Constitution, the Bar Council is responsible for appointing the Members of the Executive Committee, Chairmen, Conveners and the Members of the Standing Committees.

The Executive Committee which consists of 31 members as the incumbent President, the Deputy President, 16 Zonal Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary, 08 members elected by Bar Council including 02 junior members of the Association with the immediate Past President of the Bar Association function to carry out the directions given to it from time to time by the council by discharging duties to meet the set objectives of the BASL Constitution¹.

Within this context, the President, the Deputy Presidents and the Zonal Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary function as **the Office Bearers of the Association**² by carrying out powers vested in them under the constitution and /or by rules by the Council and Executive Committee of the BASL.

	Past Presidents of BASL	Past Secretaries of BASL	Past Treasurers
1975 – 1977	Dr. H. W Jayawardene, Q.C	Mr. Desmond Fernando, PC	Mr. W. P. Gunatilake
1977 – 1979	Mr. Eardley Perera, P.C	Mr. D. W. Abeyakoon, P.C	Mr. S. Amabalavaner
1979 – 1981	Mr. A. C Gooneratne, Q.C	Mr. Jayantha de Z. Gunasekera, PC	Mr. W. P. Gunatilake
1981 – 1983	Mr. A. C De Soysa, P.C	Mr. Everad Ratnayake	Mr. W. P. Gunatilake
1983 – 1985	Mr. Herman J. C. Perera	Mr. W. P. Gunatilake	Mr. S. J Mohideen
1985 – 1987	Mr. Nimal Senanayake, P.C	Mr. Sarath Wijesinghe	Mr. S. J Mohideen
1987 – 1989	Mr. H. L De Silva, P.C	Mr. Upali A. Gooneratne, P.C	Mr. C. Palitha J. W Mathew
1989 – 1991	Mr. Desmond Fernando, P.C	Mr. Hemantha Warnakulasuriya, P.C	Mr. Rohan Sahabandu
1991 - 1993	Mr. Ranjith Abeysuriya, P.C	Mr. Upul Jayasuriya	Mr. Rohan Sahabandu
1993 – 1995	Mr. D. W. Abeyakoon, P.C	Mr. Ajantha Coorey	Mr. C. Palitha J. W Mathew
1995 – 1997	Mr. N. R. M Daluwatte, P.C	Mr. Anil Silva, P.C	Mr. Mahinda Ralapanawa
1997 – 1999	Mr. Romesh De Silva, P.C	Mr. W. Dayaratne, P.C	Mr. K. Neelakandan
1999 – 2001	Mr. Upali A. Gooneratne, P. C	Mr. C. Palitha J. W Mathew	Ms. Anoma Goonetillake
2001 – 2003	Mr. Ajantha W. Athukorala	Mr. Bandula Wijesinghe	Mr. U. R De Silva
2003 – 2004	Mr. Ananda de Z. Wijesekara, P.C	Mr. Kalinga Indatissa	Mr. Mahinda B. K. Lokuge
2004 – 2005	Mr. Ikram Mohamed, P.C	Ms. Anoma Goonetillake	Mr. Mahinda B. K. Lokuge
2005 – 2006	Mr. Desmond Fernando, P.C	Ms. Anoma Goonetillake	Ms. Ramani De Seram
2006 – 2008	Mr. Nihal Jayamanne, P.C	Mr. Sunil D. B. Abeyaratne	Ms. Ramani De Seram (2007)
2008 – 2010	Mr. W. Dayaratne, P.C	Mr. U. R De Silva	Mr. J. J. Rajakaruna (2008)
2010 – 2012	Mr. Shibly Aziz, P.C	Mr. Mahinda B. K. Lokuge	Mr.U. M Ali Sabry (2008-2009)
2012 - 2013	Mr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, P.C	Mr. Sanjaya Gamage	Mr. Athula Perera
2013 – 2014	Mr. Upul Jayasuriya	Mr. Sanjaya Gamage	Mr. Rasika Dissanayaka
2014 – 2015	Mr. Upul Jayasuriya	Mr. Ajith Pathirana	Mr. Rasika Dissanayaka
2015 – 2016	Mr. Geoffrey Alagaratnam, P.C	Mr. Ajith Pathirana	Mr. Upul Deshapriya
2016 - 2017	Mr. Geoffrey Alagaratnam, P.C	Mr. Amal Randeniya	Mr. Dinoo Dharmaratne
Current Committee	Mr. U.R.De Silva, PC	Mr. Amal Randeniya	Mr. Dinoo Dharmaratne
			Mr. Sujeewa Lal Dahanayake

¹ Article 11.2 of the Constitution

² Article 8.1 of the Constitution

Since its inception the BASL has been at the forefront of many campaigns to protect democracy and the rule of law and, to date it continues its efforts for the betterment of the citizen of Sri Lanka.

The BASL's campaigns to protect civil liberties during the 1989 youth insurrection were landmark as it was to ensure due process and rule of law against widespread and serious human rights violations by both state and non-state actors. The BASL was at forefront at the impeachment process against Chief Justice 43, Dr. Shirani Bandaranayake in years of 2012/2013, to safeguard the Democracy and Rule of the Law of the Country and to lead the Civil Society Activists and Organizations at this struggle against the arbitrary Executive action. With its utmost efforts, the whole the nation came forward to change the portion of the prevailing Executive Presidency which had enormous powers. Mr. Upul Jayasuriya then President of Bar Association of Sri Lanka was awarded the Commonwealth Rule of Law Award as well for his service towards this process.

Under the stewardship of Mr. U. R. De Silva President Counsel, the incumbent President, BASL further continues its efforts to uphold the rule of law and to ensure the rights of the citizen of the country.

BASL and the Scope

Section 40 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 provides for the Supreme Court to admit and enroll as Attorneys-at-Law, persons of good repute and of competent knowledge and ability, in accordance with Part VII of the Rules of the Supreme Court Rules 1978 published in the Government Gazette No. 9/10 of November 08, 1978.³ Accordingly it is the duty of every legal practitioner to be equipped with relevant knowledge, skills and competency when discharging his/her professional services on reasonable standards.

³ http://www.sllc.ac.lk/sub_pgs/admission_profession.html

As a Professional Association which is mandated to promote the interests welfare rights and privileges of the Bar, the BASL therefore initiated many tasks towards the betterment of its members, and the profession in many aspects.

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER



BASL actively participated in many forums which discussed the development of the law during the recent years. BASL took part in the Parliamentary Select Committee Meetings on Constitutional Reforms, and also played an active role in proposing amendments to Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes. We organized a closed door meeting in relation to the Right of Access of Attorneys-at-Law to suspects under arrest (S 37a Amendment of CCPA); made representations on amendments to the Notaries Ordinance; appointed two members of the BASL to the Customs Law Reforms Technical Committee and got involved in discussions regarding the ECTA Agreement.

Sri Lanka Law College Joined hands with BASL in organizing an Apprentices' Training Programme. BASL succeeded in changing the entire syllabus of the Practical Training Programme and introduced new and timely topics. It is noted with concern that there are increasingly large numbers of Attorneys entering the profession every year, and this shall cause overcrowding of the profession which will eventually give rise to a myriad of issues if new avenues are not introduced to these new professionals. Hence, it has been acknowledged that the new entrants need to have a knowledge and understanding of new avenues and non-traditional jobs such as Legal Process Outsourcing.

It has also been noted that overcrowding of the profession will give rise to bad practices such as touting and professional misconduct. Therefore, a Committee has been appointed on request of BASL to explore remedies that could address the issues resulting due to the ever-increasing number of lawyers entering the profession each year. BASL has already taken steps to establish its own 'Advanced Study Centre'. The Centre is proposed to be established as a Company Limited by Guarantee and the Articles of Association which have been drafted pertains to the management of the staff as well as to the conduct of the courses. BASL IT Committee is in progress of re-structuring the BASL website. The proposed website now contains brand new features which are expected to help members to actively involve with BASL activities. The committee introduced a Mobile App for Attorneys-at-Law soon. A SMS alert service called 'BASL TODAY' has already been launched. BASL also re-commenced the Legal Aid Foundation. The Foundation provides free legal advice to clients. BASL also organized a Legal Aid Camp for the people affected by many disasters island wide BASL collected dry rations for the people affected by floods through its members and distributed the same through the proper channels. Affected members were provided with substantial financial aids. A 'BASL Contingency Fund' was newly established by the Secretary specially to provide assistance to lawyers who would get affected by Natural Disasters. The BASL Mobile Bookshop conducted every week to cover all the outstation branch associations The Mobile Bookshop provides the services of BASL to the doorsteps of the outstation bars. Being a much sought-after event by outstation members.

BASL, organizes annually a Members Welfare Day in Hulftsdorp. A number of Banks, Leasing Companies, and service providers participated in this Welfare event. BASL was able to introduce many welfare packages for lawyers, as well as special packages for junior members of the BAR; including Personal Loan Schemes, Office Furniture & Equipment purchasing facilities, Credit Cards, Personal and Health Insurance Schemes, etc.,. The BASL maintained a satisfactory relationship with the media. BASL donated Law Books for Libraries of major Bars in 9 provinces in the country. The BASL continued to issue its publications including Unreported Judgments, Seminar Papers. BASL Law Journal, Junior Bar Law Journal. BASL Newsletter, BASL e-News

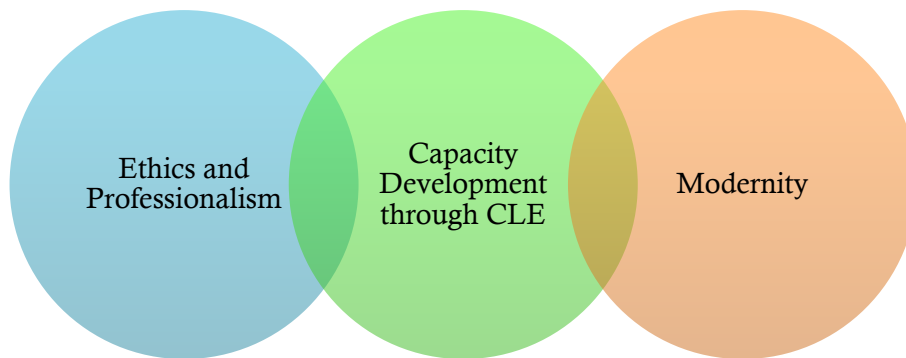
BASL has entered into many bilateral Friendships Agreements with other Bar Associations in the region as well as at the International Level. BASL has developed close relationships with the American Bar Association, Bar Association of Pakistan, China Bar Association, and Malaysian Bar Council, South African Bar Association and Hong Kong Bar Association as well as an active participant in International Bar Association (IBA), Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA), Inter Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), LAWASIA and SAARC LAW. Time to time BASL together with the said associations will arrange exchange visits and invite eminent practitioners to visit Sri Lanka to share their experience and knowledge. As a BASL member you will gain access to many events organised by the BASL in collaboration with the other sister associations.

BASL allow packages to participate in annual IBA, IPBA and Law Asia Conferences allowing the Members to get connected with the International Legal Practitioners. LAWASIA Conference turned out to be the biggest event in the BASL calendar in recent years which was held in year 2016. LAWASIA Golden Jubilee Conference concluded successfully bringing much recognition and pride to Sri Lanka. BASL strengthened its bonds with International Bar Associations as a result of LAWASIA.

Strategic Plan

The BASL is thus endeavoring to enable legal practitioners to strive for and practice professional standards with healthy environment of competition which seeks to explore global legal knowledge through new vistas and panoramas. In so doing, the BASL aims to minimize the possibilities that resulting in deteriorating professionalism and lowering of the standards in the profession. A mechanism to promote *Ethics and Professionalism and Capacity Development through CLE and Modernity* are therefore identified as the barometers and a good template to continue the noble standards of the profession.

New Frontiers and Future Role of BASL



As indicators that navigate the direction of the BASL, the Six Priority areas are also identified for the Bar's strategic plan over the next five years

- Advocacy on Critical Rule of Law Issues, including access to justice
- Support for Outstation Bars, including better infrastructure and timely access to information
- Financial Stability and Sustainability of the Bar
- Enhance the Profession, specifically increase support for the Junior Bar, CLE, diversity within the profession, and ethics
- Consolidating and Enhancing the BASL Support
- Expansion of the Legal Profession



BASL Management Committee 2017/2018

President

Mr. U.R.De Silva, President's Counsel

Deputy President

Mr. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, President's Counsel

Secretary

Mr. Amal A. Randeniya

Treasurer

Mr. Sujeewa Lal Dahanayake

Assistant Secretary

Mr. Rajitha Hathurusinghe

Amal A. Randeniya
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

BASL STANDING COMMITTEES

No.	COMMITTEES	CHAIRPERSON & CONVENOR
1	PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	MR. G.G. ARUL PRAGASAM MRS. SURANEE SAMARASEKERA
2	ETHICS COMMITTEE	MR. SHAMIL PERERA, PC MR. BINARA GUNASEKARA
3	FINANCE COMMITTEE	MR. NEOMAL GOONEWARDENA MR. SENAKA DE SARAM
4	TAX COMMITTEE	MR. SURESH PERERA MS. SAMANTHI DIAS
5	FUTURE OF THE LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	MR. M.U.M. ALI SABRY PC MR. AMAL A RANDENIYA
6	APPRENTICES TRAINING AND GUIDANCE COMMITTEE	MR. M.U.M. ALI SABRY PC MR. LASITHA KANUWANAARCHCHI
7	IT COMMITTEE	MR. SANJEEWA DASANAYAKE MR. AMAL A RANDENIYA
8	SOCIAL & WELFARE COMMITTEE	MR. RAJITHA HATHURUSINGHE MR. CHARITHA JAYAWICKREMA
9	NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE	MR. KUVERA DE ZOYSA PC MR. NISHAN SYDNEY PREMATHIRATNE
10	JUNIOR BAR COMMITTEE	MR. MURSHED MAHAROOOF MR. SHAMIR ZAHAVIR
11	LAW WEEK COMMITTEE	MR. G.G. ARUL PRAGASAM MR. KAMAL SUNETH PERERA
12	SPORTS GALA COMMITTEE	MR. NALINDA INDATISSA MR. DARSHANA RANMUTHUGE
13	NEETHI RANGA COMMITTEE	MR. SANJEEWA RUWANPATHIRANA MR. PRADEEP GAMAGE
14	LEGAL AID FOUNDATION	MR. SUMITH KELART MR. NALIN DE SILVA
15	CONTINUOUS LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)COMMITTEE	MR. SAMAN LIYANAGE DR. W. RODRIGO PC
16	NOTARIAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE	MR. RAVINDRANATH DABARE MS. ANUSHKA JAYAWEEERA
17	OPA COMMITTEE	MR. SALIYA PEIRIES PC MR. NUWAN BOPEGE
18	LAW & LAW DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	MR. NALIN DE SILVA MR. S BAGIRATHAN
19	INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	MS. KEERTHIMALA GUNASEKARA MS. NIRODHA KALANSOORIYA
20	MEDIA COMMITTEE	MS. RUCHIRA GUNASEKERA MS. KISHANI JAYASINGHA
21	DIARY COMMITTEE	MR. HARSHA FERNANDO MR. INDIKA PERERA
22	OUTSTATION BAR COMMITTEE	MR. KAMAL GOONESINGHE MS. PRIYANI RATNAYAKE
23	RULE OF LAW COMMITTEE	MR. AMAL A RANDENIYA MS. SUBASHINI JAYALATH
24	BASL CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT COMMITTEE	MR. FELICIAN FERNANDOPULLE MS. NADEE SARATHCHANDRA
25	SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE	R. ATHULA PERERA MR. MAHINDA B.K.LOKUGE
26	BASL PUBLICATION COMMITTEE	MR. DHANYA GUNAWARDENE MR. M.U.M. ALI SABRY PC
27	POLICE RELATION COMMITTEE	MR. NEVILE ABEYRATNE PC MR. RUWANTHA COORAY
28	BENCH - BAR COMMITTEE	MR. MAHESH KATULANDA MS. RUCHIRA GUNASEKARA
29	E- NEWS COMMITTEE	MR. NALIN EDIRISINGHE MR. KASUN LIYANAGE
30	NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	MR. AJITH PATHIRANA MR. SANJAYA GAMAGE
31	BASL LAW JOURNAL COMMITTEE	MR. GAMINI DISSANAYAKE MR. U. R. DE SILVA PC
32	LAW - MEDICAL COMMITTEE	MR. ROHAN SAHABANDU PC MS. RUCHIRA GUNASEKARA
33	HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE	MR. NADNN WIJESIRIWARDANE MR. DIMUTHU SENERATH BANDARA
		MR. ASELA MORAGOLLA MR. ERAJ DE SILVA
		MR. SARAVANAN NEELAKANDAN MR. AVINDRA RODRIGO
		MS. SANDAMALI CHANDRASEKARA MR. SUJEEWA LAL CAHANAYAKA
		MR. MOHAN SELLAPERUMA MR. HARISHKA SAMARASINGHE

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE		
SUPREME COURT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE	BASL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE	
	SUPREME COURT DIRECTIONS/REFEENCES	DIRECT INQUIRIES
<p>Article 136 (1) G of the 1978 Constitution</p> <p>The Chief Justice with three judges of the Supreme Court can make rules for the enrollment, suspension and removal of Attorneys-at-Law, their conduct and attire</p> <p>Section 42 of the Judicature Act No.2 of 1978</p> <p>The Supreme Court has the power to exercise disciplinary control over Attorneys-at-Law. It is the Duty of the every court before which an Attorney-at-Law is found guilty of an offense to bring it to the notice of the Supreme Court.</p>	<p>Section 43 of the Judicature Act No.2 of 1978</p> <p>Section 43 (1) states that the Chief Justice and any judge of Supreme Court can direct that a preliminary inquiry be held by the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Association into an alleged misconduct on the part of an attorney-at-law.</p> <p>Section 43 (2) - it is not mandatory for the Supreme Court to direct such an inquiry</p>	<p>Section 43 of the Judicature Act No.2 of 1978</p> <p>BASL Constitution</p> <p>Article 2 (f) – the maintenance of standards of professional conduct by the promotion of honourable practice, prevention of malpractice and other conduct unworthy of an Attorney-at-Law, the formulation and interpretation of rules of professional conduct and etiquette, the settlement of disputed points of practice and the decision of all questions of professional etiquette, usage of courtesy between or among Attorney-at-Law;</p>
(CONSISTENCE AND POWERS)		
<p>Section 35 of the Administration of Justice Law No.44 of 1973</p> <p>Every attorney-at-Law shall be guilty of any deceit, malpractice, offence or other conduct unworthy of an attorney-at-law <u>may be suspended from practice or removed from office by any three judges of the Supreme Court sitting together.</u></p>	<p>Section 44 of the Judicature Act No.2 of 1978 - Disciplinary Committee is chosen from a panel consisting of 15 members of the Bar appointed by Chief Justice for a period of 3 years.</p> <p>Rules of the Supreme Court Supreme Court Rules 1978 on Admission, Enrolment, Suspension and Removal of Attorneys-at-Law (<i>published in the Government Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 9/10 of November 08, 1978</i>)</p> <p>Section 73 – A Disciplinary Committee appointed under Section 44 (4) of the Judicature Act, No.2 of 1978, shall have the following powers;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral and to examine all such person as witnesses, as the committee may think it necessary or desirable to procure or examine (b) To require the evidence (whether written or oral) of any witness to be given on oath or affirmation, such oath or affirmation to be that which could be required of the witness if he were giving evidence in court of law and to administer or cause to be administered by an officer authorized in that behalf by the committee an oath or affirmation to every such witness; (c) To summon any person residing in Sri Lanka to attend to any meeting of the committee, to give evidence and to produce any document or other thing in his profession <p>Section 76 – to hold or continue the inquiry when a respondent attorney-at-law fails to appear without sufficient cause and is unrepresented</p> <p>Section 77 - to hold the inquiry or hear the evidence of any person, in camera</p> <p>BASL Guidelines to be adopted for handling complaints/files related to complaints (approved in 2014)</p> <p>Clause 18 – the panel have the authority to make order and recommend;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Dismissing the complaint or terminating the proceeding (b) Reprimanding the Attorney-at-Law (c) Order the Attorney-at-Law to pay restitution or refund of fees (d) Suspend or revoke the lawyers license to practice (e) Require the Attorney to undertake a further course of education (f) Impose restrictions on the lawyers license to practice 	

Bar Association of Sri Lanka
153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12
Tel: 2447134 Fax: 2448090
basl.lawnet@gmail.com
www.basl.lk