BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

ANNUAL REPORT
2025 - 2026

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

ABOUT THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

As the voice of the legal profession, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) plays a pivotal role in the Administration of Justice and the Rule of Law in the Country. The BASL represents the largest community of the Sri Lankan professionals and is committed to supporting the maintenance of law and order in the country. Whilst safeguarding the rights and privileges of its members, the BASL also lobbies for the rights of citizens where necessary, in the wake of national issues and crises.

In this endeavour, the BASL continues to foster an environment creating professionals of the highest standard.

Continuous learning and professional development activities are a major component of the annual activity plan of the Bar Association which are not limited to the sphere of Law but also to nurture and uplift skills and knowledge in many other disciplines and spheres which contribute to empower members.



Photo Credit by Mr. Thishya Weragoda

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Annual Review by the PRESIDENT



Rajeev Amarasuriya
President

TAKING LEADERSHIP AFTER A YEAR OF CRISIS

I assumed office at a time when the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) had just emerged from one of the most challenging periods in its history. The resignation of both the President and Deputy President, followed by interim appointments, had inevitably affected the stability, reputation, and public confidence in the Institution.

The responsibility before us, therefore, was not merely one of transition, but one of restoration, restoring credibility, stability, and direction to an Institution of national significance.

REACHING EQUILIBRIUM

I am pleased to note that within a relatively short period, we were able to restore its goodwill and standing. This was by no means an easy task and required collective effort, discipline, and a shared sense of responsibility.

Conscious of the circumstances that led to the earlier challenges, we have taken deliberate and structured steps, particularly through the Finance Committee led by Mr. Nihal Fernando, PC, together with our Auditors to ensure that such situations do not recur.

In this overview, I do not intend to replicate the comprehensive material set out by the Secretary, nor the detailed accounts contained in this Annual Report and the two BASL Newsletters. Instead, I propose to reflect on selected areas which, in my view, best capture the character and direction of the year.

THE BASL: A LEADING PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTION

The BASL remains the most influential professional and civil society institution in the country. In all that we do, we must remain conscious of this responsibility.

Over the years, different perspectives have emerged as to the role of the BASL, whether as a welfare body, a professional association, or an independent civil society institution. In my considered view, these are not competing roles, but complementary dimensions of a single mandate. Each must be pursued with equal commitment and purpose.

THE YEAR 2025 / 2026 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We commenced the year guided by three core principles — Independence, Inclusivity, and Innovation.

An independent Bar — both institutionally and financially — remains fundamental to its credibility and effectiveness.

Inclusivity is no longer optional; it is imperative. With more women than men in the Membership, an increasing number of practitioners from outside Colombo than from Colombo, and a growing younger Bar, our policies and priorities must reflect this evolving reality.

At the same time, many of the concerns of our Membership are longstanding, with some persisting for decades. It is evident that traditional approaches have not always yielded effective solutions. Accordingly, we must approach these challenges with greater innovation, openness, and a willingness to think beyond conventional frameworks.

THE PUTTALAM INCIDENT

On 28th March 2025, on the eve of my induction, a Member of the Bar from Puttalam was remanded on contempt charges. The matter was immediately placed before the Bar Council, and approval was obtained to take appropriate action.

Despite the intervening long weekend, the BASL acted with urgency, invoking the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal and securing interim relief at the earliest opportunity.

In view of concerns regarding the immediate implementation of that relief, I, together with several members of the Executive Committee, personally ensured, by visiting the Wariyapola Prison that the order was given effect to without delay. This intervention reflected the BASL's unwavering commitment to protecting its Members.

THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. BUDHDHIKA MALLAWARACHCHI AND HIS SPOUSE

The tragic assassination of our Member, Mr. Budhdhika Mallawarachchi, and his spouse was a matter of profound concern to the profession.

Recognising the gravity of the situation, the Executive Committee resolved that the matter required the collective voice of the Membership. Accordingly, the General Membership was convened within 48 hours, the first such meeting in over fourteen years.

The decisions taken, including the island-wide cessation of Court work, were implemented with remarkable unity and resolve, demonstrating the strength and solidarity of the Bar, while also calling upon the public to denounce such acts of violence.

THE RAGGING CASE AND OTHER COURT INTERVENTIONS

During the year, the BASL instituted a Fundamental Rights Application before the Supreme Court in respect of ragging in State Universities. Leave to proceed was granted together with interim relief, and the matter is presently pending hearing.

The BASL also engaged constructively in relation to the Mediation Bill, ensuring that the concerns of the profession were duly considered. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Hon. Minister of Justice for the consideration extended to the BASL in this regard.

In addition, the BASL intervened in several instances, both in the original and appellate courts, where the professional independence of Members was at risk, making interventions and submissions where necessary, to safeguard the integrity of the profession.

RULE OF LAW, JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Throughout the year, the BASL remained guided by principle, engaging in multiple interventions relating to the Rule of Law, the Independence of the Judiciary, and the protection of Human Rights.

We also engaged frequently with the Police and Prison Authorities to safeguard the rights and interests of Members.

These interventions have yielded positive outcomes and have further strengthened the position of the BASL as a credible and influential voice in these critical areas.

DIGITALISATION OF THE BASL

During the year, the BASL entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP under the JURE Project, with a view to fully digitalising the Institution and progressively transitioning towards a paperless system.

This initiative will enhance efficiency, improve service delivery, and ensure that the BASL is better equipped to meet the demands of a modern legal profession.

The digitalisation process is now well underway and is expected to be completed in the coming months.

OVERSEAS RELATIONS

Our international engagement was significantly strengthened during the year.

We entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Law Society of Singapore, undertook a high-level delegation to New Delhi, and engaged with several overseas Bar Associations and international organisations.

We also maintained cordial and constructive relationships with the Diplomatic Corps and other international stakeholders, thereby enhancing the global presence of the BASL.

EXPANSION BEYOND COLOMBO

A significant milestone during the year was the establishment of the first BASL Centre outside Colombo, at the Kandy Courts Complex, with the support of the Kandy Bar Association.

This marks the beginning of a broader effort to decentralise the services of the BASL. Similar centres are planned for Anuradhapura and Galle in the near future.

THE JUNIOR BAR – EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

The development of the Junior Bar remained a priority.

A wide range of initiatives were undertaken through various Committees, including the Junior National Law Conference, Law Forums, Career Portal, induction programmes for new Members, the Basics of Law Webinar Series, the launch of the Junior Bar Law Journal, and specialised skills development programmes for junior members.

These initiatives represent a meaningful investment in the future of the profession.

217 PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED DURING 2025 / 2026

The scale of activity during the year was both extensive and impactful.

A total of 217 programmes were conducted, reflecting an exceptionally active year. These initiatives have benefitted Members across all segments of the profession — Senior and Junior, Colombo and Outstation, Litigation, Government and Corporate.

217 Programmes Conducted During 2025/2026

Continuous Professional Development	
National Law Conference	01
Junior National Law Conference	01
BASL National Symposiums	02
Certificate Courses	06
Nithi Neethi Programmes	16
BASL Webinars	88
BASL Workshops	22
BASL Seminars	16
BASL Legal Symposiums	02
BASL Mini Symposiums	08
BASL Other Symposiums	03
BASL Junior Orientation	04
Junior Bar Forums	02
BASL Special Leadership Sessions	02
	173
Corporate Social Responsibility	
Legal Awareness Programmes	06
Legal Aid Programmes	06
	12
Social & Member Networking	
BASL Neethi Ranga	01
BASL Golden Jubilee Dance	01
BASL Member Networking Initiatives	10
BASL Legal Nights	03
	15
Other	
BASL Orations	02
BASL Felicitation Events	02
BASL Remembrance Day	01
Sports Events	02
Other Programmes	01
BASL Library Book Discussions	09
	17
Total	**217**

A highly skilled profession is an imperative to meet the challenges of the future, and I am happy that we have been successful in providing adequate opportunity to our Membership to develop and improve in the year under review.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have guided, supported, and assisted me during this year.

I am particularly grateful to the Deputy President, Mr. Rienzi Arsekularatne, PC, for his invaluable guidance;

the Secretary, Mr. Chathura Galhena, for his steadfast support and alignment of purpose; the Treasurer, Mr. Pasindu Silva, for his prudent management of the financial affairs of the BASL; and the Assistant Secretary Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena for his dedicated service.

I also extend my appreciation to the Executive Committee, Zonal Vice Presidents, Branch Presidents and Office-bearers, the Chairpersons and Members of Standing Committees, and Past Presidents and former Office-bearers for their continued support.

My thanks are also due to the BASL Staff, led by the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Suranee Samarasekera, Chief Operating Officer Mr. T. Prakalanthan, Administration Manager Mr. Sunil Widana Gamage and Programme Manager Ms. Bhashika Jayasinghe.

I also take this opportunity to thank Her Ladyship the Former Chief Hon. Justice Murdu Fernando, PC, His Lordship the Chief Justice Hon. Preethi Padman Surasena, His Lordship the Former Acting President of the Court of Appeal Hon. M. Thahir Laffar, His Lordship the President of the Court of Appeal Hon. Rohantha Abeysuriya, PC, all Judges of the Supreme Court, the Court Appeal, the High Courts, the District Courts and the Magistrate's Courts who have supported towards strengthening the relationship between the Bench and the Bar which has been of mutual respect and appreciation.

I take this opportunity to also place on record my appreciation of the Minister of Justice Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara and the Secretary Ms. Ayesha Jinasena, PC for the cordial and positive relationship and for working closely with the BASL.

I must also convey my thanks to the Attorney General Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, PC, the Solicitor General Hon. Viraj Dayaratne, PC and the other Officers of the Attorney General's Department for their continuing support. I am also appreciative of the support given by Hon Sanjeewa Somaratne, the former Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission and Hon. Prasanna Alwis, the incumbent Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission and the Officers of the Commission. Also to the Registrar and Deputy Registrars of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

Thank you also to Mr. J.M. Wijebandara, the Director General Legal of the Presidential Secretariat, the Inspector General of Police Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya and the Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police Dr. Ajith Rohana who have always been supportive of the BASL.

Over the past year I have received much support and encouragement from the Bar and I thank very much each and every one of you for the same. Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me.

Last but not least, I am greatly appreciative of My Juniors, for all the support, assistance and long hours put in to support all the activities undertaken. I am also deeply appreciative and thankful to my parents Mr. Sepala and Mrs. Ramanee Amarasuriya for all the guidance, advice and encouragement given to me and to my Wife Mahesha for being a pillar of strength, support, advice and assistance during this year and to Hirun for hopefully understanding that missing time with him, including his 4th Birthday when we were in Wariyapola, was for a larger purpose.

CONCLUSION

Those entrusted with public office, or with the stewardship of institutions such as the BASL, carry a duty to give effect to the assurances placed before their Membership.

Over the past year, we have endeavoured not merely to meet those expectations, but to exceed them. Ultimately, however, that judgment rests with you, the Membership.

With my very best wishes to all Members.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President

Review by the SECRETARY



Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary

YEAR AT A GLANCE

The year 2025/26 of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka started afresh after a turbulent but successfully concluded first year of my tenure as the Secretary. The year started with a lot of hope and energy with an entirely new management committee, except for myself.

The first challenge faced within less than 24 hours of the official induction of the President was to get an Attorney-at-Law bailed out, who had been remanded under contempt of court proceedings. This was successfully accomplished with the firm support of the new Executive Committee and the intervention of the Court of Appeal. Starting from there, all the challenges and obstacles met during the year have been successfully overcome through the strength and unity of the Management Committee, well assisted by the Executive Committee.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

Many new events were introduced to the annual calendar of the Association during the year, starting with the Golden Jubilee Oration in May 2025, where the orator was the President of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association, Mr. Steven Thiru. The event was graced by the then Chief Justice, Hon. Murdu Fernando PC, Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice, and many other distinguished members of the Association.

In addition to the Golden Jubilee Oration, the Inaugural Human Rights Oration was organized by the Human Rights Committee of the BASL. The orator was the then senior-most judge and presently the Chief Justice of the Indian Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Surya Kant. The Human Rights Oration will be an annual event in the BASL calendar from this year onwars, and the Hon. Attorney General of India has accepted the invitation to deliver the BASL Human Rights Oration 2026.

Keeping with the rich tradition of the profession, the welcome of the 49th Chief Justice Hon. Padman Surasena and the farewell of the outgoing Chief Justice Hon. Murdu Fernando PC were held on 19th September 2025 at Monarch Imperial, Thalawathugoda, with the participation of nearly 1,000 lawyers.

Towards the latter part of the year, the felicitation of members who completed fifty years at the Bar was held on 20th March 2026, where 42 members were felicitated. In addition to the

said jubilee felicitation, the five senior instructing Attorneys who were appointed for the first time in 2024 were also felicitated. The event was held at The Grand Maitland, Colombo 07.

In addition to the said flagship events, there were two national symposiums organized during the year, which were the Second National Data Protection Symposium held on 6th January 2026 and the Second National Capital Market Symposium held on 26th February 2026. Both the said symposiums were held after a lapse of several years at the City of Dreams Cinnamon Life with the attendance of over 100 participants, and were contributed to by senior and reputed resource persons in their respective disciplines. The National Labor Law Symposium, which was scheduled to be held on 23rd March, was postponed due to the fuel crisis that prevailed during that time and will be rescheduled shortly.

Many of the usual programs of the BASL annual calendar, which could not be conducted during the preceding year, were organized successfully. The National Law Conference was organized by a team led by Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna and was held in October 2025 at the Earl's Regency Hotel in Kandy. The event was graced by Chief Justice Hon. Padman Surasena, Justice Surya Kant, the present Chief Justice of India, and many other Supreme Court and Court of Appeal justices. It is significant to note that there was a delegation from the Indian Bar Association who participated for the entire conference, and some of them served as resource persons and panelists in the technical sessions.

The Junior National Law Conference was organized by the Conference Chairman Mr. Rowain Weerasinghe under the Junior Bar Chairmanship of Mr. Thishya Weragoda. The event was graced by Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, Attorney General, as the chief guest. More than 300 junior lawyers from all parts of the island attended the three-day conference held at Jetwing Blue, Negombo.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There were 88 webinars organized covering different topics in all three languages. The English webinars were conducted under the themes of 'Basics of Law', 'Why Corporate Sector?' and 'Professional, Personal and Career Development'. The Sinhala and Tamil webinars were conducted covering topics relating to new developments in the law.

Two legal symposiums were organized in Hikkaduwa and Udawalawa with the participation of nearly 100 members at each symposium. A new concept of a 'Fireside Chat' between the office bearers of the BASL and the participants was introduced. This was a forum to discuss day-to-day practical problems faced by the members, and it was positively commended by the members who participated in these symposiums.

There were 8 mini-symposiums held with the support of the respective regional bars at Galle, Mahara, Matara, Gampaha, Mount Lavinia, Nugegoda, Horana, and the Colombo High Court. The topics of the mini-symposiums were selected in consultation with the regional bars, and all mini-symposiums were attended by a considerable number of members from the respective regional bars.

There were 5 BASL certificate courses organized during the year under the topics of Legal Drafting, Compliance, Paralegal Activities, Intellectual Property Law, The Art of Cross-Examination, and Effective Instructing Attorneys. In addition to the above, the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) certificate program was conducted for Company Secretaries in November and December 2025 to facilitate the 2026 license renewal for the Companie Secretaries.

Several seminars and workshops were organized with the support of and in collaboration with the US Embassy under the themes of 'Art of Advocacy' and 'Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements'. Four seminars were organized in collaboration with LEADS under the theme of 'Juvenile Justice' in Kandy, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, and Nuwara Eliya. Two residential seminars were organized in collaboration with the Max Planck Foundation under the theme of 'Human Rights and Lawyering during Times of Crisis', held in Kandy and Sigiriya. The BASL Human Rights Committee, chaired by Mr. Lakshan Dias, organized a seminar on the theme 'Media Law in the Digital Era', which was attended by a large number of Attorneys-at-Law.

The "Nithi Neethi Sasi" program was re-launched after the year 2022 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Upali Mohotti PC. The seminars were supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). There were 12 seminars were held, covering different regions of the country, with an attendance of over 75 participants at each seminar covering topics of Civil and Criminal Law. The said seminars were held in Colombo, Tissamaharama, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura, Galle, Kurunegala, Negombo, Monaragala, Matara, Ampara, Matale, Kegalle, Badulla, and Gampaha.

Three seminars were conducted in collaboration with

the Women Lawyers Association under the themes of 'Hire Purchase and Leasing', 'Registration of Movables to Execute Priority under the Secured Transactions Act', and 'Land as an Asset: A Liability or Both'. In addition, a seminar on Commercial Contracts was also organized by the Seminars Committee of the BASL, where Justice Priyantha Jayawardena PC, a former Supreme Court Judge, also contributed as a resource person.

The new batches of Attorneys who were enrolled in November 2025 were welcomed by the Bar with an orientation program held on 13th, 14th, and 15th December 2025. In addition, a special skill enhancement symposium was organized for junior lawyers with the support of the US Embassy in March 2026.

RULE OF LAW AND INTERVENTION IN MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

The important role of the BASL in matters relating to Rule of Law and Independence of Judiciary has been given the utmost priority throughout the year. There were 22 statements issued by the BASL during the year addressing various national issues. At times of need, letters were sent to His Excellency the President and the Hon. Minister of Justice, communicating the concerns and the stance of the BASL and the need to address such matters.

When the appointment of Civil Society members to the Constitutional Council, the Chairman of the Right to Information Commission, and the Permanent Auditor General were delayed, BASL wrote to His Excellency the President, resulting in positive responses and the making of the said appointments. The BASL issued a statement in January 2026 when the office of the Attorney General was being criticized by certain political authorities.

There were many communications made to the Inspector General of Police when the police intervened in the professional duties of Attorneys-at-Law. I note with deep appreciation the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya, Mr. Ajith Rohana, Senior DIG, and Mr. Nilupul Somasinghe, Director Legal, who maintained a close and cordial relationship with the BASL in order to streamline matters concerning the relationship between the Bar and the Police.

The BASL filed an FR Application against the ragging incidents at universities and other higher education institutions, in which leave to proceed was granted with several interim orders directing the authorities to take steps to eradicate ragging from those institutions.

A Special General Meeting was held on 15th February 2026 following the assassination of an Attorney-at-Law and his wife on 13th February. This Special General Meeting was held after 14 years, and around 3,000 lawyers joined both physically and through online platforms, making it a historical gathering of members that displayed unity within the profession. As per the decisions taken at the said meeting, the members did not attend court work on 16th February to show their displeasure and to condemn the brutal killing of the member.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

During the year, the BASL entered into several corporate agreements with the Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka (CRIB), the Computer Society of Sri Lanka, Lanka Pay, and APIIT Higher Education Institutes, where the said institutions made considerable financial contributions to the BASL.

The Colombo Stock Exchange organized a traditional bell ringing to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the BASL, which was held on 07th October 2025.

BRANCH MATTERS

During the year, we were able to maintain a very cordial relationship with all branches, and one new branch was added during the year, where the Narammala branch, which previously came under the Kuliyapitiya branch, was recognized as a separate branch.

Chairs were provided to selected branches on a priority basis, and support was given to enhance facilities for lawyers in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice. All branches were provided with wall clocks featuring the BASL logo, to be used in the lawyers' restrooms at the regional Court Houses.

A special branch of the Association was opened in the Kandy Court Complex to provide membership services, books and other BASL materials to the members in the Kandy Zone.

A disastrous cyclone, 'Ditwa', which occurred at the end of November last year, caused devastation to the entire country. Several court houses, including those in Kandy, Mahiyanganaya, and Warakapola, were seriously affected. In addition, a large number of members were affected both personally and professionally. Understanding the need to support the affected members in their time of need, the accrued interest and a capital of Rupees 5 million from the Law Asia Benevolent Trust Fund were utilized, along with generous

contributions made by many senior members. Financial assistance was given to the affected members based on the damages caused, through an open application process. In addition, we supported the Kandy Bar to refurbish their destroyed library, for which Mr. Ananda Wickramasekara PC and the Galle Bar Association made a significant and considerable contribution of books.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

In addition to the above significant events, the Legal Awareness Committee, Local Excursion Committee, Gender Equality Committee, Legal Aid Committee, Overseas Relations Committee, Law Students' Skill Development Committee, Annual Dinner Dance Committee, Diary Committee, and the Junior Bar New Opportunities Committee have made contributions by organizing events during the year.

The Neethi Ranga Committee, chaired by Ms. Dhanushki Liyanapatabendi and assisted by Ms. Savithri Fernando, staged the event after a lapse of seven years. The event was held on 01st August 2026 at Ananda College, Kularatne Hall, under the patronage of the Hon. Chief Justice and the Hon. Attorney General.

It is essential to mention the role played by Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam SIA, who single-handedly handled the Professional Purposes Committee by disposing of all the complaints received during the year, except for a few received during the month of March 2026. It is also necessary to place on record the support given by Mr. Arulpragasam in filing proxies for the President and the Secretary in all matters filed by and against the BASL during the year.

CONFERRING LIFE MEMBERSHIP (HONORIS CAUSA)

A long-standing need to appoint Mr. Upul Jayasooriya PC as a Life Member (Honoris Causa) of the Association in recognition of the service rendered by him to the Association and its members, specially by starting the Law Asis Benevolent Trust Fund, was fulfilled at the 11th Bar Council meeting held on 28th February 2026, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

BASL SECRETARIAT AND STAFF MATTERS

During the year two new staff members were recruited: a new Accountant was recruited for the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Malinga Bandara, and an Assistant Project Manager was recruited to handle the Program Office.

There were several designation changes made in order to give recognition to the long and faithful service provided by Mr. Sunil Vidanagamage, Ms. Malika Thilakaratna, Ms. Anuradha Dissanayake, and Ms. Dinesha Kumari. Mr. Prakalatharan was appointed as the Chief Operations Officer, taking over certain responsibilities from the Admin Secretary to allow the Admin Secretary to give more attention to professional and member-related matters.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, the collaborative synergy within the Management Committee was exemplary. The guidance given by Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne PC to the President and myself made our jobs easier. Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, the President, personally attended to most of the matters, leaving more time for me to concentrate on matters relating to the Secretariat. Mr. Pasindu Silva, the Treasurer, has done his job well leaving no room for complaints.

The institutional achievements realized during my tenure are inseparably linked to the solid support of Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena, Assistant Secretary. His professional conduct, characterized by the utmost integrity, diligence, reliability, and strict adherence to ethical standards has been indispensable to the successful execution of my official obligations.

When encountering procedural or ethical ambiguities, the authoritative guidance provided to me by Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC, and Mr. Upul Jayasooriya, PC, is noted with utmost gratitude. Their guidance provided critical direction, ensuring strict compliance with optimal professional practices. I must also thank the Executive Committee members, the members of the Bar Council, and the staff of the BASL who helped me in performing my duties without any fere or favor.

In conclusion I proudly note that the year under review was an utmost success by all means. We steadfastly stood by the principles and nothing else. We have systematically advanced the interests of the membership, while jealously safeguarding the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary, which has never been compromised.

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary

01

The Bar Council, 51st Convocation & Induction

- BASL Election 2025/2026
- First Bar Council Meeting
- Bar Council 2025/2026
- Minutes of the First Bar Council Meeting 2025/2026
- 51st Annual Convocation
- Convocation Address by the President BASL
- Convocation Closing Remarks by the Secretary BASL

NOTICE

16th January 2025

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025 / 2026

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

1. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. ANURA BANDARA MEDDEGODA, PC FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 15TH JANUARY 2025. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Mr. K Kanag Iswaran, PC	Mr. Chandaka D Jayasundere, PC
2. Mr. S V J Anil Silva, PC	Mr. Anuja K Premaratne, PC
3. Ms. Anoma H Goonetilleke, SIA	Mr. Nalin De Silva, AAL
4. Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC	Mr. Binara Gunasekera, AAL
5. Mr. Ikram Mohamed, PC	Mr. Thisath D B Wijayagunawardane,PC
6. Mr. Geoffrey J T Alagaratnam, PC	Mr. Shehan A Gunawardene, AAL

2. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. RAJEEV TILAK AMARASURIYA, AAL FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 15TH JANUARY 2025. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Dr. Faisz Musthapha, PC	Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC
2. Mr. Rienzie Arseculeratne, PC	Mrs. Ramani D. De Saram, AAL
3. Mr. A. Srinath M. Perera, PC	Prof. S. S. M. Wasantha Seneviratne, AAL
4. Mr. W. Dayaratne, PC	Mr. Guneratne Wanninayake, AAL
5. Mr. Shammil J. Perera, PC	Mr. M. K. Muthukumar, AAL
6. Mrs. Shiranthi N. M. Gunawardena, SIA	Mrs. M. Inoka D. Perera, AAL

CHATHURA A. GALHENA
SECRETARY
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Website : www.basl.lk I E-mail : info@basl.lk I www.facebook.com/groups/baslgroup

NOTICE

3. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF DR. SUNIL D B ABEYRATNE, AAL FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 15TH JANUARY 2025. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Mrs. H Herath Mallika, AAL	Mr. K L F Fernando, AAL
2. Mr. Sanjay Rajaratnam, PC	Mr. F A M Winston Perera, PC
3. Mr. U R De Silva, PC	Dr. Prathiba Mahanamahewa, AAL
4. Mr. Niel D B Unamboowe, PC	Mr. Zainul Luthufi, AAL
5. Dr. Sunil F A Cooray, AAL	Mr. D A Piyasena Weeratna, PC
6. Mr. Lal Wijenayake, AAL	Mr.Sunil J Gamacharige Jayaratna, AAL

POLLING WILL BE BETWEEN 8.00 AM AND 5.00 PM ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE AUTHORISED POLLING CENTRES.

KINDLY INDICATE ANY CHANGE IN THE POLLING DISTRICT, IF ANY, BEFORE 05TH FEBRUARY 2025 TO THE BASL SECRETARIAT, NO. 153, MIHINDU MAWATHA, COLOMBO 12 OR BY EMAIL: basl.lawnet@gmail.com

CHATHURA A. GALHENA
SECRETARY
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Website : www.basl.lk I E-mail : info@basl.lk I www.facebook.com/groups/baslgroup

NOTICE

16th January 2025

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA GALHENA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 15TH JANUARY 2025. THE FIVE NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Mr. Chamath Dileepa Peeris, PC	Mr. Sadun Sudhaththa Gamage,AAL
2. Mr. Upul Jayasuriya, PC	Mr. Sanjeewa Dasanayake, AAL
3. Mr. Saliya K M Pieris, PC	Mr. Guneratne Wanninayake, AAL
4. Mr. Razik Zarook, PC	Mr. Lahiru M Welgamage Perera, AAL
5. Mr. Rohan Sahabandu, PC	Mr. Chandima Janaka Atapattu, AAL

AS MR. CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA GALHENA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE DULY NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY, THE RETURNING OFFICER HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 15TH JANUARY 2025, DECLARED THAT:

MR. CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA GALHENA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF SECRETARY OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026.

ANURA B. MEDDEGODA
PRESIDENT
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Website : www.basl.lk I E-mail : info@basl.lk I www.facebook.com/groups/baslgroup

1ST BAR COUNCIL MEETING

The 1st Bar Council Meeting of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2025-2026, was held on the 29th of March 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo 07 presided over by the Hon. Attorney General. The said meeting was conducted on the agenda which had been previously circulated amongst the members of the Bar Council. The agenda of the said meeting was as follows:

29TH MARCH 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BAR COUNCIL OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL) FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025 WILL· BE HELD ON 29TH MARCH, 2025 AT 10:45 A.M. AT THE BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL, COLOMBO 07 AND WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the meeting.
2. Condolences
3. Excuses
4. To table and adopt the Annual Report for the year 2024/2025 by Mr. Chathura Galhena, Secretary of BASL.
5. To consider and adopt the Treasurer's Report; the Independent Auditor's Report and the Financial Statements for the financial year ending 31st December 2024 by Mr. Chamath Jayasekara, Treasurer of BASL.
6. Announcement of the results of the election for the post of President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the year 2025/2026 by the Hon. Solicitor General.
7. Announcement of the results of the election for the post of Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the year 2025/2026 by the Hon. Solicitor General
8. Election of Executive Committee for year 2025/2026:
    a) Election for the post of Deputy President for the year 2025/2026
    b) Election for the 23 posts of Zonal Vice Presidents for the zones of Anuradhapura, Ampara, Avissawella, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo – Zone 1 (Colombo Law Society) Colombo – Zone 2 (Mt. Lavinia, Nugegoda, Moratuwa) , Colombo – Zone 3 (Colombo Magistrates Court Lawyers Association, Maligakanda) , Chilaw, Galle, Gampaha, Hambantota, Jaffna, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Negombo, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Vavuniya and Corporate Lawyers Association/ Government Legal Officers Association as members of the Executive Committee 2024/2025;
    C) Election of the Treasurer for the year 2025/2026:

    Election of other members of the Executive Committee 2025/2026.

    i) 8 members to the Executive Committee.
    ii) 5 members under 10 years of practice to represent junior members.
9. Announcement of results of the election for Executive Committee.
10. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2025/2026.
11. Appointment of Trustees for the year 2025/2026.
12. Any other business of which due notice has been given.

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Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary - BASL


2025 - 2026
Delegates Registration
COLOMBO
A-D
2025 - 2026
Delegates Registration
COLOMBO
E-J
2025 - 2026
Delegates Registration
COLOMBO
K-R
2025 - 2026
Delegates Registration
COLOMBO
S-Z


EXIT










Bar Association of Sri Lanka
FIRST BAR COUNCIL
2025-2026

MINUTES OF THE 1ST BAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BAR COUNCIL OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL) FOR THE YEAR 2024/ 2025

DATE: 29th March 2024
TIME: 10.45 A.M.
VENUE: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo 07.
PRESIDED BY: Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, PC, Attorney General

ATTENDANCE:

1. Attendance

Ampara : Mr. Ashoka Kumara Madakumbure Gedara, Mr. Athimale Ukdaduwatte Piyadasa Ukwatte

Anuradhapura : Ms. Dinushi Amanda Abeysundara, Ms. K. Swarnamali Anuradhanayake, Mr. Aravinda Habakkala Kankanamge, Mr. Rathnayake Mudiyanselage Naleen Dimuthu Bandara, Mr. Dahampath Mudiyanselage Dhanushka Chamikara, Mr. Manikralage Ravindra Disanayake, Mr. Suranga Sanjeewa Kumara Mohotti, Mr. Chathura Dhananjaya Ranathunga, Mr. Muthu Diwalage Gayan Buddhika Siriwardehana, Mr. Siriwardhane Mudiyanselage Susil Krishan, Mr. Talangalle Warnasuriyage Don Srilal Mahesh, Ms. K. Sadhana Thimathi, Mr. Marasinghe Mudiyanselage Nimal Wijesiri

Attanagalla : Mr. Ranasinghe Arachchige Jayasekare, Ms. Viyalagoda Vidanalage Chitranganie Premachandra, Mr. Kuruppu Arachchige Ravindana, Ms. Balasuriya Mohottiappuhamilage Purna Kumari Senaratna, Mr. Madduma Pathirannahelage Siripala, Mr. Don Lal Samitha Kumara Kodisinghe Wickramarathna, Mr. Ananda Pathirannahalage Shantha Premalal Wijayasri

Avissawella : Ms. H. D. Priyanga Kusalani Chandrasena, Ms. De Jacolyn Senaviratne Helen Olga Cynthia, Mr. A. G. Kamani Deepasika Dharmadasa, Mr. Rupasinghe Arachchilage Shervin Srinath Gunarathna, Ms. K. K. Dineshka S. Konage, Ms. Dona Hyacinth Sweneetha Mallawaarachchi, Mr. N. Sanjaya Bandara Nathavitharana, Mr. R. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri, Mr. Kuruwegei Asanka Senarathne, Mr. Weragoda Arachchilage Sarath Kumara Weragoda, Mr. Wedakara Gedara Udantha Lalindra Kumara Yasarathne

Balangoda : Mr. Dasanayaka Mudiyanselage Chandrasekera, Ms. Ayomi Virginia Dilkushi Fernando, Ms. Anoma Chamline Fernando, Mr. A. A. Prabath Bhanu Munipriya, Mr.Mohameth Ismail Mohamed Rafeek, Ms. Asela Nilakshani Wijethunga

Badulla : Mr. D. P. L. Anura Kashyapa Perera, Mr. Mudiyaselage Wijitha Mallahava Tennakoon, Mr. W. Dhanushka Weligama,

Bandarawela : Mr. B. M. Buddhika Ruwan Kumara Basnayake, Mr. Sujeewan Hendavitharana, Mr. B. M. Ajantha Kadurugamuwa, Ms. Nalani Madhushika Samanthi Madduma Arachchilage, Mr. Chaminda Kumara Bandara Rajapaksha Mudiyanselage

Batticaloa : Mr. Amarasingam Mahalinghasivam, Mr. Pathinathan Mariya Sulojan, Mr. Ajmeer Haja Nawaz Mohamed Ibraheem, Mr. Harigalasagaran Narayanpillai, Mr. Kandapoody Narayapillai, Mr. Thaddhana Moorthy Sivanathan, Mr. Francis Xavier Sebastian Vijayakumar

Balapitiya : Ms. A.R.W.M.B.W. Manel Kumarihamy, Mr. Payagalage Sudath Priyankara

Baddegama : Mr. Watagala Gamaralalage Buddhika Chathuranga Amaratunga

Bibile : Mr. Hitihamy Mudiyanselage M. Sarath Kumara, Ms. Thakshila Kumari Sooriya Arachchi, Mr. Wijayamuni Udara Zoysa

Chilaw : Mr. J. M. Sumudu Jayamanna, Mr. J. K. Sumedha Nicholas S. Perera, Mr. M. W. A. C. Sweeney Perera, Mr. W. Chaminda Pradeep Rodrigo

Colombo : Dr. J. Romesh De Silva, PC, Mr. Saliya K M Pieris, PC, Mr. C. J. Atapattu, Mr. D. P. Aluthge, Mr. R. S. D. Abeygoonawardhana, Mr. A. M. S. A. K. Attanayaka, Ms. P. I. Abeygunawardana, Mr. Sarath Athukorala, Ms. B. S. M. Alagiyawanna Mohottai, Mr. A. W. Amarathilake, Ms. C. L. Akurugoda, Mr. F N Arulpragasam, Mr. K T K Arampath, Ms. S C M Arseculeratne Kannange, Ms. H G G Amaratunga, Mr. G S M Ariyadasa, Mr. H C S H Abeyratna, Mr. N K Ashokbharan, Ms. D Apputhaathan, Ms. W T N N Aberathna, Mr. R L Abeywardhana, Mr. W L Abhayaratna, Mr. A M B Aluthwatte, Mr. M U Anwer, Mr. A M I Abeykoon, Mr. S R Andrahannadi, Ms. T T K Attanayake, MS. C V N Anthony, Mr. H A N Ahamed, Ms. W K V Abhayaratna, Ms. J T Abeywickrema, Ms. H M Abeysena, Mr. S Alagiyawadu Sudantha, Mr. N A Abeyratne, PC, Ms. R Amarasuriya, Dr. Sunil D B Abeyratne, Mr. A M L Amerasinghe,

Ms. M S Amarasinghe, Ms. M S A Abeywickrama, Mr. A P Amarasinghe, Mr. M U M Ali Sabry, PC, Mr. S T Amarasuriya, Mr S A Anthony, Mr. M R Ameen, Mr. R G K Alwis, Mr. R T Amrasuriya, Mr. A G J Abeynayaka, Mr. R A FAreseculatne, PC, Mr. U L G Bandara, Mr. S Bagirathan, Ms. I K Beragama Vithanage, Mr. H I Balapatabendi, Ms. G A C D Bandara, Ms. W S D Boteju, Mr. M K B Ramzeen, Mr. K M S KBandara, Ms. RGBalasooriya, Ms. M U Bombuwalage Don, Mr.W M NT P Bandara, Ms. NBishrulHaffee, Mr. S V Corea, PC, Mr. R M Chinthaka, Mr. N L S R Cooray, Mr. U P Colomba Muhandiramge, Mr. M M A Careem, Ms. M I A Cooray, Mr. P G S L Dayaratne, Ms. K A C De Alwis, Mr. L N Dayananda, Mr. S D A S Dasanayake, Mr. A U Devndra, Mr. H M N De Silva, Mr. S R De Saram, Mr. E A G De Silva. PC, Mr. R R Dayananda, Ms. T K D De Silva, Mr. W N C De Silva, Ms. W N S Dissanayake, Mr. A D D T Dharmasena, Ms. G H AT Dharmawickrama, Ms. S N T P Dias, Mr. S V KDe Livera Tennakoon, Mr.N KDe Silva, Mr.ENRDe Silva,Ms. B SDDe Silva, Mr.WH W de Mel, Ms. K N De Silva, Mr. M M C Doss, Mr. J C Dehi Aththage, Mr. R A R Devapriya, Ms. L RT De Alwis, Ms. M W G R De Silva, Ms. D M Dissanayake, Ms. K Dharmaratnam, Mr. S D L Dhanapala Mudi- yansela , Mr. K P M de Silva, Ms. S G De Silva, Ms. D S K De Silva, Mr. M V David, Ms. A D N Dikwella Widanage, Mr. M M H Diaz, Ms. P K Dasanayake, Mr. D W A Doratiyawa, Ms. P A Dankotuwa, Mr. W Dayaratne, PC, PC, Mr. U R De Silva, PC,Ms. A A P D Dias Wickramasinghe, PC, Mr. Mr. E K I De Zoysa, PC, Dr.G D M De Silva Gunasekera, Mr. M P A P DeSilva, Ms. H L R Dissanayake, Mr. G S L J Dias, Ms. H P Ekanayake, Ms. B S Abhyawickreme, Ms. E A M SEllapperuma, Mr. S M T Ekaratne, Mr.M J Edirisinghe, Mr.D A S Egodamahawatta, Mr. E PT Ediriweera, Ms. E M N S Ekanayake, Ms. C Ellawala, Mr.W J Fernando, PC, Mr. V M Fernando, Mr. K W S Fernando, Mr. K A Fernado, Mr. M S Fernando, Mr. M D S S Fernan- do, Mr. K M C Fernando, Mr. W S C Fernando, Mr. K D Fernando. Mr. W T G Fernando, Mr. F A H M Farisz, Mr. D S M Ferando, Mr. C K Fernandopulle, Ms. W A S Fernando, Mr. A G Fransiscus, Mr. M J R Fernando, Mr. U A Gooneratne, PC, Ms. S S Gunaratne, Mr. A T Galagama Nanayakkara, Mr. G G C Godakumbura, Mr. K A W Gunawardena, Mr. T G D Gamage, Ms. W A S Gunathilaka, Mr. P P Gonagala Withan- age, Ms. L M Ganegama, Mr. P T Galappaththi Guruge, Ms. N K Gunatilake, Mr.C D G Gamage Don, Mr. S A Gamlath, Ms. A M N D Gunaratna, Ms. T N Gooneinghe, Mr. S D S Gunaskera, Mr. W A H V M Gunathilake, Ms. S N M Gunawardena. Mr. K R Goonesinghe, Mr. W Gunasiri, Mr. B A Gunsekera, Mr. H K R Gunaratne, Mr. K V S Ganesharajan, Mr. V S Gamage, Ms. S M Gamage, Mr. D S P Gamage, Mr. S A Gunawardene, Mr. C A N Galhena, Ms. T D F A Gunawardene, Ms. K P P Gnanasekera, Ms. C R Gnanaraja, Mr. D A A Gunawardena, Mr.V V Galbdage, Ms. C R S Gunasekera, Mr.N S Hettyadurage, Ms. S G Hewawasan, Mr. C P Haputhantri, Mr. H N Hettiarachchi, Ms. A T P Hewawasam, Ms. N K K Hatan Gamage, Ms. H A C D Hatharasingha, Ms. G H D K Hewapana, Ms. H D K Hewavissa, Ms. S C Handapangodage, Mr S D He- wavitharana, Ms B M Hashim, Mr. D A Hewavithana, Mr. A M Hussain, Mr. H O Hizbullah, Mr. D J P K Heiyanthuduwage, Mr. H G Hussain, Ms. H A D K Hettimulla, Mr. D D Imbuldeniya, Mr. I K A Illeperuma, Mr M I Imthiyaz, Ms. Y I Illanngasinghe Mudiyanse, Mr K N Indatissa, PC, Ms. K D N P Ilukpitiya, Ms. M D Jayamanne, Mr. W M C Jayathissa, Ms. S A M Jayatilake, Mr. S H Jayasinghe, Ms. K E J Kaluthanthrige Dona, Ms. S S Jayalath Pathiranage, Mr. L M C Jayawickrema, Mr. K D S Jayawardana, Mr. J T S Jasinghe, Mr. R S Jayawardena, Mr. M D S G Jayawardena, Ms. I D Jayakodiarachchilage, Ms. J A D U Jayasinghe, Mr. M Jayawardena, Mr. M C Jayawardena,PC, Ms. A M K R Jayatilleke, Ms. K R Jayasinghe Nee Gunasekara, Mr.M W S Jayakody, Ms. R S P Jayawardena, Ms. N S Jayasuriya (Perera), Ms. C T Jesuthasan, Mr. N K S Jayasekera, Mr. J A S Jayawardena, Ms. H R M P K Jayathilake, Ms. U D Jayasinghe, Mr.UG C IJayasinghe, Mr.G K A C K Kularatne, Mr. G G D D Kumara, Mr. K A D I U Kuruppuarachchi, Dr. A R Koswinnege, Ms. S D W Karunaratne, Mr. C A A Kiriwaththuduwage Don, Mr. K D N Karunartne, Ms. D T D Kuruppu Arachchige, Mr. C L Kanakegamage, Mr. C J Ketipe Arachchige, Mr. K R B Kahathuduwa, MS. T T S Hewavitharanage, Mr. V L A Karunarathna, MS. S H Kumarage, Mr. R M R B Kandegedara, Ms. M P Kumarasinghe, Mr. R A Keshav, Mr. A R G Koswaththa Ralalage, Ms. L N Kirindeniya Gamage, Mr. V B Karunarathne, Ms. P P Kupugama Geeganage, Mr. D J Kumanayaka, Mr. H T D R Kariyawasam, Mr. I S G Karunasinghage, Mr. P P K Katawalage, Mr. A U B Karalliadde, Mr. K A R Karunarathna Pathirana, Mr. Palitha M Kumarasinghe, PC, Mr. S Karunaratne, MS. J G Kodikara, Mr. K A Lasitha Kannuwanaarachchi, Mr. U D De S Kanakaratne, Mr. M B Kiriella,Ms.JDKahawevithana,Ms.DK Keerthiwardena, Mr.S P Kelaart,Mr.TNKoralage, Ms. N P K Lokuge, Ms. D Liyanapatabendy, Ms. H K R Lasanthie, Prof, D K Lankathilake Konasinghe, MS. S D M Lahandapura, Ms. H L R Liyanarachchi, Mr. P Liyanaarachchige, Ms. M Liyana Gunawardana, Mr. Z K Luthufi, Mr. V W Lekamge, Mr. T B Liyanage, Mr. V N P Liyanage, Ms. PT Lokuge, Mr. M B K Lokuge, Mr. C Liyanapatabendy, PC, Mr. J D Mariathas, Ms. M S D Mohotti, Mr. M F Musthapha, PC, Mr. M A A Meda- goda, Mr. W P J Marambe, Mr. N K Mavita Gamage, Mr. Y P Matugama, Ms. N M Mapitigama, Mr. A M Meegasthanna Gamaralage, Mr. T S Matugama, Mr. W G D Malshayan, Mr. S P Munainghe, Ms. V S Mawa- davilage, Mr. D S N Malawaraarachchige, Ms. D P Muthuthanthrige, Mr. M F Muhammedu Kaleel, Mr. S S P Mapatuna, Mr. G M M Muhamdiramge, Mr. A P Manchanayaka Arachchi, Mr. A B Meddegoda, PC, Mr. V S Mahalingam, Mr. L J Mudalige, Mr. M M W Manamperi, Ms. T Machado, Mr. M S Mohamed Fairs, Mr. U Malasekera, Mr. L A V P Meththananda, Mr. R C Mendis, Mr. M W A Moragolla, Mr. D D N Manamperi, Mr. M H Nanayakkra, Mr. S Neelakandan, Mr. S Nagahawatta, Mr. I T M Nandasiri, Mr. P Neelakandan,Mr. C LNilgiriya, Mr.A L M K Nanayakkara, Mr. S V Niles, Ms. S Namasivayam, Mr. C S Nanayakkarawasam, Mr.H J Nanayakkara, Mr. M N Nazeer, Ms. A N Nakandalage Done, Ms. K M Nawarathne, Ms. A G L R Perera, Mr. N L P Perera, Mr. L K I Perera, Mr. Y A Pieris, Ms. M A C N Perera,Ms. BM T Perera, Ms. SD Ponnamperuma, MS. J A D C C Perera, Ms. N A Pathirana, Mr. T Palliyaguruge, Mr. A M Priyantha Alagi- yawanna, Ms. A A N W Perera, Mr. A S M Perera, PC, Mr. T R Perera, Mr. A N Palliyage, Mr. E M C Pushpa- kumara, Mr. N S T Prematthiratne, Dr. M W Padmaraji,

Mr. W L M Perera, Mr. P L C C Peiris, Mr. L A Pathirange, Mr. W W W L Perera, Mr. J S R Pathirana, Mr. K D Pemarathna, Mr. T S Punchihewa, Mr. W A D Perera, Ms. R S M Perera, Mr. J K G Perera, Mr. R A T Perera, Mr. T A P Peiris, Ms. M S C Perera, Mr. J P A I Pemasiri, Ms. A M P Pathiranage, Ms. V M Peiris, Mr. R A O Perera, Ms. J M I H Perera, Mr. M P K Perera, Mr. K T D Perera, Mr. I M Pandith, Ms. R D Paranavithanage, Ms. H M Premadasa, Ms. H M R Perera, Mr. C Padmasekera, Ms. D C Peiris, Ms. D S Panagoda, Mr. A N Pathirana, Mr. V Puvitharan, PC, Ms. M H Pathirana, Mr. N Perera, Mr. W L A Priyantha, Ms. L R N Rathnayaka, Mr. A M A A Lakmal Ratnayake, Ms. A U Ranjith, Mr. H P K Rajapaksha, Mr. U P Ranasinghe Arachchige, Mr. N N S Randeni Arachchige Don, Mr. P Rupasinha, Mr. A N Ranwala Arachchige, Mr. I H G T Rajakaruna, Ms. M Rajasingam, Ms. R M C S Ranathunga, Ms. R A U Ranathunga, Mr. M M Rodrigo, Mr. S Ruwanpathirana, Ms. T G Ruwanpura, Ms. K K Ranaweera, Mr. M I Razeen, Ms. R A H Rupasinghe, Mr. R A S J Ranasinghe, Mr. K S Ratnavale, Ms. P R N Ruwan Pathiranage, Ms. A J Z Ragel, Mr S M B Rathnayaka Mudiyanselage, Ms.R M D D C Rajapakse, Mr. P Raveendiran, Ms. M H P Rathnakumari Mapatuna, Mr. D A A Randeniya, Mr. C Ranasinghe,Ms. N Y Samarasekera, Ms. L G C P Silva, Mr.M R P Silva, Mr K G Sandun Sudhaththa, Ms. A K N M Somadasa, Ms. G G G D S M Siriwardhena, Mr. W T Sumanasiri, Mr. R C G Siriwansa, Ms. S A D M Senarath Perera, Mr. A P Semasinghe, Ms.S Subasinghe, Mr. M N K Sellapperuma, Mr. S C Samarasinghe, Ms. D W W Samarakone, Mr. U Samaraweera, Mr. G A N P K Seneviratne, Ms. V K Subasinghe, Mr. T M S Pasindu Silva, Mr. S T B P Serasinghe, Ms. T D Samarawickrama, Mr. R P A N Siriwardane, Ms. J S Senevi- rane, Mr. C C Senanayake, Ms. T B K Senarath, Mr. S T M Sarathchandra, Mr. E W N Samarakoon, Mr. T Sivanandaraja, Mr. I G Senevirathna, Ms. S M Sellamuttu, Mr. J Sundramoorthy, Mr. J A H C Silva, Mr. S A Senanayake, Ms.G B AD L Silva, Ms. AM Suriyaarachchige, Ms. K S Alwis Samarakoon, Ms. C A Suriarach- chi, Ms. D R Subendran, Mr. R Sahabandu, PC, Ms. M D M D G Senevirathne, Mr. K M Sududevi Hetti- arachchi, Mr. A Y Stephen, Mr. S Shanmuganathan, Mr. D P S Senedheera, Ms. E H N Silva, Mr. I L Senanay- ake, Prof. S S Seneviratne, Mrs. P I S Samarasinghe, PC, Mr. A (A.H.P) Senanayake, Ms. V C Senanayake, Mr. P D M S Gamage, Ms. A M N Silva, Ms. K Siriwardana, Mr. S D Seneviratne, Mr. T g N W D Thalduwa, Ms. C R Thanthrige, Mr. M Thiyagaraza, Mr. T J P K Talgaswattage, Ms. S S MotahewalageMr. A A R Thewaha- mige, Mr. T A Y Tennakoon, Mr. L C Thalpawila Widane Kank, Mr. K S Thilakarathne, Mr. A Thureraja, Mr. T M M L Thennakoon, Mr. R O T Ubhayarathna, Ms. U M D Nayomi, Ms. A U L Ukwatta, Ms. A P K Uduwe Vidanalage, Mr. A U S T Ukwatta, Ms. H S Urugodawatte, Mr. U A A J Ukwatta, Mr. U K A Vipulanayake, Mr.G R Vaz, Ms. T B K Wijebandara, Mr.A C S Warnasuriya,Mr. T R Wijewickrama Gunasekara, Mr.W D T P Walawe, Mr. K J C P Wickramaratna, Mr. A D Wickremesekera, Mr. W A T D Weragoda, Mr. A W L C Weerakoon, Mr. H D T Wijesinghe, Mr. K P M Wijarasriwardena, Mr. W M Wijesundara, Mr. D S Welen- godage, Ms. R R Wijesinghe, Mr. C S Wannisekera, Mr. S D Wijesinghe, PC, Mr. S K Welikanne, Ms. N Wickramasinghe, Mr. M A J Wickramasuriya, Ms. M D Wanasinghe, Mr. D T B Wijayaratne, Mr. K B E Wanasinghe, Mr. T Wariyapperuma, Mr. W R Widanagamage, Mr. R J W Weerasinghe, Mr. W A P Weerasinghe, Mr. W H M Wijesinghe, Mr. P H Welikumbura, Mr. W R L C T Wijesundara, Ms. D G J Wickra- marathne, Ms. R B S W M Nayanthi Dhanu Wanninayake, Mr. M C Waragoda Witharana, Ms. C G Wijew- eera Vidana Kanka, Mr. K S Wedisinghe, Mr. P I Waidyatilleke, Ms. H G Weerasekera, Ms. P N Wickramasinghe, Ms. P N K W Weerakoon Mudiyanselage, Ms. L S C Wijesinghe, Mr. M D A Weerasooriya, Mr. S P Walgamage, Mr. G Wanninayake, Mr. J M Wijebandara, Mr. J S Wickramanayake, PC, Ms. J G Yapa, Ms. Y S Yoharajah, Mr. K I Yogachandra, Mr. M R Zarook, PC, Ms. F S Zahid.

Embilipitiya : Mr. Kamal Premasiri Abeysuriya, Mr. Nakulugamuwe Dilan Lanka Ravindra, Ms. J. K. Malika Surangi, Elpitiya :Ms.Liyana Gamage Manel Priyani Jayasekara, Ms. Sumuditha Piyumali Opatha Kankanamge, Mr. Iman Salakshana Kariyawasam Indipalage, Mr. Damith Ranjeewa Maliya Peruge,

Gampaha : Mr. Maha Bendarage Jayantha Bandaranayake, Mr. Thilanka Chinthaka Iresh Blok, Mr. Thirimanna Hettige Don Upul Deshapriya, Mr. Siyabala Pitiyage Sanjaya Lakshantha Gunasekera, Mr. Malporu Mudiyanselage Lasantha Hemawarna, Ms. Madusha Virajini Hettige, Ms. Anoja Singhemali Hewa Edirimannage, Mr. V. R. Suranga Chinthana Jayathilaka, Mr. Paulumandadige Uditha Sumedha Jayathilake, Mr. K. P. Roshan Suranjith Kahatapitiya, Ms. Sooriya Bandarage Dona Nadeesha Lakmini Karunaratne, Mr. Chinthaka Saman Kiriella, Mr. K. V. Omila Iruja Kumarasinghe, Ms. K. L. Amara Nandani Kumari, Mr. Siripala Mahawatte, Ms. Padmini Marlin Janaki Nawarathna, Ms. Kachchakaduge Nanditha Lakshani Senadheera, Mr. Koompiti K Chaviru Janathe Sirisena, Mr. K. A. D. Nandana Srikantha, Ms. J. A. Niluka Suranji, Ms. Kavindhya Lkmini Karunathilaka Thalangama Appuhamilage, Ms. Wanasinghe Arachchige Kethaki Yasasi Wanasinghe, Mr. W. W. Tharanga Asith Priyankara Weerasinghe, Ms. Hasini Piumali Wickramasinghe, Mr. Waruna Wijeweera Gunarathne, Mr. Balasuriy- age Sanjeeva Sudesh Balasuriya, Galle : Ms. M. M. Rajanie Abeywickrama, Mr. K. L. A Amaradivakara Liyanarachchi, Mr. T. Kamil Thushara De Silva, Mr. R. Ruwan Asiri De Silva, Mr. Anthonige Samith Thushara Gallage, Mr. Chandana Sisisena Pilana Godakandage, Ms. Daisy Kumara, Ms. Nalani Kamalika Manatunga, Ms. Uresha Madubhashini Maskorala, Ms. Paskuwalhandi Pubudini Manjula Mendis, Mr. Kasun Tharaka Mendis Rajakaruna, Ms. Manel Kusumanjalie Mudalige, Ms. Arumahandi Nandanie, Mr. N.Thilina Panditaratne, Mr. Yasaswin Pilane Gardiye Godakandege, Ms. Dammalage. Dasni Kanchanamala Piyasiri, Ms. Thenuwara Hannadige Chishani Chalonga Premanath, Ms. Nishanthi Rahubadde Kankanange, Mr. Duminda Weerasingha Rajapaksha, Mr. Chamith Subhashana Udumalagala Gamage, Mr. Sarath Vidanapathirana, Mr. H. P. W. Witharana, Galgamuwa, Mr. Nayake Bandaralage Anil Prasanna Balalle,

Homagama : Mr. Paranavithanalage Upul Yasalal Janaka Boteju, Mr. Wellapuli A. Vajika Eranga, Mr. Aruna Rohan Gamalath,

Ms. M.G. Indika Priyanthi Kumari, Ms. Priyanka Madduma Patabendi, Mr. Ajith Priyantha Matara Arachchi, Mr. U.D. Sumith Parakrama Perera, Ms. Panagoda Widanalage Dakshika Thisarangani Perera, Ms. Iriyatota Srimathi Rajaguru, Ms. Nanayakkarawasam Masachchige Yasodara Jayampathi Somadasa, Mr. D. Sudath Wickramaratne

Horana : Ms. Tharanga Nilochani Geekiyanage, Mr. B. G. Thushara Lakmin Gunarathne, Ms. Kalyani Manel Gunatilaka, Ms. Kanthi Kannangara, Mr. Prasanjieve Pattiarachchi, Ms. Owitigalage Priyani Asoka Perera, Mr. Eswarage Punsisi Uditha Rajasekara Rajasekara, Ms. Pradeepa Samanthi Ranasingha, Mr. Mallawa Arachchilage Samantha Weerasiri, Mr. Hasith Hemantha Wickramaarachchige,

Higurakgoda : Ms. U. G. Himali Pushpakanthi Pragnawardana, Mr. T. M. Gamini Ratnayake, Mr. W. M. Indika Ranil Kumara Weerasekara

Hettipola : Mr. Herath Hitihamilage Thushara Herath, Ms. Varuni Nisansala Herath Mudiyanselage, Mr. Lakmal Wickramaarachchi

Hambantota : Mr. Thusitha Aluthpatabendige Priyadarshana, Mr. Mohamed Shiraz Usuph, Mr. Sajith Dushmantha Weerarathna Weerarathna Widana Arachchilage, Mr. Suresh Sandaruwan Jaliyagodage, Jaffna : Mr. Arulchelvan Arulanantham, Dr. Kumaravadivel Guruparan, Mr. Jeyasingham Jeyaruban, Mr. Sivaramasarma Jotheendrasarma, Ms. Joy Mahil Mahadevan Nee Jeyaratnam, Mr. Balaksrishnan Parththipan, Ms. Ketharanathan Sunmukajini, Mr. Balasubramaniam Thavapalan, Mr. Dinesh Thaven- thirarasa, Kalutara : Ms. Ruwini Priyangika Asurumuni, Ms. Peththakutti Iranthi Maliga Damunage, Ms. R. Dona Thusitha Dissanayake, Mr. Gamini Ekanayake, Ms. Jayanthi Ekanayake, Mr. Merennage Priyanka Dilhan Fernando, Mr.Weerawarna Kurukulasooriya Busabaduge Tharindu Niroshan Fernando, Mr. Thusara Nalinda Jayakody, Ms. Anusha Hemali Jayalath, Ms. Primalie Ishara Lakmi Kathaluwa Dewage, Ms. Sanali Ayoshani Kulasooriya, Mr. Liyanarachchi Don Himash Chamendra Liyanaarachchi, Mr. Pudeeth Kinsula Siri Liyanage, Ms. Marie Helan Shiroma Peiris, Mr. Wannaku Wattewaduge Yasendra N. Perera, Mr. Siri A. Perera, Mr. Dixon Arnold Punchihewa, Ms. K. K. D. Shyanika C. Ranaweera, Mr. B. D. Dhammika R. M. Weerasinghe, Mr. Madushan Indrakumara Withanage Don, Ms. Kamani Shyamalie Yapa, Mr. Hasitha Sanjee- wa Mahawattage

Kandy : Mr. Herath Mudiyanselage Madhusha Bhanuka Manjusri Bandara, Mr. Samaras- ingha Arachchige Dimuthu Buddika, Mr. C. Lansakara Imiya Mudiyanselage Thushara Sampath Chandrase- kara, Mr. S. M. Chamal Sudeshan De Alwis, Ms.Nayanapriya Preethikumari Ekanayake, Ms. Pradeepa Kumudu Kumari Ganehi Arachchilage, Mr. Herath Mudiyanselage Wasantha Kumara Herath, Mr. Sapumal Bandara Hewawickrama, Mr. D. P. R. Greshan Madusanka Illangarathna, Mr. Chaminda Prasad Sililara Illangasinghe, Mr. L. J. M. Karunarathne, Mr. H. M. Jagath Saman Kumara, Mr.M.W.M.M.Kosala Mirihella Mirihella, Mr. Mohamed Haseen Mohamed Usein, Mr. A. V. P. Nanayakkara, Mr. Thoradeniyalage Asela Washantha Nawarathna, Mr. A. G. B. S. Jagath Kumara Peiris, Mr. W.M. Pemarathna, Mr. Rajapaksa Gamage Sameera Salinda Perera, Ms. Kusha Indumathi Walagedara Premachandra, Mr. Semasinghe Brahmanaralalage Rathnayake, Mr. Semasingha Navaratna Stu Bandaralage Rathnayake, Mr. Shantha Chulabaya Ratnayake, Pc, Mr. W. Dinendra Wickrama Senarathne, Mr. Thennakoon Mudiyanselage Samantha Janaka Thennakoon, Mr. Chandana Bandara Udagedara, Mr. Sunil Dharmapala Weerakoon, Mr. Isuru Yasasui Bandara Weera-sooriya, Mr. Harsha Imendra Wettewa, Ms. Hettiarachchige Dinushi Nilanka Wijesundara, Mr. Wijesundara Mudiyanselage Dhammika Nishantha Bandara Wijesundara, Mr. Weerabahu Mudiyanselage Kanchana Lakmal Weerabahu

Kalmunai : Ms. Kariapper (Athambawa Nee) Arica, Mr. Abdul Majeed Badurudeen, Mr. M. S. K. M. Sharik Kariapper, Mr. Ahamed Lebbe Natheer, Kaduwela : Ms. M.P. Magliyan Abeyratne, Mr. P. Chaminda Dolawatte, Mr. P.D. Sujeewa Gunathilaka, Mr. W. N. Dilhan Jayawardana, Mr. D.G. Piyadasa Karunarathne, Ms. A. Mironi Liyanage, Mr. P. R. N. Nirahjan, Mr. T. D. K. Kalyana Perera, Ms. T. Priyngika Rathnayake, Ms. H. R. Kumari Mudali Seramge, Kegalle : Mr. S. Priyantha K. W. Gamage, Ms. J. A. Dinushika Madushani Jayasingha, Mr. Subaweera Gamage Chathurnika Keshanga Perera, Mr. S. M. Buthsiri Haritha Senanayake, Mr. Henaka Rallage Parashakthi Senanayake, Mr. S. K. Chaminda Seneviratne, Ms. Sujatha Dayanthi Udalagama

Kuliyapitiya : Mr. Adikari Mudiyanselage Supun Thilakshitha Adikari, Mr. Hettigam- age Kalum Dharmakeerthi, Mr. J. K. Chaminda Jayasinghe, Mr. Heiyanthudu Pathirannehelage Darshana Prasad Jayawardena, Mr. Frank Preethi Perera, Ms. Dilkushane Helene Renuka Perera, Mr. Wadugedara Mudiyanselage Percy Lakshman Wadugedera, Mr. W. H. M. Bandula Harischandra Wijesinghe, Mr. Y. A. Chandana Prasad Yapa

Kurunegala : Mr. Niluka Mahesh Athapaththu Athapaththu Mudiyanselage, Mr. Kankanamalage Manoj Rangana Beliketimulla, Mr. Dasanayaka Mudiyanselage Samantha Dasanayaka, Ms. E. M. Sriyanthi De Saram, Mr.Nalin Janendra Edirisinghe, Mr. Wasantha Dhammika Gamarachchi, Ms. Edirisinghe Mudiyanselage Peshala Sarangi Herath Hulugalla, Mr. Hitihamillage Pulasthi Herath, Ms. K. W. Range Bandaralage Piumi Randima Herat Hulugalla, Mr. Herath Mudiyanselage Herath, Mr. Liyanaarachchi Kapugodapitiyage Dharmaraja Jayathissa, Mr. A. P. Chandra Maya Jayasekera, Pc, Mr. Lakmal Eranda Isuru Dissanayaka Jawarange, Mr. J. M. A. U. P. Jayamanne, Mr. Herath Mudiyanselage Nihal Herath Kirinde, Mr. M. A. Gamini Sarath Kumara, Mr. T. Sapumal Bandara Menama, Mr. J. A. Nalin Perera Jayasooriya, Mr. Rohan Premaratne, Mr. Felician Joseph Ceasar Weerasekera Perera, Ms. R. B. Indra Kumari Rathnamalala, Mr. Chathuranga Sachinthana Bandara Rajapaksha Rajapaksha Mudiyanselage, Ms. Ashani Hansika Rathnayake Rathnayake Mudiyanselage, Mr. Pradeep Shantha Kumara Solanga Arachchilage, Ms.

Arunodinie Senduppe- ruma, Mr. W. A. M. Sanjeewa Gamini Wijepala, Ms. Wanninayake Mudiyanselage Ridma Nayomi Wanninayake, Ms. W. Marian Rochelle Wijewickrama, Mr. Wickramasinghege Sudath Wijewickrema,

Kekirawa : Ms. Juliana Margaret Coswatte, Mr. Dissanayake Mudiyanselage Damhitha, Gemunu Dissanayake, Mr. H. M. Anuruddha Kumara Wijayarathne,

Kantale : Ms. T. M. Kusum Shanika Perera, Mr. H. P. Suneth Rasajana Wimalasiri, Kesbewa : Ms. Patiarambage Oshadie Wasantha Emmanuel, Mr. Buddhika Ketawalakumbura, Mr. Jayanath Kumbalathara Arachchige, Mr. Nuwan Vindu Vithanage, Mr. Tishan Manjula Wellalage,Kala- wana : Mr. Jayakodyge Don Aruna Kantha Jayakody, Mr. K. Dilip Hemantha Karunadasa, Mr. Upul Padma- keerthi Pitigala Arachchi,

Matara: Mr. R. Abeysundara, Mr. P. Ariyasena, Mr.M.V.G. R. Gunasekera, Mr.D. S.Gunarathne,Ms. P.N.Hewa Pasgodage, Mr.K.D.Jayasinghe, Ms. R.M. L. Priyani, Mr. G. S.L. Marakkala Hannadige, Ms. Y.P. Mahagamage, Mr. K. Manamperi, Ms. I. S. N. Koththagoda, Mr. K. K. G. Prasanga, Ms. C. S. Pathirana, Ms. T. N. Pinidiya, Mr. C. P. Arachchige, Ms. D. P. Rubasinghe, Mr.U.G. S. Rangajeewa, Mr. S. Sedara, Ms. M.H. Siriwardena, Mr. E.V. I. Thilakaratne, Mr. A. S. Wijesinghe, Ms. Y. M. D. Warnasuriya

Maho: Ms. H.A.S. Dilrukshi, Mr. P. A. C.M. Polgampola, Mr. R. D. U. P. Rajapaksha, Ms. W.U.S. Subhashini

Mawanella: Mr. A. C. B. Aluthwatte, Mr. S. B. Divelgama, Ms. D. S. Mahanama,Mr. G.A. Samarasekera, Mr. W. M. P. Wijekoon

Matugama: Ms. J.K. S. Jayawickrama, Mr. L. S.R. Jayasinghe, Ms. A. C. G. Jayasinghe, Mr. S. S. Kalugala Arachchi, Mr. G. Nallaperuma

Mallakam: Mr. N. Parthipan, Mr. V. Subaskaran, Mr. N. Thambimuthan

Mt. Lavinia: Mr. D. L. De Zoysa Abeysiriwardana, Ms. R. C. De Zoysa, Mr. M. A. R. Fernando, Mr. V. P. G. Fernando, Mr. R. C. P. Gamage, Mr. M.S.T. Leelarathna, Mr. S. R. Matugama, Mr. H. H. J. R. Halpandeniya

Marawila: Mr. J. P. S. Amarasinghe, Mr. K. N. A. S. Fernando, Mr. D. N. P. Hittiarachchige, Ms. S. M. Katawalagedara, Mr. K. Senanayake, Mr. S. A. M. C. Subasignhe, Ms. W. J. J. A. S. P. Wijesinghe, Mr. S. S. V. Warnakulasuriya Arachchige Don

Mannar: Mr. S. J. Logu, Mr. M. S. M. Saburdeen

Mullaitivu: Mr. K. Ganeshwaran, Mr. S. T. Kanagatharan, Ms. S. Sivalingam

Monaragala: Mr. T. U. S. K. Bandara, Mr. E. M. C. S. Ekanayaka, Mr. R. M. S. Rathnayaka

Maligakanda: Mr. A. S. M. Anwar, Mr. K. Y. Perera, Mr. G. B. S. D. Weerasinghe

Moratuwa: Mr. N. J. Fernando, Mr. R. A. Gunawardena, Mr. A. C. De Silva Gunasekera, Ms. I. A. Jayapathma, Ms. T. P. N. Peiris Minuwangoda: Ms. C. T. N. Colambage, Ms. K. D. C. P. Dayarathna, Mr. S.D. K. Liyanage, Ms. L. A. P. Liyanaarachchi

Morawaka: Mr. D. D. Abeywickrema, Ms. N. P. D. Athukorala, Mr. N. Narasinghe

Mahara: Mr. C. P. A. G. Patabendige, Ms. N. V. U. P. Kanankege, Mr. G.K. Pathirana, Ms. D.G.V. R. Seneviratne, Ms. W. W. G. P. Weerasinghe, Mr. T. G. S. A. Kumara

Nuwara Eliya: Mr. B. D. U. S. Bandara, Ms. B. L. S. A. De Silva, Mr. P. Rajathurai, Mr. H. M. Gamini Senanayake

Negombo: Ms. A. R. P. Ariyawansa, Ms. D. C. N. Alahakoon, Ms. S. N. M. D. Fernando, Mr. N. K. B. Fernando, Mr. W. I. P. Fernando, Mr. W. S. S. R. Fernando, Mr. D. P. L. A. S. D. Gunathilaka, Ms. W. C. P. Ginige, Ms. N. Gunaratne, Ms. N. D. J. Ganithage, Mr. G. D. R. B. Jayawardena, Mr. D. P. S. Jayamanne, Ms. M. D. K. Baduge, Mr. D. U. P. Kirihettige, Ms. W. A. M. N. Medonza, Ms. U. L. T. N. Perera, Ms. E. M. J. C. Perera, Ms. S. Ranatunge, Mr. M. D. E. S. Tissera, Mr. M. D. N. W. William

Nugegoda: Mr. A. M. T. M. Attanayake, Mr. J. A. D. R. B. Alwis, Ms. A. G. S. N. Chandrasena, Mr. U. I. Hiripitiya, Mr. N. D. Kottahachchi, Ms. K. L. S. A. Kumara, Ms. S. N. Pathirana, Mr. R. Sudusinghe, Ms. S. P. N. L. Serasingha

Nikaweratiya: Mr. R. M. N. I. Bandara, Mr. H.M.M.K. Herath

Nawalapitiya: Mr. N. Aluthgamage, Mr. D. M. S. B. Delpitiya, Ms. N. H. P. Munasingha,

Panadura: Mr. P. H. Alankarage, Ms. B. H. M. S. K. S. Bandara, Ms. W. D. P. N. De Silva Karunathilaka, Ms. R. D. De Saram, Ms. K. S. M. De Silva, Ms. W. M. N. Dhanusekera, Mr. B. S. C. P. Gooneratne, Mr. C. Y. M. Jinasena, Ms. W.A.C.S. Jayathissa, Ms. V. K. Karunatilleke, Mr. P. K. M. N. Kulasuriya, Mr. M. U. M. K. Perera, Mr. K. D. M. Silva, Ms. T. M. Singhabahu Arachchige, Mr. W. D. Tissera

Polonnaruwa: Mr. A. Gallage, Mr. A. H. Mohammed Razeek, Mr. M. Samsudeen, Mr. R. A. L. P. Wijesiri,

Point Pedro: Mr. P. Kumarasamy, Mr. M. K. Muttukumar, Mr. R. Nadarajah, Mr. T. T. Thangarajah

Pugoda: Mr. K. V. Palitha Kumara,

Pelmadulla: Mr. D. N. C. Amarasekara, Mr. H. A. B. J. Hiththatiya,

Pottuvil: Mr. S. A. Ahmed Munasudeen,

Ratnapura: Mr. D. T. Arrawwala, Mr. S. N. Dangaha Mannalage, Mr. L. D. Gunawardhane, Ms. S. P. Haputhanthri, Mr. H. N. P. Hettikandage, Mr. W. A. S. R. Perera, Mr. M. L. A. Peiris, Mr. G. Ratnayake, Mr. H.I. Rupasinghe, Mr. R. M. B.C. Rathnamalala Bandara, Mr. P.B. Wanniarachchi,

Ruwanwella: Mr. H. R. A. Jayasiri, Mr. N. K. W.Jayasiri, Mr. E. W. K. Samaraweera, Mr. I. D. R. Wijesinghe

Thambuttegama: Mr. B. Lewkebandara, Mr. R. M. K. P. Yasarathne

Udugama: Ms. I. D. Kankanamge, Mr. K. A. Sumanasekera, Ms. K.W. Wijesekera,

Vauniya: Mr. A.T. Jeyananthan, Mr. P. A. Punethanayagam, Mr. K. Selvanayagam, Mr. K. Thayaparan, Wattala: Mr. K. L. N. Perera,

Warakapola: Mr. I. S. E. Ameresekere, Mr. S. N. Liyanasekara, Ms. C. R. Weerasekera,

Wellawaya: Mr. T. M. Bandusena, Ms. R. M. L. T. Piyasena,

Wariyapola: Ms. R.M.S. Kumari,

Walasmulla: Mr. A. C. Bandaranayake, Mr. W. S. Subasinghe,

Walapane: Ms. M.R. C. K. Rathnayaka, Ms. S. S. H. M. B. M. Senevirathne, Mr. G. Selvam

2. **Notice Convening the Meeting**

   The Presiding Officer, Hon. Attorney General, read out the notice convening the meeting and commenced the proceedings.

3. **Condolences**

   The following names were announced by the Hon. Attorney General:

   Hon. Justice Chandra Ekanayake, Mr. M. M. A. Riza, Mr. D. B. Welagedara, Mr. W. W. D. A. Thushara Nilantha Daskon and Mr. C. M. M. Premathilaka.

4. **Excuses**

   Mr. Upali Mohotti PC Ms. Poornima Ranawaka

5. **Adoption of the Annual Report for the Year 2024/2025**
   Mr. Chathura Galhena, Secretary for the Year 2024/2025 tabled the Annual Report for the Year 2024/2025.

   The house adopted the same being proposed by Mr. Rajindh Perera and seconded by Mrs. Ramani De Saram.

6. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report; the Independent Auditor's Report and the Financial Statements for the Financial Year 31st December2024

   Mr. Chamath Jayasekara tabled the Financial Statements for the Year2024/2025. The House adopted the same being proposed by Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake PC and seconded by Mr. Shehan Gunawardena.

7. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2025/2026 by the Hon. Solicitor General The Hon. Solicitor General, Mr. Viraj Dayaratne PC stated that when nominations were called for the post of President, nominations were received from Dr. Sunil Abeyratne , Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, and Mr. Anura Meddagoda PC, and Mr. Anura Meddagoda PC withdrew his nominations and the election was held for the post of President on 19th February 2025, where Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya received 4,497 votes and Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne received 1,610 votes and Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya received a majority of 2,887 votes. Accordingly, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya was elected as the President of BASL for the year 2025/2026.

8. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2025 /2026 by the Hon. Solicitor General The Hon. Solicitor General, Mr. Viraj Dayaratne PC stated that when nominations were called for the post of Secretary, nominations were only received from Mr. Chathura Galhena and that there were no other nominations received for the post.

   Accordingly, Mr. Chathura Galhena was elected uncontested asthe Secretary of BASL for the year 2025/2026.

9. **Election of Executive Committee for Year 2025/2026**

   a) Election for the Post of Deputy President for the Year 2025 / 2026

   Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya proposed the name of Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne PC for the Post of Deputy President for the Year 2025/2026 which was seconded by Mr. Saliya Pieris PC.

   As there were no other names proposed, Hon. Attorney General announced the appointment of Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne PC, as the Deputy President for the Year 2025/2026.

10 b) Election for the 20 posts of Zonal Vice Presidents for the Zones of Anuradhapura, Ampara, Avissawella, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo Zone 01, Colombo Zone 02, Colombo Zone 03, Chilaw, Galle, Gampaha, Hambanthota, Jaffna, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Negombo, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura and Vavuniya and Special Category Zone as members of the Executive Committee 2025 / 2026

   i. Anuradhapura

   Ms. Himali Pragnawardena proposed the name of MR. RANIL WEERASEKARA as the Zonal Vice President of Anuradhapura which was seconded by Mr. Gamini Ratnayake.

   As there were no other names proposed, MR. RANIL WEERASEKARA was elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Anuradhapura.

   ii. Ampara

   Mr. Asoka Kumara proposed the name of MR. A. U. P. UKWATTA as the Zonal Vice President of Ampara which was seconded by Mr. A. L. Natheer.

   As there were no other names proposed, MR. A.U.P. UKWATTA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Ampara.

   iii. Avissawella

   Ms. Wijayananda Padmasiri proposed The Name Of Ms. Priyanga Chandrasena As The Zonal Vice President of Avissawella which was seconded by Mr. D. G. P. Karunaratne.

   As there were no other names proposed, MS. PRIYANGA CHANDRASENA was elected uncontested

as the Zonal Vice President ofAvissawella.

iv. Badulla

Mr. Ruwan Basnayake proposed the name of MR. BANDUSENA TENNAKOON as the Zonal Vice President of Badulla which was seconded byMr. P.U.S.K. Bandara.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. BANDUSENA TENNAKOON was elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Badulla.

v. Batticaloa

Mr. Vinoba Indran proposed the name of MR. T. SIVANATHAN as the Zonal Vice President of Batticaloa which was seconded by Mr. Mohamad Ajmeer.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. T. SIVANATHAN was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Batticaloa.

vi. Colombo Zone 01

Mr. S. Bahitharan proposed the name of MS. SANDUN NAGAHAWATTA as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone 01 which was seconded by Mr. Kamal Gunasinghe.

As there were no other names proposed, MS. SANDUN NAGAHASWATTAwas elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone01.

vii. Colombo Zone 02

Mr. Ranjith Gunawardena proposed the name of MR. ANUSHA GUNASEKARA as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone 02 which was seconded by Mr. Maduranga Wijeratne.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. ANUSHA GUNASEKARA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone02.

viii. Colombo Zone 03

Mr. Neville Abeyratne PC proposed the name of MR. GUNARATNE WANNINAYAKE asthe Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone 03 which was seconded by Mr. Prasad Silva.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. GUNARATNE WANNINAYAKE was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Zone03.

ix. Chilaw

Mr. Sumudu Jayamanne proposed the name of MR. SAMANPALI AMARASINGHE asthe Zonal Vice President of Chilaw which was seconded by Mr. Gamini Attanayake.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. SAMANPALI AMARASINGHE was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Chilaw.

x. Galle

Ms. Nalani Manatunga proposed the name of MR. RUWAN ASIRI DE SILVA as the Zonal Vice President of Galle which was seconded by Mr. ThilinaPanditharatne.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. RUWAN ASIRI DE SILVA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Galle.

xi. Gampaha

Mr. R. A. Jayasekara proposed the name of MR. RAVINDANA KURUPPU as the Zonal Vice President of Gampaha which was seconded by Ms. PoornaSenaratne.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. RAVINDANA KURUPPU was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Gampaha.

xii. Hambantota

Mr. Thusitha Aluthpatabendige proposed the name of MR. UPALI MOHOTTI PC as the Zonal Vice President of Hambanthota which was seconded by Mr. Shiraz Yusuf.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. UPALI MOHOTTI PC was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Hambanthota.

xiii. Jaffna

Mr. B. Thavapalan proposed the name of DR. K. GURUBARAN as the Zonal Vice President of Jaffna which was seconded by Mr. B.Praththeepan.

As there were no other names proposed, DR. K. GURUBARAN was elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Jaffna.

xiv. Kalutara

Mr. Siri Perera proposed the name of MR. KINSULA LIYANAGE asthe Zonal Vice President of Kalutara which was seconded by Mr. ShevonGuneratne.

As there were no other names proposed,MR. KINSULALIYANAGEwas elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Kalutara.

xv. Kandy

Mr. M. H. M Usein proposed the name of MR. SUNIL WEERAKOON as the Zonal Vice President of Kandy which was seconded by Mr. Situbandara Ratnayake.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. SUNIL WEERAKOON was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kandy.

xvi. Kegalle

Mr. Indrajith Amarasekara proposed the name of MS. CHITHRANI WEERASEKARA asthe Zonal Vice President of Kegalle which wasseconded by Mr. Sudharshana Liyanasekara.

As there were no other names proposed, MS. CHITHRANI WEERASEKARA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kegalle.

xvii. Kurunegala

Mr. Sudath Wijewickrema proposed the name of MR. SANJEEWA WIJEPALA as the Zonal Vice President of Kurunegala which was seconded by Mr.

ShiranthiWijewickrema.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. SANJEEWA WIJEPALA was elected uncontested asthe Zonal Vice President of Kurunegala.

xviii. Matara

Mr. Kapila Manamperi PC proposed the name of MR. KEERTHI DHANUSHKA JAYASINGHE as the Zonal Vice President of Matara which was seconded by Ms. Chandima Perumbuliarachchi.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. KEERTHI DHANUSHKA JAYASINGHE was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Matara.

xix. Negombo

Ms. Padmika Ginige proposed the name of MR. SHIAN THISSERA asthe Zonal Vice President of Negombo which was seconded by Ms. Manori Fernando.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. SHIAN THISSERA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Negombo.

xx. Nuwara Eliya

Mr. Uchitha Bandara proposed the name of MR. H. N. G. SENANAYAKE as the Zonal Vice President of Nuwara Eliya which was seconded by Mr. P. Rachathurai.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. H. N. G. SENANAYAKE was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Nuwara Eliya.

xxi. Ratnapura

Mr. Hemantha Karunadasa proposed the name of MR. SANATH PERERA as the Zonal Vice President of Ratnapura which was seconded by Mr. Lalith Pieris.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. SANATH PERERA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Ratnapura.

xxii. Vavuniya

Mr. K. Ganeshwaran proposed the name of MR. ANTON PUNEETHAYAGAM as the Zonal Vice President of Vavuniya which was seconded by M. Grecian.

As there were no other names proposed, MR. ANTON PUNEETHAYAGAM was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Vavuniya.

xxiii. Corporate Lawyers' Association/ Government Legal Officers' Association Ms. Melody Wickremanayake proposed the name of MS. HIMALI URUGODAWATTA as the Zonal Vice President of Corporate Lawyers' Association which wasseconded by Ms. Asitha Pieris.

As there were no other names proposed, MS. HIMALI URUGODAWATTA was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Corporate Lawyers' Association/ Government Legal Officers' Association.

10. Election of the Treasurer for the Year 2025/2025

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya proposed the name of Mr. Pasindu Silva for the Post of Treasurer for the Year 2025 / 2026 which was seconded by Mrs. Ramani De Saram.

As there were no other names proposed, the Hon. Attorney General announcedthe appointment of Mr. Pasindu Silva as the Treasurer for the Year 2025 / 2026.

11. Election of other Members of the Executive Committee 2025 / 2026

a) 8 members to the Executive Committee

There were 13 nominations received for the Executive Committee for the senior category and there was an election held to select 8 members.

The following members have given the nominations;

1. Mr. Ranjith Abeysundara
2. Mr. Sanjeewa Anthony
3. Mr. Chandima Atapattu
4. Mr. Senany Dayaratne
5. Mr. Harith De Mel
6. Mr. Lakshan Dias
7. Mr. Chamath Fernando
8. Mr. K. Wasantha S. Fernando
9. Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena
10. Mr. Buddhika Samarasinghe
11. Ms. Nirupa Serasinghe
12. Ms. Sajeevi Siriwardena
13. Mr. Thishya Weragoda

The Hon. Attorney General announced the following names of those elected to the Executive Committee upon election –

1. Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena
2. Mr. Thishya Weragoda
3. Mr. Chamath Fernando
4. Mr. Harith De Mel
5. Mr. Lakshan Dias
6. Mr. Chandima Atapattu
7. Mr. Senany Dayaratne
8. Mr. K. Wasantha S. Fernando

b) 5 members to the Executive Committee under 10 years of practice to represent Junior members;

There were 05 nominations from the Colombo Zone and 02 nominations from outstations received for the Executive Committee for the junior category and there was an election held to the elect 5 members.

The following members have given the nominations;

1. Mr. Lakshan Abeywardena (Colombo)
2. Ms. Thilina Wariyapperuma (Colombo)
3. Mr. Jayathu Wickremasuriya (Colombo)
4. Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena (Colombo)

5. Ms. Nikini Mapitigama (Colombo)

6. Mr. H.L.T. Nadeesha Perera (Outstation)

7. Mr. M.S.N.K. Dangahadeniya (Outstation)

There was no contest for the two (02) outstation positions in the Junior Bar category and also for the second female candidate. Since there were four (04) male candidates for the two (02) vacancies in the Colombo category an election was held for the said category only.

The Hon. Attorney General announced the election of the following members to the Executive Committee under the Junior Bar Category –

Mr. Lakshan Abeywardena

Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena

Ms. Nikini Mapitigama

Ms. Nadeesha Perera

Mr. M. S. N. K. Dangahadeniya

12. Appointment of Auditors for the Year2025/2026

The Auditors M/s B. R. De Silva & Co. was re-appointed for the Year 2025/2026. The House approved the same being proposed by Mr. Rajindh Perera seconded by Mr. S. Thyagarajah.

13. Appointment of Trustees for the Year 2025/2026

The Hon. Attorney General announced that the current Trustees are Mr. Ikram Mohamed PC, Mr. W. Dayaratna PC, Dr. Sunil Coorey. It was proposed by the President that the current Trustees continue and the House approved the same.

Any other business

Mr. Amal Randeniya said that there was an incident taken place in the High Court of Puttalam yesterday (28th March 2025), where a female Attorney-at-Law has been remanded on a charge sheet, containing charges framed under the Contempt of Court Act No. 08 of 2024.

Mr. U. R. De Silva PC said that he was informed of the incident and the charges are in respect of the way the said Attorney-at-Law had addressed the Court and that she has not bowed to the Bench when entering the Court Room. He further said that the High Court Judge has imposed very stringent bail conditions which are practically impossible to satisfy on a Friday afternoon and as a result the Attorney-at-Law has been remanded and the case was fixed for 30th April. Mr. De silva further said that it is very unbecoming for the Hon. High Court Judge to act in that manner and to remand an Attorney-at-Law.

Mr. Shehan Gunawardena said that it is very important that the BASL will get the Attorney-at-Law concerned released on bail at the earliest possible.

Mr. Dhammika Gamarachchi said that the Judges are frequently using the Contempt of Court Act to penalise the lawyers and he also has faced a similar incident in the Pilassa Magistrate's Court. He further said that the said incident has been brought to the notice of the JSC and the BASL and he does not see any action being taken by the JSC regarding his complaint and requested the BASL to look into the matter.

Mr. Anura Meddegoda PC said that as soon as he was informed of the incident, he informed the same to the Hon. Chief Justice and the Hon. Attorney General regarding the said matter.

Mr. Saliya Peiris PC said that it is important that the BASL intervened into the matter and take necessary steps to have the Attorney-at-Law released on bail at the earliest and also said that it is also important to gather all relevant information about theincident.

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President said that he had been made aware of this incident which had to be addressed expeditiously. As the President and the new ExCo had just been appointed today and given the urgency, the new President sought approval of the Bar Council to empower the new ExCo to take whatever steps required to have the said Attorney-at-Law released as soon as possible from Remand Custody. The Bar Council unanimously granted approval to this request.

Since there were no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary



BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



BAR COUNCIL 2025/2026

BAR COUNCIL 2025/2026

Akkaraipattu :
Mr. Meera Mohideen Baheej
Mr. Seeni Mohamed Abdul Gaffoor
Mr. Jegasuthan Kupenthirarajah
Mr. A. H. Sameem

Ampara :
Mr. M. Gedara Ashoka Kumara
Mr. S. Sameera Jayawindana Ediriweera Arukattu Patabandige
Mr. R. Gnanasiri Kularatne
Mr. Priyantha Kumar Wijerathna Munhene Mudiyanselage
Mr. Athimale Ukdaduwatte Piyadasa Ukwatte
Ms. Radampola Gamage Sriyani Wijewickrama

Anuradhapura :
Ms. Dinushi Amanda Abeysundara
Ms. K. Swarnamali Anuradhanayake
Mr. Habakkala Kankanamge Aravinda
Mr. Rathnayake Mudiyanselage Naleen Dimuthu Bandara
Mr. Dahampath Mudiyanselage Dhanushka Chamikara Dahampath
Mr. Manikralage Ravindra Disanayake
Mr. Suranga Sanjeewa Kumara Mohotti
Mr. R. Chandra Kumar Rajakaruna
Mr. C. Dhananjaya Ranathunga
Mr. M. D. Gayan Buddhika Siriwardehana
Mr. Siriwardhane Mudiyanselage Susil Krishan Siriwardhane
Mr. Talangalle Warnasuriyage Don Srilal Mahesh Talangalla
Ms. K. Sadhana Thimathi
Mr. Rankiri Pathiranahelage Ariyarathna Wickramaarachchi
Mr. Marasinghe Mudiyanselage Nimal Wijesiri

Attanagalla :
Mr. Ranasinghe Arachchige Jayasekare
Mr. Wewala Arachchige Sampath Tennakoon Kasthuriratne
Ms. Viyalagoda Vidanalage Chitranganie Premachandra
Mr. Kuruppu Arachchige Ravindana
Ms. Balasuriya Mohottiappuhamilage Purna Kumari Senaratna
Mr. M. Pathirannahelage Siripala
Mr. Don Lal Samitha Kumara Kodisinghe Wickramarathna
Mr. Ananda Pathirannahalage Shantha Premalal Wijayasri

Avissawella :
Ms. H. D. Priyanga Kusalani Chandrasena
Ms. Helen Olga Cynthia De Jacolyn Senaviratne
Mr. A. G. Kamani Deepasika Dharmadasa
Mr. Rupasinghe Arachchilage Shervin Srinath Gunarathna
Ms. K. K. Dineshka S. Konage
Ms. Dona Hyacinth Sweneetha Mallawaarachchi
Mr. N. Sanjaya Bandara Nathavitharana
Mr. R. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri
Mr. Kuruwegei Asanka Senarathne
Mr. Weragoda Arachchilage Sarath Kumara Weragoda
Mr. Wedakara Gedara Udantha Lalindra Kumara Yasarathne

Balangoda :
Mr. Dasanayaka Mudiyanselage Chandrasekera
Ms. Anoma Chamline Fernando
Ms. Ayomi Virginia Dilkushi Fernando
Mr. A. A. Prabath Bhanu Munipriya
Mr. Mohameth Ismail Mohamed Rafeek
Ms. Asela Nilakshani Wijethunga

Badulla :
Mr. D. P. L . Anura Kashyapa Perera
Mr. Mudiyaselage Wijitha Mallahava Tennakoon
Mr. W. M. Nalin Sampath Weerasinghe
Mr. W. Dhanushka Weligama

Bandarawela :
Mr. B. M. Buddhika Ruwan Kumara Basnayake
Mr. Sujeewan Hendavitharana
Mr. B. M. Ajantha Kadurugamuwa
Ms. Nalani Madhushika Samanthi Madduma Arachchilage
Mr. Chaminda Kumara Bandara Rajapaksha Mudiyanselage
Mr. Sanjeewa Nishan Wijesekara

Batticaloa :
Mr. Amarasingam Mahalinghasivam
Mr. Pathinathan Mariya Sulojan
Mr. Ajmeer Haja Nawaz Mohamed Ibraheem
Mr. Athamlebbe Munas
Mr. Kandapoody Narayanapillai
Mr. Harigalasagaran Narayanpillai
Mr. Thaddhana Moorthy Sivanathan
Mr. Asaipillai Soundararajah
Mr. Balasubramaniam Uthayaharan
Mr. Aboosalih Uwais
Mr. Francis Xavier Sebastian Vijayakumar
Mr. Vadivelan Vinoba Indran

Balapitiya :
Mr. D. Ravindra L. Assalarachchi
Mr. Laddu Sumith Dhammika De Silva
Mr. Madhura Chinthaka Gonapinnuwala Gamage
Ms. A.R.W.M.B.W. Manel Kumarihamy
Mr. Kande Vithana Lal Shantha
Mr. Wanigamuni Narada Jayaprakash Mendis
Mr. Magina Waruna Charith Mirando
Mr. Payagalage Sudath Priyankara

Baddegama :
Mr. Nanayakkara Egodage Dayantha Nayanakeerthi Abeydeera
Mr. Watagala Gamaralalage Buddhika Chathuranga Amaratunga
Mr. Wisudikumara Priyankara Dambura Liyanage
Mr. Janaka Chandana Pussewathte Gamage

Bibile :
Mr. Hitihamy Mudiyanselage M. Sarath Kumara
Ms. Thakshila Kumari Sooriya Arachchi
Mr. Wijayamuni Udara Zoysa

Colombo :
Dr. J. Romesh De Silva, PC
Mr. Upali. A. Gooneratne, PC
Dr. Kanaganayagam Kanag Isvaran, PC
Mr. M. Faisz Musthapha, PC
Mr. Saliya Kithsiri Mark Pieris, PC
Dr. S. Dhajaya Bandara Abeyaratne
Ms. Mangalika Sakuntala Ayanthi Abeyawickrama
Mr. Rakhitha Shri Dharshana Abeygoonawardhana
Ms. Prasangi Indunil Abeygunawardana
Mr. Abeykoon Mudiyanselage Indika Bandara Abeykoon
Ms. M. M. Kumudunie P. Abeykoon
Mr. A. G. Jagath Abeynayaka
Mr. Hewa Cotage Sajuna Harshan Abeyratna
Mr. Neville Anton Abeyratne, PC
Ms. Handunnettige Michelle Kavindri Abeysena
Mr. Widanage Nisith Vilochana Abeysooriya
Mr. Rajith Lakshan Abeywardhana
Ms. Janani Thimaya Abeywickrema
Mr. Watagalahewage Lahiru Abhayaratna
Ms. W. Kulani Vimansa Abhayaratna
Ms. Boralugodage Sagala Abhayawickreme
Mr. Hussain Ahamed Naveed Ahamed
Ms. Chathurika Lakmali Akurugoda
Mr. Sudantha Alagiyawadu Sudantha
Ms. Buddhika Subhashine Manike Alagiyawanna Mohottalalage
Mr. M.U.M. Ali Sabry, PC
Mr. Dilantha Pushpakumara Aluthge
Mr. Akila Madusanka Bandara Aluthwatte
Mr. R. Gamini Kumara Alwis
Ms. Melody Sitara Amarasinghe
Mr. Amarasinghege Priyantha Upali Amarasinghe
Mr. Rajeev T. Amarasuriya
Ms. Ramanee Amarasuriya
Mr. Sepala Tilak Amarasuriya
Mr. Abeysinghe Wickramaratne Kodippili Arachchige Dhanushke Amarathilake
Ms. Haris Gunawardanage Gamali Pradeepa Amaratunga
Mr. Mahmud Riad Ameen
Mr. A. M. Lakshman Ameresinghe
Mr. Sachira Ruwantha Andrahannadi
Mr. Niran Joshua Anketell
Ms. Conganige Viveka Nadishani Anthony
Mr. Sanjeewa Anuradha Anthony
Mr. Mohamed Uzman Anver
Ms. Divya Apputhanathan
Mr. Kulappu Thanthri Koralalage Prasanna Arampath
Mr. Ganegama Mudalige Sanjaya Srinath Ariyadasa
Ms. Sasheen Chayanika Maryanne Arseculeratne Kannangara
Mr. Rienzie Anicetus Fernando

Arseculeratne, PC
Mr. Frank Neranjan Arulpragasam
Mr. Nalliah Kumaraguruparan Ashokbharan
Mr. Chandima Janaka Atapattu
Mr. Aazath Atham Lebbe
Mr. Sarath Athukorala
Mr. A. M. S. Aruna Kumara Attanayaka
Ms. Theranjani Thushari Kumudunie Attanayake
Mr. Shanmuganathan Bagirathan
Mr. Himashe Isuru Balapatabendi
Ms. Rashini Geethma Balasooriya
Ms. Karnika Dayanganie Bamunuarachchi
Mr. W. M. N. Thulith Pathmila Bandara
Ms. G. A. Chamila Dilhani Bandara
Mr. K. M. Sineth Kassapa Bandara
Mr. Udumulla Lekamlage Gamini Bandara
Mr. Sharlan Kevin Benedict
Ms. Imasha Kavindi Beragama Vithanage
Ms. Noor Hana Bishrul Haffee
Ms. Madhumadhavi Ushani Bombuwalage Don
Mr. Nuwan Sanjeewa Bopage
Ms. Welikadage Sandun Dhanuska Boteju
Mr. Welatantrige Chandana Boteju
Ms. Paranavidanelage Sanjai Apsara Bothejue
Mr. Sakeen Abdul Cader
Mr. H.sugath Caldera
Mr. Mohiyadeen Mehran Abdulla Careem
Mr. Rathnayaka Mudiyanselage Probodha Chinthaka
Mr. Udara Pathmal Colomba Muhandiramge
Mr. Nawalage Lovi Sebastian Ruwantha Cooray
Ms. M. Isuri Amalki Cooray
Mr. Joseph Shanaka Lakith Cooray
Mr. Shivan J. D. Coorey
Mr. S. Viran Corea, PC
Mr. R. L. S. Crishokumar Jayarathne
Dr. P. Ravindranath Dabare
Mr. D. L. A. Sujeewa Lal Kumara Dahanayake
Ms. Pulara Rahuli Dankotuwa
Mr. S. D. A. Sanjeewa Dasanayake
Ms. Pavithra Kalani Dasanayake
Mr. Matthew Virosh David
Mr. L. Nisasiri Dayananda
Mr. R. Ranga Dayananda
Mr. P. G. Senany J. Dayaratne
Mr. Wagachige Dayaratne, PC
Mr. Withanage Preethiviraj Vindhya Dayaratne, PC
Ms. Leanage Rosette Thilini De Alwis
Ms. K. A. C. De Alwis
Mr. Hiran M. C. De Alwis
Mr. Kalutarawedage Piyal Lasantha De Fonseka
Mr. Sudesh Vishwa Kavinda De Livera Tennekoon
Mr. Widanalage Harith Wyanga De Mel
Mr. Senaka Rohan De Saram
Ms. Sachinthya Gangulali De Silva
Mr. Edirimuni Nadeesh Rangana De Silva
Mr. M.p.athula Priyadarshana De Silva
Ms. Dadallage Samuddini Kaushalya De Silva
Mr. H. Mervyn Nandalal De Silva
Ms. Kalinga Nimesha De Silva
Ms. Malluwa Wadu Gimeshika Ruwanwada De Silva
Mr. Niranjan Kolitha De Silva
Ms. Bodahandige Shabee Dilrukshi De Silva
Ms. T. Kamini Dinusha De Silva
Mr. K. Pavithra Manujaya De Silva
Dr. G. Dan Malika De Silva Gunasekera
Mr. A. W. Nalin Chandika De Silva (Alagiya Wadu)
Mr. Manohara Ratnavibushana De Silva, PC
Mr. Udaya Rohan De Silva, PC
Mr. Eraj Arjuna Gihan De Silva,PC
Ms. Samantha Nirmala De Soysa
Mr. E. Kuvera Isuru De Zoysa, PC
Mr. Jayantha Chandrasiri Dehi Aththage
Ms. Wewage Thusitha Ridmika Dep
Ms. Anne Devahi Devananda
Mr. Ranasuriya Arachchige Ruchira Devapriya
Mr. Asthika Upul Devendra
Mr. Sampath Darshana Lakshan Wijewardena Dhanapala Mudiyanselage
Ms. Kavindya Dharmaratnam
Mr. Dinoo Swarup Dharmaratne
Mr. Akarawitge Don Dishan Chanaka Dharmasena
Ms. Gardi Hewage Achala Tisaru Dharmawickrama
Mr. Chaminda Jayanath Dheerasinghe
Mr. G. S. Lakshan Jagath S. Dias
Ms. Subasinghe Nissanga Tina Piume Alanka Dias
Ms. A. A. P. Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe, PC
Mr. M. Mithun Hemanja Diasz
Ms. Abheetha Dinethri Nandakumara Dikwella Widanage
Ms. Harshini Lathika R. Dissanayake
Mr. Supun Lakwin Dissanayake
Ms. Wannisinghage Nisansala Samanthi Dissanayake
Ms. Dissanayake Mudiyanselage Dhanushika Gayani Dissanayake
Mr. Doratiyawe Wijepala Athapaththu Mudiyanse Ralahamillage Patalee Kaushalya Doratiyawa
Mr. Migara Methlochana Christy Doss
Mr. Dunusinghe Mudiyanselage Punyajith Shasana Bandara Herath Dunusinghe
Mr. Mahinda Joris Edirisinghe
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Ms. Walimuni Dewage Prabuddhi Nipunika De Silva Karunathilaka
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Mr. B. Shevon C. P. Gooneratne
Ms. W. A. Chamarika Sonalie Jayathissa (Rathnayake)
Mr. Colambapatabendige Yohan Mayura Jinasena
Ms. Vithanage Kalyani Karunatilleke
Mr. P. K. Malshantha Nilruwan Kulasuriya
Mr. Mahamaddage Udara Menuka Kalhara Perera
Mr. Kelaniyage Diluka Madusanka Silva
Ms. Thathsarani Muthumali Singhabahu Arachchige
Mr. W. Danasekare Tissera

Polonnaruwa :
Mr. O. S. M. Abdul Cader
Mr. Ariyasena Gallage
Mr. Abdul Haleem Mohammed Razeek
Mr. Mohideen Samsudeen
Mr. Rathnagala Arachchilage Lakshman Priyankara Wijesiri

Point Pedro :
Mr. Ponnambalam Kumarasamy
Mr. Muttukumaru Kanagasegaram Muttukumar
Mr. Rajeevan Nadarajah
Mr. T. Thanushan Thangarajah

Puttalam :
Mr. Mohamed Althaf Abul Hudha

Mr. Sahudu Siraj Mohamed Sajjath
Mr. Hanif Nadvi Navavi
Mr. Paththavamage Shonal Siyantha Perera
Mr. Abdul Majeed Samsu Rafi
Mr. Abu Haniffa Wasim Raja
Mrs. H.A.D.S.C. Senarathna

Pugoda :
Mr. S. M. A. Kamal Sumith Kumara
Mr. Karandana Vidanalage Palitha Kumara
Mr. Divulapitiya Kankanamalage Sanjaya Ranatunga
Mr. Uswatte Liyanage Newton Uswatte
Mr. Don Alexander Piyasena Weeratna, PC
MRS. H.A.D.S.C. Senarathna

Pelmadulla :
Mr. Don Neshan Chamantha Amarasekara
Mr. Hiththatiya Arachchilage Bandu Jayanath Hiththatiya
Mr. W. M. Lochana Nanda Kumara Wijekoon

Pottuvil :
Mr. Mohamed Sathir Aboobucker
Mr. Salahudeen Alim Ahmed Munasudeen
Mr. Pakkir Mohideen Wathooth

Ratnapura :
Mr. Dushan Tharindu Arrawwala
Mr. Susitha Nuwan Dangaha Mannalage
Mr. Lalitha Dharmapriya Gunawardhane
Ms. Sandhya Priyadarshani Haputhanthri
Mr. H. Nilantha Pradeep Hettikandage
Mr. Yakkamedille Lionel Priyantha Ruwan Karunatilaka
Mr. Malalage Lalith Asoka Peiris
Mr. Wijesuriya Arachchige Sanath Ranjan Perera
Mr. R. M. B. Chandrasena Rathnamalala Bandara
Mr. Gamini Ratnayake
Mr. H. Indika Rupasinghe
Mr. Pandula Badrajith Wanniarachchi

Ruwanwella :
Mr. H. R. Anura Jayasiri
Mr. N. K. Wimal Jayasiri
Mr. E. Wasantha Kumara Samaraweera
Mr. Ilandari Devege Ranjith Wijesinghe

Sammanthurai :
Mr. Yoosuf Mohamed Anver Siyath
Mr. Mohideen Bawa Mohamed Fowzan
Mr. Seeni Mohammed Mohammed Musthapha

Tangalle :
Mr. Tharanga Subhashana Dahanayakage
Ms. Liyanaarachchi Dilani
Mr. Pradeep Weerakoon Rajapaksha
Mr. Duminda Lakshman Rathnayaka Mudiyanselage

Trincomalee :
Mr. Abdul Majeed Abdul Muheed
Mr. Abdul Majeed Anif Lebbe
Mr. T. Karikalan
Mr. Jainudeen Mohamed Laheer
Mr. Ali Sahufar Mohamed Rafees
Mr. Mohammed Caseem Sabarullah
Mr. R. Thirukumaranathan
Ms. Prashandini Uthayakumar

Tissamaharama :
Mr. Chamara Krishantha Abeysinghe Liyana Arachchige
Ms. Kahawe Dadalle Hewage Geethika Samanmalee Piyasena
Mr. Gunasoma Wickremasinghe

Thambuttegama :
Ms. Chandra Kumari Herath Herath Mudiyanselage Hadille
Mr. Buddika Lewkebandara
Mr. R. M. Koshala Prasanna Yasarathne

Udugama :
Ms. Iresha Dulanjani Kankanamge
Mrs. Dilani Kariyawasam
Ms. Krishanthi Wathsala Wijesekera

Vavuniya :
Mr. Anton Thuraisingham Jeyananthan
Mr. Mohamed Rasheed Mohamed Safees
Mr. Pathinathar Anton Punethanayagam
Mr. Ketheeswaran Selvanayagam
Mr. Jetharshan Shanmugampillai
Mr. Kandasamy Thayaparan

Valaichenai :
Mr. Shahabdeen Elavaththamby
Mr. Mohamed Aliyar Mohamed Siddeeq
Mr. Habeebu Lebbe Mohammed Rifan

Wattala :
Mr. H. T. Amitha Ariyaratne
Mr. Channa Anthony Gunawardena
Mr. K. Premnath Kalehewatte
Mr. Kainawala Liyanage Newton Perera

Warakapola :
Mr. Indrajith Sukitha Ekanayake Ameresekere
Mr. Sudarsha Nandika Liyanasekara
Ms. Chitrani Ranasinghe Weerasekera
Ms. Liyanaraachchilage Tecla Nilmini Wijesinghe

Wellawaya :
Mr. T. M. Bandusena
Mr. Liyana Arachchie Kankanamge Ajith Kumara
Mrs. R. M. Lakmini Thushari Piyasena

Welimada :
Mr. D. M. Nalin Champika Dissanayake
Mr. Suneth Bandara Ekanayake
Ms. Bashini P. K. W. Tennakoon

Wariyapola :
Mr. Abeykoon Mudiyanselage Nalin Jayaminda Abeykoon
Mr. S. P. Sunil Abeywardane
Ms. R. M. Samantha Kumari (Rajapakshe)

Walasmulla :
Mr. Aruna Chinthaka Bandaranayake
Mr. Walimunige Senarath Subasinghe

Walapane :
Ms. Mudiyanselage Rathnayaka Chandani Kumari Rathnayaka
Mr. Geethathayananthan Selvam
Ms. S. S. H. M. Bhadra Menike Senevirathne

51st CONVOCATION

Held on 29th March, 2025 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo 07.
Chief Guest: Her Ladyship Murdu Fernando, President's Counsel.

- Arrival of Her Ladyship Murdu Fernando PC, Chief Justice, Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice and National Integration, Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe PC, Attorney General, His Lordship Mohammed Thahir Laffar, Acting President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Viraj Dayaratne PC, Solicitor General and other distinguished Guests who will be welcomed by the President and the Management Committee of the BASL
- Arrival of the President Elect Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya accompanied by his Proposers and Seconders
- Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp
- National Anthem
- Announcement of the results of the election for the post of President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2025 / 2026 by Hon. Solicitor General.
- Induction of the President Elect of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka by Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe PC the Attorney General
- Announcement of the results of the election for the post of the Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the year 2025 / 2026 by Hon. Viraj Dayaratne PC. Solicitor General
- Announcement of the results of the election for the posts of Deputy President, Zonal Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the year 2025 / 2026 by the Secretary, Mr. Chathura Galhena
- Address by the Her Ladyship Murdu Fernando PC, Chief Justice
- Address by Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice and National Integration
- Address by the President, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya.
- Closing Remarks by the Secretary, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Chathura A Galhena.












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Induction Speech by THE PRESIDENT, BASL



Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President, BASL

PRESIDENT RAJEEV AMARASURIYA SETS OUT A VISION FOR A STRONG, INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE BAR

Delivering his Convocation Address, President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya began by expressing heartfelt appreciation to the Chief Justice, Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, other members of the Judiciary, the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General, and the Solicitor General for their presence. Despite it being a long weekend coinciding with several religious festivals, the large attendance, he said, reflected the commitment and solidarity of the legal fraternity.

A Mandate for Renewal

Mr. Amarasuriya thanked the membership for the confidence reposed in him at what he described as a "unique election," marked by both competition and learning. The experience, he said, strengthened his resolve to ensure that future BASL elections remain within professional and principled parameters.

He paid tribute to his distinguished proposers and seconders, Dr. Faisz Musthapha, PC, Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC, Mr. Srinath M. Perera, PC, Mr. W. Dayaratne, PC, Mr. Shammil. J. Perera, PC, Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC, President of the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association, Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, SIA, Former Treasurer BASL, Mrs. Ramani De Saram; President of the Point Pedro Lawyers' Association, Mr. M. K. Muthukumar; President Colombo Magistrate's Court Lawyers' Association, Mr. Guneratne Wanninayake; President of the High Court Lawyers' Association, Mrs. Inoka Perera, and Prof. Wasantha Seneviratne, AAL, from the Law Faculty University of Colombo.

He also acknowledged with deep appreciation the overwhelming support he received from the Bar and those who worked tirelessly to support him, and those who stood by him when a frivolous case sought to postpone the election just two days before the poll.

He recalled that when first invited to contest, his wife had asked whether he truly needed to take on the burden. His answer, unchanged since then, was that the legal profession had much room for improvement and his conscience would not allow him to ignore that responsibility.

Elected on a strong mandate for reform, he pledged to serve every member of the Bar — without discrimination or favour, emphasizing that the Bar is greater than any individual and that its wellbeing and integrity must remain the collective priority.

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee

Referring to the recent launch of the Golden Jubilee Commemorative Volume of the BASL Journal, Mr. Amarasuriya noted that the Association had entered a historic milestone — fifty years since formation. While not ignoring past challenges, he urged members to look forward with renewed purpose.

He articulated a clear vision: to build a Bar that is strong, independent, principle-driven, empathetic, inclusive, and professionally run; one that is respected nationally and internationally and prioritizes member welfare over profit. He emphasized the importance of understanding the Bar's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in order to guide meaningful reform.

Reforming Justice through Technology and Efficiency

Highlighting the slow progress of justice-sector reforms, the President observed that many issues within the administration of justice have persisted for decades. While appreciating recent digital initiatives such as electronic bail applications and model courts, he stressed that much more must be done to modernize Sri Lanka's legal infrastructure across the length and breadth of the island.

He pledged that under his leadership, the BASL would support all initiatives to automate and digitize court registries across the country and advocate for uniformity in land registries through clear practice directions. In addition, he underscored the need for consistent court administration, structured case scheduling and time management, and virtual court systems to reduce delays and inefficiencies.

Mr. Amarasuriya also emphasized the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in transforming the legal process. Citing Justice Surya Kant of India's Supreme Court, who has introduced AI-enabled transcription in court proceedings, he said such innovation could strengthen transparency and accuracy in judicial decision-making.

Strengthening Legal Education, Ethics and Governance

Continuous Legal Education (CLE), he noted, will remain a cornerstone of his Presidency. The BASL will revive the popular Webinar Series and the Neethi Sasi programme, while expanding in-person training across the island.

Drawing on his past experience as Secretary, he recalled that between 2020 and 2022, more than 175 webinars were conducted with 500 members serving as resource persons — a model of inclusivity and shared knowledge he intends to continue.

He also highlighted the need to update the BASL Code of Ethics, establish a clear appeal and review mechanism for disciplinary matters, and ensure that hearings are conducted with dignity and confidentiality. "We must commence a dialogue on ethics," he said, urging the Bar Council to pursue reforms that align Sri Lanka with global best practices.

Promoting Inclusivity and Representation

A recurring theme of the address was inclusivity — ensuring that the benefits and opportunities of the Bar reach all members, across sectors and regions.

He emphasized the need for stronger governance controls, transparency, and financial discipline, while welcoming the wider representation now seen in the Bar Council.

Addressing the generational gap within the profession, he described the distinct traits of Generation X, Millennials, and Gen Z, and the challenges and opportunities arising from their coexistence. He proposed structured mentorships, professional development programmes, and open dialogue to bridge this divide, enabling younger practitioners to learn from experience while seniors adapt to new technologies and expectations.

He also called for gender inclusivity through enhanced representation of women, improved court amenities, and awareness programmes addressing the specific challenges faced by women lawyers.

Upholding the Rule of Law and the Independence of the Judiciary

Reaffirming the Bar's historic role as Defender of the Judiciary, Mr. Amarasuriya assured that under his leadership, the BASL would continue to uphold the rule of law, safeguard judicial independence, and protect the fundamental rights of the people. He expressed concern over recent incidents of extrajudicial killings and stressed that the Bar must not only raise its voice but also work with stakeholders to prevent recurrence.

He emphasized the importance of a respectful and cooperative Bench–Bar relationship, noting that both are part of a single system of justice that depends on mutual respect. The BASL, he said, would engage constructively with the Chief Justice and Attorney General on emerging

issues, including concerns under the new Contempt of Court law, which he described as "draconian and open to misuse."

He also said that he was most surprised to hear of proceedings the day before in the Puttalam Court under the new Contempt Law and that all necessary action in this regard would be taken forthwith.

Investing in Justice

The President observed that many weaknesses in the justice system stem from insufficient resources allocated by successive governments. He called on policymakers to invest adequately in the judiciary, the Attorney General's Department, and law-enforcement agencies, warning that under-resourcing not only delays justice but also undermines investor confidence and national progress.

A Call to Collective Duty

In closing, Mr. Amarasuriya reaffirmed his commitment to principle and duty, he reminded members that as citizens and legal professionals, "we have a bounden duty to build a nation that upholds the rule of law, human dignity, equality and integrity." The BASL, he said, will move forward guided by those ideals — independent, innovative and inclusive — in the service of the profession and the people of Sri Lanka.











Convocation Closing Remarks by THE SECRETARY BASL



Mr. Chathura A. Galhena, Secretary, BASL

Her Ladyship the Chief Justice, Hon. Minister, Hon. Attorney General, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and all distinguished guests — Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we draw this 51st Convocation of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to a close, I take a brief moment to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the dignitaries who graciously accepted our invitation and are present here this evening.

First and foremost, our sincere gratitude goes to Her Ladyship the Chief Justice, Hon. Murdu Fernando, PC, Hon. Minister Harshana Nanayakkara, Hon. Justice M. M. T. Lafar, Acting President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Attorney General Parinda Ranasinghe, PC, Hon. Solicitor General Viraj Dayaratne, PC, the Honourable Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, other Judicial Officers, representatives of foreign missions, former Chief Justices and retired Judges, distinguished invitees, and members of the Bar.

On behalf of the Management Committee of the BASL, I express our deep appreciation for your presence at this momentous occasion of the Association. I also wish to extend a special word of thanks to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event a success — the organizing team, the President's Chamber, and the dedicated staff of the BASL, who meticulously handled the invitations, communications, and logistical arrangements. Their commitment and attention ensured that today's event ran seamlessly.

As the President noted earlier, punctuality and discipline are essential values we seek to uphold. We commenced sharp at 6.45 p.m., and though we are only a minute or two behind schedule, we will conclude almost exactly on time — a small but meaningful example of our commitment to efficiency.

As we now step into the 51st year of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka having marked our Golden Jubilee we look forward to celebrating this milestone throughout the year under new leadership and with renewed energy. With the enthusiasm and dedication of our new Executive Committee, I am confident that together we will build upon the strong foundation laid over the past five decades and leave behind a legacy that both the legal profession and the nation will look back with pride.

Thank you all once again for your presence, support, and goodwill. May all be blessed.

THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

The Special General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka ("BASL") was held on 15th February 2026, over 2000 members attended the meeting.

The meeting was convened in the aftermath of the brutal assassination of Mr. Buddhika Mallawa Arachchi, Attorney-at-Law and his wife in broad daylight near a high security area.

Taking into consideration the grave concerns expressed by the membership about the existential threat faced by Attorneys-at-Law, as highlighted by this inhuman assassination of Mr. Mallawa Arachchi, AAL and the similar dangers faced by the members of the Judiciary, as shown by the shocking murder of late Hon. Sarath Ambepitya, High Court Judge in November 2004, and with a view to demonstrating the collective desire of the membership to meaningfully express its strong resolve to assist in the process of remedying this grave situation, the membership unanimously decided as follows:

1. To compel the Government to take urgent and robust measures to bring an end to the current culture of brutal killings and to ensure public security;
2. All Attorneys-at-Law to refrain from appearing in all Courts throughout the country on Monday, 16th February 2026;
3. To call upon the Law Enforcement Authorities to forthwith apprehend the perpetrators of these brutal killings and to expeditiously take steps according to law;
4. To express the utmost displeasure of the BASL, with regard to the public circulation and attempts of narrative creation through unverified information attributed as having been communicated by the Police.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) that a Special General meeting is called in terms of Article 12A of the Constitution of the BASL to be called on the direction of the Executive Committee meeting held on 14th February 2026.

Date	:	Sunday, 15th February 2026
Time	:	3.00 PM
Venue	:	Dr. H.W. Jayawardena QC Auditorium, BASL Secretariat, No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 1
Agenda	:	Brutal assassination of an Attorney-at-Law and his spouse on 13th February 2026 at Akuregoda.

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary, BASL

The members also partook in demonstrations in protest of this brutal act in Hulftsdorp and Branch Bars across the country.



A media statement was also issued condemning the tragic shooting and strongly urging the Police to conduct a thorough and expeditious investigation into this incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and ensure that they are brought before the law without delay.

The BASL further urged that concrete and positive steps be taken by the Law Enforcement

Authorities to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

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இலங்கை சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கம்
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA
HONOURING OUR LEGACY, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

14th February 2026

NOTICE

THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA.

Date	:	Sunday, 15th February 2026
Time	:	3.00 PM
Venue	:	Dr. H.W. Jayawardena QC Auditorium, BASL Secretariat, No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12

Notice is hereby given to the General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in terms of Article 12A of the Constitution of the BASL to be called on the direction of the Executive Committee meeting held on 14th February 2026.

Please note that the notice requirement as per Article 12A(d) of the BASL Constitution was decided to be dispensed with in consideration of the urgency of the matter to be discussed at the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Urgent matters**

1.1. Brutal assassination of an Attorney-at-Law and his spouse on 13th February 2026 at Akuregoda.

Chathura A Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

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இலங்கை சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கம்

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

15th February 2026

BRIEFING OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

The General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka ("BASL") gathered in large numbers today, 15th February 2026, at a Special General Meeting of the membership, convened in view of the brutal killing of Mr. Buddhika Mallawa Arachchi, *Attorney-at-Law* and his wife in broad daylight in a high security area.

Taking into consideration the grave concerns expressed by the membership about the existential threat faced by Attorneys-at-Law, as highlighted by this inhuman assassination of Mr. Mallawa Arachchi, AAL and the similar dangers faced by the Judiciary, as shown by the shocking murder of later Hon. Sarath Ambepitya, High Court Judge in November 2004, and with a view to demonstrating the collective desire of the membership to meaningfully express its strong resolve to assist in the process of remedying this grave situation, the membership unanimously decided as follows:

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Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

President Rajeev Amarasuriya | Deputy President Rienzie Arseculeratne PC | Secretary Chathura A. Galhena | Treasurer Pasindu Silva | Assistant Secretar Sarinda Jayaward

No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12, Sri Lanka.
Telephone : +94 11 2447134, +94 11 2331697, Fax : +94 11 2331697 E-mail : info@basl.lk Web : www.basl.lk









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Ceylon Today 17th of February 2026, 1p

LAWYERS' BOYCOTT BRINGS COURTS TO STANDSTILL

Hearings adjourned islandwide

Legal fraternity demands end to 'culture of killings'

BASL calls for swift arrests and stronger public security

Black flags raised in court premises in symbolic protest

BY KUMUDU UPUL SHANTHA

Court proceedings across Sri Lanka were severely disrupted yesterday (16) as lawyers withdrew from professional duties in protest against the fatal shooting of an attorney and his wife in Akuregoda, urging the Government to guarantee public safety and restore confidence in the justice system.

The islandwide boycott, unanimously endorsed at a special general meeting of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), formed part of four resolutions adopted in the aftermath of the killings. Lawyers hoisted black flags within court premises as a mark of protest, signalling what they described as a grave threat to the independence and safety of the legal profession.

Continued on Page 2

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අකුරේගොඩ සුපිරි වෙළෙඳසලක රථ ගාලක් තුළදී නීතිඥවරයකු සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිය වෙඩි තබා ඝාතනය කිරීමේ සිද්ධියට විරෝධය පළ කරමින් සියලු අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය ගෙන ඇති තීරණයට අනුව උතුරු මැද පළාතේ සියලු නීතිඥවරුන් අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඊයේ (16දා) ඉවත් වීය.

ඒ අනුව මෙලෙස උතුරු මැද පළාතේ අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වූයේ අනුරාධපුර, කැකිරාව, කැබිතිගොල්ලෑව, තඹුත්තේගම, නොච්චියාගම, මැදවච්චිය, කහටගස්දිගිලිය, පොළොන්නරුව සහ හිඟුරක්ගොඩ නීතිඥ සංගමී නියෝජනය කරන නීතිඥවරුන්ය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය ගෙන ඇති තීරණයට අනුව තමන් ඊයේ (16දා) දිනයේ සියලු අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වන බව උතුරු මැද පළාතේ සියලු නීතිඥ සංගම්වල සභාපතිවරුන් සහ ලේකම්වරුන් ඒ ඒ අධිකරණවල විනිසුරුවරුන් හමු වී දැනුම්වත් කිරීමට පියවර ගෙන තිබිණි.

මෙම තත්ත්වය මත ඊයේ (16දා) දිනයේ උතුරු මැද පළාතේ සියලු අධිකරණවල නඩු විභාග කිරීමේ කටයුතු මුළුමනින්ම ඇනහිට තිබිණි. ඇතැම් අධිකරණවල නඩු කැඳවීමේ කටයුතු සිදු කර ඊයේ දිනයට නියමිතව තිබූ නඩු යළි කැඳවන දිනයන් ජනතාවට දැනුම්දීම සිදු කරන අයුරුද දක්නට ලැබිණි. ඇතැම් අධිකරණවල ඊයේ කැඳවීමට නියමිතව තිබූ නඩු යළි කැඳවන දිනයක් දැන්වීම මගින් මහජනතාවට ප්‍රදර්ශනය කිරීමට අධිකරණ රෙජිස්ට්‍රාර්වරුන් කටයුතු කරන අයුරුද දක්නට ලැබිණි. ඒ අධිකරණ විනිසුරුවරුන්ගේ උපදෙස් මතයි. නීතිඥවරුන්ගේ වැඩ වැරුමත් සමඟ උතුරු මැද පළාතේ නඩු විභාග කිරීමේ කටයුතු සිදු නොවූ මහාධිකරණ සංඛ්‍යාව 4කි. ඒ උතුරු මැද පළාත්බද මහාධිකරණය, අනුරාධපුර අංක 2 මහාධිකරණය, අනුරාධපුර අංක 3 මහාධිකරණය සහ පොළොන්නරුව මහාධිකරණයයි. ඊයේ දිනයේ උතුරු මැද පළාතේ නඩු විභාග කිරීමේ කටයුතු සිදු නොවූ දිසා අධිකරණ සංඛ්‍යාව 5කි. එම දිසා අධිකරණ වන්නේ අනුරාධපුර, කැකිරාව, කැබිතිගොල්ලෑව, පොළොන්නරුව සහ හිඟුරක්ගොඩයි.

නඩු විභාග කිරීමේ කටයුතු ඊයේ දිනයේ සිදු නොවූ උතුරු මැද පළාතේ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණ සංඛ්‍යාව 12කි. එම මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණ වන්නේ අනුරාධපුර ප්‍රධාන මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණය, අනුරාධපුර අංක 2 සහ 3 මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණ, කැබිතිගොල්ලෑව, මැදවච්චිය, කැකිරාව, තඹුත්තේගම, නොච්චියාගම, කහටගස්දිගිලිය, පොළොන්නරුව සහ හිඟුරක්ගොඩ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයි. ඊට අමතරව අනුරාධපුර සහ පොළොන්නරුව කම්කරු විනිශ්චයාධිකරණ දෙකෙහිද නඩු විභාග කිරීමේ කටයුතු ඊයේ දිනයේ ඇනහිට තිබිණි. මෙම අධිකරණවල නඩු කටයුතුවලට පෙනී සිටීමට නීතිඥවරුන් නොපැමිණියද සියලුම විනිසුරුවන් පාහේ තම අධිකරණ නිල මැදිරි වෙත පැමිණ සිටින අයුරු මෙන්ම නීතිඥවරුන් තම නඩු කටයුතු සඳහා නොසිටීම හේතුවෙන් සේවාදායකයින් දැඩි අසීරුතාවට පත්ව සිටින අයුරුද දක්නට ලැබිණි.

■ අනුරාධපුර - අධිකරණ උපාලි ආනන්ද

මව්බිම 2026 පෙබරවාරි 17, පි.11

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මතුගම නීතිඥයෝ පාරට බැස



■ බුලත්සිංහල ලක්ම් කුඩලිගම සහ මතුගම අධිකරණ මහීපාල ජයලත්

බත්තරමුල්ල අකුරේගොඩ සුපිරි වෙළෙඳසලක් අසලදී නීතිඥවරයෙකු සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිඳ ඝාතනය කිරීමේ සිද්ධියට විරෝධය පා අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත්ව මතුගම අධිකරණයේ නීතිඥවරු පිරිසක් ඊයේ (16) මතුගම අධිකරණ සංකීර්ණය ඉදිරිපිටදී විරෝධතාවක නිර වූහ. නීතිඥ වෘත්තියට අත නොතබන ලෙස නීතිඥ ඝාතකයින් වහා අත්අඩංගුවට ගන්න ලෙස සඳහන් පුවරු අතැතිව බලකරමින් මෙ විරෝධතාව පැවැත්වූහ.

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Lawyers march in solidarity with murdered peers



Lawyers in Anuradhapura participating in protest march against the murder of a lawyer and his wife in Akuregoda. *Picture by B G Chaturanga, Anuradhapura Cor.*

DENETH SANKALANA

A group of lawyers, led by Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) President Rajeev Amarasuriya, marched from the Supreme Court complex to the BASL head office to protest at the recent murder of an attorney and his wife in the Akuregoda area.

Addressing the media during the protest, Amarasuriya stressed their action was intended to highlight the urgent need to prevent such acts of violence not only against members of the legal profession but against all citizens. He emphasised that ensuring public safety and upholding law and order are fundamental responsibilities of the government, adding that the BASL will cooperate fully to strengthen these efforts.

The BASL had earlier convened its membership in Colombo on Friday (15) to deliberate on further action following the double homicide. At the meeting, members resolved to boycott court appearances countrywide today as a mark of protest. As a follow-up to their decision, attorneys across the island withdrew from court proceedings and black flags were seen flying outside several court complexes as a symbol of mourning and protest.

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අකුරේගොඩ ඝාතනයට එරෙහිව රටපුරා නීතිඥවරු විරෝධයක

මහනුවර



■ මහනුවර - අසේල කුරුළුවංශ

නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවාරච්චි සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිය අමානුෂික ලෙස ඝාතනය කිරීම හෙළා දකිමින් මහනුවර නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සාමාජිකයන් මහනුවර අධිකරණ සංකීර්ණය ඉදිරිපිටට රැස්ව ඊයේ (16දා) දහවල් විරෝධතාවක නිරත වූහ.

මවු සංගමයේ තීරණයට අනුව ඊයේ (16දා) දිනයේ අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලට සම්බන්ධ නොවූ මහනුවර නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සාමාජිකයන් මහ සභා රැස්වීමක් කැඳවා ගනු ලැබූ තීරණයකට අනුව මෙම විරෝධතාව දියත් කළ බව මහනුවර නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති නීතිඥ සුහිල් වීරකෝන් මහතා කීය.

මහියංගණය



■ මහියංගණ - රංජිත් කරුණාවීර

නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවආරච්චි මහතා හා ඔහුගේ බිරියගේ ඝාතනයට විරෝධය දක්වමින්, මහියංගණ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ නඩු කටයුතුවලට ඊයේ (16දා) දින ඉදිරිපත් නොවූ නීතිඥවරු දහවල් 12ට පමණ මහියංගණ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණය ඉදිරිපිට නිහඬ විරෝධතාවක නිරත වූ අතර උසාවිය ඉදිරිපිට කළු කොඩිද ඔසවා තිබෙනු දක්නට ලැබිණි.

හිඟුරක්ගොඩ - පොළොන්නරුව

■ මනම්පිටිය - නිමල් ජයරත්න

ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය විසින් ගත් තීරණයට අනුව පොළොන්නරුව සහ හිඟුරක්ගොඩ නීතිඥවරුන්ද ඊයේ (16දා) අධිකරණ ඉදිරිපිට කළු කොඩි ඔසවා විරෝධය පළ කළහ.

ඒ අනුව හිඟුරක්ගොඩ සහ පොළොන්නරුව අධිකරණවල කටයුතුවලින් නීතිඥවරුන් ඉවත්වීමත් සමඟ අධිකරණ කටයුතු සඳහා පැමිණි මහජනතාව දැඩි පීඩාවට පත්වූහ.



බද්දේගම

■ බද්දේගම - ඕ. කමලනාථ

අකුරේගොඩ ඝාතන සිද්ධියට විරෝධය පළ කිරීම සඳහා බද්දේගම අධිකරණ සංකීර්ණයේ නීතිඥවරු 16 වැනිදා නඩු කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත්ව සිටියහ.

බද්දේගම දිසා අධිකරණය සහ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ 16 වැනිදා පැවැති නඩු වෙනුවෙන් කිසිදු නීතිඥයෙක් පෙනී නොසිටි බව බද්දේගම නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ප්‍රකාශකයෙක් සඳහන් කළේය.

බද්දේගම අධිකරණ සංකීර්ණය අසල නීතිඥ කාර්යාල වසා දමා "කළු කොඩි" ප්‍රදර්ශනය කර තිබිණි.

නුවරඑළිය

■ නෝර්වුඩ් - නිටා පත්ම කුමාරි



නුවරඑළිය ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණයේ, මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ සහ දිසා අධිකරණයේ පෙනී සිටින සියලුම නීතිඥයන් (16දා) නඩු කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වන බවට නුවරඑළිය දිසා අධිකරණයේ මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් ලංකාංගනී ප්‍රබුද්ධිකා මෙනෙවිය වෙත දැනුම් දීමෙන් පසු තමන් අධිකරණ කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වූ බව නීතිඥවරු පැවැසූහ.

නුවරඑළිය ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණයේ, මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ සහ දිසා අධිකරණයේ 16 වැනි දින කැඳවූ නඩුවල නීතිඥයන් පෙනී සිටින සියලුම නඩු වෙනත් දිනයක කැඳවීමට මහෙස්ත්‍රාත්වරයා නියෝග කළේය.

මතුගම

■ ඉත්තපාන - කුමාර ගම්මැද්ද



නීතිඥ ඝාතනයට එරෙහිව මතුගම අධිකරණයේ නීතිඥ සංගමයද ඊයේ (16දා) මතුගම අධිකරණ පරිශ්‍රය ඉදිරියේ විරෝධතාවේ නියැළිණි.

මව්බිම 2026 පෙබරවාරි 17, පි.6

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කළු කොඩි ඔසවමින් විරෝධයේ

■ හොරණ චමිලා අල්විස්

නීතිඥ යුවළක් වෙඩි තබා ඝාතනය කිරීමේ සිද්ධිය සම්බන්ධයෙන් හොරණ මහේස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ නීතිඥ සංගමයේ නීතිඥයන් 16 දා විරෝධතාවයක් සංවිධානය කර තිබිණි.

මෙහිදී නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සියලු නීතිඥවරු කළු කොඩි ඔසවමින් සිය විරෝධතාවය පළ කළහ. මෙම අවස්ථාවේදී අදහස් පළ කරමින් හොරණ නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති සමන්ත මල්ලවාරච්චි මහතා පැවසුවේ බත්තරමුල්ල අකුරේගොඩ ප්‍රදේශයේ හමුදා මූලස්ථානය අසල සුපිරි වෙළඳසැලක් ආසන්නයේ රථ ගාලක් තුළ වාහනයේ සිටියදීම නීතිඥයකු සහ බිරිඳ ඝාතනය කිරීමේ සිද්ධිය සම්බන්ධයෙන් සිය විරෝධතාවය පළ කරන බවයි.

මෙලෙස මහමඟ පුද්ගලයින් ඝාතනය කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් රජයට සහ ආරක්ෂක අමාත්‍යවරයාට මෙන්ම සියලුම ආරක්ෂක අංශවලටද මෙම ක්‍රියා නවත්වන ලෙස බල කරන බවද නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති මල්ලවාරච්චි මහතා පැවසීය.

ලංකාදීප 2026
පෙබරවාරි 17, පි.8



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බදුල්ල



■ **බදුල්ල - ජයලත් දිසානායක**

පසුගියදා ඝාතනයට ලක්වුණු නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවආරච්චි මහතාට සහ ඔහුගේ බිරියට සිදු වූ අවාසනාවන්ත සිද්ධියට සම්බන්ධ සැකකරුවන් අත්අඩංගුවට ගෙන ඔවුන්ට නීතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන්නැයි ඉල්ලා බදුල්ල නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සාමාජිකයන් ඊයේ (16දා) නඩු කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වී විරෝධතාවක් දැක් වූ බව බදුල්ල නීතිඥ සංගමයේ වත්මන් සභාපති නීතිඥ ධනුෂ්ක වැලිගම මහතා පැවැසීය.

මවිබිම 2026 පෙබරවාරි 17, පි.6

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කල්මුණේ

මවිබිම 2026 පෙබරවාරි 17, පි.6



■ **අම්පාර - ධනුෂ්කා දිල්හාණි**

අකුරේගොඩ ප්‍රදේශයේදී නීතිඥවරයකු සහ ඔහුගේ බිරියට වෙඩි තබා ඝාතනය කිරීමේ බේදජනක සිදුවීම හෙළා දැකීමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ කල්මුණේ ශාඛාවේ සංවිධානය යටතේ ඊයේ (16දා) උදෑසන කල්මුණේ අධිකරණ පරිශ්‍රය ඉදිරිපිට සාමකාමී විරෝධතාවක් පැවැත්විණි.

ඊයේ උදෑසන 9.00ට කල්මුණේ නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සාමාජිකයන්ගේ විශේෂ මහ සභා රැස්වීමකින් පසු ගත් යෝජනාවට අනුව, "නීතියේ ආධිපත්‍යය ආරක්ෂා කරන්න", "නීතිඥයන්ට ආරක්ෂාව සපයන්න" ඇතුළු විවිධ සටන් පාඨ කියමින් සහ එය පිළිබිඹු කරන බැනර් රැගෙන කළු පටි පැලඳූ නීතිඥවරු විරෝධතා දැක්වූහ.

හැටන්



■ **නෝර්වුඩ් - නීටා පත්ම කුමාරි**

අකුරේගොඩදී නීතිඥවරයකුට සහ ඔහුගේ බිරියට වෙඩි තැබීමට එරෙහිව විරෝධය පාමින් නීතිඥ සංගමයේ තීරණයක් අනුව හැටන් මහෙස්ත්‍රාත් සහ දිසා අධිකරණයේ පෙනී සිටින සියලුම නීතිඥයන් අධිකරණයේ කළු කොඩියක් ඔසවා ඊයේ (16දා) දින නඩු කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත් වීමට තීරණය කළ බව එම නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති එස්.පාර්තිබන් මහතා පැවැසීය.

කුරුණෑගල



■ **මාවතගම - ආනන්ද විජේතිලක**

කුරුණෑගල අධිකරණ සංකීර්ණය ඉදිරිපිට කළු කොඩි ඔසවා නීතිඥයන් 800ක පමණ පිරිසක් දැක්වීම් පුවරු පරදර්ශනය කරමින් නිහඬ විරෝධතාවක නිරත වූහ.

නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවආරච්චි සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිය වෙනුවෙන් යුක්තිය ලබා ගැනීම සඳහා මෙම විරෝධතාව පැවැත් වූ බව කුරුණෑගල නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති නීතිඥ සංජීව විජේපාල මහතා පැවැසීය.

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DM interview WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 A7



"Soon after the recent occurrence we had a meeting of Members and one among the several decisions taken was to compel the government to take urgent and robust measures to bring an end to the culture of brutal killings and ensure public safety and security. You can't kill lawyers, doctors, police, prison officers, business persons or others

"Sri Lankan society hasn't been a traditionally peaceful society because we have had uprisings" BASL President Rajeev Amarasuriya

AN INCIDENT LIKE THE AKUREGODA MURDER SHOULD NEVER REPEAT – BASL PRESIDENT –



By Kamanthi Wickramasinghe

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) acts as the apex body for legal professionals, focusing on upholding the rule of law, protecting the independence of the judiciary, safeguarding and protecting human rights and defending the rights of its members. Following the fatal shooting in Akuregoda, the BASL membership staged island-wide protests and refraining from appearing in all Courts throughout the country on February 16, while demanding the Government to act swiftly and bring perpetrators before the law.

In a candid interview with the Daily Mirror, BASL President Rajeev Amarasuriya spoke about the history of attacks on lawyers, the need to amend laws and increase penalties for illegal possession of weapons, legal representation for perpetrators of crimes, the media's role in covering crimes and violence and Government's responsibility in curtailing the gun culture. Excerpts:

Q&A

- We hear of various killings from time to time and the society has become sensitised to these occurrences and that's not a good thing
- It is always the relevant government which is in office that is responsible to ensure that such incidents don't recur
- In criminal matters you're only a suspect and you have the presumption of innocence until proven guilty
- In a lot of cases, suspects who are charged, indicted and go through a long haul of criminal process are often acquitted or discharged; which means that court confirms that you're not a perpetrator and you're discharged

weapons accessible outside lawful sources, then the government must mobilise its resources to maximise this to the maximum possible level.

Sri Lanka has a number of acts such as the Firearms Ordinance, Offensive Weapons Act with penalties as low as Rs. 25,000. Shouldn't the government look at amending such acts to discourage people from committing crimes using such weapons?

Several groups and parties have reached out to us regarding this. The amendment of laws or upgrading laws take time. But increasing the penalties is not

ඝාතනයේ වගකීම රජය බාරගත යුතුයි

ලංකාදීප 2026
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1 වැනි පිටුවෙන්...

නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවාරච්චි සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිඳ පසුගිය සිකුරාද (13) දින වෙඩි තබා ඝාතනය කිරීමේ සිද්ධියට විරෝධය පළකරමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය රට පුරා ඊයේ (16) ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ විරෝධතාව සහ සංකේත වැඩවර්ජනය පිළිබඳව අදහස් දක්වමින් අමරසූරිය මහතා එසේ ප්‍රකාශ කළේය.

මෙම එක්දින සංකේත වැඩවර්ජන ක්‍රියාමාර්ගය හේතුවෙන් ඊයේ රට පුරා අධිකරණවල නඩු විභාග කිරීමට නොහැකි වූ බැවින් නඩු විභාග කල් තැබීමට අධිකරණ විනිසුරුවරු කටයුතු කළහ.

අධිකරණවල නඩු කටයුතු කැඳවීම සාමාන්‍ය පරිදි සිදුවූ නමුත් කිසිදු නීතිඥවරයකු අධිකරණයේ පෙනී නොසිටීම හේතුවෙන් යුක්තිය පසිඳලීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියට මෙසේ බාධා එල්ල විය.

නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නීති නිලධාරීන්ගේ සංගමයේ ප්‍රකාශකයෙක් ලංකාදීපයට කියා සිටියේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ රජයේ නීතිඥවරුන් අධිකරණයේ පෙනී සිටියද, නීතිඥවරුන් නොමැතිවීමෙන් නඩු කල් තැබීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් කිසිදු විරෝධයක් පළ නොකළ බවය. අදාළ සංකේත වැඩවර්ජනයට ඔවුන් ද සහාය දැක්වීම ඊට හේතුව බවද සඳහන් කළේය.

අධිකරණ නඩු කටයුතුවලට සහභාගි නොවූ ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපතිවරයා ඇතුළු නීතිඥවරු ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණය ඉදිරිපිටට රැස්ව විරෝධය පළ කළහ.

ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණය ඉදිරිපිටට රැස්වූ නීතිඥවරු පා ගමනින් නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලයට පැමිණියහ. එහිදී මාධ්‍යයට අදහස් දැක්වූ ජනාධිපති නීතිඥ රජීව් අමරසූරිය මහතා මෙසේද පැවසීය.

"නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවාරච්චි මහතා සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිඳ වෙඩි තබා මරා දැමීමේ සිද්ධිය සම්බන්ධ විරෝධයක් පළකිරීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සෑම අධිකරණයකම නඩු කටයුතුවලින් ඉවත්වීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය ඒකමතිකව පෙරේද (15) තීරණය කළා.

නීතිඥ බුද්ධික මල්ලවාරච්චි මහතා සහ ඔහුගේ බිරිඳ කෲර ලෙස පසුගිය සිකුරාද ඝාතනය කළා. මෙම ඝාතනය වුණේ අකුරේගොඩ නගර මධ්‍යයේ යුද හමුද මූලස්ථානය ආසන්නයේ.

අපි ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන සංකේතමය වැඩවර්ජනය මගින් මේ රටේ මහජනතාවටත්, රටටත් ප්‍රකාශ කරනුයේ මෙවන් ඝාතන නීතිඥයන්ට හෝ මේ රටේ සාමාන්‍ය පුරවැසියන්ට හෝ විය යුතු නෑ කියලා. රජයට වගකීමක් තියෙනවා ජනතාවගේ ආරක්ෂාව නීතියේ ආධිපත්‍යය සුරකින්න. ඊට අවශ්‍ය සහයෝගය හා උපදෙස් දීමට නීතිඥයන් සූදානම්. මේ ඝාතනය අවසාන ඝාතනය විය යුතුයි.

මේ වූ දේ නැවත නොවෙන්න රජය වගකීම බාරගත යුතුයි. සැකකරුවන් වහා අත්අඩංගුවට ගෙන නිසි ලෙස හා දැඩි ලෙස නීතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ යුතුයි. මෙම සංකේත වැඩවර්ජනයට සහාය පළ කළ විනිසුරුවරුන්ටත් නීතිඥවරුන්ට සහ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ රජයේ නීතිඥවරුන්ටත් අපගේ ස්තුතිය පුද කරනවා, යැයි ද රජීව් අමරසූරිය මහතා වැඩිදුරටත් පැවසීය.

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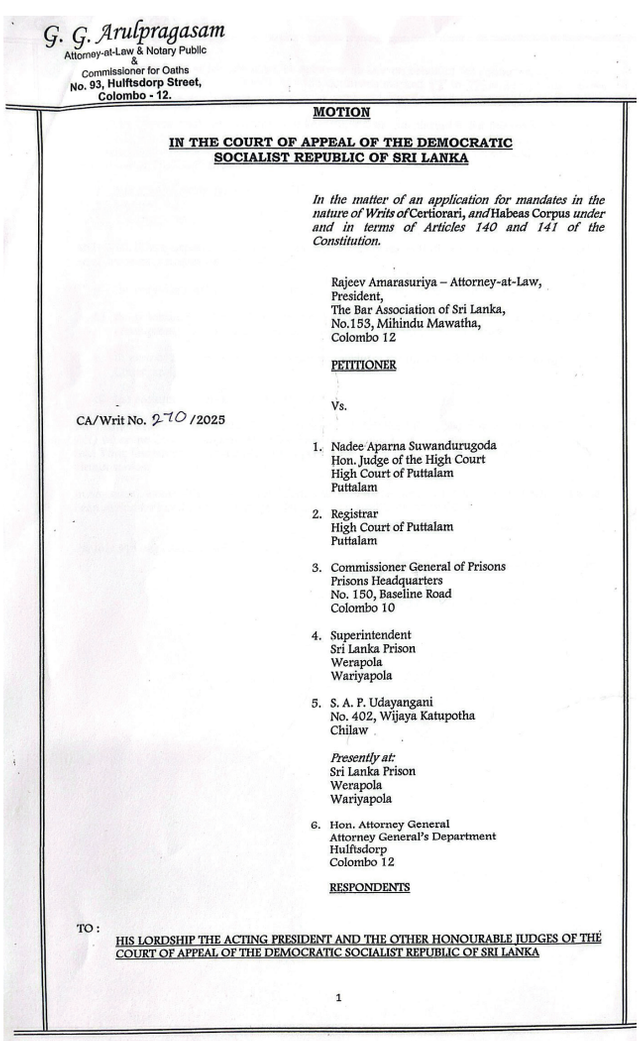
BASL INTERVENED TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF MEMBER REMANDED IN PUTTALAM



Within a day of the new Office-bearers and Executive Committee assuming office, the BASL intervened to protect the rights and interests of a Lady Member who was remanded over the Ramazan long weekend at the Wariyapola Prison, arising from an allegation of Contempt of Court.

The President BASL, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya as Petitioner representing the BASL invoked the Writ Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal complaining of this matter and impugning the relevant Orders of the Puttalam High Court.

The Court of Appeal convened on Monday, 29th March which was the Ramazan Public Holiday, and upon the matter being Supported, the Court issued interim relief which enabled the Member to be released from the Wariyapola Prison later that evening.



G. G. Arulpragasam
Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public
&
Commissioner for Oaths
No. 93, Hulftsdorp Street,
Colombo - 12.

MOTION

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

In the matter of an application for mandates in the nature of Writs of Certiorari, *and* Habeas Corpus *under and in terms of Articles 140 and 141 of the Constitution.*

Rajeev Amarasuriya – Attorney-at-Law,
President,
The Bar Association of Sri Lanka,
No.153, Mihindu Mawatha,
Colombo 12

PETITIONER

Vs.

CA/Writ No. 270 /2025

1. Nadee Aparna Suwandurugoda
   Hon. Judge of the High Court
   High Court of Puttalam
   Puttalam
2. Registrar
   High Court of Puttalam
   Puttalam
3. Commissioner General of Prisons
   Prisons Headquarters
   No. 150, Baseline Road
   Colombo 10
4. Superintendent
   Sri Lanka Prison
   Werapola
   Wariyapola
5. S. A. P. Udayangani
   No. 402, Wijaya Katupotha
   Chilaw

   Presently at:
   Sri Lanka Prison
   Werapola
   Wariyapola
6. Hon. Attorney General
   Attorney General's Department
   Hulftsdorp
   Colombo 12

RESPONDENTS

TO : HIS LORDSHIP THE ACTING PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER HONOURABLE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

1

02

Management & Membership of BASL 2025/2026

- Office Bearers 2025 / 2026
- Attendance of the Executive Committee
- The Executive Committee for the Year 2025 / 2026
- Presidents and Secretaries of Branch Associations for 2025 / 2026
- Membership of the BASL
- Highlights of the activities of the BASL - 2025/2026

Office Bearers for the Year 2025/2026

The Management Committee

(Left to Right):
Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena (Assistant Secretary)
Mr. Chathura A. Galhena (Secretary)
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya (President)
Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC (Deputy President)
Mr. Pasindu Silva (Treasurer)



Attendance of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee Meetings : 17

Ordinary Meetings : 14

Special Meetings : 03

	NAME	Ordinary Meetings			Special Meetings			
		PRE	ABS	EXC	PRE	ABS	EX	TOTAL
1	MR. RAJEEV T. AMARASURIYA	14	-	-	03	-	-	17
2	MR. RIENZIE ARSECULARATNE, PC	11	02	01	02	01	-	13
3	MR. CHATHURA GALHENA	14	-	-	03	-	-	17
4	MR. PASINDU SILVA	14	-	-	03	-	-	17
5	MR. SARINDA JAYAWARDENA	14	-	-	03	-	-	17
6	MR. ANURA MEDDEGODA, PC	03	10	01	-	02	01	03
7	MR. FAIZ MUSTHAPHA, PC	09	01	04	-	02	01	09
8	MRS. SHIRANTHI GUNAWARDENA, SIA	07	06	01	02	01	-	09
9	MR. NUWAN JAYAWARDENA	07	06	01	01	01	01	08
10	MR. THISHYA WERAGODA	10	02	02	03	-	-	13
11	MR. CHAMATH FERNANDO	08	05	01	01	02	-	09
12	MR. HARITH DE MEL	14	-	-	03	-	-	17
13	MR. LAKSHAN DIAS	12	02	-	02	01	-	14
14	MR. CHANDIMA ATAPATTU	12	02	-	02	01	-	14
15	MR. SENANY DAYARATNE	06	08	-	-	03	-	06
16	MR. WASANTHA FERNANDO	11	03	-	02	01	-	13
17	MR. LAKSHAN ABEYWARDENA	13	01	-	02	01	-	15
18	MR. LAKSHAN WIJEWARDENA	13	01	-	02	01	-	15
19	MS. NIKINI MAPITIGAMA	12	02	-	02	-	01	14
20	MS. NADISHA PERERA	10	04	-	-	02	01	10
21	MR. M. S. N. K. DANGAHADENIYA	03	11	-	-	03	-	03
22	MR. RANIL WEERASEKERA	05	09	-	01	02	-	06
23	MR. A. U. P. UKWATTE	01	13	-	-	03	-	01
24	MS. PRIYANGA CHANDRASENA	04	10	-	02	01	-	06
25	MR. BANDUSENA TENNAKOON	03	11	-	02	01	-	05
26	MR. T. SIVANATHAN	05	09	-	01	02	-	06
27	MR. SANDUN NAGAWATTE	11	03	-	-	03	-	11
28	MR. ANUSHA GUNESEKERA	01	13	-	-	03	-	01
29	MR. GUNARATNE WANNINAYAKE	09	03	02	01	01	01	10
30	MR. SAMANPALI AMARASINGHE	05	08	01	01	02	-	06
31	MR. RUWAN ASIRI DE SILVA	07	05	02	03	-	-	10
32	MR. RAVINDANA KURUPPU	-	14	-	-	03	-	-
33	MR. UPALI MOHOTTI, PC	01	11	02	-	02	01	01
34	DR. K. GURUPARAN	04	09	01	02	01	-	06
35	MR. KINSULA LIYANAGE	14	1	-	02	-	-	16
36	MR. SUNIL WEERAKOON	05	08	01	02	01	-	07
37	MS. CHITRANI WEERASEKERA	-	14	-	01	02	-	01
38	MR. SANJEEWA WIJEPALA	02	12	-	01	02	-	03
39	MR. KEERTHI JAYASINGHE	06	08	-	03	-	-	08
40	MR. SHIYAN TISERA	04	08	02	01	02	-	05
41	MR. GAMINI SENANAYAKE	06	08	-	01	02	-	07
42	MR. SANATH PERERA	05	05	04	02	01	-	07
43	MR. ANTON PUNITHANAYAGAM	04	08	02	-	02	01	04
44	MS. HIMALI URUGODAWATTE	14	-	-	02	-	01	16



The Executive Committee for the Year 2025/2026

President
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya

Deputy President
Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC

Secretary
Mr. Chathura Galhena

Treasurer
Mr. Pasindu Silva

Assistant Secretary
Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena

Immediate Past President
Mr. Anura Meddegoda, PC

Anuradhapura - Mr. Ranil Weerasekera

Ampara - Mr. A. U. P. Ukwatte

Awissawella - Ms. Priyanga Chandrasena

Badulla - Mr. Bandusena Tennakoon

Batticoloa - Mr. T. Sivanathan

Colombo Zone 1 - Mr. Sandun Nagahawatte

Colombo Zone 2 - Mr. Anusha Gunesekera



Colombo Zone 3 - Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayake

Chilaw - Mr. Samanpali Amarasinghe

Galle - Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva

Gampaha - Mr. Ravindana Kuruppu

Hambantota - Mr. Upali Mohotti, Pc

Jaffna - Dr. K. Guruparan

Kalutara - Mr. Kinsula Liyanage

Kandy - Mr. Sunil Weerakoon

Kegalle - Ms. Chitrani Weerasekera

Kurunegala - Mr. Sanjeewa Wijepala

Matara - Mr. Keerthi Jayasinghe

Negombo - Mr. Shiyan Tisera

Nuwara Eliya - Mr. Gamini Senanayake

Ratnapura - Mr. Sanath Perera

Vavuniya - Mr. Anton Punithanayagam

Corporate Lawyer's Association - Ms. Himali Urugodawatte

Executive Committee Members

Mr. Faiz Musthapha, PC

Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Sia

Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena

Mr. Thishya Weragoda

Mr. Chamath Fernando

Mr. Harith De Mel

Mr. Lakshan Dias

Mr. Chandima Atapattu

Mr. Senany Dayaratne

Mr. Wasantha Fernando

Executive Committee Members (Junior Bar)

Mr. Lakshan Abeywardena

Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena

Ms. Nikini Mapitigama

Ms. Nadisha Perera

Mr. M S N K Dangahadeniya



Presidents and Secretaries of Branch Associations for the Year 2025/2026

BRANCH	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
AMPARA	Mr. Ashoka Kumara, Aal	Mr. R.G. Kularatne, Aal
AKKAIRAPATTU	Mr. A. H. Sameem, AAL	Mr. K. Jegasuthan, AAL
ANURADHAPURA	Ms. Swarnamali Anuradhanayake, AAL	Mr. M. Ravindra Dissanayake, AAL
ATTANAGALLA	Mr. Ravindana Kuruppu, AAL	Mr. A. P. S. P. Wijayasri, AAL
AVISSAWELLA	Ms. H. D. P. K. Chandrasena, AAL	Ms. A. G. K. Deepasika Dharmadasa, AAL
BADDEGAMA	Mr. Nayanakeerthi Abedeera, AAL	Mr. Janaka Chandana Gamage, AAL
BADULLA	Mr. Danushka Weligama, AAL	Ms. Dileesha Jayasekera, AAL
BALANGODA	Mr. M. I. M. Rafeek, AAL	Ms. Ayomi Fernando, AAL
BALAPITIYA	Mr. K. V. Lal Shantha, AAL	Ms. A. R. W. M. B. W. Manel Kumarihamy, AAL
BANDARAWELA	Mr. B. M. Ajantha Kadurugamuwa, AAL	Ms. M. A. N. Madhushika Samanthi, AAL
BATTICALOA	Mr. T. Sivanathan, AAL	Mr. M.I. Ajmeer Haja Nawaz, AAL
BIBILE	Ms. Thakshila Suriyaarachchl, AAL	Mr. Udara Zoysa, AAL
COLOMBO LAW SOCIETY	Mr. Sandun Nagahawatte, AAL	Mr. Lahiru Welgama, AAL
COLOMBO MAGISTRATE'S COURT	Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayake, AAL	Mr. Chinthaka Fernando, AAL
CHAVAKACHCHERI	Mr. K. Sajanthan, AAL	Mr. N. Kesanth, AAL
CHILAW	Mr. Sumedha Perera, AAL	Mr. Chinthaka Karunasekere, AAL



BRANCH	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
DAMBULLA	Mr. Meerasahib Asmy, AAL	Ms. I. G. Renuka Wasanthi, AAL
DEHIATTAKANDIYA	Mr. Lakshman Bandara Mullegama, AAL	Ms. D. M. Ashika Harshani Dissanayaka, AAL
ELPITIYA	Mr. Damith Ranjeewa, AAL	Mrs. O. K. Samuditha Piyumali, AAL
EMBILIPITIYA	Mr. Arawinda Dias Samarasingha, AAL	Ms. Niranjala Rathnayaka, AAL
GALGAMUWA	Mr. Anil P Balalle, AAL	Ms. Kanchana Samaradiwakara, AAL
GALLE	Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva, AAL	Mr. Kasun Rajakaruna, AAL
GAMPAHA	Mr. M. W. Chandima Wijeratne, AAL	Mr. Sanjaya Gunasekera, AAL
GAMPOLA	Mr. B. S. Udugama, AAL	Ms. Priyangani Bogahawatte, AAL
HAMBANTOTA	Mr. Thusitha Aluthpatabendige, AAL	Mr. Dilip Harsha Vitharana, AAL
HATTON	Mr. N. Pratheepan, AAL	Mr. M. Rathnasekera, AAL
HINGURAKGODA	Mr. W. M. I. Ranil Weerasekera, AAL	Ms. U. G. H. Pushpakanthi Pragnawardhana, AAL
HETTIPOLA	Mr. Thushara Herath, AAL	Ms. Waruni Nisansala, AAL
HOMAGAMA	Ms. Priyanka Maddumapatabendi, AAL	Ms. Karuna Pathirage, AAL
HORANA	Mr. Samantha Mallawaarachchi, AAL	Ms. Tharanga Geekiyanage, AAL
JAFFNA	Mr. J. Jeyaruban, AAL	Mr. J. Sivaramasarma, AAL
KADUWELA	Mr. D. G. P. Karunaratne, AAL	Mr. Nuwan Jayawardhana, AAL
KALAWANA	Mr. Upul Pitigalaarachchi, AAL	Mr. K. D. H. Karunadasa, AAL
KALMUNAI	Ms. Arica Sharik Kariapper, AAL	Mr. A. G. Pram Nawath, AAL
KALUTARA	Mr. Kinsula Liyanage, AAL	Ms. Anusha Jayalath, AAL
KANDY	Mr. W. M. S. D. Weerakoon, AAL	Ms. Kusha Walagedara, AAL
KANTALE	Mr. T. I. Sathikeen, AAL	Mr. S. R. Wimalasiri, AAL
KAYTS	Mrs. S. Ellengovan, AAL	Ms. Shalini Jayapalachandran, AAL
KEGALLE	Mr. Parashakthi Senanayake, AAL	Ms. Dinushika Jayasinghe, AAL
KEKIRAWA	Mr. Anuruddha Wijayarathna, AAL	Mr. D. M. D. G. Dissanayake, AAL
KESBEWA	Mr. Manjula Wellalage, AAL	Mrs. Oshadi Emmanual, AAL

BRANCH	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
KILINOCHCHI	Mr. Thilainathan Arjuna, AAL	Ms. S. Karthikadevi, AAL
KULIYAPITIYA	Ms. Dilkushane Perera, AAL	Mr. Darshana Jayawardene, AAL
KURUNEGALA	Mr. Sanjeewa Wijepala, AAL	Mr. Sashipri Jayasekera, AAL
MAHARA	Ms. Ramani Seneviratne, AAL	Mr. Chathura Gunaratne, AAL
MAHIYANGANA	Mr. Gamini P Rambakenpura, AAL	Ms. Sudharika M. Herath, AAL
MAHO	Mr. Manoj Polgampola, AAL	Ms. Shyama Adikari, AAL
MALLAKKAM	Mr. N. Thambimuthan, AAL	Mr. M. N. Partheeban, AAL
MARAWILA	Mr. Sasith Sanathana Vimukthi, AAL	Mr. Nilanga Hettiarachchi, AAL
MALIGAKANDA	Mr. A.S.M. Anwar, AAL	Mr. Dhanushka Weerasinghe, AAL
MANNAR	Mr. E Caius Feldano, AAL	Mr. M M Saburudeen, AAL
MATALE	Mr. Rajasekaran Manivannan, AAL	Ms. Wasantha Dharmakeerthi,AAL
MATARA	Mr. Keerthi Dhanushka Jayasinghe, AAL	Mr.K.K. Gayan Prasanga, AAL
MATHUGAMA	Mr. Sumith Jayasinghe, AAL	Mr. Sanjeewa Kalugalaarachchi, AAL
MAWANELLA	Mr. Shriyantha Bandara Diwelgama, AAL	Mr. Priyantha Wijekoon, AAL
MINUWANGODA	Mr. Ranjith Dissanayake, AAL	Ms. Thanuja Namal Kolambage, AAL
MONARAGALA	Mr. Chathuranga Ekanayake, AAL	Ms. Dinusha Opanayake, AAL
Muthur	Mr. Mohamed Meideen Nasleem, AAL	Ms. Raseek Fathima Sanas, AAL
MORATUWA	Mr. Ishara Jayapathma, AAL	Ms. Nadini Peiris, AAL
MORAWAKA	Mr. N. Nandasiri, AAL	Ms. Nirosha Dahanayake, AAL
MT. LAVINIA	Mrs. Champa de Soyza, AAL	Mr. Geethma Fernando, AAL
MULLAITIVU	Mr. S.T. Kangatharan, AAL	Ms. S. Sivalingam, AAL
NAWALAPITIYA	Mr. Senarath Delpitiya	Ms. Harshani Munasinghe, AAL
NIKAWERATIYA	Mr. R. M. Nadun Indrajith Bandara, AAL	Mr. H M Mahinda K Herath, AAL
NEGOMBO LAW SOCIETY	Mr. Shiyan Thissera, AAL	Ms. Sudarshi Ranathunga, AAL
N' ELIYA	Mr. Gamini Senanayake, AAL	Mr. S.Mohanrajan, AAL
NUGEGODA	Mr. Uditha Iran Hiripitiya, AAL	Mr. J. A. D. Ruwan Buddhiraja Alwis, AAL
PANADURA	Mr. Shevon Goonaratne, AAL	Mr. Nilruwan Kulasuriya, AAL
PELMADULLA	Mr. Chamantha Amarasekara, AAL	Mr. Lochana N.K. Wijekoon, AAL
POINT PEDRO	Mr. M. K. Muthukumar, AAL	Mr. Nadarajah Rajeevan, AAL
POLONNARUWA	Mr. Lakshman Wijesiri, AAL	Mr. Samsudeen Mohideen, AAL
POTTUVIL	Mr. S. A. Ahmed Munasudeen, AAL	Mr. A. Mohamed Sathir, AAL
PUGODA	Mr. U. L. N. Uswatte, AAL	Ms. H. A. D. S. Senarathne, AAL
PUTTALAM	MR. Hanif Nadvi Navavi, AAL	Mr. A. M. Samsu Rafi, AAL
RATNAPURA	Ms. Sandhya Haputhanthri, AAL	Mr. Tharindu Arrawwala, AAL
RUWANWELLA	Mr. H. A. Anura Jayasiri, AAL	Mr. E. W. K. Samaraweera, AAL
SAMANTHURAI	Mr. M. M. Musthafa, AAL	Mr. Y. M. Anver Siyath, AAL
TANGALLE	Ms. Dilani Liyanaarachchi, AAL	Mr. P. Rajapaksha, AAL
TISSAMAHARAMA	Mr. Gunasoma Wickramasinghe, AAL	Ms. K. D. H. Geethika Samanmalee Piyasena, AAL
THAMBUTHTHEGAMA	Mr. Buddhika Lewkebandara, AAL	Mrs. Chandra Kumari, AAL
THELDENIYA	Mr. Sunil Kithsiri Amarathunge, AAL	Mr. Cyril Poddalgoda, AAL
TRINCOMALEE	Ms. T. Punithavathy,AAL	Mr. M. H. M. Rahfi, AAL
VAVUNIYA	Mr. K. Thayaparan, AAL	Mr. Safees, AAL
VALAICHENAI	Mr. H.M.M. Rifaan, AAL	Mr. M.A.M. Siddeeq, AAL
UDUGAMA	Ms. Watsala Wijesekera, AAL	Mrs. Dilani Kariyawasam, AAL
WALASMULLA	Mr. Chinthaka Bandara, AAL	Mr. Senarath Subasinghe, AAL
WARAKAPOLA	MS. Chithrani Weerasekera, AAL	Mr. Sudarsha Liyanasekera, AAL
WARIYAPOLA	Mr. Nalin Abekoon, AAL	Ms. Samantha Rajapakshe, AAL
WATTALA	Mr. Premnath Kalehewatta, AAL	Mr. Wijeratne Punchihewa, AAL
WALAPANE	Ms. S.S.H.M.B.M. Senevirathne, AAL	Mr. S. Geethathayananthan, AAL
WELIMADA	Mr. Suneth Bandara Ekanayake, AAL	Mr. D.M. N. Champika Dissanayake, AAL
WELLAWAYA	Mr. Ajith Liyanarachchi, AAL	Ms. Lakmini Thushari Piyasena, AAL
ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATE LAWYERS SRI LANKA (ACL)	Mr. Badra Gurusinghe, AAL	Ms. Disna K. Keerthiwardena, AAL
Government Officer's Association	Ms. Kumudu Perera, AAL	Ms. Dilhani Bandara, AAL

Membership of the BASL

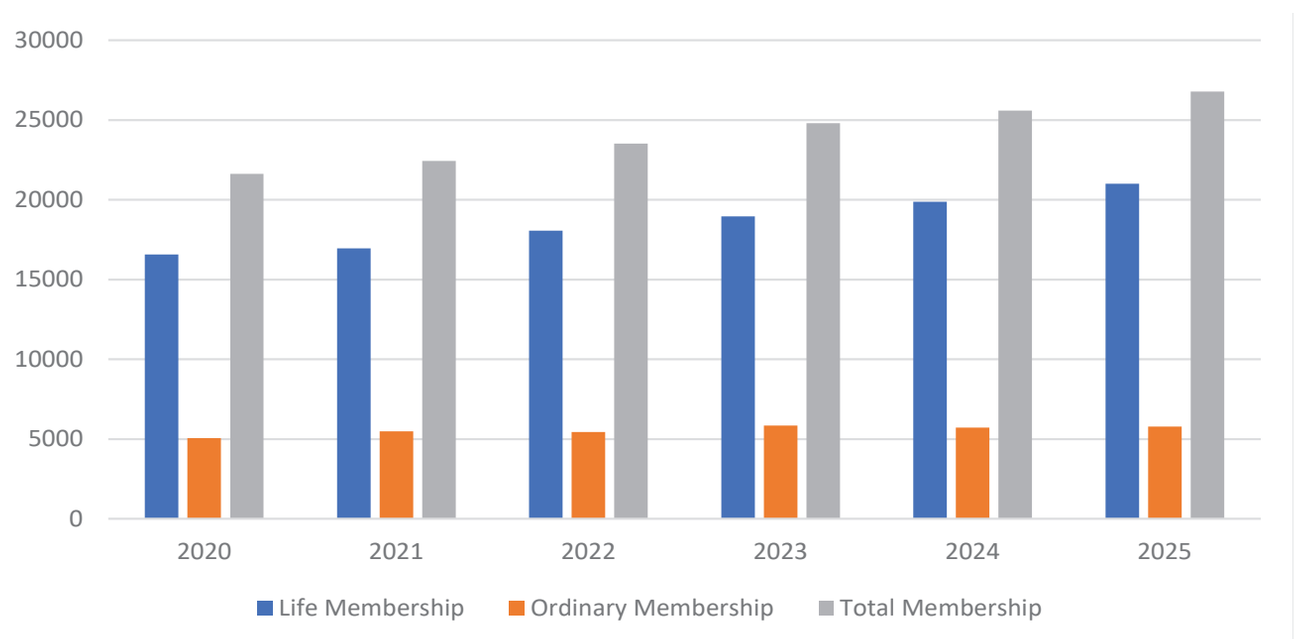
In terms of the Constitution of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka all Attorneys-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka are members of the BASL.

However, it is only “Life Members” and "Annual Paid up" members who are entitled to voting rights and other benefits of the Association.

The total number of Life Members and Ordinary Members as at 31st December, 2025

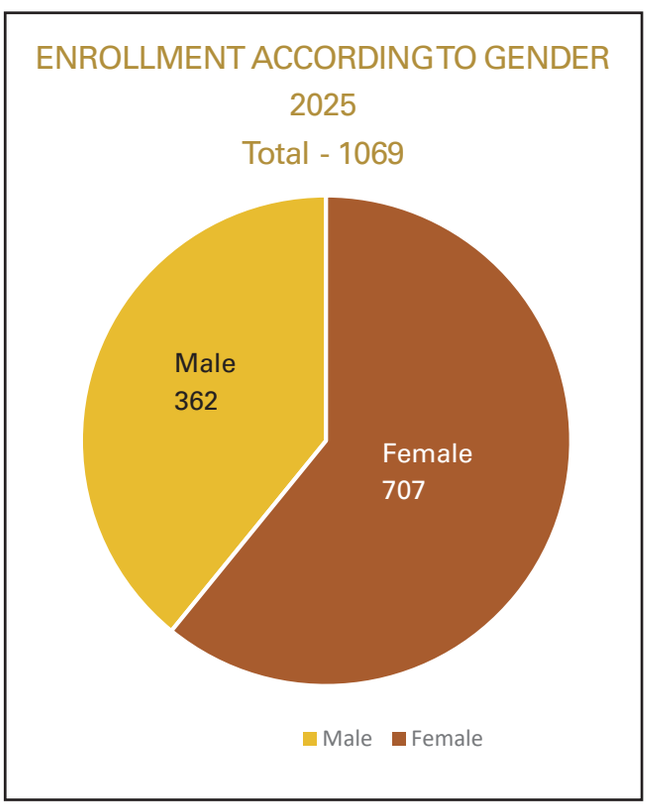
- Life Members 21011
- Ordinary Members 5773
- Total Membership 26784

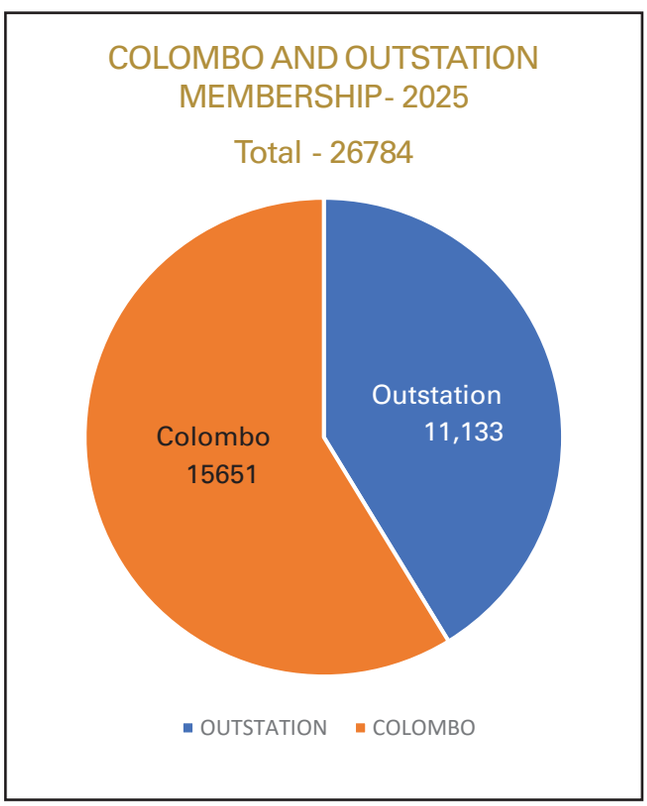
Category	Summary of BASL Membership					
	2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Life Membership	16,577	16,956	18,065	18961	19871	21011
Ordinary Membership	5,055	5,474	5,446	5848	5723	5773
Total Membership	21,632	22.430	23,511	24809	25594	26784
Increase	879	798	1081	1298	785	1190



ENROLLMENT ACCORDING TO GENDER

Year	Male	Female	Total
2025	362	707	1069
2024	207	421	628
2023	433	878	1311
2022	386	695	1081
2021	233	565	798
2020	291	609	900
2019	276	599	875
2018	88	164	252
2017	391	722	1113
2016	89	163	252
2015	217	459	676







Bench & Bar

Ceremonial and Special Sittings During 2025/2026

- 08th, 09th, 14th, 15th & 16th May 2025 - Admission of 576 Attorneys-at-Law to the Supreme Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 13th June 2025 - Welcome extended by the Bar to Hon. Justice Dr. W.K.S.U. Premachandra, Hon. Justice K. Priyantha Fernando and Hon. Justice Annalingam Premashanker as Judges of the Court of Appeal
- 25th July 2025 - To bid farewell to Her Ladyship the Chief Justice Hon. Murdu N. B. Fernando, PC
- 31st July 2025 - Welcome extended by the Bar to His Lordship P. Padman Surasena as the 49th Chief Justice of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 01st August 2025 - To enable the Bar to welcome Hon. Justice Rohantha Abeysooriya, PC as the President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Justice Dr. D. F. H. Gunawardhana and Hon. Justice A.K.M. Patabendige as Judges of the Court of Appeal
- 22nd September 2025 - Special Welcome to His Lordship Justice Hari Orasad Phuyal, Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of Nepal (Court No. 502)
- 23rd October 2025 - Special Welcome to His Lordship Justice Suriya Kant, the Senior Most Judge of the Supreme Court of India (Court No. 502)
- 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th November & 02nd December 2025 - Admission of over 530 Attorneys-at-Law to the Supreme Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 12th February 2026 - To enable the Bar to welcome Hon. Justice K.M.G.H. Kulatunga as a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 11th March 2026 - Historic Address by the President, BASL at the Supreme Court of India.
- 19th March 2026 - To Enable the Bar to Bid Farewell to His Lordship Justice S. Thurairaja, PC
- 31st March 2026 - To Enable the Bar to Bid Farewell to Her Ladyship Justice Kumudini Wickremasinghe

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 13TH JUNE 2025 AT THE CEREMONIAL SITTING OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO WELCOME EXTENDED BY THE BAR TO HON. JUSTICE DR. W. K. S. U. PREMACHANDRA, HON. JUSTICE K. PRIVANTHE FERNANDO AND HON. JUSTICE ANNALINGAM PREMASHANKER AS JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

My Lord the Acting President of the Court of Appeal, Your Lordships Hon. Justice Dr. Sumudu Premachandra, Hon. Justice K. Priyantha Fernando and Hon. Justice Annalingam Premashanker, Honourable Attorney General, Your Lordships, the Justices of the Court of Appeal, Learned President's Counsel, Learned Senior Instructing Attorneys; Hon. Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrate's Courts, Colleagues at the Bar.

We are gathered here this morning in this Ceremonial Court to welcome Your Lordships Justice Dr. Sumudu Premachandra, Justice K. Priyantha Fernando and Justice Annalingam Premashanker, as Judges of the Court of Appeal, the penultimate Court of Jurisdiction in our Republic.

The Bar wholeheartedly and warmly welcomes Your Lordships to the Court of Appeal.

Your Lordship Justice Dr. Sumudu Premachandra had Your Lordship's early education at Royal College, Colombo 7.

Your Lordship entered the Sri Lanka Law College in 1988 and passed out in 1992, and Your Lordship Apprenticed at the Attorney General's Department and thereafter was admitted to the Bar on 11th June 1992. Your Lordship then went on to obtain the Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) Degree from the Open University of Sri Lanka in 1998 while practising as an Attorney-at-Law.

Your Lordship joined the Judiciary on 1st July 1998. In the Year 2001, the Judicial Service Commission nominated Your Lordship for a World Bank Scholarship where Your Lordship successfully obtained a Master of Laws in the field of Commercial Law from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

During the period of July 2010 to August 2013, Your Lordship served as a Resident Magistrate and Family Court Magistrate in the Republic of Fiji, thereby garnering valuable exposure in another Common Law jurisdiction.

Your Lordship's inclination towards academia did not stop there, and Your Lordship went on to obtain the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in the field of Legal Anthropology from the University of Sabaragamuwa, Sri Lanka in 2014.

As a High Court Judge, Your Lordship served in many important stations such as the Civil Appellate High Courts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kandy. Your Lordship had also presided at Criminal High Courts while serving in Ampara, Nuwara Eliya and Matale, and is well versed with the intricacies of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. In Anuradhapura, Your Lordship presided as the High Court Judge of the Specialized High Court which took up Child abuse matters.

Beyond this, Your Lordship has also been nominated for several overseas training by the Judicial Service Commission and had served as a Judicial Trainer at the Sri Lanka Judges Institute.

As a reflection of the academic excellence possessed by Your Lordship, Your Lordship has also authored several Books and Articles in the fields of Law and Anthropology. Your Lordship has also contributed significantly towards Legal Reform in the many avenues that Your Lordship has been Involved in. Your Lordship was a Member of the "Foster Care-Law Reforms Committee" of the Ministry of Justice, through nomination by the Judicial Service Commission.

Your Lordship Justice Premachandra joins this Court with 27 years of valuable Judicial experience and will no doubt enrich this Court very much.

Your Lordship Justice K. Priyantha Fernando had Your Lordship's early education at Sri Sumangala College, Panadura and Secondary Education at Royal College, Colombo 7

Your Lordship entered the Sri Lanka Law College in 1990 and thereafter was admitted to the Bar on 15th December 1993. During this time, Your Lordship was a Legal Intern at the Chambers of the Chief Justice G.P.S. De Silva.

In Your Lordship's formative years, Your Lordship Devilled at the Chambers of two leading figures of the Bar, President's Counsels, R. I. Obeysekera and Chula De Silva.

Your Lordship practised as an Attorney at-Law from the year 1994 to 1998 in the High Courts and of District Courts of Panadura, Moratuwa, Mt. Lavinia and Colombo.

Your Lordship joined the Judiciary on 01st January 1999 and also functioned as an Assistant Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission in 1999 and 2000. During Your Lordship's career, Your Lordship has served as an Additional Magistrate in Colombo, Additional District Judge, in Galle and Colombo, and District Judge in Kalutara, Moratuwa and Mt. Lavinia.

Your Lordship was elevated to the High Court on 15th February 2015 and Your Lordship has served at the Civil Appellate High Courts of Badulla, Ratnapura, Kandy, Galle and the Commercial High Court in Colombo.

Your Lordship has also had the opportunity and the experience gained from many international workshops and seminars, and Your Lordship has made significant contribution and gained much experience in Your Lordships Judicial Career of 27 Years, which will benefit immensely this Court.

Your Lordship Justice Annalingam Premashanker had Your Lordship's education at Thunnalai Methodist College, Hindu College, Bambalapitiya, Hartley College, Point Pedro, and Royal College, Colombo 7.

Thereafter, Your Lordship attended the Sri Lanka Law College in the year 1988 and was admitted to the Bar in 1992. Thereafter in the year 1999, Your Lordship was Appointed as District Judge and Magistrate at the

Chavakachcheri Courts where Your Lordship continued to serve as Judge until 2001.

Thereafter, Your Lordship served as a District Judge and Magistrate, at Point Pedro, District Judge and Magistrate, at Kayts, and District Judge Jaffna.

Thereafter, upon Your Lordship's elevation to the High Court, Your Lordship served as High Court Commissioner in the Eastern Province, Provincial High Court Judge for Jaffna, Vavuniya and Trincomalee and thereafter, before Your Lordship's elevation to this august Court, as a Civil Appellate High Court Judge of Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

Your Lordship has also Authored a Book on Lawyers and Discipline and has contributed to Legal Literature.

Your Lordship has made significant contribution in judicial office over the past 27 years and brings to this Court much valued experience.

This Ceremonial Sitting today represents traditions that go back over two centuries in our system and reflects the important relationship between the Bench and the Bar, a relationship which is not merely an embellishment in our system, but one which is a vital and necessary constituent in the system of administration of justice.

Simply said, there cannot be a Bench without a Bar, or a Bar without a Bench, and therefore, the vital and indispensable need for a mutually respected, mutually trusted and mutually appreciated Bench and Bar Relationship.

It is also noteworthy stating, that the actors on either side, beingthe Bench and the Bar, come from the same identical source, and take their respective side, upon voluntary election.

Some have said that the Bench and the Bar are akin to being two wheels of the same chariot, which is expected to carry the load of justice in society.

Some have referred to this relationship as being these two wheels with equal importance in the system of administration of justice.

When one speaks of the necessity of a good bench and bar relationship, one must look at what would happen if such relationship was not maintained, and by analogy, if the two wheels of the chariot stop working in tandem and lose mutual respect and restraint, the friction caused could eventually lead to this chariot abruptly halting or breaking down, which we must, and we will,prevent at all cost.

As held by Justice U.C. Banerjee in the Case of Arun Devendra Oza Vs. The State of Gujarat, "There should be a proper amity between the Bench and the Bar rather than any element of arrogance or superiority on one side. Proper coherence will bring the best out of the judiciary and make the justice delivery system of the country more effective."

As pointed by Chief Justice P. Sathasivam, in the case of Ramakrishnam Raju Vs. The Union of India "The experience and knowledge gained by a successful lawyer at the Bar can never be considered to be less important from any point of view vis-à-vis the experience gained by a judicial officer."

Similarly, as Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in the Case of The Bar Council of Maharashtra Vs. M.V. Dabholkar, once said, "The Bar is not a private guild, like that of 'barbers, butchers and candlestick-makers' but, by bold contrast, a public institution committed to public justice and pro bono public service."

The Indian Supreme Court in the Case of P.D. Gupta v. Ram Murti and Others held that "A lawyer owes a duty to be fair not only to his client but also to the court as well as to the opposite party in the conduct of the case. Administration of justice is a stream which has to be kept pure and clean.

It has to be kept unpolluted. Administration of justice is not something which concerns the Bench only. It concerns the Bar as well.

The Bar is the principal ground for recruiting judges. Nobody should be able to raise a finger about the conduct of a lawyer. Actually, judges and lawyers are complementary to each other.

The primary duty of the lawyer is to inform the court as to the law and facts of the case and to aid the court to do justice by arriving at the correct conclusions. Good and strong advocacy by the counsel is necessary for the good administration of justice.

Consequently, the counsel must have freedom to present his case fully and properly and should not be interrupted by the judges unless the interruption is necessary."

Conversely, it too must not be forgotten that the Bar is a vessel for the voice of the Bench. No doubt these are the vibrant nuances between the Bench and the Bar, which must be protected, safeguarded and promoted,

and I have the fullest confidence that Your Lordships will always maintain the highest traditions in the carrying out of your sacrosanct role and responsibility.

I wish Your Lordships all Blessings, Happy and Fulfilling Tenures in this Court and of course the very best of health and contentment.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 16TH JUNE 2025 AT THE COURT NO. 502 OF THE SUPREME COURT TO BID FAREWELL TO HIS LORDSHIP JUSTICE E.A.G.R. AMRASEKERA, JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Your Ladyship the Chief Justice, My Lords and My Ladies, Senior Additional Solicitor General, Learned President's Counsel, Senior Instructing Attorneys, Colleagues at the Bar.

Today we bid farewell to Your Lordship Justice Gamini Amarasekera, Judge of the Supreme Court, on the occasion of Your Lordship's retirement after 37 years of service to the judiciary of this Republic.

Your Lordship having been called to the Bar on 18th January 1983, commenced Judicial Office as a Magistrate on 1st November 1988, was promoted as a District Judge on 1st April 2006, and thereafter elevated as a High Court Judge on 9th August 2007.

Your Lordship was appointed to the Court of Appeal in July 2017 and to the Supreme Court on th January 2019.

There can be no doubt in the minds of any that Your Lordship possesses all the attributes of what a judge should possess.

Your Lordship has been unconditionally true to the values laid down by the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, of Independence, Impartiality, Integrity, Propriety, Equality, Competence and Diligence.

Your Lordship is erudite. Your Lordship is duty conscious. Your Lordship has consistently delivered good judgments. Your Lordship has always been courteous to Counsel. Your Lordship has always given a fair opportunity to Counsel to present the case and Your Lordship manages the Court House very well.

Your Lordship's judicial temperament, courtesy, and the sense of fairness in hearing matters have always been admired by the Bar.

Your Lordship has not disappointed the system, never abused position and has respected the vital relationship of the Bench and the Bar.

And Your Lordships' retirement from the Supreme Court is a loss to our system, and a large gap will now be created that would not be easy to fill.

On a personal note, I thought it would be fitting to mention how much respect my Late Uncle Justice Prasanna Jayawardena had for Your Lordship.

Justice Jayawardena did not take easily to anyone, and appreciation and recognition from him was not automatic.

I had the opportunity of appearing before Your Lordship, led by him, when Your Lordship was at the Commercial High Court, and I recall the many occasions he would say very positive things about Your Lordship and the way Your Lordship managed the Court. Even after, on many occasions he has mentioned to me about the respect he had for Your Lordship. I still recall how upset Your Lordship was at his funeral.

Your Lordship's colleagues on the Bench have the same admiration we have towards Your Lordship. In spite of the present exigencies of the building renovation and logistical complexities of not having a Ceremonial Court, this did not stop the Court from constituting this special Bench on this last day to appreciate and bid farewell to Your Lordship.

The Bar, like the Court will very much miss Your Lordship. But as the saying goes, all good things have to come to an end and today we are reluctantly compelled to bid farewell to Your Lordship Justice Gamini Amarasekera.

I wish Your Lordship the best of health, long life and a contented and happy retirement. May Your Lordship and Your Lordship's Family be always blessed.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 25TH JUNE 2025 AT THE CEREMONIAL SITTING OF THE SUPREME COURT TO BID FAREWELL TO HER LADYSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE HON. MURDU N. B. FERNANDO, PC

My Lady the Chief Justice, Murdu Fernado, PC; Your Lordships and Ladyships, the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal; Honourable Atorney General; Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Atorneys; Hon. Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrate's Courts; Registrar Supreme Court; Colleagues at the Bar

We are gathered here today in this Ceremonial Court to bid farewell — not only to a Chief Justice, but to a judicial ideal.

Beginning with Your Ladyship's early education, Your Ladyship studied at Princess of Wales' College in Moratuwa and led the school debating team, actively participated in student movements, and held positions of responsibility such as House Captain, Prefect, as well as Head Prefect. These formative experiences revealed a commitment to discipline, and leadership which would later define Your Ladyship's career.

Your Ladyship then took oaths as an Atorney-at-Law in 1983 atier earning first-class Honours at the Law College. Your Ladyship went on to obtain a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Colombo and a Diploma in Trade Law in 1990, followed by a Master of Laws from King's College London in 1996, specializing in International Business Law.

Your Ladyship's distinguished career, at the Atorney General's Department, spanned over three decades, where Your Ladyship rose to the position of Senior Additional Solicitor General and led the Civil Division, advising on constitutional maters, foreign loans, and fundamental rights.

Your Ladyship took silk as President's Counsel in 2014 and joined the Supreme Court in 2018, serving for six years and delivering judgments across a broad spectrum of law, including fundamental rights, civil, criminal, commercial, and intellectual property maters.

Your Ladyship's involvement in international legal forums reflects your commitment to continuous learning and global judicial standards.

On 2nd of December 2024, Your Ladyship took oaths as the 48th Chief Justice of the Republic, becoming the second Woman Chief Justice of our Nation.

Such a distinguished career — rooted in intellect, service, and unwavering integrity — speaks for itself.

Sir Gerard Brennan, former Chief Justice of Australia, once remarked:

I quote:

"The rule of law is effective only if its true terms are discovered and applied. You need competent people to do that."

Your Ladyship Chief Justice Murdu Fernando has been the very embodiment of that competence — not only in knowledge, but in judgment; not only in reasoning, but in restraint.

Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill once stated that :

I quote:

"[judges] have to present a continuous aspect of dignity and conduct."

That is precisely what Your Ladyship has done. You upheld the traditions of judicial life — not merely in protocol, but in spirit. The small courtesies, the unflinching integrity, and the restrained strength Your Ladyship consistently displayed reflects the quiet but resolute gravity of Your Ladyships office.

Your Ladyship has also shown that firmness — a trait essential to any judge — can be exercised with grace.

Your Ladyship's courtroom was never a space for theatrics. It was a space of clarity, calm, and courtesy. Your Ladyship demonstrated, through daily example, that one need not raise one's voice to command authority.

Your Ladyship reminded us that respect does not erode power — it enhances it. Your Ladyship carried the robe not just with distinction, but with a quiet dignity that will long be remembered.

As Justice A. R. B. Amerasinghe wisely stated in his treatise Judicial Conduct, Ethics and Responsibilities:

I quote:

"When public confidence in one judge is shaken, public confidence in the judiciary as a whole is affected."

Your Ladyship exemplified the opposite. Your Ladyship reinforced that confidence. In every mater you heard, every bench Your Ladyship sat on, and every word you utered in court, Your Ladyship upheld the trust placed in the judiciary.

Your Ladyship's courtroom was a space of fairness and balance — one in which the public could feel assured that justice was not only done but seen to be done.

Furthermore, Your Ladyship's ability to listen as well, was not a mere formality. It was deep engagement. You heard counsel not just with patience, but with precision — giving each party the sense that they had truly been seen and understood.

In Your Ladyship's own words — delivered during Your keynote address at the 2025 Legal Symposium hosted by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in Hikkaduwa a few days ago — Your Ladyship reminded us:

I quote:

"Diverse views should be tolerated, because what matters most is a resilient, free-from-harm, judicial system, for a Just Republic."

Those words capture the essence of Your Ladyship's judicial philosophy — a delicate, disciplined balance of strength and openness, clarity and compassion — always in service of something greater than one's self: the Republic, and the rule of law.

What distinguishes a truly great judge from one who is merely powerful is the rejecting of misuse of authority and this is a distinction Your Ladyship exemplified. As per the words of Shakespeare,

I quote:

"It is excellent to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

These words remind us that while power is essential to uphold the law, the true measure of justice lies in the restraint with which that power is exercised.

Your Ladyship, Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, bore the immense responsibility of high judicial office — yet never once allowed that strength to become domineering.

In a recent judgment of the Supreme Court, the enduring weight of judicial integrity was powerfully captured through an ancient lens. Quoting the Roman poet Juvenal, Justice P. Padman Surasena observed:

I quote:

"The Latin phrase 'Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?' — who will guard the guards themselves? — though originally used in the context of marital fidelity, rings true for the challenge of maintaining judicial fidelity in office. This may be why, in legal parlance, it is often said: 'A judge, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion.'"

In a role that demands not only the exercise of authority but the embodiment of integrity, Your Ladyship met the challenge with certainty. Without ever needing to prove virtue, Your Ladyship lived it — with a clarity of conscience and consistency of conduct that leti no room for doubt.

In fact, within the last two weeks, this marks the fitih occasion on which we, on behalf of the Bar Association have got the opportunity to publicly appreciate Your Ladyship — and in these moments of reflection, a common thread has emerged: that is the admiration for Your Ladyship's dignity, ability to truly hear those before You, Your Ladyship's consultative nature, and above all, your firmness — not the kind that's fueled with aggression but the kind that reassures.

I have known Your Ladyship from the earliest days of my career at the Bar — first as counsel, then in judicial roles, later as Acting Chief Justice, and most recently as Chief Justice. Throughout all those chapters, my rapport with Your Ladyship has been one of consistency, trust, and mutual respect.

Since taking office as President of the Bar Association, our official relationship has been seamless. Your Ladyship extended every courtesy to the Bar, and personally to me as President, at every turn. I am deeply grateful for that.

Your Ladyship was never difficult to reach, never too busy to listen, and always prompt in response. No matter the time of day, whenever the matter at hand was not only addressed, but followed up with care and clarity.

We have, at times, burdened Your Ladyship with urgent requests or thorny issues, but Your Ladyship never wavered in attending to them swiftly and with Your Ladyship's signature sense of calm. It has been a

pleasure and an honour to work with Your Ladyship.

As we reflect on the long arc of Your Ladyship's judicial journey, we are reminded that the true legacy of a judge is not etched in marble or measured by titles, but in the silent transformations that take place in courtrooms, in institutions, and in public trust.

Your Ladyship Hon. Justice Murdu Fernando did not merely occupy the seat of the Chief Justice - but defined what it means to do so with honour.

In an age where institutions are constantly tested, and where public trust can be fragile, Your Ladyship reminded us - day after day, ruling after ruling - that the judiciary still holds the capacity to inspire. Your Ladyship led not with spectacle, but with substance; not with force, but with firmness; not for applause, but for the quiet certainty of doing what is right over what is wrong.

If the judiciary is, as Your Ladyship described it when You took oaths as Chief Justice:

I quote:

"an army of soldiers defending the fortress of democracy from the assault of injustice,"

then Your Ladyship was among its most steadfast sentinels - dignified, unwavering, and just.

Your Ladyship not only wore that armour with honour, but inspired others to stand guard beside You - upholding the rule of law.

Your Ladyship's retirement marks the end of a remarkable chapter - but it also leaves us with a standard. A judicial ideal rooted in intellect, tempered by humility, and carried with grace.

Tenures on the Bench may span years or pass in moments, but it is never the length that defines a legacy — it is the impact. Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, PC, has shown us what it truly means to be a judge: not merely someone who interprets the law.

Whether it was steering the judiciary towards greater technological integration, fostering a more collaborative relationship between the Bench and the Bar, or streamlining systems for efficiency and access — Your Ladyship's contributions were thoughtiul, forward-looking, and deeply grounded in institutional strength.

Your Ladyship's legacy will not simply be recorded in judgments or official titles — it will be remembered in the way the legal community grew under your stewardship.

In Your Ladyship's quiet yet resolute way, you have risen to the very pinnacle of our judicial system, leaving behind a standard defined not by power, but by principle.

As we close this chapter, we offer our deepest gratitude to Your Ladyship for Your unwavering service to justice, Your Ladyship's tireless commitment to the Republic, and the dignified grace with which Your Ladyship carried out duties. The Bar and I wish Your Ladyship continued peace, good health, happiness and fulfilment in all the journeys yet to come.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 31ST JULY 2025 AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT TO WELCOME THE 49TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC, HIS LORDSHIP PREETHI PADMAN SURASENA, PC

My Lord the Chief Justice, Preethi Padman Surasena Your Lordships and Ladyships, the Justices of the Supreme Court Your Lordship the President and Your Lordships of the Court of Appeal Honourable Atorney General Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Atorneys Hon. Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrate's Courts Registrar of the Supreme Court Colleagues at the Bar.

Today, we are gathered in this Ceremonial Court to mark an occasion of great constitutional and institutional importance — the appointment of the 49th Chief Justice of the Republic, His Lordship Justice Preethi Padman Surasena.

It is both a solemn duty and a distinct privilege for the Bar to extend its collective goodwill to Your Lordship at the commencement of this most distinguished office.

Your Lordship Justice Surasena brings to this highest office of Chief Justice a record of distinguished service.

Following eight years since being appointed to the High Court, by 2015 Your Lordship had become the senior most High Court Judge in the Country, presiding over Court No. 1 of the Colombo High Court. In this capacity, Your Lordship adjudicated a wide array of maters, including landmark judgements such as a death sentence for the Mirusuvil massacre which was upheld unanimously by a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court.

Beyond the bench, Your Lordship also served as Chairman of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Serious Acts of Fraud and Corruption and held leadership roles as Secretary and President of the High Court Judges' Association.

In 2016, Your Lordship was appointed to the Court of Appeal, and in 2018, rose to serve as its President. This tenure was marked by excellence with efficient case management, continuing to show Your Lordship's notable judicial efficiency.

Following Your Lordship's elevation to the Supreme Court in 2019, Your Lordship continued to deliver judgments that have had a lasting impact. These ranged from the suspension of the controversial e-visa system to quashing the Cabinet decision granting continued official residence to a former President.

Among these were also landmark judgments which caught attention nationwide.

Your Lordship has also contributed with great impact as a legal educator and international delegate. By speaking at forums across Strasbourg, Kathmandu, Melbourne, and Hong Kong, or participating in global summits, Your Lordship's judicial insight has consistently extended beyond Sri Lanka's borders.

There is no doubt that Your Lordship's contributions reflect a sense of dedication and commitment to justice, a trait I have witnessed on many occasions.

This Ceremonial Siting, a tradition with roots stretching back over two centuries, stands as a powerful testament to the enduring relationship between the Bench and the Bar. The vitality of this relationship with its mutual respect and professional responsibility sustains the integrity of the judiciary and the public's confidence in it.

And now, My Lord, as the mantle passes to Your Lordship Justice Surasena, the challenges ahead are even more demanding.

It is in that spirit that I now turn to reflect on the present realities confronting our judicial system with the strong belief that Your Lordship has a positive commitment to effectively address these pressing challenges and issues.

As first known in history, William E Gladstone, former British Prime Minister once said in 1868,

I quote:

"Justice delayed is justice denied".

When court processes stagnate and cases languish unresolved, justice itself begins to fade taking the form of a mirage: present in theory yet painfully absent in reality.

According to the recent figures released by the Minister of Justice, Sri Lanka's judiciary is currently grappling with an astounding backlog of 1,131,818 cases. Behind

every number lies a delayed family mater, a land dispute in limbo, or a criminal case yet to be resolved. At times, a rape trial may only commence atier the parties involved have married, or a case of child abuse may reach the courtroom long atier the victim has grown up and have children themselves. It speaks not only to a system under strain, but to a society at risk of losing faith in a 'Just Sri Lanka'.

This crisis of delay extends even to matters of constitutional importance. Article 126(5) of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall hear and finally dispose of any fundamental rights petition within two months of its filing. In the case of Visuvalingam v Liyanage (1983) it was held that this two month period is directory and not mandatory.

As Justice Wimalaratne explained,

I quote:

"There could be occasions where unfortunate circumstances such as illness of a judge or other unforeseen event may render compliance with this requirement not possible. I am therefore of the view that the provisions of course, be conscious of its responsibility and will undoubtedly not delay an order unnessarily."

In practice, however, we have witnessed there sometimes being cases pending for a much longer time, and this was simply not envisioned when the time limit of two months was interpreted to be directory.

In many expert reports available in relation to our system, the contents are remarkably consistent. They speak to a justice system where delays risk public trust as well as broader economic confidence.

Though the proposals for such issues vary, many point towards targeted solutions a call to usher in a new era - where paper gives way to digital, and dusty ledgers are replaced by automated systems.

For instance, it would be advantageous to have digital tools to track case progress and mechanisms which enhance transparency through online accessible court proceedings, journal entries and orders.

While no single reform will resolve the deep-rooted challenges we face, the direction of travel is evident. Together, we must be willing to reimagine the structures which no longer serve us.

It cannot be disputed that there is an urgent need to implement automation and digitalization of court registries, not on sample basis, but nationwide. We are probably 30 years behind on technology adaptation, and now 3 years behind on utilization of Artificial Intelligence.

Technological advancements have now lowered the barrier to courtroom innovation. Where live transcription and digital documentation were once cumbersome, today they are accessible and user-friendly. For instance, even the virtual platforms we currently use, may be enhanced. Upgraded versions now offer AI-powered note-taking features that can generate transcripts with the main points from proceedings.

Such tools are now within reach; what remains is the will to deploy them meaningfully, and I believe that Your Lordship has that will to lead this transformation.

With that said, it would be remiss not to address further the role of Artificial Intelligence.

Understandably, some have raised questions about whether our system will be ready or willing to embrace these changes. I was in Kalmunai last Sunday for a felicitation ceremony, and during those proceedings, a leading member of the Bar made a remark that deeply resonated with me.

I quote:

"The time has come for us to embrace legal technology … and ensure no lawyer is left behind in the race towards automation."

This is not simply a mater of innovation for its own sake; it is about equity and remaining relevant in a rapidly changing world. Artificial Intelligence and digital tools must be utilized ethically and intelligently.

The Bar does not view this as a threat to tradition, but as a natural evolution of the profession, one that can strengthen, rather than erode our role in society.

Through AI, informed court websites, improved legal research tools and structured literacy programmes for the legal community could certainly help us keep pace with global shitis. And as with any technological leap, these steps must be accompanied by clear guidelines of confidentiality and ethics in order to maintain the standards expected of the legal profession.

We must also look at the introduction of simple cost free practical measures such as Court Sessioning, and time slots for cases, saving human hours, as well as the

constitution of Specialist Benches.

Also fixed and uniform times of commencement, adjournment for lunch and closure for the day of original courts.

It is imperative to remember that courts are the pillars of civil society. As procedural delays mount, the whole structure of democracy starts to falter.

My Lord, I have had the privilege of working alongside Your Lordship on both the Council of Legal Education and the Supreme Court Board of Management. In those setings, I have witnessed first-hand Your Lordship's commitment to institutional improvement and duty to our system. I am confident that Your Lordship carries the true spirit of this system at heart, with the belief that justice must reign whilst ensuring every voice is heard.

The responsibility now before Your Lordship is both defined and daunting.

Change must be felt across the length and breadth of our Republic, in every Magistrate's Court and District Court and every appellate bench. It is the view of the Bar that technology will give us that opportunity.

Today, our nation entrusts Your Lordship to steer the system of administration of justice to align with the tempo and demands of the contemporary world outside. And in doing so, Your Lordship will not walk alone.

The Bar stands ready to support Your Lordship in giving shape to a system that can truly serve every corner of our Republic, leading the way to a new chapter of this constitutional journey.

We are confident that Your Lordship's deep judicial insight and proven leadership will continue to guide the judiciary with clarity. The path ahead will certainly demand courage, discernment, and resilience, but if the past is any indication, Your Lordship is more than equal to the task.

I wish Your Lordship all blessings, a happy and fulfilling tenure and the very best of health and contentment.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 1ST AUGUST 2025 AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO WELCOME HON. JUSTICE ROHANTHA ABEYSURIYA, PC AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, HON. JUSTICE DR. D. F. H. GUNAWARDHANA AND HON. JUSTICE A.K.M. PATABENDIGE AS JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

My Lord the President of the Court of Appeal Hon. Justice Rohantha Abeysuriya, PC, Your Lordships Hon. Justice Dr. Frank Gunawardhana and Hon. Justice Aditya Patabendige, Your Lordships of the Court of Appeal, Honourable Attorney General, Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Attorneys, Hon. Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrate's Courts, Registrar of the Court of Appeal Colleagues at the Bar

We are gathered here this morning in this esteemed Ceremonial Court to mark a momentous occasion for the judiciary of our Republic. Today we formally welcome Your Lordship Hon. Justice Rohantha Abeysuriya, PC as the President of the Court of Appeal. We also extend a formal welcome to Hon. Justice Dr. Frank Gunawardhana and Hon. Justice Adithya Patabendige as they join this distinguished bench as judges of the Court of Appeal.

Hon. Justice Nalin Rohantha Abeysuriya, PC commenced Your Lordship's legal career having obtained the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) Degree from the University of Colombo and thereatier having enrolled as an Atorney-at-Law in 1992. Your Lordship further pursued academic advancement by obtaining a Diploma in International Affairs and Professional Diplomacy from the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies.

Your Lordship commenced service at the Atorney General's Department as a State Counsel on the 1st of January 1993 and ascended through its ranks to, as the Senior Additional Solicitor General on 12th July 2024. With over 3 decades of service as a Prosecutor, Your Lordship held the position of the third senior-most officer in the Department, overseeing the Criminal Division.

Your Lordship held the responsibility of supervising all criminal maters referred to the Department, including High Courts-at-Bar cases, as well as terrorism-related offences, electionrelated offences, and prosecutions arising from Commissions of Inquiry.

In recognition of Your Lordship's contribution to the legal profession, Your Lordship took Silk on 19th of May 2019.

Your Lordship has received extensive specialized training, both internationally and regionally, across a wide spectrum of criminal justice topics.

Your Lordship also represented Sri Lanka as Head Delegate at an international training programme on money laundering and combating corruption in the United States. In addition, You headed Sri Lanka's delegation to an international review meeting on cybercrime legislation at the INTERPOL Center in Singapore as well as a delegation to Melbourne, for a prosecutor–investigator pairing program, among many other important international representations.

Your Lordship also served on the drating commitee of the Proceeds of Crime Bill.

In addition, Your Lordship represented the Atorney General on a senior-level committee appointed to advise the President on remissions and sentence reductions for inmates serving life and long-term sentences.

As Secretary of the Medico-Legal Society of Sri Lanka, Your Lordship organized several stakeholder events focused on child rights and abuse prevention, mainly amending the MedicoLegal Report format to better address cases involving child abuse and gender-based violence.

Your Lordship's father, the late Mr. Ranjith Abeysuriya, PC, was a distinguished and highly respected figure in the legal profession, having served as the Director Public Prosecutions of the Atorney General's Department and as the 9th President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. In being appointed as President of the Court of Appeal, Your Lordship carries forward this proud legacy of contribution to the legal system.

On a personal note, I am happy to witness this moment. Your Lordship is not only a fellow Royalist and a fellow alumnus of the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, but also from the Amarasuriya family.

Hon. Justice Dr. Don Francis Hathurusinghe Gunawardhana popularly known as Justice Frank Gunawardhana received Your Lordship's secondary education at Ananda College, Colombo, from 1977 to 1986. In 1988, Your Lordship entered Sri Lanka Law College and successfully completed the Examinations by 1990 and subsequently took oaths as an Atorney-at-Law on the 27th of November 1991.

Thereafter, Your Lordship practiced for nearly five years in the chambers of Mr. Arthur Samarasekara, PC, while simultaneously working in the Chambers of Dr. Jayantha De Almeida Gunaratne, PC gaining a wide range of experience. Your Lordship also appeared as junior to several other eminent President's Counsel including the late Mr. R.K.W. Goonasekera and Mr. D. S. Wijesinghe, PC.

In 2011, Your Lordship obtained an LL.M. in International Trade Law from the University of Wales, and in 2024, was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Constitutional Law by the University of Colombo.

Your Lordship entered the Sri Lanka Judicial Service on the 1st of July 1998. From 1999, Your Lordship has been posted to District and Magistrate's Courts across the Country and in the High Court since 2015.

In terms of Foreign Training, Your Lordship has atended residential seminars in India, United States and Malaysia.

Your Lordship Justice Dr. Gunawardhana now joins the Court of Appeal with 26 years of distinguished judicial service, marked by a breadth of experience across courts and a strong commitment to justice.

Hon. Justice Adithya Kantha Madduma Patabendige commenced Your Lordships early education at Kaluwana Kanishta Vidyalaya in Kandy, and at Nugawela Balaka Vidyalaya,

Vidyartha College, and later at Mahinda College, Galle. Your Lordship obtained the Bachelor of Laws Degree from the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo in 1993, and was enrolled as an Atorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in June 1995.

From 1998 to 2000, Your Lordship served at the Atorney General's Department before joining the Judicial Service as Additional Magistrate, then as Magistrate and District Judge in many stations across the Country.

Your Lordships judicial journey progressed further from the years 2015 with Your Lordship's appointment to the High Court.

In 2019 as a judge of the High Court No. 06, Your

Lordship led the implementation of a model court programme. The programme introduced a Case Management System and Case Management Plan grounded in international best practices with full computerization and automation of reports, summons and warrants.

The reforms cleared a decade-old backlog of 76 cases and concluded over 1,000 indictments in under two years.

In December 2020, during COVID-19, Your Lordship spearheaded a timely and transformative initiative through the introduction of the Electronic Bail Application System at the Colombo High Courts which was then enhanced as a dedicated Bail App under the EEJ Project of USAID.

The initiative introduced lasting criminal justice reforms, processing over 6,000 bail applications and serving as a successful model in Sri Lanka.

Your Lordship has contributed to legal scholarship through publications on topics from negligence in road accidents to non-consummation in marriage nullity, and has completed foreign training in Malaysia, the U.S., India, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

Your Lordship Justice Patabandige now joins the Court of Appeal with 25 years of distinguished judicial service, carrying much valued experience and expertise and a strong commitment to developing our system.

As we welcome Your Lordship Justice Rohantha Abeysuriya, PC to the esteemed position of President of the Court of Appeal and Your Lordships Justice Frank Gunawardhana and Justice Aditya Patabendige as Judges of the Court of Appeal, we are reminded that justice is not a static institution, but a living ideal which is carved by those entrusted to uphold it.

From the earliest days of civilization, the word 'justice' carried many meanings and inspired a multitude of interpretations.

Justice is not merely the application of rules, but the pursuit of what is right, what is fair, and what is honourable.

To dispense justice is not to wield power, but to serve. By Court listening to all positions and views with patience, considering with fairness, and deciding with integrity, a judge becomes both the guardian and guide.

Every case, however small, is a step toward restoring equilibrium in a society built on rights and responsibilities.

It is not without symbolism that we refer to courts as Temples of Justice. Like temples, they are places of solemnity and quiet reverence. To sit in judgment is to enter that temple, as a steward of something far greater than oneself. A judge is entrusted with far more than just authority.

Judicial life is not just a profession; it is a vocation. Similar to priesthood, it calls for a degree of seclusion, for the independence of one's conscience to remain intact and unshaken. There are protocols and ethical limits necessary to preserve public confidence.

In fact, in the 2nd-century Roman jurist Ulpian said,

I quote:

"Law derives its name from justice, justitia, and is the science or skill in the good and the equitable. Law being the creature of justice, we the jurisconsults may be considered as her priests, for justice is the goddess whom we worship, and to whose service we are devoted."

At the heart of this ideal stands Lady Justice, with her blindfold representing impartiality, her scales weighing evidence, and her sword the power to enforce. A judge, in many ways, walks in her image.

This, of course, is not novel to Your Lordships, but rather a principle that Your Lordships have long embodied, with unwavering dedication to all that justice demands.

In the sacred pursuit of justice, there can be no room for distinctions such as "difficult" or "not so difficult" judges. Justice must not depend on perception or personality. Yet, at times, we hear interludes, whispers that this judge "likes," or another "does not like."

These are sentiments that must have no place in a courtroom. A judge must not have to be approached in this manner, but rather with the quiet confidence that every voice will be heard, and every case assessed solely on its merits and the merits alone.

Only when such notions are set aside can we truly honour the solemn oath to do right by all manner of people, in the name of justice.

It must always be remembered that under our Constitution, sovereignty lies with the people and that is what Article 3 states.

And when a case is being considered, these are cases of this sovereign, the people, that Your Lordships' and Judges across the Country determine. While we are familiar with the legal maxim "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied", this does not mean that a Judge or Court can ride horse and carriage over the multifarious details and nuances of a dispute, for the singular purpose of speedy justice. This would then result in injustice in place of justice.

The judiciary does not represent the government of the day. It is not an arm of administration.

It is a constitutional organ tasked with upholding the rights and freedoms of every citizen. In that way, it truly is the 'people's court'.

Thus, as I draw my remarks to a close, it must be said: in Your Lordship Hon. Justice Rohantha Abeysuriya, we see a judge cratied by experience and discipline, eminently suited to lead as President of the Court of Appeal.

In Your Lordships Hon. Justice Dr. Frank Gunawardhana and Hon. Justice Aditya Patabendige, we recognize a deep well of wisdom and commitment to fairness, which indeed are qualities befiting appointments to the penultimate Court of jurisdiction in our Republic.

The Temple of Justice, as I have earlier mentioned, is not unfamiliar terrain to any of Your Lordships. Justice lives through Your Lordships, and in Your Lordships, we are confident that its highest ideals would be profoundly honoured.

As the Bar, we stand as steadfast partners in the sacred mission of justice. With full confidence and deep respect, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Lordships.

We await with great anticipation to see the continued flourishing of justice under Your Lordships' watch, administered with clarity and guided by conscience.

May Your Lordships' tenure be marked by the enduring trust of the people.

The Bar pledges its support as Your Lordships take on this solemn duty, and we trust that the scales of Lady Justice will remain balanced and true in your noble hands.

I wish Your Lordships the very best and may Your Lordship's path be guided by wisdom and your tenure marked by justice.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT TO ENABLE THE BAR TO WELCOME HON. JUSTICE K.M.G.H. KULATUNGA AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

My Lord the Chief Justice, Honourable Attorney General, Your Lordships and Ladyships, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Your Lordship the President and Your Lordships of the Court of Appeal, Your Lordship Justice K.M. Gihan H. Kulathunga, Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Attorneys, Honourable Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrates' Courts, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Colleagues at the Bar.

Today, we are gathered in this Ceremonial Court to welcome the newest Member of the Supreme Court, Justice K.M. Gihan H. Kulathunga.

It is also a most historic occasion of constitutional and institutional importance, as this is the first sitting of the Ceremonial Court of the Supreme Court not only after refurbishment and renovation, but also the first Ceremonial sitting as we enter and celebrate 225 Years of this Supreme Court.

It is indeed a proud moment for all of us — the Bench, the Bar, and every citizen of this precious Island.

In our system of administration of justice, we have a deeply rooted convention and tradition, going back over two centuries, whereby the Bar formally welcomes a new Justice, thereby demonstrating the enduring, cordial, mutually respected relationship between the Bench and the Bar, a sine qua non of our legal system.

Accordingly, we are gathered here today, for that solemn duty and distinct privilege of extending our collective goodwill to Your Lordship Justice Gihan Kulathunga upon your elevation to this august Court.

Your Lordship Justice Kulathunga brings to this Court a

record of distinguished service.

Educated at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Your Lordship began your legal journey, as many of us did, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, obtaining the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree, and also pursuing the Bar examinations at the Sri Lanka Law College, and being enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law on 13th February 1993.

Having commenced practice on the civil side, then like Your Lordship's father, the late Justice K.M.M.B. Kulathunga, Your Lordship joined the Attorney General's Department in 1994 and specialised in Criminal Law and Practice.

From 2008 to mid-2012, Your Lordship was a Member of the Bribery Unit of the Attorney General's Department, assisting the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, and training its officers to conduct prosecutions in the original courts and appeals in the superior courts.

During this period, Your Lordship also served as a Consultant to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, advising the Commission on legal matters, drafting charges, and prosecuting under its legal mandate.

In June 2012, Your Lordship was appointed to the High Court, and until February 2022, served as a Judge of the High Court of Sri Lanka — in the Criminal High Court of the Uva Province in Moneragala, the North Western Province in Kuliyapitiya, and the Western Province in Colombo and Gampaha, as well as in the High Court (Civil Appeals) in Colombo.

Your Lordship also has the distinction of considerable international exposure, having served a two-year posting with the Attorney General's Chambers of the Republic of Seychelles as a Prosecutor. Your Lordship further served as a Legal Advisor to the Exchange Controller and the Controller of Prices of the Republic of Seychelles, advising on legal matters, assisting in investigations, framing charges and indictments, conducting prosecutions, and arguing appeals in exchange control and price control matters.

Thereafter, from February 2022 to June 2023, Your Lordship Justice Kulathunga served as a Judge of the High Court of Fiji and also as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Fiji.

During this period, Your Lordship, at the invitation of the Chief Justice of Fiji, also served as a Commissioner of the Independent Legal Services Commission of Fiji, presiding over and hearing disciplinary proceedings brought by the Chief Registrar of the High Court in relation to allegations of professional misconduct against legal practitioners.

Upon your return, Your Lordship thereafter served as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka from September 2024 to December 2025, sitting in Criminal Appeals and also presiding in a Writ Division of the Court of Appeal, prior to Your Lordship's elevation to this Court.

There is no doubt that Your Lordship's contributions reflect a deep sense of dedication and commitment to reaching justice and to upholding what is right over what is wrong.

In doing so, Your Lordship continuously ensures, as did Your Lordship's father, former Supreme Court Justice K.M.M.B. Kulathunga, that priority is given to the matter at hand — approached diligently and with care — endeavouring always to reach the truth of the matter and to deliver well-considered and incisive judgments.

It would not be incorrect to say that Your Lordship follows the hallowed principle in our system: "Let justice be done though the heavens fall."

Your Lordship has a reputation for a strong work ethic, maintaining equal disposition in every matter, and treating all Attorneys, be it Senior or Junior, with equal respect and tolerance.

Your Lordship joins this Apex Court at an important time of transition and reform under the progressive E-Courts Project led by Your Lordship the Chief Justice and supported by the Bar.

Through this initiative, we collectively envision technological change being felt across the length and breadth of our Republic — in every Magistrate's Court, every District Court, and every appellate bench — ensuring that our legal system is more technologically efficient and effective, and better aligned with developments in the rest of the world.

We are already witnessing much progress and change in this sphere, and I am confident that Your Lordship will lend full support to this vital initiative to strengthen and modernise our system of justice.

I wish Your Lordship all blessings, a happy and fulfilling tenure of office and the very best of health, strength, and contentment in the discharge of your high office.

SPEECH MADE BY RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 19TH MARCH 2026 AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT TO ENABLE THE BAR TO BID FAREWELL TO HIS LORDSHIP JUSTICE S. THURAIRAJA, PC

My Lord the Chief Justice, Honourable Attorney General, Your Lordship Justice Sithambarampillai Thurairaja, PC Your Lordships and Ladyships, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Your Lordship the President and Your Lordships of the Court of Appeal, Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Attorneys, Honourable Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrates' Courts, Registrar and Deputy Registrars of the Supreme Court, Colleagues at the Bar, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a deep sense of respect and gratitude that I rise today, on behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, to bid farewell to Your Lordship Justice Sithambarampillai Thurairaja, President's Counsel, on the occasion of Your Lordship's retirement from the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

A ceremonial sitting such as this is not merely a matter of form. It is, in truth, a moment of institutional reflection, where the Bench and the Bar pause together to acknowledge a life in the law, a life of public service, and a life devoted to the administration of justice.

Your Lordship's career is one of rare distinction, and indeed, one of historic significance.

Your Lordship is the first member of the Indian-origin Tamil community in Sri Lanka, since the establishment of the Superior Courts in 1802, to be appointed as Additional Solicitor General, to be conferred Silk, and thereafter to be elevated to both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

That achievement is not merely personal. It represents something far greater, the strength of our institutions and its diversity.

Your Lordship's journey in the law commenced with admission to the Bar in 1988, followed by nearly three decades of distinguished service in the Attorney General's Department.

Rising through the ranks from State Counsel to Additional Solicitor General, Your Lordship was entrusted with matters of the highest importance, including complex prosecutions, public law matters, and issues concerning the protection of the most vulnerable members of society.

Your Lordship's work, particularly in the sphere of child protection and grave criminal offences, is a powerful reminder to all of us, that the law must not only be applied, but must be applied with courage, clarity, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Your Lordship's elevation to the Court of Appeal in 2016, and thereafter to the Supreme Court in 2019, marked the continuation of that same commitment, now expressed through judicial office.

During Your Lordship's tenure on the Supreme Court, Your Lordship has served as the senior - most sitting Judge, as Acting Chief Justice, and as a Member of the Judicial Service Commission, entrusted with the vital responsibility of overseeing the appointment, discipline, and independence of the subordinate judiciary.

Your Lordship's judicial work reflects a deep engagement with constitutional governance, fundamental rights, and public law.

Through landmark decisions on the right to life, state accountability, child protection, and the limits of executive power, Your Lordship has contributed meaningfully to the development of Sri Lanka's constitutional jurisprudence.

These are not merely legal pronouncements, they are safeguards for the citizen, and affirmations of the Constitution as the ultimate protector of rights.

Your Lordship's contribution, however, extends beyond the Bench.

Your Lordship has maintained, throughout Your distinguished career, a close and meaningful relationship with the Bar.

As a Member of the Bar Council, Your Lordship actively contributed to the institutional work of the Association.

As Convenor of the Human Rights Committee of the Bar Association, Your Lordship played an important role in

shaping the Association's engagement with issues of fundamental rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law.

And as Chairman of the BASL ICT Law Committee, Your Lordship was truly ahead of Your time.

At a stage when technology had not yet become central to the practice of law, Your Lordship took steps to introduce computerisation within the Bar, facilitated training for young lawyers, and organised the first SAARC ICT Law Conference of the BASL, bringing regional attention to the role of technology in the administration of justice.

Today, as we speak of digital transformation, e-courts, and the integration of technology into the justice system, Your Lordship envisioned this future a long time ago.

Even on the Bench, Your Lordship demonstrated a keen concern for the practical functioning of the justice system.

Your Lordship's initiative, while in the Court of Appeal, to personally inspect and improve the organisation of the Record Room, and Your Lordship's introduction of the electronic appearance marking system in the Supreme Court, are examples of reforms that have had a direct and meaningful impact on the daily functioning of courts and the practice of the Bar.

Your Lordship has also been deeply committed to training, mentorship, and legal education, contributing over decades to the development of young lawyers, apprentices, and legal officers.

That contribution is perhaps one of the most enduring because it lives on in the many practitioners whose professional journeys have been shaped by Your Lordship's guidance.

Occasions such as this also invite us to reflect on something larger than all of us.

Our system of justice is built not only on laws and judgments, but on traditions, conventions, and values that have been carefully nurtured over generations.

These traditions of independence, integrity, being principle driven, and respect for the Rule of Law, are what give meaning and legitimacy to the offices we hold.

Each of us, whether on the Bench or at the Bar, occupies our position only for a time. We are, in truth, but temporary custodians of institutions that are far greater than ourselves.

The offices we hold are not merely positions of authority; they are a sacred trust, reposed in us by the Constitution, by the profession, and by the people of this country.

That trust demands of us constant vigilance, that we do not permit transient pressures, or collateral interests to dilute the standards that we have inherited.

For it is only by preserving these traditions, without compromise, that we ensure that the administration of justice remains independent, credible, and worthy of public confidence.

Your Lordships are aware that Judicial office is not an easy calling.

In truth, the measure of a judge is not found only in the judgments delivered while in office, but often in how that judge is remembered after he or she has laid down office.

There are those who, in retirement, continue to be surrounded by members of the Bar, not out of formality, but out of genuine respect and affection. And there are others who pass more quietly into distance.

The difference, more often than not, lies not in the authority once held, but in the manner in which that authority was exercised.

The demands of judicial office are such that firmness is often required, and at times, that firmness may be more readily seen than the other equally important qualities that define the judicial role.

And I must say, most fondly, that although Your Lordship has not been known to be the most patient of Judges on the Bench, Your Lordship is also known across the divide for Your Lordships' sincerity of purpose, humanity and your deep commitment to the development of our legal system and all its participants.

One example was when a few months ago, during the Junior National Law Conference, Your Lordship took time to personally instruct the participants, on proper dining etiquette through a demonstration, appreciating the need to develop well rounded legal professionals. On that occasion, the thought that crossed my mind, was it was akin to a father teaching his children on how to deal with the outside world.

It is these qualities, together with Your Lordship's service to the law, that form the enduring impression that Your Lordship leaves behind.

Your Lordship's career, taken as a whole, reflects a rare and powerful combination; of service to the State, commitment to the profession, and leadership within the judiciary.

On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Your Lordship's service to the law, to the judiciary, and to the people of Sri Lanka.

We also take this moment to acknowledge the support of Your Lordship's family, whose strength and understanding would have been an essential part of this long and distinguished journey.

Your Lordship, we wish You good health, happiness, and fulfilment in the years ahead. We have no doubt that Your Lordship will continue to contribute to the law and to society in whatever path you may choose.

May I conclude by stating that while Your Lordship retires from the Bench, Your Lordship's contribution to justice will endure — in the law, in the institutions You have strengthened, and in the lives You have touched.

We bid Your Lordship farewell with respect, with gratitude, and with the highest regard.

SPEECH MADE BY RAJEEV AMARASURIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 31ST MARCH 2026 AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT TO ENABLE THE BAR TO BID FAREWELL TO HER LADYSHIP HON. JUSTICE KUMUDINI WICKREMASINGHE

My Lord the Chief Justice; Attorney General; Your Ladyship Justice Khema Kumudini Wickremasinghe Your Lordships and Ladyships, the Justices of the Supreme Court; Your Lordship the President and Your Lordships of the Court of Appeal; Learned President's Counsel and Learned Senior Instructing Attorneys; Honourable Judges of the High Court, District Court and Magistrates' Courts; Registrar and Deputy Registrars of the Supreme Court; Colleagues at the Bar; Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great appreciation that I address this Court, on behalf of the Bar, to bid farewell to Your Ladyship Justice Khema Kumudini Wickramasinghe, on the occasion of Your Ladyship's retirement from the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Ceremonial sittings such as this are not mere formalities. They are moments when the institution pauses meaningfully, to acknowledge service, to reflect on contribution, and to express its gratitude.

My Lady, Your Ladyship's career reflects a complete and distinguished journey through the legal system.

From your early years at the Attorney General's Department, where you served with dedication as a Senior State Counsel, to your appointment to the High Court in 2006, and thereafter to the Civil Appellate High Court, the Court of Appeal, and ultimately this Court, the Supreme Court of the Republic in 2020.

Your Ladyship has served across every tier of the system.

And That journey matters. It brings with it a depth of understanding that cannot be acquired in any other way, an understanding of the law not only as it is written, but as it is lived, applied, and experienced across courts and across time.

At the trial level, Your Ladyship presided over important criminal matters, labour matters, appeals and revisions including complex and high-profile proceedings.

In the appellate courts, Your Ladyship engaged with a wide and varied jurisdiction, criminal appeals, writs, admiralty matters, land disputes, and commercial cases.

And in this Court, Your Ladyship has dealt with Fundamental Rights applications, leave to appeal matters, and Special Determinations on the constitutionality of legislation.

This is a body of work that reflects both range and responsibility.

Your Ladyship has also contributed quietly, but significantly, to the functioning of the institution itself.

As Acting President of the Court of Appeal, As a member of committee tasked with revising the Rules of this Court, and as one who ensured the continuity of judicial work through digital hearings during times of national difficulty.

These are contributions that are not always visible. But its value is felt and appreciated within our system.

My Lady, Those of us at the Bar encounter Judges not in abstraction, but in the lived reality of the courtroom.

We observe not only what is decided, but how the court is conducted.

The discipline of proceedings. The control and dignity of the courtroom. The ability to move matters forward with clarity, while maintaining fairness and ensuring that everyone receives a fair and reasonable hearing. These are the qualities that leave a lasting impression, and Your Ladyship well and truly deserves much appreciation in this respect.

My Lady, There is another important aspect of Your Ladyship's contribution that I wish to speak of with some emphasis.

Your Ladyship has consistently engaged with the role of women in the legal profession; From your leadership as one time President of the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association, to your role as the Inaugural President of the Sri Lanka Association of Women Judges, as well as, as the Regional Vice President for Asia of the Executive Council of the International Federation of Women Lawyers. I am personally aware of the following and respect Your Ladyship has among the legal community overseas as well, having participated and contributed in many international fora.

This has not been by chance, it has been a considered and sustained part of your work, which has over the years provided much impetus towards the development of our system.

In that context, one is reminded of the words of United States Supreme Court Justice, Late Ruth Bader Ginsburg who once said, "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

That observation is simple. But it carries much weight, because it reminds us that the question before the profession is no longer one of entry, but of progression.

We have, without doubt, made progress. But as Your Ladyship has candidly observed, representation at the highest levels, particularly in positions of leadership, does and has not always moved at the same pace.

And to be more precise, of the 49 Chief Justices of our Republic since 1801, we have had only two women Chief Justices, and of the 207 Supreme Court Justices, we have had only 8 Women, and of the 32 Attorney General, we have had only one woman, and we are yet to have a Women President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

That is not a criticism. It is a reality. And it is one that calls for reflection. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka which today has more Women Members in its register, is well cognizant of these circumstances and is positively intent to bring required focus and necessary change in our landscape. And one such initiative was to constitute a Gender Equality Committee at the Bar Association last year.

Your Ladyship has also spoken of the need to move beyond formal equality.

That the issue today is not access, but opportunity. Not presence, but progression. Not participation, but leadership.

Those are important distinctions. Because equality, in its truest sense, is not achieved by numbers alone.

It is achieved when opportunity, progression and leadership are equally accessible.

At the same time, My Lady, Your Ladyship's own career reflects an important and reassuring truth.

That while we speak of representation, the ultimate measure of a Judge remains constant. Integrity and Fairness.

And it is on those grounds that a Judge is remembered, both during tenure, and more meaningfully, after.

My Lady, Judicial office is not an easy one.

It is also, by its nature, an office that one holds only for a time.

We are, each of us, temporary custodians of enduring institutions. And what we leave behind is not the office, but the manner in which we have carried it.

Perhaps, in the end, the true measure of a Judge is found not in the moment of appointment, But in the quiet regard, after retirement.

In the way the court is remembered. In the respect that endures. And in the example that has been set.

On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation for Your Ladyship's distinguished service.

For your contribution to our system; to the development of the Law; and to the profession as a whole.

As Your Ladyship Justice Kumudini Wickramasinghe now steps away from judicial office, I wish you good health, happiness, fulfilment in the years ahead, and the blessings of the noble triple gem.

Thank you very much.

BENCH AND BAR MEETING



A productive Bench and Bar meeting was held with the former Chief Justice, Hon. Murdu Fernando, PC. The meeting emphasized the importance of fostering a close and mutually respectful relationship between the Bench and the Bar, which is essential for the effective functioning of the system of administration of justice.

Second Bench and Bar Meeting held on 18th November 2025

On 18th November 2025, the Members of the Management Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), together with Mr. Faiz Mustafa PC, Mr. Upul Jayasuriya PC, Mr. Saliya Pieris PC, and Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena SIA, participated in a Bench and Bar meeting with the Hon. Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena.

During this meeting, several important matters concerning the administration of justice and the functioning of the courts were deliberated upon. The ongoing Court Digitization Project was a key focus of discussion. The BASL expressed its appreciation for this initiative and conveyed its commitment to extend full support towards its effective implementation.

The Association also appraised the Hon. Chief Justice of challenges faced by members of the Bar in the discharge of their professional duties. These included procedural concerns within court operations and instances where reasonable applications made by counsel were not accommodated by the Bench.

Further, the meeting explored proposals aimed at enhancing efficiency in court proceedings, including the structuring of the court day into distinct sessions and the adoption of a uniform commencement time across all courts.

This constructive dialogue underscored the BASL's continued dedication to fostering collaboration between the Bench and the Bar, with the shared objective of strengthening the administration of justice in Sri Lanka.



Interventions on National Issues & Important Communications

INTERVENTIONS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

STATEMENTS ISSUED - REPRESENTATIONS OF NATIONAL RELEVANCE

1. STATEMENT DATED 31ST MARCH 2025 - "RE: THE RECENT INCIDENT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PROVINCIAL HIGH COURT OF PUTTALAM AND THE WRIT APPLICATION BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL."
2. STATEMENT DATED 5TH APRIL 2025 - "THE DEATH OF A YOUTH WHILE IN CUSTODY OF THE WELIKADA POLICE".
3. STATEMENT DATED 5TH MAY 2025 - "RECENT RAGGING INCIDENT AT THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY"
4. STATEMENT DATED 7TH MAY 2025 - "THE DEATH OF A REMANDEE WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE ANGUNUKOLAPELESSA PRISON."
5. STATEMENT DATED 14TH MAY 2025 - "RE : THE PROCEEDINGS TO REMOVE MALDIVES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DR. AZMIRALDA ZAHIR AND JUSTICE MAHAZ ALI ZAHIR."
6. STATEMENT DATED 18TH MAY 2025 - "RE : ONLINE MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS TARGETING JUDICAL OFFICERS"
7. STATEMENT DATED 18TH MAY 2025 - "RE: RIGHT OF ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW TO DISCHARGE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES IN A FREE AND FAIR MANNER."
8. LETTER DATED 11TH JUNE 2025 - "CONCERNS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR GRANT OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON"
9. LETTER DATED 1ST AUGUST 2025 - APPOINTMENT OF THE REMAINING MEMBER TO THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION
10. LETTER DATED 19TH AUGUST 2025 - AMENDMENTS TO THE FAUNA AND FLORA PROTECTION ORDINANCE
11. STATEMENT DATED 25TH AUGUST 2025 - PERTAINING TO COMMENTS SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER PLATFORMS ON MATTERS THAT COME WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE JUDICIARY
12. STATEMENT DATED 04TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - PERTAINING TO CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS MADE IN RELATION TO ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
13. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS APPLICATION BEARING NO. SC/PR/101/2025 FILED BY THE BASL - FOLLOWING THE SUICIDE OF A SECOND YEAR STUDENT OF THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY, ALLEGEDLY AFTER BEING SUBJECTED TO SEVERE RAGGING AT THE UNIVERSITY PREMISES ON OR AROUND 26TH APRIL 2025 - LEAVE TO PROCEED AND INTERIM ORDERS GRANTED ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2025
14. STATEMENT DATED 10TH OCTOBER 2025 - BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENT OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BEING ASSAULTED BY A POLICE OFFICER WITHIN THE MOUNT LAVINIA COURT PREMISES
15. LETTER DATED 19TH DECEMBER 2025 - CONCERNS RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION
16. STATEMENT DATED 19TH DECEMBER 2025 - INTIMIDATION OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AT THE KADUWELA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
17. LETTER DATED 22ND DECEMBER 2025 RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL
18. LETTER DATED 22ND DECEMBER 2025

    RE: FAILURE TO APPOINT A PERMANENT AUDITOR GENERAL
19. LETTER DATED 29TH DECEMBER 2025 - PROMOTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS (MAGISTRATES/DISTRICT JUDGES, JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL)
20. STATEMENT DATED 20TH JANUARY 2026 - BASL REGARDING THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
21. STATEMENT DATED 13TH FEBRUAY 2026 - STATEMENT REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AND HIS WIFE
22. BRIEFING DATED 15TH FEBRUARY 2026 - THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2026
23. STATEMENT DATED 26TH MARCH 2026 - LANKAPAY PARTNERS WITH THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA AS CORPORATE PARTNER

Statement dated 31st March 2025 - "Re: The Recent Incident that had taken place in the Provincial High Court of Puttalam and the Writ Application before the Court of Appeal."

31st March 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL RE: THE RECENT INCIDENT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PROVINCIAL HIGH COURT OF PUTTALAM AND THE WRIT APPLICATION BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL

There was an incident of an Attorney-at-Law being charged under the Contempt of Court Act No. 08 of 2024, in the High Court of Puttalam, last Friday, i.e. 28th March 2025. The said Attorney-at-Law has been granted bail on the same day, however, due to the stringent nature of the bail conditions imposed she could not satisfy the bail conditions and could not secure her release from custody. As a result, she has been in remand custody since then.

The new Office-bearers and the new Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka took Office on 29th March 2025. This matter was taken up at the first Bar Council meeting held on the same day, i.e. 29th March 2025, and the Council took serious cognizance of the said incident and in view of the urgency authorized the new Executive Committee to ascertain relevant information of the said incident and to take such necessary steps and measures to address the matter at hand and to protect the rights and liberty of the said Attorney-at-Law.

The BASL further resolved that the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act No. 08 of 2024 must be revisited and to make necessary representations to amend or rescind the said piece of legislation. Both of these matters were addressed in the Convocation Address of the new President on 29th March 2015 when all stakeholders were present.

In view of the very urgent nature of the matter, the Executive Committee authorized the BASL President to institute a Writ Application in this regard in the Court of Appeal. CA (Writ) Application No. 270/2025 was filed by the President as the Petitioner and supported as an urgent matter today, i.e. 31st March 2025. Upon the matter being supported, the Court of Appeal was pleased to issue notices on the Respondents and to grant and issue interim orders in terms of prayers (i) and (j) to the Petition, which in the Petition reads as follows.

(i) Issue an INTERIM ORDER suspending the decision/determination of the 1st Respondent to commit the 5th Respondent to jail/custody, by the order dated on or around 28/3/2025 in Case Number NWP/HC/PUT/SPL/02/2025, until the final determination of this application, subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as to Your Lordships' Court sees fit;

(j) In conjunction with prayer 'I', issue an INTERIM ORDER directing the 3rd and 4th Respondents and/or their servants, agents or successors, to forthwith release the 5th Respondent from custody, subject to such terms and/or conditions, if any, as Your Lordships' Court sees fit;

Accordingly, the 3rd and 4th Respondents, namely, the Commissioner General of Prisons (Prison Headquarters, Colombo 10) and the Superintendent of Prisons (Werapola, Wariyapola) respectively, were directed to forthwith release the 5th Respondent (the Attorney-at-Law) from custody, subject to the 5th Respondent's undertaking to appear before the Court of Appeal when noticed. This Application will be called before the Court of Appeal on 28th April 2025 and the interim orders are operative till that date.

The President, several Executive Committee members and a large number of lawyers visited the said Attorney at Law at the Wariyapola Prison. In compliance with the said Interim Orders, the said Attorney at Law was subsequently released from the Wariyapola Remand Prison on 31st March 2025.

The BASL is appreciative of the services rendered by Mr. Faisz Mustapha PC, Mr. Faizer Mustapha PC, Mr. Saliya Pieris PC, Mr. Senany Dayaratne AAL, Ms. Nishadi Wickremasinghe AAL, Ms. Janani Abeywickrema and their respective chambers for representing the President BASL in this application and Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, SIA for being the registered Attorney-at-Law.

The BASL as a responsible professional body will reiterate its commitment to act in the best interests of its members, the profession, the system of administration of justice and the general public.

Chathura A Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 5th April 2025 - "The Death of a Youth While in Custody of the Welikada Police".

05th April 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL : THE DEATH OF A YOUTH WHILE IN CUSTODY OF THE WELIKADA POLICE

In the early hours of 02nd April 2025 a youth died while in the custody of the Welikada Police, due to fatal injuries. It has been reported that the said injuries were self-inflicted and that the youth was not in a proper mental state. It is also reported that the youth was taken to the Mulleriyawa Hospital where he succumbed to the said injuries.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is deeply concerned in relation to this matter, the narrative and the surrounding concerns.

The BASL calls upon the Acting Inspector General of Police to ensure the conduct of an immediate and impartial investigation into this incident. The BASL will closely monitor the developments in this respect, and would take whatever measures that may be necessary to ensure due process is followed and that the rule of law is ensured.

Time and again over decades, the BASL has cautioned that it is imperative that Law Enforcement Agencies, including the Sri Lanka Police, exercise great caution and act with utmost care and responsibility to prevent such incidents, as these incidents erode trust and confidence in the system of administration of justice.

The BASL regrets to note that notwithstanding the same, custodial deaths continue and the BASL is concerned that the Authorities are slow in taking meaningful action to prevent the same occurring as well as taking expeditious steps and measures to bring the culprits to justice.

The repetition of such incidents will lead to the allegation of a climate of impunity on the part of the State, which is most detrimental to all citizens of this Country.

The BASL will support measures that can be initiated to adopt a principle of zero tolerance in custodial deaths and is willing to support the Law Enforcement Authorities including the Sri Lanka Police in the area of capacity building in relation to same.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chatura A. Galhena,
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 5th May 2025 - "Recent Ragging Incident at the Sabaragamuwa University"

5th May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON THE RECENT RAGGING INCIDENT AT THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses deep concern in relation to the incident of suicide by a student of the Sabaragamuwa University connected with an alleged incident of ragging which has been both inhuman and brutal.

The BASL strongly condemns any form of ragging, bullying or violence directed at any student at any educational institution which is not only violative of the Law but also in violation of basic human values and conduct.

It is also the belief of the BASL that some of the recent incidents of ragging have been caused due to the dereliction of duty on the part of the relevant institution, and these authorities must be held accountable for the same.

The BASL is deeply concerned on the inadequate implementation of the provisions of the 'Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20 of 1998', by Law Enforcement Authorities, against perpetrators of ragging and violence in these Institutions. The BASL is also mindful of the applicability of the provisions of the 'Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Act No. 22 of 1994' and the relevant provisions of the Penal Code.

The BASL urges all responsible authorities in Universities and other High Educational Institutions to take necessary preemptive action and incorporate a zero-tolerance policy on unlawful ragging.

The BASL will closely monitor the case filed by the Samanalawewa Police in the Magistrate's Court of Balangoda and urges the authorities to take all necessary legal measures to ensure the rule of law and the due enforcement of the law. The BASL is also considering seeking intervention of the Courts of Law to ensure better implementation and enforcement of the applicable Law.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 14th May 2025 - "Re: The proceedings to remove Maldives Supreme Court Justice Dr. Azmiralda Zahir and Justice Mahaz Ali Zahir."

14th May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL RE : THE PROCEEDINGS TO REMOVE MALDIVES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DR. AZMIRALDA ZAHIR AND JUSTICE MAHAZ ALI ZAHIR

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka expresses its concern on the recent proceedings by the Judicial Services Commission of Maldives, making recommendation to the Parliament of the Maldives on the removal of Maldives Supreme Court Justice Dr. Azmiralda Zahir and Justice Mahaz Ali Zahir.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka has perused the communiques issued by the Bar Council of Maldives, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, LAWASIA, the Bar Association of India and the Nepal Bar Association in this relation, expressing concern about the lack of due process and transparency in the proceedings conducted by the Judicial Services Commission.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka calls upon the Government of the Maldives and the Parliament of the Maldives not to proceed with this matter until the concerns raised by the Bar Council of Maldives in their communique are duly addressed and communicated.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka underscores the need for adherence to the Rule of Law, the safeguarding and protection of the Independence of the Judiciary and ensuring Due Process and the Principles of Natural Justice.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 7th May 2025 - "The Death of a Remanded while in the Custody of the Angunukolapelessa Prison"

7th May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL : THE DEATH OF A REMANDEE WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE ANGUNUKOLAPELESSA PRISON

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses its deep concern over the tragic death of a suspect, who was remanded and later died while in state custody under disturbing circumstances.

The deceased had presented himself before the Embilipitiya Magistrate's Court as a surety of a suspect. It is reported that due to an incident that had taken place within the Court room he had been detained by the Police and produced before the Learned Magistrate on the following day where the Learned Magistrate had ordered that he be remanded on a charge of Contempt of Court.

We are deeply concerned that contempt provisions have been used excessively in this instance and would make due representation with our detailed position to the Judicial Service Commission.

Even more troubling is the fact that within less than 48 hours of his remand, the suspect was reported dead. The information available thus far, including reports of head injuries revealed at the postmortem examination, raises serious questions about the treatment he received while in the custody of Police and Prison Authorities.

The BASL stresses that the State bears a fundamental and non-derogable obligation to protect the life, dignity, and bodily integrity of all persons deprived of liberty. The judiciary and prison authorities alike are bound by law to uphold the rights of individuals under their custody and to ensure that no person is subjected to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

The BASL calls for:

1. An immediate, impartial, and independent investigation into the circumstances of this death that took place in custody;
2. Accountability for all those whose actions or omissions contributed to this grave miscarriage of justice; and
3. A systemic review of the exercise of contempt powers and remand procedures to ensure they are applied consistently with constitutional guarantees, human rights standards, and the basic tenets of fairness and proportionality.

This death is not merely a personal tragedy, it is a profound institutional failure. As Members of the Legal Profession and as Guardians of the Rule of Law, we remind all State Authorities that Justice must always be tempered with humanity and that no citizen, however humble, is expendable.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 18th May 2025 - "Re : Online Media Including Social Media Posts Targeting Judical Officers"

18th May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL RE : ONLINE MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS TARGETING JUDICAL OFFICERS

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is deeply concerned about several online media including social media posts targeting judicial officers.

The BASL has observed that the said posts are being shared and commented upon by members of the public in a manner detrimental to the judicial officers concerned and the system of administration of justice.

In view of the pivotal role played by members of the judiciary in the dispensation of justice and the paramount requirement to ensure and safeguard the independence of the judiciary, the law provides specific process and procedure for scrutiny of judicial conduct.

The BASL is particularly concerned by recent content in certain online including social media platforms that have published the images of judicial officers and speculated on the facts of an inquiry without any substantiated basis resulting in widespread public speculation on matters that are sub judice and subject to the jurisdiction of the relevant constitutional authority. Such conduct contributes to a culture of trial by media, which is both unethical and detrimental to the fair administration of justice.

The presumption of innocence is a cornerstone of our legal system and must be upheld at all times. Legal professionals and the public alike are urged to refrain from making statements, sharing opinions, or engaging in any conduct that could prejudice inquiries or lead to undue public pressure on the process.

It must also be emphasized that judicial officers, by the nature of their office, are not in a position to respond to public allegations outside the lawful forums available to them.

In light of the above, the BASL calls for responsible discourse, respect for due process, and the preservation of dignity when commenting on conduct of Judicial Officers.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 22nd May 2025 - "Re: Right of Attorneys-at-law to Discharge Their Professional Duties in a Free and Fair Manner."

22nd May 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BASL RE: RIGHT OF ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW TO DISCHARGE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES IN A FREE AND FAIR MANNER

In the recent past the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has received reports of several instances where Law Enforcement Agencies and Prosecuting Authorities have sought to obtain access to information in the possession of Attorneys-at-Law in relation to the professional duties they discharge.

The BASL emphasizes that Legal Practitioners act on the lawful instructions of their clients are bound by professional duties of confidentiality. These duties are firmly established under the Supreme Court Rules and the Evidence Ordinance, which prohibit disclosure of privileged communications except with clients' consent or as expressly required by Law.

The BASL considers it is inappropriate for Law Enforcement Agencies and Prosecuting Authorities to call upon Attorneys-at- Law to make statements concerning matters arising in relation to the discharge of their professional duties. Such actions risk violating ethical standards and compromising the independence of the Legal Profession.

The BASL urges all such authorities and agencies to refrain from such actions that undermine the Role of Lawyers in the system of Administration of Justice.

Interference of this nature threatens the Rule of Law and the Constitutional Protections under Article 14(1)(g) of the Constitution guaranteed to all citizens which includes Attorneys-at-Law as well. The BASL re-iterates that members of the legal fraternity should be able to discharge their professional duties without any fear or limitation subject to the provisions of Law including the Supreme Court Rules, which is an essential element to maintain a free and fair system in the dispensation of justice.

The BASL further emphasizes that any limitation imposed on Attorneys-at-Law to discharge their professional duties towards a client, will curtail the right of citizens to have due and proper access to justice, which is also an indispensable element in the justice system of the Country.

The BASL remains resolutely committed to defending the rights and freedoms of Legal Professionals and to upholding the continued Independence, Integrity, and Dignity of the Legal Profession in Sri Lanka.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter dated 11th June 2025 - "Concerns Regarding the Alleged Irregular Grant of a Presidential Pardon"

11th June 2025

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake,
The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

Your Excellency,

CONCERNS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR GRANT OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) writes to express its serious concern regarding recent reports of an inmate allegedly released from Anuradhapura Prison under the guise of a Presidential Pardon, without having followed proper legal process.

As Your Excellency is aware, Article 34 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant Pardons to convicted individuals. However, this power must be exercised in a manner that is transparent, procedurally sound, and consistent with judicial precedent.

The Supreme Court Judgement of *Hirunika Premachandra v. Attorney General (SC/FR 221/2021)*, among others, affirms that the exercise of the clemency power is subject to judicial review, especially where due process to has been compromised.

The incident involving the alleged release of the convicted inmate, has raised grave questions about possible institutional malpractice, misuse of administrative authority, and breaches in the internal control systems of prison authorities. The subsequent press release issued by the Presidential Media Division (PMD) has further clarified that no such pardon had been officially granted by Your Excellency. Such unauthorized actions reflect a serious breakdown in the procedural integrity of the system, and also raises concerns of possible impropriety.

The Rule of Law must prevail without exception, and no space should exist for the arbitrary or unlawful release of prisoners, especially in a manner that disregards the victims' rights and judicial determinations.

In this regard, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka respectfully urges Your Excellency to take steps to :-

1. Direct a full and impartial investigation into the incident, identifying all responsible parties, and taking necessary disciplinary or legal action against the perpetrators; and

2. Strengthen transparency and accountability in the operations of the Department of Prisons, with a focus on institutional reforms.

The BASL stands ready to extend its fullest cooperation to Your Excellency, the Ministry of Justice, and other relevant authorities in advancing these efforts. We remain committed to upholding the Rule of Law and ensuring that the justice system serves the people with integrity and fairness.

We trust Your Excellency will treat this matter with the urgency and gravity it deserves.

Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter dated 19th August 2025 - "Amendments to the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance"

19th August 2025

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake,
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
Presidential Secretariat,
Galle Face,
Colombo 01.

Your Excellency,

AMENDMENTS TO THE FAUNA AND FLORA PROTECTION ORDINANCE

We write with reference to the above-captioned matter.

As your Excellency is aware, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) as the representative body of the Legal Profession places primacy on the need to ensure and promote the Rule of Law in all aspects of governance.

Your Excellency will no doubt appreciate that the fauna and flora of Sri Lanka forms an important constituent of the rich and diverse heritage of the Country, which must be preserved and protected for future generations. This is also an important attraction for the millions of foreign tourists who travel to Sri Lanka and the vital role the same has on the economy of the Country.

In this backdrop, the BASL notes with concern the increased numbers of elephant deaths, which ranks as presently the highest in the world. In the past there have also been many killings of Leopards and other Fauna.

Having considered this matter, it is the position of the BASL that the relevant laws in this sphere need urgent revision and update, and the BASL will shortly present to Your Excellency the proposals of the BASL in this respect.

In the meantime, we would urge the Government to look at shorter term amendments of the relevant Laws, including particularly the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance to enhance the fines and other penalties which need urgent revision and update. Such measures if implemented, would necessarily become short term deterrents to the unlawful killings of these protected species that we now witness.

The BASL is ready and willing to provide whatever support necessary to implement the foregoing.

Thank you,
Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Cc-
1. Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara - Minister of Justice, Prisons and National Integration
2. Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe PC - Attorney General
3. Hon. Dammika Patabedhi, Minister of Environment
4. Mr. Ranjan Marasinghe, Director General of Wildlife Conservation
5. Mr. J.M. Wijebandara, Director General – Legal, Presidential Secretariat

Statement dated 25th August 2025 - Pertaining to Comments Seen on Social Media and Other platforms on Matters that come Within the Purview of the Judicial Service Commission and the Judiciary

25nd August 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA PERTAINING TO COMMENTS SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER PLATFORMS ON MATTERS THAT COME WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE JUDICIARY

In the past week, there have been comments made on social media and other platforms pertaining to matters that come within the purview of the Judicial Service Commission and the Judiciary, which are both Independent Institutions.

The Judicial Service Commission is a Commission consisting of the Chief Justice and two Senior Judges of the Supreme Court, which holds responsibility in relation to the transfer of judges of the High Court, as well as for the appointment, promotion, transfer, disciplinary control and dismissal of judicial officers and relevant scheduled public officers.

The BASL has continuously stood for the independence of the judiciary, which must be safeguarded and protected from any form of outside threat or interference, sought to be affected through social media posts, statements, commentaries or purported predictions by YouTubers on case outcomes. Such acts undermine the rule of law, threatens the due process of law and can have potential to impact the public confidence in the administration of justice.

Perpetrators of such acts can be dealt with in terms of the Law. In this respect, attention is invited to Article 111(C)(1) and (2) of the Constitution which contain penal provisions regarding interference with the judiciary.

In conjunction to the forgoing, the BASL emphasizes the need for all stakeholders including law enforcement authorities to safeguard the Rule of Law, due process and the protection of the rights and liberties of citizens at all times.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 04th September 2025 - Pertaining to certain observations made in relation to Attorneys-at-Law

04th September 2025

STATEMENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA PERTAINING TO CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS MADE IN RELATION TO ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has observed several recent instances where individuals have threated legal action / complaint against Attorneys-at-Law pertaining to the professional work carried out on behalf of clients.

The BASL emphasizes the independent role and function of Attorneys-at-Law which is to professionally represent the rights and interests of a client and further reiterates the principle, convention and practice which unequivocally enables a Legal Practitioner to Practice his / her Profession in the best interest of one's client and within the framework provided by Law.

Whilst the BASL is cognizant of the specific mechanism in the legal system for reviewing and supervising the professional conduct of Attorneys-at-Law, the BASL invites attention to the Judgment of the Supreme Court in Supreme Contempt Application No. 3/2016 delivered on 15th July 2021, where the Supreme Court convicted and sentenced a person under contempt provisions for making false representations to the Supreme Court in relation to an Attorney-at-Law, as it directly impacted on the system of administration of justice.

In this relation, the BASL emphasizes the important need for all stakeholders to act with restraint, responsibility and accountability in matters in relation to the system of administration of justice. The BASL will robustly defend these professional rights in any forum, if the need arises.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 10th October 2025 - Bar Association of Sri Lanka Expresses Deep Concern over the Incident of an Attorney-At-Law Being Assaulted by a Police Officer within the Mount Lavinia Court Premises

10th October 2025

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENT OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW BEING ASSAULTED BY A POLICE OFFICER WITHIN THE MOUNT LAVINIA COURT PREMISES

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses its utmost outrage in relation to the incident that took place today (10th October 2025) within the Mount Lavinia Court Premises where an Attorney-at-Law was assaulted by a police officer.

The BASL has always stood firmly against the use of force by Police Officers against any person. In that context, this incident is inexplicable.

The Officer concerned has now been remanded and the BASL will closely monitor this matter. The BASL calls upon the Inspector General of Police to take all necessary steps and measures, not only to address this matter at hand but also to ensure that such incidents will not take place in the future.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 19th December 2025 - Intimidation of an Attorney-at-Law at the Kaduwela Municipal Council

19th December 2025

BASL STATEMENT REGARDING THE INCIDENT OF INTIMIDATION OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AT THE KADUWELA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses its deep concern regarding the treatment of an Attorney-at-Law who faced obstruction and hindrance while representing an Animal Welfare Association at an inquiry conducted by the Mayor of the Kaduwela Municipal Council, Mr. Ranjan Jayalal Perera.

As evidenced by audio recordings circulating on social media and reported by the media, the Mayor is heard claiming to be an Unofficial Magistrate, implying that he was exercising judicial authority. Such a claim is wholly erroneous and misconceived, as the Mayor was not, at the time, acting under the authority of any Magistrate or judicial capacity.

The BASL strongly condemns the conduct of the Mayor of Kaduwela and views this incident as a serious interference with the professional duties and independence of an Attorney-at-Law.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter dated 22nd December 2025
Re: Appointment of Civil Society representatives to the Constitutional Council

22nd December 2025

1. His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake
   President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
   Presidential Secretariat,
   Colombo 01.
2. Hon. (Dr.) Harini Amarasuriya
   Prime Minister,
   No. 58, Sir Ernest De Silva Mawatha,
   Colombo 07.
3. Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne
   Speaker of the Parliament,
   Parliament of Sri Lanka,
   Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
4. Hon. Sajith Premadasa
   Leader of the Opposition,
   Office of the Leader of the Opposition,
   Sri Jayewardenepura-Kotte,

RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) wishes to draw your collective attention to the forthcoming expiry of the tenure of the three Civil Society representatives presently serving on the Constitutional Council in January 2026.

The Constitutional Council, established under Article 41A(1) of the Constitution, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the independent functioning of the Commissions of the Republic and in relation to appointments to High Offices. Under Article 41B(1), no person may be appointed as Chairperson or member of the Independent Commissions listed in the Schedule to that Article without the recommendation of the Constitutional Council. Moreover, appointments to High Offices—including the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court, the President and members of the Court of Appeal, and the Attorney General—contained in the Schedule to Article 41C, cannot be made without the approval of the Constitutional Council. The Council therefore occupies a central place in safeguarding the independence of institutions and the integrity of appointments to the highest offices of the State.

In terms of Article 41A(3)(e), three members of the Constitutional Council are to be nominated by the Speaker of Parliament with the agreement of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, and thereafter appointed by the President.

At present, Dr. Prathap Ramanujam, Dr. (Mrs.) Dilkushi Anula Wijesundere, and Prof. (Mrs.) Dinesha Samararatne serve as Civil Society representatives. They have rendered commendable service during their tenure, which is now drawing to a close.

It is important to recall that the Constitutional Council was first introduced in 2001 by the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, thereby establishing independent commissions and depoliticizing appointments. Subsequently, under the 18th, 19th, and 20th Amendments, the powers and form of the Council were altered. The present Constitutional Council was re-established by the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, changing its composition to include broader cross-party representation, with the aim of achieving greater consensus and accountability.

The BASL, being deeply concerned with the rule of law, the independence of Commissions, and the integrity of appointments to High Offices, respectfully requests that the new Civil Society representatives to the Constitutional Council be persons of exemplary integrity. In addition, such representatives must be individuals who enjoy wide acceptance in society and who are dynamic and vibrant, capable of contributing meaningfully to the Council's deliberations. We further urge that these appointments be made after obtaining observations from Civil Society and from Professional Organizations including the BASL, as stakeholders in the governance framework of the Republic.

We trust that due consideration will be given to these concerns in the interest of strengthening democratic governance and ensuring the continued independence of the Constitutional Council.

Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter dated 22nd December 2025 Re: Failure to Appoint a Permanent Auditor General

22nd December 2025

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

Your Excellency,

RE: FAILURE TO APPOINT A PERMANENT AUDITOR GENERAL

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) wishes to express its deep concern regarding the prolonged failure to appoint a permanent Auditor General following the retirement of the former Auditor General in April 2025. For a period exceeding ten months, this crucial office has remained vacant.

The Office of Auditor General, established under Article 153(1) of the Constitution, is of paramount importance for the functioning of all State Institutions and other entities as provided in Article 154 of the Constitution. The absence of a permanent Auditor General has serious implications for the effective functioning of the National Audit Office and for the accountability of State Institutions and other entities mandated under the Constitution.

The urgency of this appointment is heightened by the present circumstances. Sri Lanka is emerging from a financial crisis with the support of the Extended Fund Facility of the International Monetary Fund and other international agencies. In addition, the country is currently receiving foreign financial assistance in response to the disaster situation caused by Cyclone *Ditwah*. In this context, financial accountability and transparency of State Institutions are of paramount importance.

The BASL also notes that the person nominated thus far by Your Excellency for the post of Auditor General has not gained the acceptance of the majority of the Constitutional Council. It is therefore imperative that a candidate of proven competence, integrity, and independence—who commands wide acceptance within the Constitutional Council—is appointed, rather than a partisan figure. Such an appointment will strengthen confidence in the National Audit Office and ensure that the constitutional mandate of the Auditor General is fulfilled without compromise.

As an institution committed to upholding accountability and transparency in governance, the BASL respectfully urges Your Excellency to take immediate steps to appoint a permanent Auditor General under and in terms of Article 153(1) of the Constitution. This appointment is essential to safeguard the integrity of the National Audit Office and the confidence of both citizens and international partners in the financial governance of the State.

Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

CC - Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne
Speaker of the Parliament,
Parliament of Sri Lanka,
Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

Statement dated 13th February 2026 - Statement regarding th assassination of an Attorney-at-Lav and his wife

13th February 2026

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AND HIS WIFE

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) strongly condemns the tragic shooting a assassination of an Attorney-at-Law and his wife on 13th February 2026 at Akuregoda b group of unidentified assailants.

While the circumstances of this incident are yet to be investigated, attacks of this nature a grave threat to the Rule of Law.

The BASL strongly urges the Police to conduct a thorough and expeditious investigation i this incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and ensure that they are brought before the l without delay.

The BASL further urges that concrete and positive steps be taken by the Law Enforcem Authorities to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Briefing dated 15th February 2026 - The decisions taken at the Special General Meeting of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka on 15th February 2026

BRIEFING OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

The General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka ("BASL") gathered in large numbers today, 15th February 2026, at a Special General Meeting of the membership, convened in view of the brutal killing of Mr. Buddhika Mallawa Arachchi, *Attorney-at-Law* and his wife in broad daylight in a high security area.

Taking into consideration the grave concerns expressed by the membership about the existential threat faced by Attorneys-at-Law, as highlighted by this inhuman assassination of Mr. Mallawa Arachchi, AAL and the similar dangers faced by the Judiciary, as shown by the shocking murder of later Hon. Sarath Ambepitya, High Court Judge in November 2004, and with a view to demonstrating the collective desire of the membership to meaningfully express its strong resolve to assist in the process of remedying this grave situation, the membership unanimously decided as follows:

1. To compel the Government to take urgent and robust measures to bring an end to the current culture of brutal killings and to ensure public security;
2. All Attorneys-at-Law to refrain from appearing in all Courts throughout the country on Monday, 16th February 2026;
3. To call upon the Law Enforcement Authorities to forthwith apprehend the perpetrators of these brutal killings and to expeditiously take steps according to law;
4. To express the utmost displeasure of the BASL, with regard to the public circulation and attempts of narrative creation through unverified information attributed as having been communicated by the Police.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

15th February 2026

Hon. Preethi Padman Surasena
Chief Justice,
And Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission,
Chief Justice's Chamber,
Supreme Court Complex,
Colombo 12.

Your Lordship,

RE: THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

We kindly bring to Your Lordship's attention that the General Membership of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka ("BASL") gathered in large numbers today, 15th February 2026, at a Special General Meeting of the membership, convened in view of the brutal killing of Mr. Buddhika Mallawa Arachchi, *Attorney-at-Law* and his wife in broad daylight in ca high security area.

Taking into consideration the grave concerns expressed by the membership about the existential threat faced by Attorneys-at-Law both of the private and official bars, as highlighted by this inhuman assassination of Mr. Mallawa Arachchi, AAL and the similar dangers faced by the Judiciary, as shown by the shocking murder of late Hon. Sarath Ambepitya, High Court Judge in November 2004, and with a view to demonstrating the collective desire of the membership to meaningfully express its strong resolve to assist in the process of remedying this grave situation, the membership unanimously decided as follows:

1. To compel the Government to take urgent and robust measures to bring an end to the current culture of brutal killings and to ensure public security;
2. All Attorneys-at-Law to refrain from appearing in all Courts throughout the country on Monday, 16th February 2026, the day of the funeral of Mr. Mallawa Arachchi;
3. To call upon the Law Enforcement Authorities to forthwith apprehend the perpetrators of these brutal killings and to expeditiously take steps according to law;

4. To express the utmost displeasure of the BASL, with regard to the public circulation and attempts of narrative creation through unverified information attributed as having been communicated by the Police.

We write to respectfully request Your Lordship to take due cognizance of the extraordinary circumstance that gave rise to this decision, and in particular to item (2) above, and to be pleased to facilitate the effectuation of the same.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Copies to;

1. Hon. Justice S. Thurairajah PC
   Judge of the Supreme Court,
   Member,
   Judicial Service Commission,
   Hulftsdorp,
   Colombo 12.

2. Hon. Justice Mahinda Samayawardena,
   Judge of the Supreme Court,
   Member,
   Judicial Service Commission,
   Hulftsdorp,
   Colombo 12.

Statement dated 20th January 2026 - BASL regarding the office of Attorney General

20th January 2026

STATEMENT OF THE BASL REGARDING THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is deeply concerned about recent social media posts that target the Hon. Attorney General. These social media posts seek to unfairly interfere with the independence of the office the Attorney General.

It must be noted that the Attorney General performs a quasi-judicial role in respect of criminal matters. The Attorney General has to decide whether or not to charge /indict a suspect based on the material available and submitted to him by the investigating authority. In doing so, the Attorney General will be required to consider whether such material is admissible in law and whether based on such material there exists a reasonable prospect of a conviction.

The decisions of the Attorney General are reviewable, by way of the exercise of Writ jurisdiction before the Court of Appeal or by way of the exercise of the Fundamental Rights jurisdiction before the Supreme Court.

It must also be understood that judicial officers and quasi-judicial officers have to take decisions according to law, which sometimes may not necessarily reflect the popular view.

In case of ***Victor Ivon v. Sarath N. Silva, Attorney-General and Another*** ***(1998) 1 Sri.L.R. 340*** at 349, it was observed by Justice Mark Fernando that –

"A citizen is entitled to a proper investigation – one which is fair, competent, timely and appropriate – of a criminal complaint, whether it be by him or against him. The criminal law exists for the protection of his rights – of person, property and reputation – and lack of a due investigation will deprive him of the protection of the law."

Whilst every citizen has a right to critique the decisions of public officials including the Attorney General it must be done in a manner that will not undermine the independence of the office of the Attorney General and to the detriment of the rule of law. The officers of the Department of the Attorney General should not be subject to unwarranted and unfair interference from sections of the public or media who do so to achieve their partisan ends.

The BASL firmly believes that it is the duty of the Government and the Law Enforcement agencies to ensure that there is no unwarranted interference with the exercise of the powers of the Attorney General. The Government must ensure the protection of the independence of key institutions including that of the office of the Attorney General which is essential to protect the rule of law in our country.

We strongly urge that the independence and integrity of the office of Attorney General be protected at all times to ensure the protection of the cherished principles of justice and freedom.

Rajeev Amarasuriya
President

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary

JUDGEMENTS / ORDERS MADE FOR CASES FILED BY THE BASL

1. Order dated 31st March 2025 in the application filed before the Court of Appeal regarding the Incident that had taken place in the Provincial High Court of Puttalam.

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

In the matter of an Application for mandates in the nature of Writs of Certiorari, and Habeas Corpus under and in terms of Articles 140 and 141 of the Constitution.

CA. Writ Application No: -
CA-WRT-0270-2025

Rajeev Amarasuriya - Attorney-at-Law,
President,
The Bar Association of Sri Lanka,
No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha,
Colombo 12.

PETITIONER

Vs.

01. Nadee Aparna Suwandurugoda,
Hon. Judge of the High Court,
High Court of Puttalam,
Puttalam.

02. Registrar,
High Court of Puttalam,
Puttalam.

03. Commissioner General of Prisons,
Prisons Headquarters,
No. 150, Baseline Road,
Colombo 10.

04. Superintendent,
Sri Lanka Prison,
Werapola,
Wariyapola.

05. S.A.P. Udayangani,
No. 402, Wijaya Katupotha,
Chilaw.

Presently at:
Sri Lanka Prison,
Werapola,
Wariyapola.

06. The Hon. Attorney General,
Attorney General's Department,
Hulftsdorp,
Colombo 12.

RESPONDENTS

CA-WRT-0270-25

31.03.2025

Before : M.T. Mohammed Laffar, J. (Act. P/CA)
K.P. Fernando, J.

Faisz Musthapha, P.C. with Saliya Pieris, P.C., Faiszer Musthapha, P.C., Senany Dayaratne, K.W.Asantha S. Fernando, Thishya Weragoda, Niranjan Arulpragasam, Keerthi Thilakaratne, Nishadhi Wickramasinghe, Janani Abeywickrama, Lakmini Mudannayake instructed by Senior Instructing Attorney, G.G. Arulpragasam for the Petitioner.

Manohara Jayasinghe, D.S.G. with Navodi De Zoysa, S.C. for the Hon. Attorney General. (06th Respondent)

At the outset, this Court notes that although today, i.e., 31.03.2025, is a public holiday marking the Eid al-Fitr festival, it was convened at the request of the President of the Bar Association owing to the exceptional urgency and gravity of the matter. The case in question, bearing No. NWP/HC/PUT/SPL/02/2025 pertains to the remand of an Attorney-at-Law on charges of contempt by the Learned High Court Judge of Puttalam.

In the interest of ensuring a fair hearing, this Court, acting *ex mero motu*, contacted the Honourable Attorney General by telephone to seek the appointment of a representative from the Attorney General's Department to assist the Court. The Honourable Attorney General graciously acceded to this request, and I would like to thank the Honourable Attorney General for his cooperation despite it being a public holiday.

Accordingly, on 31.03.2025, this matter was taken up for hearing in Open Court. We heard the learned President's Counsel for the Petitioner in support of this application, as well as the learned Deputy Solicitor General (D.S.G.) for the 06th Respondent. The learned Deputy Solicitor General informed the Court that the Honourable Attorney General does not object to the Court making an appropriate Order in this regard.

Having scrutinized the Petition, Affidavit, and annexed documents (marked as P1, P2, and P3), as well as considering the submissions of the learned President's Counsel for the Petitioner and the learned Deputy Solicitor General for the Respondents, this Court is of the view that this is a fit and proper case to issue notice, upon the Respondents and grant an interim relief. Accordingly, this Court makes the following Orders;

01. Formal notices are hereby issued upon the Respondents (The Registrar of this Court is directed to issue formal notices on all the Respondents).

02. An Interim Order suspending the decision of the 01st Respondent, the learned High Court Judge of Puttalam, to commit the 05th Respondent to jail, as per the impugned Order dated, 28.03.2025 in Case No. NWP/HC/PUT/SPL/02/2025, until the final determination of this application, is issued.

03. An Interim Order directing the 03rd and 04th Respondents, namely, the Commissioner General of Prisons (Prisons Headquarters, Colombo 10) and the Superintendent of Prisons (Werapola, Wariyapola), respectively, to forthwith release the 05th Respondent from custody, subject to the 05th Respondent's undertaking to appear before this Court when noticed, is issued.

04. The Registrar of this Court is directed to call for the entire record of proceedings in Case No. NWP/HC/PUT/SPL/02/2025 from the High Court of Puttalam, forthwith.

05. The Registrar of this Court is further directed to communicate these Orders to all the Respondents by telephone and fax, forthwith, with the usual charges to be borne by the Petitioner. The Registrar shall furnish the Petitioner with a certified copy of today's proceedings, subject to the usual cost. The said cost may be paid on the first working day, namely, 01.04.2025.

Notice returnable on 28.04.2025.

Sgd/-

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Journal Entry dated 31.03.2025 in Court of Appeal Case No: CA-WRT-0270-25 which is filed of record. (P 1 – P4)

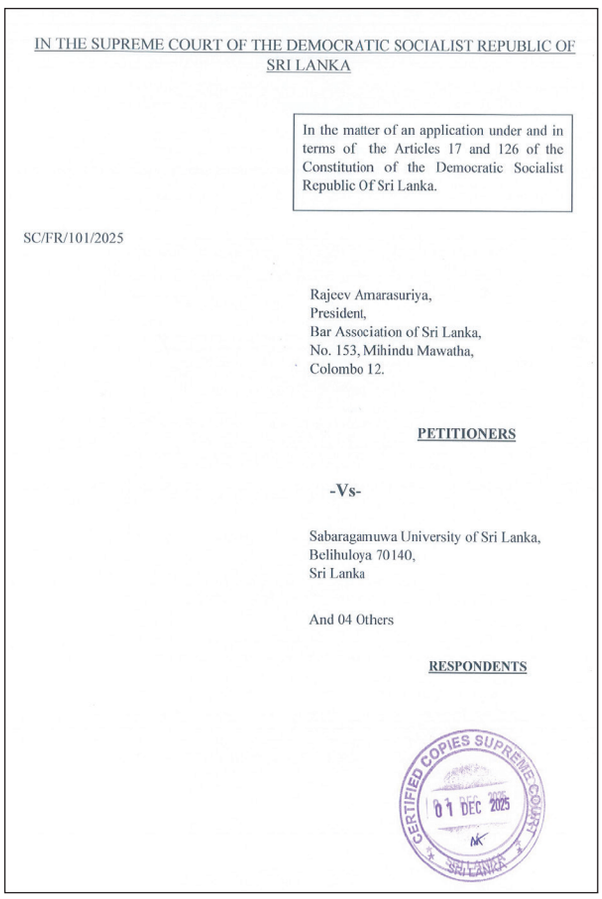
Prepared by : Rathnaweera (Sapna)

Compared with : (Rasika.)

31/3/2025 (1.45 pm)

For Registrar of the Court of Appeal
Maheshi Welagedara
Deputy Registrar
Court of Appeal
Colombo 12

2. Order dated 16th November 2025 in the case filed regarding thew Ragging Incident at the Sabaragamuwa University.



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

In the matter of an application under and in terms of the Articles 17 and 126 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic Of Sri Lanka.

SC/FR/101/2025

Rajeev Amarasuriya,
President,
Bar Association of Sri Lanka,
No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha,
Colombo 12.

PETITIONERS

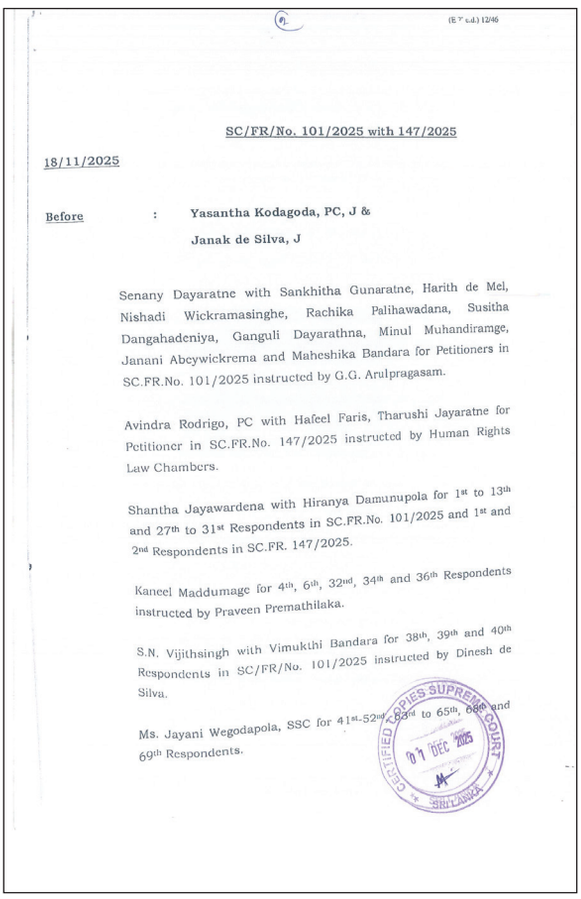
-Vs-

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka,
Belihuloya 70140,
Sri Lanka

And 04 Others

RESPONDENTS

CERTIFIED COPIES SUPREME COURT 01 DEC 2025 SRI LANKA



(E 7 s.d.) 12/46

SC/FR/No. 101/2025 with 147/2025

18/11/2025

Before : **Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, J &**
Janak de Silva, J

Senany Dayaratne with Sankhitha Gunaratne, Harith de Mel, Nishadi Wickramasinghe, Rachika Palihawadana, Susitha Dangahadeniya, Ganguli Dayarathna, Minul Muhandiramge, Janani Abeywickrema and Maheshika Bandara for Petitioners in SC.FR.No. 101/2025 instructed by G.G. Arulpragasam.

Avindra Rodrigo, PC with Hafeel Faris, Tharushi Jayaratne for Petitioner in SC.FR.No. 147/2025 instructed by Human Rights Law Chambers.

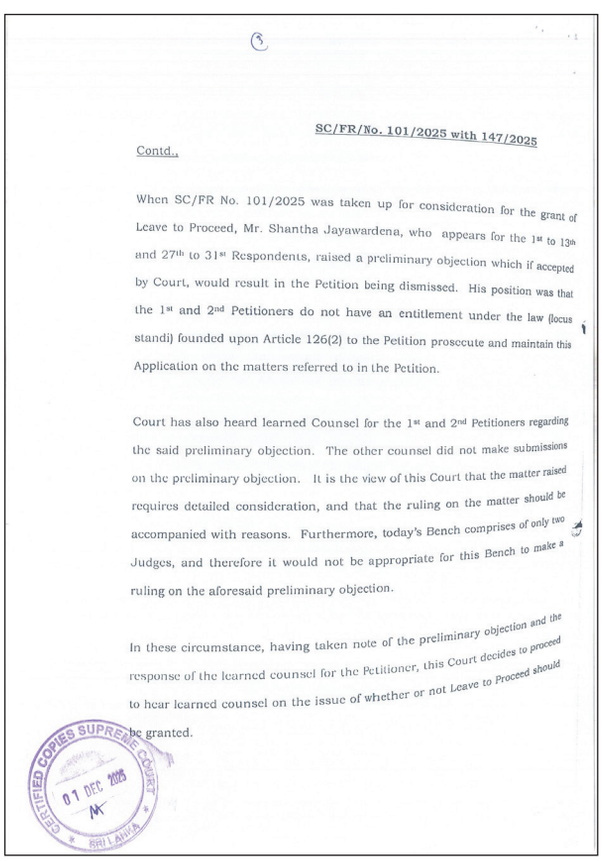
Shantha Jayawardena with Hiranya Damunupola for 1st to 13th and 27th to 31st Respondents in SC.FR.No. 101/2025 and 1st and 2nd Respondents in SC.FR. 147/2025.

Kaneel Maddumage for 4th, 6th, 32nd, 34th and 36th Respondents instructed by Praveen Premathilaka.

S.N. Vijithsingh with Vimukthi Bandara for 38th, 39th and 40th Respondents in SC/FR/No. 101/2025 instructed by Dinesh de Silva.

Ms. Jayani Wegodapola, SSC for 41st-52nd, 63rd to 65th, 68th and 69th Respondents.

CERTIFIED COPIES SUPREME COURT 01 DEC 2025 SRI LANKA



SC/FR/No. 101/2025 with 147/2025

Contd.,

When SC/FR No. 101/2025 was taken up for consideration for the grant of Leave to Proceed, Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, who appears for the 1st to 13th and 27th to 31st Respondents, raised a preliminary objection which if accepted by Court, would result in the Petition being dismissed. His position was that the 1st and 2nd Petitioners do not have an entitlement under the law (locus standi) founded upon Article 126(2) to the Petition proseeute and maintain this Application on the matters referred to in the Petition.

Court has also heard learned Counsel for the 1st and 2nd Petitioners regarding the said preliminary objection. The other counsel did not make submissions on the preliminary objection. It is the view of this Court that the matter raised requires detailed consideration, and that the ruling on the matter should be accompanied with reasons. Furthermore, today's Bench comprises of only two Judges, and therefore it would not be appropriate for this Bench to make a ruling on the aforesaid preliminary objection.

In these circumstance, having taken note of the preliminary objection and the response of the learned counsel for the Petitioner, this Court decides to proceed to hear learned counsel on the issue of whether or not Leave to Proceed should be granted.

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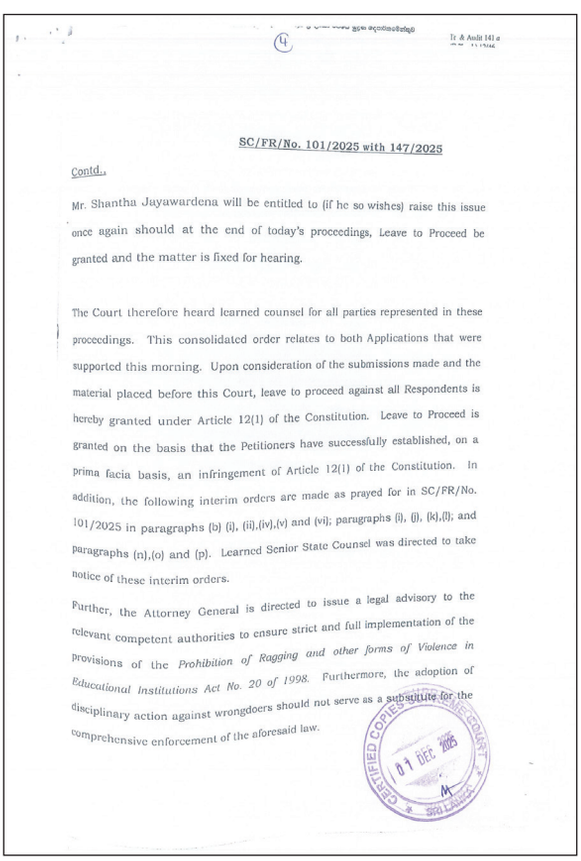

SC/FR/No. 101/2025 with 147/2025

Contd.,

Mr. Shantha Jayawardena will be entitled to (if he so wishes) raise this issue once again should at the end of today's proceedings, Leave to Proceed be granted and the matter is fixed for hearing.

The Court therefore heard learned counsel for all parties represented in these proceedings. This consolidated order relates to both Applications that were supported this morning. Upon consideration of the submissions made and the material placed before this Court, leave to proceed against all Respondents is hereby granted under Article 12(1) of the Constitution. Leave to Proceed is granted on the basis that the Petitioners have successfully established, on a prima facia basis, an infringement of Article 12(1) of the Constitution. In addition, the following interim orders are made as prayed for in SC/FR/No. 101/2025 in paragraphs (b) (i), (ii),(iv),(v) and (vi); paragraphs (j), (j), (k),(l); and paragraphs (n),(o) and (p). Learned Senior State Counsel was directed to take notice of these interim orders.

Further, the Attorney General is directed to issue a legal advisory to the relevant competent authorities to ensure strict and full implementation of the provisions of the *Prohibition of Ragging and other forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20 of 1998*. Furthermore, the adoption of disciplinary action against wrongdoers should not serve as a substitute for the comprehensive enforcement of the aforesaid law.

CERTIFIED COPIES SUPREME COURT 01 DEC 2025 SRI LANKA

SC/FR/No. 101/2025 with 147/2025

Contd.,

Additionally, the Attorney General is directed to issue a legal advisory advising the relevant competence authorities of the need to strictly enforce the Judgment of this Court in SC/FR/216/2020 pronounced on 09/07/2025.

The University Grants Commission is directed to take immediate action to create of one or more posts of Counsellor in each of the State Universities and such Universities are directed to take necessary steps to recruit necessary personnel to those posts. Mindful of the fact that a single post of Counsellor may be inadequate to meet the requirements of each Universities, the relevant Universities are thereafter directed to recruit competent persons to these posts in order to provide professional counselling services to students.

Further, the University Grants Commission is directed to move the Department of Management Services to grant permission to fill all Marshal vacancies at all Universities and such Universities are directed to take immediate steps to fill such vacancies. The parties are required to complete pleadings in terms of the Rules of this Court and also file pre- hearing written submissions.

Matter is fixed for argument on 29/04/2026 on top of the list.

SUPREME COURT DEC 2025 SRI LANKA

SC/FR/No. 101/2025 with 147/2025

Contd.,

The Petitioners are directed to file an amended caption if they deem it necessary and to re-issue notices to the parties who were not represented today.

The Registrar is directed to issue a copy of today's proceedings to the Attorney General for necessary action.

(approved by Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, J)

NS

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M.A.R.Chandrasekara
Judicial Registrar Grade I
Justice of Peace
Supreme Court
Colombo 12.

m/26 052604
2025/11/27

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Collaborative Partners of BASL

COLLABORATIONS WITH BASL

COLLABORATION WITH THE COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

Founded in 1976, CSSL is the apex body representing Computing fraternity in Sri Lanka. The BASL entered into an important Memorandum of Understanding to foster collaboration with the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

The MOU aims to bridge the gap between the technology and legal sectors by sharing expertise and resources. Under the MoU, CSSL commits to providing technical expertise to support BASL's IT initiatives, digital transformation, and capacity-building projects. In return, BASL will extend its legal capacity-building creating a mutually beneficial partnership.

This collaboration reflects a shared vision to integrate the strengths of both organizations, ensuring that BASL and CSSL remain responsive to the evolving needs of the respective members and the nation. Together, both apex Institutions will drive innovation, elevate professional standards, and promote growth within Sri Lanka's ICT and legal sectors.

Mr. Heshan Karunaratna, President of CSSL, and Mr. Udesh I. W. Seneviratna, Secretary of CSSL, signed the MOU representing the CSSL whilst BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya and BASL Secretary Mr. Chathura Galhena signed the MOU on behalf of the BASL.

Exco members of both BASL and CSSL were present at the signing ceremony, marking this important milestone in strengthening ties between the two sectors.





COLLABORATION WITH LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL MULTIPLE DISTRICT 306 (MD 306)

The BASL entered into an important collaboration with Lions Clubs International – Multiple District 306 (MD 306) to launch a nationwide initiative focused on promoting legal literacy and advancing civic empowerment. This partnership is especially aimed at reaching rural and underserved communities through community-based service. The BASL looks forward to meaningful and transformational work through this new initiative.

The BASL Legal Awareness Committee co-ordinate this collaboration.





SPECIAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR BASL MEMBERS FROM SRI LANKA INSURANCE LIFE





Sri Lanka Insurance Life partnered with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to introduce the "Sri Lanka Insurance Life Rakawarana Retirement Plan," an exclusive retirement plan designed for members of the legal profession. The collaboration was formalised on 12 November at the BASL premises. This partnership brings together two national institutions with the aim of strengthening the financial security of legal professionals. The retirement plan offers members a guaranteed income after retirement together with additional protection through accidental death coverage. It also provides flexible premium payment options on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or annual basis. Members may further enhance their protection through optional benefits including family protection cover, permanent disability cover, critical illness cover, and hospitalisation cash benefits.



LAUNCH OF THE SECOND CURATED PENSION SCHEME FOR BASL MEMBERS WITH UNION ASSURANCE

On 31 December 2025, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka launched the second curated pension scheme for its members in partnership with Union Assurance PLC, one of Sri Lanka's fastest growing life insurers. This initiative renewed the longstanding collaboration between the two institutions, further strengthening their relationship in supporting the welfare of legal professionals. The introduction of this second pension scheme provides BASL members with additional options and flexibility in planning for their financial future. The scheme offers both long-term and short-term pension options designed to suit the diverse needs of members at different stages of their professional careers.

MEDICAL CAMP #1 WITH UNION ASSURANCE - GALLE

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka organised a Medical Camp for its members on 23 January 2026 at the Galle Court premises, in collaboration with Union Assurance. This initiative reflects BASL's commitment to addressing the health and well-being of legal professionals, recognising the unique health challenges associated with the demanding nature of legal practice. Designed exclusively for members of the Bar Association, the programme provided members with access to medical consultations and health screenings,



CORPORATE PARTNERS OF BASL

THE CREDIT INFORMATION BUREAU OF SRI LANKA SIGNED A MOU AS A CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE BASL

The Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka (CRIB) has become the first Corporate Partner of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) for 2026, marking the launch of BASL's newly introduced Corporate Partner Scheme.

The collaboration aimed at creating awareness on financial literacy and promote responsible credit behaviour among the legal community of Sri Lanka through conducting a series of awareness programs in selected districts in Sri Lanka, aimed to equip legal professionals in the country with essential knowledge of CRIB's services, the Secured Transaction Registry and their implications in legal and financial practices which will be facilitated by BASL.

The partnership was formalised by signing a Memorandum of Understanding at the BASL Secretariat. The event was attended by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of BASL; Mr. Pasindu Silva, Treasurer of BASL; Mr. Pushpike Jayasundera, Director/General Manager of CRIB, Mr. Janaka Lakmal, Deputy General Manager of CRIB, and Ms.Saumya Wijesinghe, Manager Legal of CRIB together with other office bearers and officials.



President – BASL Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya and CRIB General Manager Pushpika Jayasundera signing the respective MOU's.



Through this initiative, CRIB and BASL will conduct in-person awareness programmes and webinars focusing on credit information systems, CRIB's services, and the Secured Transactions Registry (STR), in line with CRIB's national campaign "We Care for Your Credit Health."

Speaking at the event, President BASL Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya stated that the Corporate Partner Scheme reflects BASL's commitment to reach out to different sectors and collaborate in areas of mutual benefit to the respective organisations.

General Manager of CRIB, Mr. Pushpike Jayasundera noted that CRIB sees this as an important opportunity to enhance understanding in the legal sector of credit information and secured transactions.

The inclusion of CRIB as BASL's first Corporate Partner underscores BASL's efforts to support a more informed and future-ready legal profession.

LANKA PAY SIGNED A MOU AS A CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE BASL

The key objectives of this collaboration is to create awareness aimed to equip legal professionals in the country of LankaPay's services, enabling a digital lifestyle. BASL will, in return, provide LankaPay with appropriate opportunities and platforms to promote the use of LankaPay's Services and offerings among the Legal Professionals.



Marking a significant milestone in the digital transformation of Sri Lanka's legal sector, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has adopted LankaSign Digital Signatures, enabled by LankaPay, to digitally sign electronic documents to drive digital transformation in the legal profession.

To commemorate this landmark initiative, several key office bearers of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka were ceremoniously handed over highly secure LankaSign digital signature tokens on 5 January 2026 at the premises of the Bar Association.

The event was graced by several distinguished personalities, including Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya - President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Chathura Galhena – Secretary BASL, Mr. Pasindu Silva, Treasurer BASL, Mr. Sarinda Jayawardhene, Assistant Secretary, BASL Mr. Chaminda Bandara, Assistant Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/Co-Chair of the National Certification Authority (NCA) Taskforce and Mr. Jayantha Fernando - Architect of Electronic Transactions Act/Co-Chair of the NCA Taskforce, Mr. Channa de Silva - CEO of LankaPay and Mr. Dinuka Perera - Deputy CEO of LankaPay along with other officials of the BASL and representatives from LankaPay.

Digital signatures would play a key role in the digitalisation of the legal system by enabling legal professionals to sign electronic documents anytime, anywhere, delivering unprecedented convenience and efficiency. In addition, digital signatures allow for the secure electronic sharing, archiving, and retrieval of documents, significantly reducing reliance on physical paperwork. Importantly, they provide an enhanced layer of security through authentication, non-repudiation, and data integrity, which are paramount requirements for legal documentation and proceedings.

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka expressing his views at this

THE KEY OFFICE BEARERS RECEIVING LANKASIGN DIGITAL TOKENS













To strengthen this initiative, LankaPay partnered with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as a Cor-porate Partner on 5 January 2026.

Welcoming LankaPay on board, Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of BASL, said, "We are happy to welcome LankaPay as a Corporate Partner of the BASL. As the legal profession evolves alongside technological advancements, BASL recognises its responsibility as the professional body for legal profession in Sri Lanka to support its members in transitioning seamlessly into a digitalised legal system. In this context, we see strong potential for meaningful collaboration through this partnership with LankaPay."

Alongside this partnership, both institutions will work closely to promote and implement digital signatures among the legal fraternity. This collaboration underscores the shared commitment of LankaPay and BASL to advancing secure, efficient, and modern legal processes while empowering legal practitioners to confidently navigate the digital era, and also to navigate times of crisis such as the present where digital signatures provide the convenience of signing legal documents from anywhere at any time, bringing greater efficiency and flexibility to the legal documentation process.

With the ongoing digitalisation efforts in the legal system, the transition to digital processes is now imminent and no longer optional. Against this backdrop, the partnership marks a significant milestone for both institutions, reinforcing their shared commitment to supporting the legal fraternity in adapting to an increasingly digital legal landscape.



Signing of MOU with LankaPay

APIIT SIGNED A MOU AS A CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE BASL

A·P·I·I·T

Inspire love for learning

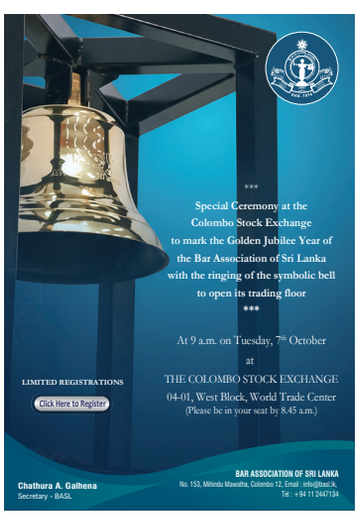
As a Corporate Partner APIIT will provide financial support to BASL and its activities, and BASL will, in return, provide APIIT with appropriate opportunities and platforms to promote its academic programmes and related offerings provided they do not overlap with the programmes offered by BASL



Special Ceremony at the Colombo Stock Exchange to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of the BASL

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), a commemorative bell-ringing ceremony was held at the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) on 7th October 2025. The event symbolised the longstanding partnership between the legal profession and the financial sector in supporting Sri Lanka's institutional and economic development.

The CSE was represented by its Chairman Mr. Dimuthu Abeyesekera, Chief Executive Officer Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike, and members of the senior management team. The BASL delegation was led by President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya and Secretary Mr. Chathura Galhena, together with members of the BASL Executive Committee and members of the legal profession.
The event concluded with the ceremonial ringing of the market-opening bell, serving as a symbolic gesture of collaboration between the legal and financial sectors and underscoring the role of both institutions in fostering confidence, stability, and development in Sri Lanka.









The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year with a ceremonial bell-ringing at the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) on 7th October 2025, symbolizing the enduring partnership between the legal profession and the financial markets in driving Sri Lanka's progress.

Addressing the event, BASL President Rajeev Amarasuriya reflected on the association's fifty-year journey since the formal adoption of its constitution in November 1974 and the convening of its first Bar Council meeting in June 1975, when Dr. H. W. Jayewardene, QC, served as its first president. He emphasized the BASL's historic and continuing role in safeguarding judicial independence, human rights, and the rule of law. Amarasuriya observed that "the rule of law and the rule of markets are inseparable," noting that the CSE's recent record performance reflects investor confidence built on institutional trust and legal certainty. He reminded that both institutions "carry the duty to see Sri Lanka advance to the status of a developed nation — one built on fairness, integrity, and opportunity."





The Chief Executive Officer of the CSE, Rajeeva Bandaranaike, lauded the Bar Association's "enduring commitment to professionalism, integrity and upholding the rule of law." and noted that "both institutions share a singular mission to uphold trust –Trust in markets, trust in institutions, and trust in systems that power national growth." He highlighted the critical role played by the legal profession in the growing capital market, and called for greater collaboration between the legal profession, the Colombo Stock Exchange, and the wider economy.

The event concluded with the ceremonial ringing of the market-opening bell — a resonant symbol of unity between justice and development.

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL BAR EVENTS

35TH PRESIDENT'S OF LAW ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA (POLA) SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI

The 35th Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (POLA) Summit was held in New Delhi, India, from 28–29 August 2025 at the India Habitat Centre, hosted by the Bar Association of India. The Summit brought together Presidents and representatives of leading law associations across Asia to engage in discussions on contemporary legal developments and challenges faced by the legal profession in the Asia-Pacific region. The central theme of "Developments in Law: Concerns and Challenges for the Legal Profession in Asia-Pacific," addressed key topics including the growing impact of artificial intelligence on legal practice, the protection of human rights, and the continued strengthening of the rule of law within the region.



The Summit provided an important platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among legal professionals and bar associations. Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, participated in the Summit representing Sri Lanka, contributing to discussions and strengthening professional engagement between the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and regional law associations.

BASL SRI LANKA DELEGATION LAWASIA CONFERENCE 2025 HANOI, VIETNAM

The 38th LAWASIA Conference was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 11-13 October 2025 at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel. The conference was organised by LAWASIA in collaboration with the Vietnam Bar Federation and brought together legal professionals, judges, academics, and policymakers from across the Asia-Pacific region. Recognised as one of the premier legal gatherings in the region, the conference focused on the theme "Transacting in the Asia-Pacific in Legal, Cultural and Environmental Challenges."

The sessions explored key issues relating to regional trade, cross-border legal practice, dispute resolution, and sustainability in the evolving economic and legal landscape of the Asia-Pacific. The conference provided a valuable platform for legal professionals to exchange perspectives, share expertise, and strengthen regional cooperation within the legal community. Sri Lanka was represented by a delegation of 43 lawyers, reflecting the strong engagement of the Sri Lankan legal profession with regional legal forums and its commitment to contributing to discussions on emerging legal and professional challenges.





DELEGATION OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA TO INDIA

A delegation of 25 members visited the Bar Association of India during 8th to 11th March 2026 with President BASL Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya leading the delegation. During this visit The President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, Attorney-at-Law, delivered a historic address at the Supreme Court of India in connection with a delegation of Sri Lankan lawyers visiting India at the invitation of the Bar Association of India.

The Indian Supreme Court No. 1 was presided by the Chief Justice of India, Honourable Surya Kant with Honourable Justices R. Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

The Chief Justice of India warmly welcomed the Sri Lanka Delegation and recollected the visit to Colombo in August last year and fond memories.

The Attorney General of India Hon. R. Venkataramani, Solicitor General of India Hon. Thushar Mehta, the President Bar Association of India Mr. Prashant Kumar and the President of the Supreme Court Advocates Association were all present to welcome the Sri Lanka Delegation.

Addressing the Supreme Court, the BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya conveyed greetings from the legal profession of Sri Lanka and noted that the occasion marked a significant and historic milestone in the professional engagement between the Bars of Sri Lanka and India. In his address, the BASL President highlighted the longstanding historical, cultural and legal ties between Sri Lanka and India, noting that the relationship between the two jurisdictions has been shaped by shared constitutional traditions, common legal heritage, and a mutual commitment to the rule of law, judicial independence, and democratic governance.

He also recalled the visit of the Chief Justice of India to Sri Lanka on 23 October last year, during which His Lordship delivered the Inaugural Bar Association of Sri Lanka Human Rights Oration and also delivered



the Keynote Address at the Inauguration of the BASL National Law Conference.

The BASL President further reflected on the deep civilisational relationship between Sri Lanka and India, recalling the historic mission of Arahat Mahinda Thero, through which Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka more than two millennia ago, and the enduring cultural and philosophical ties that continue to connect the two nations.

The BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya expressed appreciation to the Bar Association of India for organising the programme and for facilitating this historic interaction between the legal communities of the two countries. The visit of the Sri Lankan delegation forms part of a broader initiative to strengthen dialogue, professional exchange and collaboration between the Bars and legal institutions of Sri Lanka and India.

The Delegation also had productive one-to-one meetings with the Chief Justice of India His Lordship Surya Kant, the Attorney General of India Hon. R.



Venkataramani, and the Chief Justice of New Delhi Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

The Bar Association of India extended it's good will and hospitality by hosting the Delegation to a City Tour of New Delhi and a Dinner at the India Habitat Centre.
The visit was a great opportunity to further strengthen the longstanding ties between our two associations.









Please also find the link to the relevant recording of the proceedings before the Supreme Court of India on 10th March 2026 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1umXjcjP0ZtpGChYjY391AOnQ_zCk48JB/view?usp=drive_link

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL) AND THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE (LSS)

Signing of the first ever Memorandum of Understanding between The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) and the Law Society of Singapore (LSS) on knowledge sharing and assistance for mutual development.





This was under an initiative of the BASL Overseas Relations Committee

BUILDING COOPERATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Meeting with JICA Chief Representative Mr. Kuronuma Kenji





Meeting with H.E. Carmen Moreno, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives





Meeting with the Managing Director of the Max Planck Foundation Dr. Johannes Krusemark



Meeting with Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative of the UNDP Sri Lanka



BUILDING COOPERATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS...

Meeting with the Swiss Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Dr. Siri Walt





Meeting with H.E. Andrew Patrick, the British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka



Meeting with Asian Development Bank Delegation

The BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya met a delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Ms. Melinda Tun, Senior Counsel in the Office of General Counsel (OGC), together with Mr. Charuka Ekanayake, Counsel, OGC, and Mr. Miro Capelli, OGC. The meeting provided an opportunity for meaningful exchanges on areas of mutual interest and future collaboration.



Meeting with Ms. Kimberley Sokolich, Resident Legal Advisor of the United States Department of Justice



Meeting with Portuguese Bar Association President Joao Massano at the Headquarters of the Bar Association of Portugal

The BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya met Portuguese Bar Association President João Massano at their headquarters, coordinated by the BASL Overseas Relations Committee. Discussions focused on strengthening ties and collaboration.



BUILDING COOPERATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS...

Meeting with the French Ambassador HE Remi Lambert



His Excellancy Rémi LAMBERT, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka, invited the Management Committee to lunch on Monday 22nd December 2025 at the Residence of France. Another gesture of goodwill and corporation on matters of relevance to France and Sri Lanka.



Meeting with the Nivaaran – Mediators of the Supreme Court of India

A discussion on the Resolution of Sports Disputes through Mediation was hosted by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with Nivaaran – Mediators of the Supreme Court of India. This is an important area with significant potential and opportunities.





BRANCH EVENTS

FELICITATION FROM KALMUNAI LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

The Kalmunai Lawyers' Association felicitated BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarauriya at a special gathering attended by the Bar and members of the Judiciary. The event reflected the spirit of unity and mutual respect between the Bench and the Bar, which remains a cornerstone of the legal profession.

This memorable occasion also marked a historic milestone for the Kalmunai Bar with the assumption of duties of Mrs. Arica Kariapper as its first Woman President.

The presence of members of the Judiciary, including Hon. V. Ramakamalan, Civil Appellate High Court Judge Kalmunai, Hon. J. Trotsky, High Court Judge Kalmunai, Hon. A.M.M. Reyal, District Judge Kalmunai, Hon. M.S.M. Samsudeen, Magistrate Kalmunai, and Hon. T.L.M. Manaff, Retired High Court Judge underscored the strength of the close and collaborative relationship between the Bench and the Bar in Kalmunai.





Reviving a Historic Tradition: Felicitation at Point Pedro Bar

Re-establishing a cherished tradition dating back to 1979, the Point Pedro Bar, the northernmost Bar steeped in history welcomed the new President of the Bar Association. Records indicate that the last such event was held during the Presidency of the late Mr. A.C. Guneratne, QC in 1979.

The President and Treasurer were warmly felicitated at a special reception held within the well of the District Court, with the participation of Mr. M. K. Muthukumar (President of the Point Pedro Bar), Hon. MR. J. Kajanithibalan (District Judge), Mr. Nadarajha Rajeevan (Secretary), and members of the Bar.

In his address, the President noted the impressive setting of the Court House on this occasion and highlighted the excellent relationship of mutual respect shared between the Bench and the Bar in Point Pedroa true example for all.





BRANCH EVENTS.....

Meeting with the President and Office-bearers of the Broadcasters' Guild of Sri Lanka.

Representatives of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka met with the President and office-bearers of the Broadcasters' Guild of Sri Lanka on 28th January 2025. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to explore avenues for strengthening engagement between the legal profession and media institutions.





Meeting with Commonwealth Law Association

Representatives of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka met with Commonwealth Law Association Secretary General Brigid Watson and CLA representative Clare Roe on 17 January 2025. BASL President Rajeev Amarasuriya, Chathura Galhena, Pasindu Silva, and Senany Dayaratne participated in the discussion, which included exploring the possibility of organizing a Commonwealth Law Association programme in Sri Lanka.



Judges' Farewell Organised by the Ratnapura Bar

A Judges' Farewell ceremony organised by the Ratnapura Bar Association was held on 15 January 2025 to felicitate eleven judges who had served in the region. The event was well organised and featured tributes and citations recognising the dedicated service of each judge. The ceremony was attended by members of the Bench and Bar and reflected the strong and respectful relationship between the judiciary and the legal profession in Ratnapura.















BRANCH EVENTS.....

BASL Bookshop & Service Point - Kandy

The first BASL Bookshop and Service Point outside Colombo was inaugurated on 23 February 2026 at the Kandy Courts Complex in collaboration with the Kandy Bar Association. The establishment of this facility marks an important step in improving access to BASL services and legal resources for members practising outside Colombo.



The opening of the bookshop also coincided with the reopening of the Kandy Law Library, which had been severely damaged during Cyclone Ditwah. These developments represent significant milestones for the legal community in the region and demonstrate the resilience and collective efforts of members of the Bar in rebuilding essential professional institutions and services.







Official Recognition of the Narammala Bar Association as a Branch of the BASL



Launch of the Monaragala Bar Law Journal



Opening of the Tissa R. Balalle Memorial Law Library in Maho





ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDIATION CENTER AT THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL)

The proposed establishment of a Mediation Center at the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) aligns with the anticipated enactment of the new Mediation Law and reflects a strategic step toward strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms in Sri Lanka. The Center will function as a dedicated hub for court-referred, institutional, and private mediations, positioning BASL as a leader in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

The initiative is supported by the European Union–funded Support to Justice Sector (JURE) project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Justice by UNDP and UNICEF. While the project provides technical and programmatic support, BASL will contribute core infrastructure, including physical space and operational facilities. An initial budget has been submitted, and detailed infrastructure requirements are currently under review.

The Mediation Center will facilitate court-referred cases, promote voluntary private mediation, and establish BASL-specific mediation rules in line with international best practices. It will also develop and maintain a panel of accredited mediators while enhancing access to justice through efficient, cost-effective, and amicable dispute resolution processes. In addition, the Center is expected to generate sustainable institutional revenue and expand professional opportunities for BASL members.

Drawing on successful international models such as the Samadhan – Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre, Madhyam (India), and the Singapore Mediation Centre, the proposed Center reflects proven approaches to institutional mediation.

Overall, this initiative represents a forward-looking investment in Sri Lanka's justice sector. It is expected to strengthen institutional capacity, improve access to justice, and promote mediation as a preferred method of dispute resolution.

DIGITALISATION OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aligning UNDP's mandate of promoting good governance and access to justice with BASL's role as the apex professional body representing Attorneys-at-Law in Sri Lanka.

This collaboration is aimed at advancing systemic and sustainable improvements within the legal profession. The key objectives of the MOU include modernizing BASL's institutional frameworks, enhancing operational efficiency, and promoting continuous professional development through structured, competency-based training initiatives. It also seeks to facilitate ongoing stakeholder engagement to identify emerging priorities and ensure long-term impact.

The areas of cooperation encompass institutional capacity building, digital transformation, and the strengthening of professional skills, ethics, and competencies among legal practitioners.

Under this programme, services currently offered to legal professionals are being digitized to align with evolving information technology trends and to enhance service delivery. At present, many of BASL's systems and procedures are either semi-automated or manually operated. The introduction of new digital systems is expected to significantly improve efficiency, while reducing time, administrative burden, and operational costs.

Key areas of digitization include the member database and related administrative processes, member services, and continuing legal education and training programmes. Financial processes associated with these functions are also being integrated to promote greater transparency and accountability.

The project is currently in its initial phase of implementation and is expected to become fully operational within the next year. Its key components include the development of a digitized data management system, along with the provision of training and necessary equipment to support effective implementation. The project is implemented under UNDP's Support to Justice Sector Project (JURE), funded by the European Union, and is aligned with BASL's broader strategic objectives.

06

BASL Event Calendar

- Highlights of the Activities of the BASL - 2025/26
  From March 29th, 2025 – March 20th 2026
- BASL Webinars
- BASL Golden Jubilee Oration
- Special Ceremony at the Colombo Stock Exchange to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of the BASL
- Farewell to the outgoing chief Justice and the Felicitation of the 49th Chief Justice
- BASL Legal Symposiums
- CLE Programmes
  - Certificate Courses
  - Seminars and Workshops

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BASL - 2025/26

From March 29th, 2025 – March 20th 2026

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE
1	50th Convocation of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka	29-03-2025
2	Statement on "RE: THE RECENT INCIDENT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PROVINCIAL HIGH COURT OF PUTTALAM AND THE WRIT APPLICATION BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL"	31-03-2025
3	Statement on "THE DEATH OF A YOUTH WHILE IN CUSTODY OF THE WELIKADA POLICE"	05-04-2025
4	Awareness program on International Bar Association (IBA) Scholarship Opportunities for Young Lawyers	29-04-2025
5	Statement on "THE RECENT RAGGING INCIDENT AT THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY"	05-05-2025
6	BASL Golden Jubilee Oration by Mr. Steven Thiru, President, Commonwealth Lawyers Association	29-05-2025
7	Statement on "THE DEATH OF A REMANDEE WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE ANGUNUKOLAPELESSA PRISON"	07-05-2025
8	BASL Online Certificate Course in Legal Drafting	09-05-2025
9	Vesak Dhamma Sermon by Venerable Seeladassana Thero	09-05-2025
10	Statement on "RE : THE PROCEEDINGS TO REMOVE MALDIVES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DR. AZMIRALDA ZAHIR AND JUSTICE MAHAZ ALI ZAHIR"	14-05-2025
11	Statement on "RE : ONLINE MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS TARGETING JUDICAL OFFICERS"	18-05-2025
12	Statement on "RE: RIGHT OF ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW TO DISCHARGE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES IN A FREE AND FAIR MANNER"	22-05-2025
13	BASL Workshop on Juvenile Justice for Members in the Northern Province	24-05-2025
14	BASL Book Reading & Lawyers' Book Club - Session 01 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	30-05-2025
15	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 1	05-06-2025
16	INAUGURAL ANNUAL BASL CARROM TOURNAMENT - Organized by the Bar Association of Ratnapura in collaboration with the BASL	08-06-2025
17	Statement on "CONCERNS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR GRANT OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON"	11-06-2025
18	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 2	12-06-2025
19	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 (English) 4.1 - Why Nutrition Matters With Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Prof. Renuka Silva and Prof. Ananda Chandrasekara	14-06-2025
20	INAUGURAL ANNUAL BASL CARROM TOURNAMENT - Organized by the Bar Association of Ratnapura in collaboration with the BASL	08-06-2025
21	Statement on "CONCERNS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR GRANT OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON"	11-06-2025
22	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 2	12-06-2025
23	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 (English) 4.1 - Why Nutrition Matters With Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Prof. Renuka Silva and Prof. Ananda Chandrasekara	14-06-2025
24	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 3	19-06-2025
25	BASL Book Reading & Lawyers' Book Club - Session 02 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	25-06-2025
26	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 4	26-06-2025
27	Sunset Cruise - Session 01 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	27-06-2025
28	1st Workshop of the Professional Skills Development Series for Law Students - Organised by the Law Students Skills Development Committee	01-07-2025
29	Fireside Chat with Former Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Mahela Jayawardena " My take on Leadership" - Organised by the Junior Bar New Opportunities Committee	02-07-2025
30	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 5	03-07-2025
31	BASL Legal Night #1 - Organised by the BASL Social and Welfare Committee	04-07-2025
32	Legal Symposium #1 - 2025/2026 - CITRUS HIKKADUWA - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	11-07-2025 to 13-07-2025
33	Spotlight Session with celebrity corporate leader Dr. Kishu Gomes - Organised by the Junior Bar New Opportunities Committee	16-07-2025
34	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 6	17-07-2025

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE
35	Symposium for Women Lawyers - Organised by the BASL Women Lawyers Professional and Career Development Committee	18-07-2025
36	නීති තීර්ථ - Session 01 - Organised by the Student Union - Faculty of Law & BASL	23-07-2025
37	BASL Book Reading & Lawyers' Book Club - Session 03 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	23-07-2025
38	Legal Seminar on "Media Law in Digital Era" - Organised by the Human Rights Committee & Media Law Forum	24-07-2025
39	Lawyers' Bowling Night - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	25-07-2025
40	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 7	31-07-2025
41	Familiarization Programme Organised by the Law Students' Skills Development Committee	01-08-2025
42	Neethiranga - Organised by the Neethiranga Committee	01-08-2025
43	BASL Legal Night #2 - Organised by the BASL Social and welfare Committee	01-08-2025
44	BASL Capacity Building Programme For Police Officers - Kurunegala Division - Organized by Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka Police	03-08-2025
45	Workshop on Criminal Investigation and Court Procedures - Organised by Police and Prisons Relations Committee	03-08-2025
46	BASL Online Certificate Course in Compliance	05-08-2025
47	BASL Mobile Services in Ratnapura	05-08-2025
48	2nd Workshop of the Professional Skills Development Seminar Series for Law Students - Organised by the Law Students Skills Development Committee	06-08-2025
49	Sunset Cruise - Session 02 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	07-08-2025
50	BASL Library Law Book Discussion # 8	07-08-2025
51	Legal Symposium #2 - 2025/2026 - Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	08-08-2025 to 19-08-2025
52	The First BASL - Lions Legal Awareness Session	13-08-2025
53	BASL Mini Symposium #1 - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	19-08-2025
54	Exploring the Law Through Hollywood Films ("THE PAPER CHASE")- Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee and BASL Law Students' Professional Skills Development Committee	20-08-2025
55	Symposium on Hire Purchase & Leasing in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association	23-08-2025
56	BASL Workshop on Juvenile Justice	23-08-2025
57	3rd Workshop of the Professional Skills Development Seminar Series for Law Students - Organised by the Law Students Skills Development Committee	25-08-2025
58	BASL Mobile Services in Gampaha	26-08-2025
	BASL Certificate Course on "PARALEGAL ACTIVISTS"	27-08-2025
59	Exploring the Law Through Hollywood Films ("12 ANGRY MEN") - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee and BASL Law Students' Professional Skills Development Committee	27-08-2025
60	The 35th President's of Law Associations in Asia (POLO) Summit in New Delhi	28-08-2025
61	A National Literary Competition on "THE ART OF THE ADVOCATE" - Organised by the BASL Art Circle Committee	30-08-2025
62	BASL Workshop on Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements	31-08-2025
63	BASL Mini Symposium #2 - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	02-09-2025
64	Junior National Law Conference 2025 - Organised by the Junior Bar Committee	04-09-2025
65	BASL Legal Night #3 - Organised by the BASL Social and Welfare Committee	04-09-2025
66	BASL Junior Practitioners Placement Programme	07-09-2025
67	The second BASL - Lions Legal Awareness Session	10-09-2025
68	Address to Senior Tri-Forces Officers at the Invitation of the Sri Lanka Air Force An address was delivered to senior Tri-Forces officers on the theme "Ethics, Honour, Integrity, and Respect for Military Discipline."	11-08-2025
69	BASL Member Trip 2025 - Organised by the Local Excursions Standing Committee	13-09-2025 to 14-09-2025
70	BASL Workshop on Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements	13-09-2025
71	BASL Mini Symposium #3 - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	16-09-2025

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE
72	Exploring the Law Through Hollywood Films ("MY COUSIN VINNY")- Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee and BASL Law Students' Professional Skills Development Committee	17-09-2025
73	Felicitation Dinner - Felicitation Reception to Welcome the 49th Chief Justice and Bid Farewell to the former Chief Justice.	19-09-2025
74	Seminar on Nithi Neethi Sessi #1- Organised by the CLE Committee	20-09-2025
75	BASL Workshop on The Art of Advocacy	20-09-2025
76	South Asian Regional Workshop on Human Rights - Organised by the Human Rights Committee	20-09-2025/ 21-09-2025
77	BASL Legal Capacity Building Programme for Officers of the Sri Lanka Police	21-09-2025
78	Junior Bar Forum - Organised by the Junior Bar and JNLC Committee	26-09-2025
79	BASL Certificate Course in "THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION"	26-09-2025
80	Seminar on Nithi Neethi Sessi #2- Organised by the CLE Committee	27-09-2025
81	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.1 - " BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND LAW THROUGH THE EVES OF A LEGAL ACADEMIC"	28-09-2025
82	BASL Workshop on "Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements"	28-09-2025
83	BASL Women Lawyers' Support Circle - Organised by the Women Lawyers' Committee	29-09-2025
84	BASL Book Reading & Lawyers' Book Club - Session 04 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	02-10-2025
85	Sunset Cruise - Session 04 - Organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee	03-10-2025
86	BASL Certificate Course in "THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION"	03-10-2025
87	Special Ceremony at the Colombo Stock Exchange to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of the BASL	07-10-2025
88	Statement on " Bar Association of Sri Lanka Rings the Bell at the Colombo Stock Exchange to Mark its Golden Jubilee"	08-10-2025
89	Islandwide Legal Awareness Programme Series 2025 - Organised by the Legal Awareness Committee	09-10-2025
90	Seminar on Nithi Neethi Sessi #4- Organised by the CLE Committee	11-10-2025
91	BASL Certificate Course in Effective Instructing Attorneys	16-10-2025
92	BASL Mini Symposium #4 : Gampaha - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	16-10-2025
93	The BASL Golden Jubilee Ball 2025 - Organised by the BASL Annual Dance Committee	17-10-2025
94	BASL Residential Seminar in Human Rights and Lawyering During the Times of Crisis for Lawyers of Sri Lanka	17-10-2025 to 19-10-2025
95	BASL Mobile Services in Matara	21-10-2025
96	BASL Certificate Course in "Effective Instructing Attorneys"	23-10-2025
97	The Inaugural BASL Human Rights Oration - Organised by the BASL Human Rights Committee	23-10-2025
98	29th National Law Conference 2025	24-10-2025
99	29th National Law Conference 2025	25-10-2025
100	BASL Certificate Course on "THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION"	26-10-2025
101	BASL Mini Symposium #5 : Mt. Lavinia - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	28-10-2025
102	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.4 - " UNDERSTANDING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND PRACTICE"	29-10-2025
103	BASL Workshop on Juvenile Justice	08-11-2025
104	Seminar on Nithi Neethi Sessi #5- Organised by the CLE Committee	08-11-2025
105	BASL Mini Symposium #6 : Nugegoda - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	11-11-2025
106	BASL Mobile Services in Kandy	11-11-2025
107	Special Retirement Plan for BASL Members from Sri Lanka Insurance Life - MOU	12-11-2025
108	Junior National Law Conference 2025	14-11-2025 to 16-11-2025
109	BASL Mini Symposium #7 : Horana - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	15-11-2025
110	Orientation Programme - Organised by the BASL Junior Bar Committee	17-11-2025 18-11-2025 20-11-2025
111	A Symposium On "LAND AN ASSET; A LIABILITY OR BOTH?" Organised by the BASL In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers Association	19-11-2025

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE
112	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	21-11-2025
113	BASL Mini Symposium #8 : Colombo - Organised by the BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee	21-11-2025
114	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	24-11-2025
115	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	25-11-2025
116	Symposium on “BEYOND THE COURTROOM: EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER HORIZONS FOR LAWYERS” Organised by the Women Lawyers’ Professional and Career Development Committee	27-11-2025
117	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	28-11-2025
118	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	05-12-2025
119	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	12-12-2025
120	New Members Welcome & Orientation Programme	13-12-2025
121	New Members Welcome & Orientation Programme	14-12-2025
122	New Members Welcome & Orientation Programme	15-12-2025
123	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	17-12-2025
124	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	18-12-2025
125	Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal	19-12-2025
126	BASL Certificate Course in "THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION"	19-12-2025
127	Second National Data Protection Symposium	06-01-2026
128	National Law Week 25 / 26 - Organised by the BASL National Law Week Committee	10-01-2026
129	Seminar on Commercial Contracts - Organised by BASL and Association of Corporate Lawyers	19-01-2026
130	BASL Certificate Course in ''Intellectual Property Law''	29-01-2026
131	BASL Specialized Training Module on Advocacy	28-01-2026
132	Seminar on Nithi Neethi Sessi #2- Organised by the CLE Committee	31-01-2026
133	A Symposium on Registration of Moveables to Ensure Priority under the Secured Transactions (Amendment) Act No. 17 Of 2024 & Arbitration Vs Litigation	18-02-2026
134	National Capital Markets Symposium - Organised by the BASL Capital Markets Symposium Committee	26-02-2026
135	Residential Workshop on Access to Justice Programme2026	27-02-2026
136	BASL Special Skills Enhancement Symposium	02-03-2026
137	Women’s Day Celebrations Seminar on "INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP"	03-03-2026
138	Delegation of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to India	08-03-2026 TO 11-03-2026
139	Felicitation Ceremony for Members who completed 50 years at the Bar	20-03-2026
140	16th Annual Law-Medical Encounter - Organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Medical Association	21-03-2026
141	Statement on " LankaPay Partners with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as Corporate Partner	26-03-2026

BASL Webinars

NO	WEBINARS	DATE
1	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.1 - ''ප්‍රතිපත්තියේ සිට ක්‍රියාවට නැංවීම: පුද්ගලික දත්ත ආරක්ෂණ පනතට අනුගත වීම''	22-04-2025
2	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.1 - விவாகரத்து வழக்குகளில் அசையும் அசையா ஆதனங்கள் தொடர்பான நிவாரணங்கள்	24-04-2025
3	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.2 - ''තෙස්තමේන්තු නඩු කාර්ය පටිපාටියේ සුවිශේෂී ප්‍රතිපාදන''	06-05-2025
4	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.2 - உரித்துவிளம்பல் வழக்குகளில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள சில அண்மைக்கால மாற்றங்கள்	08-05-2025
5	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.3 - ''දේපළක හිමිකම් පරීක්ෂා කිරීමේදී සැලකිය යුතු කරුණු සහ එහි ප්‍රායෝගික භාවිතයන්''	20-05-2025
6	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.3 - பிணைவழங்கல் தொடர்பாக சட்டத்தில் அண்மைய காலத்தில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள முன்னேற்றங்கள்	22-05-2025
7	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.4 - ''ශබ්ද දූෂණය පිළිබඳ නීතිමය පසුබිම''	03-06-2025
8	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.4 - குத்தகைக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஆதனங்களின் உடைமையை மீளப்பெறுதல் - 2023ம் ஆண்டின் 1ம் இலக்கச்சட்டத்தின் விசேட அம்சங்கள்	05-06-2025
9	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 (English) 4.1 - Why Nutrition Matters With Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Prof. Renuka Silva and Prof. Ananda Chandrasekara	14-06-2025
10	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.5 - ''මහජන පීඩාවන්තට අදාල නීතිමය පසුබිම''	17-06-2025
11	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.1 - With Mr. Suresh Perera (Head of Tax - KMPG)	28-06-2025
12	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.6 - ''මෝටර් රථ වාහන අනතුරු සම්බන්ධව සිවිල් හා අපරාධ නීතියේ නව ප්‍රවනතා''	01-07-2025
13	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.2 - With Mr. Renuke Wijayawardhane (Chief Regulatory Officer - Colombo Stock Exchange)	05-07-2025
14	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.3 - With Mr. Sanjeewa Anthony (Executive Director - Jetwing Hotels)	12-07-2025
15	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.4 - With Mr. Wasantha Batagoda (Chief Legal Officer of LOLC Holdings PLC)	19-07-2025
16	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.7 - ''2023 අංක 10 දරන අපරාධයක චින්දිතයන් සහ සාක්ෂිකරුවන් හට සහාය දීමේ සහ ආරක්ෂා කිරීමේ පනත''	22-07-2025
17	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.5 - With Ms. Yanina Weerasinghe (Head of Group Legal and Company Secretary of Brandix Group)	26-07-2025
18	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.6 - With Ms. Karnika Jayatilake (Chief Legal Officer/Deputy General Manager of National Savings Bank)	02-08-2025
19	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.8 - ''අපරාධ නීතියේ නව ප්‍රවණතා''	05-08-2025
20	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.7 - With Ms. Sonali Wijekoon (Former Group Chief Legal Officer of SLT Mobitel Group)	09-08-2025
21	Public Webinar on "LAW IN DAILY LIFE" - Organised by the BASL & Lions SL	13-08-2025
22	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.8 - With Mr. Thejaka Perera (Vice President - Litigation & Legal Recoveries - DFCC Bank PLC)	16-08-2025
23	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.9 - ''බෞද්ධ විහාර දේවාලගම් ආඥා පනත''	19-08-2025
24	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 4.2 (English) - Mitigating Cardiovascular risk for the health and wellbeing of lawyers	21-08-2025
25	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.9 - With Mr. Keerthi Pathiraja (Asst. Director – Legal & Regulatory Affairs/ Company Secretary – Nestle Sri Lanka)	23-08-2025
26	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 6 .1 - Rei Vindicatio Actio	25-08-2025
27	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.2 - (English) - "FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS"	29-08-2025
28	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.3 - (English) - "LAW OF EVIDENCE"	01-09-2025
29	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.10 - ''සභාධිපත්‍ය දේපළ සම්බන්ධ නීතිය''	

NO	WEBINARS	DATE
30	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.4 - (English) - "INTRODUCTION TO ICT LAW"	05-09-2025
31	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6 .5 - "Money Recovery under the Debt Recovery Act, No. 2 of 1990 as Amended"	08-09-2025
32	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.11 - ''ඇප පිළිබඳ පොදු මූලධර්ම''	09-09-2025
33	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.6 - "Pre-Trial Conference Under The Civil Procedure Code"	12-09-2025
34	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.7 - "ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION"	17-09-2025
35	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.8 - "WRIT APPLICATIONS"	22-09-2025
36	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.12 - ''අල්ලස් හා දූෂණ වැරදි''	23-09-2025
37	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.9 - " BASICS OF COMMERCIAL LITIGATION"	26-09-2025
38	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.10 - " PERFORMERS' RIGHTS UNDER THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY"	29-09-2025
39	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.2 - " REIMAGINING LEGAL CAREERS: BUILDING RELEVANCE, VALUE, AND RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD"	01-10-2025
40	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.11 - " CONDOMINIUM LAW"	03-10-2025
41	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6 .12 - "INTERIM INJUNCTIONS"	06-10-2025
42	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.13 - ''අන්තර්ජාල අපරාධ සහ විමර්ශන ක්‍රමවේදය''	07-10-2025
43	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.13 - " SEQUESTRATION"	10-10-2025
44	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.3 - " LAW, LIFE, AND LESSONS : REFLECTIONS FROM THE BENCH"	12-10-2025
45	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6 .14 - " APPLICABILITY OF STATE LANDS IN THE PRACTICE OF AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW"	13-10-2025
46	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.15 - "LAW OF TAXATION"	17-10-2025
47	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.14 - ''හඳුනාගැනීමේ පෙරට්ටුව සහ ඊට අදාල නෛතික ක්‍රමවේදය''	21-10-2025
48	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.10 : Episode 8 - With Ms. Harshanee Deshapriya (Group Chief Legal Officer, Janashakthi Group)	25-10-2025
49	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.16 - "ARBITRATION LAW"	27-10-2025
50	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.4 - "UNDERSTANDING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND PRACTICE"	29-10-2025
51	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.17 - "MATRIMONIAL ACTIONS"	31-10-2025
52	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.15 - ''නඩත්තු සම්බන්ධ නීතිය''	04-11-2025
53	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.18 - "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT"	07-11-2025
54	BASl Special Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 7.5 - "NAVIGATING YOUR CAREER IN THE COURTROOM"	09-11-2025
55	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.19 - "LABOUR TRIBUNALS AND INDUSTRIAL CULTURES"	10-11-2025
56	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.11 - " With Ms. Shalini Samarakkody, AAL, Group Head of Legal, Emerchemie NB (Ceylon) Limited"	15-11-2025
57	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.16 - "මහේස්ත්‍රෝත් අධිකරණ කටයුවල නව ප්‍රවණතා"	18-11-2025
58	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.20 - "PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW"	21-11-2025
59	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.21 - "TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT"	24-11-2025
60	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.22 - "INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	28-12-2025
61	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.12 - "With Ms. Dilini Jayasuriya, AAL, Head of Litigation and Corporate, Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC"	29-11-2025
62	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.23 - "APPEALS AND REVISIONS IN CIVIL ACTIONS "	01-12-2025
63	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Sinhala) 2.17 - ''සේවා ගිවිසුම් සහ ව්‍යාවස්ථාපිත දීමනා''	03-12-2025
64	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.24 - "LAW OF INSURANCE"	05-12-2025
65	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6 .25 - "LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE"	08-12-2025
66	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6 .26 - "RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL"	12-12-2025
67	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.27 - "LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC SERVICE"	15-12-2025
68	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.28 - "EXECUTING A MONEY DECREE"	02-01-2026
69	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.13 - With Ms. Eresha Kumburulanda, AAL, Head of Legal, Compliance and Sustainability, Varun Beverages Lanka (Private) Limited	03-01-2026
70	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.29 - "FINANCE LEASING ACT"	09-01-2026
71	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.30 - "CONTEMPT OF COURT"	12-01-2026

NO	WEBINARS	DATE
72	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.31 - "DIGITAL LAW"	23-01-2026
73	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.32 - "MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS"	26-01-2026
74	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.14 - With Ms. Kumarini Seneviratne, AAL, General Manager - HR Admin and Legal, Astron Limited	31-01-2026
75	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.33 - "LAW ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE"	02-02-2026
76	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.34 - "HEALTH LAW"	13-02-2026
77	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (English) Series 5.15 - With Mr. Tishan Subasinghe, AAL	14-02-2026
78	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.35 - "LAW OF AIR POLLUTION"	24-02-2026
79	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.5 - Cheating - கல்வியாளர் மற்றும் தொழல்சார் நபணர் இடையான கலந்துரையாடல்	25-02-2026
80	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.36 - "RECOVERY OF POSSESSION OF STATE LANDS"	06-03-2026
81	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 (English) 4.3 - Mental Health and Wellbeing Connections With Sri Lanka Sumithrayo	09-03-2026
82	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.37 - "PROCEDURAL PITFALLS IN DIVORCE & CUSTODY LITIGATION IN SRI LANKA"	13-03-2026
83	BASL Other Webinar 25 / 26 (English) 4.4 - "PSYCHOLOGY OF CONFLICT IN FAMILY LAW" In Collaboration With Sri Lanka Sumithrayo	16-03-2026
84	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 4.5 - RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT BALANCING FAMILY AND LEGAL CAREERS	23-03-2026
85	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 6.38 - "New aspects of Anti Corruption laws : Anti Corruption Act"	25-03-2026
86	BASL Webinars 25 / 26 (Tamil) 3.6 - தருமணக்குலைப்ப மற்றும் ஆதனப் பகர்வ தொடர்பான ஒரு உரையாடல	26-03-2026
87	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 4.6 - BEAT OBESITY - STAND WITH SCIENCE	29-03-2026
88	BASL Webinar 25 / 26 - Series 4.7 - BRIDGING GENERATIONS IN LAW MANAGING WORKPLACE DYNAMICS AND NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY	30-03-2026

BASL Webinars 2025/2026- Sinhala










ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.5
මහජන පීඩාවන්ට අදාළ නීතිමය පසුබිම
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ ඩී. ඒ. පී. විරරත්න
ආචාර්ය රවීන්ද්‍රනාත් දබරේ
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මෙහෙයවීම
ජූනි මස 17 වන අඟහරුවාදා
සවස 5.30 සිට 7.00 දක්වා
zoom YouTube
ලියාපදිංචි වීමට සබැඳිය ක්ලික් කරන්න
සූදානම් කළේ
ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
10
ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
වතුර ඒ. ගල්හේන
ලේකම්


ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.6
මාතර නීතිඥ සංගමය සමඟ පවත්වනු ලබන
මෝටර් රථ වාහන අනතුරු සම්බන්ධව සිවිල් හා අපරාධ නීතියේ නව ප්‍රවණතා
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ කසිල මහන්සේරි
චන්දිම මුතු කුමාරණ
චන්දිම පෙරුම් පුලි ආරච්චි
ප්‍රියානි රත්නායක
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මෙහෙයවීම
ජූලි මස 1 වන අඟහරුවාදා
සවස 5.30 සිට 7.00 දක්වා
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ලියාපදිංචි වීමට සබැඳිය ක්ලික් කරන්න
සූදානම් කළේ
ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
12
ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
වතුර ඒ. ගල්හේන
ලේකම්


ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.7
2023 අංක 10 දරන අපරාධයක විනිදිතයන් සහ සාක්ෂිකරුවන් හට සහාය දීමේ සහ ආරක්ෂා කිරීමේ පනත
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ සුනද ගමලත්
ලක්ෂාන් ඩයස්
සජීවනි කස්තුරිආරච්චි
චාමර වන්නිසේකර
මෙහෙයවීම
ජූලි මස 22 වන අඟහරුවාදා
සවස 5.30 සිට 7.00 දක්වා
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ලියාපදිංචි වීමට සබැඳිය ක්ලික් කරන්න
සූදානම් කළේ
ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
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ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
වතුර ඒ. ගල්හේන
ලේකම්


ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.8
අපරාධ නීතියේ නව ප්‍රවණතා
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ සරත් ජයමාන්න
සෙනරත් ජයසුන්දර
දර්ශන කුරුප්පු
බුද්ධික තිලකරත්න
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අගෝස්තු මස 05 වන අඟහරුවාදා
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ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
19
ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
වතුර ඒ. ගල්හේන
ලේකම්


ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.9
බෞද්ධ විහාර දේවාලගම් ආඥ පනත
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ ලක්ෂ්මන් පෙරේරා
සරත් වීරගොඩ
හේමක සේනානායක
සඳුන් සේනාධිපති
මෙහෙයවීම
අගෝස්තු මස 19 වන අඟහරුවාදා
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ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
22
ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
වතුර ඒ. ගල්හේන
ලේකම්


ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.10
සහාධිපත්‍ය දේපළ සම්බන්ධ නීතිය
ජනාධිපති නීතීඥ ජගත් විකුමනායක
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සැප්තැම්බර් මස 02 වන අඟහරුවාදා
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ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය
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ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස වෙබිනාර්
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ශ්‍රී.ල.නී.ස සිංහල වෙබිනාර් මාලාව 2025/2026.2.11
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35
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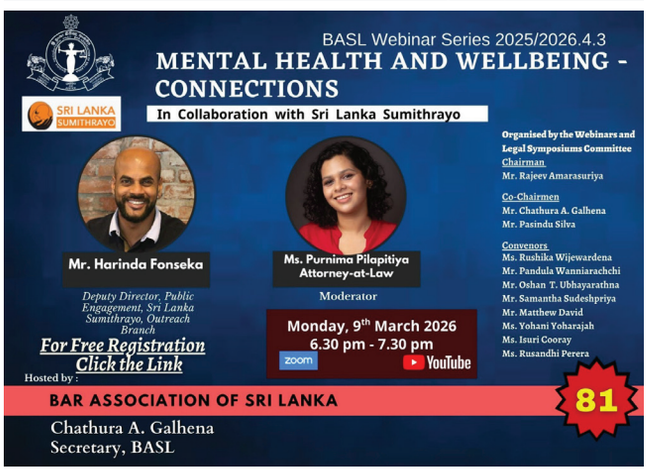

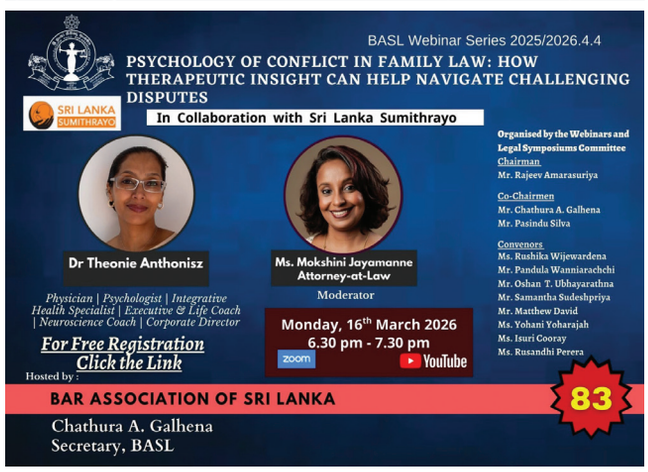

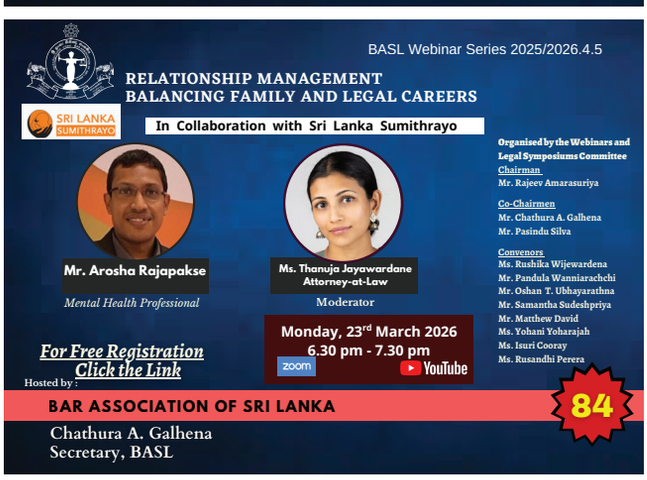





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WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Mr. Keerthi Pathiraja, AAL
Asst. Director - Legal & Regulatory Affairs / Company Secretary - Nestlé Sri Lanka
Interviewed By:
Mr. Keerthi Pathiraja
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
Attorney-at-Law
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EPISODE 10
WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Ms. Harshanee Deshapriya, AAL
Group Chief Legal Officer, Janashakthi Group (JXG)
Interviewed By:
Ms. Harshanee Deshapriya
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
Attorney-at-Law
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EPISODE 11
WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Ms. Shalini Samarakkody, AAL
Group Head of Legal, Emerchemie NB (Ceylon) Limited
Interviewed By:
Ms. Shalini Samarakkody
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
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WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Ms. Dilini Jayasuriya, AAL
Head of Litigation and Corporate, Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC
Interviewed By:
Ms. Dilini Jayasuriya
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
Attorney-at-Law
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EPISODE 13
WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Ms. Eresha Kumburulanda, AAL
Head of Legal, Compliance and Sustainability, Varun Beverages Lanka (Private) Limited
Interviewed By:
Ms. Eresha Kumburulanda
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
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EPISODE 14
WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Ms. Kumarini Seneviratne, AAL
General Manager - HR, Admin and Legal, Astron Limited
Interviewed By:
Ms. Kumarini Seneviratne
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
Attorney-at-Law
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WHY CORPORATE SECTOR
with Mr. Tishan Subasinghe, AAL
President, CA Sri Lanka
Interviewed By:
Mr. Tishan Subasinghe
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Shehara Herath
Attorney-at-Law
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 1

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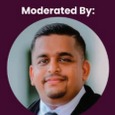
with **Mr. Seevali Amitirigala, PC**

Moderated By:



Mr. Seevali Amitirigala, PC



Mr. Charitha Jayawickrema
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FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

with **Mr. Asthika Devendra, AAL**

Moderated By:



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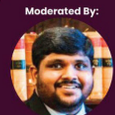

Mr. N. K. Ashokbharan
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LAW OF EVIDENCE

with **Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis, PC**

Moderated By:



Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis
President's Counsel



Mr. Thanuka Nandasiri
Attorney-at-Law

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INTRODUCTION TO ICT LAW

with **Dr.Sunil Abeyaratne, AAL**

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Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Mehran Careem
Attorney-at-Law

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Money Recovery under the Debt Recovery (Special Provisions) Act, No. 2 of 1990 as Amended

with **Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC**

Moderated By:



Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC
Retired Justice of the Supreme Court



Mr. Shehan Gunawardena
Attorney-at-Law

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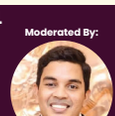
PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE UNDER THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE

with **Mr. Sapumal Bandara, AAL**

Moderated By:



Mr. Sapumal Bandara
Attorney-at-Law



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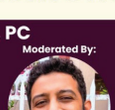
ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION

with **Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma, PC**

Moderated By:



Mr. Upul Kumarapperuma
President's Counsel



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WRIT APPLICATIONS

with **Mr. Senany Dayaratne, AAL**

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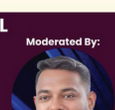
Mr. Senany Dayaratne
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Jayathu Wickramasuriya
Attorney-at-Law

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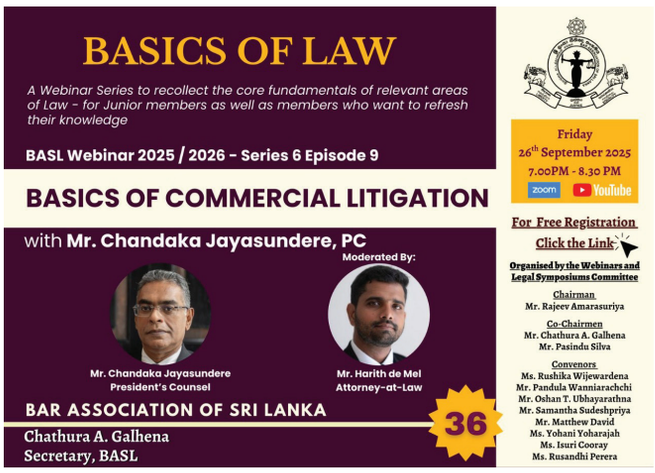
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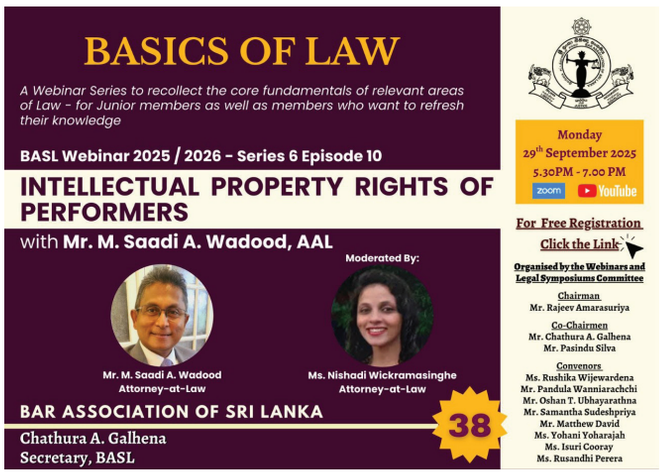
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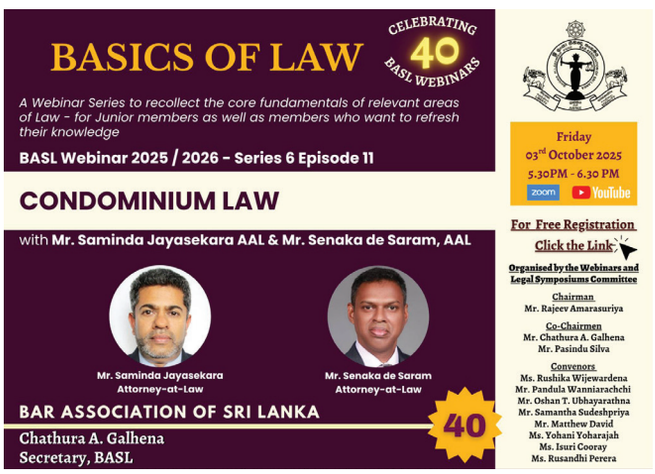
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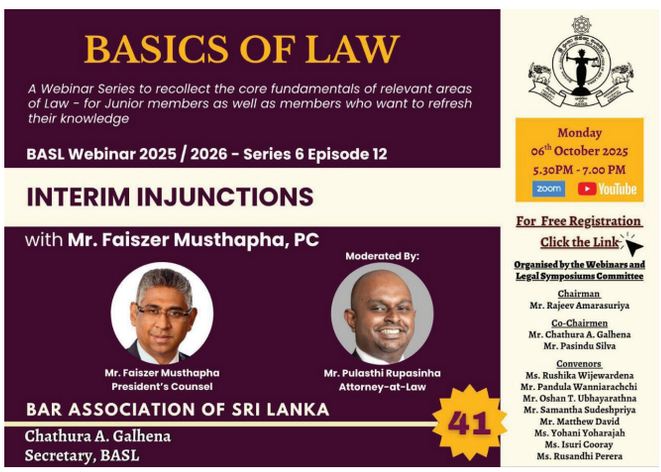
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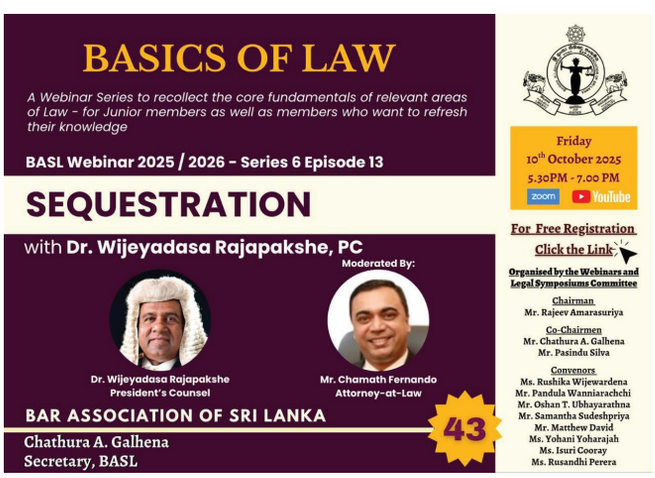
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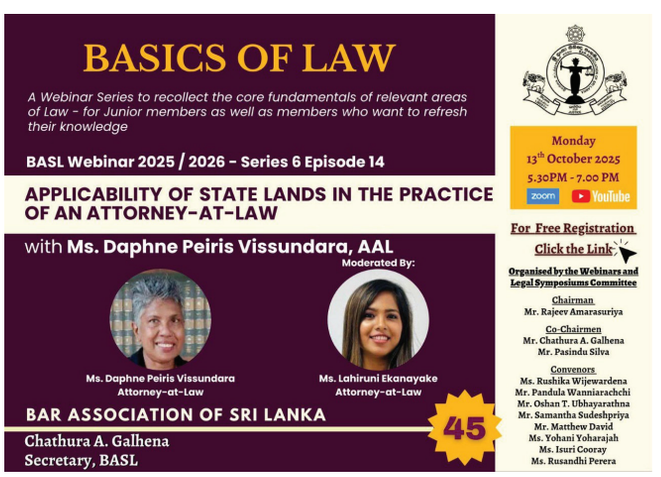
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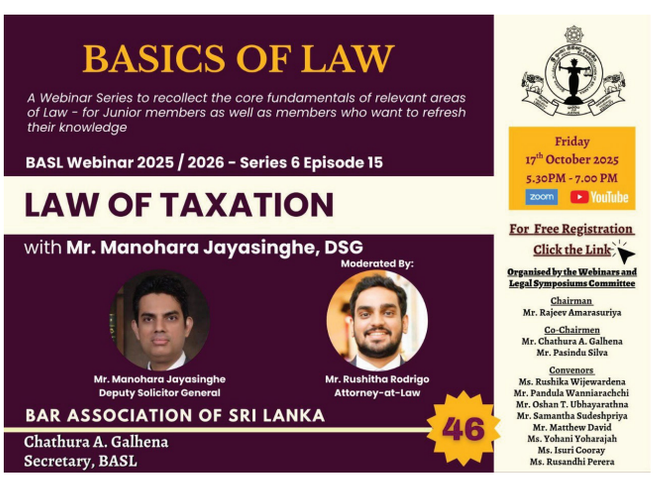
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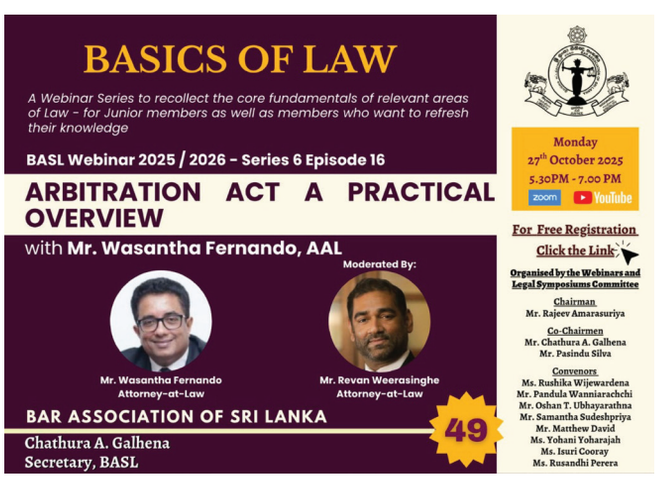
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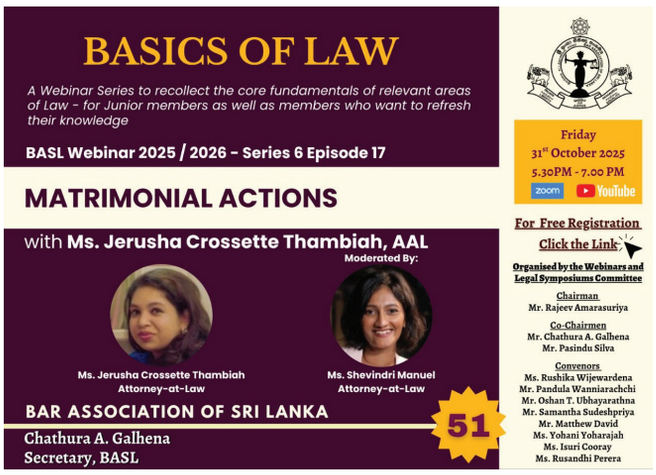
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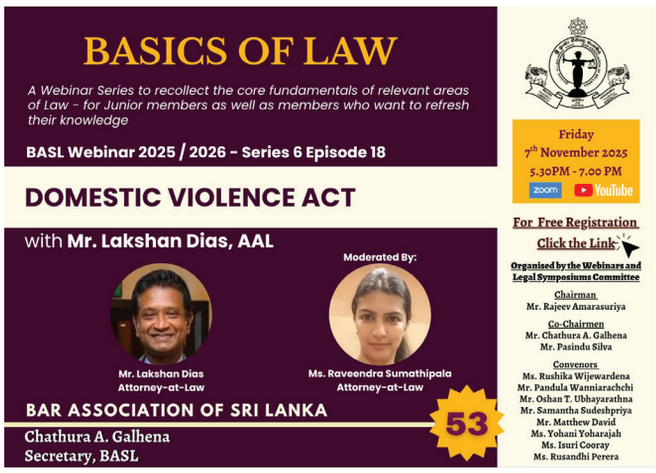
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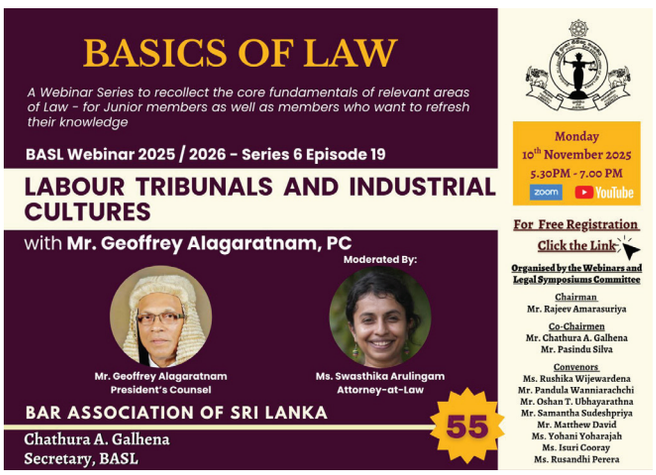
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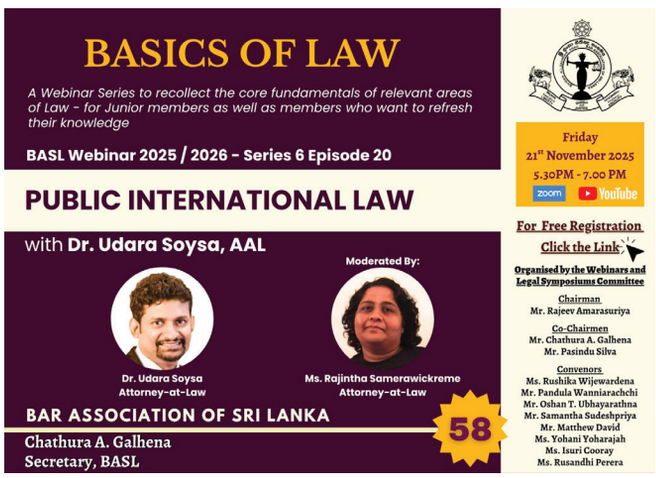
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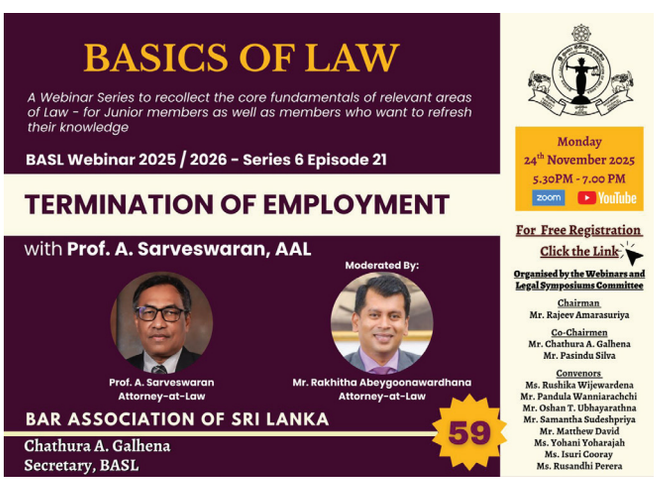
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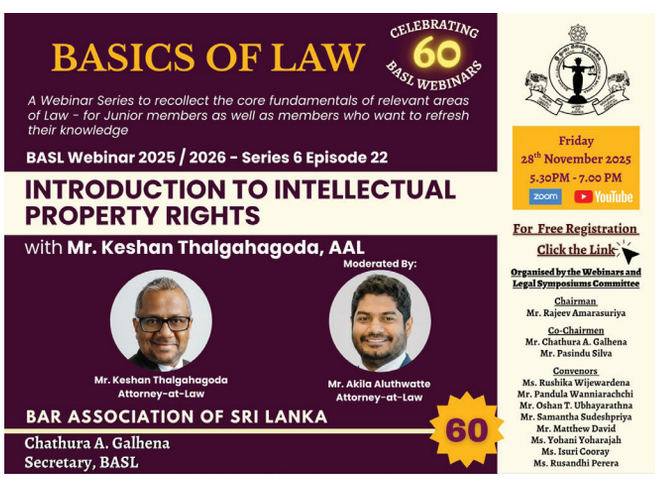
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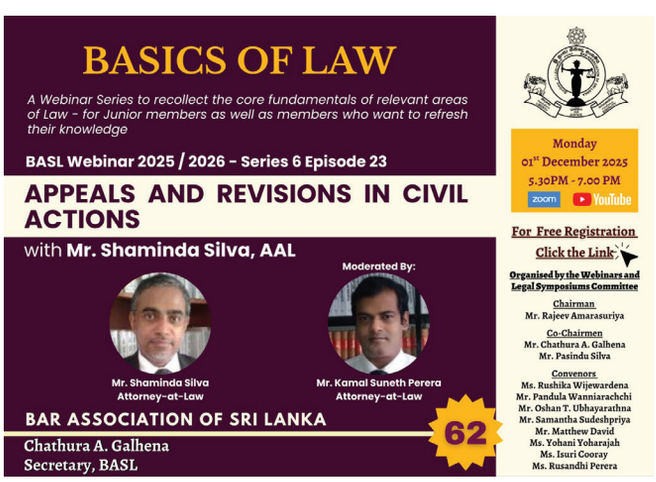
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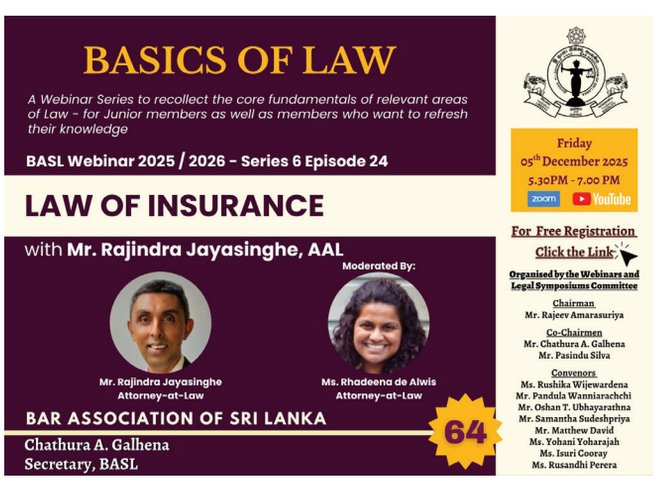
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LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC SERVICE
with Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, AAL
Moderated By:
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Mr. Hirosha Munasinghe
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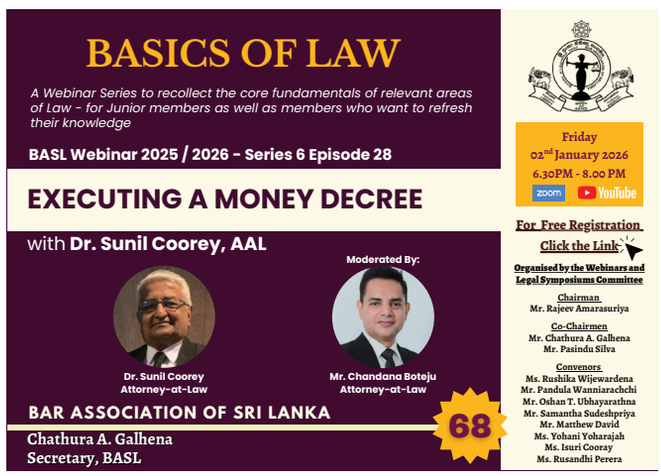
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 28
EXECUTING A MONEY DECREE
with Dr. Sunil Coorey, AAL
Moderated By:
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Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Chandana Boteju
Attorney-at-Law
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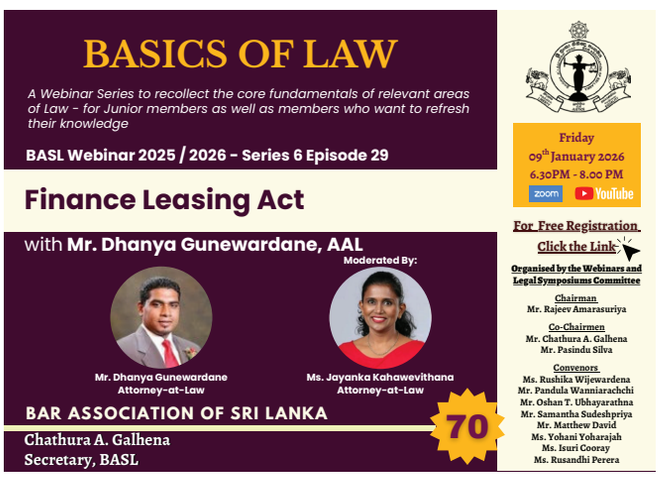
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 29
Finance Leasing Act
with Mr. Dhanya Gunewardane, AAL
Moderated By:
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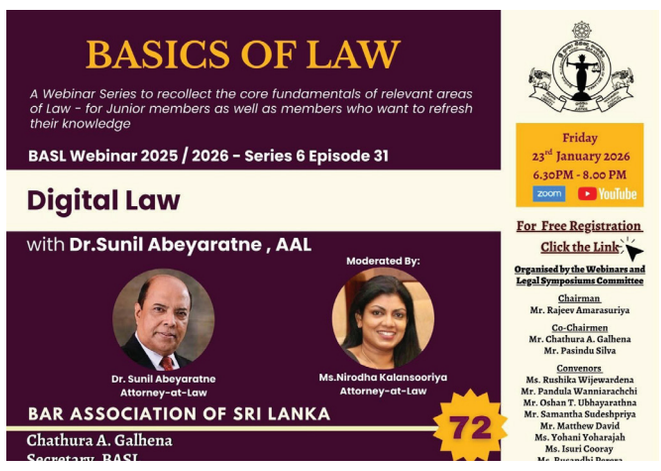
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Digital Law
with Dr.Sunil Abeyaratne , AAL
Moderated By:
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Attorney-at-Law
Ms.Nirodha Kalansooriya
Attorney-at-Law
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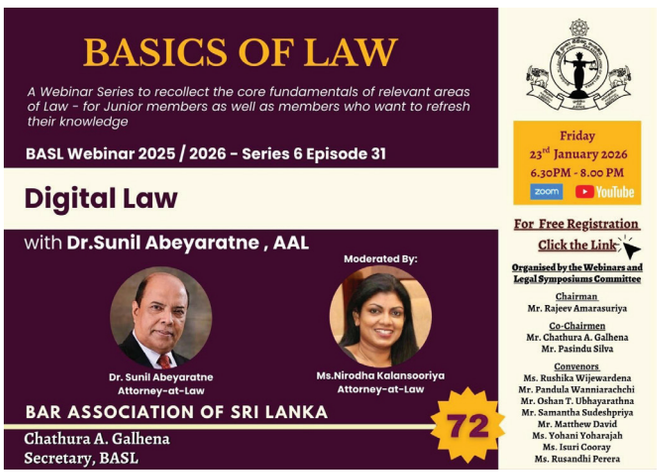
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Attorney-at-Law
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 32
Mergers & Acquisitions
with Ms. Nipuni Samarasekara, AAL
Moderated By:
Ms. Nipuni Samarasekara
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Rakitha Jayatunge
Attorney-at-Law
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26th January 2026
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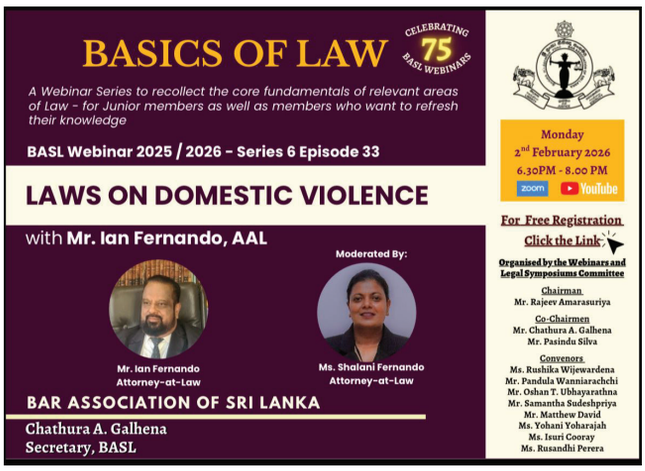
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A Webinar Series to recollect the core fundamentals of relevant areas of Law - for Junior members as well as members who want to refresh their knowledge
BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 33
LAWS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
with Mr. Ian Fernando, AAL
Moderated By:
Mr. Ian Fernando
Attorney-at-Law
Ms. Shalani Fernando
Attorney-at-Law
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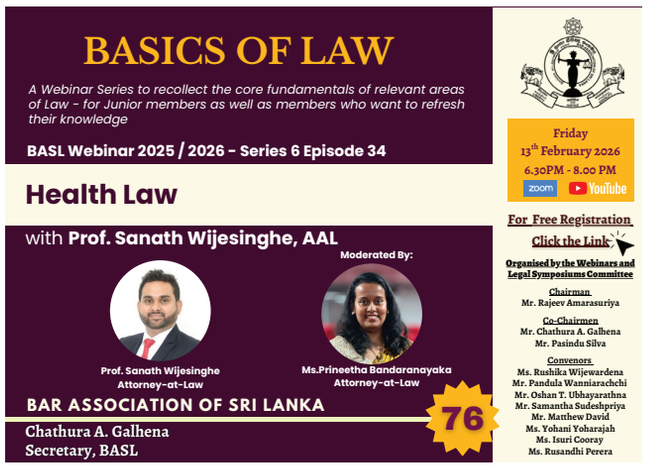
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A Webinar Series to recollect the core fundamentals of relevant areas of Law - for Junior members as well as members who want to refresh their knowledge
BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 34
Health Law
with Prof. Sanath Wijesinghe, AAL
Moderated By:
Prof. Sanath Wijesinghe
Attorney-at-Law
Ms.Prineetha Bandaranayaka
Attorney-at-Law
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76
Chathura A. Galhena
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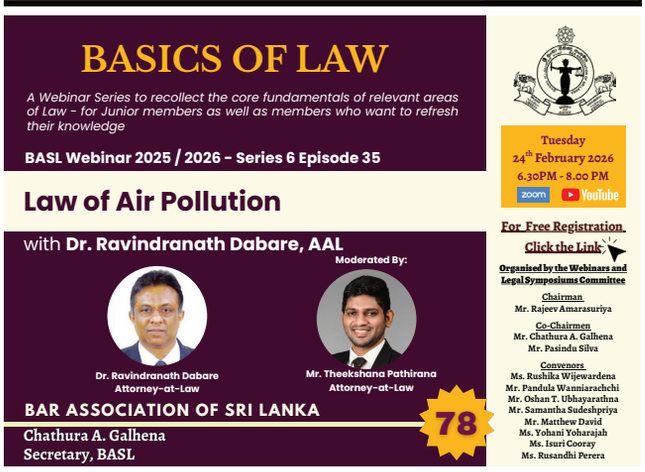
BASICS OF LAW
A Webinar Series to recollect the core fundamentals of relevant areas of Law - for Junior members as well as members who want to refresh their knowledge
BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 35
Law of Air Pollution
with Dr. Ravindranath Dabare, AAL
Moderated By:
Dr. Ravindranath Dabare
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Theekshana Pathirana
Attorney-at-Law
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78
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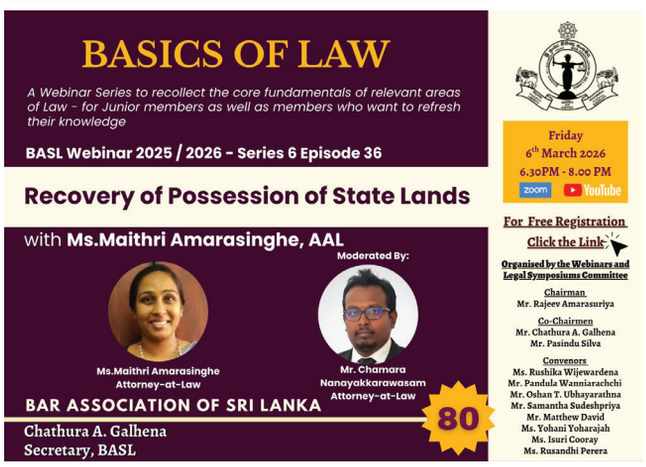
BASICS OF LAW
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 36
Recovery of Possession of State Lands
with Ms.Maithri Amarasinghe, AAL
Moderated By:
Ms.Maithri Amarasinghe
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Chamara Nanayakkarawasam
Attorney-at-Law
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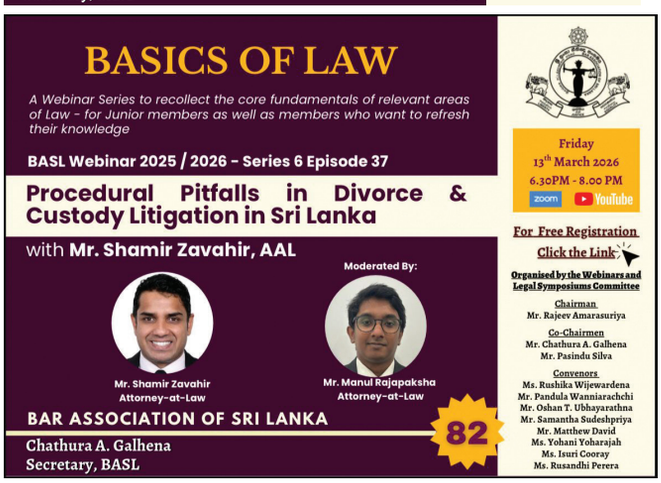
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 37
Procedural Pitfalls in Divorce & Custody Litigation in Sri Lanka
with Mr. Shamir Zavahir, AAL
Moderated By:
Mr. Shamir Zavahir
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Manul Rajapaksha
Attorney-at-Law
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Chathura A. Galhena
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13th March 2026
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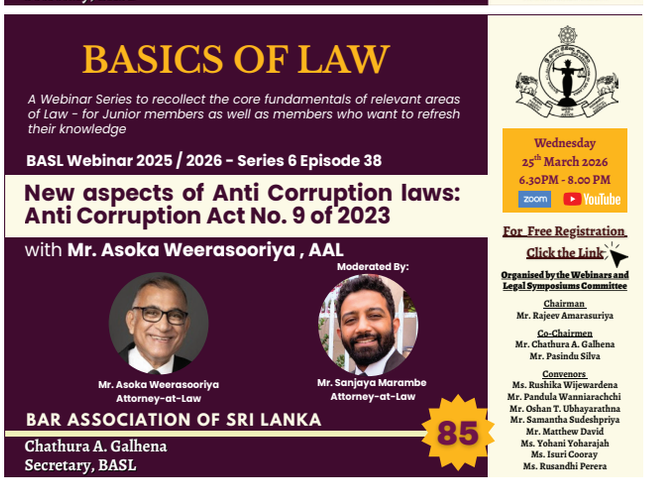
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BASL Webinar 2025 / 2026 - Series 6 Episode 38
New aspects of Anti Corruption laws: Anti Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023
with Mr. Asoka Weerasooriya , AAL
Moderated By:
Mr. Asoka Weerasooriya
Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Sanjaya Marambe
Attorney-at-Law
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Chathura A. Galhena
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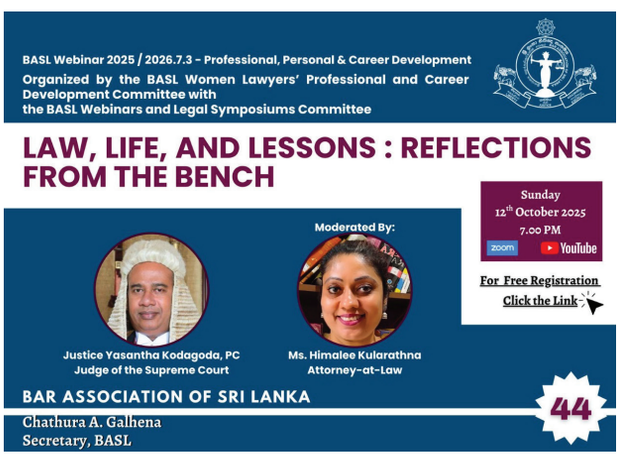
BASI Special Webinar 25/26 Series 7 - English











BASL Golden Jubilee Oration





The Golden Jubilee Oration of the BASL was held on 29th May 2025. The event was graced by Her Ladyship Murdu Fernando, PC, Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice, and Justice Mohammed Thahir Laffar, Acting President of the Court of Appeal.



Mr. Steven Thiru
President
Commonwealth Lawyers Association



The Oration was delivered by Mr. Steven Thiru, President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, on "Emerging and continuing challenges to the legal profession — hope or despair?" He addressed critical issues including legal education, technology and AI, Judicial and Bar independence, and the values that give meaning to legal practice, urging resilience in upholding justice and the rule of law.











Farewell to the outgoing Chief Justice and the Felicitation of the 49th Chief Justice

Felicitation for Former Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, PC and Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka hosted a felicitation dinner in honour of former Chief Justice Hon. Murdu Fernando, PC, and the present Chief Justice Hon. Preethi Padman Surasena on 24 September at the Imperial Monarch, Kotte. The event was attended by Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice, Attorney General Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, President's Counsel Mr. Faiz Mustapha, BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, BASL Secretary Mr. Chathura Galhena, and many senior members of the legal profession. The occasion brought together a large gathering of the legal fraternity to honour the distinguished service and contributions of the Chief Justices to the judiciary and the administration of justice in Sri Lanka.











IMPERIAL
13































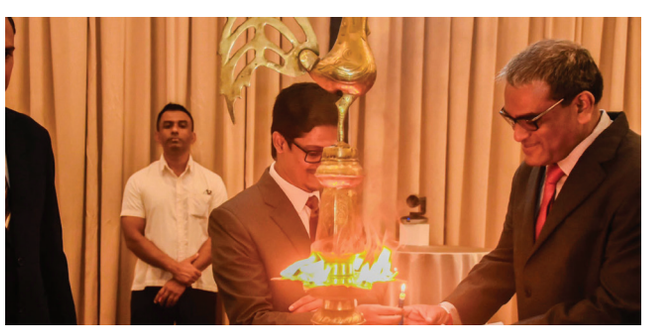
BASL Legal Symposiums

Symposium #01 - Hikkaduwa



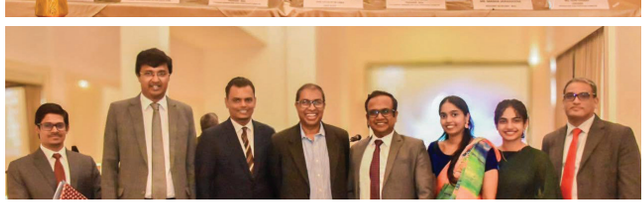












The BASL proudly inaugurated its first Legal Symposium for the year, the last which was held in 2021. The event commenced with opening remarks by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, BASL President and Chairman of the Webinars and Legal Symposiums Committee, who highlighted the importance of continued legal discourse in advancing the profession.

The keynote address was delivered by Chief Justice Her Ladyship Hon. Murdu Fernando, PC, whose words inspired attendees to uphold justice and integrity in their practice.

Mr. Ikram Mohamed, PC, Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC, Mr. Mohan Weerakoon, PC, Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, SIA, Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, SIA, and Mr. Senany Dayaratne were the eminent resource persons.

Mr. Pasindu Silva, Treasurer and Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva, Zonal Vice President of the Galle Zone also spoke.

This Legal Symposium marked a significant step in BASL's commitment to fostering meaningful legal dialogue and professional growth.

Symposium #02 - Udawalawe

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka successfully concluded the 2nd BASL Legal Symposium for the year, held in Udawalawe from 8 to 10 August 2025. The symposium brought together members of the legal profession for a series of discussions and knowledge sharing sessions on matters of legal practice and professional development. The event was attended by BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, Secretary Mr. Chathura Galhena, and many senior members of the legal profession, providing a valuable platform for engagement and professional exchange.

DAY 1 (9TH AUGUST 2025)

OPENING: WILDLIFE, ITS WONDERS AND ITS PERILS, FROM AN ENTHUSIASTS' PERSPECTIVE
Mr. Dushyantha Silva and Mr. Milinda Wattegedara
Members of Research and Data Gathering Team
"Yala Leopard Center"

SESSION 1: REVIEW OF SECTION 66 ACTIONS- RECENT TRENDS
Hon. High Court Judge Udesh Ranatunga

SESSION 2: FAIR TRIAL
Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC

SESSION 3: ROLE OF A NOTARY CUM ATTORNEY ON EXECUTION OF DEEDS
Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, SIA

SESSION 4: FIRESIDE CHAT
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President – BASL

DAY 2 (10TH AUGUST 2025)

SESSION 5: DEBT RECOVERY
Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, Attorney-at-Law

SESSION 6: ENLARGED SCOPE UNDER THE NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT
Mr. Ranga Dissanayake, Director General of CIABOC

























BASL Women Lawyers' Symposium



The BASL proudly hosted the inaugural Women Lawyers' Professional and Career Development Symposium on 18th July at the BASL Auditorium. The event was a landmark initiative aimed at empowering women in the legal profession and creating a platform for dialogue on professional growth, leadership, and gender equality.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Chief Justice Hon. Justice Murdu Fernando, PC, while a distinguished panel comprising Hon. Supreme Court Justice Kumuduni Wickremasinghe, Ms. Ayesha Jinasena, PC (Secretary, Ministry of Justice), Ms. Saumya Amarasekara, PC, Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena, SIA and Ms. Nilanthi Pieris, AAL shared their insights and experiences. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Dayani Panagoda.

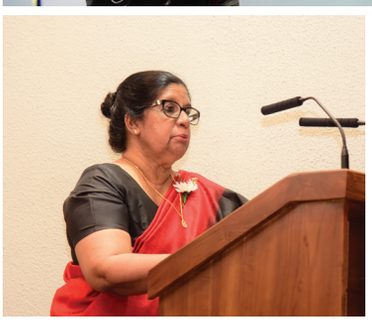
This impactful symposium was organised by the BASL Women Lawyers' Professional and Career Development Committee, with the valuable support of the BASL Women Lawyers' Committee and the newly established BASL Gender Equality Committee. Special appreciation is extended to the Organising Committee led by Mrs. Indika Nagaratne and Ms. Nalani Manathunga and the Convenors Ms. Kaushali Jayaweera and Ms. Tharika Ruwanpura for their leadership in making this important initiative a resounding success.

















BASL Mini Symposium #1

















The BASL Mini Symposium Series was successfully inaugurated in Galle on the 19th of August with the participation of members of the legal profession in the region. The programme marked the commencement of a series of regional engagements aimed at strengthening professional knowledge sharing and collaboration among practitioners. The event was organised with the support of the Galle Law Association, under the leadership of its President Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva, together with the office bearers and committee of the Association.

BASL Mini Symposium #2

The BASL Mini Symposium No. 02 was held on the 2nd of September 2025 at the Mahara Court Complex. The symposium focused on key aspects of criminal law and civil law and formed part of the BASL Mini Symposium Series aimed at engaging members of the legal profession at regional level. The keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Sarath Jayamanne, PC, and Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanarachchi, Attorney at Law, who shared their insights and professional experience with the participants.



BASL Mini Symposium #3

The BASL Mini Symposium No. 3 was held on the 16th of September for the Matara Zone, bringing together members of the legal profession for a session of continuous legal education. The programme featured Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney at Law, as a Principal Resource Person. The symposium was organised with the support of the Matara Bar Association under the leadership of its President and BASL Zonal Vice President Mr. Keerthi Dhanushka, together with Secretary Mr. Gayan Prasanga and the committee, with additional support from Galle Zonal Vice President Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva.







BASL Mini Symposium #4

The BASL Mini Symposium No. 04 was held on the 16th of October 2025 at the Municipal Council Auditorium, Gampaha. The symposium was organised in collaboration with the Gampaha Lawyers' Association as part of the islandwide BASL Mini Symposium Series aimed at strengthening continuous legal education among members of the profession. The programme addressed key aspects of civil and criminal law, including matters relating to small claims, recovery of possession of premises given on lease, and recent developments in Sri Lankan criminal law. Resource persons included Mr. Vasantha Gajanayake, PC, and Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis, PC.





























BASL Mini Symposium #5

The BASL Mini Symposium No. 05 was held on the 28th of October 2025 at the Mount Lavinia Court Complex in collaboration with the Mount Lavinia Bar Association. The symposium formed part of the islandwide BASL Mini Symposium Series aimed at strengthening continuous legal education among members of the legal profession. The programme addressed recent developments in Sri Lankan criminal law and key aspects of condominium law. Resource persons for the session included Mr. Dharshana Kuruppu, Attorney at Law, Mr. Senaka De Seram, Attorney at Law, and Mr. Kapila Gamage, Attorney at Law.











BASL Mini Symposium #6





















The BASL Mini Symposium No. 06 was held on the 11th of November 2025 at Nugegoda as part of the BASL Mini Symposium Series conducted across different regions of the country. The programme brought together members of the legal profession to engage in discussions on key legal issues and recent developments in practice. The session provided an opportunity for young lawyers to participate in professional dialogue and strengthen their knowledge through continuous legal education.

BASL Mini Symposium #7

The BASL Mini Symposium No. 7 was held on the 25th of November in Horana as part of the islandwide BASL Mini Symposium Series. The programme brought together members of the legal profession in the region for a session of continuous legal education and professional engagement. The symposium provided an opportunity for practitioners to discuss key legal issues and share knowledge while strengthening collaboration among the practicing lawyers.







BASL Mini Symposium #8



The BASL Mini Symposium No. 8 was held on the 21st of November 2025 at the Colombo High Court as part of the BASL Mini Symposium Series conducted across different regions and court zones. The programme brought together members of the legal profession to discuss important legal issues and recent developments in practice. The session also served as a platform for professional engagement and knowledge sharing among practitioners through the BASL's continuous legal education initiatives.





Second National Data Protection Symposium

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka conducted the Second National Data Protection Symposium on the 6th of January 2026 at the Cumulus Ballroom, Cinnamon Life, Colombo. The symposium focused on the theme "Safeguarding Privacy in the Age of Intelligence: From Legal Compliance to Ethical Innovation." The event brought together legal professionals, regulators, and industry experts to discuss emerging issues relating to data protection, privacy, and artificial intelligence. Key resource persons included Chief Guest His Lordship Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the BASL, Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, and Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike, among several other distinguished speakers. The Chairman of the Symposium Organising Committee was Mr. Ruven Weerasinghe.











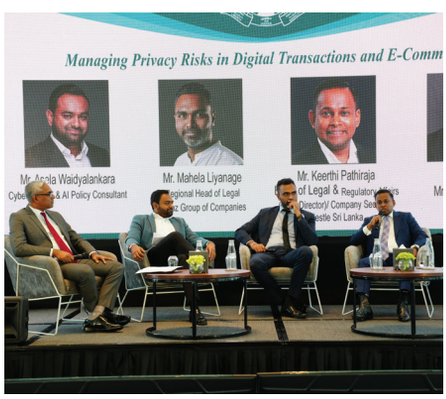














National Capital Markets Symposium

The BASL National Capital Markets Symposium was held on the 26th of February 2026 at Cinnamon Life, Colombo. The symposium brought together members of the legal profession and key stakeholders in the financial sector to discuss developments and emerging issues relating to capital markets in Sri Lanka. The Keynote address was given by the Chief Guest His Lordship Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC. The programme was organised under the leadership of Symposium Chair Mrs. Ayanthi Abeywickrama, Co-Chair Mr. Renuke Wijewardena, and Secretary Mr. Pasan Weerasinghe, with the participation of several distinguished resource persons and the support of the BASL Programme Office.







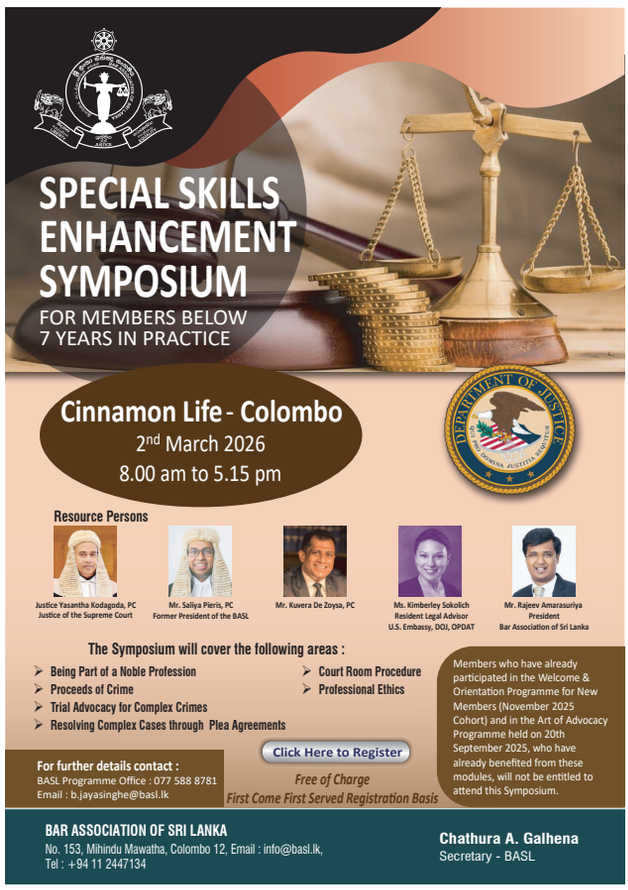






BASL Special Skills Enhancement Symposium for Members below 7 Years

The BASL Special Skills Development Symposium for members with less than seven years of practice was held on the 2nd of March 2026 with the support of the United States Department of Justice. The programme focused on enhancing practical professional skills and provided an opportunity for 300 junior members of the Bar to benefit from training content that had previously been conducted for newly admitted members. The symposium saw strong participation from members of the profession and provided valuable insights aimed at strengthening the knowledge and professional development of young practitioners. The programme was supported by the U.S. Embassy.

















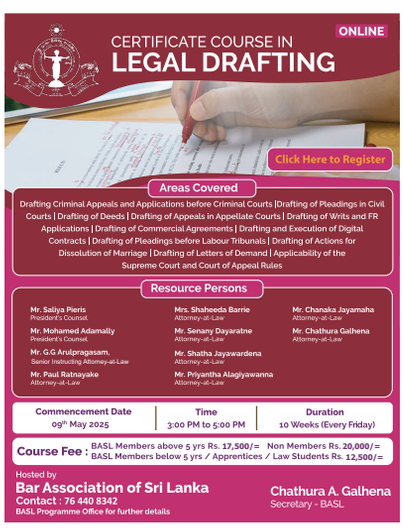
BASL Certificate Courses

The following Certificate Courses was conducted by the BASL

BASL Certificate Courses – Online

- Certificate Course in Legal Drafting
- Certificate Course in Compliance
- Certificate Course in Paralegal Activists
- Certificate Course In Intellectual Property Law
- Certificate Course in The Art of Cross Examination
- Certificate Course in Effective Instructing Attorneys

Online Certificate Course In LEGAL DRAFTING



The Certificate Course in Legal Drafting – 2025 commenced on 9 May 2025 and was conducted over a period of ten (10) weeks, comprising ten (10) structured sessions. The programme was designed to enhance practical legal drafting skills and covered a wide range of subject areas including drafting of pleadings, notices, affidavits, appellate court documents, writ and fundamental rights applications, criminal appeals, family law pleadings, notarial duties, commercial agreements, digital contracts, and labour tribunal pleadings.

The course was delivered by an experienced panel of resource persons, namely Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Senany Dayaratne, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Chathura Galhena, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Saliya Pieris, President's Counsel; Mr. Chanaka Jayamaha, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. G.G. Arulpragasam, Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Paul Ratnayake, Attorney-at-Law; Mrs. Shaheeda Barrie, Attorney-at-Law; and Mr. Mohamed Adamaly, President's Counsel.

A total of 257 participants were registered for the course,

Online Certificate Course In COMPLIANCE

The Certificate Course in Compliance was conducted after a lapse of three (03) years, with the collaboration and support of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL). The programme commenced on 5 August 2025 and was structured in accordance with a comprehensive agenda addressing contemporary compliance and regulatory requirements applicable to the financial sector. The course covered a wide range of subject areas, including the overall compliance framework and its importance to the sustainability of the financial sector; roles and responsibilities of key compliance stakeholders; the Banking Act and recent amendments; corporate governance requirements for licensed banks; related party transactions; Basel III capital and liquidity requirements; credit risk management; large exposure directions; foreign exchange regulations; regulatory frameworks governing Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs); anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance; payment systems and related legislation; legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka and insurance companies; and practical aspects of compliance risk management.

The programme was delivered by a distinguished panel of resource persons drawn primarily from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, including senior officials from the Bank Supervision Department, Department of

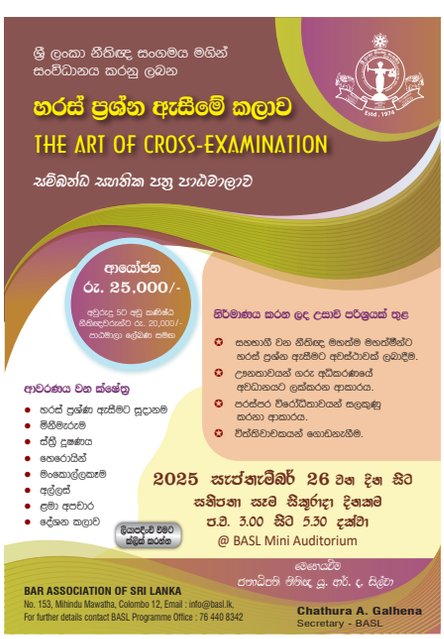


Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Finance Intelligence Unit, Department of Foreign Exchange, Payment and Settlements Department, as well as experts from the Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka, Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, and the banking sector. The Certificate Course attracted over 132 participants, reflecting strong institutional interest in compliance-focused professional development.

Certificate Course in "THE ART OF CROSS EXAMINATION"

The Certificate Course on The Art of Cross-Examination commenced on 26th September 2025. This programme marked the third lecture series conducted with the objective of meeting the growing demand for practical legal training, and it introduced the first fully practical course focusing on the criminal aspects of cross-examination. Owing to the intensive practical nature of the course, the audience was intentionally limited in number, thereby ensuring that each participant was afforded a meaningful opportunity to address the court in a simulated setting. Every participant was given the opportunity to present and express their approach to cross-examination.

The entire course was conducted by Mr. U. R. De Silva, President's Counsel, who, drawing from his extensive professional experience, provided hands-on guidance and constructive corrections to participants based on a structured case study. The programme was highly interactive and contributed significantly to strengthening the practical advocacy skills of the participants.



Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal.

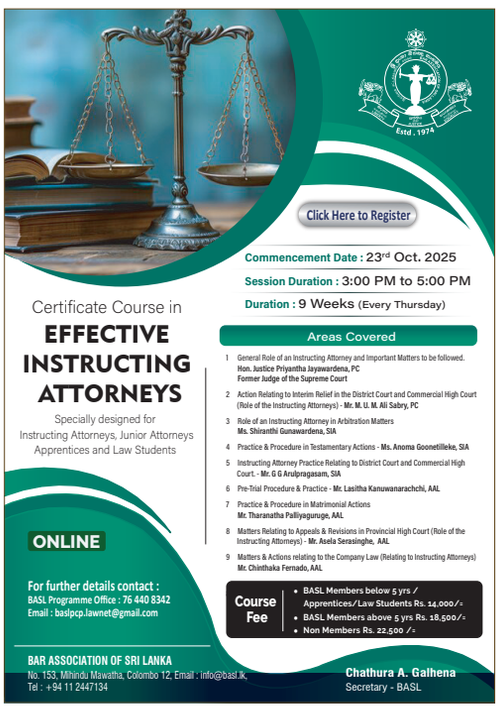
Online Certificate Course in PARALEGAL ACTIVISTS

The Certificate Course for Paralegal Activists was specifically designed to meet the operational requirements of organisations, with particular emphasis on non-legal officers such as court clerks, debt collectors, credit officers, and similar functionaries engaged in legal and quasi-legal work within financial institutions and banks. A total of 46 participants, representing various financial institutions and banks, were enrolled in the programme. The curriculum covered key practical areas, including title searches, company searches at the Registrar of Companies, testamentary actions, stamp duty provisions, condominium property documentation, drafting of common legal instruments, title registration, and government permits and grants.

The programme was delivered by a panel of experienced resource persons drawn from leading financial institutions and state bodies, namely Ms. Melody Wickramanayake, Head of Legal, Hatton National Bank; Mrs. Champika Bandara, Senior Legal Manager, Sampath Bank; Ms. Saman Dharmapala, Head of Legal, Orient Finance; Ms. Chandramali Pragnaratna, Senior Manager – Legal, National Trust Bank; Mr. Saminda Jayasekara, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Ishan Rathnapala, Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Department; Ms. Irani Karunanayake, Chief Manager – Legal, Union Bank; and Ms. Sagarika Bomaluwage, Legal Officer, Land Commissioner General's Department.



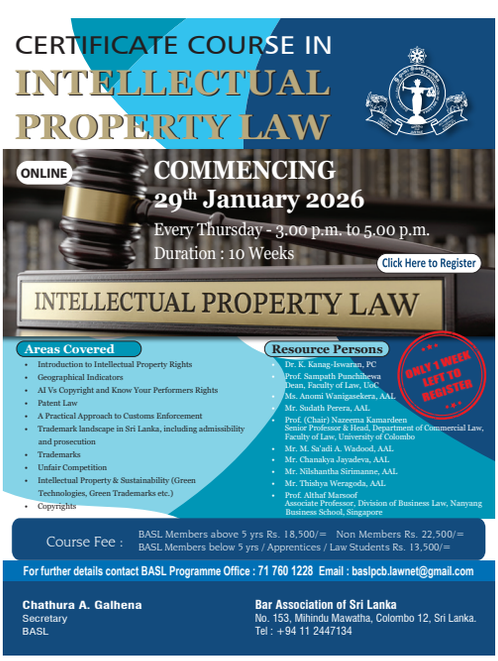
Online Certificate Course in EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS



The Certificate Course on Effective Instructing Attorneys commenced on 23rd October 2025 with a total of 83 participants registered for the programme. The course was carefully designed to enhance the professional knowledge and practical skills of instructing attorneys through a structured series of expert-led sessions. The programme covered key areas including the general role and responsibilities of instructing attorneys, interim relief procedures, arbitration matters, testamentary actions, district and commercial high court practices, pre-trial procedures, matrimonial actions, appeals and revisions, and company law matters.

The sessions were conducted by eminent resource persons, namely Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC, Former Judge of the Supreme Court; Mr. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, President's Counsel; Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law; Ms. Anoma Goonatilake, Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law; Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanarachchi, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Tharanatha Palliyaguruge, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Asela Serasinghe, Attorney-at-Law; and Mr. Chinthaka Fernando, Attorney-at-Law. Through these expert-led sessions, participants gained valuable practical insights and enhanced their professional competencies. The programme contributed meaningfully to the continuous professional development of instructing attorneys in Sri Lanka.

Online Certificate Course in INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW



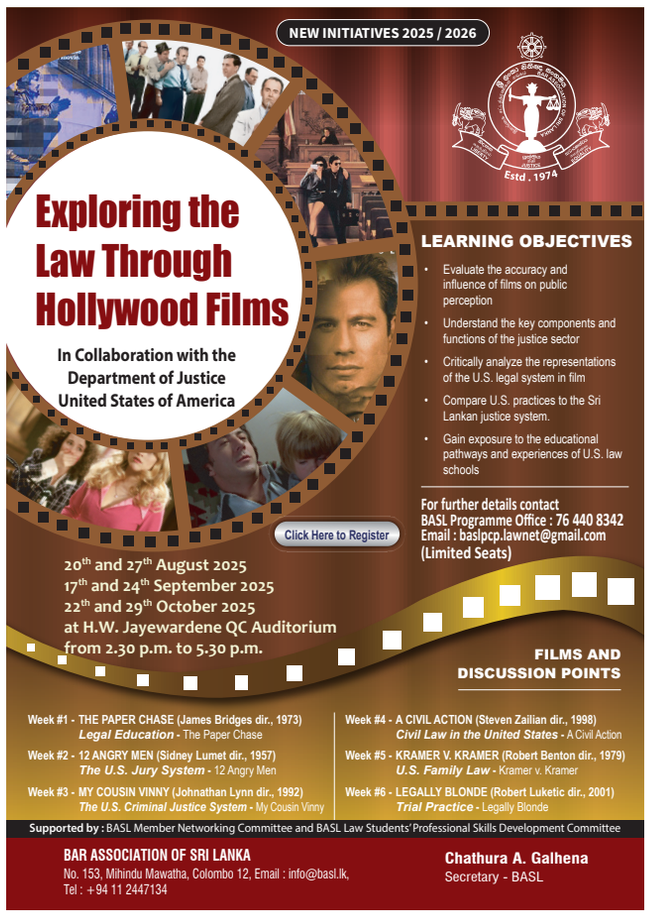
The Certificate Course on The Art of Cross-Examination commenced on 26th September 2025. This programme marked the third lecture series conducted with the objective of meeting the growing demand for practical legal training, and it introduced the first fully practical course focusing on the criminal aspects of cross-examination. Owing to the intensive practical nature of the course, the audience was intentionally limited in number, thereby ensuring that each participant was afforded a meaningful opportunity to address the court in a simulated setting. Every participant was given the opportunity to present and express their approach to cross-examination. The entire course was conducted by Mr. U. R. De Silva, President's Counsel, who, drawing from his extensive professional experience, provided hands-on guidance and constructive corrections to participants based on a structured case study. The programme was highly interactive and contributed significantly to strengthening the practical advocacy skills of the participants. Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme for Company Secretarial License Renewal.

BASL Specialized Training Module on Advocacy



A Specialized Training Module on Advocacy was conducted on the 28th of January 2026 at the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for Attorneys at Law with 02 to 08 years of practice. The programme focused on developing practical advocacy skills and strengthening courtroom presentation and legal argumentation. The session was conducted by Mr. Paul Mylvaganam, Barrister at Law from the United Kingdom, who shared his professional experience and practical insights with the participating members of the Bar.

Exploring the Law Through Hollywood Films



Workshop on the Anti-Corruption Act for State Sector Legal Officers

Workshop for Legal Officers of the State Sector on changes made to the Bribery Law and the impact of bribery and corruption on organisations was held on the 22nd of October 2025 at the BASL Mini Auditorium. The programme was organised by the Government Legal Officers' Association in collaboration with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption. The workshop provided an opportunity for legal officers in the state sector to gain a deeper understanding of the legal framework relating to anti corruption and its implications for public institutions.

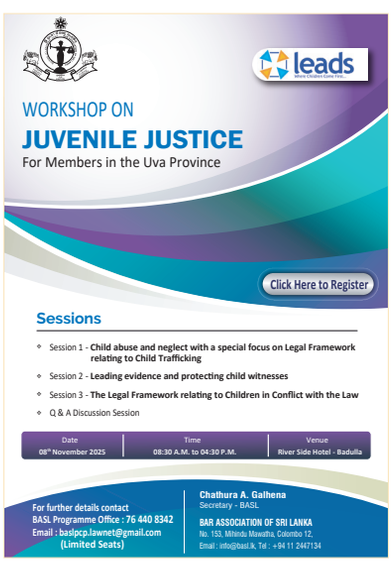


Seminars and Workshops

LEADS Juvenile Justice Workshop – Kandy

The second Workshop on Juvenile Justice was conducted on the 23rd of August in Kandy by LEADS in partnership with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and the Kandy Bar Association. The workshop brought together members of the legal profession to discuss key issues relating to child protection and juvenile justice. A highlight of the programme was an open dialogue with BASL President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, facilitated by Mr. M. A. M. Hakeem, Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo and Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights. The sessions addressed matters such as child abuse and trafficking, safeguarding child witnesses, and children in conflict with the law, promoting a more child centred justice system.

3rd BASL Juvenile Justice Workshop – Badulla



The BASL Juvenile Justice Workshop No. 3 was held on the 8th of November in Badulla in collaboration with LEADS. The workshop brought together members of the legal profession to discuss key issues relating to juvenile justice and child protection. The programme focused on strengthening awareness and understanding of legal safeguards for children, including matters relating to child abuse, safeguarding child witnesses, and children in conflict with the law. The session formed part of ongoing efforts to promote a more child centred approach within the justice system.

Workshop on Juvenile Justice for Members in the Northern Province

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), in collaboration with LEADS, successfully conducted a series of Workshops on Juvenile Justice for members of the legal profession in the Northern Province, Central Province, and Uva Province. The workshops were held on 24th May 2025, 23rd August 2025, and 8th November 2025, respectively. The programme focused on critical thematic areas including child abuse and neglect with special emphasis on the legal framework relating to child trafficking; leading evidence and protecting child witnesses; and the legal framework relating to children in conflict with the law.

A total of 65 participants from each province attended the workshops, ensuring meaningful engagement and focused learning. The sessions were conducted by Dr. M. A. M. Hakeem, Attorney-at-Law, Senior Lecturer, Department of Public & International Law, and Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, who shared valuable expertise and practical insights on juvenile justice. The introduction to the programme was delivered by the CEO of LEADS, while the welcome speech were delivered by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President, BASL. The workshops contributed significantly to enhancing the capacity of legal practitioners in handling matters relating to juvenile justice and child protection within the Sri Lankan legal framework.



Media Law in Digital Era

The BASL Human Rights Committee, successfully organized a seminar on Media Law in the Digital Era on 24th July at the BASL Auditorium. The programme was held in collaboration with the Media Law Forum and brought together distinguished members of the profession to discuss the complex intersections of law, media, and technology in the present digital age.

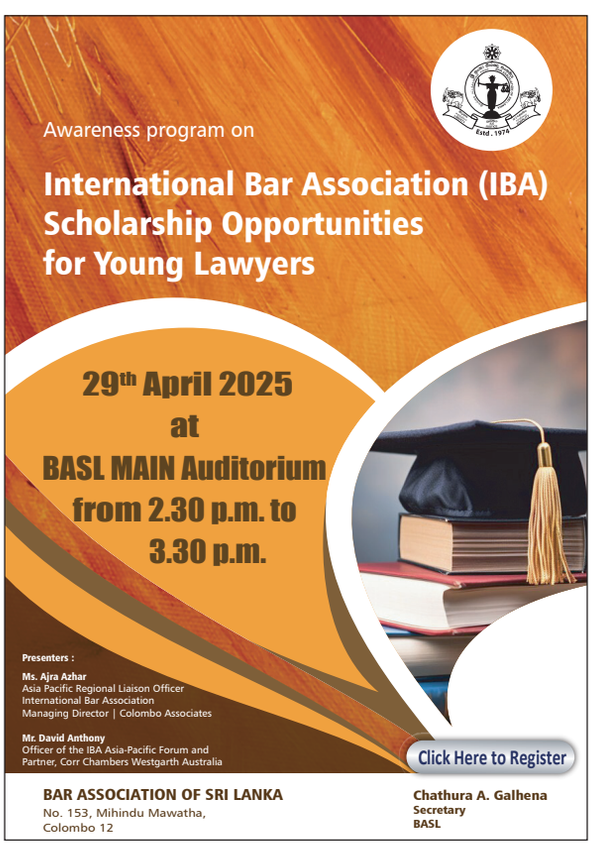
The seminar, which drew a strong turnout of lawyers and law students, focused on the theme of "Navigating Free Expression, Legacy Media Transformation, and Emerging Digital Challenges." The discussion highlighted the pressing need to balance freedom of expression with accountability in the ever-evolving digital sphere, while also reflecting on the transformation of traditional media and the regulatory challenges that follow.

The panel of speakers consisted of Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC, Dr. Viranjana Herath, AAL, and Mr. Senany Dayaratne, AAL, and was moderated by Ms. Swasthika Arulingam, AAL. The event was spearheaded under the leadership of Mr. Lakshan Dias, Chair of the BASL Human Rights Committee, together with Co-Chairs Mr. Prasanna Arampath and Mr. Rohana Muthumala, and Co-Convenors Mr. Akram Waseem, Mr. Rajendra Kandegedara, and Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena.

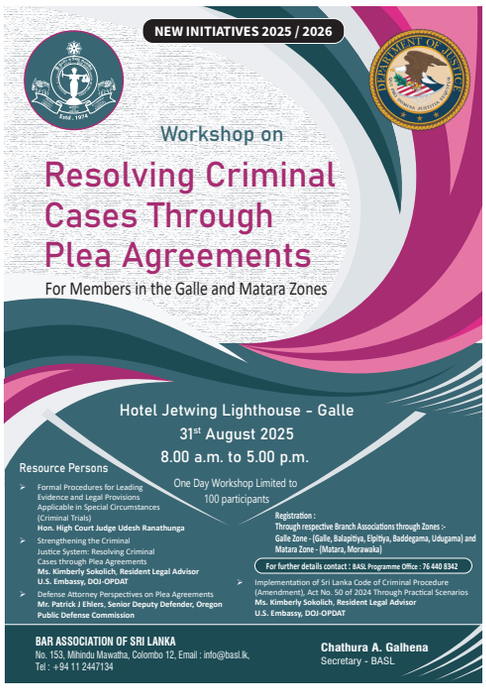


Awareness program on International Bar Association (IBA) Scholarship Opportunities for Young Lawyers

An awareness programme on International Bar Association (IBA) Scholarship Opportunities for Young Lawyers was held on 29th April 2025 at the BASL Main Auditorium. The session featured Ms. Ajra Azhar and Mr. David Anthony, who shared valuable insights on global scholarship and career opportunities for young lawyers.



Workshop Series on Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements



The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, successfully conducted a series of one-day workshops on "Resolving Criminal Cases Through Plea Agreements – Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act No. 50 of 2024" during August–September 2025.

Three regional workshops were organized to enhance awareness and practical understanding of the newly introduced plea agreement framework. The sessions were held as follows:

31st August 2025 – Hotel Jetwing Lighthouse, Galle
13th September 2025 – Hotel Kingsbury, Colombo
28th September 2025 – Hotel Heritage, Anuradhapura

Each workshop recorded over 100 participants, reflecting the strong interest of the legal community in the new legislative framework.

The workshops were conducted by a distinguished panel of resource persons comprising Hon. Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, Judge of the Supreme Court; Hon. High Court Judge Udesh Ranathunga; Ms. Kimberly Sokolich, Resident Legal Advisor, U.S. Embassy (DOJ-OPDAT); Mr. Neville Abeyratne, PC; and Mr. Patrick J. Ehlers, Senior Deputy Defender, Oregon Public Defense Commission. The programme provided valuable practical insights into the implementation of plea agreements under the amended law and facilitated meaningful engagement among legal practitioners across the country. The initiative formed part of BASL's continuing efforts to strengthen criminal justice practice and professional capacity in Sri Lanka.

Workshop on The Art of Advocacy



The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, successfully conducted a One-Day Workshop on The Art of Advocacy for Junior Members of the Profession on 20th September 2025 at Courtyard by Marriott, Colombo. The workshop was specifically designed to strengthen the practical advocacy skills of junior members of the Bar. Key subject areas discussed included courtroom presentation, leading evidence, cross-examination, and closing arguments.

In order to ensure effective interaction and individualized learning, 50 participants were carefully selected for the programme. The sessions were conducted by Mr. Kuvera de Zoysa, PC, and Ms. Kimberly Sokolich, Resident Legal Advisor, U.S. Embassy (DOJ-OPDAT), who shared valuable practical insights drawn from their extensive professional experience.

Continued Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Programme

In accordance with Gazette No. 2323/41 issued by the Registrar of Companies on 17th March 2023, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) successfully planned and conducted the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Certificate Course for Company Secretaries in November–December 2025 to facilitate the 2026 license renewal and the issuance of Certificates of Practice by the Registrar of Companies. The programme was designed as a comprehensive six-module course, developed with the support of Mr. Saravanan Neelakandan, Ms. Deduni de Silva, and the BASL Management. Three modules consisted of two CPD hours each, while the remaining three modules consisted of three CPD hours each, amounting to a total of sixteen (16) CPD hours.



The sessions were conducted by distinguished resource persons, namely Mr. Renuka Wijawardhane, Chief Regulatory Officer, Colombo Stock Exchange; Ms. Nirosha Peiris, Partner, Tiruchelvam Associates; Ms. Subhani Keerthiratna, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit (Central Bank); Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC, NSB Chairperson; Mrs. L. K. S. Dharmakeerthi, Registrar of Companies, Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public & Commissioner for Oaths; and Mr. Gerard David, Deputy Country Managing Partner & COO, Deloitte Corporate Services.

The course was delivered in a hybrid format, enabling wider accessibility and participation. Owing to the relevance and practical value of the programme, over 250–300 participants attended the sessions. The BASL successfully developed, organized, and completed the programme by December 2025, and certificates were duly issued to all eligible participants. The programme significantly contributed to strengthening the professional competence of Company Secretaries and supported regulatory compliance requirements for license renewal.

Human Rights Residential Seminar

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), in cooperation with the Max Planck Foundation, successfully conducted the "Human Rights and Lawyering During Times of Crisis" Residential Seminar for Lawyers of Sri Lanka in two provinces during 2025. The first residential seminar was held in the Central Province from 4th to 6th April 2025, and the second in the North Central Province from 17th to 19th October 2025. Each programme was designed to strengthen the capacity of legal practitioners in addressing human rights issues during periods of crisis.

The workshops were attended by twenty-five (25) lawyers from the respective Branch Bars at each programme, ensuring focused participation and meaningful engagement. The 29th President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, delivered the opening remarks at the seminars, encouraging lawyers to further advance their knowledge and professional competence in the field of human rights. The sessions were supported by international expertise, with Ms. Nischala Arjal, MPFPR Research Fellow, and Mr. Sanjit Dias, MPFPR Research Fellow,



participating as international resource persons from the Max Planck Foundation. The residential seminars contributed significantly to enhancing the understanding of human rights law and strengthening the professional capacity of lawyers to respond effectively during times of crisis.

BASL Residential Seminar on Human Rights

A residential seminar titled "Human Rights and Lawyering During the Times of Crisis for Lawyers of Sri Lanka" was held from the 17 to 19 of October 2025 at Hotel Amaara Forest, Sigiriya. The programme was organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law. The seminar was conducted for members of the Bar in the North Central Province and focused on the role of lawyers in safeguarding human rights and applying rights based approaches to legal practice during periods of political and economic crisis.



Collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers Association

Symposium on Hire Purchase and Leasing with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association, conducted a symposium on Hire Purchase and Leasing on 23rd of August 2025 at the BASL Auditorium. The programme addressed important legal and practical aspects relating to hire purchase, finance leasing, recovery procedures, and vehicle related claims under the applicable legal framework. The session featured resource persons Mr. Upali Mohotti, President's Counsel, Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney at Law and Consultant to the HFA, and Mr. Chaminda Hettiarachchi, Attorney at Law and Director Legal of Central Finance Company PLC.

"Land: An Asset; A Liability or Both?" Symposium organised jointly by BASL and the Women Lawyers' Association of Sri Lanka

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association, organised a symposium related to land matters titled, "Land: An Asset; A Liability or Both?" on 19th November 2025 at the BASL Auditorium. The session addressed key legal issues relating to land as security for loans, the enforceability of such securities, and matters connected with testamentary proceedings. The symposium featured Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, President's Counsel, and Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney at Law and Consultant to the HFA, who shared valuable insights with members of the legal profession.

Symposium on "Registration of Moveables under the Secured Transactions Act and on Arbitration" in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association, conducted a symposium on "Registration of Moveables to Ensure Priority under the Secured Transactions (Amendment) Act No. 17 of 2024 and Arbitration vs Litigation" on 18th of February 2026 at the BASL Auditorium. The session explored key legal and practical aspects relating to secured transactions and dispute resolution mechanisms. Resource persons included Mr. Hiran De Alwis, Attorney at Law, Mr. Pushpike Jayasundera, Director of CRIB Sri Lanka, and Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney at Law and Consultant to the HFA.

























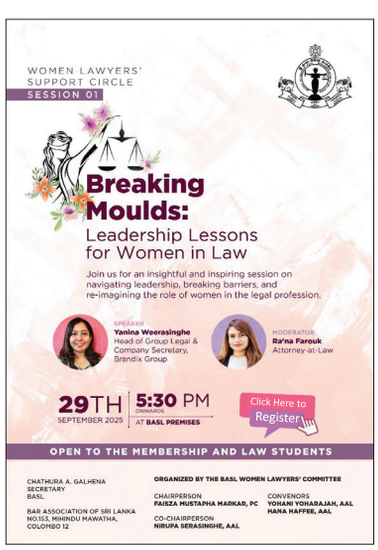




BASL Women Lawyers' Support Circle

The BASL Women Lawyers' Support Circle was inaugurated as a new initiative of the BASL Women Lawyers' Committee, aimed at fostering mentorship, support, and professional development among women in the legal profession. The initiative seeks to create a platform where women lawyers can share experiences, discuss challenges, and strengthen leadership within the profession.

The inaugural session was held under the theme "Breaking Moulds: Leadership Lessons for Women in Law," featuring Ms. Yanina Weerasinghe, Attorney-at-Law and Head of Group Legal at the Brandix Group. The session explored issues of leadership, resilience, and the evolving role of women in law. Appreciation is extended to the Chairperson Ms. Faisza Markar, PC, Co-Chairperson Ms. Nirupa Serasinghe, and Convenors Ms. Yohani Jacob Yoharajah and Ms. Hana Haffee for spearheading this important initiative.



Legal Awareness Programs for Police Officers

BASL in collaboration with Sri Lanka Police conducted 2 workshops to create legal awareness among Police Officers.

The first was held in Kurunagala on 3rd August 2025 for Officers in the Kurunagala Police Division. Resource persons at this workshop were the Honourable Adithya Patabendige- Judge of the Court of Appeal, Rajeev Amarasuriya, President BASL, Inspector General of Police Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya AAL Mr. Janaka Bandara- Deputy Solicitor General, and Priyani Rathnayaka- Senior AAL.

















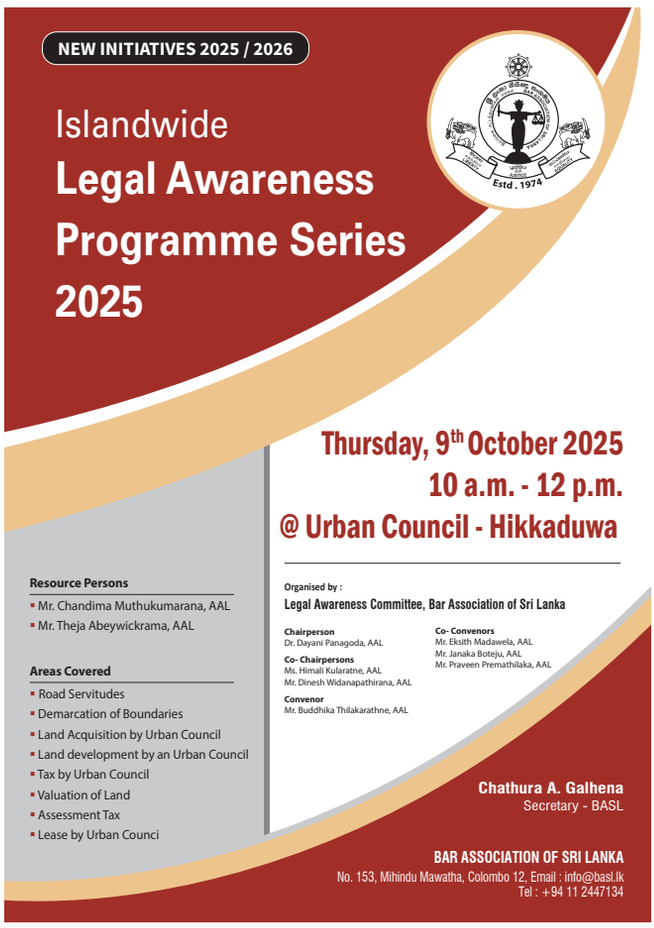
The second workshop was held on 20th September 2025 in Marawila for Officers in the Puttalam, Nikawaratiya and Kuliyapitiya and Chilaw Police Divisions. The Inspector General of Police Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya AAL, President BASL Mr Rajeev Amarasuriya, Mr. Ajith Rohana Senior DIG and Mrs. Priyani Ratnayaka Senior AAL were the resource persons at these Workshops. Magistrates of Chilaw and Marawila also graced the ocassion.

Over 800 Police officers participated in these workshops. The topics on Criminal investigation and Court procedures were covered at the sessions.

Islandwide Legal Awareness Programme Series

BASL Legal Awareness Programme Series 2025 – Hikkaduwa

The first BASL Legal Awareness Programme Series 2025 was conducted on the 9th of October 2025 at the Urban Council, Hikkaduwa. The programme was organised by the BASL Legal Awareness Committee and focused on several practical legal issues relating to land and local government administration, including road servitudes, demarcation of boundaries, land acquisition, land development, and assessment taxes. Resource persons for the session were Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana, Attorney at Law, and Mr. Theja Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law. The programme was organised under the leadership of Chairperson Dr. Dayani Panagoda, together with the committee and convenors of the BASL Legal Awareness Committee.



Legal Awareness Programme for Officers of the Urban Council Hikkaduwa

A Legal Awareness Programme was organised on the 17th of October, by the BASL Legal Awareness Committee for the officers of the Urban Council, Hikkaduwa. The session addressed practical legal matters relating to land and local government administration and was conducted by resource persons Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana, Attorney at Law, and Mr. Theja Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law. The programme was organised under the leadership of Committee Chairperson Dr. Dayani Panagoda, together with Co Chairpersons Ms. Himali Kularatne and Mr. Dinesh Widanapathirana, and Convenors Mr. Buddhika Thilakarathne, Mr. Eksith Madawela, Mr. Akila Aluthwatta, and Mr. Praveen Premathilaka.







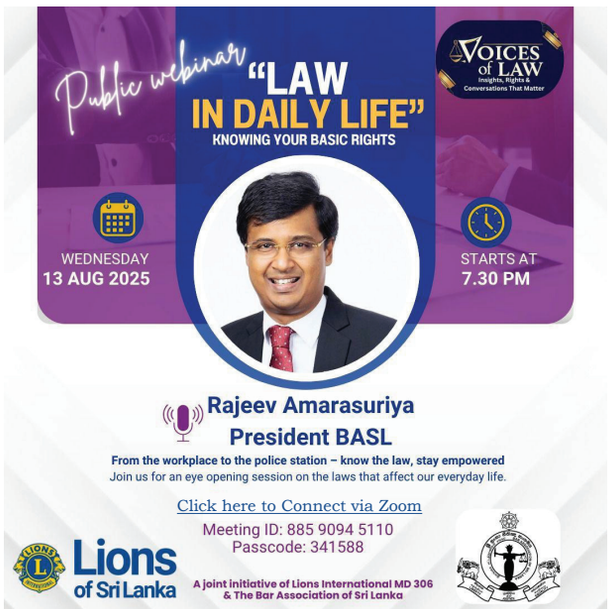






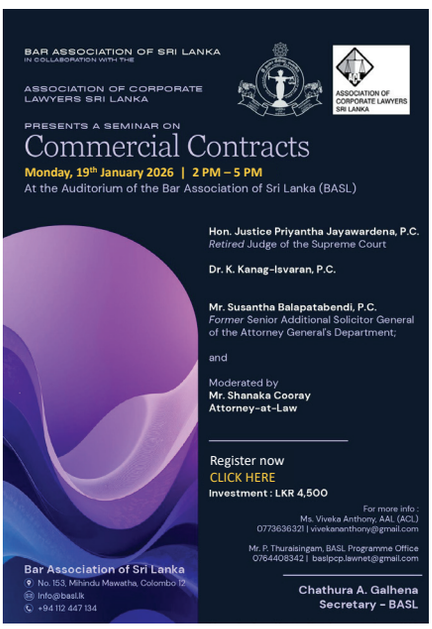
Lions Legal Awareness Session

The BASL – Lions Legal Awareness Session No. 2 was conducted on the 10th of September 2025 via Zoom as part of a joint initiative between Lions International MD 306 and the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. The session featured Ms. Jerusha Crossette Thambiah, Counsel and Legal Consultant, who shared insights on the theme "What can we do to make the world safer for women and children." The programme aimed to raise awareness on issues affecting women and children while encouraging meaningful discussion on legal and social measures to promote their safety and protection.



Seminar on COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

A seminar on Commercial Contracts was held on the 19th of January 2026 at the Auditorium of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. The programme was organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Association of Corporate Lawyers Sri Lanka. The seminar featured distinguished speakers including Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC, retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Dr. K. Kanag-Isvaran, PC, and Mr. Susantha Balapatabendi, PC, former Senior Additional Solicitor General. The session was moderated by Mr. Shanaka Cooray, Attorney at Law.









Orientation Programme

NEW MEMBER WELCOME & ORIENTATION PROGRAMME – 13TH TO 15TH DECEMBER 2025

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka organised a New Member Welcome & Orientation Programme over three days, commencing on Saturday, 13th December 2025, at the Dr. H. W. Jayewardene, QC Auditorium. This programme was designed to formally welcome newly enrolled Attorneys-at-Law and provide them with essential guidance, skills, and professional insight as they embark on their legal careers and was supported by the U. S. Embassy, Department of Justice, OPDAT and LEADS.

The proceedings on all three days commenced with inauguration ceremony at which the welcome address was delivered by Mr. Waruna Senadheera, Attorney-at-Law, Chairman of the Apprentice Training Sub Committee of the BASL, followed by an address from Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

On the 1st day, the keynote address was delivered by Dr. K. Kanag Isvaran, President's Counsel.

A significant highlight of the morning session was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Law College in relation to the internship programme. Mr. Prashantha Lal de Alwis, President's Counsel and Principal of Sri Lanka Law College was present on this occasion. The inaugural session was concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Chathura A. Galhena, Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

A series of technical sessions were conducted by distinguished professionals. Ms. Kimberly Sokolich, Resident Legal Advisor attached to the U.S. Embassy (DOJ/OPDAT), conducted multiple sessions on the Art of Advocacy, including examination techniques, as well as a session on Plea Agreements followed by sessions on professional development and career guidance. Mr.





Saliya Pieris, President's Counsel and former President of BASL, addressed participants on How to Become a Successful Lawyer; followed by a session by Mr. Harsha Fernando, President's Counsel, on The Diverse Roles of a Lawyer and Alternative Career Paths.

The final sessions of each day was an address by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya on Welcome to the Noble Profession, and a session on Work Ethic as a Legal Practitioner delivered by Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, Senior Instructing Attorney-at- Law.














On day 2 of the Program conducted on Sunday, 14th December 2025, the Keynote Address was delivered by His Lordship Justice Thurairaja, President's Counsel, providing valuable judicial insight to the newly enrolled Attorneys-at-Law and the inaugural proceedings concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Pasindu Silva, Treasurer of BASL.

The technical sessions of day 2 were led by Ms. Kimberly Sokolich, Resident Legal Advisor attached to the U.S. Embassy (DOJ/OPDAT) covering key areas including the Art of Advocacy, Advocacy in Examinations, and Plea Agreements, offering participants practical exposure to essential courtroom skills and prosecutorial practices, followed by sessions on professional growth and career development by Mr. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, President's Counsel and Former Deputy President of BASL, speaking on How to Become a Successful Lawyer and Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, President's Counsel, on The Diverse Roles of a Lawyer and Alternative Career Paths.

On day 3 of the Program conducted on Monday, 15th December 2025, the keynote address was delivered by Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, President's Counsel and Attorney General, offering invaluable perspectives on the legal profession at the highest level. The inaugural session concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Chathura A. Galhena, Secretary of BASL.












The technical sessions were conducted by Ms. Kimberly Sokolich, focusing on Art of Advocacy, Advocacy in Examinations, and Plea Agreements, reinforcing the practical skills required for effective legal practice followed by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya addressing participants on Welcome to the Noble Profession, followed by Ms. Nilanthi Peiris, Attorney-at-Law, who spoke on Work Ethics as a Legal Practitioner. Further sessions included on How to Become a Successful Lawyer by Mr. Uditha Egalahewa, President's Counsel, and The Diverse Roles of a Lawyer and Alternative Career Paths by Mr. Mohamed Adamaly, President's Counsel.

The three-day programme concluded with the awarding of certificates to participants, marking the successful completion of the orientation programme.

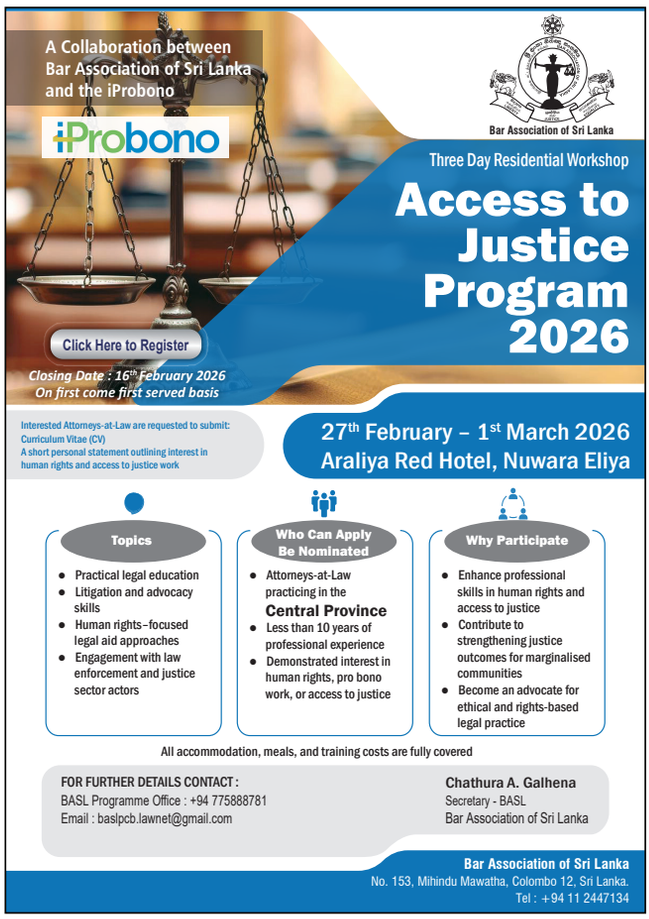
This initiative reflected the commitment of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to nurturing professional excellence, ethical practice, and continuous learning among its newest members as they enter the noble legal profession.





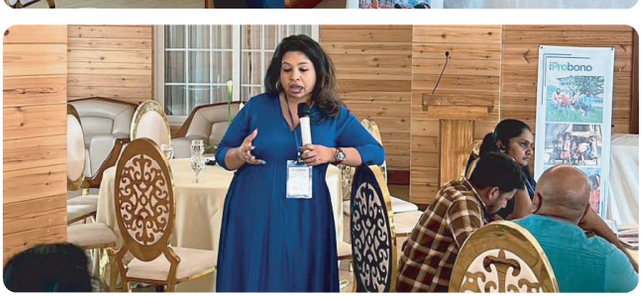
Access to Justice Programme with iProbono

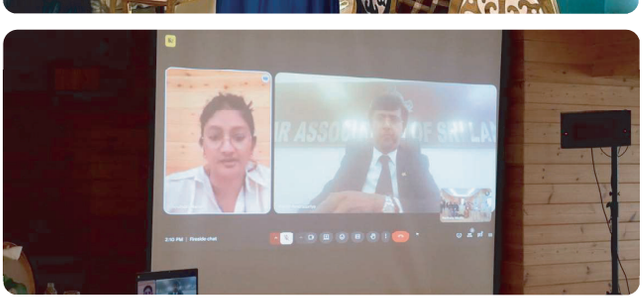
A three day residential workshop titled Access to Justice Programme 2026 was held from the 27th of February to the 1st of March 2026 at the Araliya Red Hotel, Nuwara Eliya. The programme was organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with iProbono and was designed for Attorneys at Law practising in the Central Province with less than ten years of professional experience. The workshop focused on practical legal education, litigation and advocacy skills, human rights focused legal aid approaches, and engagement with law enforcement and justice sector actors. The programme aimed to strengthen professional skills and promote rights based legal practice in advancing access to justice.















Inaugural ADR Lawyers' Symposium 2026

The Inaugural ADR Lawyers Symposium 2026 was held on the 1st of February 2026 at Cinnamon Life, Colombo, from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. The symposium focused on the theme of appropriate dispute resolution and explored the evolving role of lawyers in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The programme brought together a distinguished panel of local and international speakers including Dr. Kanaganayagam Kanag-Isvaran, PC, former Chief Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the BASL, and Mr. Harsha Fernando, PC, among several other experts who shared their knowledge and experiences with participants.













International Commercial Mediator Accreditation Programme

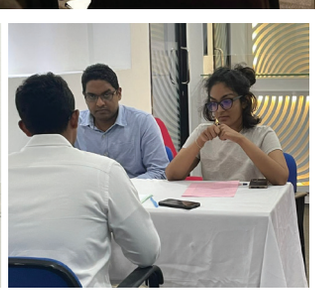
The Bar Association of Sri Lanka organised the International Commercial Mediator Accreditation Programme in January 2026 as part of its initiative to establish a BASL led Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre. The programme was conducted in collaboration with SAGE Mediation Institute Singapore and UDecide Mediation. The training focused on key aspects of international commercial mediation including mediation processes, professional conduct and ethics, mediation legislation, and practical approaches to dispute resolution. The programme provided BASL members with an opportunity to obtain international accreditation in mediation and strengthen their expertise in alternative dispute resolution.















Vesak Dhamma Sermon

By Venerable Seeladassana Thero







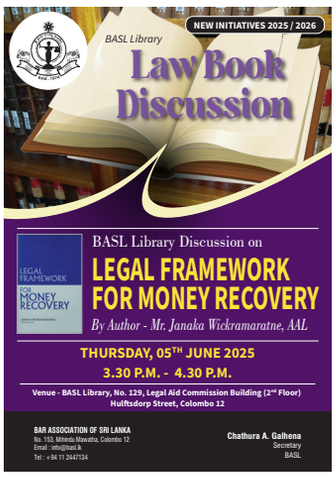


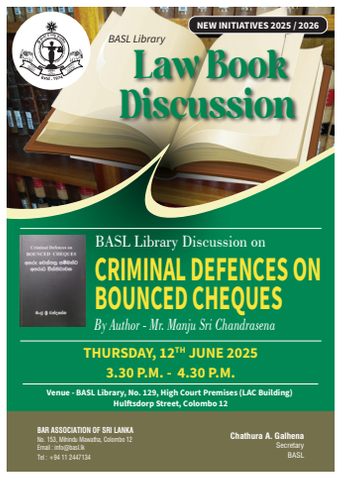
The BASL hosted a Vesak Dhamma Sermon titled “The Law, the Dhamma and the Penetrative Mind,” delivered by Venerable Seeladassana Thero on 9th May 2025 at the BASL Auditorium.

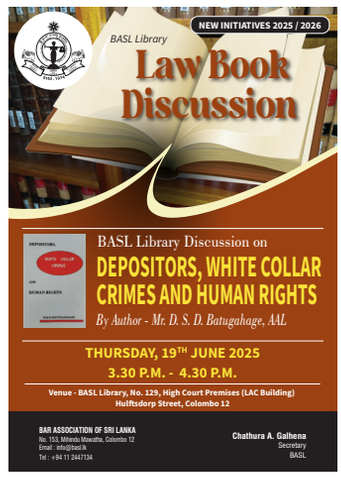


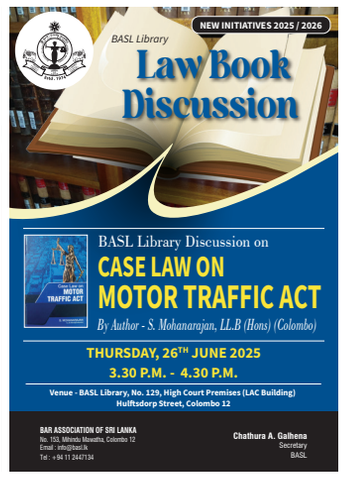


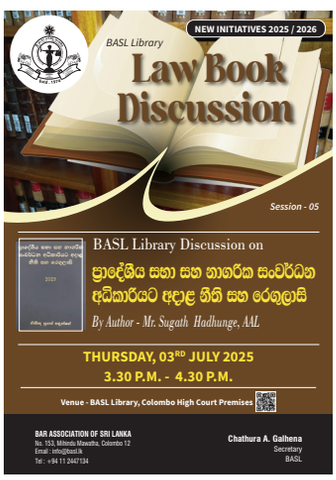
BASL Library Book Discussion 25/26

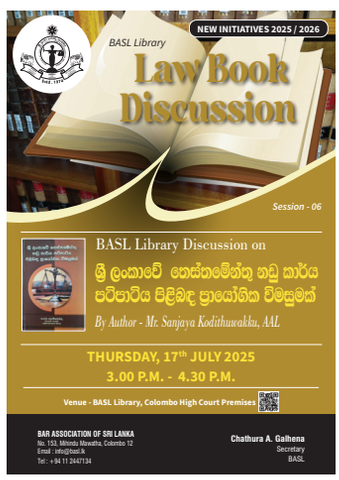


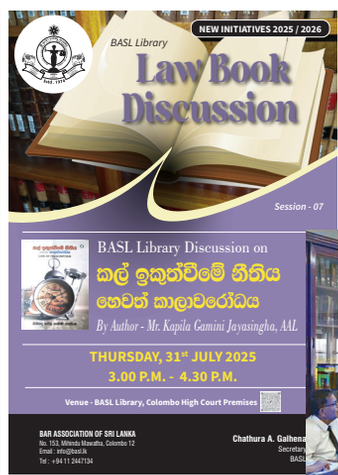


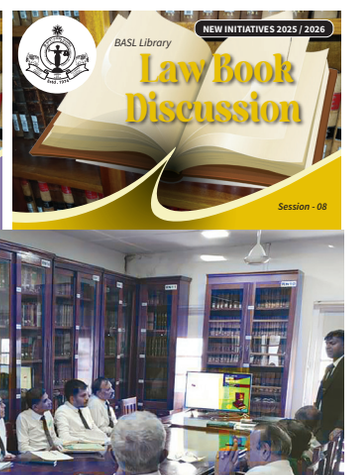












The BASL Library successfully commenced its new Law Book Discussion Series for 2025/2026 with different engaging sessions. The discussions provided valuable insights marking a promising start to this new BASL Library initiative.

Supporting young Lawyers

■ BASL CAREER PORTAL

The BASL has launched the BASL Career Portal, a dedicated platform for members to explore legal career opportunities and for employers to post vacancies. Members can log in via www.basl.lk using their BASL ID and NIC details to browse and apply for positions. Employers may email vacancy details to it@basl.lk for posting. This initiative enhances career growth and networking within the legal profession.



■ නීති තිරට - Session 1



■ BASL Legal Night #1 - #3

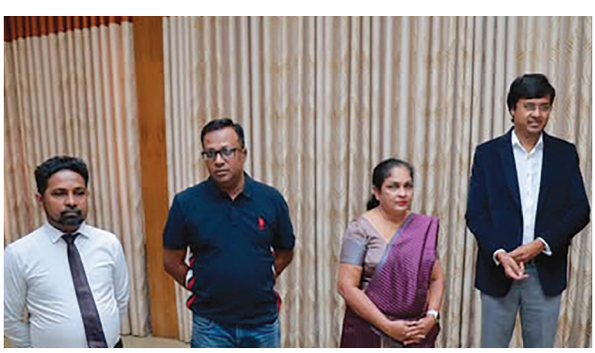
Three BASL Legal Nights took place at the All Star Sports Lounge, Colombo 7. The Legal Night provided Members an enjoyable evening of fellowship, music, and camaraderie.

The BASL Legal Night was organized by the BASL Social Welfare Committee Chaired by Mr. Saminda Jayasekera, Co-Chairs Mr. Sanjeewa Seneviratne and Mr. Chandima Atapattu and Convenors Mr. Srilal Thalagalle, Mr. Rukshan Mendis, Ms. Gangulali Dayaratne, Mr. Samadhi Gamlath and Mr. Vimukthi Karunaratne.



Inaugural Annual Carrom Tournament

The Ratnapura Bar Association, together with the BASL, hosted the inaugural BASL Carrom Tournament on 8th June, fostering camaraderie and competition with men's and women's singles and doubles events.



■ BASL Member Trip 2025



■ BASL Staff and Family Outing

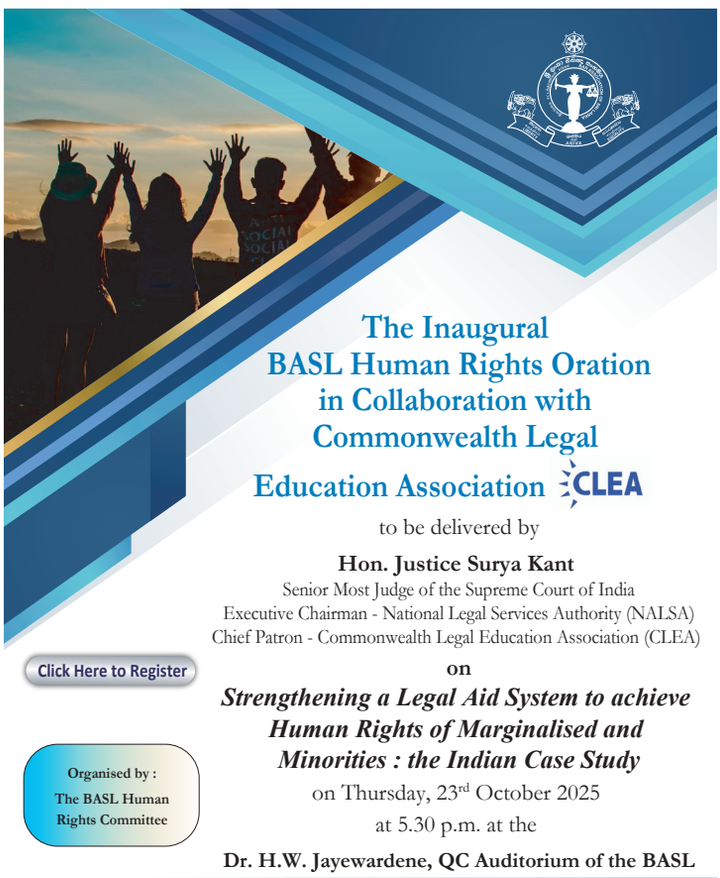


The BASL hosted the BASL Staff and Family outing, held after a lapse of seven years. This much-awaited event brought together BASL staff members and their families for a day of fellowship, relaxation, and camaraderie. The event was attend by the Management Committee of the BASL as well.





The Inaugural BASL Human Rights Oration















The Inaugural Human Rights Oration which was delivered by Hon Justice Surya Kant on 'Strengthening a Legal Aid System to achieve marginalised and Minorities : the Indian Case Study. The oration was held on 23rd October 2025 and over 200 members participated.







BASL Neethi Ranga 2025

The BASL proudly presented "**kS;sr`**. – Neethiranga 2025", a vibrant cultural evening held on 1st August at Kularatne Hall, Ananda College, Colombo 10. Organised by the BASL Neethiranga 2025 Committee, the event celebrated the artistic talents of the legal fraternity through a memorable night of music, dance, and performance.

This eagerly awaited event was held after 8 years, making its return a truly special occasion for the BASL family. Under the creative direction of Akila Sapumal Manawadu, with musical arrangements by Lahiru Madiwila and dance design by Eranga Ilangakoon, the programme brought together a unique blend of tradition and innovation.

The BASL extends its appreciation to the Neethiranga 2025 Committee, Chaired by Ms. Dhanushki Liyanapatabendy, Co-Chaired by Ms. Savithri Fernando with Mr. Eranda S. Wanasinghe as Convenor and Ms. Kulani Ranaweera as Co-Convenor, supported by the BASL Special Projects Committee, for making this long-awaited and spectacular evening a resounding success.























Programme on Professional Ethics

A programme on Professional Ethics was organised by the Panadura Bar on the 24th of January 2026 with the participation of members of the legal profession in the region. The session focused on the importance of maintaining ethical standards, professional responsibility, and integrity in legal practice. The programme provided an opportunity for practitioners to reflect on the ethical obligations of members of the Bar and to engage in discussions on upholding the highest standards of professionalism in the administration of justice.





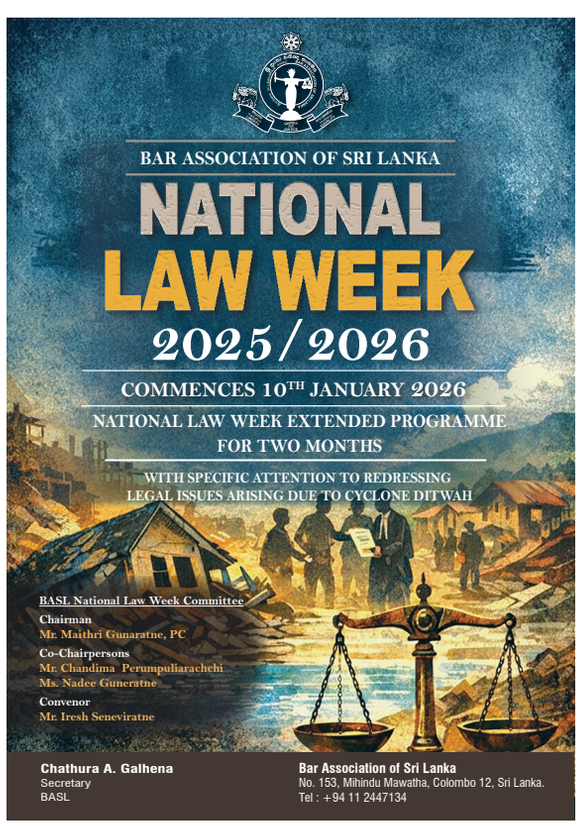




Legal Aid Programme - National Law Week 25 / 26

National Law Week Legal Aid Programme – Kothmale

The BASL National Law Week 2025/2026 commenced in Kothmale with the successful conduct of a Legal Aid Programme aimed at assisting communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah. The programme was organised with the support of the National Law Week Committee, chaired by Mr. Maithri Gunaratne, PC, together with Co-Chairpersons Mr. Chandima Perumpuriarachchi and Ms. Nadee Gunaratne, and Convenor Mr. Iresh Seneviratne. The Bar Association also acknowledges the support extended by the Legal Aid Standing Committee, led by its Convenor Mr. Harith de Mel, and the Secretary of the Nuwara Eliya Bar Association, Mr. Singarajah Mohan Raj. The Gammadda Secretariat also played an important role in facilitating the programme and ensuring the effective delivery of legal assistance to affected communities.



Legal Aid Programme – National Law Week at Passara

The second Legal Aid Programme under the BASL National Law Week 2025/2026 was conducted at Passara Central College. The National Law Week programme is being implemented over a two-month period, with special emphasis this year on addressing the legal issues faced by communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah.

The programme brought together members of the legal profession to provide legal assistance and guidance to members of the public.





The Bar Association of Sri Lanka acknowledges the support extended by the President of the Badulla Bar Association, Mr. Dhanushka Weligama, Secretary Mr. Dileepa Jayasekare, Treasurer Mr. Upendra Wijethunga, and the office-bearers and members of the Badulla Bar, as well as the Gammadda Secretariat, for their valuable cooperation in successfully organising this initiative.

Legal Aid Programme – National Law Week at Madulsima

The third Legal Aid Programme under the BASL National Law Week 2025/2026 was held at Madulsima Tamil Maha Vidyalaya, continuing the Association's outreach to communities requiring legal assistance. The programme formed part of the nationwide initiative aimed at addressing legal concerns faced by communities, particularly those affected by Cyclone Ditwah.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka expresses its appreciation to the President of the Badulla Bar Association, Mr. Dhanushka Weligama, and the office-bearers of the Badulla Bar including Mrs. Sayundi Sooriyabandara, Mr. S. B. Udowita, Mrs. Padmini Mangalika, and Mr. Thilageshwaran Puwaneshwaran. Appreciation is also extended to the members of the Badulla Bar Association, the National Law Week Standing Committee, and the Gammadda Secretariat for their support in organising this programme.

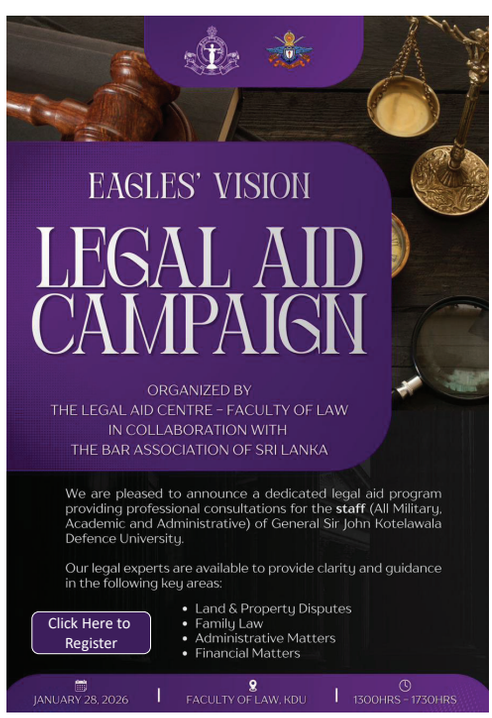
Legal Aid Programme – National Law Week at Nildandahinna

The fifth Legal Aid Programme under the BASL National Law Week 2025/2026 was held on 7 February 2026 at Sri Sumangala National College, Nildandahinna. The programme was organised with the participation and support of members of the Walapane Bar Association and the National Law Week Standing Committee.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka expresses its appreciation to the President of the Walapane Bar Association, Mrs. Bhadra M. Seneviratne, Secretary Mr. S. Geethadayanandan, and members Mrs. Chandrika Nawarathne and Mrs. Ranahansi Weerathunga for their valuable contribution. The Association also acknowledges the support of the members of the Walapane Bar, the National Law Week Committee, and the Gammadda Secretariat for their cooperation in facilitating the successful conduct of the programme.

BASL Supports Eagle Vision Legal Aid Campaign Initiated by KDU

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka supported the Eagle Vision Legal Aid Campaign initiated by the Faculty of Law of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). The legal aid programme was held on 28 January 2026 at the KDU Law Faculty premises and provided professional legal consultations to the university's military, academic, and administrative staff. The initiative served as a platform to extend legal assistance and guidance to members of the KDU community while also strengthening collaboration between BASL and academic institutions engaged in legal education and community outreach.



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ONLINE BASL MEMBERSHIP AND ID CARD RENEWAL
https://basl.lk/downloads/

07

BASL Publications in 2025/2026

BASL PUBLICATIONS IN 2025/2026

BASL Newsletter

Issue No. 1


BASL NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

1st August 2025 — 2025/2026 Issue No. 01

BASL NEWS PRINT EDITION RESUMES AFTER 2 YEARS SINCE MARCH 2023 — ISSN - 2756-9284

The Head table at the Induction Ceremony of Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya as the 29th President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2025 / 2026

CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

CONVOCATION CLOSING REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY

PRESIDENT RAJEEV AMARASURIYA SETS OUT A VISION FOR A STRONG, INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE BAR

A Mandate for Renewal

RAJEEV AMARASURIYA PRESIDENT | RIENZIE ARSECULARATNE PC DEPUTY PRESIDENT | CHATHURA A. GALHENA SECRETARY | PASINDU SILVA TREASURER | SARINDA JAYAWARDENA ASSISTANT SECRETARY

BASL Newsletter

Issue No. 2


BASL NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

1ST AUGUST 2025 — 2025/26 ISSUE NO. 02 | ISSN – 2756-9284 — 31ST MARCH 2026

INTRODUCING A NEW FORMAT FOR BASL NEWS

Lawyers Stand Together: BASL Calls for Justice & Rule of Law

The Inaugural BASL Human Rights Oration 2025

Celebrating 50 Years of Legal Excellence

BASL Special General Meeting: After 14 Years

27 Programmes Conducted During 2025/2026

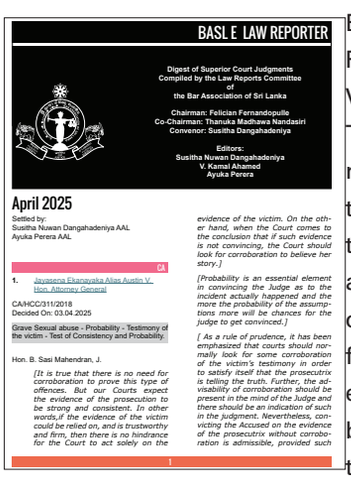
Felicitation for Former Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, PC & Chief Justice Preethi Padman Surasena

29th National Law Conference 2025

Junior National Law Conference 2025

RAJEEV AMARASURIYA PRESIDENT | RIENZIE ARSECULARATNE PC DEPUTY PRESIDENT | CHATHURA A. GALHENA SECRETARY | PASINDU SILVA TREASURER | SARINDA JAYAWARDENA ASSISTANT SECRETARY

BASL E Law Reporter


BASL E LAW REPORTER

Digest of Superior Court Judgments Compiled by the Law Reports Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Chairman: Felician Fernandopulle
Co-Chairman: Thanuka Madhawa Nandasiri
Convenor: Susitha Dangahadeniya

Editors:
Susitha Nuwan Dangahadeniya
V. Kamal Ahamed
Ayuka Perera

April 2025

Settled by:
Susitha Nuwan Dangahadeniya AAL
Ayuka Perera AAL

CA

1. Jayasena Ekanayaka Alias Austin V. Hon. Attorney General

CA/HCC/311/2018
Decided On: 03.04.2025

Grave Sexual abuse - Probability - Testimony of the victim - Test of Consistency and Probability.

Hon. B. Sasi Mahendran, J.

BASL e-Law Reporter Recommences with New Volumes

The BASL e-Law Reporter recommenced publication with the release of the January, February, and March 2025 volumes on 13 December 2025, followed by the April 2025 edition on 30 December 2025. The publication includes digests of Supreme Court judgments compiled by the BASL Law Report Committee. The initiative was led by Mr. Felician Fernandopulle, whose brainchild the BASL e-Law Reporter is, together with Co-Chairman Mr. Thanuka Nandasiri and Convenor Mr. Susitha Dangahadeniya. Special appreciation is extended to the Editors, Mr. Kamal Ahamed and Mr. Ayuka Perera, for their dedication and effort in producing the publication.

BASL Diary


BASL SLIM, DESK & POCKET DIARY 2026

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Project by Diary Committee 2025/26

Bar Association of Sri Lanka
No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12, Sri Lanka.
Tel. : +94 11 2447134 / +94 11 2331697

Chathura A. Galhena
Secretary
BASL

BASL Calendar


BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA 2026

JULY 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

ASSISTANCE TO OUTSTATIONS BARS

Support to those affected by Cyclone Ditwah

The Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka unanimously agreed to support the branches and members affected by the Cyclone Ditwah. A special Distress Fund was established to assist BASL Members who have been severely effected and in need of support both financially and otherwise. It was also agreed to request for special donations of legal publications.

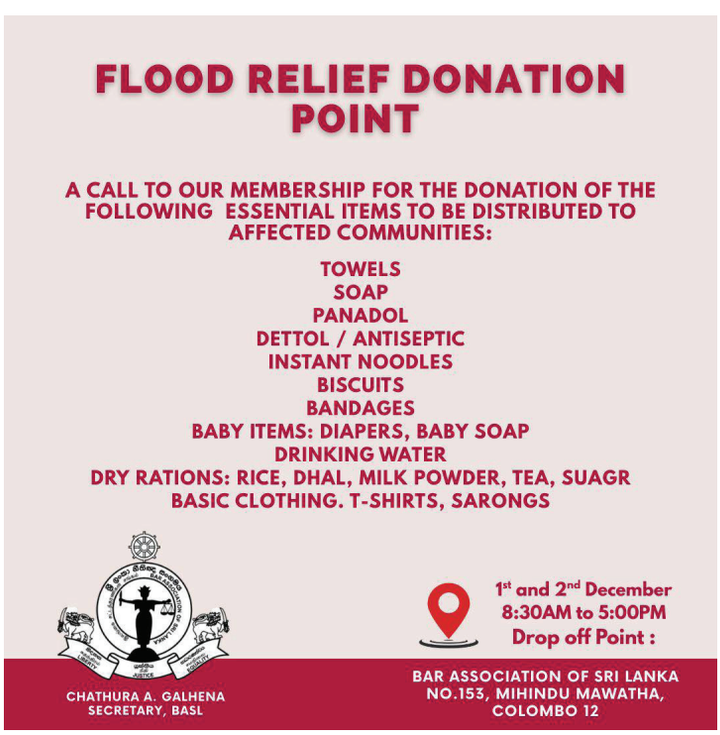
Soon after Cyclone Ditwah, on 3 December 2025, President of BASL Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya visited the Kandy Courts Complex together with the President and members of the Kandy Bar Association and the Convenor of the BASL Outstation Bar Committee Ms. Dasni Piyasiri. During the visit, discussions were held with Judicial Officers and the Bar, on the significant damage caused by recent flooding to records, court houses, lawyers' offices and the historic Kandy Law Library and the way forward.As an initial step towards recovery, BASL donated legal publications and diaries to support over 100 Members affected.

Thereafter, the BASL provided funds in a sum of approximately Rs. 6,500,000 to Members of the Kandy Bar as well as from other Bars who were affected by Cyclone Ditwah. Funds were collected through a Special Distress Fund where Members contributed, the Benevolent Fund and also funds were pledged by the International Bar Association. In addition, a book collection programme was launched by the BASL, to re-stock the Kandy Law Library which was successful completed with the collection of over 550 Books.

Other donations were to Mahiayangana Bar Rs. 700,000/=; Colombo Magistrates Court Lawyer's Association Rs. 330,000/=; Warakapola Bar Rs. 750000/=; and Walapane Bar Rs.200,000/=. Over 50 other members from others Bars were given financial supports individually.

Also, legal publications worth Rs 25,700/= were donated to the Teldeniya Bar.



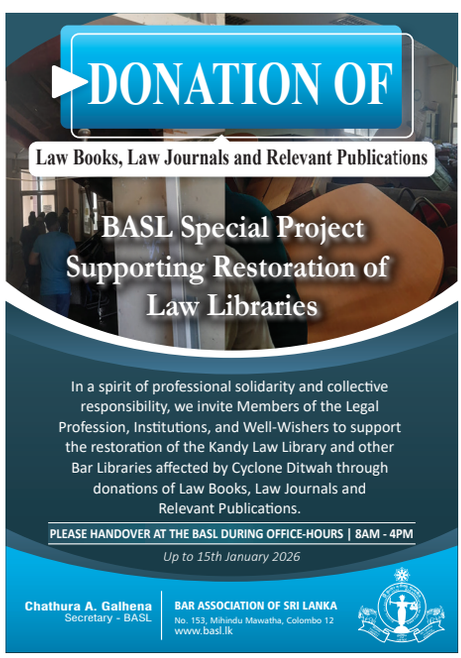


President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya and Convenor of the BASL Outstation Bar Committee Ms. Dasni Piyasiri viewing the Ditwah affected Court Complex together with Kandy Bar Officials.





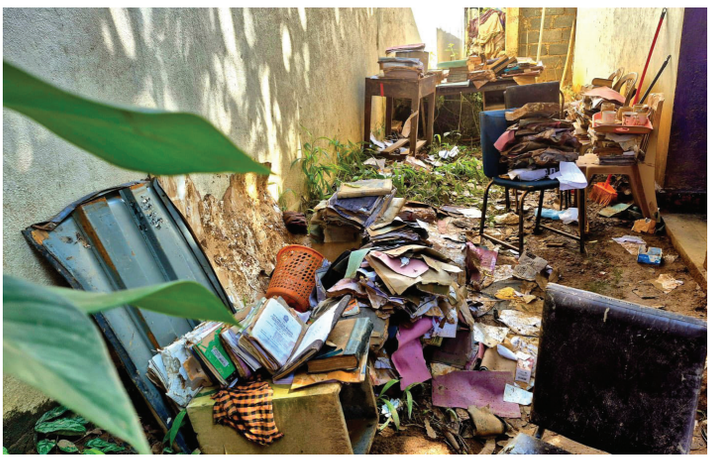






Donation were received from members cross the country and were handed over to refurbish the Kandy Bar Library.

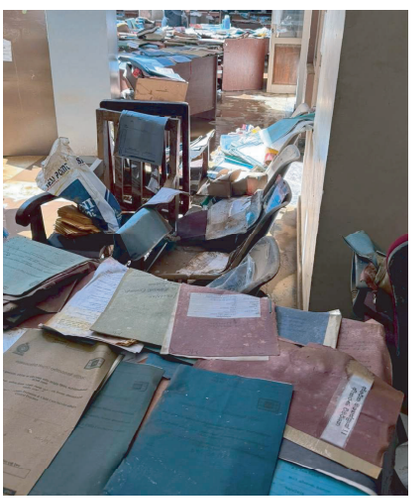










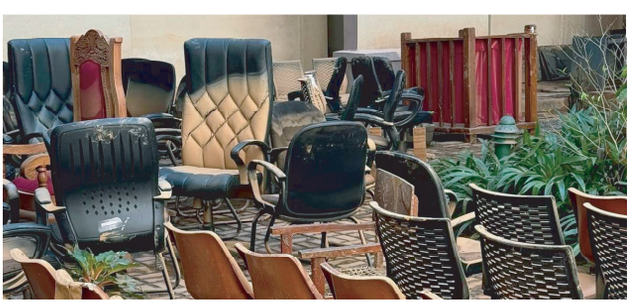








Lawyer's Officers affected by Ditwah.



Other Donations

BASL Members also responded to the call and donated food items, clothing, sanitary items and drinking waters which were handed over o the Capital Maharaja collection point.





Infrastructure Support

- Infrastructure support was given to several branch associations viz. 184 chairs to 18 branches and 2 fans to one branch upon requests made to the BASL.

Medical Assistance

- Rs. 300,000/= was donated as financial support to 2 members towards expenses for medical treatment through the Lawasia Benevolent Society funds

Launch of the Kurunegala Law Journal – Volume 11 (2025)

The official launching ceremony of the Kurunegala Law Journal – Volume 11 (2025), published by the Bar Association of Kurunegala, was held on 3 February 2026 at the Epitome Hotel in Kurunegala. The event was attended by Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Sapumal Bandara, Senior Attorney-at-Law and Chief Editor of the Law Journal Committee, as well as members of the Executive Committee of the Kurunegala Bar Association. The publication of the journal reflects the continued commitment of the regional bar to promoting legal scholarship, professional discourse, and the exchange of legal knowledge within the profession.

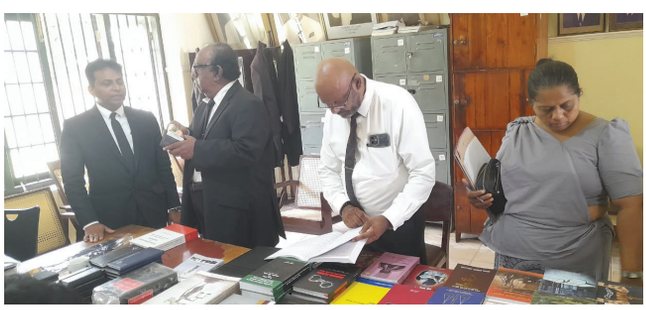
MOBILE MEMBER SERVICES

The BASL Mobile Service Programme was successfully conducted in Ratnapura, Gampaha, Marawila, Kurunegala, Negombo, Matara, Kandy, and Panadura. The initiative was organised to provide BASL services and support directly to members practising outside Colombo. Through this outreach programme, members were able to access various services, engage with BASL representatives, and address professional matters more conveniently.











Felicitation of Members completed 50 years at the Bar

Recognition of Members who completed 50 years at the Bar at the Felicitation Ceremony

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) successfully hosted a distinguished formal event on 11th February 2025 at the Monarch Imperial, Sri Jayawardenapura. The occasion was organized to mark the Jubilee Year, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the BASL. At this prestigious event the Bar also welcomed the 48th Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Hon. Murdu Fernando PC, bid farewell to the former Chief Justice, Hon. Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, and felicitated esteemed members of the Bar who completed fifty years of service in the legal profession.

The event was attended by approximately 800 distinguished guests, including their Lordships and Ladyships of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, President's Counsel, Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law, senior and junior Attorneys-at-Law and members of the Bar who had completed fifty years in the profession. Their family members were also present to celebrate this remarkable milestone. The Attorney General, Mr. Parinda Ranasinghe Jr, PC, the Solicitor General, Mr. Viraj Dayaratne PC, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Harshana Nanayakkara, AAL, and the Secretary of the Ministry, former Solicitor General Ms. Ayesha Jinasena PC were also present upon the invitation of the BASL.

Members who were felicitated :-

1. MR. DAYA GURUGE
2. MR. A. TERENCE WICKREMASINGHE
3. MR. B. M. A. BALASURIYA
4. MR. EDWARD AHANGAMA
5. MS. NEELAKANTHI JAYARATNAM
6. MR. MAITHRI HEMACHANDRA PANAGODA
7. MS. MARIE NELUMKANTHI JAYAWARDENA
8. MS. VISVAMITHRA RAMANI PEREIRA
9. MS. MALA DEEPTHI WANASINGHE
10. MS. VAISAYANTHIMALA WIJETILLEKA (NEE THALAYASINGAM)
11. MS. ROSHANA ABOOSALLY MOHAMED
12. HON. MOHAN PIERIS, PC
13. MR. C. PALITHA J. W. MATHEW
14. MR. ROMESH KALINDA SAMARAKKODY
15. MR. N. W. JAYAWARDANA
16. MR. A. P. CHANDRA MAYA JAYASEKERA, PC
17. MR. C. M. G. KROON
18. MR. SARATH SUNIL MANAMPERY
19. MS. MENAKA SRIE KATHAR VIDANAPATHIRANA
20. MS. KOKILA DEVI MEDDEGODA
21. MR. JAYARATNA LIYANAGE SAMARAPALA
22. MR. KANGESU JEGANATHAN
23. MS. R. W. M. PUNNYAH SENEVIRATNE
24. MR. DON CHANDRAPALA HETTIGE
25. MR. MUTTUKUMARU KANAGASEGARAM MUTTUKUMAR
26. MS. VALLINAYAKI SRIKANTHA
27. MR. K. M. PARAKRAMA R. KARUNARATNE
28. MR. LASANTHA SRINATH SALGADO
29. MR. MERVYN JAYALATH SAMARAKOON
30. MS. R. C. TISSERA
31. MR. MOHAMED SALLY ABOOSAHEED
32. MR. SRILAL MOHAN PERERA
33. MS. SHIRANTHI IRIS DE LANEROLLE NEE DE SILVA
34. MR. SHAUL HAMEED IFTHIKAR HASSIM
35. HON. E. L. BASNAYAKE
36. MR. DHAMMIKA KITULGODA
37. MS. SIROMI NOELLE WICKRAMASINGHE
38. MR. T. M. ANTHONIPILLAI
39. MR. WIJERATNE DHARMASENA, PC
40. MR. SINGHANATHAGE THARAPATHI JAYANAGA, PC
41. MR. DON EDWARD MERRINUS WASALATANTRY
42. MR. Y. A. D. N. A. WIJERATNA
43. MR. JAYAH BANGSA
44. MS. RUHIZE ANTOENETTE NOELENE HANIFFA
45. MS. SRIMATHIE KODIKARA
46. MR. JAYASOORIYA ARACHCHIGE DON WILFRED PERERA
47. MR. WAHID GHOUZE DEEN
48. MS. RANJINI GUNASEKERA
49. MS. DAYANGANI PRIYANTHI PIERIS
50. MR. A. D. SARATH GNANASIRI RAMANAYAKE
51. MS. S.N. SALPITIKORALE
52. MS. JAYANTHI VINODHAN
53. MR. SUPPIAH KUMARASWAMY
54. MS. C. L. S. GUNASEKERA
55. MR. DOUGLAS THEOBALD DE SILVA GUNAWARDANA
56. MS. LOURDES KANTHIE RANASINGHE
57. MS. L. K. RANASINGHE

58. MR. S. W. P. M. GUNARATHNA BANDARA SENANAYAKA
59. MR. R. JAYAWARDENA
60. MR. M. J. S. C. COORAY
61. MR. J. VERNON N. DE ROSAIRO
62. MS. K. M. BRODIE
63. MR. JAYANTHA WEERASINGHE, PC.,
64. MR. S. L. ZAIN MANOON
65. MR. RASA INPAKUMAR KANAGARATNAM
66. MR. SAMARATILLAKE WIJESINGHE EKANAYAKE
67. MR. S. P. S. EDIRISINGHE






































MS. SHIRANTHI GUNAWARD


MS. ANOMA GOONATILLEK






2025/2026

09

In Remembrance of Members who passed away during the period February 2025 to January 2026

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026

28th February 2026

Dr. H. W. Jayawardene QC Auditorium
Bar Association of Sri Lanka



IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026

A Remembrance Ceremony was organised and held on Saturday, 22nd February, 2025 at the BASL Auditorium to pay tribute to the members of the Association who had passed away during the period February 2024 to January 2025. Amongst the 55 members whose lives and services were honoured, was Past President Mr. Ajantha Atukorale and many other eminent Attorneys-at-Law and President's Counsel.

1	MR. VIJAYA NIRANJAN PERERA, PC	10-02-2025
2	MR. ROBIN FERNANDOPULLE	10-02-2025
3	MR. SENAKA WALGAMPAYA, PC	15-02-2025
4	MS. CHITHRA ANDRAHENNADI	16-02-2025
5	PROF. W. M. KARUNADASA	16-02-2025
6	HON. JUSTICE CHANDRA EKANAYAKE	24-02-2025
7	MR. M. M. A. RIZA	26-02-2025
8	MR. W.W.D.A. THUSHARA NISHANTHA DASKON	20-03-2025
9	MS. C. M. M. PREMATILAKE	24-03-2025
10	MR. LAKSHMAN SAMARATUNGA	25-03-2025
11	MR. NADARAJAH SUTHARSSAN	03-04-2025
12	MR. SUNIL DISSANAYAKE	03-04-2025
13	MR. D. G. K. KARUNARATNE	03-04-2025
14	MR. ASOKA SIRINIMAL PERERA RANASINGHE	07-04-2025
15	MR. MANGALA WIJESINGHE	08-04-2025
16	MR. BUDDHADEVA GUNARATNE	20-04-2025
17	MR. V. T. SIVALINGAM	23-04 2025
18	MR. W. G. DHARMADASA	23-04-2025
19	CAPT. PRIYANTHA KARIYAWASAM	24-04-2025
20	MR. WIJESIRI AMBAWATTA	25-04-2025
21	MR. SHEHAN SHAMINDA	26-04-2025
22	MR. DULIP FLAVIAN RAPHAEL JAYAMAHA, PC	28-04-2025
23	MR. A.L.M. YOOSUF	11-05-2025
24	MR. VELAUTHAM VIMALARAJAH	14-05-2025
25	MR. M.T. SABEER AHAMED	18-05-2025
26	MR. M. L. M. AMEEN, PC	18-05-2025
27	MR. UDARA ANUSAS DISSANAYAKE	19-05-2025
28	MS. SURANGANIE MARAPANA	28-05-2025
29	MR. SUMITH PASGODA	31-05-2025
30	MS. SUPULSARA HAPANGAMA	31-05-2025
31	MR. E. D. PALIHAPITIYA	07-06-2025
32	MR. R. A. GAMINI D. PERERA	08-06-2025
33	MR. C. VIJITHA LAKSHMAN SENEVIRATNE	09-06-2025
34	MR. S. K. DE SILVA	10-06-2025
35	MR. B. S. RATHNAYAKE	11-06-2025
36	MR. SURAWEERA PATHIRANA	14-06-2025
37	MS. J. A. CHANDRIKA SAMARAKOON	21-06-2025

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026

38	MR. LUCAS INDURUGALLA	28-06-2025
39	MS. SUJATHA SWARNAMALEE ALWIS	08-07-2025
40	MR. Q. A. R. COOREY	11-07-2025
41	HON. JUSTICE UPALI DE Z. GUNAWARDANA	19-07-2025
42	MR. ELMORE PERERA	21-07-2025
43	MR. D. H. WEERASIRI	11-08-2025
44	MR. U. SAMARAWEERA	14-08-2025
45	MR. NALIN KARIYAWASAM	14-08-2025
46	MR. SUNIL HETTIARACHCHI	25-08-2025
47	MR. MOHAMED SHARIFF NAYM	01-09-2025
48	MR. SAAHUL HAMEED MOHAMMED SAHIDU	17-09-2025
49	MS. AMRISHA S. A. PARATHALINGAM	24-09-2025
50	MR. TISSA KARUNARATNE	25-09-2025
51	HON. JUSTICE H. W. SENANAYAKE	01-10-2025
52	MS. LALITHA CHANDRARATNE	07-10-2025
53	MR. SOMAPALA DEERASEKERA	07-10-2025
54	HON. M. H. B. MORAIS	08-10-2025
55	MS. SAMANMALEE WIJAMUNIGE	13-10-2025
56	MR. LALITH PRASANNA GALLAGE	01-11-2025
57	MR. T. S. RASIKA DESAPRIYA SENADEERA	01-11-2025
58	MS. SHARLINE PERERA	07-11-2025
59	MR. K. B. S. ABEYKOON	08-11-2025
60	MS. TECLA NILMINI	10-11-2025
61	MR. HARILAL A. C. WICKRAMARATNA	10-11-2025
62	HON. JUSTICE S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE	12-11-2025
63	PROF. HARISCHANDRA WIJAYATUNGA	14-11-2025
64	MR. JAYATISSA KURUPPU	18-11-2025
65	MR. N. KANKANAMALAGE WIMAL JAYASIRI	30-11-2025
66	MR. MANOHAR UGGATHA RAJAPAKSE	02-12-2025
67	MR. INDRA KUMAR WIJETHILEKE	03-12-2025
68	MR. DAYA PELPOLA, PC	15-12-2025
69	MR. D. A. P. WEERATNA, PC	21-12-2025
70	MS. CHANDRALATHA SAMARAWEERA	21-12-2025
71	MR. WALTER DE SILVA	23-12-2025
72	MR. SUNIL WANIGATHUNGA	27-12-2025
73	MR. J. G. SAMITH SHANTHA LIYANAGE	02-01-2025
74	MR. SIRI ARIYA PERERA	12-01-2026
75	MR. J. M. GUNATHILLKA	13-01-2026
76	MR. W. J. M. JAYAWEERA BANDARA	20-01-2026
77	MR. CHANDRA LIYANARACHCHI	28-01-2026
78	MR. P. D. A. J. E. LIYANAGE	30-01-2026






IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026






Y MEMBERS


EXIT
FAMILY MEMBERS


EXIT


MR. SENAKA WALGAMPAYA, PC
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026


ANDARAHENNADI
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026


PROF. W. M. KARUNADASA
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
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FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026


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FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026




HON. JUSTICE CHANDRA EKANAYAKE
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026


MR. MR. S. K. DE SILVA
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026


MS. J. A. CHANDRIKA
SAMARAKOON
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS
WHO PASSED AWAY
DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2025 TO JANUARY 2026



Standing Committees & Special Committees

- Standing Committees 2025 / 2026
- BASL representation at the Ministry of Justice Advisory Committees
- BASL Special Committees 2025/2026
- Reports of the Standing Committees

BASL Standing Committees and Special Committees

During the period between March 2025 to March 2026, the BASL constituted several ad hoc and Special Committees in addition to the BASL Standing Committees.

The said Committees were entrusted with the task of advising the BASL as well as representing the legal community before the respective fora together with the Exco and the Management Committee in order to address urgent issues which demanded immediate resolution.

The BASL thanks and appreciates the services rendered by the members of the said Committees.

Below: Chairpersons & Convenors of Standing Committees for the year 2025/2026



Standing Committees 2024/2025

	Committee	Chairman/Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Convenor
01	**Apprenticeship Training**	Mr. Waruna Senadheera	Mr. Tharanath Palliyaguruge, Mr. Nuwan Bopage Ms. Poornima Ranawaka	Mr. Amila Suyama Egodamahawatta
02	**BASL (English) Law Journal**	Mr. Eraj De Silva PC	Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna Mr. Saravanan Neelakandan	Dr. Saranee Gunathilaka Saratchandra
03	**BASL (Sinhala) Law Journal**	Dr. Nadeesh Rangana De Silva	Mr. Chathuranga Amaratunga	Mr. Kasun Munasinghe
04	**BASL (Tamil) Law Journal**	Mr. V. Puvitharan PC	Mr. Ganesharaja	Mr. Arnold Priyanthan
05	**BASL Annual Dance**	Mr. Asela Rakewa	Ms. Thanushka Gunawardena Mr. Lakmal Ratnayake	Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle
06	**BASL Art Circle**	Mr. Aravinda Habakkala	Mr. Buddhika Samarasinghe Mr. Newman Henry Mr. Rajee Welgama	Mr. Eranda Wanasinghe
07	**BASL Corporate Partners**	Mr. Manilal Fernando	Mr. Senaka Hewawitharana, Ms. Yanina Weerasinghe	Mr. Pasindu Silva
08	**BASL Diary**	Mr. Pasindu Silva		Admin Secretary
09	**BASL E-Reporter**	Mr. Felician Ferrnandopulle	Mr. Thanuka Madhawa Nandasiri	Mr. Susith Dangahadeniya Mr. Ayuka Perera
10	**BASL Newsletter**	Mr. Chanaka Jayamaha	Mr. Niranjan Arulpragasam	Mr. Matthew David Mr. Ruvindu Bandara Mr. Prashan Wickramarathne
11	**BASL Webinars and Legal Symposiums**	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya	Mr. Chathura A. Galhena Mr. Pasindu Silva Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva	Ms. Rushika Wijewardena Mr. Pandula Wanniarachchi Mr. Oshan Ubhayarathna Ms. Isuri Coorey
12	**Bench and Bar**	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya	Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC	Mr. Chathura A. Galhena
13	**Career Guidance and Mentorship**	Mr. Harsha Fernando PC	Ms. Sajeevi Siriwardena, Mr. Shamir Zavahir Mr. Nayantha Wijesundara	Mr. Migara Doss
14	**Civil Law**	Mr. Vasantha Gajanayake, PC	Mr. Anurudhdha Dharmarathne, Mr. Shaminda Silva	Mr. Charitha Jayawickrema
15	**Commercial Law**	Mr. Dinal Philips PC	Mr. Shamith Fernando, Mr. Harith De Mel	Mr. Oshada Rodrigo
16	**Constitution Amendment**	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya		Mr. Chathura Galhena
17	**CLE- Nithi Neethi Sesi**	Mr. Upali Mohotti PC	Mr. Chamara Wannisekara	Mr. Sanjeewa Ruwanpathirana Mr. Rajitha Lakshan Abeywardena Mr. Manujaya De Silva Mr. Vishwa Widanagamage Mr. Yasas Sovis

	Committee	Chairman/Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Convenor
18	**CLE - Court House Programmes**	Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena	Mr. Jagath Halpandeniya	Ms. Nikini Mapitigama Mr. Buddhika Thilekaratne Mr. Vishwa Widanagamage Mr. Samantha Sudeshpriya Ms. Savanthi Ponnamperuma
19	**Continuing Professional Development**	Dr. K. Guruparan	Mr. Udara Soyza Mr. Nadeesh Rangana De Silva	Mr. Dayan Wijewickrama
20	**Court & Land Registries Automation and Digitalization**	Mr. Rajeev Amarsuriya	Mr. Pasindu Silva Ms. Harshani Mapatuna	Mr. Chameera Hapthanthri
21	**Infrastructure Development**	Ms. Harshani Mapatuna	Mr. R. Rajadurei Mr. Dhammika Rathnayake,	Mr. Nalin Samarakoon
22	**Criminal Law**	Mr. Neville Abeyrathne PC	Mr. Senarath Jayasundara, Mr. Dimuthu Senarath Bandara	Mr. Asela Serasinghe
23	**Digital Trust and Emerging Technology**	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya	Mr. Pasindu Silva	Mr. Malith Pitipanarachchi Mr. Chameer Gallearachchi
24	**Environmental Law**	Mr. Ravindranath Dabare	Prof. Kokila Konasinghe	
25	**Finance**	Mr. Nihal Fernando PC	Mr. Senaka De Saram	Mr. Charana Kanankegamage
26	**Government Sector Lawyers'**	Ms. Maneesha De Silva	Ms. Kumudu Perera	Ms. Dilhani Bandara
27	**Junior Bar Committee (1) – Professional Development**	Mr. Thishya Weragoda	Mr. Shahipriya Jayasekara	Mr. Sanjaya Marambe Mr. Iresh Seniviratne Mr. Rajitha Lakshan Abeywardena Mr. Ruven Weerasinghe Mr. Osura Vindula Mr. Gamindu Karunasena
28	**Junior Bar Committee (2) – Welfare**	Mr. Chamath Fernando	Mr. Kosala Dabare	Mr. Pasindu Thilakarathne Mr. Samadhi Gamalath Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle
29	**Junior Bar Committee (3) – New Opportunities**	Mr. Chandima Attapattu		Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle Mr. Sineth Kassapa Ms. Praveena Muhandiram Mr. Geeth Karunarathne Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena Ms. Yohani Yoharajah

	Committee	Chairman/Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Convenor
30	**Law Academics**	Prof. Wasantha Senevirathne	Dr. Thusitha Abeysekara Mr. Shehan Perera Prof. Sanath Wijesinghe Mr. Hakeem Abu Backer	Mr. Manawa Nanayakkara Ms. Chathurika Akuregoda
31	**Law Firms**	Mr. Sudath Perera	Mr. Buwaneka Basnayake	Mr. Ramzi Bacha
32	**Law Reform**		Mr. S. Dayanthi Udalagama Mr. Dharshana Kuruppu	Mr. N. Ashokabaran
33	**Law Students Skills Development**	Mr. Malraj Kiriella	Mr. Lilan Amarakoon, Mr. Shabdhika Wellappili.	Mr. Boopathi Kahathuduwa
34	**Lawyers And Court Registry Relations**	Mr. Wasantha Fernando	Ms. Chandani Dayarathne, Mr. Sanjeewa Kaluarachchi Mr. Sandun Nagahawatta	Mr. Chameera Prasad Haputhanthri
35	**Lawyers And Police / Prison Relations**	Mr. Ajith Pathirana	Ms. Priyani Rathnayake Mr. Ajith Rohana,	Mr. Sanjaya Ariyadasa
36	**Lawyers' Childrens' Welfare**	Mrs. Bernie Alwis	Mr. Sanjeewa Leelaratne	Ms. Shehani Alwis
37	**Lawyers' Health And Wellness**	Mr. Shanaka Amerasinghe	Mr. Manoj Nanayakkara Ms. Gamali Amarathunga	Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena
38	**Legal Aid**		Mr. Baheej Meera Mohideen Mr. Muthukumar	Harith De Mel
39	**Legal Awareness**	Ms. Dayani Panagoda	Ms. Himali Kularathne Mr. Dinesh Widanapathirana	Mr. Buddhika Thilakarathne
40	**Member Professional Support**		Mr. Wasantha Gajanayake PC Mr. M. Illiyaz PC	Mr. Thilina Wariyapperuma
41	**Member Networking**	Mr. Pasindu Silva	Ms. Himali Orugodawatte	Ms. Yohani Yoharajah Mr. Matthew David
42	**National Law Conference**	Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna	Mr. Buddhika Serasinghe	Mr. Pandula Wanniarachchi
43	**NATIONAL LAW WEEK**	Mr. Maithree Gunarathne PC	Mr. Chandima Perumpuliarachchi Ms. Nadee Gunaratne	Mr. Iresh Seneviratne
44	**Neethi Ranga**	Ms. Dhanushki Liyanpatabendi	Ms. Savithri Fernando	Mr. Eranda Wanasinghe
45	**Notarial Practice**	Ms. Shiranthi Gunwardena	Mr. Saminda Jayasekara Mrs. Harshani Maputana	Ms. Chamani Hatharasinghe
46	**OPA**	Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne	Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena	Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena
47	**Outstation Bar**	Mr. Ali Sabry PC	Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana Mr. Gamini Senanayake, Mr. Anton Punithanayagam	Ms. Dasni Piyasiri
48	**Overseas Member Engagement**	Mr. Sarath Wijesinghe PC	Mr. Daminda Goonathilaka Mr. Sanjaya Ihalagama	Mr. Yajish Tennakoon
49	**Overseas Relations**	Mr. Anuruddha Perera	Mr. Chrishmal Warnasuriya	Ms. Savithri Fernando
50	**Parliament Bills Review**	Mr. Asthika Devendra	Mr. Tenny Fernando, Mr. Diluka M. Silva	Mr. Lahiru Abeyrathne Mr. Sumudu Kekulandala

	Committee	Chairman/Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Convenor
51	**Police Lawyers**	Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya, IGP	Mr. Sampath Kumara, AAL DIG Special Bureau Range	Mr. Nilupul Somasinghe, AAL Director Police Legal Division Mr. Wasabtha Pitiyakumbura, AAL Assistant Sumerintendent of Police
52	**Procurement**	Mr. Chanaka De Silva PC	Mr. Rajindh Perera	
53	**Professional Purposes And Ethics**	Mr. G.G. Arulpragasam	Mr. Godfrey Cooray	Mrs. Suranee Samarasekara
54	**Public Interest Litigation**	Mr. Ravi Algama	Mr. Faris Sally Mr. Priyantha Gamage	Mr. Naveen Shanaka
55	**Public Law**	Mr. Shantha Jayawardena	Mr. Suren Gnanaraj Mr. Nayantha Wijesundera	Mr. Jayantha Dehiaththage
56	**Recreation Committee – Foreign Trips**	Ms. Kanthi Kannangara	Ms. Juliana Koswatta	Mr. Rasika M. Jayasinghe
57	**Recreation Committee – Local Excursions**	Ms. Chathurika Wijesinghe	Ms. Ridmika Dep Ms. Swarna Jayaweera	Mr. Hashan Rahubadda Ms. Priyadarshani Gunasena
58	**Rule Of Law**	Mr. Senani Dayarathne	Mr. Shiraz Noordeen	Mr. Migara Doss
59	**Human Rights**	Mr. Lakshan Dias	Mr. Prasanna Arahampath, Mr. Rohana Muthumala	Ms. Swasthika Arulingam
60	**Safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary**	Mr. Faiz Musthapha PC	Mr. Srinath Perera PC Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayake	Mr. Rajind Perera
61	**Seminars**	Mr. Chathura Galhena	Mr. Pasindu Silva	Mr. Pandula Wanniarachchi Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena Mr. Chamath Gamage, Mr. Jayathu Wickramasuriya, Ms. Nikini Mapitigama Ms. Nadeesha Perera Mr. Rachika Palihawadena
62	**Social and Welfare**	Mr. Saminda Jayasekara	Mr. Sanjeewa Seneviratne Mr. Chandima Atapattu	Ms. Gangulali Dayaratne
63	**Softs Skills Development**	Mr. Mohammed Adamally	Mr. Prassanna Liyanarachchi	Mr. Kaneel Maddumage
64	**Special Projects**	Mr. W. M. Premaratne	Mr. Uditha Malalasekara	Mr. Sanjay Marambe
65	**Sports Day**	Mr. Pradeep Gamage	Mr. Lalith Piyum Perera Ms. Dasni Piyasiri	Mr. Pandula Wanniarachchi
66	**Sports Development**	Mr. Panduka Keeerthinanda	Mr. Kamran Aziz	Mr. Sanjeewa Leelarthne
67	**Superior Courts**	Mr. Ronald Perera PC	Mr. Senany Dayaratne	Ms. Harithriya Kumarage
68	**Tax**	Mr. Suresh Perera	Mr. Laknath Peiris	Mr. Gayan Karunaratne

	Committee	Chairman/Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Convenor
69	**The Lawyers' Trust And Benevolent Fund**	Mr. Rajeev T Amarasuriya	Mr. Upul Jayasuriya Pc Mr. Pasindu Silva	Mr. Anjana Ratnasiri
70	**Tri Forces Lawyers**	Group Captain Harshani Katugampala	Lt. Col. Dilantha Aluthge Commander Chathurika	Maj A. W. K. A. D. Amarathilake Wing Commander Prabuddha Dahanayake
71	**Wildlife Protection and Animal Rights**		Mr. Charaka Jayaratne	Mr. Nisala Seniya Fernando Convenor: Ms. Praveena Muhandiram Mr. Nisala Seniya Fernando
72	**Women Lawyers'**	Ms. Faisza Markar, PC	Ms. Nirupa Serasinghe	Ms. Yohani Yoharajah Ms. Hanaa Hafee
73	**Women Lawyers' Professional & Career Development**	Ms. Indika Nagarathne	Ms. Nalini Manatunga	Ms. Kaushalee Jayaweera Ms. Tharika Ruwanpura
74	**Gender Equality**	Ms. Thushani Machando	Ms. Nadee Guneratne	Ms. Poojani Galapaththi
75	**Industrial Law**	Mr. Isuru Lakpura	Mr. Ranjith Pigera	Mr. Rakhitha Abeygunawardena
76	**Personal Etiquette**	Ms. Ramani De Saram	Ms. Himali Orugoduwatta	Mr. Laknath Seneviratne
77	**BASL Scholarship**	Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayake	Dr. Prathibha Mahanamahewa	Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena
78	**Training for Non – Lawyers**	Ms. Karnika Jayathilake	Ms. Melody Wickramanayake	

BASL representatives on Ministry of Justice and other Advisory Committees

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
To review the Anti-Terrorism Bill	Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC and Mr. Chanaka De Silva, PC
To review Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance	Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena, AAL and Ms. Inoka Perera, AAL
On the UNDP Rapid Digital Strategy Technical Committee	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President BASL
To review the Prevention of Organised Crime	Mr. Senany Dayaratna, AAL
To review Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code	Mr. Harith De Mel, AAL
On the Establishment of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President BASL
On the Board of Directors the Proceeds of Crime Regulatory Authority	Mr. Chathura A. Galhena, Secretary BASL
Committee to Revisit the Provisions of the Occupational Safety Bill	Mr. Wasantha Gajanayaka, PC Mr. Charitha Jayawikrama

Reports of the Standing Committees

REPORT OF THE NITHI NEETHI SASI COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Chamara Wannisekera
Convenors : Mr. Sanjeewa Ruwanpathirana
Mr. Wishva Widanagamage

Convenors : Mr. Rajith Lakshan Abeywardena
Mr. Manujaya De Silva
Mr. Yasas Sovis

The Nithi Neethi Sasi series supported by JICA was recommenced on 20th September 2025 at Amari Colombo, with Chief Justice His Lordship Preethi Padman Surasena as the Chief Guest. This Series was originally introduced during the Presidency of Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC and under the leadership of Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC.

The Inauguration featured an esteemed panel including Hon. Yvonne Fernando, Civil Appeal High Court Judge, Hon. Ranga Dissanayake, Director General of the CIABOC, Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC, Mr. Azard Navavi, PC, Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Thanuka Nandasiri, AAL, Ms. Damayanthi Karunarathne and Ms. Renuka Jayasundara, Deputy Inspector General of Police. The session concluded with remarks by Hon. Justice (Rtd.) Shiranee Tilakawardane.





















16 Islandwide Nithi Neethi Sasi Programmes
20th September 2025 to 7th March 2026

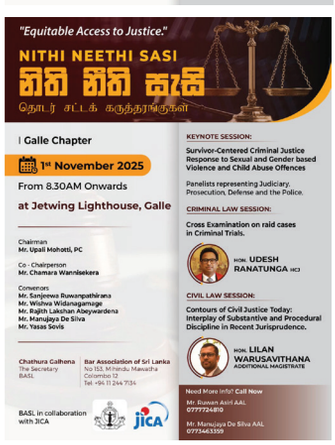






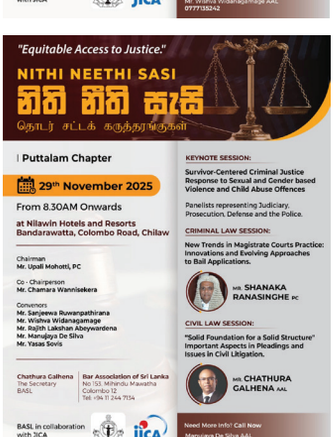




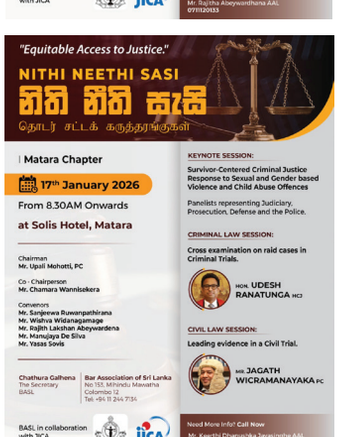




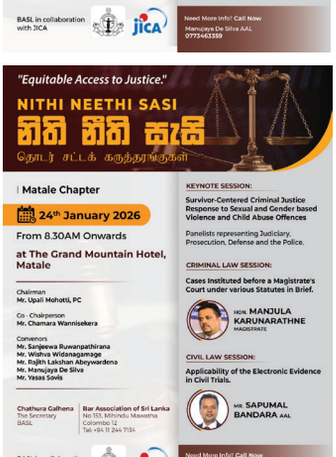


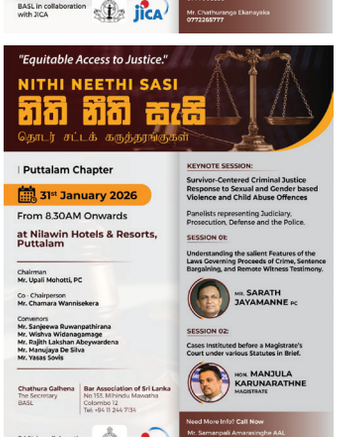


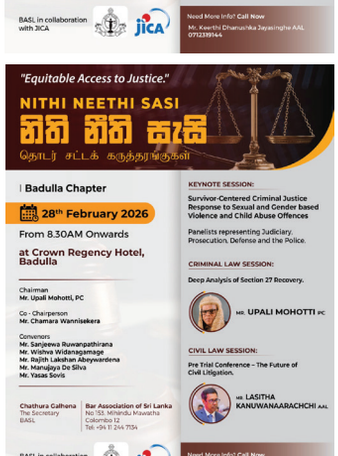


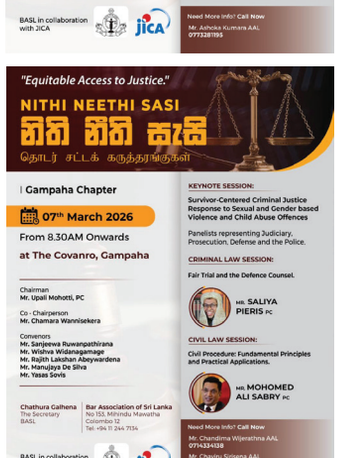




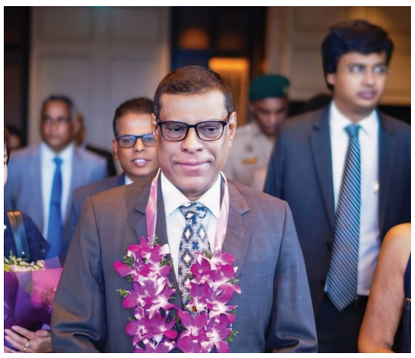
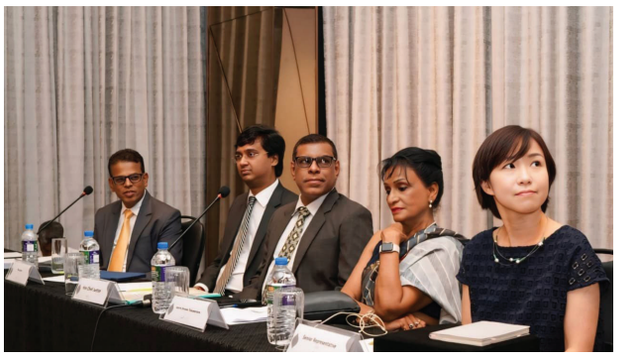








Nithi Neethi Sasi #1 in Colombo

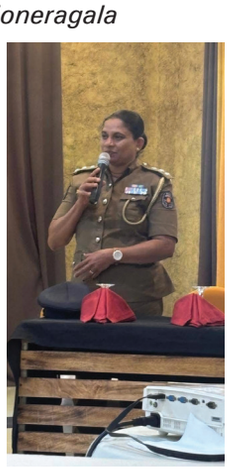










Nithi Neethi Sasi #11 in Moneragala



Nithi Neethi Sasi #6 in Galle







DIARY COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Pasindu Silva, AAL
Convenor : Mrs. Suranee Samarasekara (Administrative Secretary)

The BASL Diaries for the Year 2026 were published in three formats- Slim (soft and hard cover), Desk and Pocket, which were made available to the members in following numbers.

Slim Diary (Hard Cover) – 2800, Slim Diary (Soft Cover) – 8200, Pocket Diary – 150 and Desk Diary – 2500
As is the tradition, the diaries were launched by



presenting the 1st set of the diaries to Hon. Chief Justice by the President BASL with the Office bearers and the Diary Committee members.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN LAWYERS' PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Ms. Indica Nagarathne, AAL
Co-Chairperson : Ms. Nalini Manatunga, AAL
Convenors : Ms. Kaushalee Jayaweera, AAL
Ms. Tharika Ruwanpura, AAL

1. Introduction
The Women Lawyers' Professional and Career Development Sub Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka was established with the objective of empowering women lawyers through professional development, career guidance, mentoring, and exposure to diverse opportunities within and beyond traditional legal practice.

During the years 2025 and 2026, the Sub Committee actively pursued these objectives through workshops, webinars, and interactive sessions, with a special focus on young and junior women lawyers, aiming to enhance their confidence, competence, and career sustainability.

2. Objectives of the Sub Committee
The primary objectives of the Sub Committee during the reporting period were:

- To strengthen professional skills and courtroom confidence of women lawyers
- To provide guidance on career development and alternative professional pathways
- To expose women lawyers to national and international opportunities beyond conventional litigation
- To create platforms for interaction with senior members of the judiciary, legal academics, and practitioners
- To encourage leadership, resilience, and long-term career planning among women lawyers

3. Workshops Conducted
(a) Professional and Career Development Workshop – 2025
One of the key highlights of the Committee's work was the organization of a Professional and Career Development Workshop, held in 2025, with the participation of distinguished members of the judiciary.

This workshop was honoured by the presence of Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, PC, who graced the occasion as





Chief Guest, prior to her retirement. Her participation was of great significance and inspiration to women lawyers, as she shared her experiences, insights, and guidance drawn from an exemplary judicial career.

The workshop was further enriched by the participation of Justice Kumuduni Wickremasinghe, Judge of the Supreme Court, whose presence and address provided valuable perspectives on professional discipline, ethical practice, and career progression within the legal profession.

The workshop focused on:

- Professional excellence and integrity
- Challenges faced by women in legal practice
- Career advancement within the judiciary and private practice
- Balancing professional responsibilities with personal commitments

The event was well attended and received highly positive feedback from participants.

(b) Workshop on Opportunities Beyond the Courtroom – 2026

Recognising the evolving nature of the legal profession, the Sub Committee organised a second workshop in 2026 titled:

"Opportunities Beyond the Courtroom for Women Lawyers"

This workshop was specifically designed to broaden perspectives and introduce women lawyers to diverse national and international career pathways, including:

- Corporate and commercial legal practice
- Compliance and regulatory roles
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Academic and research opportunities
- International organisations and development agencies
- Cooperative and institutional legal roles

The workshop aimed to demonstrate that legal training equips women lawyers with versatile skills applicable far beyond conventional litigation, and to encourage informed career choices aligned with individual strengths and interests.

4. Webinars and Online Engagements

In addition to physical workshops, the Sub Committee conducted a series of webinars, enabling wider participation and continued professional engagement.

These webinars featured eminent legal luminaries, including:

- Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, Judge of the Supreme Court
- Professor Savithri Gunasekara, Senior Academic and Legal Scholar

The webinars addressed topics such as:

- Judicial perspectives on legal professionalism
- Academic and policy-oriented career pathways

- The role of women lawyers in legal reform and public life
- Ethics, leadership, and lifelong learning in the legal profession

These sessions provided participants with rare opportunities to interact directly with senior judges and academics, ask questions, and gain valuable insights.

5. Impact and Outcomes

The activities conducted during 2025–2026 resulted in:

- Enhanced awareness among women lawyers of diverse career opportunities
- Increased confidence and motivation, particularly among junior members of the profession
- Strengthened engagement between the judiciary, academia, and the practising Bar
- Positive feedback indicating a strong need for continued professional guidance and mentoring initiatives

6. Challenges

The Committee identified several challenges, including:

- Limited access to structured mentoring for women lawyers
- Time constraints faced by practitioners
- The need for sustained funding and institutional support to expand outreach programmes

7. Way Forward

The Sub Committee intends to:

- Expand mentoring and counselling initiatives
- Conduct regional and outreach programmes outside Colombo
- Strengthen collaborations with international and local institutions
- Continue providing platforms that highlight both traditional and non-traditional career pathways for women lawyers

8. Conclusion

The Women Lawyers' Professional and Career Development Sub Committee remains committed to fostering a supportive, informed, and empowering environment for women lawyers in Sri Lanka. The activities carried out during 2025 and 2026 reflect this commitment and lay a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at professional excellence and gender equity within the legal profession.





REPORT OF THE JUNIOR BAR NEW OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Chandima Atapattu, AAL
Convenors : Mr. Krishan Fernando Pulle, AAL
Mr. Sineth Kassapa, AAL
Ms. Praveena Muhandiram, AAL
Convenors : Mr. Geeth Karunaratne, AAL
Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena, AAL
Ms. Yohani Yoharajah, AAL

BASL Junior Bar New Opportunities Standing Committee

The Junior Bar New Opportunities Standing Committee, chaired by Mr. Chandima Atapattu, AAL, and appointed on 28th April 2025 for the 2025/2026 term, submits this progress report for the activates to be reported on the BASL Annal Report for the year 2025/26. Since its formation, the committee has organized two discussion and knowledge sharing programmes, attended by BASL members, which was aimed at fostering professional development opportunities for junior members of the BASL.

Completed Programmes

1. My Take on Leadership – fireside chat with former Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Mahela Jayawardena.
A remarkable opportunity was offered to junior members and other interested participants to gain personal insights from former Sri Lanka cricket captain Mahela Jayawardena. The event, organized by the committee was held on 2 July 2025.

Members were informed of the event via SMS, messaging platforms, and email, ensuring wide awareness and participation. In addition, the session was livestreamed on the BASL official YouTube channel, allowing a broader audience to benefit from the discussion.





During the event, the former captain generously shared his experiences and expertise, both on and off the field. His reflections on life during his playing career, how he overcame challenges as a captain and how he analysed problems to arrive at a solution, as well as his post retirement journey.

2. Law as a Powerful Competitive edge to Succeed in the Commercial World – Spotlight Session with Dr. Kishu Gomes.

A valuable and insightful session titled "Law as a Powerful Competitive Edge to Succeed in the Commercial World" was conducted by Dr. Kishu Gomes on 16 July 2025 at the BASL. The session provided participants with a practical and strategic perspective on the role of law in achieving success in today's competitive commercial environment.

Similar to the previous event, members were informed of the event via SMS, messaging platforms, and email, ensuring wide awareness and participation. In addition, the session was livestreamed on the BASL official YouTube channel, allowing a broader audience to benefit from the discussion.

Dr. Kishu Gomes, a well known corporate leader and a highly respected figure in the business world, shared





his extensive experience and expertise, offering thought provoking insights into how legal knowledge can be leveraged as a strategic advantage and the opportunities which can be utilized by using the unique insights which are available to lawyers. The session was both engaging and informative, leaving participants with a deeper understanding of the intersection between law and commerce.

Ongoing Initiatives

The committee currently manages the allocation program pairing suitable junior lawyers with senior professionals to provide mentorship and practical exposure. This core activity advances the committee's objectives by bridging experience gaps within the profession. The committee collects details and calls for interviews of suitable applicants who are then assigned to the seniors who have requested for lawyers with specific skills. Progress on pairings and feedback mechanisms remains active, with expansions planned pending resource approval.





Analysis and Impact

The completed programs drew significant crowds who attended in person to the programmes which were conducted. In addition, the videos which are live streamed and uploaded on Youtube are readily accessible at any time for viewing. The committee was able to invite and host notable guest speakers and inspire junior members with encouragement to seek opportunities even outside the normal pathways available for Lawyers.

The Committee has an active Whatsapp group which monitors the progress on the ongoing programmes and actively engages in planning future activities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to sincerely appreciate the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and the Office Bearers for the opportunity given to carry out its mandate during the year under review.

The guidance, trust, and continued support extended by the BASL leadership were instrumental in enabling the Committee to effectively plan and implement its activities.

The Committee wishes to carry out further engaging activities to guide the members and specifically the junior members of the Bar, to new pathways and create programmes, activities and insightful discussions which would foster the objectives and the mandate given to the committee.



REPORT OF THE JUNIOR BAR STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Thishya Weragoda, AAL
Co-Chairperson : Mr. Shahipriya Jayasekara, AAL
Convenors : Mr. Sanjaya Marambe, AAL
Mr. Iresh Seniviratne, AAL
Mr. Rajitha L. Abeywardena, AAL
Mr. Ruven Weerasinghe, AAL
Mr. Osura Vindula, AAL
Mr. Gamindu Karunasena, AAL

JUNIOR NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE 2025

Executive Committee

- Chairman – Mr. Ruven Weerasinghe
- Co-Chairman – Mr. Yuwin Matugama
- Secretary – Ms. Andrea Wijewansha
- Treasurer – Ms. Jemiah Sourjah

Heads of Logistics

- Mr. Malintha Jayasinghe
- Mr. Naveen Jayamanne

Heads of Finance

- Mr. Nisala Seniya Fernando
- Ms. Tiffahny Hoole

Heads of Sessions

- Mr. Gamindu Karunasena
- Ms. Umayangi Indatissa

Heads of Media and Content

- Mr. Sanjaya Marambe
- Ms. Stefania Perera

Committee Members : Committee – Logistics

- Mr. Osura Perera
- Ms. Hiruni De Almeida
- Mr. Rajinda Kandegedara
- Mr. Sathyajith Munasinghe
- Mr. Samadhi Mahagodage

Committee – Finance

- Mr. Zul Luthufi
- Mr. Matthew David
- Ms. Aaysha Hassen

Committee – Sessions

- Mr. Rodney Vaz
- Mr. Sandun Batagoda
- Ms. Dinithi Jayasinghe
- Ms. Ajra Azhar
- Mr. Lakshan Abeywardena

Committee – Media

- Ms. Gayani Rambukwella
- Mr. Ayeshmantha Gayan
- Ms. Kalani Dassanayake
- Mr. Shenal Fernando
- Mr. Pasan Karunarathna
- Ms. Chamodi Wijewera
- Ms. Venuri De Silva

Introduction

The Junior National Law Conference (JNLC) 2025 was conducted as the flagship professional development initiative of the Junior Bar Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. The residential Conference was held from 14th to 16th November 2025 at Jetwing Blue, Jetwing Beach, and Jetwing Sea, Negombo, and brought together up to 400 junior Attorneys-at-Law from across all regions of Sri Lanka being the single largest gathering for the Junior bar since its inception. The Chief Guest of the event was the Hon. Attorney General P. Ranasinghe (Jr) and the Guest of Honour was Justice S. Thurairaja.

The Conference was convened under the theme "Raise the Bar", reflecting a deliberate effort to elevate professional competence while reaffirming the ethical, social, and institutional responsibilities of the legal profession. The Committee when deciding the theme this year looked at how they would wish to change the profession for the better and identified three key area which they felt needed to be addressed so as to raise the standards of the profession for future generations. The Junior National Law Conference 2025 was designed not as a conventional academic event, but as a structured intervention aimed at shaping professional identity, mentorship culture, inclusivity, and access to justice among young lawyers at a formative stage of their careers.

2. Strategic Context and Press Engagement

In advance of the Conference, the Junior Bar Committee held a formal press engagement on the 22nd of August 2025 at the Colombo Rowing Club to publicly articulate the objectives, thematic pillars, and broader professional vision underpinning the Junior National Law Conference 2025. This engagement situated the Conference firmly within the institutional mission of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and communicated the Junior Bar's commitment to values-driven professional development. Several social media advocates as well as mainstream media were invited to the event.

The press engagement highlighted three foundational pillars around which the Conference was structured:





1. Mentorship in motion- Proactive legal thinking and peer mentorship
2. Mentorship meets equality- fostering inclusive growth for women in law
3. Equal Access to Justice – building a legal voice for the voiceless

In parallel with the above mainstream media campaign, the Junior Bar Committee implemented a targeted social media and awareness campaign designed to amplify the Conference's core messages beyond the event itself.

This campaign involved collaboration with social media advocates, who supported the dissemination of Conference-related content across digital platforms. As part of this initiative, three short-form videos were conceptualised and recorded, each aligned with one of the Conference's three pillars mentioned above:

The videos were designed to highlight key professional challenges, encourage reflection, and inspire young lawyers to actively engage with these issues in their own professional journeys. The campaign sought to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and reinforce the Conference theme "Raise the Bar" by extending its impact beyond the confines of the Conference venue.

This public articulation underscored the Committee's intention to move beyond traditional conference formats and toward a problem-solving, evidence-based approach to professional engagement. The media approach through multiple platforms consistently over the next few months was strategically implemented to raise awareness on the three pillars so as to create an interest amongst the Junior lawyers.

3. Evidence-Based Planning and Survey Methodology

A defining feature of the Junior National Law Conference 2025 was its evidence-based planning framework. In the lead-up to the Conference, the Junior Bar Committee conducted multiple structured surveys among junior Attorneys-at-Law, utilising both named and anonymous formats to ensure broad participation while enabling candid disclosure of sensitive professional concerns.

The surveys were disseminated among junior lawyers across diverse practice settings, including private chambers, law firms, corporate legal departments, State institutions, and the Armed Forces. Responses were systematically compiled, reviewed, and vetted to identify recurring patterns, systemic impediments, and practice-level challenges affecting junior practitioners.

The findings of these surveys were synthesised into thematic issue briefs and shared in advance with panelists prior to their respective sessions. This approach ensured that Conference discussions were informed, targeted, and solution-oriented rather than abstract or anecdotal.

At the time of reporting, the Junior Bar Committee is in the process of finalising a comprehensive set of recommendations based on these survey findings, as well as what was discussed at the conference by the selected expert speakers on the subjects alongwith comparisons of policy framework in structures overseas. These recommendations will be submitted separately to the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as well as to the Ministry of Justice to better inform future policy formulation and professional development initiatives.





4. Survey-Based Findings: Critical Professional Barriers Identified

4.1 Mentorship in motion- Proactive legal thinking and peer mentorship

A recurring concern emerging from the surveys was the difficulty faced by many junior lawyers in thinking independently, adapting quickly, and acting proactively in professional settings. Over-reliance on instruction-based practice models, limited exposure to strategic decision-making, and insufficient training in advocacy dynamics and soft skills were identified as key contributors.

4.2 Mentorship meets equality- fostering inclusive growth for women in law

Survey findings confirmed that, despite female lawyers constituting a clear majority of new entrants to the profession (as per the numbers in the annual report of the BASL 2024/2025), this demographic reality has not translated into proportionate professional advancement, leadership representation, or long-term retention.

Key barriers identified by the surveys included structural issues during critical life stages, unequal access to mentorship because of cultural and informal professional norms providing challenges for women in litigation and leadership pathways, and limited institutional mechanisms supporting career progression.

4.3 Equal Access to Justice – building a legal voice for the voiceless

The surveys also examined why legal aid and pro bono work remain under-explored by a significant segment of practitioners. Identified barriers included early-career financial insecurity, lack of institutional recognition, limited exposure to legal aid pathways, and the perception that legal aid work offers limited professional visibility.

5. Junior Bar Forum in partnership with the Junior National Law Conference

As part of the preparatory process, the Junior Bar Committee in partnership with the Junior National Law Conference Committee conducted a Junior Bar Forum on 26th September 2025, which served as a consultative platform and precursor to the Conference. The Forum enabled open discussion on mentorship, the importance of being a good mentee focusing on being proactive and the advantages of peer mentorship in an ever-changing technological landscape, ensuring that the Conference programme reflected the lived realities of junior practitioners. The first forum opened the discussion on artificial intelligence to better equip our junior lawyers on the challenges they will have to face with the immense changes the profession will undergo owing to this new technology.









6. Conference Structure and Representative Inclusivity

The Junior National Law Conference 2025 was conducted over three days in a residential format, enabling both structured learning and informal professional interaction. All sessions were conducted to full capacity, with sustained attendance and active engagement.

Sessions involved representation from private legal practice, chambers, firms, corporate and in-house legal teams, State institutions, the Armed Forces, Police, and Legal Aid panel lawyers, ensuring a holistic and representative cross-section of the legal community.

The Thematic sessions were hosted online so that the full junior bar consisting of over 11,000 young lawyers could take advantage of these sessions.

Saturday night was concluded by the traditional hosting of the Gala night, the theme this year being masquerade, providing an important informal platform for professional interaction and relationship building among participants. The event encouraged engagement across different practice areas, institutions and regions. By creating a relaxed social setting distinct from formal sessions, the Gala night facilitated open dialogue, peer connection, and professional networking strengthening collegiality within the legal community and fostering a sense of share professional identity among participants.

7. Session Design and Interactive Engagement

Sessions were deliberately structured to maximise engagement and practical learning, incorporating live polling, interactive workshops, open question-and-answer discussions, and case study–based exercises. This approach fostered critical thinking, adaptability, and professional confidence among participants.

The Junior National Law Conference 2025 featured a distinguished and diverse faculty of speakers, reflecting the breadth and depth of the legal profession and allied disciplines. Sessions included contributions from Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Courts of Sri Lanka, President's Counsel, and members of the Attorney General's Department, alongside senior practitioners and emerging counsels actively shaping contemporary legal practice.

The programme was further enriched by speakers from iProbono, who shared practical perspectives on structured pro bono engagement and access to justice, as well as representatives connected to the International Bar Association, providing comparative and international insights relevant to the evolving professional landscape. In addition, the inclusion of a speaker from the LawAsia Emerging Lawyers Committee offered a regional perspective on professional development, leadership, and cross-border engagement among young lawyers in the Asian legal community.

In keeping with the Conference's forward-looking approach, the session on future-proofing junior lawyers in the age of artificial intelligence featured speakers from Meta, who provided practical insights on innovation, emerging technologies, and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence into modern legal practice.





Recognising that professional excellence extends beyond legal knowledge, the Conference included an undisclosed standalone session by the Guest of Honour Justice S. Thurairaja on table etiquette and professional social conduct, aimed at equipping young lawyers with the refinement and confidence required to navigate formal professional and social environments.

8. Recognition of Legal Aid Service

A significant highlight of the Conference was the formal recognition of 25 volunteer panel lawyers attached to Legal Aid Centres across Sri Lanka, honoured for exemplary service and dedication to access to justice. These Panel lawyers were provided the ticket to the conference free of charge as their tickets had been sponsored by selected senior lawyers and firms who had gone above and beyond to contribute and acknowledge the importance of such a service. This recognition elevated legal aid work within the profession and reinforced its central role in the lawyer's public duty.

9. Participation, Impact, and Professional Outcomes

The Conference recorded strong participation from junior lawyers representing all regions of the country. Sessions were fully attended, with informed discussion, meaningful peer interaction, and sustained engagement throughout. The residential format further facilitated mentorship conversations, professional networking, and cross-regional collaboration.

As a direct impact of the third pillar and the conference over 30 young lawyers signed up with the legal aid commission committing themselves to the cause of being a legal voice to the voiceless.

The Junior National Law Conference 2025 forms part of a broader institutional effort to cultivate a generation of lawyers who are proactive, inclusive, socially conscious, and committed to professional excellence. The ongoing compilation of the recommendations to be submitted will continue to inform Junior Bar initiatives and evidence-based policy discussions within the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

10. Finances

The organization of the Junior National Law Conference 2025 was undertaken in a particularly challenging financial environment. During the planning phase, the Junior Bar Committee was confronted with exponentially increased costs, particularly in relation to accommodation, venue hire, logistics, and ancillary services. Hotel prices, in particular, had risen considerably when compared to previous years, placing significant pressure on budgeting and affordability for junior practitioners.









Despite these constraints, the Committee, through sustained negotiation and careful evaluation, was able to secure a suitable conference venue at a reasonable and accessible price, while also engaging vendors who were willing to support the initiative on fair and sustainable terms.

The media and awareness campaign conducted under the "Raise the Bar" initiative also played a meaningful role in this regard. In addition to amplifying the Conference's objectives, the campaign assisted in attracting sponsorships and securing concessions and discounts from vendors, thereby easing financial pressures and enhancing overall value.

The Junior Bar Committee places on record its sincere appreciation to the law firms whose support was instrumental to the success of the Conference, namely, D L & F De Saram, Tiruchelvam Associates, Nithi Murugesu & Associates, Julius & Creasy, Sudath Perera Associates, Nithya Partners, Varners, and F J & G De Saram.

Their support reflected a recognition of the importance of investing in the junior bar and an appreciation of the work undertaken by the Junior Bar Committee in advancing professional standards, inclusivity, and access to justice. This institutional backing played a vital role in enabling the Committee to deliver the Conference to a high standard.

Through prudent financial management, strategic partnerships, and the goodwill of sponsors such as Homelands and APIIT to name a few and vendors such as Eventuro, the Junior National Law Conference 2025 was not only successfully delivered but was also concluded with a financial surplus, reinforcing the sustainability of future Junior Bar initiatives

11. Session Outline

Session 1

Mentorship in Motion & Mentorship Meets Equality

The opening session addressed the importance of being an effective and proactive mentee. Discussion focused on observing professional environments, identifying areas for improvement, and taking initiative in seeking guidance and exposure. Peer mentorship was examined as a reciprocal process that benefits individual development and strengthens the junior bar collectively.

The session also addressed inclusivity within the profession, with emphasis on challenges faced by young female lawyers. Practical guidance was provided on navigating structural challenges, improving professional visibility, and positioning oneself for career advancement.

Session 2

Equal Access to Justice

This session examined the role of junior lawyers in advancing access to justice. Discussion focused on practical avenues for engagement in legal aid and public interest work, challenges limiting participation, and ways to integrate legal aid into sustainable legal practice.

Session 3

From Brief to Bench

This session reviewed the litigation process from instruction to adjudication. Topics included case preparation, advocacy, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and judicial perspective, with emphasis on strategic and procedural considerations. Followed by a standalone Session on table etiquette.

Session 4 – Parallel Sessions

Session 4-A: Criminal Law

Covered practical aspects of criminal practice, including bail applications, bribery-related matters, and the application of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023, with emphasis on procedure and ethical conduct.

Session 4-B: Civil Law

Focused on recent developments in land law, recovery of possession, and apartment ownership, addressing issues commonly encountered in civil practice.

Session 4-C: Commercial Law

Examined commercial mediation and dispute resolution, including mediation clauses, legislative developments, and the role of mediation in resolving commercial disputes.

Session 5 – Parallel Sessions

Session 5-A: Criminal Justice

Discussed plea bargaining, including statutory frameworks, defence strategy, prosecutorial discretion, and ethical considerations.

Session 5-B: Civil Law

Addressed money recovery and small claims procedures, enforcement mechanisms, and the increasing use of digital filing systems.

Session 5-C: Administrative Law

Covered principles of administrative law, judicial review, remedies, and procedural fairness, with reference to contemporary administrative challenges.

Session 6

Being a Lawyer in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

This session examined the impact of artificial intelligence and technology on legal practice, including legal research, practice management, and ethical considerations, with emphasis on adapting to technological change.

12. Conclusion

The Junior National Law Conference 2025 represents a significant milestone in the work of the Junior Bar Committee which has progressed over the years and continues to strengthen the Junior Bar. Through evidence-based planning, inclusive representation, interactive engagement, strategic media outreach, and principled programming, the Conference contributed meaningfully to the development of a competent, ethical, and socially responsive junior bar.

















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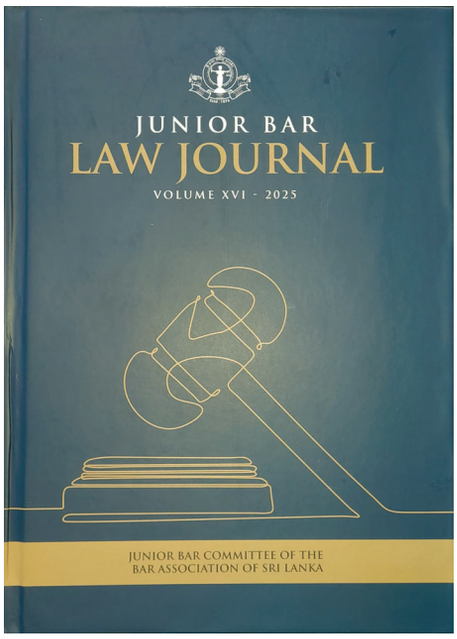
Launch of the Junior Bar Law Journal



Volume 16 of the Junior Bar Law Journal was launched, with His Lordship Justice Sobhitha Rajakaruna delivering a thought provoking and meaningful Keynote Address, around the theme of always acting with a good conscience. The Junior Bar Law Journal was founded in 2005, and this year Mr. Aadhes Thurairaja lead the Editorial team for a second year.















REPORT OF THE NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, AAL
Co-Chairperson : Mr. Buddhika Serasinghe, AAL
Convenors : Mr. Pandula Wanniarachchi, AAL
Mr. Deshani Bandara, AAL

The National Law Conference Committee of 2025/2026 was able to successfully organize the National Law Conference-2025, after a lapse of a period of two years, in the city of Kandy in Central Province. The theme of the conference was 'Building a Resilient Sri Lanka'. In line with the said theme, the aim of the Conference was to prepare the legal community for ever-evolving legal and sociological challenges and the economic hardships the country was experiencing for last few years.

The National Law Conference was held from 24th October 2025 to 26th October 2025 at the Earl`s Regency Hotel, Kandy. The National Law Conference was graced by Justice Suriya Kant, the Present Chief Justice of India, as the Guest of Honour and Justice Preeti Padman Surasena, the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, as the Chief Guest. For the first time in the history of the Conference, a delegation of senior judiciary and senior advocates from the Republic of India were in attendance and some of them contributed by presenting papers at the Conference. Over 250 delegates were in attendance from the judiciary, official bar, the private bar, the tri-forces and police, state sector and the corporate sector. At the inauguration ceremony, held on 24th October 2025, Justice Surya Kant delivered the Keynote address.

The Conference had ten moderated technical sessions, as set out below with participation of eminent panellists from the Sri Lankan judiciary, the legal academia, legal practitioners, as well as reputed private sector specialists. Several members from the visiting Indian delegation, senior judiciary and senior advocates also participated as panellists.

Hon. Chief Justice Preeti Padman Surasena, as a panellist, presented his vision on the pending digitalization of the court's initiative in Sri Lanka, and the wider legal profession.

Due to the well-structured sessions, coupled with fellowship activities, the conference was highly regarded by the participants as a very successful event.

The Committee notes the hard work and commitment of all its members in making this conference a success. It further notes the difficulties faced in hosting a national-level conference within a short timespan with limited fundraising opportunities.

The Committee remains thankful to the president of the Bar Association and office bearers of the BASL and to all distinguished invitees, panellists, participants, the directors, management and staff of Earl`s Regency Hotel, the management of Capital Maharaja Group, the team at Sound Vision Entertainment, and all Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Associate sponsors of the event.

Sessions

Session 1 – Law and the Economy - "Enhancing the Legal System of Sri Lanka to Facilitate the Economic Development".

Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC,
Dr. Harshana Suriyapperuma (Treasury Secretary)
Mr. Harsha Amarasekera, PC
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, AAL
Mr. Deshal de Mel
Moderator - Dr. Nadeesh de Silva, AAL

Session 2 - Commercial Law - "Optimizing the Efficiency in Commercial Litigation Process"
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena
Dr. Romesh De Silva, PC
Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC
Mr. Chandaka Jayasundere, PC
Senior Advocate Mr. Santhaan Krishnan (India)
Moderator - Mr. Harith de Mel, AAL

Session 3 - Administrative Law and Constitutional Law - "Constitutional Values and Responsive Judicial Review towards a Resilient Sri Lanka"
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice A.H.M.D. Nawaz
Hon. Justice Dr. Frank Gunawardhana
Mrs. Farzana Jameel, PC
Mr. Nirmalan Wigneswaran, DSG
Advocate Mr. Prabhakaran Ramachandran (India)
Moderator : Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, AAL

Session 4 – Criminal Justice - "Progressive Developments and Significant Transformation in the Criminal Justice System in Sri Lanka –Focusing on the Economic and Social Aspects".
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, PC
Mr. Mohan Weerakoon, PC
Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC
Mr. Sarath Jayamanne, PC
Moderator : Mr. Asela Serasinghe, AAL

Session 5 – Land Law - "Important Concepts in relation to immovable property encompassing recent Legislative Amendments and Judgments".
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Gamini Amarasekara
Mr. Samantha Ratwatte, PC
Moderator- Mr. Niranjan De Silva, AAL

Session 6 – Environmental Law - " Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development for an Equitable Future ".
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Janak De Silva
Prof. Kokila Konasinghe
Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara, AAL
Dr. Ravindranath Dabare, AAL
Prof. S. Sivakumar (India)
Moderator- Mr. Revan Weerasinghe, AAL

Session 7 – Intellectual Property Law - "The Role of Intellectual Property Law and its Contribution to the Development.
Resource Persons :
Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC
Hon. Justice Dr. Ruwan Fernando
Prof. Sampath Punchihewa
Moderator - Dr. Milhan Ikram Mohamed, AAL

Session 8 – Laws on Cybersecurity, Data Protection, Artificial Intelligence and Digitization Process within the Legal Profession - "The Digital Roadmap for Sri Lanka; the Way Forward"
Resource Persons :
Hon Chief Justice P. Padman Surasena
Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya
Dr. Thusitha Abeysekara
Mr. Asela Waidyalankara
Senior Advocate Aruneshwa Gupta (India)
Moderator - Mr. Sehan Soyza, SSC

Session 9 – Labour Law - "Emerging Dynamics of Labour Law in Sri Lanka"
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice S. Thurairaja, PC
Prof. A. Sarwesvaran
Ms. Manoli Jinadasa, AAL
Moderator- Mr. Isuru Lakpura, AAL

Session 10 – Legal Ethics - "Role of the Lawyer in Upholding Ethics and Professional Standards and Legal Education"
Resource Persons :
Hon. Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere
Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis, PC
Mr. Ali Sabry, PC
Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC
Moderator- Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanarachchi, AAL








REPORT OF THE LAW STUDENTS' SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Malraj Kiriella, AAL
Co-Chairperson : Mr. Lilan Amarakoon, AAL
Mr. Shabdhika Wellapili, AAL
Convenor : Mr. Boopathi Kahathuduwa, AAL

Programme Highlights

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka Standing Committee on Law Students' Skills Development, a newly constituted committee, implemented a series of structured programmes addressing key professional skills gaps among law students. The programmes attracted strong participation from students of Sri Lanka Law College, the Law Faculty of the University of Colombo, and other state universities and private education institutions offering law degree programmes, and were organised at the Dr. H. W. Jayewardene QC Auditorium of the BASL.

The Committee is chaired by Dr. Malraj B. Kiriella, with Mr. Boopathi Kahathuduwa serving as Convenor.





1. Strengthening Legal Research Competency – Legal Research Skills Workshop

The Committee commenced its programme series on 1 July 2025 with the inaugural workshop of the Professional Skills Development Seminar Series for Law Students, titled Strengthening Legal Research Competency.

The workshop was conducted by Prof. Sanath Sameera Wijesinghe, Professor in Legal Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka. The session focused on core legal research skills essential for academic and professional legal practice, including sources of law and legal databases, research planning, citation standards and research ethics, case-based research techniques, and the preparation of research memoranda and case notes.

2. Orientation to the Legal Profession and Institutional Framework – Familiarisation Programme for the 150th Batch



On 1 August 2025, the Committee facilitated a Familiarisation Programme for the 150th Batch of Sri Lanka Law College students, comprising guided visits to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, followed by an orientation session at the BASL.

3. Leadership, Professional Values and Career Development – Motivational Lecture

As part of the Familiarisation Programme, a motivational lecture was delivered on 1 August 2025 by Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Senior Professor in Management, Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), Sri Lanka. The lecture addressed leadership development, professional ethics, personal effectiveness, and career readiness within the legal profession.

4. Professional Image and Personal Effectiveness – Personal Grooming and Personality Development Workshop

The second workshop of the Professional Skills Development Seminar Series was held on 6 August 2025, titled Professional Image and Personal Effectiveness.



The session featured Mr. Fouzul Hameed, Managing Director of Hameedia Group, and Ms. Nayana Karunaratne, Director of Salon Nayana and IHB Education. Discussions focused on professional attire and first impressions, body language and etiquette, confidence building, stress management, and personality development as key components of career readiness for future legal professionals.

5. Speak to Lead: The Power of Presence, Persuasion and Performance – Public Speaking Masterclass

The third workshop of the series was conducted on 25 August 2025 as a Public Speaking Masterclass titled Speak to Lead: The Power of Presence, Persuasion and Performance.

The session was delivered by Mr. Dhananjaya Hettiarachchi, World Champion of Public Speaking 2014, International Speaker, and Leadership and Communication Coach. The programme focused on impactful oral communication, managing stage anxiety, voice modulation, persuasive messaging, and authoritative professional presence.

Ceylon Cold Stores PLC partnered with the programme series as the Refreshments Partner.





REPORT OF THE ANNUAL DINNER DANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Mr. Asela Rakewa, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Thanushka Gunawarden, AAL
Mr. Lakmal Ratnayake
Convenor : Mr. Krishan Fernando Pulle

The Junior Bar New Opportunities Standing Committee, chaired by Mr. Asela Rakewa, AAL, and appointed on 28th April 2025 for the 2025/2026 term, submits this progress report for the activities to be reported on the BASL Annal Report for the year 2025/26.

THE BASL GOLDEN JUBILEE BALL

The Standing Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the BASL Golden Jubilee Ball. Faced with the immense uphill task of planning an event of such grandeur within a constrained timeframe, the Committee was able to successfully hold the gala event on 17 October 2025 at Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo.

The Golden Jubilee Ball was a resounding success, attracting over 440 distinguished guests. This illustrious gathering was graced by eminent dignitaries from the judiciary, including several High Court judges, senior officials from the Attorney General's Department, leading President's Counsel, and prominent figures from the corporate sector.

The Committee was not only able to hold a momentous dinner dance to celebrate the golden jubilee of the BASL but was able to generate a surplus (Profit) of Rs. 1,064,350.72

ONGOING PROGRAMMES

Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo has offered a loyalty programme for the members of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

A ceremonial launch of the loyalty programme was held at the BASL Golden Jubilee Dance, with the participation of the General Manager, Cinnamon Grand Hotel Colombo and President BASL, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya.

The loyalty programme would be offered in due course to the membership after the relevant agreements are signed between the parties in the near future.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to sincerely appreciate the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the opportunity given to carry out its mandate during the year under review.

The guidance, trust, and continued support extended by the BASL leadership were instrumental in enabling the Committee to effectively plan and implement the Golden Jubilee Dance, which was a resounding success.













REPORT OF THE LEGAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Dr. Dayani Panagoda, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Himali Kularathna, AAL
Mr. Dinesh Widanapathirana, AAL

Convenors : Mr. Janaka Botheju, AAL
Mr. Praveen M. Premathilaka, AAL
Mr. Eksith Madawela, AAL
Mr. Buddhika Thilakarathna, AAL

Introduction

The Legal Awareness Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) was actively engaged throughout the year 2025 in strengthening public legal literacy, enhancing institutional awareness, and promoting access to justice among diverse segments of society. The Committee functioned with a structured plan, regular meetings, and collaborative programs in line with its mandate.

This report outlines the meetings held, discussions undertaken, plans formulated, partnerships developed, and programs successfully conducted during the year under review.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Meeting with Lions Club International – Multiple District 306 (MD 306)

Date: 29th July 2025

The Committee engaged in discussions with Lions Club International – MD 306 to explore collaboration opportunities for island-wide legal awareness initiatives, community outreach, and joint programs targeting vulnerable and underserved communities.

PROGRAMS CONDUCTED

Island-Wide BASL Legal Awareness Series – 2025

The first were held at the Urban Council, Hikkaduwa on 9th October 2025.

Resource Persons were Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana, Senior Counsel and Mr. Theja Abeywickrama, AAL.

Subject Areas Covered were Road Servitudes, Demarcation of Boundaries, Land Acquisition by Urban Councils, Land Development by Urban Councils, Urban Council Taxes, Valuation of Land, Assessment Tax and Lease of Property by Urban Councils.

The program was interactive and well-received, contributing significantly to enhancing legal and administrative knowledge among Urban Council members and officials.

Public Legal Awareness Webinar Series – 2025

In collaboration with Lions International MD 306, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and the "Voices of Law" platform, the Committee conducted a series of public legal awareness webinars via Zoom, aimed at educating the general public on topical legal issues.

(a) Webinar on "Law in Daily Life"-Knowing Your Basic Rights Date: 13th Aug 2025 Time: 7.30 p.m. Mode: Zoom Platform Resource Person: • Mr. Rajeev Amarasooriya Attorney at Law–President BASL

(b) Webinar on "Shining a Spotlight on – What Can We Do About It?" Date: 10th September 2025 Time: 7.30 p.m. Mode: Zoom Platform Resource Person: • Ms. Jerusha Crossette Thambiah – Counsel, Legal Consultant/Advisor, Gender Practitioner, Lecturer

(c) Webinar on "The Right to Information Commission and Act – What Every Citizen Should Know" Date: 15th October 2025 Time: 7.30 p.m. Mode: Zoom Platform Resource Person: • Ms. Himali Kularathna, Attorney at Law

Both webinars attracted a diverse public audience and contributed to improving awareness on citizens' rights, accountability mechanisms, and practical legal remedies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- Established a structured annual plan for legal awareness programs
- Identified diverse target groups and innovative delivery models
- Strengthened institutional partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Successfully conducted an island-wide legal awareness program addressing practical land and local authority issues

CONCLUSION

The Legal Awareness Committee of the BASL demonstrated commitment and effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate during 2025. Through strategic planning, collaboration, and implementation of impactful programs, the Committee made meaningful contributions toward enhancing legal awareness and access to justice.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Ms. Chathurika Wijesinghe, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Ridmika Dep, AAL
Ms. Swarna Jayaweera, AAL

The Local Excursions Standing Committee of BASL under the guidance of its President and the Executive Committee, organized its annual trip on 13th and 14th September 2025 (2 days / 1 night) at Hotel Tree of Life Nature Resort, Kandy. The objective of this excursion was to provide a relaxed and enjoyable environment for members to connect, socialize, and strengthen mutual bonds. The event offered a welcome break from routine activities, encouraged interaction among members, and helped create lasting memories. We, the Committee, are pleased to mention that this Annual Local Trip was organized after several years, making it a special and long-awaited event.

REPORT OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Ms. Chathurika Wijesinghe, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Ridmika Dep, AAL
Ms. Swarna Jayaweera, AAL

Introduction

This report sets out the work undertaken to date by the Gender Equality Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) during the period May 2025 to December 2025.

The Committee was established with the objective of promoting gender equality within the legal profession, identifying systemic and structural barriers faced by women and persons of diverse genders, and proposing institutional responses to ensure equal opportunity, dignity, and safety in legal education, practice, and professional advancement.

Currently, the Committee consists of ten (10) members, including Ms. Thushani Machado, Attorney-at-Law, who was appointed as the President of the Committee. Under her leadership, the Committee focused on establishing its foundations, building membership engagement, creating awareness within the broader BASL membership, and initiating work towards policy reform within the Association.

It is also pertinent to note that certain activities envisaged under the Action Plan—particularly those linked to collaboration with the Women's Education Research Centre (WERC)—were temporarily halted pending further consideration and direction by the BASL. As a result, the Committee prioritized initiatives that could be undertaken independently during this period, while remaining aligned with its long-term strategic objectives.

Adoption of an Action Plan and Scope of Work

The Action Plan identified strategic objectives including:

- Promoting gender equality and inclusion within the legal profession and justice system;
- Addressing gender-based discrimination and harassment;
- Raising awareness and building capacity among BASL members;
- Advocating for institutional and policy reforms; and
- Strengthening internal BASL mechanisms to support gender equality.

Establishment of the Sub-Committee and Membership Engagement

Following its constitution, the Gender Equality Sub-Committee successfully attracted members from across the legal profession, representing diverse levels of seniority and areas of practice. This initial outreach resulted in a committed group of members who expressed a shared interest in advancing gender equality within the profession.

Several meetings of the Committee were convened during this period. These meetings served multiple purposes, including:

Introducing members to the mandate, strategic objectives, and Action Plan of the Sub-Committee;

Facilitating preliminary discussions on gender equality issues within the legal profession in Sri Lanka;

Identifying key areas of concern such as barriers to career progression, workplace culture, harassment, and the impact of social and gender norms; and

Mapping out priority areas for short-term action in alignment with the Action Plan.

These discussions helped refine the Committee's focus and underscored the importance of both awareness-raising and institutional reform as complementary approaches to achieving gender equality.

Webinar on Gender Equality in the Legal Profession

Rationale and Background

As part of its awareness and capacity-building objectives under the Action Plan, the Committee organised a webinar titled "Understanding Gender Equality in the Context of the Legal Profession in Sri Lanka." The webinar was conceived in response to the observed disparity between the high enrolment of women in legal education and their comparatively low representation in active legal practice and decision-making roles within the profession.

Objectives of the Webinar

The webinar was designed to:

- Enhance awareness among BASL members of the concept of gender equality and its relevance to the legal profession;
- Identify and discuss practical challenges faced by women in legal education, training, and practice; and
- Generate insights to inform the Sub-Committee's future work, including policy and advocacy initiatives.

Speakers were Ms. Shyamala Gomez, Ms. Mokshini Jayamanne, Ms. Naushalya Rajapakse

Thematic Focus and Structure

The webinar combined conceptual discussion with practical insights and lived experiences.

Key themes included:

- The meaning and scope of gender equality in professional settings;
- Gender sensitivity in legal education and workplace culture;
- Sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination, including gaps in existing mechanisms;
- Challenges faced by women in chamber practice and comparisons with other jurisdictions;
- The impact of caregiving responsibilities and entrenched gender norms; and
- The role of male allies and shared responsibility.

An interactive question-and-answer session allowed participants to engage directly with the speakers, reinforcing the understanding that gender equality is a collective responsibility.

Significance

This webinar represented the Committee's first structured engagement with the wider BASL membership and marked an important step in implementing the awareness-raising objectives of the Action Plan. It also helped identify priority areas for future institutional reform and programming.

Drafting of Policy on Harassment and Gender Inequality

In parallel with its awareness initiatives, and in line with the Action Plan's focus on internal equity and institutional reform, the Committee undertook the drafting of a Policy on Harassment and Gender Inequality within the BASL.

The policy seeks to:

- Articulate clear standards of conduct relating to gender equality and non-discrimination;
- Define and prohibit harassment and gender-based misconduct;
- Establish principles for safe, dignified, and inclusive professional environments; and
- Lay the foundation for effective grievance-handling and accountability mechanisms within the Association.

The draft policy was reviewed by a group of senior

lawyers and gender experts and subsequently submitted to the BASL Executive Committee. Following discussions with the Executive Committee and the President of BASL, it was agreed that the policy would be incorporated into BASL's overarching policy framework under the key pillars of gender equality.

Conclusion

During the reporting period, the Gender Equality Sub-Committee made meaningful progress in operationalising its mandate while adhering, as far as possible, to its Annual Action Plan. Despite certain activities being paused pending institutional consideration—particularly those involving collaboration with WERC—the Sub-Committee successfully established itself, engaged members, initiated profession-wide dialogue, and advanced concrete policy reform.

The work undertaken during this period provides a strong foundation for the continuation and expansion of activities envisaged under the Action Plan, including further research, advocacy, capacity-building, and the implementation of gender-responsive policies aimed at achieving substantive gender equality within the legal profession in Sri Lanka.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Godfrey Cooray, AAL
Convenor : Mrs. Suranee Samarasekara, Administrative Secretary

Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, SIA was appointed as the Chairman of the Professional Purposes Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in the year 2017 by Mr. U. R. De Silva, PC who was the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka at the time, with the sanction of the Executive Committee and I continued as the Chairman, for the Nineth consecutive year.

His role as the Chairman of the Professional Purposes Committee is to oversee all complaints made against Attorneys-at-Law and to adjudicate justice to the aggrieved litigants/party.

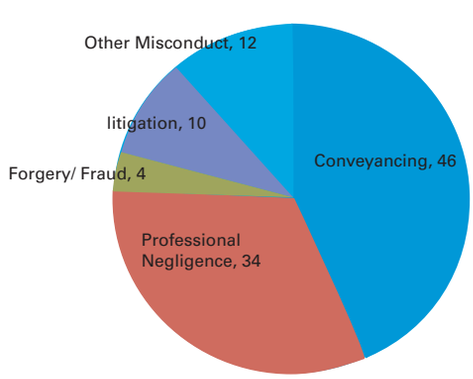
Over the years the Committee has seen reputed members of the bar being subject to humiliation when explanations were called from them or where a disciplinary inquiry had commenced on frivolous and baseless complaints. It is due to this very reason a two pronged system was put in place whereby, every complaint made against an Attorney-at-Law would initially be screened by the Chairman of the Professional Purposes Committee in order to ascertain whether a prima facie case exists and upon being satisfied by the genuineness and/or the merits of the complaint, the Chairman would thereafter refer the complaint to a panel to inquire into the complaint.

For the year 2025, approximately One Hundred and Six (106) complaints against Attorneys-at-Law were received.

In comparison to the year 2024, there seems to be a slight decrease in the number of complaints received

All matters referred to the chairman were given necessary instructions. Accordingly, 23 complaints due to lack of genuineness and/or merits and/or jurisdiction. Explant 10ns were called for 17 complaints and 60 complaints have been fixed for inquiry. Further 2 cases were recommended to be referred to the Supreme Court for necessary actions and in regard to 4 complaints requested to submit further documents to look in to the complaint further.

Is of paramount importance to expedite the adjudication process as our profession will loose its nobility very soon if we fail to and/or neglect to take necessary steps in addressing the complaints received and allegations leveled against Lawyers.



REPORT OF THE LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Baheej Meera Mohideen, AAL
Mr. M K Muthukumar, AAL
Convenor : Mr. Harith de Mel, AAL

Co-Convenors : Mr. Ruven Weerasinghe
Mr. Rajitha Lakshan Abeywardena
Mr. Rachika Palihawadana

Introduction

The Legal Aid Committee continued its work with the objective of strengthening access to justice, improving coordination between institutional stakeholders, and promoting a sustainable legal aid culture within the legal profession. The Committee functioned collectively in policy development, stakeholder engagement, outreach initiatives, and capacity building, while aligning its work with national priorities and the broader objectives of the Bar Association.

Submission of Scope of Work to the Bar Association

During the period under review, the Committee prepared and submitted a detailed Scope of Work to the Bar Association. This document articulated the mandate of the Committee, its proposed areas of intervention, and a structured framework for engagement with relevant institutions, including the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka. The Scope of Work focused on expanding access to legal services, improving coordination mechanisms, and ensuring that legal aid remains responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities. The proposed scope of work was approved by the Executive Committee of the BASL.

Recommendations on the Legal Aid Commission Act

The Committee undertook a review of the existing legal aid framework with particular reference to the Legal Aid Commission Act and the practical functioning of the Legal Aid Commission. Based on this review, recommendations were formulated and communicated to the Bar Association, addressing possible legislative and administrative improvements, enhanced engagement between the Bar Council and the Legal Aid Commission, and greater participation of practicing Attorneys at Law in legal aid work. The Report of the Committee was submitted for the consideration of the Executive Committee upon which several decisions were taken including the revival of the Advisory Committee under the Legal Aid Commission Act, steps to strengthen the oversight of the Bar Council over the functions of the Legal Aid Commission and proposals how the Bar Council should proceed with regard to any appointments to the Legal Aid Commission.

Matters Undertaken Where Legal Aid Commission Assistance Was Declined

Recognising that certain matters with access to justice implications fall outside the operational scope of the Legal Aid Commission, the Committee collectively considered and took up select matters which the Commission had declined to undertake.

Collaboration with the Junior Bar and the Junior National Law Conference

The Committee collaborated closely with the Junior Bar and the Junior National Law Conference Committee during the Junior National Law Conference Two Thousand Twenty Five, where Access to Justice was identified as a core pillar within the three pillar thematic framework. As a direct outcome of this engagement, more than twenty five junior lawyers formally expressed interest in legal aid work and signed up to engage with legal aid initiatives, reflecting a growing awareness and commitment among younger members of the profession.





In line with encouraging active involvement in pro bono work a separate session was dedicated to strengthening access to Justice on the 15th of November 2026, comprising of Justice Shobitha Rajakaruna, Mr. Vivekananthan Puvitharan President's Counsel (Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission) and the Convenor for the Legal Aid Standing Committee Harith de Mel.

Development of Dos and Don't's for Junior Lawyers

As part of its capacity building mandate, the Committee drafted a practical Dos and Don't's guideline for junior lawyers engaging in legal aid work. This document focuses on ethical conduct, professional responsibility, client management, and best practices, and has been finalised and prepared for circulation within the BASL as well as the Legal Aid Commission as a guideline.

Legal Aid Camp in Collaboration with Kotelawala Defence University

In collaboration with the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, the Committee organized and participated in a Legal Aid Camp held at the University premises on the 28th of January 2026. This initiative provided free legal advice to staff members of the University and their families.





Participation in National Law Week Activities in Kotmale

As part of National Law Week, members of the Committee travelled to Kothmale and assisted in providing free legal advice to communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah related disasters. The assistance rendered addressed issues relating to land, housing, compensation, documentation, and access to state relief.

The Committee is currently compiling a post disaster concept note focusing on legal rights arising in the aftermath of natural disasters. This initiative aims to identify key rights that should be communicated to the public, develop awareness material, and propose mechanisms for timely dissemination of legal information to affected communities. The Committee noted that assistance is needed both administratively as well as in terms of the existing law and also noted that some complications which are outside the existing administrative solutions and law require policy level recommendations to be made. The Committee is scheduled to participate in further camps in coordination with the National Law Week Committee. Legal Aid Camps also held in Madulsima, Nildandahinna, Passara and Matale.





Compilation of a Legal Aid Provider Directory

The Committee compiled a consolidated list of legal aid providers. This directory is intended to improve referrals, coordination, and public access to legal assistance. This was done with a view to ensuring greater access to legal beyond what the resources of the Legal Aid Commission.

Comparative Analysis of Overseas Legal Aid Systems

A comparative analysis of selected overseas legal aid systems was undertaken to identify best practices and potential reforms. The findings of this study are being used to inform further recommendations that may be adap**ted to the Sri Lankan context.**

Proposal to Build on the Equal Access to Justice Initiative

The Committee initiated work on a proposal to follow up and build upon the Equal Access to Justice initiative dated twenty eighth October Two Thousand Fifteen, led by Shehan Gunawardena a Former Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee of the BASL. The proposal seeks to revive and strengthen this initiative with a view to addressing contemporary access to justice challenges. The Committee seeks to adopt the same proposal with amendments to strengthen the pro bona responsibilities of the private bar in a more coordinated manner.

Conclusion

Through policy reform initiatives, stakeholder collaboration, outreach programmes, and strategic planning, the Legal Aid Standing Committee has continued to advance its mandate of promoting meaningful access to justice. The work undertaken during the period under review reflects a collective and sustained effort to strengthen legal aid delivery, engage the legal profession, and respond to the needs of the public.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK BY THE BASL LEGAL AID COMMITTEE 2024-2025

1. Institutional Role and Structure

- Establish a permanent role for the BASL Legal Aid Committee within the Legal Aid Commission (LAC), including formalized responsibilities and reporting structures.
- Convert the BASL Legal Aid Committee into a Permanent Standing Committee.
- Reconvene and actively engage the Legal Aid Advisory Commission which is provided in the BASL Constitution.
- Consider the Role, Function and Appointment of Commissioners and the relationship including the process of appointment
- Create rapport between Commissioners and the Bar Council with the Legal Aid Committee as the Conduit
- In rapport with the Commissioner explore public donations, private sector funding, and innovative funding streams (e.g., investments, subscriptions, publications).
- Establish a donor coordination mechanism to streamline support.
- Within this process identify the existing Administrative and LAC Act related bottlenecks with a view for reform.

2. Legal and Policy Framework to be lobbied through the reestablished Advisory Committee and Commission

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Legal Aid Act and existing legal framework.
- Enhance quality assurance and monitoring of legal aid services.
- Assist the existing process of the National Legal Aid Policy
- Undertake policy reforms and legal aid law reviews based on comparative models (e.g., India, Philippines, South Africa).
- Conduct research to identify legislative or procedural bottlenecks that exists.
- Develop a means test that includes both income and asset considerations with regional flexibility. Review of who deserves Legal Aid

3. BASL-LAC Legal Aid Conference.

- This Conference Aims to be a show case of Legal Aid Commission and its Work as well as a Discussion Forum for this Committees work this Year.

4. Volunteerism and Professional Engagement

- Promote volunteerism among lawyers, especially senior practitioners and instructing attorneys. Shift the culture from legal aid being charity to legal aid being a duty.
- Establish a pro bono scheme with top-tier legal professionals. (One Case Per Year pledge etc.). BASL Invitation Scheme

- Junior Bar Conference and Legal Aid Promotion
- Maintain a central registry of other Legal Aid Providers volunteer lawyers and areas of expertise.
- Formalize the process of practitioners entering into legal aid. Terms of Appointments, Duties and Responsibilities, FAQ Client and Lawyers. This to be done along with the Legal Aid Commission

5. Legal Aid Service Provision

- Ensure legal aid is available from the point of arrest, including custodial situations and pre-trial detentions.
- Promote a hotline for custodial torture cases in collaboration with Swiss Aid (Emergency Legal Aid response).

6. Access to Justice and Public Awareness

- Prisoners and Prisons Commissioner and Legal Aid Role
- Develop and propose an exception to the champerty rule for accident litigation with Bar Association guidelines.
- Access to Justice and those with Learning or Cognitive Disabilities. A Review of the Civil Procedure Code

7. Integration with Education and ADR

- Encourage integration of legal aid into legal education with law school legal aid clinics and modules. Drafting a Module for Legal Aid to be included in all Law Courses
- Allow final year law students to assist in legal aid work under supervision of senior lawyers.
- Formal Internship programs with LAC in partnership with universities/law faculties.
- Offer certification of hours served and mentorship benefits.

8. Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Establish a Personal Injury Mediation Scheme in conjunction with the Insurance Commission and Legal Aid Commission. This can be in conjunction with the Accredited Mediators Association

9. Specialized Programs and Training

- Develop a Certificate Course in Accident Litigation with BASL and LAC collaboration.
- Make available draft plaints, checklists etc for typical legal aid work.
- Establish a mentorship scheme (Legal Aid Mentoring days etc).

REPORT OF THE LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Dayanthi Udalagama, AAL
Mr. Darshana Kuruppu, AAL

Convenor : Mr. N. Ashokabaran, AAL

The Law Reform Committee discussed and made several decisions to propose law reforms on several issues. These decisions were taken in view of the development of law for the benefit of the general public.

The Committee was of the view that due to the prevalent hardships faced by litigants, the present law relating to filing of list of documents and witnesses, one month before the first trial date in Partition Actions, ought to be amended, by making it possible for litigants to be able to file their lists within a reasonable time before the date of the trial.

The Committee was in agreement to propose a statutory law to govern the right to lateral support. Recent island wide environmental issues such as land slides and flooding may be due to human intervention on natural geographical settings. Therefore, the Committee decided to propose a new Act to provide for the protection of the right to lateral support under the title "The Right to Lateral support Act".

The Committee also agreed to submit a proposal for new legislation for the protection of Attorneys at Law. This decision was made as there is no specific legislation to safeguard the rights of Attorneys at Law. The draft is ready to be submitted to the Bar association of Sri Lanka.

Several decisions were made on the need to amend the Surveys Act to bring in new laws for the benefit of the general public.

The Committee was also of the view that the bail applications to be made before the Court of Appeal is causing hardships to litigants, having to come to Colombo from the four corners of the country incurring heavy expenses. Therefore proposals were discussed to empower the provincial High Court to hear and grant bail.

I wish to thank the Committee members for the fullest cooperation and unstinting support given to enable the successful functioning of the Law Reform Committee 2025-2026.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Lakshan Dias, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Prasanna Arahampath, AAL
Mr. Rohana Muthumala, AAL
Convenor : Ms. Swasthika Arulingam, AAL

The Committee conducted two major events during the year. The first was the South Asian Regional Workshop on Human Rights on the theme 'Learning from our neighbours' where eminent speakers from the South Asian Region gave insights on their experiences in Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, India and Bangladesh Rights Defenders and UN. The two-day program was held on 21st and 22nd September 2025 and was supported by the United Nations Sri Lanka and South Asians for Human Rights.







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The Workshop provided a forum to :

- Engage with international and local legal experts
- Gain valuable insights into global justice systems
- Network with professionals across jurisdictions
- Be part of meaningful dialogue shaping the future.

The second event was the Inaugural Human Rights Oration which was delivered by Hon Justice Surya Kant on 'Strengthening a Legal Aid System to achieve marginalised and Minorities : the Indian Case Study. The oation was held on 23rd October 2025 and over 200 members partcipated.





REPORT OF THE OVERSEAS RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Anuruddha Perera, AAL
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Chrishmal Warnasuriya, AAL
Convenor : Ms. Savithri Fernando, AAL

SIGNING OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (Mou, WITH BAR COUNOIS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES:

We have reached out to ffty six (56) Bar Councils and associations and twenty four (24) have responded to us. Fourteen (14) councils and societies have responded Indicating their Interest to sign MOU's with the BASL. The others have indicated that they are positive but they require time to consider such initiatives.

We have been able to coordinate meetings between the President, Secretary, Exco members and members of the ORC with representatives from Bar Councils and Associations of England & Wales, Portugal, Germany, Japan, Australia, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and India. These meetings took place in person In Europe and In Asia and others have been through Zoom and teleconferences. Our Co-Chair Mr. Chrishmal Warnasuriya who Is also an Ex Co member of the Association of SL Lawyers, UK (ASLLUK) has personally placed a resolution to this effect at the last meeting of the Ex Co there and we expect a communication from the ASLLUK to the BASL In the near future, setting out the modalities of the proposed bilateral engagements.

We are most pleased to report that through our Initiatives the BASL was able to slsn and complete the MOU with the Law Society of Singapore. This has been stasnant and outstanding since 2018. we are grateful to the President, Secretary and the Exco members of the BASL who supported this Initiative. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the President, Secretary and the Exco for entrusting our Chairman Mr. Anu Perera with the responsibility to represent the BASL In Singapore and a special mention of Mr. Ruven WeerasInghe, Ms. Venessa candappa and Ms. Marflyn Fernando of the ORC who worked very hard to achieve this Initiative.

At present, we are coordinating the visit of the Sri Lankan delegation to India In March 2026, and we are preparing for the visit of the Chair of the Bar of England and Wales to Sri Lanka in May or August 2026. It Is being discussed at present.

B.SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOOATION PRESIDENIS COUECTIVE (SABAP COUECTIVE)

We are pleased to report that the ORC committee has spoken with all South Asian Bar Presidents with a view to formulate a committee / collective of Bar Presidents to be a collective front representing the South Asian region. The objective of this collective is to establish a regional body that will work as a collective front projecting a formidable and empowered presence of this region and to promote professional interaction, legal resource development and access to justice.

We would also like to report that our President's counterpart In Bangladesh, who was also the Attorney General of Bangladesh, Honourable Asaduzzaman, has just been elected as the new Minister of Law and Justice of Bangladesh. He is 1aking steps to introduce me to his successor so that we can take this initiative forward.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

CREATING CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BASLAND SRI IANICAN LAWYERS RESIDENT OVERSEAS.

We have taken some steps in this regard but the response has not been very encouraging; however we are confident that with regular communication, we will overcome these challenges and persuade them to Interact with local

members more. We hope to create a zoom platform for this purpose.

As a further initiative to advance young law students and legal interns, we are working on a scheme where Sri Lankan law students can connect with international law students, forming friendships and connections early in the profession. Our vision is that in time, the students and interns will emerge as global leaders of tomorrow, already connected through this type of networking, empowering young professionals who would also patriotially help our country to be more and more recognised internationally.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGEMENTS ON THE BASL WEBSITE

We are taking steps to publish important international judgements on the BASL website and to arranp a mechanism to share them through the BASI. network with our members on a regular basis.

The objective Is for our members to have easy access and to be more familiar with International lepl developments that can be utilised to enrich our legal wort. This as a resource will nurture and fist foster the development of our legal thinking and uplift the standards of our members faster and In a manner more familiar with International development.

LAW WEEK

We are working in towards organising "The Law Week" which is an initiative promoted by the late Justice C.G. Weeramantry in Australia and in the Netherlands with a view to bridge the gap between the administration of Justice systems and the civil society that depends on it. Late Justice Weeramantry emphasised that law when practised in isolation from the people cannot truly serve the people. Guided by this vision, we hope to bring together various arms of the Justice stem and law enforcement mechanisms In the country to Interact during this week more freely and understand their problems so that a road map can be identified in how to facilitate access to justice better and effectively.

OVERSEAS TRAINING PLACEMENT FOR SRI LANKAN LEGAL INTERNS AND YOUNG LAWYERS.

As a pilot initiative, we plan to invite a group of young lawyers and legal interns to Sri Lanka to be placed with Sri Lankan law firms and leading chambers. The proposal for this programme is currently being drafted and our discussions with Singapore have been very encouraging. We are targeting May to June this year.

As a second step, we plan to arrange a team of young Sri Lankan interns, apprentices and young lawyers to undergo 1 month's training in Singapore. The selection process and the logistics have to be discussed further with the President, Secretary and the Exco of the BASL and we are drafting this proposal at present.

In addition, there is a strong possibility of arranging awareness programmes for judicial officers as well. We are in the process of drafting this proposal.

ADVANCING LEGAL EXPERTISE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

We intend conducting monthly interviews with international legal luminaries and Sri Lankan legal luminaries who hold international positions with a view to empower our membership and to promote access to our membership with these professionals and their areas of work.

SIMPLE ENGLISH DRAFTING

We are already in touch with Mr. Niru Pillai Senior Counsel in Singapore, also a Senior Counsel of Singapore Airlines, to organise a 2-3 day workshop on simple English drafting for BASL members, Attorney General's Department members in Colombo and in regional jurisdictions with Civil Appellate Courts. He has carried out workshops in Sri Lanka previously to our members, the members of the Attorney General's Department and if I am not mistaken, to Judicial officials. We are currently in the process of finalising dates with him.













REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Dinal Phillips, PC
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Shamith Fernando
Mr. Harith De Mel

Convenor : Mr. Oshada Rodrigo
Co-Convenor : Mr. Anjula Rajapakshe
Mr. Hasini Rupasinghe

The Commercial Law Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka 2025/26 played an active role during the 2025/2026 period in contributing to the development, reform, and effective implementation of commercial law in Sri Lanka. In an evolving global economic landscape, commercial law frameworks must continually adapt to ensure efficiency, ease of doing business, and effective dispute resolution through litigation and alternate methods as well as administrative processes aligning with international best practices. The Committee undertook several initiatives aimed at strengthening legal frameworks, supporting professional development among members of the Bar, and contributing to policy and legislative discourse affecting commercial practice in Sri Lanka.

The work of the Committee was organized through several specialized sub-committees focusing on key areas of commercial law and dispute resolution. These included:

- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Intellectual Property Law
- Winding Up
- International Investment Law
- Company Law

Through these sub-committees, the Committee engaged with legislative reform processes, provided technical input to the Ministry of Justice and other institutions, facilitated professional dialogue within the legal community, and explored mechanisms to enhance dispute resolution practices in Sri Lanka.

This report provides a summary of the discussions, meetings, strategy-building initiatives, and activities undertaken by the various sub-committees under the Commercial Law Committee during the reporting period.

Below is a short summary of discussions, meetings, long and short term strategy-building, and activities initiated and conducted by the several sub-committees under the Commercial Law Sub-Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

- Arbitration Sub-Committee
- Mediation Sub-Committee
- Intellectual Property Law Sub Committee
- Winding Up Rules Sub Committee
- Commercial Investments Sub Committee

During the 2025/2026 period, a significant focus of the Committee's work involved strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Sri Lanka, particularly through engagement with arbitration and mediation reforms and through advocacy for institutional capacity-building within the BASL.

At the same time, the Committee also contributed to broader commercial law reform initiatives including intellectual property law modernization and procedural reforms relating to winding up proceedings.

These initiatives demonstrate the continuing commitment of the BASL and its members to improving the legal and institutional frameworks that govern commercial activity in Sri Lanka. Moving forward, sustained engagement with policymakers, stakeholders, and the wider legal community will be essential to ensure that these reform efforts translate into practical and effective legal systems that support economic development and access to justice.

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENT BILLS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Asthika Devendr
Co-Chairpersons : Mr. Tenny Fernando
Mr. Diluka M Silva

Convenor : Mr. Sumudu Kakulandala
Members : Mr. Eranda Wanasinghe
Mr. Denuwan J Kumanayaka

Introduction

This report is submied on behalf of the Parliament Bills Review Commiee, constuted by the Bar Associaon of Sri Lanka (BASL) for the term 2025-2026.The commiee' government-publ ished bils task was to review ls in the gazee and placed on the order paper, focusi the legalprofession, jusce, and society, parcularly concerns rai legalcommunity.

Actillities and Meetings

The committee held meetings on the foll owing dates to discuss various bills and acts:

1. 2025.06.20 (via Zoom): Contempt of Court Act and Poisons Opium Dangerous Drugs Ordinance
2. 2025.06.28 (Committee Room, BASL): Bills of Exchange (17.06.2025), Proceeds of Crime Bill, and Provincial Council Bill (05.06.2025 I
3. 2025.07.06 (via WhatsApp): Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes) Bill
4. 2025.07.18 (via WhatsApp)
5. 2025.07.26 (Committee Room, BASL): Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes) Bill observations by Mr. Denuwan and Mr. Asthika
6. 2025.07.31 (via onli ne)
7. 2025.08.28 (via onli ne): BASL President joined the meeting
8. 2025.10.16 (via online): Protection of Occupants Bill (18.09.2025) observation by Eranda
9. 2025.11.01 (Committee Room, BASL): Rent Act Repeal Bill and Institute of Real Estate Professionals Bill

Submissions and Obseruations

The committee prepared and submitted observation reports on:

- Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes I Bill
- Protection of Occupants Bill

Conclusion

Despite having limited active members, the committee effectively discussed and reviewed most gazetted bills, submitting observations on key bills. The committee appreciates the support and guidance from the BASL president and looks forward to continuing its work.

REPORT OF THE BASL MEMBER NETWORKING COMMITTEE

Chairpersons : Mr. Pasindu Silva
Co-Chairpersons : Ms. Himali Orugodawatte
Convenor : Ms. Yohani Yoharajah
Mr. Matthew David

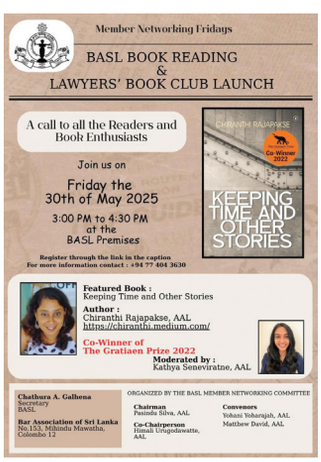
BASL Book Reading and Lawyers' Book Club

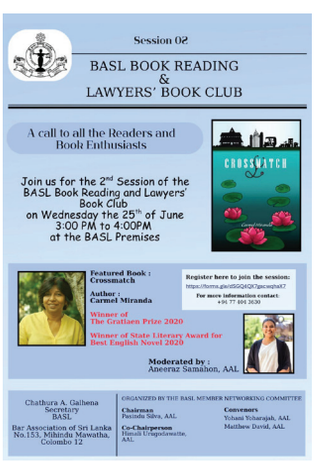
The inaugural session of the BASL Book Reading and Lawyers' Book Club was held on 30th June 2025 at the BASL premises, featuring "Keeping Time and Other Stories" by Mrs. Chiranthi Rajapakse, AAL, co-winner of the 2022 Gratiaen Prize, and moderated by Ms. Kathya Seneviratne, AAL.

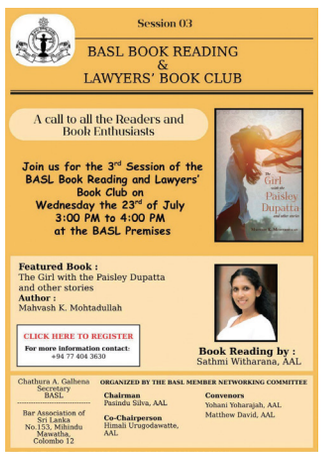
The second session, on 25th June 2025, featured "Crossmatch" by Ms. Carmel Miranda, winner of the 2020 Gratiaen Prize and the State Literary Award, moderated by Ms. Aneeraz Samahon, AAL.

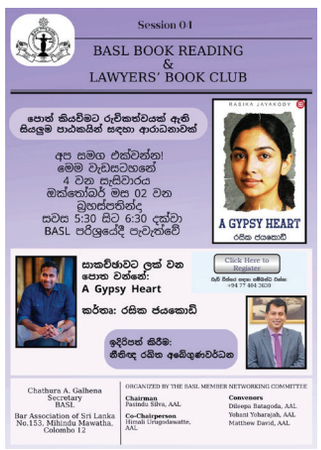
The third session, on 23rd July 2025, featured "The Girl with Paisley Dupatta and Other Stories" by Mahvash K. Mohtadullah, conducted by Ms. Sathmi Witharana, AAL, in collaboration with the BASL Member Networking Committee.

The fourth session, of the Lawyers' Book Club, organised by the BASL Member Networking Committee, was held on 2 October 2025 at the BASL premises. The session featured the book A Gypsy Heart, authored by Mr. Rasika Jayakody, and was moderated by Mr. Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Attorney-at-Law. The event was open to all BASL members and law students, providing an engaging platform for literary discussion and intellectual exchange beyond the formal practice of law.









Bowling night

The BASL Member Networking Committee organized a special networking event on Friday, 25th July 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Strike Bowling Centre, Excel World.

The evening was well attended, and members thoroughly enjoyed the event, making it a memorable and successfully gathering.



Sunset Cruises

As part of the Member Networking Friday's initiative, the BASL Member Networking Committee organized Sunset Cruises on, 27th June 2025, 7th August 2025, 4th September 2025 and 3rd October 2025 from 5:00 p.m.to 7:15 p.m. at the docking point in Port City, Colombo. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the evening sky and the calm ocean breeze, the cruise offered members a serene and refreshing environment to connect and engage with one another.

Oktoberfest

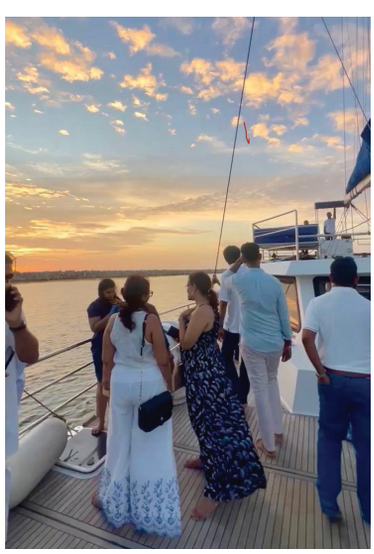
As part of the BASL Member Networking Initiative 2025/2026, an Oktoberfest event was held on Sunday, 9th November at Hilton Colombo. The event brought together members and their families for an evening of fellowship and networking opportunities, strengthening camaraderie within the BASL community.

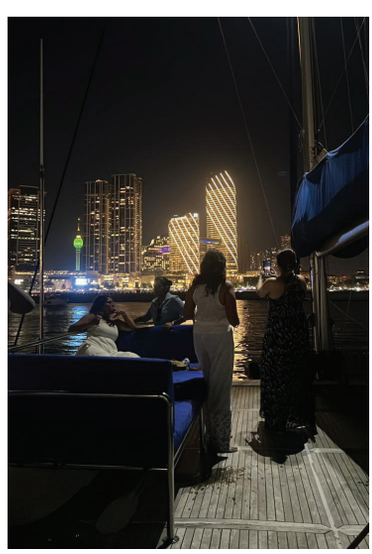












REPORT OF THE SRI LANKA TOASTMASTERS CLUB

President : Mr. Chamath Fernando

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club was chartered on 26th June 2020 as Sri Lanka's first Toastmasters Club established exclusively for members of the legal fraternity.

The purpose of the Club is to address a lacuna in the field of legal education as the arts of speaking and active listening are not part of the traditional curriculum of legal education in Sri Lanka. The Club provides a comfortable and inspiring environment for Attorneys-at-Law to develop their communication and leadership skills among fellow members of the legal profession.

The Charter Executive Committee lead by TM Chamath Fernando as the Charter President steered the Club to achieved President's Distinguished Club status by obtaining 10 Distinguished Club Program points, the highest recognition awarded by Toastmasters International, USA. At Ovation 2021, the Annual Conference of District 82 Toastmasters International, the Club also received four Hall of Fame awards; the Silver Eagle, Rising Star, Triple Crown and Publicity Star – Bronze.

The Club has continued to grow from strength to strength. The Executive Committee for the year 2025/2026 consisting of the following Office bearers were elected to lead the Club:

1. Club President -TM Chamath Fernando
2. Vice President, Education - TM Zahara Hassim
3. Vice President – Membership – TM Mahilini Mauran
4. Club Secretary -TM Rushda Ariff
5. Sergeant-at- Arms -TM Susantha Senadheera
6. Immediate Past President (Ex officio)
   TM Rasangi Thilakaratne



The Club has continued to deliver quality content while providing an enjoyable environment through themed meetings and joint meetings. Apart from regular educational sessions at weekly meetings, the Club has released the first issue of its Newsletters for the year 2025/2026 which is currently available online.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club brings together members of the legal fraternity in different stages of their careers from a variety of practice areas and geographic locations for the common purpose of improving public speaking and leadership skills. With the continued support of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club for the tenure 2025/2026 will continue to assist its Club members to achieve their goals and help make a difference in the legal community.











BASL Staff Members with the Management Committee

Seated from Left to Right :

Mr. Sunil Vidanagamage (Manager - Administration), Mr. T. Prakalathan (Chief Operations Officer)
Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena (Assistant Secretary), Mr. Chathura A. Galhena (Secretary),
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya (President), Mr. Pasindu Silva (Treasurer), Ms. Suranee Samarasekera (Administrative Secretary),
Ms. W.A.D.A.L. Priyangani (Accountant), Ms. Bhashika Jayasinghe (Programme Manager)

Standing from left to right :

Ms. I.A.D.U. Ishani Speering, Mr. W. Amindu Prabashwara, Mr. H.M.P. Lakshan, Mr. M.U. Darshana,
Mr. S. A. Kalindu Silva, Ms. Malika Thilakaratne, Ms. W.D.D.T. Kumari, Ms. H.S. Sewwandi,
Ms. L.D. Surangi Liyanage, Ms. D.S. Priyadharshani, Ms. Anuradha Dissanayake, Ms. M. Parameshwari,
Mr. M.A. Thangaraja, Mr. Chamara Perera,Mr. Pradeep Lakmal



BASL Election 2026/2027

NOTICE

16th January 2026

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026 / 2027

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027

1. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. RAJEEV TILAK AMARASURIYA, AAL FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 13TH JANUARY 2026. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Dr. Faisz Musthapha, PC	Mr. Upali Mohottige, PC
2. Mr. Rienzie Arseculeratne, PC	Mrs. Ramani D. De Saram, AAL
3. Mr. A. Srinath M. Perera, PC	Mr. Vivekananthan Puvitharan, PC
4. Mr. W. Dayaratne, PC	Mr. Guneratne Wanninayake, AAL
5. Mr. Shammil J. Perera, PC	Prof. S. S. M. Wasantha Seneviratne, AAL
6. Mrs. Shiranthi N. M. Gunawardena, SIA	Mrs. M. Inoka D. Perera, AAL

AS MR. RAJEEV TILAK AMARASURIYA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE DULY NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT, THE RETURNING OFFICER HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 13TH JANUARY 2026, DECLARED THAT:

MR. RAJEEV TILAK AMARASURIYA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027.

CHATHURA A. GALHENA
SECRETARY
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Website : www.basl.lk I E-mail : info@basl.lk I www.facebook.com/groups/baslgroup

NOTICE

16th January 2026

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027

THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. NALIN CHANDIKA DE SILVA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 13TH JANUARY 2026. THE FIVE NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1. Mrs. Shiranthi N. M. Gunawardena, SIA	Mr. Shehan A. Gunawardene, AAL
2. Mr. Kalinga N. Indatissa, PC	Mr. Amal A. Randeniya, AAL
3. Mr. Rohan Sahabandu, PC	Mr. Romesh M. Bandara Karaliyadde, AAL
4. Mr. Vivekananthan Puvitharan, PC	Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanaarachchi, AAL
5. Mr. Saliya K.M. Pieris, PC	Mr. Upali Mohottige, PC
6. Mr. Razik Zarook, PC	Mr. Amila N. Palliyage, AAL

AS MR. NALIN CHANDIKA DE SILVA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE DULY NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY, THE RETURNING OFFICER HON. VIRAJ DAYARATNE, PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 13TH JANUARY 2026, DECLARED THAT:

MR. NALIN CHANDIKA DE SILVA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF SECRETARY OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027.

CHATHURA A. GALHENA
SECRETARY
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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BASL Nominations 2026/2027

The Nominations for the post of President and the Secretary for the year 2026/2027 was accepted by the Presiding Officer, Hon. Viraj Dayaratna PC, the Solicitor General on 13th January 2025 at the BASL Secretariat.

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya handed their Nominations for the post of President and Mr. Nalin De Silva handed over his nomination for the post of Secretary.

Since only one candidate handed over the nominations for the post of President and Secretary, The Hon. Solicitor General declared that Mr. Nalin De Silva was elected uncontested for the post of Secretary and Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya was elected for the post of President for the year 2026/2027.













Members can access the BASL Social Media Platforms through this QR

BAR ASSOCIATION
OF SRI LANKA

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