

# BASL NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

2025/2026 Issue No. 01

BASL NEWS PRINT EDITION RESUMES AFTER 2 YEARS SINCE MARCH 2023

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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  
From L to R :- Mr. Pasindu Silva (Treasurer), Mr. Viraj Dayaratne, PC (Solicitor General), Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC (Deputy President), Her Ladyship Chief Justice Murdu Fernando, PC, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya (President), Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, Jnr, PC (Attorney General), Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara (Minister of Justice and National Integration), His Lordship Justice Mohammed Thahir Laffar (Acting President of the Court of Appeal), Mr. Chathura Galhena (Secretary) and Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena (Assistant Secretary)

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT



Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya

### 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, Mr. Faisz Musthapha, PC, Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC, Mr. Srinath M. Perera, PC, Mr. W. Dayaratne, PC, Mr. Shammil. J.

Continued on page 6...

## CONVOCATION CLOSING REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY



Mr. Chathura A. Galhena

Her Ladyship the Chief Justice, Honourable Minister, Honourable 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. Laffar, 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.

Continued on page 7...

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# ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT, TREASURER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ZONAL VICE PRESIDENTS, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BASL



MR. RIENZIE ARSECULARATNE PC  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

At the Bar Council held on the 29th March 2025, 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 Past President Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC. With no other names proposed, the Hon. Attorney General announced the appointment of Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC, as the Deputy President for the Year 2025/2026.



MR. PASINDU SILVA, AAL  
TREASURER

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya proposed the name of Mr. Pasindu Silva for the Post of Treasurer for the Year 2025 /2026 which was seconded by Past Treasurer Mrs. Ramani De Saram. As there were no other names proposed, the Hon. Attorney General announced the appointment of Mr. Pasindu Silva as the Treasurer for the Year 2025 / 2026.



MR. SARINDA JAYAWARDENA, AAL  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Zonal Vice Presidents of the BASL for the year 2025/2026 elected were:  
Mr. Ranil Weerasekara (Anuradhapura),  
Mr. A. U. P. Ukwatta (Ampara),  
Ms. Priyanga Chandrasena (Avisawella),  
Mr. Bandusena Tennakoon (Badulla),  
Mr. T. Sivanathan (Batticaloa),  
Ms. Sandun Nagahawatta (Colombo Zone 01),  
Mr. Anusha Gunasekara (Colombo Zone 02),  
Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayake

(Colombo Zone 03), Mr. Samanpali Amarasinghe (Chilaw),  
Mr. Ruwan Asiri De Silva (Galle), Mr. Ravindana Kuruppu (Gampaha),  
Mr. Upali Mohotti PC (Hambantota),  
Dr. K. Guruparan (Jaffna), Mr. Kinsula Liyanage (Kalutara),  
Mr. Sunil Weerakoon (Kandy), Ms. Chithrani Weerasekara (Kegalle),  
Mr. Sanjeewa Wijepala (Kurunegala), Mr. Keerthi Dhanushka Jayasinghe (Matara),  
Mr. Shian Thissera (Negombo), Mr. H.N.G. Senanayake (Nuwara Eliya),  
Mr. Sanath Perera (Ratnapura) and Mr. Anton Punethanayagam (Vavuniya).

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) for the year 2025: Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena, Mr. Thishya Weragoda, Mr. Chamath Fernando, Mr. Harith De Mel, Mr. Lakshan Dias, Mr. Chandima Atapattu, Mr. Senany Dayaratne, Mr. K. Wasantha S. Fernando, Mr. Lakshan Abeywardena (Junior Bar), Mr. Lakshan Wijewardena (Junior Bar), Ms. Nikini Mapitigama (Junior Bar), Mr. H.L.T. Nadeesha Perera (Junior Bar - Outstation) and Mr. M. S. N. K. Dangahadeniya (Junior Bar - Outstation) were elected as the Junior Bar Members of the Executive Committee.

Ms. Himali Urugodawatta was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President representing the Corporate Lawyers' Association / Government Legal Officers' Association.

At the 1st Executive Committee Meeting held immediately after the first Bar Council Meeting, the name of Mr. Sarinda Jayawardena was proposed by the Secretary, Mr. Chathura Galhena, for the post of Assistant Secretary, and the nomination was unanimously ratified by the Executive Committee.

## THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ASSUMES DUTIES

In a simple ceremony held on 7th April 2025, the Management Committee of the BASL assumed duties at the BASL Secretariat.

President, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, Deputy President Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC, Secretary, Mr. Chathura Galhena, Treasurer Mr. Pasindu Silva, Assistant Secretary Mr. Sarinda Jayawardene, Members of the Executive Committee with BASL Administrative Secretary / CEO Mrs. Suranee Samarasekara and other staff members of the Secretariat were present at this occasion.



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## STATEMENTS RELEASED / REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE BASL ON VARIOUS ISSUES UP TO 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2025

1. STATEMENT DATED 31<sup>ST</sup> 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 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 - "THE DEATH OF A YOUTH WHILE IN CUSTODY OF THE WELIKADA POLICE".
3. STATEMENT DATED 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 - "RECENT RAGGING INCIDENT AT THE SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY"
4. STATEMENT DATED 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 - "THE DEATH OF A REMANDEE WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE ANGUNUKOLAPELESSA PRISON."
5. STATEMENT DATED 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 - "RE : THE PROCEEDINGS TO REMOVE MALDIVES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DR. AZMIRALDA ZAHIR AND JUSTICE MAHAZ ALI ZAHIR."
6. STATEMENT DATED 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 - "RE : ONLINE MEDIA INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS TARGETING JUDICIAL OFFICERS"
7. STATEMENT DATED 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 - "RE: RIGHT OF ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW TO DISCHARGE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES IN A FREE AND FAIR MANNER."
8. STATEMENT DATED 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025 - "CONCERNS REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR GRANT OF A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON"

The full text of these Statements / Representations has been previously circulated among the members.  
Further, the members can also access the same through the following Link: <https://bit.ly/3lwhZ0e>



## CEREMONIAL SITTINGS UP TO 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2025

- 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 - The Bar 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

The Members can access the Ceremonial Speeches by the BASL President through the following Link:  
<https://bit.ly/3VIPo0D>



## RAJEEV AMARASURIYA WINS ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT

Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, Mr. Anura Meddegoda, PC and Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne tendered their nomination papers for the post of President. Mr. Anura Meddegoda, PC subsequently withdrew his nomination.

The election for the post was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 where Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya secured victory by a margin of 2,887 votes. Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya obtained 4,497 (73.63%) votes and Mr. Sunil Abeyaratne obtained 1,610 (26.36%) votes.

	Colombo	Votes	Percentage
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya		1,772	72.12%
Mr. Sunil Abeyaratne		685	27.87%
Outstation		Votes	Percentage
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya		2,725	74.65%
Mr. Sunil Abeyaratne		925	25.34%
Total		Votes	Percentage
Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya		4,497	73.63%
Mr. Sunil Abeyaratne		1,610	26.36%

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# CONVOCATION AND INDUCTION OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE BASL



## 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE BAR COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026



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# CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

[Continued from page 01]

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 justice system 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**  
[Continued from page 01]

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 — 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 you be blessed.

**BASL DIARIES 2026**

The traditional handing over of the BASL Diary 2026 to His Lordship the Chief Justice, Hon. Padman Surasena, was successfully concluded. Special appreciation is extended to BASL Treasurer Mr. Pasindu Silva for leading this initiative together with the Committee, supported by Convenors Mr. Aazath Atham Lebbe and BASL Administrative Secretary Mrs. Suranee Samarasekera. The diary, presented in six distinct covers, was completed well ahead of the Court vacation.



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கனகசபைத் தலைவர்  
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BA Treasurer  
BA Convenor  
BA Administrative Secretary  
BA Treasurer

Meeting with JICA Chief Representative  
Mr. Kuronuma Kenji



Meeting with the Managing Director of the  
Max Planck Foundation Dr. Johannes Krusemark



Meeting with the Swiss Ambassador to  
Sri Lanka and Maldives Dr. Siri Walt



Meeting with H.E. Carmen Moreno, Ambassador  
of the Delegation of the European Union to  
Sri Lanka and the Maldives



Meeting with Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident  
Representative of the UNDP Sri Lanka



**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.



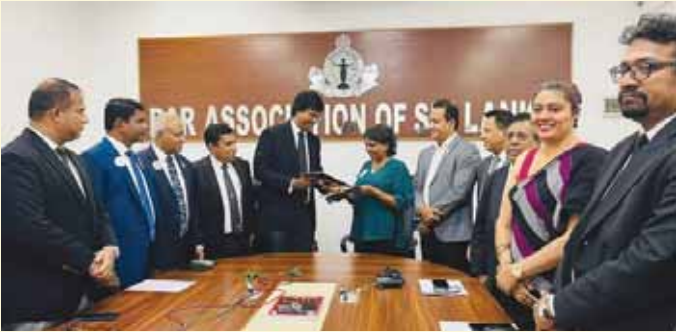
**Meeting with Ms. Kimberley Sokolich, Resident Legal  
Advisor of the United States Department of Justice**



**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 will co-ordinate this collaboration.



**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.



## 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 Pedro—a true example for all.



## 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.



## 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.

## BASL Programme on Juvenile Justice in Jaffna



The BASL in collaboration with LEADS, successfully conducted a Workshop on Juvenile Justice for Members in the Northern Province on 24th May. The full-day programme, held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., focused on strengthening awareness and practice in relation to child

rights and protection. The sessions covered child abuse and neglect with special emphasis on child trafficking, leading evidence and protecting child witnesses, and the legal framework relating to children in conflict with the law. The event concluded with an engaging Q&A and discussion session, providing participants with valuable insights to enhance their professional practice.

### New Initiative: BASL Secretariat Open Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

The BASL successfully held its Open Days for Members on 17<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June at the BASL Secretariat. The programme, held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., enabled members to obtain advice on professional matters, access BASL services, and meet office-bearers. The initiative was well-received and will continue on every third Saturday of the month.

### BASL Member Networking Initiatives

The BASL Member Networking Committee successfully organized several engaging events, including the BASL Book Reading and Lawyers' Book Club sessions, a relaxing Sunset Cruise at Port City offering members a serene networking experience, and a lively Lawyers' Bowling Night at Strike Bowling Centre, Excel World. Each event fostered camaraderie, collaboration, and connection among members.



**BASL**  
*Open Day for Members*

To better serve and for the convenience of the Membership, the BASL Secretariat will open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on every third Saturday of the Month :-

- For Members to obtain advice and guidance on professional matters.
- Access to BASL Services.
- To meet Office-Bearers.

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** (started on May 17<sup>th</sup>)  
**At the BASL Secretariat**

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA  
No. 153, Mihinda Mawatha, Colombo 12  
Email : info@basl.lk  
Tel : +94 11 2447134

Chathura A. Galhena  
Secretary  
BASL

MEMBER NETWORKING FRIDAYS

## Lawyers' BOWLING NIGHT

FRIDAY | 25<sup>th</sup> JULY | 5:30PM - 8:00PM

STRIKE BOWLING CENTRE - EXCEL WORLD

CONCESSINARY PRICE OF RS. 750 FOR 10 TURNS  
10% OFF ON THE FOOD MENU

**REGISTER NOW!**

Organized by the BASL Member Networking Committee  
Chairman: Praveen Silva, AAL  
Co-Chairperson: Sunil Rajaguru, AAL  
Secretary: Mahesh Dissanayake, AAL  
The Association of Sri Lanka Barristers, 115, Mawatha Road, Colombo 12

A call to all the Readers and Book Enthusiasts

Join us on  
**Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2025**  
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
at the BASL Premises

Register through the link in the caption  
For more information contact : +94 11 244 3030

**Featured Book :**  
Keeping Time and Other Stories  
**Author :**  
Chathura Rajapaksa, AAL  
[info@basl.lk](mailto:info@basl.lk)

**Co-Writer of The Crabtree Prize 2022**  
**Moderated by:**  
Eshya Samarasinghe, AAL



---

**Featured Book :**  
Caramel Moments  
**Author :**  
Chathura Rajapaksa, AAL

**Author of The Crabtree Prize 2025**  
**Moderated by:**  
Naveen Rajapaksa, AAL

Register here to join the session:  
<https://forms.gle/GGQXQ7pccwchX7>  
or give us a call on the number  
+94 11 244 3030



---

**Featured Book :**  
The Girl with the Paisley Dupatta and other stories  
**Author :**  
Naveen K. Nottanbilah



**Book Reading by :**  
Sathya Wickramasekera, AAL

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**  
For more information contact : +94 11 244 3030

MEMBER NETWORKING FRIDAYS

## Sunset Cruise

Session 02




**FRIDAY | 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**5PM - 7:15PM**

DOCKING POINT - PORT CITY COLOMBO

CONCESSINARY PRICE OF RS. 5,500  
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DRINKS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Chairman: Praveen Silva, AAL  
Co-Chairperson: Sunil Rajaguru, AAL  
Secretary: Mahesh Dissanayake, AAL  
The Association of Sri Lanka Barristers, 115, Mawatha Road, Colombo 12

## JUDGMENTS

**SC Appeal No: 43/2015**

**SC/HCCA/LA No: 199/2014**

**CP/HCCA/Kandy/42/2012(F)**

**DC Kandy Case No: 18055/L**

**Murdu N.B. Fernando, PC, CJ, A.H.M.D. Nawaz, J, Arjuna Obeysekera, J  
Arjuna Obeysekera, J**

This appeal arose from a rei vindicatio action and involves key legal questions regarding the identification of the corpus (the land in dispute), and whether a defendant can be granted relief in the absence of proven title, especially when the plaintiff's case fails solely due to failure to identify the land.

The Plaintiffs (Appellants) filed an action in the District Court of Kandy on 16 February 1995, seeking declaration of title and eviction of the Defendant from a land called "Gabadawatte." The land was described in the plaint only by four boundaries and extent, without any accompanying plan. The Plaintiffs traced their ownership through a pedigree supported by deeds, which were produced at trial.

The Defendant, a relative of the Plaintiffs, denied the Plaintiffs' claims and asserted that he had purchased the disputed land by Deed No. 15357 dated 1 March 1995, after the case had already been filed. His answer also sought a declaration of title, referring to Lot No. 1 in Plan No. 7295 dated 20 November 1993.

At trial, both parties introduced survey plans. The Plaintiffs had Plan No. EL 955 prepared, identifying Lot No. 4 as the disputed land. The Defendant produced a subsequent plan showing Lot No. 1, which overlapped with the area claimed by the Plaintiffs. While discrepancies existed between boundary descriptions, the Plaintiffs' surveyor testified that the boundaries would match with minor orientation adjustments. The District Court accepted this explanation, found that the land was adequately identified, and granted relief to the Plaintiffs, finding their title superior and rejecting the Defendant's prescriptive claim.

On appeal, the Civil Appellate High Court of Kandy reversed the District Court's ruling, holding that the Plaintiffs failed to identify the land with certainty — a requirement in rei vindicatio. Consequently, the High Court dismissed the Plaintiffs' action and entered judgment in favour of the Defendant, despite the Defendant having purchased the property after the case was filed, and failing to establish prescriptive title. Leave to appeal to the Supreme Court was granted on two questions of law:

Can a defendant be granted relief in a rei vindicatio action where the plaintiff's case is dismissed due to non-identification of the corpus? If rights are determined at the time of filing, did the High Court err in granting relief when the Defendant had no title at that time?

The Supreme Court held that in rei vindicatio actions, the burden lies squarely on the plaintiff to prove ownership and identify the land clearly. However, dismissal of the plaintiff's action does not automatically entitle the defendant to relief unless the defendant independently proves superior title — which had not occurred here. The Defendant's title was acquired after litigation began, and his prescriptive claim was rejected.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court found that the High Court erred in granting judgment in favour of the Defendant, as such relief cannot follow from the mere failure of the plaintiff's claim. The Supreme Court deleted the final sentence of the High Court judgment that entered judgment in the Defendant's favour, but affirmed the dismissal of the Plaintiff's action due to the non-identification issue. The appeal was dismissed without costs.

**BASL /REF/1/8/2025**

இ.ச.சு தமிழ் வெபினர் தொடர் 2025/2026 3.4  
கல்முனை சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கத்தின் இணைந்து  
குத்தகைக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஆதனங்களின் உடைமையை மீளப் பெறுதல்  
2023ம் ஆண்டின் 1ம் இலக்கச் சட்டத்தின் விசேட அம்சங்கள்



ச.சு.சு. சிவசுப்ரமணியன்  
ச.சு.சு. சிவசுப்ரமணியன்  
ச.சு.சு. சிவசுப்ரமணியன்  
ச.சு.சு. சிவசுப்ரமணியன்

**SC/APPEAL/68/2013**

**SC / HCCA / LA / 159 / 2012**

**WP / HCCA / COL / 269 / 04 (F)**

**DC COL: 18634 / 99 / P**

**Murdu N.B. Fernando, PC, CJ, A.H.M.D. Nawaz, J, Arjuna Obeysekera, J  
A.H.M.D. Nawaz, J**

This case revolves around property rights and the doctrine of co-ownership, specifically whether a settlement in a previous rei vindicatio (recovery of possession) action can bind a third party who had acquired rights from the defendant prior to that settlement. It further questions whether that decree can operate as res judicata to preclude a later partition action.

The land in dispute, Lot 1, was part of a larger estate owned by William Dias, who died intestate in 1937. The estate devolved upon his widow and five children, each acquiring shares as per intestate succession. The land was subdivided into five lots in 1968, and Ida Claris, one of the children, began occupying Lot 1. A Deed of Declaration in 1979 acknowledged co-ownership among the heirs, including Ida.

In 1980, Ida conveyed the entirety of Lot 1 to Noor Mohamed, though she only had a 1/10 share at the time. This sale occurred without the knowledge or consent of the other co-owners. When Ida's mother died in 1984, Ida inherited an additional 1/10 share. By operation of the doctrine exceptio rei venditae et traditae, this later-acquired interest also passed to Noor Mohamed, giving him a 1/5 undivided interest in Lot 1.

The first case, Noor Mohamed v. Saman Bandara, was a rei vindicatio action filed after Saman Bandara (Ida's son) began obstructing Noor Mohamed's possession. This case ended in a settlement in 1998, where Saman Bandara agreed to file a partition suit within six months. However, by that time, Saman had already gifted part of Lot 1 to his vendee, Nalika Jeewanthi (on 11 March 1998). Nalika attempted to intervene in the first case but was denied.

The second case, a partition suit filed by Nalika Jeewanthi, was dismissed by the District Court on 20 October 2004. The court erroneously held that the land could not be partitioned and that Nalika lacked standing. The appellate court upheld this dismissal. However, the Supreme Court found that Nalika had acquired co-ownership rights through Saman Bandara, who had received interest via gifts from his uncles and aunt.

The core legal issue was whether the settlement in the first case could bind Nalika, who was not a party to it. The Court held it could not: Nalika, having acquired rights prior to the settlement, was not bound by it. The principle that judgments bind only parties and their privies applies strictly, and Saman Bandara, having already transferred his interest, could not enter into a binding settlement on her behalf.

Further, the Court rejected arguments based on collation (hotchpot), noting that the legal requirements under Section 35 of the Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance were not met or argued in lower courts.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court found that the lower courts failed to adequately assess co-ownership rights and potential ouster. The partition case required proper legal scrutiny, which it lacked. Accordingly, the Court set aside the lower court judgments and ordered a retrial on the same pleadings, directing the District Court to prioritize and expedite the proceedings.

**BASL /REF/2/8/2025**

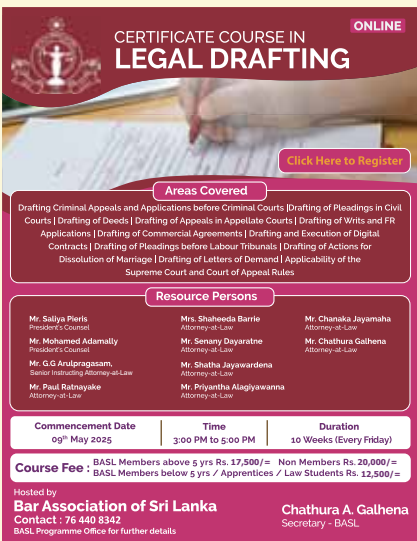
BASL WEBINAR SERIES 2025/2026 4.1  
**WHY NUTRITION MATTERS**



Dr. Renuka Jayatissa Prof. Renuka Silva Prof. Ananda Chandrasekara Udara Dassanayake

## BASL CERTIFICATE COURSES - ONLINE

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**Resource Persons**

Mr. Saliya Peiris President's Counsel	Mrs. Shaheeda Barrie Attorney-at-Law	Mr. Chanaka Jayamaha Attorney-at-Law
Mr. Mohamed Adamally President's Counsel	Mr. Senany Dayaratne Attorney-at-Law	Mr. Chathura Galhena Attorney-at-Law
Mr. G.G. Arulpragasam, Special Instructor, Attorney-at-Law	Mr. Shantha Jayawardena Attorney-at-Law	
Mr. Paul Rathnayake Attorney-at-Law	Mr. Priyatha Alagiyawanna Attorney-at-Law	

<b>Commencement Date</b> 09 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<b>Time</b> 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	<b>Duration</b> 10 Weeks (Every Friday)
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**Course Fee** : BASL Members above 5 yrs Rs. 17,500/= Non Members Rs. 20,000/=  
 BASL Members below 5 yrs / Apprentices / Law Students Rs. 12,500/=

Hosted by  
**Bar Association of Sri Lanka**  
 Contact : 76 440 8342  
 BASL Programme Office for further details

**Chathura A. Galhena**  
 Secretary - BASL

The Bar Association Programme Office recently concluded its Certificate Course on Legal Drafting, held from 9th May 2025 over a span of 10 weeks, with sessions conducted every Friday virtually.

The programme attracted approximately 250 participants, who joined to enhance their drafting skills.

The course provided in-depth training on a range of areas such as drafting criminal appeals and applications before criminal courts, civil pleadings, deeds, appellate court appeals, writs and fundamental rights applications,

commercial agreements, digital contracts, pleadings before labor tribunals, dissolution of marriage actions, letters of demand, and the applicability of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal rules.

The sessions were conducted by an eminent panel of legal professionals comprising Mr. Saliya Peiris PC, Mr. Mohammed Adamally PC, Mr. G. G. Arulpragasam, SIA, Mr. Paul Rathnayake, AAL, Mrs. Shaheeda Barrie, AAL, Mr. Senany Dayaratne, AAL, Mr. Shantha Jayawardena, AAL, Mr. Priyatha Alagiyawanna, AAL and Mr. Chanaka Jayamaha, AAL.

## OTHER SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

### Media Law in the 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.



### BASL WEBINARS 2025/2026- SERIES 5

#### WHY CORPORATE SECTOR

EPISODE 1

EPISODE 2

EPISODE 3

EPISODE 4

EPISODE5

MODERATED BY :



Mr. Suresh Perera  
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Renuka Wijayawardhana  
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Sanjeeva Anthony  
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Wasantha Bolagoda  
Attorney-at-Law



Ms. Yanika Weerasinghe  
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Shehara Herath  
Attorney-at-Law

## BASL WORKSHOPS FOR LAW STUDENTS

The BASL through its Standing Committee on Law Students' Skills Development, successfully held the inaugural workshop of the Professional Skills Development Series for Law Students on 1st July at the BASL Main Auditorium. The programme, conducted by Prof. Sanath Sameera Wijesinghe, focused on empowering future legal professionals through hands-on learning and research excellence. The well-attended session provided invaluable insights for law students across institutions. Special thanks to Dr. Malraj B. Kiriella, Chairperson, and Mr. Boopathi Kahathuduwa, Convenor, of the BASL Law Students' Skills Development Committee for organizing this impactful initiative.



## PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

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 LEGAL SYMPOSIUMS

### Symposium #01 Hikkaduwa

The BASL proudly inaugurated its first Legal Symposium after 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.



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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.

## BASL LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION 25/26

**BASL Library** NEW INITIATIVES 2025 / 2026  
**Law Book Discussion**

BASL Library Discussion on  
**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR MONEY RECOVERY**  
By Author - Mr. Janaka Wickramaratne, AAL

**THURSDAY, 05<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**  
3.30 P.M. - 4.30 P.M.

Venue - BASL Library, No. 125, Legal Aid Commission Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Rathnayaka Street, Colombo 12

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA  
No. 125, Rathnayaka Street, Colombo 12  
Email: info@basl.lk  
Tel: +94 11 2607124

Chathura A. Galhena  
Secretary  
BASL

BASL Library Discussion on  
**CRIMINAL DEFENCES ON BOUNCED CHEQUES**  
By Author - Mr. Manjuri Sri Chandrasena

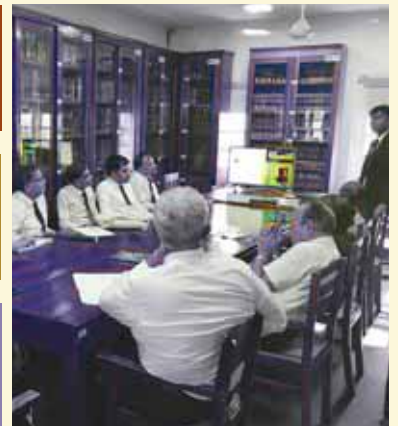
BASL Library Discussion on  
**DEPOSITORS, WHITE COLLAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**  
By Author - Mr. D. S. D. Batugabage, AAL

BASL Library Discussion on  
ප්‍රාදේශීය සහ සහ නාහරික සංවර්ධන  
අයිතියට අදාළ නීති සහ රෙගුලාසි  
By Author - Mr. Sugath Hothung, AAL

BASL Library Discussion on  
ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ තෙස්තමේතු හඳුනා  
පරිහානිය පිළිබඳ ප්‍රායෝගික විමසුමක්  
By Author - Mr. Sanjaya Kodithuwakku, AAL

BASL Library Discussion on  
**CASE LAW ON MOTOR TRAFFIC ACT**  
By Author - S. Mohanarajan, LL.B (Hons) (Colombo)

BASL Library Discussion on  
කල් ඉකුත්වීමේ නීතිය  
හෙවත් කාලාවරෝධය  
By Author - Mr. Kapila Gamini Jayasingha, AAL



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.

## BASL Membership and ID Card Renewal

The BASL has introduced online membership and ID card renewal for the convenience of members. Applications may be submitted either by downloading the form at [www.basl.lk/downloads](http://www.basl.lk/downloads) and emailing it with the payment slip and photo to [membership@basl.lk](mailto:membership@basl.lk), or through the member login portal at [www.basl.lk](http://www.basl.lk)

**NEW INITIATIVES 2025 / 2026**  
**ONLINE BASL MEMBERSHIP AND ID CARD RENEWAL**

For ease of convenience of the membership

If you need to renew your Ordinary Membership or to obtain a new BASL ID Card, you can do so without having to visit the Association.

ID cards will only be issued online to individuals who have previously obtained a BASL ID Card.

**Option 01:**  
Download the Application form - <http://www.basl.lk/downloads>  
Make payment to the Bank as per payment details given and send them together with Bank slip & photo by email to [membership@basl.lk](mailto:membership@basl.lk)

**Option 02:**  
Go to [www.basl.lk](http://www.basl.lk) member login and follow the link <http://www.basl.lk/online/membership>

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA  
No. 125, Rathnayaka Manawatha,  
Colombo 12

Chathura A. Galhena  
Secretary  
BASL

## International Bar Association Scholarship Opportunities

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.

Awareness program on  
**International Bar Association (IBA) Scholarship Opportunities for Young Lawyers**

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
at  
**BASL MAIN Auditorium**  
from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Presenters:  
Ms. Ajra Azhar  
Asia Pacific Regional Liaison Officer  
International Bar Association  
Managing Director | Colombia Associates  
Mr. David Anthony  
OFFICE OF THE IBA Asia Pacific Forum and  
Regional Case Officers Network, Australia

[Click Here to Register](#)

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA  
No. 125, Rathnayaka Manawatha,  
Colombo 12

Chathura A. Galhena  
Secretary  
BASL

## BASL SPECIAL SESSIONS 2025/2026

### ■ Fireside Chat with Former Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Mahela Jayawardena

The BASL hosted an inspiring Fireside Chat on Leadership with former Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Mahela Jayawardena on 2nd July 2025 at the BASL Auditorium. Sharing from his vast experience, Mahela emphasized fairness, process, and discipline as cornerstones of good leadership. He spoke on managing people, building trust with peers and subordinates, and maintaining composure in high-stakes situations. The session, hosted by Mr. Shanaka Amarasinghe, AAL, was organised by the Junior Bar New Opportunities Committee chaired by Mr. Chandima Atapattu, Convenors Mr. Pasindu Thilakaratne, Mr. Samadi Gamlath and Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle and was warmly received by members.



### ■ Spotlight Session with Celebrity Corporate Leader Dr. Kishu Gomes



The BASL hosted an impactful Spotlight Session with Dr. Kishu Gomes on 16th July at the BASL Auditorium under the theme “Law as a Powerful Competitive Edge to Succeed in the Commercial World.”

His remarks encouraged lawyers to view their professional expertise not only as a tool for legal practice but also as a resource that creates value in the wider business world.



Dr. Gomes delivered an engaging and thought-provoking presentation, highlighting the importance of legal knowledge as a strategic advantage in today’s competitive business environment. He shared practical insights on how a sound understanding of the law strengthens corporate decision-making, mitigates risks, and enhances leadership capacity in the global commercial

sphere. The event was attended by a large number of lawyers, particularly young practitioners, who benefitted from the opportunity to learn from Dr. Gomes’ corporate perspective. The BASL extends its sincere appreciation to the BASL Junior Bar New Opportunities Committee, chaired by Mr. Chandima Atapattu, Convenors Mr. Pasindu Thilakaratne, Mr. Samadi Gamlath and Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle for organizing this highly successful session

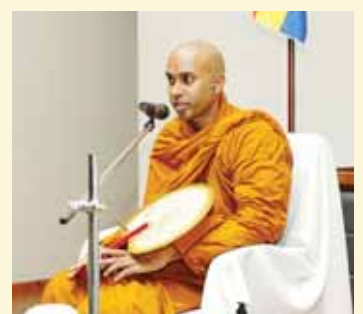
### INAUGURAL ANNUAL CARROM TOURNAMENT

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.



### 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 organised by the BASL Special Projects Committee.



# BASL Golden Jubilee Oration



The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) celebrated its Golden Jubilee with the Golden Jubilee Oration 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 keynote 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.



## 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.



## 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](http://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](mailto:it@basl.lk) for posting. This initiative enhances career growth and networking within the legal profession.

NEW INITIATIVES 2025 / 2026

### BASL CAREER PORTAL

Opportunities for Members and Employers

We are excited to introduce the **BASL Career Portal**, a dedicated platform for our Members to explore legal career opportunities and post job vacancies.

**How to Add a Vacancy**

To share a vacancy on our portal:

- Email the job details to [it@basl.lk](mailto:it@basl.lk)
- Include the following:
  - Job Category
  - Job Location
  - A job poster or clear job description

Our team will review and publish the listing on the portal soon thereafter.

**How to Search and Apply for Vacancies**

To explore available job opportunities:

1. Visit [www.basl.lk](http://www.basl.lk)
2. Log in using your BASL membership details
  - A. Username : BASL ID Number
  - B. Initial Password : First Five Digits of your NIC Number
3. Click on the Career Portal at the top of the page
4. Browse through current job vacancies and apply

For inquiries, contact [it@basl.lk](mailto:it@basl.lk)

For any assistance  
please call  
(during office hours)

777143388

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

No. 22, Minda Road,  
Colombo 12

Chathura A. Galhena  
Secretary  
BASL

# BASL NEETHI RANGA 2025



The BASL proudly presented “නීතිරංග – 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. The evening was further graced by the presence of His Lordship the Chief Justice, Hon. Padman Surasena, Attorney General, Hon. Parinda Ranasinghe, Jnr., PC, along with many other distinguished members of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession.



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.



## BASL NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE 2025/2026

- Chairman** : Mr. Chanaka Jayamaha  
**Co-Chairman** : Mr. Niranjan Arulpragasam  
**Convenors** : Mr. Matthew David  
Mr. Ruvindu Bandara  
Mr. Prashan Wickramarathne

