

BLACK LETTER LAW

2009



SHOWCASING ACHIEVEMENT IN LAW



FOURTH EDITION £15.00

BLD 

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DEBO NWAUZU

EDITOR

This book is dedicated to my mother from whom I learned
that worrying about what others think of you ultimately limits your horizons.

SHOWCASING ACHIEVEMENT IN LAW



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By the time *Black Letter Law* 2008 was launched last October, Lehman Brothers had just imploded and I was shaken and gripped by the sheer scale of the catastrophe. Since that time, many talented young, and not-so-young, people have lost their livelihoods in a wave of retrenchment that I do not believe the legal profession has ever seen.

Yet Law remains a very popular vocation for many ethnic minorities. I would hope that this book serves as an encouragement to the discouraged in the current economic climate. Its contents show that there are many trailblazers and those who continue to make legal history. Being a perennial optimist, I am hopeful that the best is very much yet to come.



On another positive note, I was very surprised (as I am now a non-practising solicitor) to be named by *The Lawyer* as one of this year's Hot 100 lawyers. I do not like having my photograph taken, but somewhat to my amazement enjoyed the

magazine shoot which took place on an unglamorous rooftop, as befits this recessionary time. I share that accolade with everyone in this book, as I received it partly because of this publication, which is about you - you are the truly "hot" ones!

Shelagh, thank God I met you on that trip to the Alhambra Palace in Spain and thank you for your energy, unstinting hard work and commitment. Tamba, thank you for your patience and understanding in expressing my vision clearly in the book designs. Finally, a big thanks to my family, particularly my children, without whom I would probably be a terrible workaholic!

There would be no book without the advertisers and those who buy it. My gratitude to you for making the seemingly impossible, possible.

Debo Nwauzu

September 2009

Debo Nwauzu is a non-practising solicitor and is the founder and Managing Director of Totally Management Ltd, owners of BLD. She is also, and has been since 1986, a barrister and a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

FOREWORD

I am delighted to be asked to write the foreword to the 2009 edition of *Black Letter Law*. A mere three years after its inception, not only has this publication continued to increase in size, it is also firmly established in the legal profession's consciousness.

The cover of *Black Letter Law* speaks of "showcasing achievement in law". That is precisely what this publication accomplishes. It highlights a considerable well of talent in the legal profession from which we all can, and we all should, draw and drink.

There is, however, another thirst to be quenched, namely the encouragement of future generations of diverse lawyers. Everyone who features in this publication is an inspiration, both for those who are already interested in a career in law and also for those who have not yet made that decision (or who do not yet even know what being a lawyer is or what it involves). Indeed they are an inspiration for all of us already in the legal profession.

My hope is that we all take on the responsibility of being role models and that each of us will talk to young people about why we became lawyers, what the legal profession brings to us (and what we bring to it) so that all young people know what it might mean to them to be a lawyer. I aspire to a legal profession that is as diverse as all the people it might be called upon to represent. *Black Letter Law* brings us closer to making that aspiration a black letter reality in the future.

My request is therefore that lawyers and members of the judiciary who feature in this publication will take up opportunities where they develop, and even develop their own opportunities, to be role models. I look forward to reading future publications of *Black Letter Law* that demonstrate that we have succeeded in inspiring a future generation of lawyers even more diverse than the one I am proud to be celebrating in this year's publication.

The Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, Her Majesty's Attorney General for England and Wales and Attorney General for Northern Ireland



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First published in Great Britain in 2009 by

Totally Management Ltd
145-157 St John Street
London EC1V 4PY
Email: info@onlineBLD.com
www.onlineBLD.com

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Designed by

Tamba S. Foday of Treis Ltd

Printed and bounded in the UK by

MPG Biddles Ltd

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Kalvir Kaur, Zarina Gani and the group picture on Page 259 of Cherie Booth QC with Kalvir Kaur, Yogi Amin, Adewuyi Olunfemi and Zarina Gani.



LEGAL HISTORY AND LEGAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING

In the Legal History section of this book, you will find information about black and ethnic minority lawyers dating back to 1862 whilst the Legal History in the Making section highlights those who are still living but, as the title suggests, are making legal history.



DAME LINDA DOBBS

The Honourable Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE became Britain's first (and so far, only) non-white High Court judge in 2004. She has many titles and accolades, including Queen's Counsel, a number of doctorates and is a Dame of the British Empire. She sits in the Queen's Bench Division, which includes sitting in the Divisional and Administrative Courts and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal. She was called to the Bar in 1981 and took silk in 1998. Her practice (both prosecution and defence) was predominantly in white collar crime, Customs and Excise offences and disciplinary matters. She was a member and chair of several Bar Council committees, including the Race Relations and Professional Standards Committee and the Criminal Bar Association. She is a contributing editor to a number of legal publications and has lectured extensively to university and Bar students, magistrates, police and other professionals. She undertakes pro bono work helping to train lawyers and judges in Africa and the Caribbean. She chairs the Magisterial Committee of the Judicial Studies Board. She is also the Senior Liaison Judge for Diversity and is involved in many initiatives to raise awareness about the judiciary and to encourage a wider pool of applicants. She is a patron and trustee of a number of charities which reflect her interests in international pro bono work. Linda was voted one of the *100 Great Black Britons*. See also the Queen's Counsels and Judges sections.



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- 10 We believe diversity is about 'All of us'

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PATRICIA SCOTLAND QC, BARONESS SCOTLAND OF ASTHAL

Patricia Scotland QC made legal history, yet again, on 28 June 2007 when the then new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, appointed her as the Attorney General (AG). She is the first ethnic minority and the first female to assume the post. On her appointment she immediately proposed reform of the 500-year-old office to make it “fit for the 21st Century”, including the dual role of the AG as a politician and the Government’s Chief Legal Officer. In 2008, the review recommended changes but advised the retention of the dual role of the AG. In 1991 Patricia had also made legal history when she became the first black female Queen’s Counsel and one of the youngest ever QCs at the age of 35. Born in Dominica, Patricia came to Britain at the age of two with her parents and nine siblings. She was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1977, having graduated from London University in 1976. She is also a member of the Bar of Antigua and the Commonwealth of Dominica. She distinguished herself at the Bar and was a founder member and former head of Chambers at Gray’s Inn Square. She specialised in family and public law and has chaired a number of major inquiries relating to child abuse, mental health and housing. Patricia was approved to sit as a Deputy High Court Judge of the Family Division by the Conservative Government under John Major but was swiftly made a Minister by Tony Blair following the Labour Party’s success at the 1997 General Election. She was made a Bencher of the Middle Temple in 1997 and in the same year was created a peer as Baroness Scotland of Asthal, in the County of Oxfordshire, and appointed to the House of Lords. She was raised to the Privy Council in 2001. Patricia was the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office between 1999 and 2001 and Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor’s Department between 2001 and 2003. She became the Home Office Minister of State for the Criminal Justice System and Law Reform in 2003 and in May 2005 became the Home Office Minister for



the Criminal Justice System and Offender Management. She was spokesperson for the Department of Trade and Industry on women and equality issues in the House of Lords and has received numerous awards, commendations and honorary doctorates. See also the Queen's Counsels and the Members of Parliament, Peers and Government Ministers sections.



RABINDER SINGH QC

Rabinder Singh QC, of Matrix Chambers, is acknowledged as a Leading Silk in Administrative and Public Law and Human Rights. In 2003 he was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge, becoming the first person of Asian origin and the youngest person (aged 39) to sit in the High Court. He is also a Recorder of the Crown Court and in 2000 one of the founding members of Matrix Chambers. He was called to the Bar in 1989 and took silk in 2002. He has played a major part in many ground-breaking cases, including the Belmarsh case about detention without trial, in which he acted for Britain's leading human rights organisation Liberty and many cases arising out of the Iraq war. He acted for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and environmental activist group Greenpeace, as well as for the family of Baha Mousa, who was killed in detention in Basra, Iraq and the families of several British soldiers who have been killed in Iraq. Rabinder obtained a double first in Law from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1985. He earned his Master of Laws from the University of California at Berkeley in 1986, where he was a Harkness Fellow. His awards and distinctions include: Barrister of the Year 2001 (*The Lawyer* magazine); Legal Excellence Award 2003 (Asian Jewel Awards); Honorary Doctorate of Laws (London Metropolitan University, 2004) and Human Rights Lawyer of the Year 2006 (Liberty/JUSTICE). He has been a visiting Professor of Law at the London School of Economics since 2003; a special Professor of Law at the University of Nottingham since 2007 and is Visitor to Brunel University. He is the author of *The Future of Human Rights in*

the United Kingdom (1997) and co-author (with J. Beatson, S. Grosz and T. Hickman) of *Human Rights: Judicial Enforcement in the United Kingdom* (2008), as well as articles on public law and international law. Rabinder is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was Chair of the Bar Council's Equality and Diversity (Race and Religion) Committee from 2003 to 2006 and has been Chair of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association since 2006. See also the Queen's Counsels and Judges sections.

RAY SINGH CBE

Ray Singh was the first ethnic minority judge on the Welsh bench. He was appointed Deputy District Judge in 1992 and in 1997 became the Resident District Judge of the Merthyr Tydfil Combined Law Courts on the Wales Circuit. He has been a member of the Welsh Advisory Committee on Drug and Alcohol Misuse Act of the Judicial Studies Board, Family Court Services Committee, National Assembly Advisory Group and the South and South West Wales Criminal Justice Liaison Committee. He is a former Commissioner of the Commission for Racial Equality (1996–2002), Chair of the Formal Investigation into the Crown Prosecution Service (1999–2000), Chair of the Formal Investigation into HM Prison Service (2000–2003) - which resulted in the reports on the murder of Zahid Mubarak - and the Racial Equality in Prison in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Ray was also the Chair of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Commission, set up by Birmingham City Council, about the challenges for the future of Birmingham following the McPherson Report. He is a former member of the Race Relations Committee, General Council of the Bar and is a former part-time Chair of the Child Support Appeals Tribunal. He is also an independent Chair of the Complaints Panel for the Welsh Assembly Government. Ray is involved in many professional and public bodies as well as community groups, including being Chair of the Board of Merthyr Tydfil Brecon, as well as Aberdare Children's Contact Centres, a





PARTNERS IN THE UK TOP 100 LAW FIRMS

In this section you will find black and ethnic minority partners in the UK's top 100 law firms. When you consider that many of the world's largest law firms are headquartered in the UK, you may perhaps appreciate the significance of those featured in this section of the book. Some of those partners are also in what is known as Magic Circle law firms, which are the five UK law firms (all London based) in the top 10 most profitable law firms in the world.

SHAISTAH AKHTAR

Shaistah Akhtar was promoted to partner at SJ Berwin in May 2008 and has extensive experience of a broad spectrum of commercial litigation and arbitration. She chairs the firm's Islamic Finance and Middle East group and its Pakistan initiative. Shaistah, a qualified Solicitor Advocate, sits on the Steering Committee of the Prince of Wales' Muslim Mentoring Scheme and is a founder of the Women Litigators' Network.

ANDRE ALLEE

Andre Allee became a partner at the London office of international law firm Simmons & Simmons in 2008. He qualified as a solicitor in 1993 and joined the firm at the start of 2006. Andre is in the financial services group and specialises in derivatives and structured transactions. He has over eight years' experience as in-house legal counsel at leading financial institutions. His recent work has included advising financial institutions and corporate clients on derivative transactions, on regulatory and documentation requirements under the UCITS directives for derivatives trading, on strategic equity derivative transactions and hedge funds on prime brokerage arrangements.

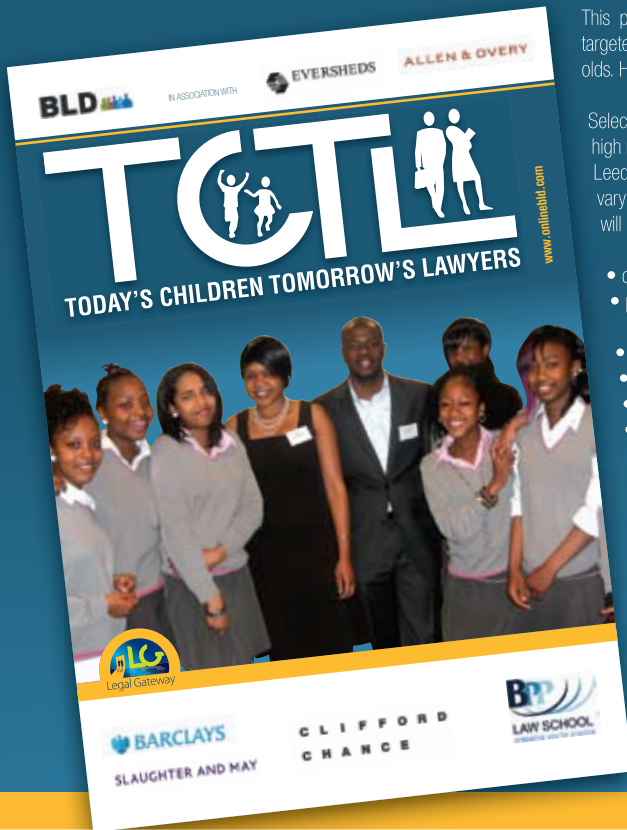


YOGI AMIN

Yogi Amin became a partner at the Sheffield office of national law firm Irwin Mitchell in 2007. Yogi won the Social and Welfare Lawyer of the Year title at the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards ceremony in December 2008. He has handled several cancer drug dispute cases hitting the national headlines, the most recent being in September 2008 when his client, a cancer patient with months to live, won a High Court battle to get a life-prolonging drug on the NHS. Previously he advised a breast cancer sufferer in her fight over funding for Herceptin and won the Court of Appeal case in April 2006. Later that year Yogi took



RAISING ASPIRATIONS



This programme within our Legal Gateway Scheme is targeted at ethnic minority and disadvantaged 14-17 year olds. However, it will benefit all children in this age group.

Selected schools are those in disadvantaged areas with a high number of ethnic minorities in London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester. What is offered to each school will vary but every school that participates in the programme will benefit from at least one of the following:

- career day workshop at the school
- participation in debate with another school/group of schools
- visit to a Law School
- visit to a law firm
- visit to barristers' chambers
- visit to a major bank
- work placement

To find out more about the programme, to download a brochure or learn how your organisation or school can play a part in the future of today's children for their better tomorrow, please see the Legal Gateway pages on our website at

www.onlinebld.com

or email legalgateway@onlinebld.com



HAROLD BRAKO

Harold Brako is a partner in the Lender Services team at the Manchester office of Shoosmiths and heads up the national receivables financing and asset based lending practice. He has over 10 years experience as a banking and finance litigation and dispute resolution specialist. Harold qualified as a solicitor in 1997. He joined Shoosmiths in 2009 – when it opened its new office in Manchester - from DLA Piper, where he had been for nine years and was a Legal Director. Harold regularly speaks at seminars organised for and/or in conjunction with both the Asset Based Finance Association and the Finance and Leasing Association.



DAWN BRATHWAITE

Dawn Brathwaite is a partner at Mills & Reeve, based in its Birmingham office. She specialises in healthcare law and advises health bodies on a wide range of matters, including confidentiality issues, consent to treatment (including obtaining court orders), continuing healthcare and funding for high cost drugs. Dawn also advises PCTs on performers' list management issues, NHS contractual disputes and has considerable experience of dealing with judicial review claims. She also leads the Corporate Social Responsibility activities for the Birmingham office. Dawn began her legal career in Trinidad, in the West Indies, doing a mixture of contentious and non-contentious work. She has extensive experience as a litigator.





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ARNONDO CHAKRABARTI

Arnondo Chakrabarti has been a partner since 2006 in the Banking and Finance Litigation Group at Magic Circle law firm Allen & Overy. Arnondo, who trained at the firm, qualified as a solicitor in 1997. He then re-qualified and practised as a barrister at Matrix Chambers between 2000 and 2002. He returned to Allen & Overy in 2002. Arnondo advises on regulatory, criminal and internal investigations and also advises investment banks and other financial institutions on a wide range of contentious matters.



EDWARD CHAN

Edward Chan became a partner at Magic Circle law firm Linklaters in 2006. His practice covers a broad range of banking, structured finance, capital markets and derivatives transactions. Edward obtained a first-class honours degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Balliol College, Oxford and also a Masters in Corporate and Commercial Law from the London School of Economics. He trained at another Magic Circle law firm, Slaughter and May, before joining Linklaters as a managing associate in 2003.



HEATHER CHANDLER

Heather Chandler is a partner at the Milton Keynes office of Shoosmiths, a national law firm. She focuses on pension advisory work, dealing with trustee and commercial clients advising on legislative compliance and best practice. She also covers insolvency issues as they apply to pension schemes, scheme mergers, closures and wind up. She is responsible for spearheading the roll out of advice to clients on the main changes of relevance to them under the Pensions Act 2004. Her experience includes advising a number of corporate organisations, including venture capitalists and contractors or Government authorities,



ROBIN DABYDEEN

Robin Dabydeen has been a partner at London law firm Wedlake Bell since 2005. He is head of the Corporate Tax team and advises on all aspects of tax, both direct and indirect, with particular expertise in tax planning related to corporate and real estate transactions. Robin's extensive corporate experience ranges from advising on the sale and purchase of businesses to advising companies on the reorganisation of their businesses, with expertise on the structuring of management buy-out transactions. He trained at Allen & Overy, qualifying in 1996. He was at Hammonds between 1998 and 2002 and joined Wedlake Bell in 2002.



YETUNDE DANIA

Yetunde Dania joined national law firm Shoosmiths at its Birmingham office in March 2008. She was previously a partner in the Social Housing Department at Cobbetts. Yetunde specialises in all aspects of private and social housing management. Her areas of expertise include anti-social behaviour remedies, unlawful eviction claims, possession proceedings, the drafting of tenancy agreements, private landlord and tenant and general housing management issues and delivering high quality training. Yetunde has also given up a lot of her spare time to help Birmingham-based African Caribbean and black ethnic minority (BME) law students. In the past she has mentored students as part of a scheme run by the College of Law which was set up to help keep local legal talent in the Midlands. Yetunde read Law at Leicester Polytechnic before obtaining her Masters in Human Rights and Civil Liberties from Leicester University and went on to do the Legal Practice Course at De Montfort University, Leicester. She qualified as a solicitor in 1996.





SATPAUL DARD

Satpaul Dard has been a partner at national law firm Shoosmiths since May 2006. He specialises in providing commercial real estate advice to property occupiers and investors, with a particular emphasis and focus on the retail sector. He has considerable experience in large scale acquisition, disposal and management programmes for national retail occupiers and investors. Satpaul has a broad and detailed range of experience in all aspects of non-contentious commercial property, landlord and tenant and portfolio management work. He has been involved in delivering full service real estate advice to retailers, other property occupiers, investors and specialist property finance institutions. Satpaul qualified in 1998. After spending several years in the City, the latter part with international law firm Denton Wilde Sapte, he joined Shoosmiths in September 2004 as an associate solicitor.



CECILY DAVIS

Cecily Davis has been a partner at international law firm DLA Piper since November 2006. She is in the Construction and Engineering Group at the London office. Cecily specialises in non-contentious construction and infrastructure procurement. She has acted for the public sector, developers, employers and funders and contractors. She has been acknowledged as a leader in her field by the Legal 500 and is a member of the Society of Construction Law. Cecily is a frequent speaker on construction law and practice and is regularly asked by the media to comment on issues relevant to that sector.

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CLIFF FLUET

Cliff Fluets joined Lewis Silkin's Media, Brands & Technology team as a partner in 2006. He specialises in media and entertainment law, particularly in respect of brands, advertisers and mobile operators seeking to use audio visual rights in new ways and adopting new business models. He also has a practice in the world of recorded music, entertainment industry trade bodies and the investment community in relation to media and rights exploitation. Cliff qualified as a real estate lawyer in 1996 and then joined Warner Music UK as an in-house counsel. In 2001, he joined Capital Radio Group where he was ultimately Director of Legal Affairs and Company Secretary for the public limited liability company. He read Law at Warwick University, graduating in 1993.



ALICIA FOO

Alicia Foo is a property litigation partner at Pinsent Masons, an international law firm. She is part of the firm's national Property Litigation team and heads up the team in Birmingham. She specialises in all aspects of property litigation, particularly landlord and tenant disputes and portfolio management work, acting for both landlords and tenants. She also has a particular interest and expertise in property-related telecommunications disputes. *Chambers and Partners* describes her as carving out a reputation for being a "tough cookie" and clients are "happy to parachute her into any difficult situation" knowing that she will "stand her ground". Alicia graduated from the University of Southampton and was at international law firm Denton Wilde Sapte between 1990 and 2006. She joined Pinsent Masons as a partner in February 2007.



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KEM IHENACHO

Kem Ihenacho is a partner at Magic Circle law firm Clifford Chance in London. He specialises in private equity and other mergers and acquisitions work on a wide range of domestic and international transactions. Kem is also a member of the firm's Africa Group with a particular focus on West Africa. He graduated in Law from Cardiff University in 1995 and from Cardiff Law School the following year. He joined Clifford Chance in 1999 and became a partner in 2007.



FARAH ISPAHANI

Farah Ispahani was made a partner at magic Circle law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in 1996. She specialises in general corporate advice, public and private Mergers and Acquisitions and private equity work. Her major clients include Compass, WS Atkins and the New Look Group. Farah's recent work has included acting for Allianz Capital Partners on the £775 million acquisition of Four Seasons Health Care from Alchemy Partners. She studied Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies and then at the College of Law in Guildford. Farah joined Freshfields in 1986, left to work in Australia in 1990 and returned in 1993.



HANH JELF

Hanh Jelf is a partner in the Corporate Group at Pinsent Masons, an international law firm. She specialises in corporate finance work, including advising companies and their institutional advisers on flotations and further issues as well as advising both listed and unlisted companies on acquisitions and disposals. Since joining the firm she has acted on a number of transactions for public and private bodies. She has also acted for nominated advisers and brokers on various corporate finance transactions. She assisted when, in July 2007, a Pinsent Masons team advised



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Wasim joined Norton Rose's Commercial Property Department in 1999.



KULTAR KHANGURA

Kultar Khangura is a partner in the Property Group at Pinsent Masons, one of the largest law firms in the UK. He specialises in a wide range of development, regeneration and investment transactions. He acts for substantial private developers and investors and for local authorities in connection with mixed use town centre regeneration projects. Kultar acted for the joint venture company set up to develop and operate the £110 million Coventry Arena. He has also advised MEPC, a real estate company, in connection with significant business premises in Cardiff and led the Pinsent Masons team on town centre regeneration projects in Hereford and Lichfield. Kultar is also a Midlands board member of the influential Investment Property Forum.



GEETA KHEHAR

Geeta Khehar is a partner at Clifford Chance and specialises in banking, structured and acquisition finance and telecoms finance. In 2007 she won the Asian Power 100 Award in the Professional Category and in 2009 she was short-listed in the Professional of the Year category for the Asian Women of Achievement Awards. Geeta graduated in Law with honours from Leicester University in 1987. She joined Clifford Chance in 1988 and qualified in 1990. She became a partner at the firm in 1997 and in her early years as a partner was the lead partner acting for JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley on the financing of the £2.5 billion acquisition by NTL of the consumer business CWC, the largest ever UK cable acquisition. She was also the lead partner acting for JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley on the largest ever CHF denominated loan, financing the acquisition of Cablecom.



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SARAH LEE

Sarah Lee has been a partner at Magic Circle law firm Slaughter and May since 1999, having joined the firm in May 1993. Her practice area is dispute resolution and she advises a number of financial and commercial organisations on a diverse range of international commercial disputes, usually of a substantial complex nature. Sarah was one of *The Lawyer* Hot 100 in 2005 and is an accredited Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution mediator. She is also the partner responsible for diversity and graduate recruitment.



MIRANDA LEUNG

Miranda Leung is a partner at Magic Circle law firm Slaughter and May. She has a broad financing practice which covers acquisition and bid financing, restructuring, securitisation, structured financing and capital markets transactions. Miranda practised in the Hong Kong office between 1993 and 1997, focusing on international public offering, acquisitions and disposals, general banking and project finance. Since returning to the London office she has been focusing on her financing practice and has been involved in a number of major domestic and cross-border financing transactions, including acting for Lehman Brothers in relation to the financing of the acquisition of Le Meridien hotel group by Nomura, the restructuring of Drax power station, the monetisation of \$3.75 billion BP shares and various debt issues, structured financing and derivatives transactions entered into by corporations, banks and insurance companies. Miranda joined Slaughter and May in 1990 and became a partner in 2001.





MONICA MA

Monica Ma heads the share incentives group at the London office of international law firm Simmons & Simmons, where she qualified in 1992 and became a partner in 2000. She specialises in employee benefits, particularly pensions and share incentive arrangements. Monica is a regular speaker at employee benefits seminars and frequently contributes to specialist publications on the subject. She has a regular column in *Financial Advisers* (published by the *Financial Times*) and is a contributor to *Pensions Law* (published by Tolley's) and *Company Acquisitions Handbook* (published by Tottel). Monica attended the University of Oxford between 1986 and 1989.



SUSHMA MACGEOCH

Sushma MacGeoch is a partner at Kennedys, an international law firm specialising in insurance-driven litigation. She defends professional indemnity claims involving solicitors, accountants, insurance brokers, valuers, architects and engineers. She also advises on and brings/defends international arbitrations. Her clients are international and UK-based insurers and construction companies. Sushma qualified as a solicitor in 1993. She is the Law Representative on the Insurance Institute of London's Committee of Representatives and a member of the Forum of Insurance Lawyers. She is a regular contributor of articles in insurance, construction and legal journals and lectures on professional indemnity and international arbitration issues.



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SEGUN OSUNTOKUN

Segun Osuntokun is a partner at Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), a leading City law firm, and is a highly experienced commercial litigator who specialises in complex disputes and claims arising out of or involving the banking and financial services industry. Segun represents national governments, international and multilateral financial institutions, energy, telecommunication and private equity companies and high net worth individuals. He has particular expertise in sub-Saharan Africa. He represented the Nigerian Government in proceedings to recover over US\$700 million stolen by the late military dictator, General Abacha. Segun read Economics at Queen Mary, London, graduating in 1987 and then went on to read Law at Balliol College, Oxford, between 1988 and 1990. He attended the College of Law, Lancaster Gate for his Solicitors Finals until 1991. He completed his Articles at Wilde Sapte, qualifying in 1993 and left in 1997 as an assistant in the Banking Litigation Department. He joined Eversheds as an assistant in the Banking and Insolvency Litigation Department and left for DLA Piper in 1999. He was made a partner in the Litigation Group at DLA's London office in 2003. Segun joined BLP's Corporate, Commercial and Finance Dispute Resolution team as a partner in January 2008. He is a writer, commentator and speaker on issues relating to banking litigation, corruption, fraud and money laundering.



PURVI PAREKH

Purvi Parekh is a partner at Olswang in the Media, Communications and Technology Group. Prior to joining Olswang in 2009 she was a partner in the London office of a leading international law firm where she headed up the telecommunications practice. Purvi specialises in commercial, outsourcing and procurement works in the telecoms and technology sector. She has extensive experience in both private and public sector outsourcing and offshoring, where she has acted for both customers and

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YASH RUPAL

Yash Rupal is the Global Head of Tax at Magic Circle law firm Linklaters. He joined the firm in 1986, qualified into the tax department in 1988 and became a tax partner in 1996. During his career he has spent time working in New York and at a leading investment bank. He specialises in corporate tax. Yash acts for a wide range of UK and international clients on mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings, capital markets and derivatives transactions and complex structured financing transactions. He also deals with tax litigation.



SHASHI SACHDEVA

Shashi Sachdeva is a partner at the Newbury office of Thomas Eggar. She specialises in divorce and financial issues between married and unmarried couples but also advises clients on the full range of family law issues, from divorce and resolving financial concerns on the breakdown of marriage to prenuptial agreements and cohabitation matters, civil partnerships, children's issues and domestic violence. Shashi is a member of the Law Society's Family Law Panel, Resolution and the Thames Valley Family Lawyers' Society. She was a former law lecturer. She joined Thomas Eggar following its merger with the Newbury office of Penningtons in 2007. She had taken up her post at Penningtons in 2000 and became a partner in 2006.

MICHAEL SALAU

Michael Salau is a partner at the London office of national law firm Berrymans Lace Mawer. Michael advises employers, major insurers, contractors, engineers and architects on construction law, practice and procedures encompassing arbitration, adjudication and mediation as well as litigation. He also provides advice on non-contentious matters such as contract drafting, consultancy appointments and amendments to standard form





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At DLA Piper our people reflect the diversity of our communities and our global marketplace. Our efforts to understand, value and incorporate differences are at the heart of our culture. The firm's success reflects our partnership with a diverse client base in a diverse number of locations, delivering a full range of top quality legal solutions.

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preference share investment in RBS and Lloyds. Nilufer, who has contributed to the UK section in the Kluwer Law International publication *Corporate Acquisitions and Mergers*, was educated at the James Allen's Girls' School, in Dulwich, South London. She went on to gain a BA in Law at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1983, trained at international law firm Norton Rose, and qualified in 1988. She joined Slaughter and May in 1990 and became a partner in 1994.

SANDRA WALLACE

Sandra Wallace is a partner at international law firm DLA Piper. She is also national head of the client focussed Equality & Diversity United at DLA Piper. She specialises in employment law, providing a high level strategic advice on diversity and discrimination issues, company reorganisations, changes in terms and conditions and policy reviews. She also project manages and works with clients throughout EMEA on multi jurisdictional matters and works closely with her HR colleagues throughout the world. Sandra has worked with clients from a range of sectors, including retail, telecommunications, financial and the public sector. She specialises in providing tailored training to HR directors and managers in the area of Equality and Diversity and employment law. Sandra is a member of the ELA and Birmingham Professional DiverCity.



SANJEV WARNA-KULA-SURIYA

Sanjev Warna-kula-suriya is head of the Structured Finance practice as a partner at Magic Circle law firm Slaughter and May. He advises a number of companies, banks, securities houses, hedge funds, private equity houses and other financial institutions on a wide range of capital markets, derivatives, leveraged finance, securitisation and structured finance matters. Having qualified as a solicitor with Slaughter and May in 1990,





PARTNERS IN US AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRMS IN THE UK

In this section you will find information about black and ethnic minority partners in large international law firms where the main offices or their substantial presence is outside the UK.



MAGDALENE BAYIM-ADOMAKO

Magdalene Bayim-Adomako is a partner at leading global law firm White & Case and co-head of its London banking team. She was one of *The Lawyer* magazine's Hot 100 of 2009 in the finance category. Magdalene has extensive experience in all areas of banking law, with expertise in advising on acquisition finance, structured receivables, and trade and commodity finance transactions. She has represented a wide range of financial institutions, lenders and borrowers in a wide range of jurisdictions, including Latin America, Russia and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Magdalene graduated from Leeds University in 1987 and completed her Legal Practice Course at the College of Law, Chester, in 1988. She qualified in 1991 and has been a partner at White & Case since 2000. Previously she was a Director in-house counsel at UBS AG – one of the world's leading financial firms. See also the Lawyers of the Month 2009 section.



COLIN CHANG

Colin Chang is a partner in the Banking & Capital Markets group in London at leading global law firm White & Case. He has extensive experience representing underwriters and issuers in securities offerings with a particular emphasis on high yield offerings. He has also represented various parties in a range of structured finance products including cross-border leveraged leases, securitisations, credit default swaps and conduit financings. He graduated from McGill University in 1991 and qualified in Quebec in 1993 and in New York State in 1994. Colin previously worked for a US law firm, having practised in its New York and Paris offices for over nine years.

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QUEEN'S COUNSELS (QCs)

In this part of the book, you will find information about current black and ethnic minority Queen's Counsels or QCs. QCs are barristers (and more recently, solicitors too) who are theoretically appointed as one of the Queen's advisors. They are also referred to as Silks. QCs were previously appointed by the Lord Chancellor but since 2005, have been appointed by an independent panel. They are listed in order of seniority from the year they took silk or alphabetically if the same year.

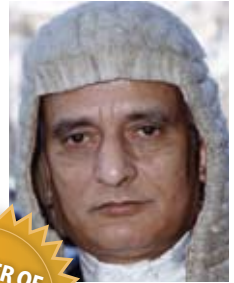
SIR DESMOND DE SILVA QC

Desmond de Silva is a QC at Argent Chambers (formerly 2 Paper Buildings) and a former United Nations Chief War Crimes Prosecutor in Sierra Leone. Sir Desmond, who took silk in 1984, is one of this country's leading QCs, with particular expertise in Business Crime, Clubs & Vice, Espionage Trials, Extradition, Human Rights, Kidnap & Blackmail, Large Scale Importation of Drugs, Money Laundering, Murder, Sports Law, Tax & VAT Fraud, Terrorism, Treason, War Crimes and White Collar Fraud. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making section.



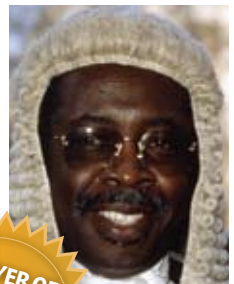
SIBGHAT KADRI QC

Sibghat Kadri QC took silk in 1988 and became a Bencher in 1997. He is a leading authority on immigration and race relations and Head of Chambers at 6 King's Bench Walk. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and the Heads of Chambers sections.



DR JOHN ROBERTS QC

John Roberts QC was the first known person of African ancestry to be appointed as a Queen's Counsel in the UK in 1988. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and the Lawyers of the Month 2008 sections.





JUDGES

In this part of the book, you will find information about current black and ethnic minority judges, including Tribunal Chairs. There are currently no black or ethnic minority judges in either the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords.

HIGH COURT JUDGE



DAME LINDA DOBBS

The Honourable Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE became Britain's first ethnic minority High Court judge in 2004 and remains, to date, the only one. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and the Queen's Counsels sections.

DEPUTY HIGH COURT JUDGES



DANIEL ALEXANDER QC

Daniel Alexander QC is a barrister practising at 8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn and he became a Deputy High Court Judge in 2006. See also the Queen's Counsels section.

MICHEL KALLIPETIS QC

Michel Kallipetis QC is the former head of Littleton Chambers and is a Recorder who sits as a Deputy High Court Judge in the Queen's Bench Division. See also the Queen's Counsels section.

RABINDER SINGH QC

Rabinder Singh QC, of Matrix Chambers, is acknowledged as a Leading Silk in Administrative and Public Law and Human Rights. In 2003 he was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge, becoming the first person of Asian origin and the youngest person (aged 39) to sit in the High Court at the time of appointment. He is also a Recorder of the Crown Court. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and Queen's Counsels sections.



SATINDER HUNJAN QC

Satinder Hunjan QC is head of the Clinical Negligence Group at No5 Chambers. On 2 July 2008 he was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge, Queen's Bench Division, and sits as a Recorder of the Crown Court. See also the Queen's Counsels section.



CIRCUIT JUDGES (COUNTY/CROWN COURTS)

PATRICIA DANGOR

Patricia Dangor sits at Harrow Crown Court and was appointed a Judge on the South Eastern Circuit in 1999.

USHA KARU

Usha Karu, born in New Deli, India, was the first female Asian Judge to be appointed to the Bench. She was called to the Bar

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HEADS OF LAW/DIRECTORS OF LAW IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

In this section, you will find the very senior lawyers in local government and other parts of the public sector as well as the very senior lawyers in the not-for-profit sector.

NAZIR AFZAL OBE

Nazir Afzal OBE, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Director for South London, is one of the most senior of minority ethnic staff in the CPS and in 2007 appeared in both the Muslim and Asian Power 100 lists. Also in 2007, he was the winner of the People's Award, set up by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the Daily Mirror to give people the chance to vote for their favourite individuals working at the heart of criminal justice. In December 2004 he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for his work with the CPS and his involvement with the local community. Earlier the same year he made international news by heading the first CPS conference on "honour crimes". In November 2005 he was named Legal Personality of the Year by the Society of Asian Lawyers, which represents around 15,000 professionals. Presenting the award, Guy Mansfield QC and the then Chairman of the Bar Council, said that Nazir was a "role model" for lawyers entering the profession. Born in Birmingham, of Pathan origin, Nazir qualified as a solicitor in Birmingham with Glaisyers, a firm which specialises in alleged miscarriage of justice cases. He joined the CPS in 1991 and has successfully prosecuted many high profile cases.



MIRZA AHMAD

Mirza Ahmad is the Corporate Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer for Birmingham City Council, the UK and Europe's largest local authority and most populated city outside London. Mirza manages the Council's Legal, Democratic, Regulatory, Elections and Information Management Services, which has over 800 staff. He was named Public Service Lawyer of the Year 2009 by the Society of Asian Lawyers in March and acknowledged as one of *The Lawyer* magazine's Hot 100 lawyers for 2009. He has won many other accolades, including the UK's Muslim Power 100 Public Sector Excellence Award in 2007 and profiled in UK Asian Power 100. In July 2008, in recognition of



Birmingham City Council's Legal & Democratic Services Department is proud to be associated with the Black Lawyers Directory and the Black Letter Law publication.

Birmingham is a great international city and the Legal Department, as a market leader in local government, actively promotes and places equality and diversity at the heart of everything that it does. Our recent successes (some of which are listed below) stand out as testimony to the benefits that come from adopting a strategic focus and approach to delivering excellent services for the citizens and businesses of Birmingham.

Mirza Ahmad, Corporate Director of Governance, was named 'Public Lawyer of the Year 2009' by the Society of Asian Lawyers in March 2009.

Legal & Democratic Services was 'Highly Commended' for the main Midlands Excellence Award in January 2009. The Department also secured continuing accreditation as an 'Investor in Excellence' at the same awards.

Winner in 2008 of the Municipal Journal 'Legal Achievement of the Year Award' for innovative use of civil law procedures.

Mirza was recognised in 2008 for his excellent contributions to the legal profession by Manchester Metropolitan University with the award of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD).

Winner in 2007 of the 'Work-Life Balance Employer of the Year (Large: Public Sector) Award' from Birmingham Best Business Awards.

Mirza was named in the 2007 inaugural 'Muslim Power 100' publication and gained their Public Sector Award for Excellence. He was also named in the Asian Power 100.

Winner in 2006 of the Not-for-Profit Employer of the Year - Diversity Award (sponsored by the CRE) from the Institute of Paralegals.

Winner in 2006 of 3 awards from Midlands Excellence: 'Most Improved Organisation Award', 'Corporate Social Responsibility Award' and 'Investor in Excellence Award'.

Winner in 2005 of 'Legal Team of the Year' from Local Government Chronicle.

Received in 2005 the 'Excellence Award' from the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors.

Achieved and continue to retain: Investors in People, ISO 9001 Quality Assurance and Law Society's LEXCEL Practice Management Standards.

DALE SIMON

Dale Simon is the Director of Equality and Diversity for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). She was previously the head of the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC), a post she had held since the body was set up in April 2006 until her current appointment in April 2009. Dale began her career in 1986 as a criminal barrister in private practice before moving to the CPS as a Crown Prosecutor in 1992. By 2005 she had become the District Crown Prosecutor for West Central London, which was followed by a one-year secondment to CPS headquarters in a policy project role concerning racists and religiously motivated offences as well as that of domestic violence. She was a member of the first CPS National Equality Committee and has been an independent member of the HM Prison Service Race Advisory Group since 2007.



THELMA STOBER

Thelma Stober is the Director of Corporate Law and Governance at the Equality and Human Rights Commission. She had previously been the Head of Law and Procurement Group & Monitoring Officer at the Greater London Authority (GLA) between December 2006 and late 2007. Prior to that Thelma was the Director of Law, Governance and Procurement at the London Development Agency (LDA), which is responsible for promoting and supporting the growth of businesses, the regeneration of major development sites, the creation of new jobs and the development of new communities in London. She was instrumental in securing the London 2012 Olympics in 2005 and the day after the announcement was a victim of the 7/7 London Underground bombing. *The Lawyer* magazine voted her as one of the Hot 100 lawyers shaping the law in 2006. Thelma studied Law at Leicester University. After being called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1981 and completing her pupillage, Thelma spent six months in Sierra Leone, where she was also called to the Bar





PROFESSORS OF LAW/ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS OF LAW AND ACADEMIC HEADS

Professors of Law,
Associate Professors
of Law and Academic
Heads at various institutions
are listed within this section.

London School of Economics (1993). Ben has published widely in the fields of crime, policing and community safety – his books include *Violent Racism (Oxford)*, *Racism, Crime and Justice (Longman)* and *Policing the Caribbean (Oxford)* – and regularly features in newspapers and on radio and television.



JACQUELINE CHELTENHAM

Jacqueline Cheltenham is the Director of the Bar Vocational Course at the College of Law and is based in London. She joined the College in 1998, having previously practised at the Criminal Bar. She is a door tenant at Charter Chambers, London. She is a qualified Mediator and has volunteered for the Lambeth Mediation Service.



BEN CHIGARA

Ben Chigara is the Research Professor of International Laws and Director of Enterprise and International Affairs at the Brunel Law School, Brunel University, West London. He specialises in the development of standards and policies for the recognition, promotion and protection of the dignity inherent in all individuals as human beings. He is the author of *Legitimacy Deficit in Custom*, Ashgate (2000); *Amnesty in International Law*, Longman (2002); *Land Reform Policy*, Ashgate (2004) and numerous refereed book chapters and articles on human rights, legal theory and the international legal system. Before his appointment at Brunel, Professor Chigara held lectureships at Warwick (2001-2003); Leeds (1999-2001); Oxford Brookes (1998-1999); and a Research Fellowship at Brandeis Law School, University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA (2000). He has also worked in Dansk AFS, Denmark and for Zimbabwe's Ministry of Higher Education.



HEADS OF CHAMBERS

Barristers in independent private practice in England and Wales are self-employed and they work in sets of Chambers. In this part of the book, you will find information about current black and ethnic minority Heads of Chambers.



MUKHTAR HUSSAIN QC

Mukhtar Hussain QC is Head of Lincoln House Chambers in Manchester. See also the Queen's Counsels and the Judges sections.



SIBGHAT KADRI QC

Sibghat Kadri QC is Head of Chambers at 6 King's Bench Walk. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and the Queen's Counsels sections.



OBA NSUGBE QC

Oba Nsugbe QC is joint Head of Chambers at 3 Pump Court. See also the Queen's Counsels and the Judges sections.



GENERAL COUNSELS

General Counsels are the most senior lawyers in companies or within specific departments in the companies. Some of the General Counsels in this section are in global multi-billion companies and are some of the world's top General Counsels.



SARAH DAVIS

Sarah Davis is the Director of Commercial Legal Services at the Guardian News and Media Group. Sarah who trained at the media firm, Stephens Innocent, was admitted in 1995. She subsequently joined NDS Ltd, a technology company as Legal Counsel. In 2000 she joined the Guardian News and Media Group and became the Head of Commercial Law in 2003. In April 2007, Sarah became the Director of Commercial Legal Services when the Guardian News and Media Group split its legal functions. Sarah reports to the Group's Managing Director. She read Philosophy at University College, London (UCL) and went on to obtain a Postgraduate diploma in Copyright and Related Rights from King's College, London.

SHARIFAH FAURE

Sharifah Faure (formerly Bailey) is the Head of Business and Legal Affairs for Emerging Markets at entertainment company MTV Networks International. She took up the appointment in October 2008 after joining the company in May 2006 as a legal counsel, which was followed by promotion to senior legal counsel in January 2008. She is responsible for overseeing the company's legal affairs in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Africa. She also led negotiations for a number of projects, including the launches of MTV Hungary, MTV Israel and MTV Czech.



TREVOR FAURE

Trevor Faure became the Global General Counsel of Ernst & Young at its London office in March 2009. The firm is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. He was previously the Vice-President and General Counsel of Tyco International, Europe, Middle East and Africa, an \$18 billion NYSE-listed industrial conglomerate, and had been with the company since 2004. Trevor won the In-House Lawyer of



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, PEERS AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

In this section you will find black and ethnic minorities in the UK's two Houses of Parliament (the House of Commons and the House of Lords). Those in the House of Commons are referred to as MPs and those in the Lords are peers. All Government Ministers are from one or the other House.

SADIQ KHAN MP

Sadiq Khan is the Labour MP for Tooting, South West London. In July 2007 the then new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, appointed him as a minister in the Government Whip's Office, his first ministerial position. He is responsible for Ministry of Justice business. Prior to his ministerial appointment, Sadiq was the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons. He was also a member of the prestigious Public Accounts Select Committee between 2005 and 2007. In 2005 he won Newcomer of the Year in *The Spectator* magazine's Parliamentarian of the Year awards and was runner-up for Channel 4's Rising Star award. In 2008, Sadiq was awarded the *Muslim News* Award for Excellence. Sadiq has been described as "one to watch" in Parliament by both the Independent newspaper and the New Statesman. Prior to becoming an MP, Sadiq was a human rights solicitor and a founding partner of one of the country's leading human rights firms, Christian Khan. Although now non-practising, he was a practising solicitor for 11 years and in the *Chambers and Partners* directory of 2004-05, he was listed as one of the country's leading lawyers in two separate categories - human rights and police law. He is also a lecturer and author of legal books.



DAVID LAMMY MP

David Lammy became the youngest qualifying barrister in England in 1994 and went on to become the youngest Member of Parliament at the age of 27. In 2007 the then new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, appointed him as the Minister for Skills in the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. He was previously the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, playing an important role in overseeing Liverpool's role as European Capital of Culture in 2008 and the Cultural Olympiad running up to 2012. David became the MP for Tottenham - his place of birth - at a by-election in June 2000, following the death of Bernie



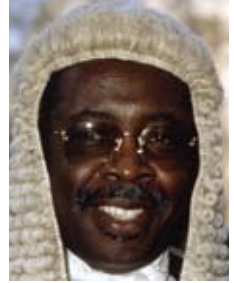


BLD LAWYERS OF THE MONTH

Totally Management Ltd, which owns the Black Lawyers Directory (BLD), publishes *Black Letter Law*. Lawyer of the Month is a regular feature on BLD's website at www.onlineBLD.com. The lawyers, who are interviewed largely by the author, Debo Nwauzu, are some of the top UK and international lawyers. Here we feature those who have appeared since *Black Letter Law* 2008 was published but to see previous Lawyers of the Month, who are highlighted in this year's edition, please visit the website.

OCTOBER 2008: DR JOHN ROBERTS QC

BLD's Lawyer of the Month in October 2008 was Dr John Anthony Roberts QC. When interviewed he recalled an experience in his early life as a barrister. He said: "I recall one incident when I had just finished my pupillage and I was looking for a tenancy when a clerk said to me: 'Sorry, Sir, with you being black, solicitors won't brief you. If they do, I will eat my hat!' Eighteen or 19 years later, when I took Silk, I saw him at the House of Lords with his barristers. He came over and shook my hand and said: 'Congratulations Sir. I knew you would make it!' As he turned to go away, I called him back and said to him: 'I notice you don't wear your hat any more.'" See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and the Queen's Counsels sections.



NOVEMBER 2008: MANJIT SINGH GILL QC

Manjit Singh Gill QC, a member of 6 King's Bench Walk Chambers, was BLD's Lawyer of the Month in November 2008. When interviewed he was asked why he had chosen law as a career. He answered: "Straightforward for me, really, because I grew up in Smethwick, surrounded by racial inequality. I come from Sikh tradition, which strongly values equality. When you see inequality around you, as I did as a child, it does have an impact. I also enjoyed debating at school. Therefore, finding ways to address inequality was what I wanted to do. Besides, I was not good at the sciences!" See also the Queen's Counsels section.





TRAILBLAZERS AND THOSE IN THE NEWS

In this section we feature those who have been in the news since *Black Letter Law* 2008 was published in October, and those who are innovative and/or groundbreaking, whether they are sole practitioners, Legal Aid practitioners or work in a small/ large organisation.



FARMIDA BI

Farmida Bi, who joined Norton Rose as a partner in 2008, won the Commercial Lawyer of the Year award by the Society of Asian Lawyers in March 2009. The same month she was named in the top five of the first Muslim Women Power List, compiled by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in association with *The Times* and Muslim lifestyle magazine *Emel*. See also the Partners in the UK Top 100 Law Firms and Lawyers of the Month 2009 sections.

CONSTANCE BRISCOE

Constance Briscoe is a member of 9-12 Bell Yard Chambers. She is well known for her published memoir, *Ugly*, containing allegations of childhood abuse and in its sequel, *Beyond Ugly*, she claims to have been victimised by fellow members of the Bar. Her mother sued her, along with her publishers, for libel but in December 2008 a civil jury sitting in the High Court unanimously found that the books were not libellous. See also the Judges section.



SAIMO CHAHAL

Top human rights and civil liberties lawyer Saimo Chahal was celebrating victory in July 2009 when her client, right-to-die campaigner Debbie Purdy, won a landmark case against the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to have the law on assisted suicide clarified. The House of Lords ruled that the law is unclear and the DPP must specify when a person might face prosecution, making new law on Article 8, the right to respect for private and family life. This was Saimo's third success in the House of Lords this year, expanding human rights law on Articles 2 and 8 of the

Exeter College, Oxford and graduated in 1990. He was called to the Bar in 1993 and was at 2 Garden Court Chambers from 1994 until he became a founder member at Matrix. He is the co-author, with Nicholas Blake QC, of *Immigration, Asylum and Human Rights*.



ANGELA JACKMAN

Angela Jackman was presented with an award for Outstanding Achievement at the 2009 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year (LALY) awards. Angela is Joint Head of the Public Services Law Department at Fisher Meredith. The award, presented by Cherie Booth QC, was in recognition of her work at an inner London law centre, her involvement in pro bono legal services and being one of those leading in the field of education, mental capacity and community care laws. Since qualifying in 1987, she has worked at Evans Butler Wade Solicitors, in Greenwich, and the Hackney Community Law Centre specialising in education, immigration and asylum. She joined Fisher Meredith in 2001 and is now a partner. Angela is ranked in *Chambers and Partners* as Band 1 Best in the UK for Education and has also co-written *Practical Education Law*, a guide to the relevant law and procedures applicable to the school system.



TREVOR JAMES

Trevor James made UK history in December 2008 by becoming the first black managing partner at the London office of Morrison and Foerster, a leading US and international law firm. See also the Legal History and Legal History in the Making, the Partners in US and Other International Law Firms in the UK and the Lawyers of the Month 2009 sections.





LEGAL GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

There are various black and ethnic minority legal groups and associations and in this section we feature some of the most senior members, particularly the Chairs and immediate previous Chairs of the groups.

PAULETTE MASTIN

Paulette Mastin, Counsel in the Capital Markets practice at Linklaters, became the Chair of the Black Solicitors' Network's City Group after its launch in 2008. She joined Linklaters as a Trainee Solicitor in 1995 and has been part of the firm's Corporate Trust team within Capital Markets since qualifying in 1997. Paulette became Counsel in 2007. She advises corporate trustees, financial institutions and companies on a wide variety of capital market transactions, structured finance products, PPP/PFI and renewable deals and Islamic finance, including Sukuks and the first internationally rated Sharia securitisation, as well as on corporate/debt restructurings. Paulette is also co-chair of Linklaters' Diversity - BME Action Group in London.



SAILESH MEHTA

Sailesh Mehta is a former Chair of the Society of Asian Lawyers (SAL) and one of its founding members in 1990. Under his Chairmanship, SAL challenged the Carter Reforms and he was also instrumental in the Law Society Diversity Charter which was launched in July 2009. See also the Judges and the Trailblazers and Those in the News sections



IFATH NAWAZ

Ifath Nawaz is the Principal Solicitor (Planning) for Wycombe District Council in Buckinghamshire and the President of the Association of Muslim Lawyers (AML). She was named in the first Muslim Women Power List, compiled by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in association with *The Times* and

Muslim lifestyle magazine *Emel*, in March 2009. She is featured on the Law Society's website of junior lawyers' case studies and says there: "I decided that I wanted to become a solicitor at high school when I heard a friend's mother give a talk on her struggle to become a barrister and the struggles she faced as a black woman. I was hugely inspired by her determination and her enjoyment and satisfaction at the work she was doing as she felt she was making a difference, which is one of my own aims." See also the Trailblazers and Those in the News section.



NWABUEZE NWOKOLO

Nwabueze Nwokolo is a family mediator and mortgage specialist who is the Chair of the Law Society Group Equality and Diversity Committee which covers the Representative Law Society, the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Legal Complaints Services respectively. She is also a member of the Representative Law Society's Qualified Lawyers Transfer Regulations (QLTR), a sub-committee of the Regulatory Affairs Board (RAB). She is Chair of the Black Solicitors' Network (BSN) Steering Committee for the Midlands and a director on its national executive. Nwabueze was also the BSN representative on the Working Group convened by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to investigate the high incidence of BME solicitors in adverse procedures and processes of the SRA. Nwabueze read Law at the University of Nigeria and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1978. She re-qualified in England as a solicitor and was admitted in 1995. Her father, Dr Anucha Jaja-Wachuku, was called to the Irish Bar in 1944 after qualifying at Trinity College in Dublin. He went on to become the first Foreign Minister of Nigeria upon its independence from the British Empire. She is committed to equality and diversity and does work in this respect for the British Methodist Church and the Prison Service. She also set up a not-for-profit mediation service, dealing with family and community mediation, in memory of her late father and mother, Rhoda Idu Onumonu.



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