

SECTION 1

LEGAL HISTORY

Alexander Kennedy	10
Aviet Agabeg	10
Ganendra Mohan Tagore	10
Thomas Morris Chester	10
Christian Frederick Cole	10
Ng Achoy	11
Mahatma Gandhi	11
Muhammad Jinnah	11
Jawaharlal Nehru	12
Cornelia Sorabji	12
Rudy Narayan	13
Roger Leyland	14

LEGAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Paul Boateng	14
Desmond de Silva QC	15
Dawn Dixon	15
Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE	15
Gifty Edila	16
Tunji Fahm	17
Kim Hollis QC	18
Sibghat Kadri QC	18
Nelson Mandela	19
Araba Obodai	19
Grace Ononiwu	20
Dr John Roberts QC	22
Anthony Robinson	22
Patricia Scotland QC, Baroness Scotland of Asthal	23
Leila Seth	24
District Judge Ray Singh	24
Lord John Taylor	25
Shaun Wallace	25
Len Woodley QC	26

LEGAL HISTORY AND LEGAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Alexander Kennedy

Alexander Kennedy, Isbiter of Hudson Bay and part Native American, was admitted to Middle Temple in 1862.

Aviet Agabeg

Aviet Agabeg became the first Asian member of Inner Temple in 1864. From Calcutta, he attended St John's College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1868.

Ganendra Mohan Tagore

Ganendra Tagore was the first Indian to be called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1862.

Thomas Morris Chester

Thomas Morris Chester is believed to be the first black American to qualify as a Barrister in England. He was admitted to Middle Temple in 1867 and was called to the Bar in 1870. Thomas was the son of a slave woman who escaped from Baltimore in 1825 and thus he was born free. His father was an oysterman/restaurant owner who was part of the inner circle of political and social functions of Harrisburg. Prior to being called to the Bar, Thomas was a teacher, a school director, journalist, war correspondent and editor. In 1866, he travelled to England as an emissary of the Garnet Equal Rights League of Harrisburg. On his return to America in 1870 as a qualified barrister, he was appointed District Superintendent of Education, Brigadier General of the Louisiana state militia and was president of a railroad building company.

Christian Frederick Cole

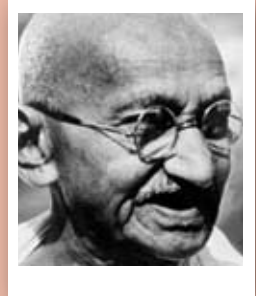
Christian Frederick Cole - second son of clergyman Jacob Cole, of Kissy, Sierra Leone - was black African. He matriculated as a non-collegiate student at Oxford University in 1873, was admitted to Inner Temple in 1879 and called to the Bar in 1883. Cole seems to have been the first black student to join Oxford University and one of the first black men to be called to the Bar.

Ng Achoy

Ng Achoy was the first known person of Chinese origin to be called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1877. Ng was from Hong Kong.

Mahatma Gandhi ➡

Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian nationalist movement against British rule began his career as a lawyer. At the age of 19 he travelled to England to study at University College London before being admitted to Inner Temple. After being called to the English Bar in 1891, Gandhi returned to Bombay where he tried to establish a law practice. In April 1893 Gandhi was engaged to represent a Porbander firm in a case in South Africa and set sail for the continent. It is widely believed that it was Gandhi's experiences as a barrister in South Africa that set him on the path to activism. In South Africa Gandhi experienced the discrimination commonly directed at blacks and Indians. One day in court in Durban the magistrate asked him to remove his turban. He refused and stormed out of the courtroom. In another incident he was thrown off a train at Pietermaritzburg, after refusing to move from the first class to a third class coach while holding a valid first class ticket. However, Gandhi's experiences in South Africa do not explain why he inculcated non-violent revolution.



Muhammad Jinnah (1876–1948)

Known as the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the youngest Indian to be called to the London Bar at the astonishingly young age of 20 in 1896. He had been sent to England in 1893 by his father to work as an apprentice bookkeeper but soon abandoned his account books in favour of his studies at Lincoln's Inn. He came close to staying in England and taking up a career in the law, but was persuaded to return to Karachi by his father and left London in 1895. He went on to become the first Governor General of the newly-formed Pakistan, having taken over from the Viceroy of all India, Lord Mountbatten, in 1947. He has been variously described as one of the



greatest legal luminaries India had produced during the first half of the 20th Century, a great constitutionalist, a distinguished parliamentarian, an indefatigable freedom-fighter, a dynamic Muslim leader, a political strategist and above all one of the great nation builders of modern times.

◀ Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru is best-known as one of the most important leaders of the Indian Independence Movement, the head of the Indian National Congress, and the first Prime Minister of India upon winning its independence on 15 August 1947. The only son to be born to an Allahabad-based barrister, Jawaharlal followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a barrister in 1912. From the age of 15 to 23 he studied in England at Harrow Trinity College, Cambridge before being admitted to Inner Temple in 1910. On being called to the English Bar, Jawaharlal returned to India to practise law in the Allahabad High Court before entering into politics. Jawaharlal remained the Prime Minister of India for 17 years and can rightly be called the architect of modern India. He set India on the path of democracy and nurtured its institutions – Parliament, a multi-party system, an independent judiciary and a free press. He was a prolific writer in English and wrote a number of books including *The Discovery of India*, *Glimpses of World History* and his autobiography *Towards Freedom* (1936), which ran nine editions in the first year alone. Emotional sensitivity and intellectual passion infused his writings, giving them unusual appeal and topicality even today. He was loved by children and his birthday is observed as Children's Day.

Cornelia Sorabji

Cornelia was called to the English Bar in 1923 and in 1924 went on to become the second barrister in India after gaining the right to practise in the Calcutta High Court. Cornelia became the first female student of Deccan College, in Poona. She received a first-class degree in English, but her gender prevented her from getting a scholarship for further studies abroad. After she had saved enough money, she went to

study at Oxford University. In 1892, Cornelia became the first woman to sit a Bachelor of Law exam in England, though she was not admitted to the degree until after 1919 when Oxford allowed women such rights. In 1904, she joined the Bengal civil service as Lady Legal Adviser to the Court of Wards. When women in India acquired the right to plead before the courts of law, Cornelia applied and was admitted to the rolls of the Allahabad High Court. On marrying Justice Blair of Allahabad High Court, Cornelia returned to England and became an author and a regular contributor to newspapers and journals.

Rudy Narayan ➡

Rudy Narayan was the joint founder, with Sibghat Kadri QC, of The Society of Black Lawyers (SBL) in 1973. The aim of the SBL was to promote the rights and welfare of minority lawyers as well as those in the community who needed legal protection. Rudy, a legendary campaigner for black people, died at the age of 60 in 1998. Rudy and Sibghat formed the Afro-Asian and Caribbean Lawyers Association in 1969. It was renamed the SBL, with Sibghat as the Chair between 1979 and 1983 and Rudy its General Secretary. In an interview with BLD in September 2007 Sibghat recalled how the two of them had fought continuous battles against racism in courts and the profession generally. UK Rights – the online newspaper of the United Kingdom for Human Rights – refers to Rudy as: “Defender of the poor, the disadvantaged and the minorities. Voice for the voiceless.” When asked: “Who is the person you most admire (dead or alive)?” top QC Courtenay Griffiths replied: “My hero is Rudy Narayan. He paved the way for minority lawyers today and he did it with style and fearlessly.” Rudy was an author and a BBC television series called *Black Silk* was based partly on one of his books, *Black Community on Trial*, which was published in 1977. The Bar Council brought several disciplinary proceedings against Rudy and eventually disbarred him.





⌚ Roger Leyland

Born John Roger Nowell Leyland, Roger joined Herbert Smith, the international law firm, in 1985 as an associate in the firm's Property Department (as it was then called). He became a partner of the firm two years later. He was the first black partner of a leading City firm. In addition to his manifest legal skills, he was also an accomplished musician and many who heard him play believed he had the talent to have made a successful career as a classical pianist. He also took a close interest in the development of the representation of ethnic minorities in the profession and was particularly interested in legal education, sitting as a governor on the Council of the College of Law. He died in 1996 at the young age of 43. Herbert Smith, in association with the College of Law, funds an annual prize for black and Asian students in his memory.

LEGAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING



⌚ Paul Boateng

Paul Boateng is a Labour Party politician. He became the UK's first black Cabinet Minister in May 2002 when he was appointed as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He was the MP for Brent South, in London, from 1987 until 2005, when he did not stand for re-election. The Government then appointed him to his current post as the British High Commissioner to South Africa. When Paul was elected in 1987 he was one of three new Parliamentarians to be the first members of the House from an ethnic minority background – the others being Bernie Grant and Diane Abbott. Prior to becoming a politician he had been a solicitor since 1975 and a barrister since 1989, when he was called to the Bar. His practice, both as a solicitor and barrister, centred on civil rights. As a civil rights lawyer, Paul gained some notoriety through his work in Lambeth, London, in the late 1970s and was a familiar figure at protests against the kind of police activity that built up to the 1981 Brixton Riot. He was elected to the Greater London Council in 1981 and became the Chairman of its Police Committee and the Vice-Chairman of its Ethnic Minorities Committee.

Desmond de Silva QC

Desmond de Silva QC is the head of Chambers at 2 Paper Buildings and former United Nations Chief War Crimes Prosecutor in Sierra Leone. In 2002, Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, appointed him as Deputy Prosecutor for the new International Criminal Tribunal for Sierra Leone at a rank of Assistant Secretary-General. In 2005 Annan promoted Sir Desmond to the post of Chief Prosecutor with the higher rank of Under Secretary-General – one of just four incumbent international Chief Prosecutors in the world. As a defence counsel, Sir Desmond has been credited by *The Times* as having saved more people from capital punishment in the Commonwealth than any other London-based practising member of the English Bar. Sir Desmond was born in Sri Lanka in 1939. He was called to the Bar in 1964, took silk in 1984 and was knighted in 2007. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association and the International Association of Prosecutors.



Dawn Dixon

Dawn Dixon, together with Michael Webster, was the joint founder of the City firm, Webster Dixon, in 1998. She is the first woman from an ethnic minority background to assume the role of the Chair of the Association of Women Solicitors.

Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE

The Honourable Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE became Britain's first ethnic minority High Court judge in 2004 and was also made a Dame of the British Empire. She sits in the Queen's Bench Division, but also occasionally sits in the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division, the Administrative Court and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal. She was called to the Bar in 1981 and took silk in 1998. As a member of 18 Red Lion Court Chambers, her practice was predominantly on white collar crime, Customs and Excise offences and serious sexually offences when she acted as a prosecuting and defence barrister. She was a member of several Bar Council committees, including General



Management, Race Relations (previous Chairman) and International Relations (Chair of the Africa Sub-Committee). She was also the immediate past Chair of the Professional Standards Committee and the Criminal Bar Association, standing down from the latter after her current appointment. She studied Linguistic and Regional Studies - Russian and Law - at the University of Surrey, graduating in 1976. She obtained her Masters in Law at the London School of Economics, and then a Doctorate in Soviet Criminology and Penology. Mrs Justice Dobbs was voted one of *100 Great Black Britons*.



◀ Gifty Edila

Gifty Edila became the first female and the first ethnic minority Director of Law and Administration at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 2001. It is the wealthiest local authority in the UK and the home of Europe's biggest carnival, the Notting Hill Carnival. Gifty was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1979 and is a non-practising barrister. She is a practising Solicitor-Advocate admitted in 1998 and an accredited mediator. Between 1993 and 2001, Gifty was the head of Law at the London Borough of Newham - the first ethnic minority head of Law of a unitary/metropolitan local authority. At Newham she was involved in major projects such as the Channel Tunnel Rail link, the Excel Exhibition Centre, de-designation of Docklands following major development of the area, construction of three schools under private finance initiative and the building of Stratford Station and the Jubilee Line extension. She has led award-winning teams both at Newham and Kensington and Chelsea. Her team in Newham was the first London local authority to achieve ISO 9001 quality accreditation and also went on to achieve the Law Society's Lexcel accreditation, one of a few local authorities to have achieved this accreditation at the time. Client satisfaction rating for work done by her team was very high. Her current team won the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) 2004 Legal Department of the Year award, particularly for ground-breaking work relating to crack dealers that led to change in a 1972 legislation by Government and also for

overall efficient management of a very high performing department. Gifty was the first ethnic minority President of the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), a post she held from October 2004 until November 2005. She won the Excel Ghana Professional award for Lawyer of the Year 2002. Gifty was named by the *Local Government Chronicle* as one of five top lawyers in local government in 2005 and was also named by *The Lawyer* magazine in its list of Hot 100 lawyers in the country in the same year. She has written a number of articles on legal issues and often chairs and speaks at conferences

Tunji Fahm ➡

Tunji Fahm is the first black minority ethnic lawyer to be appointed as a Chief Officer of a legal Department of a local authority in the UK. He arrived in Cardiff, South Wales, from Nigeria in October 1954. He attended the Inns of Court School of Law in 1966 and was called to the Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in November 1967. He did his Masters at the London School of Economics in 1967 and he was involved in further legal studies at University College London and at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London). Tunji held various appointments in local government, both in the UK and abroad, including service as a Town Clerk to one of the municipalities and as a Court officer in Zambia until 1974. He took up the post of the Chief Legal Officer for Islwyn (Borough) District Council in 1974 and became its Chief Monitoring Officer in 1978. He remained at Islwyn until 1996 when he returned to private practice. He has stood as a candidate for the Welsh Assembly for the Labour Party in 2003 and 2007. He was awarded an MBE in 2006 for services to the community in Wales.





☛ **Kim Hollis QC**

Kim Hollis became the UK's first female Asian QC when she took silk in 2002 and was joint winner of the Society of Asian Lawyers award for Most Successful Lawyer in 2005. Kim is based at 25 Bedford Row Chambers and specializes in criminal defence - including very serious violent and sexual crimes, drugs and honour killings - fraud and Judicial Review. She is the Vice-Chair of the Bar Council's Diversity Committee and is also the head of the Equality and Diversity Committee of the Criminal Bar Association and the South Eastern Circuit. Kim read law at Queen Mary College, University of London and graduated in 1978. She attended the Inns of Court School of Law and was called to the Bar, Gray's Inn, in 1979. Kim was signatory to a Save the Children Fund letter addressed to the Finance Ministers of the G8 Summit, in 2005, calling on member states to Make Child Poverty History. She is also involved in CINI UK, a charity whose aim is to prevent the malnutrition of children in Calcutta, India and another charity that helps to prevent and stop child prostitution in Bombay, India.



☛ **Sibghat Kadri QC**

Sibghat Kadri was the joint founder of the Society of Black Lawyers (with Rudy Narayan) in 1973. He is a leading authority on immigration and race-relations and former Chairman of the Society of Afro-Asian and Caribbean Lawyers in the UK and President of the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organisations. He is head of Chambers at 6 King's Bench Walk. He was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1969, took silk in 1989 and became a Bencher in 1997. Sibghat attended Karachi University, where he became Secretary General of the students' union. He originally studied science, but when he was jailed without trial for opposing the military regime of Pakistan's president during 1958-59 he drafted his own Writ of Habeas Corpus and successfully made the application to the Pakistani High Court which ignited his interest in the law. Once in Britain, Sibghat was involved in campaigns against racial discrimination, where he was often nominated as the spokesperson. He was regularly employed by the BBC as a producer and broadcaster in its external Urdu Service. During 1968-70 he was the

presenter of the BBC's Home Service Asian Programme and during the same period he was also a visiting lecturer in Urdu at Holborn College, London. He was the organiser of the Pakistani Defence Committees during the wave of "Pakistani-bashing" in 1970; became General Secretary of the Pakistan Action Committee in 1973; led an Asian delegation to the Prime Minister in 1976 and a Pakistan delegation to the 3rd International Conference on Migrant Workers in Europe in 1977 and became Vice-Chairman of an All-Party Joint Committee Against Racism. He was one of those instrumental in bringing about changes within the Bar Council that still exist today. He was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

Nelson Mandela ➡

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was the first President of South Africa to be elected in fully representative democratic elections. Before his Presidency he was a prominent anti-apartheid activist and leader of the African National Congress. He was imprisoned for 27 years for his involvement in underground armed resistance activities. Throughout his imprisonment he became the most widely-known figure in the struggle against South African apartheid, largely because he consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain freedom. After his release in 1990, Mandela facilitated a peaceful transition to fully-representative democracy in South Africa. His contribution to the British legal profession was to be elected an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 1994. He was made an Honorary Queen's Counsel by the Department of Constitutional Affairs in 2000. On his 89th birthday, 18 July 2007, he launched an initiative called Global Elders, a group of 12 wise men and women, who would address global problems by offering expertise and guidance.



Araba Obodai

Araba Obodai was appointed a District Judge on the North West Region in 2005. She was the first black President of the Manchester Law Society in 2000 and only the third female

to hold the position. Araba, from Sierra Leone, qualified as a solicitor in October 1988. She is currently a partner in the Commercial Litigation Department of the Manchester law firm Wacks Caller and has been with them since 2002. She specializes in technical and complex matters, in particular directors' disqualifications, professional negligence and insurance disputes. She was instrumental in winning the Norglen case in the House of Lords that led to changes in Legal Aid regulations. She was appointed as a Deputy District Judge on the North West Region in February 2001. She has seats on both the Advisory Board of the College of Law and the Legal Aid Appeals Committee and is a legal practice course assessor.



◀ Grace Ononiwu

In April 2005, Grace Ononiwu became the first black Chief Crown Prosecutor of African/Caribbean origin. Grace, a qualified solicitor since 1990, began her career working for a private firm based in High Wycombe practising criminal law. In 1991, she joined the CPS as a Crown Prosecutor and was promoted to Senior Crown Prosecutor in 1993. In 1998 she was promoted to Acting Prosecution Team Leader in Croydon and tasked with the implementation of the Narey Initiative (Croydon was identified as the pilot site). In 2001 she was appointed Project Manager for the Holborn Glidewell Project and set about planning and implementing the first co-located unit in the Metropolitan police area. In 2002 Grace was promoted to Borough Crown Prosecutor and head of Holborn Glidewell Criminal Justice Unit. This was followed in 2003 with the promotion to District Crown Prosecutor and head of the Blackfriars Trial Unit. In 2004 she created and was appointed the head of the first Combined Unit in London before becoming a Chief Crown Prosecutor for Northamptonshire. Grace is committed to doing charitable work, including going into schools to talk about the role of lawyers within the CPS. She feels very strongly that she wants to “give something back” to the children and budding lawyers so that they have “high aspirations and to better themselves”.



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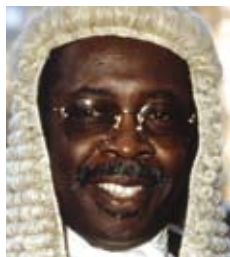
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☛ Dr John Roberts QC

John Roberts QC was the first known person of African ancestry to be appointed Queen's Counsel (1988) in the UK and the first known person of African ancestry to be the head of his Chambers. He was also the first person of African ancestry to be made a Recorder of the Crown Court (1987) and to be appointed by the British Government as a judge of the Supreme Court of the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla (1992). John came to the UK from Sierra Leone in 1952 to join the Royal Air Force (RAF). After a distinguished career in the RAF, he began reading law part-time whilst working. He was called to the Bar, Gray's Inn, in 1969. In 1970 he helped set up 9 Stone Buildings and in 1975 John set up his own Chambers, 2 Stone Buildings. Apart from the English Bar, he has been called to the Bar in nine other countries. He is a Master Bencher at Gray's Inn and is also a member of Lincoln's Inn. He retired from the bench in 1998 at the required age of 70. He is still a practising barrister at Warwick House Chambers but has substantially scaled this down. He sits as an Arbitrator for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.



☛ Anthony Robinson

Anthony Robinson was appointed in 2002 as the Director of Legal Services and Enforcement at the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), which is defunct from the end of September 2007. He read law at Queen Mary College, University of London and graduated in 1984. He was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1988. He subsequently obtained an LLM (Masters in Law) at the London School of Economics in 1998 and in 2000 he was also admitted as a solicitor. He worked at the Stockwell and Clapham Law Centre for four years, joined Lambeth Council as Principal Lawyer in 1991 and Southwark Council in 1995, where he became the Acting Assistant Borough Solicitor. When he took up his appointment with the CRE he became Head of a 40-strong core staff - comprising 20 lawyers and 20 support staff - and overseeing an annual budget of £4.5 million. In addition to his legal and enforcement role in Britain, Anthony and his team also play a key role in the CRE's European and

international legal work as part of the CRE's European and International Strategy, in force since 2004. In October 2007 CRE will be merged into the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), making him the last Director of Legal Services for the CRE which was set up in 1976 under the Race Relations Act.

Patricia Scotland QC

Baroness Scotland of Asthall made legal history yet again on 28 June 2007 when the new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, appointed her as the Attorney General. She is the first ethnic minority and the first female to assume the post. In 1991 she also made legal history when she became the first black female QC and one of the youngest ever QCs at the age of 35. Born in Dominica, Baroness Scotland came to Britain at the age of two with her parents and nine other 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. Baroness Scotland distinguished herself at the Bar and was a founder member and former head of Chambers of Gray's Inn Square. She specialized in family and public law and has chaired a number of major inquiries relating to child abuse, mental health and housing. Baroness Scotland 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. Baroness Scotland 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 Criminal Justice System and Law Reform in 2003 and in May 2005 became the Home Office Minister for Criminal Justice System and Offender Management. She was spokesperson



for the DTI on Women and Equality Issues in the House of Lords and has received numerous awards, commendations and honorary doctorates.

Justice Leila Seth

Leila Seth was the first woman to top the Bar examinations in London, three months after giving birth to her youngest child. She went on to become the first woman judge in the Delhi High Court and the first woman Chief Justice in India. Leila studied law in London because it was the only course where attendance was not strict. On returning to India, Leila started practising law in the Patna and Calcutta High Courts in 1959, at a time when women lawyers were considered rare commodities. Leila argued on a variety of matters, from tax to civil procedure to constitutional law. Her efforts got her elected as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India in 1977. Leila chairs the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative as well as the Multiple Action Research Group and serves as the Vice-President of the World Wildlife Fund. She has also been a passionate advocate of free and compulsory education of children. Her own children grew up to be: writer Vikram Seth, peace activist Shantum and film-maker Aradhana. Leila's autobiography, *On Balance*, was published in 2003.

District Judge Ray Singh

Ray Singh was the first judge on the Welsh bench from an ethnic minority. He was appointed Deputy District Judge in 1992, District Judge in 1997 and currently works on the Wales and Chester Circuit. He has been a member of the Welsh Advisory Committee on Drug and Alcohol Misuse, 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), 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, a board member of Neath Victim Support and a governor of both Swansea Institute for Higher Education and Swansea College.

Lord John Taylor

Lord Taylor of Warwick became the first black peer and also one of the youngest peers in the House of Lords in 1996 at the age of 42. After his appointment, in an interview with *Ebony* magazine, he said: "I really do want to inspire black people, especially young black people, to believe that they can also achieve their dreams." He was called to the Bar in 1978, when he won the Gray's Inn Advocacy Award. Born in Birmingham in 1952, his father was a professional cricketer who played for Warwickshire and the West Indies. Lord Taylor attended Moseley Grammar School and Keele University before attending the Inns of Court School of Law. He was a Special Adviser to the Home Secretary and Minister of State between 1990 and 1991. He introduced, and carried through all its stages, the legislative Bill which is now the Criminal Evidence Amendment Act. Lord Taylor is the Patron of various children's charities, including Kidscape and Parents for Children. He is also the President of the British Board of Film Classification. Lord Taylor was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Laws (LLD) at Warwick University in 1999. He appears regularly on television. In July 2007 he was a panellist on Channel Five's *The Wright Stuff* talk show for four days and he also writes a Blog for his website.



Shaun Wallace

Shaun Wallace, a barrister from Wembley, London made television history on 5 December 2004 by becoming the second person from an ethnic minority background to reach the finals and the first black person to win *Mastermind*. A practising barrister for over 20 years, Shaun could have chosen law as his specialist subject but instead opted for FA Cup Finals since 1970.

Len Woodley QC

Len Woodley became Britain's first Queen's Counsel of Caribbean origin in 1988. Although he has now stepped down as head of Chambers at 8 King's Bench Walk he remains an active member and law advocate. In 1988 Len invited Nelson Mandela, who was then serving a life sentence, to be an honorary door tenant as a mark of solidarity with the South African freedom struggle. Mandela accepted and his name stayed on the board until he became President of South Africa in 1994. Len was born in Trinidad and was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1963, took silk in 1988, and became a Recorder in 1989 until 2000. He is also a member of the Bar for Trinidad and Tobago and a Bencher of the Inner Temple. Len was Chairman of the Laudat Inquiry into mental health and was counsel in the Scarman Inquiry. His cases have included those arising out of the Notting Hill and Bristol riots, the Newham Seven and a Colombian contract killing murder, a trial lasting four months. Len is a Patron of Plan UK, a Friend of the Royal Opera House, a member of the Globe Theatre and a member of MCC. His Leonard Woodley Scholarship is awarded to black or Asian students at the Inner Temple.