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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, PEERS AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS



🕒 **Sadiq Khan MP**

Sadiq Khan is the Labour MP for Tooting, South West London. In July 2007 the new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, appointed him as Minister in the Government Whip's Office, his first Ministerial position. He is the youngest member of the Whip's Office, where he has special responsibility for managing Ministry of Justice legislation. Sadiq was previously a member of the Public Accounts Select Committee, between 2005 and 2007, and earlier in 2007 he was the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons. In 2005 he won Newcomer of the Year in *The Spectator* magazine's Parliamentarian of the Year awards and was nominated for Channel 4's Rising Star award. Sadiq has been described as "one to watch" in Parliament by both *The Independent* 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. A practising solicitor for 11 years, in 2004 he represented two British families whose relatives were being held at Guantánamo Bay. He is also a lecturer and author of legal books.



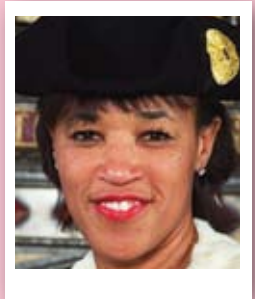
🕒 **David Lammy MP**

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 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 Grant. He was re-elected the following year and became the first Tottenham MP to hold a Government position since 1945. In 1990 David studied law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and then attended the Inns of Court School of Law. He went on to study a Masters in law at the Harvard Law School in 1997. He was politically

active throughout his university life and worked part-time as a volunteer for the Free Representation Unit. He did a placement in Jamaica, working for Amnesty International and volunteered in Thailand for Prisoners Abroad. He practised as a lawyer in London and California, specializing in medical ethics, negligence and commercial litigation.

Patricia Scotland QC

Baroness Scotland is in the Gordon Brown cabinet in her capacity as the Attorney General, the first ethnic minority and first female in history to hold that post. Read more about her within the Legal History and Legal History in the Making and Queen's Counsels sections.



Lord John Taylor

Lord Taylor of Warwick became the first black peer and also one of the youngest peers in the member 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.





🕒 Keith Vaz MP

Keith Vaz is a Labour MP and in July 2007 he was elected Chairman of the influential Home Affairs Select Committee. Before becoming an MP for Leicester East in 1987, he was a solicitor at Richmond Council in 1982, Senior Solicitor at the London Borough of Islington between 1982 and 1985 and solicitor at Highfields and Belgrave Law Centre in Leicester between 1985 and 1987. Keith was born in Aden, Yemen, in 1956 and his family, originally from Goa, India, moved to Britain in 1965. He received a BA in 1979 and an MA in 1987 from Cambridge University. Keith has held a number of Government posts: Minister of State for Europe (1999–2001); Parliamentary Secretary (Minister), Lord Chancellor's Department (May–Oct 1999); Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Attorney General, John Morris and Solicitor General, Lord Falconer QC (Jun 1997–May 1999). He previously served as a member of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee, as Chair of its Sub-Committee for Courts and the Judiciary, and has previously been a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee (1987–1992). Between 1993 and 1994 he was a Member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He is a member of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee and Chair of the Labour Party's Ethnic Minority Taskforce.