

SECTION 4

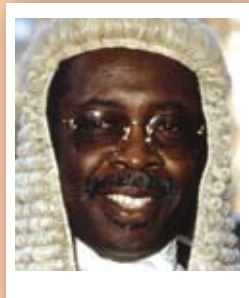
QUEEN'S COUNSELS (QCs)

Desmond de Silva QC	86	Manjit Singh Gill QC	95
John Roberts QC	86	Mukul Chawla QC	96
Len Woodley QC	86	Vasanti Selvaratnam QC	96
Michel Kallipetis QC	86	Kim Hollis QC	97
Patricia Scotland QC, Baroness		Satinder Hunjan QC	97
Scotland of Asthal	87	Oba Nsugbe QC	98
Sibghat Kadri QC	87	Icah Peart QC	99
Mukhtar Hussain QC	87	Daniel Alexander QC	99
Kuldip Singh QC	88	Lakha Abbas QC	100
Harendra de Silva QC	88	Karim Khalil QC	100
Ali Malek QC	89	Avtar Khangure QC	101
Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE	90	Fidelis Oditah QC	102
Courtenay Griffiths QC	90	Bankim Thanki QC	102
Ajmalul Hossain QC	90	Richard Wilson QC	103
Hodge Malek QC	91	Martin Forde QC	103
Michel Massih QC	92	Khawar Qureshi QC	104
Frank Panford QC	92	Mohammed Khamisa QC	105
Anesta Weekes QC	94	Nirmal Shant QC	105
Jerome Lynch QC	94		



◀ **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. Read more about him in the 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 Queen's Counsel in the UK. Read more about him in the Legal History in the Making section.

Len Woodley QC

Len Woodley became Britain's first Queen's Counsel of Caribbean origin in 1988. Read more about him in the Legal history in the Making 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, the Chancery Division and the Technology and Construction Court. He has over 38 years' experience as a practising barrister in the field of general commercial law, professional negligence and mediation. His clients have included Shirley Bassey and Elton John. Michel is an accredited mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution and ADR Chambers – a leading Alternative Disputes Resolution group - and is a Chartered Arbitrator. He is Chairman of Bar Council Committee on ADR and was a member of the working party which drafted the EU Code of Practice for mediators. He was also asked to attend a meeting of JURI - the legal service committee of the European Parliament - to give expert opinion on the proposed EU Directive on ADR. Michel was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1968 and took silk in 1989. He is a member of the FCIArb, the Employment

Law Bar Association, Professional Negligence Bar Association, COMBAR, TECBAR, Bar European Group, LCIA and ICC.

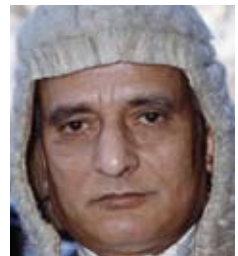
Patricia Scotland QC ➤

Baroness Scotland has made legal history in 1991 when she became the first black female QC and one of the youngest ever QCs at the age of 35. Read more about her within the Legal History and Legal History in the Making section.



Sibghat Kadri QC ➤

Sibghat Kadri 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. Read more about him within the Legal History and Legal History in the Making section.



Mukhtar Hussain QC

Mukhtar Hussain QC is head of Lincoln House Chambers in Manchester – one of the leading sets of chambers in the North of England. He is a Recorder and a Bencher of Middle Temple. He specializes in all areas of criminal law and immigration. He has been involved in many high-profile cases, including appearing for the prosecution in all the cases arising out of the Oldham riots and acting for the prosecution in Operation Gately, a series of drugs cases involving an undercover Police Officer, a £12 million money laundering case and acting for one of the defendants in the shooting of WPC Beshenivsky in Bradford. Mukhtar was called to the Bar in 1971, became a Recorder in 1990 and took silk in 1992. He is the former Chairman of the Police Appeals Tribunal and the Mental Health Tribunal. Mukhtar is also a former member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Panel. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, the Serious Fraud Office Panel and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Panel. He is fluent in Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi and has a “working knowledge” of Arabic, Gujarati and Persian.



🕒 **Kuldeep Singh QC**

Kuldeep is a member of Serle Court Chambers, and specialises in commercial litigation, chancery commercial, civil fraud, criminal fraud, arbitration, financial services, banking, disciplinary and regulatory, human rights, sports law, defamation, contempt, professional negligence, health and safety, and business crime. He is recommended in various directories, including *Chambers and Partners*, which recommends him in civil fraud, criminal fraud, financial services, and sports law, and says that he has “great gravitas”, and offers “the perfect blend of criminal and civil fraud experience”, and that he is “a popular choice in litigious actions, and he frequently acts and advises in international and domestic fraud litigation on behalf of corporations, major banks and accountancy firms”. Kuldeep was called to the Bar in 1975, took silk in 1993, became a Recorder in 2002, and is a Bencher of Middle Temple. In 2007, he was elected as Secretary of Combar. He sits as an arbitrator, and as a mediator, and is a member of the LCIA. In addition, he is a member of the panel of arbitrators, and mediators, of the FA Premier League, the Football Association, and the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel. He is also a member of the FA Premier League Panel of Chairmen for Disciplinary Commissions and Appeal Boards, the Football Association Panel of Chairmen for Appeal Boards, and of the Panel of Chairmen of the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel for sports disputes. He is a member of the Fraud Advisory Panel of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He is also a member of COMBAR, the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association, and IBA.

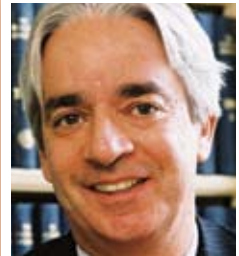
Harendra de Silva QC

Harendra de Silva QC is Deputy head of Chambers at 2 Paper Buildings and is President of the Association of Sri Lankan Lawyers in the UK. He specializes in serious crime - including murder, serious fraud, importation and supply of drugs, armed robbery, rape, money laundering and human trafficking involving Chinese “Snakehead” gangs. Harendra, a Harmsworth Scholar, was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1970 after completing his pupillage at

2 Paper Buildings. In 1991 he was appointed as a Recorder of the Crown Court and in 1994 he became a member of the Panel of Chairmen of the Police Appeals Tribunal. He took silk in 1995. Harendra was appointed Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple in 2004. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association and former Chairman of the Surrey and South London Bar Mess. He has chaired seminars on criminal law and delivered lectures on *The Right to Silence* and *Admissibility of Bad Character Evidence*. Harendra graduated in law from Queens' College, Cambridge and obtained his Masters in International Law.

Ali Malek QC

Ali Malek is a QC at 3 Verulam Buildings Chambers. He is also a Recorder. His practice is largely commercial, with experience in all types of banking and financial disputes, aviation, international trade, financial services, insurance, civil fraud, energy law (oil and gas joint venture disputes), competition and consumer credit law, professional negligence (accountants and solicitors), insolvency, sports law, international arbitration (particularly ICC/ LCIA and including the application of "general principles of law"). He is listed in five categories in *Chambers and Partners* 2006 and four categories in *Legal 500* 2006. In a survey on the heads of litigation of the top 50 UK firms by turnover, published by *Legal Week* in 2004, he was listed in the top 16 practising at the Commercial Bar. Ali graduated from Keble College, Oxford, with a first-class degree in civil law and obtained his Masters in 1978. He was called to the Bar in 1980, took silk in 1996 and became a Recorder in 2000. He became a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 2003, a member of the General Council of the Bar in 2005 the Chairman of the Commercial Bar Association in 2007.





☛ Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE

Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE, who became Britain's first and only ethnic minority High Court Judge in 2004, took silk in 1998. Read more about her in the Legal History and Legal History in the Making as well as the Judges sections.



☛ Courtenay Griffiths QC

Courtenay Griffiths QC is joint head (with Owen Davies, QC) of Garden Court Chambers - one of the best-known, largest, radical and respected Chambers in the UK. He is also a Recorder. He has been counsel in some of the most famous trials and inquests in the UK, including the Damilola Taylor murder trial, the Blakelock murder trial, the Brighton bombing, the Harrods bombing, the Canary Wharf bombing and the M25 appeal. Courtenay graduated from the London School of Economics, University of London, in 1978 and was called to the Bar in 1980. Between 1981 and 1986, he was a Legal Assistant to the then Greater London Council's Police Committee Support Unit and later a Revson Fellow at the City College in New York. He returned to private practice in 1986 and took silk in 1998. He became a Recorder of the Crown Court the following year. Courtenay has received Honorary Doctorates from both Leeds Metropolitan University and his home town university, Coventry. He is a Bencher of Gray's Inn and has chaired the Public Affairs Committee of the Bar Council - also for several years the Chair of its Race Relations Committee. He has written and lectured extensively on all aspects of the criminal justice system and is a trustee of the Bernie Grant Trust.

Ajmalul Hossain QC

Ajmalul Hossain QC specializes in trans-national banking, trading supply and financial contracts at Selborne Chambers. He has acted for several hundred ex-employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in the multi-million pound liquidation of the bank in England, Luxembourg and the

Cayman Islands, which has now been settled in their favour. In 1988 he became a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Recent cases have included the successful release from detention of two Channel 4 television journalists. This involved negotiations at the highest level of Government. He has advised in the setting up of subsidiaries, branches and representative offices of banks, financial institutions and companies in Bangladesh, the UK, America and the Middle East and is an Expert Witness on laws of different jurisdictions, appearing in courts of North America, Europe and Asia. He is the Chairman of Employment Tribunals, dealing with complex cases of sex, race and disability discrimination, unfair and wrongful dismissal. Ajmalul was called to the Bar in 1976 and took silk in 1998. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies and a member of the Standards Panel of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Hodge Malek QC

Hodge Malek is a QC at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square Chambers and a Recorder. He specializes in banking, financial services and insurance/reinsurance. In 2004 he was appointed a Bencher of Gray's Inn and became a Recorder in 2005. He was the general editor of *Phipson on Evidence* (2005) as well as joint author of *Disclosure* (2005). Hodge is also a member of the working party, chaired by Mr Justice Cresswell, on Electronic Disclosure. On banking, *Chambers and Partners* 2007 says he is "an experienced practitioner, fully conversant with the latest developments in the law"; on financial services it says he is "considered a solid, reliable performer by clients"; and on professional discipline it says he is "a barrister solicitors would instruct at the drop of a hat. He comes into his own on financial services disciplinary work ... an able advocate with a lot of experience". Hodge attended Sorbonne, University of Paris, in 1978, graduated from Keble College, Oxford, in 1981 and obtained a BCL in 1982. He won both the Aitkin and Birkenhead scholarships. He was called to the Bar in 1983 and took silk in 1999. He speaks fluent French and is a member of the Franco-British Lawyer Society, the Bar Sports Group, ALBA, COMBAR and PEBA.



☛ Michel Massih QC

Michel Massih QC is at Took's Chambers, was a founder member of the Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK and was its president for two years. He has defended in some of the most notorious leading criminal cases in the UK. His work has included terrorism, extradition, gangland cases, murders, money laundering/fraud, kidnapping/extortion, and drugs. Michel has appeared in a large number of headline terrorist cases. These include a number of IRA cases. In recent times he has defended in virtually all major terrorist trials, including the "Ricin" and "Fertilizer" cases. He has also defended in important sex cases, including the leading "Date-Rape" trial. His other defence work has included representing members of the Kuwaiti and Saudi Royal families. More recently he has acted for the families seeking the prosecution of Israeli war criminals, including General Mofaz and ex-Prime Minister Sharon. Michel has appeared in a number of Miscarriage of Justice cases and has appeared in reported cases in the Court of Appeal and in the House of Lords. Internationally, he has been to the Maldives acting for the leader of the opposition and is currently acting for the Syrian Government and senior Syrian officials who are being investigated by the United Nations Security Council for the murder of the Lebanese ex-Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Michel read law at London University and was called to the Bar in 1979. He took silk in 1999. He speaks fluent French and Arabic and speaks Italian and Spanish "reasonably well".



☛ Frank Panford QC

Frank Panford QC was called to the bar (Middle Temple) in 1972 and took silk in 1999. He was formerly at Doughty Street Chambers. He is also a Recorder.



BLD 

To advertise in the Black Letter
Law 2008 edition or nominate
someone that was not included
in the 2007 edition, please email
blackletterlaw@onlinebld.com
or call **0845 601 8339**



🕒 Anesta Weekes QC

Anesta Weekes QC is a member of the Crime Team at 23 Essex Street Chambers, where she specializes in criminal law and is the head of Education and Training. She was counsel to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and to the Broadwater Farm Inquiry into the death of PC Keith Blakelock. In 1999 Anesta was the runner-up in The Times Woman of Achievement in Law award. She read law at Keele University and completed her Bar Finals at the Inns of Court School of Law in 1980. She was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1981, took silk in 1999 and the following year was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court. In 2002 she became an accredited mediator and in 2003 was appointed a Benchler of Gray's Inn. Anesta is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, Chair of the British Caribbean Jurist Group, a member of the Industrial Relations Society, Employment Law Bar Association and the Discrimination Law Association. Her pro bono work has included getting a man's death sentence commuted to one of life imprisonment before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 1999. She is a specialist trainer in advocacy skills and was a member of a team of lawyers, sponsored by the UK Government, to train South African lawyers. Read more about her within the Queen's Counsels section.

Jerome Lynch QC

Jerome Lynch QC is the deputy head of Charter Chambers and has represented well-known footballers as well as appearing on television himself in crime-related shows. He is a criminal defence specialist and his cases have included defending Brian Wright, a horse race-fixer and drugs baron who ran an international cocaine empire and was estimated to have smuggled three tons of cocaine into Great Britain; alleged gang-land killers in Ireland; El Faisal, the Moslem imam accused of incitement to murder; a "super-grass" killing; and the "Arms to Liverpool" case. He has also represented footballers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers and referee Norman Burtenshaw. Jerome was called to the Bar in 1983 and took silk in 2000. He teaches advocacy to young members of the Bar on behalf of Lincoln's Inn and is a member of the Criminal Bar Association. Jerome's TV appearances have

included two series of *Nothing but the Truth* and two series of *Crime Team* for Channel 4 and co-hosting ITV1's *The People's Court*. He has contributed to various chat shows as a guest speaker and news and documentary programmes. However, he had to abort a documentary on property baron Nicholas van Hoogstraaten in Zimbabwe after being placed under house arrest in Harare.

Manjit Singh Gill QC

Manjit Singh Gill is a QC at 6 King's Bench Walk Chambers. He is a leading immigration, asylum and international human rights silk who has conducted many landmark cases, including *H,G and M v Secretary of State* in 2007 where the Court of Appeal holds that non Arab Darfuris cannot be safely relocated to Khartoum and another about the right to marry under Article 12. The House Lords should hear the government's appeal against these Court of Appeal judgements in October 2007 and early 2008 respectively. Manjit has also conducted some high-profile terrorist trials and national security litigation, ranging from the conspiracy to murder the Indian Prime Minister to the Lords' decision on the indefinite detention without trial of suspected terrorists. Manjit graduated from University College, London, in 1981 and was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1982. He took silk in 2000. In the 1980s he was active in the Society of Black Lawyers and involved in a number of initiatives to counter race discrimination in the legal profession. In the mid-1990s he was involved in setting up the Discrimination Law Association. In 1998 he was appointed, under the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act of 1997, as one of the very first Special Advocates authorized to represent the interests of appellants before the Commission (national security cases). Manjit is a member of the Bar Council's Immigration Practitioners Accreditation Board and has previously assisted the Bar Council's Committee dealing with direct access to the Bar. He is editor of *Immigration and Nationality Law Reports* and speaks Punjabi and Urdu.



Mukul Chawla QC

Mukul Chawla QC is at 9-12 Bell Yard Chambers. He is a bencher of Gray's Inn and was Standing Counsel to HM Customs and Excise between 1996 and 2001. Mukul specializes in fraud, general crime - in particular, representing police officers - and Judicial Review. Since taking silk in 2001 his notable cases have included defending a police sergeant charged with the unlawful killing of black paratrooper Christopher Alder; one of the principal defendants in the Jubilee Line Extension fraud and corruption case; and defending in a double murder case at Exeter Crown Court. He has prosecuted for Customs and Excise in a case involving the unlawful export of components for the Pakistani Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme; and acted for the DPP and HMRC where the Court of Appeal decided that the defence of necessity was not available to users of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Mukul was educated at Eton College and University College, London. He regularly runs training in chambers and at Gray's Inn and has assisted in setting up advocacy training programmes in Trinidad and Tobago and Jersey. He is recommended in *Chambers and Partners* for his "exceptional brightness, extreme thoroughness and general presence in court".

Vasanti Selvaratnam QC

Vasanti Selvaratnam is a founder member of Stone Chambers. She is also a Recorder. She specializes in all aspects of international commercial litigation and shipping law, including admiralty, arbitration, competition law and civil fraud. Her clients include the major Protection and Indemnity Clubs, ship-owners, charterers and salvors. She is recommended in *Chambers and Partners* 2007 as "well-known in shipping circles and a very active member of the London Shipping Law Centre." She specializes in both wet and dry shipping, and is "one of the best wet practitioners in chambers". She is currently advising Petroplus on a multimillion-dollar commodity dispute. She further appeared in the Court of Appeal in *Arkin v Borchard Lines*, a case raising important competition law issues. Legal 500 2005 describes her as "an expert at presenting salvage cases".

She is also an accredited mediator. Vasanti graduated from King's College, London, in 1982 and she also gained a first-class Masters in 1984. She was called to the Bar in 1983, became an Examiner of the High Court in 1992, a Recorder in 2000 and took silk in 2001. She is a member of COMBAR, BMLA, LMAA, London Shipping Law Centre, Bar European Group, European Circuit; and the Law Society European Group.

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.



Satinder Hunjan QC ➡

Satinder Hunjan QC is head of the Clinical Negligence Group at No 5 Chambers and a Recorder of the Crown Court. He specializes in clinical negligence, industrial disease, personal injury and regulatory law. Satinder's clinical negligence cases have included substantial claims involving cerebral palsy and other birth injuries; severe brain and spinal injuries; injuries of the utmost severity; claims arising from the use of medical products and equipment; human rights;



medical ethics and disciplinary and similar proceedings. He has significant experience in the personal injury field, with a special interest in brain and spinal injuries, and industrial disease involving respiratory disorders, particularly lung cancer and similar disorders. He has also acted in defence of many national companies and organisations in prosecutions brought by the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities. Satinder was called to the Bar in 1984 and took silk in 2002. He is a member of the Professional Negligence Bar Association and the Personal Injuries Bar Association. *Chambers and Partners 2007* says he is: "expert in both clinical negligence and personal injury. He is frequently found acting on some of the most high-profile cases around". He is recommended unequivocally by claimant clients in Legal 500 (2005).



🕒 Oba Nsugbe QC

Oba Nsugbe QC is joint Head of Chambers at 3 Pump Court, a Common Law set of Chambers in the Temple with over 70 Barristers. He acts as a Legal Assessor to the General Medical Council and sits as a Recorder in the Crown Court. He was the first Nigerian to be awarded the rank of silk practising abroad and has also been appointed Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). Oba specializes in health and safety law, commercial contracts and arbitration (with an emphasis on Nigeria) corruption and serious crime. He has been a member of the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board, the Bar Council Professional Conduct Committee and the Glidewell Committee on Judicial Appointments and Silks. As a member of the Bar Council Carter Response Group and Chair of the Carter Diversity Group, he has been active in challenging the potential impact of the Carter proposals on BME practitioners. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and Chair of the British Nigeria Law Forum. He has also been involved in the training of judges and reform of civil procedure law in Nigeria. Oba was educated at Hull University and was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1985. He became a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1986 and a Recorder in England and Wales in 2000. He took silk in 2002.

Icah Peart QC

Icah Peart is a QC at Garden Court Chambers and is also a Recorder. He specializes in “heavyweight” criminal defence and is particularly keen on cases which have political, civil libertarian or racial dimensions. As a junior, Icah led in cases where allegations included murder, attempted murder, rape, armed robbery, large-scale conspiracies to import and supply drugs, fraud and public order offences. He has defended cases arising from the Southall, Brixton, Bristol and Tottenham disturbances in the 1980s as well as in cases arising from the miners’ strike of the same era. He has also been successful in defence in a number of high-profile murder cases, including a 12-year-old who was the youngest defendant to stand trial at the Old Bailey for 100 years. Icah was called to the Bar in 1978, became a Recorder in 2000 and took silk in 2002. He is Vice-Chairman of the Bar’s Race Relations Committee. He is also an elected member of the Middle Temple Hall Committee and a co-opted member of the Middle Temple Executive Committee. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, South Eastern Circuit, LSE Lawyers’ Alumni Group and Amnesty International.

Daniel Alexander QC ↻

Daniel Alexander QC is a barrister practising at 8 New Square, Lincoln’s Inn. He became a Deputy High Court Judge in 2006. Daniel has extensive experience of litigation of intellectual property cases and those with competition, European Community, commercial and administrative law aspects. He is recommended in directories as a leading silk in intellectual property, patents, information technology law and media and entertainment. One of his main areas of current work is cases involving biotechnology. He has acted for the Beatles for a number of years, including in their dispute with Apple Computer over the rights to the “Apple” mark. *Chambers and Partners* 2006 describes Daniel as “the complete package”, a “client-friendly top-notch player”. He has appeared in more than 20 cases before the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, in both references and direct actions. Daniel gained a first-class honours degree in Physics and Philosophy from Oxford



University, winning the Henry Wilde Prize in Philosophy. He obtained his Masters from Harvard Law School as a Kennedy Scholar. Daniel was called to the English and New York Bars in 1988 and became a QC in 2003. He is also a trustee of the Natural History Museum.

Lakha Abbas QC

Lakha Abbas QC is at 9 Bedford Row Chambers. Lakha was the highest paid Legal Aid criminal lawyer in 2002-3 and is a Department of Trade and Industry investigator. He is a leading criminal law defence specialist who is recommended in *Chambers and Partners* 2006. His wide-ranging practice varies from cases involving complex fraud, money laundering and drug trafficking through to murder and international terrorism. He is regularly instructed in cases of the highest profile which come before the criminal courts and, notably, at the Central Criminal Court. His fraud practice encompasses VAT, diversion, revenue, advance fee, MIT, insider dealing and mortgage frauds. His clients include City and financial institutions on issues relating to potential fraud and money laundering. He is also a Department of Trade and Industry investigator. Lakha was called to the Bar in 1984 and took silk in 2003. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, the European Criminal Bar Association, the International Criminal Defence Attorneys Association and the Society of Asian Lawyers. He speaks Gujarati and Swahili.

Karim Khalil QC

Karim Khalil is at One Paper Buildings Chambers and became an Assistant Recorder in 1997, one of the youngest at the age of 35. He became a Recorder in 2000. Karim specializes in crime, civil actions against the police arising out of "criminal" allegations and health and safety. He was instructed as junior counsel for the prosecution in the Soham murder trial at the Old Bailey and continued as the second Silk after his appointment in 2003. He was the initial defence counsel for Steve Wright, who was accused of the murder of five Ipswich prostitutes. He also successfully

advised a former Government scientist investigated in the Porton Down “chemical testing” inquiry. Karim graduated from Queens’ College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1984. He was an approved pupil supervisor for 15 years. Karim is a member of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences and has been on the judging panel of the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire’s award for forensic excellence since its inaugural year in 2006. He is a member of Lincoln’s Inn, Chair of the South Eastern Circuit Liaison Committee, Chair of the Cambridge and Peterborough Bar Mess, member of the Criminal Bar Association, Norfolk Bar Mess and the Bar Disciplinary Tribunal.

Avtar Khangure QC

Avtar Khangure is a QC at St Philips Chambers in Birmingham. He is also a Recorder. He practises in general commercial litigation within the fields of banking, company law, insolvency, professional negligence, franchising and product liability. His client base is also varied - from major institutions, such as banks, to professional clients, like accountants and solicitors and also individuals and companies. He has also lectured on the subject of insolvency to solicitors and insolvency practitioners. *Chambers and Partners* 2001-2002 described Avtar as a “leader at the Bar” and put him in the leading category of junior counsel in the Midlands in his fields. It referred to him as being “astute... exceptionally pleasant to deal with and his broad expertise makes him a favourite of the big firms”. In the 2003-2004 edition he continued to be described as a “leader at the Bar” in the fields of Commercial Litigation and Insolvency. Avtar graduated from Cambridge and gained a Masters in Commercial Law. He was called to the Bar (Gray’s Inn) in 1985, became an Assistant Recorder in 1998, a full Recorder in 2000 and took silk in 2003.



🕒 Fidelis Oditah QC

Fidelis Oditah is a QC at 3/4 South Square Chambers and is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). He practises in England and Wales and in Nigeria. His practice in England and Wales includes international commercial arbitration, general commercial litigation, banking and financial services, company law and insolvency and the practice in Nigeria focuses on commercial law, high-profile public law and oil and gas advice and litigation. Born in Nigeria, Fidelis graduated from the University of Lagos in 1984 with a first-class law degree. The following year he graduated, again with honours, from the Nigerian Law School. In 1986 he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship enabling him to study at Oxford University. He obtained a degree in civil law in 1987 followed by his Masters and Doctorate in 1989, completing his thesis in only two years. He was called to the Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 1992 and took silk in 2003. Fidelis was a Fellow and Tutor in Law at Merton College, Oxford and Travers Smith Braithwaite Lecturer in Corporate Finance Law at Oxford from 1989 until 1997. He resigned in order to practise full-time at the Bar. However, he remains a visiting professor at the Oxford University Faculty of Law. He also served as a consultant to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law from 1995 until 1999. His books include *Legal Aspects of Receivables Financing*, published in 1991, a leading text in its field.

Bankim Thanki QC

Bankim Thanki is at Fountain Court Chambers. Rated as one of the "stars at the Bar" by *Chambers and Partners* for several years, he has considerable experience over a broad range of practice areas in which he is ranked by both Chambers and the Legal 500. Bankim's practice focuses on commercial litigation and other high quality civil work, with particular emphasis on general commercial litigation, banking and finance (including banking supervision), aviation, civil fraud, commercial arbitration, insurance and reinsurance, professional negligence, sports law and civil procedure (especially all aspects of disclosure and privilege). *Chambers and Partners* 2007 says he "truly

shines. He ticks several boxes and is a good advocate, he drafts excellent skeleton arguments and is liked by Judges". Bankim graduated with a first-class degree from Oxford in 1986 and obtained his Masters in 1989. He was called to the Bar (Harmsworth Scholar, Middle Temple) in 1988 and was awarded a Council of Legal Education Studentship from 1987 until 1989. He took silk in 2003. He was editor of *The Law of Privilege*, published in 2006 and is a member of the Commercial Bar Association. He was also rapporteur to the Alexander Review of Bar Standards, Blueprint for the Bar, in 1994.

Richard Wilson QC

Richard Wilson QC is at 36 Bedford Row Chambers and is a Recorder. He specializes in commercial disputes (including funding and costs issues involving CFAs and CCFAs), employment and discrimination, and the Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment Scheme. He also has extensive general common law experience. Richard graduated from Sussex University and obtained his Masters from Jesus College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1981, took silk in 2003 and was called to the Bar of Belize in 2004. He sits as a Recorder of the Crown Court and is also a part-time Chairman of the Employment Tribunals. He is Vice-Chairman of the Training for the Bar Committee of the Bar Council and is an executive Board member of the Commercial Litigation Association. Richard is also a member of the Contributory Board of *The Commercial Litigation Journal*, a bi-monthly publication. He was also an editor and contributor to *Commercial and Mercantile Courts Litigation Practice*, published in 2004, and lectures and writes articles on his specialized field. He is a member of the Agriculture, Employment, Public Law, Civil Litigation, International and Public Access Practice Groups.

Martin Forde QC

Martin Forde QC is at 1 Crown Office Row Chambers and a member of the Bar Council Pupillage Award Waiver Committee. His practice covers all aspects of health law and

he is one of the foremost practitioners in the fields of clinical negligence and professional discipline. He appears regularly in all the Regulatory and Disciplinary tribunals, predominantly for practitioners, including doctors, dentists, osteopaths, chiropractors and optometrists. Martin has acted for the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council. He has appeared in a number of major cases in the Privy Council and has been involved in medical-related judicial review hearings in the Administrative Court as well as judicial review hearings involving mental health and immigration issues. Martin's clinical negligence and personal injury practice is exclusively undertaken in the High Court, involving injuries of maximum severity. He has appeared on many occasions in the Employment Tribunal, acting for NHS Trusts and medical practitioners. Martin graduated from Oxford University and was called to the Bar in 1984. He took silk in 2005. He became a co-opted member of the Bar Council in 1994 and a co-opted member of the Lord Neuberger Entry to the Bar Working Party in 2007.

Khawar Qureshi QC

Khawar Qureshi is a QC at Serle Court Chambers and is an accredited mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR). He also sits as a Recorder. He specializes in commercial litigation, international arbitration, public international law, administrative and constitutional law. Khawar has made extensive appearances in Court at all levels and in arbitration matters for and against the UK Government and foreign governments. He is recommended for public international law in *Chambers and Partners*, Legal 500 and *Legal Experts* and also for international arbitration in *Chambers and Partners* (one of three junior counsel nominated for the International Arbitration Junior of the Year 2005). He is also recommended for administrative and public law in Legal 500. Khawar obtained a first-class degree and Masters from Cambridge and was called to the Bar (Queen Mother's Scholar, Middle Temple) in 1990. In 1993 he was the youngest advocate to have appeared in the International Court of Justice. He taught commercial law part-time at Cambridge University between 1989 and

1993 and was visiting lecturer in international law at King's College, London, between 1993 and 2002. He continues as visiting professor in commercial law at SOAS, London, which he began in 2004, the same year he became an accredited mediator with CEDR. He became a QC in 2006.

Mohammed Khamisa QC

Mohammed Khamisa is at 9-12 Bell Yard Chambers and is a Recorder. He specializes in serious crime, including fraud, murder, kidnapping and corruption. He regularly appears both for the prosecution and defence in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal. In 2006 he appeared for the defence in the £5 million robbery from Heathrow Airport case and the previous year, again for the defence, in the £33 million gold bullion robbery from Heathrow Airport case. He is a member of the Fraud Advisory Panel and in the last five years has been instructed in a number of fraud cases. Mohammed was called to the Bar in 1985, became a Recorder in 2004 and took silk in 2006. He is President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, a Special Advocate (Leaders' List) of the Security Immigration and Asylum Commission, Standing Counsel to the Department of Trade and Industry and serves on the Bar Council's Disciplinary Summary Procedure Panel. He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, the European Criminal Bar Association, Barreau Penal International Criminal Bar, Institute of Money Laundering Prevention Officers, International Association of Prosecutors and Lawyers for Liberty. Mohammed speaks Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu and Kutchi.

Nirmal Shant QC

Nirmal Shant is at 1 High Pavement Chambers, Nottingham. She is also a Recorder. She is a criminal practitioner regularly instructed in high-profile cases and has extensive mixed practice of prosecution and defence, which includes all types of serious criminal offences, like murder, manslaughter, sex offences, serious robberies and fraud offences. Recent defence cases have included a woman charged with the murder of her two children. Her prosecutions have included

a man charged with murder raising the defence of "suicide pact", a woman charged with manslaughter after suffocating her baby when drunk and police officers facing corruption charges. Nirmal graduated from the University of Leicester, was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1984 and became a Recorder in 2001. When she took silk in 2006 she became the first woman Queen's Counsel within her Chambers. She is a former member of the Bar Human Rights Committee and a current member of the Association of Women Judges. She is a member of the Criminal Justice Strategy Committee and De Montfort University Law Advisory Committee. Nirmal speaks Punjabi and Hindi.