

Justice in Times of COVID-19 Webinar, 28 May 2020

The Honourable Speakers and The Honourable Moderator Professional Profiles

The Honourable Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore



Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on 6 November 2012.

Chief Justice Menon graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore in 1986 and a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School in 1991. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor in Singapore in 1987, and as an attorney and counsellor-at-law in New York in 1992.

After he was called to the Bar in Singapore, he practised with major local and international law firms, primarily as an advocate, in the fields of commercial litigation and arbitration, construction law and insolvency law. From 2006 to 2007, he served as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008. In 2010, he was appointed the 6th Attorney-General of Singapore, a post he relinquished in 2012 shortly before his appointment as a Judge of Appeal. He was appointed to the Presidential Council for Minority Rights upon his appointment as Attorney-General in 2010 and was later appointed as its Chairman in 2012, upon his appointment as Chief Justice. He is also the President of the Singapore Academy of Law.

Chief Justice Menon is married with three children.

The Honourable Judge Andriani Nurdin, Vice President of Jakarta High Court, Indonesia



The Honourable Judge Andriani Nurdin is currently the Deputy President of Jakarta High Court, Indonesia. She graduated from Faculty of Law of University of Indonesia in 1982 and obtained her master degree at the same university in 2003 and completed her Doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law University of Padjajaran in 2011.

She started her career as Judge at the Cirebon District Court, West Java in 1982. She has been engaged in many judiciary reforms on various topics such as bankruptcy law, Intellectual Property, environmental law, Anti-Money Laundering, Intellectual Property Rights, and IT Court.

The Right Honourable Tan Sri Azahar Mohamed, Chief Judge of The High Court in Malaya, Malaysia



Justice Azahar Mohamed graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Malaya in 1980, before obtaining his Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1987.

His Lordship has had a long legal career with the Malaysian Judicial and Legal Service since 1980. He held various posts in the Judicial and Legal Service, including Senior Assistant Registrar of the High Court; Deputy Public Prosecutor for the States of Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Kelantan; Senior Federal Counsel to the Anti-Corruption Agency; Legal Advisor to the Royal Customs and Excise Department; Deputy Registrar of Companies; Deputy Head of Prosecution and later on was promoted to the position of Head of Prosecution of the Attorney General's Chambers in 1997. Three years hence, he was appointed Head of Civil Division of the Attorney General's Chambers.

His Lordship was appointed to the Malaysian Supreme Court as Judicial Commissioner in 2004. Two years later, he was elevated as a High Court Judge. During his tenure as a Judge of the High Court, he had served in Kuala Lumpur in the Commercial Division and was appointed as Intellectual Property Judge. In 2011, he was elevated to the Court of Appeal and thereafter to the Federal Court in 2014.

On 8 August 2019, His Lordship ascended the ladder of his judicial career when he was appointed as the Chief Judge of Malaya.

Prior to his appointment as the Chief Judge of Malaya, Justice Azahar Mohamed was a Managing Judge of Kuala Lumpur High Court; to oversee reforms to the Civil Division, Criminal Division, Appellate and Special Powers Division, Family Court and Construction Court. In 2015, he was the first Malaysian Judge to be awarded an Inns of Court Fellowship at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. He succeeded in inculcating a learning culture amongst Judges through a mechanism of continuous judicial training and was appointed as Chairman of Training Committee of the Malaysian Judicial Academy, formed under the aegis of the Malaysian Judicial Appointments Commission.

The Honourable Jose Midas P. Marquez, Court Administrator of the Supreme Court of the Philippines



Jose Midas P. Marquez is the 14th Court Administrator of the Supreme Court for the lower courts. As Court Administrator, he holds the rank of the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, and has supervision over some 2,600 judges and 25,000 court personnel across the country.

A certified court insider, he joined the Supreme Court twenty-nine years ago, in 1991, as a summer apprentice doing legal research in the office of an associate justice while still in law school. He then became a regular law clerk of several justices of the Supreme Court until he reached his present position. He was once concurrently the Court Administrator, Spokesperson of the Supreme Court, and Chief of its Public Information Office, and Chief of Staff of the Office of the Chief Justice.

He has been in the forefront of judicial reforms since 2000. Presently, he heads various committees and projects in the Supreme Court, is a law professor, Chairperson of the Philippine Judicial Academy Department of Court Administration, and an author and editor of a number of law books. Admitted as a member of the Philippine Bar in March 1994, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in 1987 and Juris Doctor degree in 1993, both from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Moderator: The Honourable Shiranee Tilakawardane Acting Chief Justice and Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka (retd.), Consultant, Judges Institute, International and National Arbitrator



Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane has the distinction of being the first woman appointed as a State Counsel in Sri Lanka, in 1978. She established a second record, breaking the barriers of gender, when she became Sri Lanka's first female judge of the High Court in 1988. In 1997, she was the first woman Admiralty Court Judge, and in 1998, she was appointed as the first woman Justice of the Court of Appeal. In 2003, she added another 'first' to her record, becoming the first woman President of the Court of Appeal. In November 2003, Justice Tilakawardane ascended to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Among many other achievements, she was also the first woman prosecutor at the Air Force Court Martial, Sri Lanka in 1981.

Her areas of focus are equality, gender education, child rights and child pornography. She has served as President of the Special Presidential Commission of inquiry into corruption in procurement of high value weapons and other military equipment and services during the period 2000-2005, by the Government of Sri Lanka. With numerous achievements to her credit, as well as experience in both Criminal and Civil Law, her career spans 33 years.

Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane has received many awards including the Sakshi of India Award and the International Zonta Award for achievement and contribution to the field of Law. She has also received a Certificate of Merit from the Chief Justice of Rhode Island for dedication to the judicial process. In addition, she has received medals for presentations from the Supreme Court Judges of Canada, Bangladesh and India.

Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane holds honorary doctorates in Law from both Smith College and Willian's College in the United States, for international work on women and children's rights. She has a diploma in Forensic Medicine and Science from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was awarded a fellowship in "Human Rights, International Law and Intervention" from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA. She also received certificates in "Women and Peace" from John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA. Among her other achievements, she holds a diploma in International Commercial Law and Banking. She also is the recipient of Certificates of Merit from the American Chamber of Commerce and from ITC/ILO.