



PRESS RELEASE (For Immediate Use)

95 NEW KING'S COUNSEL APPOINTED IN THE 2022 COMPETITION

The appointments of 95 new King's Counsel (also known as silk) are announced today.

These appointments are made by His Majesty The King on the advice of the Lord Chancellor, Dominic Raab MP, following consideration by the independent King's Counsel Selection Panel.

Monisha Shah, Chair of the Selection Panel, said today:

"I am delighted at the announcement of the new silks. I congratulate each one of them. The selection process is a rigorous and demanding one. We collect confidential assessments from judges, fellow advocates and professional clients, who give freely of their time to provide evidence about an applicant's demonstration of the competencies. Those applicants who are not filtered out following consideration of the assessments are then interviewed by two members of the Selection Panel, following which the whole Panel review all the evidence on each interviewed applicant. We are very grateful to all the assessors for their time and support.

While we do not have required quotas for appointment, I am particularly pleased that the proportion of women amongst those appointed – 38% - matches the proportion of women in the relevant segment of the profession. This reflects the high standard of their applications and assessments. The proportion of applicants from minority ethnic backgrounds who have been appointed is also broadly equal to the proportion of advocates in the relevant segment of the profession. Within that group, applicants from black African and Caribbean backgrounds have fared slightly better than in recent years.

Each year, the Panel has the difficult task of identifying those that are truly excellent advocates. I am confident that those appointed today fully deserve to be King's Counsel."

A full report on the 2022 competition, with statistical information relating to successful and unsuccessful applicants, will be published on the KC Appointments website.

A list of the new silks is attached. Among the 95 appointments are:

- 36 women applicants of the 77 who applied. Last year, 45 out of 72 female applicants were successful;
- 14 applicants who declared an ethnic origin other than white of the 43 who applied. Last year 15 such applicants out of 38 were appointed;
- One solicitor advocate of the eight who applied. In the previous competition five solicitor advocates were appointed.

Notes for Editors

1. King's Counsel are appointed by The King, on the advice of the Lord Chancellor. He is in turn advised by an independent Selection Panel which receives and considers each application and makes recommendations as to appointment.
2. The members of the King's Counsel Selection Panel for the 2022 competition were:

Monisha Shah (Chair)
Christina Blacklaws
Dr Douglas Board
Dr Katrina Easterling
Rachel Langdale KC
Sara Nathan OBE
Dame Anne Rafferty
Mena Ruparel
Dr Maggie Semple OBE
HH Phillip Sycamore CBE
Andrew Walker KC

The Selection Panel is supported by its own Secretariat.

3. The KC appointment scheme was developed by the Bar Council and the Law Society, with the support of the (then) Department for Constitutional Affairs; and approved by the then Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State (Lord Falconer) in November 2004. Applications were first invited in 2005 and the first round of appointments under the new arrangements was announced in 2006. Refinements to the scheme, building on experience of the first year, were agreed in 2006, and there were further fine-tuning adjustments in 2019 and 2020. The selection process is financed entirely through applicants' fees. A copy of the agreed Process and further information is available from the King's Counsel Appointments website: www.kcappointments.org
4. Applications for the 2022 competition closed on 31 March 2022 and the Selection Panel submitted recommendations to the Lord Chancellor on 28 October 2022. Each applicant has been considered against five competencies:
 - Understanding and using the law
 - Written and oral advocacy
 - Working with others
 - Diversity
 - Integrity
5. 144 of the 280 applicants were interviewed by the Selection Panel. All unsuccessful applicants receive written personal feedback on their application. The Panel expects to invite applications for the next round of appointments in February 2023.

6. Copies of the Selection Panel's report will be available on the KCA website shortly. Further information can also be obtained from Russell Wallman, Chief Executive of KCA, on 0207 831 0020.