

# LSLA/JUSTICE Panel Debate

Monday 20 March 2017

L O N D O N  
S O L I C I T O R S  
L I T I G A T I O N  
A S S O C I A T I O N



*“Judicial diversity: where are we now and where should we aspire to be in the future?”*

LSLA

[www.lsla.co.uk](http://www.lsla.co.uk)

We are pleased to announce that the **London Solicitors Litigation Association (LSLA)** and **JUSTICE** will be hosting a panel debate chaired by Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, with closing remarks from the Right Honourable Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury (President of the Supreme Court), to consider diversity in the senior judiciary and in the Courts of England and Wales on Monday, 20 March 2017.

In the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court there are only two judges who are from non-white ethnic minority groups,<sup>1</sup> and only around 30<sup>2</sup> of these judges are women. Women and BAME people are also underrepresented on the Circuit bench.<sup>3</sup> Our speakers will discuss what more can be done to increase the diversity of our courts in the near future.

The panel discussion will consider the opportunities and challenges for reflecting greater diversity at the bench in 2017 and the strengths and recent achievements of the judiciary. Our panellists will also share their thoughts on the future of judicial diversity in light of recent political, social and legal changes including the result of the UK referendum of 23 June 2016 to leave the European Union.

We are honoured that we will be joined by the following and an eminent panel comprising:

- **Right Honourable Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury**: President of the UK Supreme Court, Lord Neuberger was appointed as a High Court Judge in the Chancery Division in 1996 and was the Supervisory Chancery Judge for the Midlands, Wales and Chester and Western Circuits between 2000 and 2004. In 2005, he was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2004, and promoted to Lord of Appeal in Ordinary two years later.
- **Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE (Panel Chair)**: Baroness Chakrabarti is a Member of the House of Lords and is the UK's Shadow Attorney General. She was called to the bar in 1994 where she started her career as a barrister at 39 Essex Chambers, worked as in-house counsel at the Home Office from 1996-2001, and was Director of Liberty from 2003-2016.

<sup>1</sup> Mr Justice Singh and Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb are the only non-white judges.

<sup>2</sup> There are 22 women in the High Court, 8 in the Court of Appeal and 1 in the UK Supreme Court - around 20% of the total – see July 2016 official Judicial Statistics and the UK Supreme Court website

<sup>3</sup> According to the July 2016 Official Judicial Statistics, 4% of the Circuit bench are BAME people, and 26% are women.

## Panellists:

- 1) **The Right Honourable Lord Justice Hickinbottom:** Following appointments to the Circuit and then High Court Bench, this year Gary Hickinbottom became the second solicitor to be appointed to the Court of Appeal. Prior to joining the judiciary full-time in 2000, he was a partner at McKenna & Co (now CMS Cameron McKenna LLP). For four years from 2011, he was one of two Senior Liaison Judges for Diversity, appointed by the Lord Chief Justice to encourage those from non-conventional backgrounds, including solicitors and others from the whole spectrum of the legal profession, to apply for judicial posts.
- 2) **The Honourable Mrs Justice Maura McGowan:** The Honourable Mrs Justice Maura McGowan was called to the Bar in 1980, she practiced criminal law at 2 Bedford Row and took silk in 2001. In 2013 she was elected chairman of the Bar Council; the first female in 15 years to hold the position. She was appointed as a High Court Judge in the Queen's Bench Division in 2014.
- 3) **Karon Monaghan QC of Matrix Chambers, Deputy High Court Judge:** Ms Karon Monaghan QC principally specialises in equality, human rights and EU law and is the co-author, alongside Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, of the judicial diversity report "Accelerating Change", which was published in 2014. The report was commissioned by the then Shadow Lord Chancellor, and now Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. Ms Monaghan QC is a Deputy High Court Judge in the Administrative Court, a Recorder in the Crown Court and was awarded Liberty's Human Rights Lawyer of the Year Award in 2010.
- 4) **George Lubega, Partner at Nabarro LLP and Adjudicator for the Traffic Penalty Tribunal:** George Lubega is a partner at Nabarro LLP and specialises in complex commercial disputes and alternative dispute resolution. He is the Head of Litigation at Nabarro's Sheffield office. George is also a Solicitor Advocate and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and was appointed as an adjudicator for the Traffic Penalty Tribunal in 2013.
- 5) **Francesca Kaye, Partner at Russell-Cooke LLP, Deputy Chancery Master and Deputy District Judge, and past President of the LSLA:** Francesca Kaye is a partner at Russell-Cooke LLP and has experience across a broad spectrum of commercial/chancery litigation. A past president of the LSLA Francesca was the first female president of the LSLA. She is a Deputy District Judge and a Deputy Chancery Master.

**Venue:** Simmons & Simmons LLP, CityPoint, 1 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9SS

## Programme:

- Registration 5.30pm to 6pm
- 6pm start - Panel discussion, to finish by 7pm
- 7pm-7.15pm – Lord Neuberger's closing remarks
- Drinks and canapés from 7.15pm - 9pm

**This is a ticketed event with all proceeds being donated by the LSLA to fund the excellent work undertaken by JUSTICE.**

Tickets are £20.00 and may be purchased from the [LSLA website](#). Please remember to use your booking reference number when making your payment.

Alternatively, please complete the form below, providing details of all attendees, and send to LSLA Events, c/o Jo Davies, 5a Quernmore Road, London, N4 4QU. Please make any cheques payable to "London Solicitors Litigation Association".



If you are unable to purchase tickets through the website, please print, complete and send this form to:

Jo Davies  
LSLA Events  
5 Quernmore Road  
London N4 4QU

Email: [lsla@lsla.co.uk](mailto:lsla@lsla.co.uk)

We hereby apply for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the LSLA Justice Panel Debate to be held on Monday 20 March 2017 at £20 per ticket and enclose our cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to "London Solicitors Litigation Association").

**Please let us know of any special access requirements**

From (Firm) \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:**

LSLA member

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
Email: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
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3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_   
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