



PRESS RELEASE (For Immediate Use)

96 NEW KING'S COUNSEL APPOINTED IN THE 2025 COMPETITION

The appointments of 96 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, David Lammy MP, following consideration by the independent King's Counsel (KC) Selection Panel.

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

"I would like to offer my congratulations to all the new silks announced today. The selection process recognises strong and consistent excellence in advocacy in the law of England and Wales. I believe that every one of these new silks will be a credit to the profession.

The competency framework for the award of King's Counsel is set by the professions. We do not operate quotas for appointment. The rigorous and demanding selection process relies predominantly on the strength of the evidence provided by peers, clients and judges about each applicant. The submission of honest, evidence-based assessments is pivotal to the work of the Selection Panel. On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank the 1,985 assessors who provided assessments to the Selection Panel this year.

Within the boundaries of our remit, the KCA panel seeks to ensure that our own process of application is clear and transparent for all applicants from all backgrounds, regions and specialisms. To that end, in addition to detailed guidance on our website, we offer a range of events and webinars during the year where prospective applicants can hear from members of the panel and engage with us directly. We have also engaged extensively with clerks, heads of chambers, early and mid-career barristers, circuits, solicitor groups, specialist bar associations and various EDI networks within the profession to offer information, guidance and resources about the KC application and appointment process. I am pleased to see that this work has helped to build the confidence of those looking to apply, evidenced by the strong application numbers again this year."

A full report on the 2025 competition will be published on the KC Appointments website.

A list of the new silks is attached. The statistics for successful applicants are as follows:

- The overall success rate was 29.5%; 96 out of a total 325.
- 67 male applicants, 28% success rate
- 29 female applicants, 34% success rate.
- 11 applicants who declared an ethnic origin other than white, 21% success rate
- 4 applicants who declared a disability; 22% success rate

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 2025 competition were:

Monisha Shah (Chair)

Amanda Amroliwala

Nicolina Andall

Matthew Chapman KC

Paul Grant

Diana Luchford

John Montague

Sir Martin Moore-Bick

Sara Nathan OBE

Dame Anne Rafferty

Sultana Tafadar 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 2025 competition closed on 25 April 2025 and the Selection Panel submitted recommendations to the Lord Chancellor on 14 November 2025. Each applicant has been considered against five competencies:
 - Understanding and using the law
 - Written and oral advocacy
 - Working with others
 - Diversity action and understanding
 - Integrity
5. KCA collects 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.
6. 146 of the 325 applicants were offered an interview 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 applications in March 2026.

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