

Welcome to the 17th

# MALA

MIDLANDS ASIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

*Annual Ball*

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2025

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“

Dear Guests,  
I would like to wish you all a very warm  
welcome to the 2025 Midlands Asian  
Lawyers Association Ball

”

**HHJ Fayyaz Afzal CBE**  
**MALA President**

This is our 17th Annual ball and it has become a firm fixture in the legal social calendar proving it's popularity from guests from the Midlands and beyond.

We would like to reflect on the continued success of Asian lawyers and judges in the Midlands. We now have five Asian leadership judges, with the latest being **HHJ Avic Mukherjee** who has been appointed as the Resident Judge at Stafford Crown Court.

There is an increased number of Asian Judges generally which demonstrates that lawyers in the Midlands are **talented, successful, and progressing**. Together, we have developed a diverse legal profession, at all levels, which reflects the society it serves, this rightly attracts public respect and confidence.

With this in mind, I urge you to help others to become lawyers and to progress. **Never under-estimate how powerful your words of encouragement can be**, especially for those at the beginning of their careers. Try to include everyone, listen to their views and be on guard for exclusionary behaviours.

I take this opportunity to extend our special thanks to our joint lead sponsors **JMW/Lawshare** and **St Philips Chambers** as well as the other fantastic sponsors.

Our commitment to charitable causes has remained consistent and we are delighted to raise funds for **LOROS** this year, please participate in our raffles and donate generously to this wonderful cause.

We have enjoyed a rich mix of keynote speakers and this year we are delighted to welcome **Narita Bahra KC** whose journey from Leicester to one of the UK's Leading Financial, Serious Crime & Regulatory Defence Barristers is both impressive and truly inspirational.

I welcome **Zoe Lee** (CPS East Midlands), **Mariyam Suleiman** (Leicester City Council) and **Elisha Kaur** (JMW Solicitors) onto the Committee. As President I have been hugely impressed by their work.

They have joined a hardworking Committee and I thank each and every member for their dedication and time.

The Committee has worked hard to ensure that we have been able to hold an event for Dry January. We collaborated with No 5 Chambers to hold an event on wellbeing with an excellent talk by Bal Singh. We collaborated with The 36 Group for a seminar on imposter syndrome by Mary Prior KC.

We thank the co-hosts and those who attended to make the events a success.

## MALA BALL COMMITTEE 2025



**Sundeep Soor**  
**Defence Legal**



**Harbinder Gosal**  
**Talbots Law**



**Priya Bakshi**  
**KCH Garden Square**



**Krishna Kotecha**  
**Moosa Duke**



**Rita Kotecha**  
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**Mariyam Suleiman**  
**Leicester  
City Council**



**Zoe Lee**  
**Crown Prosecution  
Service**



**Elisha Kaur**  
**JMW / Lawshare**



We welcome working with others to further our objectives of improving equality, diversity, inclusion, social mobility, education, and wellbeing.

If you feel that there is an event that can be jointly held with MALA, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are also grateful to Reena Patel, You and Your Story, for generously helping MALA on a pro bono basis with marketing and our website which will be relaunched soon.

The Committee again reiterates our thanks for all of your support. We hope you have a fantastic evening, and we will update the calendar of events for the forthcoming year.

Best wishes and many thanks,  
**His Honour Judge Fayyaz Afzal CBE,**  
**MALA President**

**The Midlands Asian Lawyers Association (MALA)** is a non-profit organisation, promoting diversity and equality in the legal profession. We do this by running wellbeing, networking and career development events across the Midlands region as well as raising funds for good causes.

As an inclusive body, we proudly welcome people of all backgrounds to our events and from our first ball in 2005 with 100 attendees to the 500+ people we have here today, the success of the Ball is an enduring example of MALA's striving legacy in the Midlands legal community.

MALA is entirely run by volunteers and funded by ticket sales and sponsorship so we're grateful for your support and that you have chosen to spend your evening with us today.

To find out more, please visit [www.midlandsasianlawyers.org](http://www.midlandsasianlawyers.org)

The MALA Ball doesn't do awards and MALA tries to allow guests to enjoy the ball in each other's company. While we're not big fans of speeches, we always have at least one short speech from a special guest.

This year, we are incredibly proud to welcome Narita Bahra KC to share her journey and inspire the next generation of legal professionals.

Narita embodies the values we stand for here at MALA: promoting equality, breaking barriers and using her platform to create opportunities for others.

“

Once offered a seat at the table, do not apologise, know your worth and accept your place with grace

”

## Narita Bahra KC Kings Counsel

Born and educated in Leicester, Narita Bahra KC's journey to becoming one of the UK's leading defence barristers is a true inspiration. Now based in London, she practises both nationally and internationally from 33 Chancery Lane and leads her own firm, Garrick Law, while continuing to champion excellence and inclusion in the legal profession.

When Narita was appointed KC, it marked not only a proud milestone for representation, but also reflected the high standards, integrity and expertise she brings to complex and demanding cases. She is widely recognised as a leading voice in financial crime, consistently ranked among the top barristers in her field by Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners. She also made history as the first woman of colour in the UK to be recognised as a Tier 1 Financial Crime Silk.

Narita is a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn and a committed advocate for diversity, working to ensure the legal profession truly reflects the society it serves. As a regular media commentator, she promotes visible and meaningful inclusion within the profession.

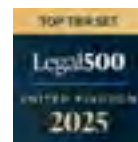
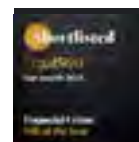
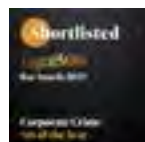


Narita's career is marked by accolades that reflect both her legal excellence and wider influence including:

- Barrister of the Year, Political & Public Life Awards
- Master of the Bench, Lincoln's Inn
- Women of Achievement Award, AWAL
- Criminal Lawyer of the Year, SAL Legal Awards
- Legal Excellence Award, Signature Awards
- Finalist, British Sikh Awards (Lawyer of the Year)
- Shortlisted, Women in Law – Champion of the Year

For more information, visit:

[www.naritabahra.com](http://www.naritabahra.com)



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Partner and Head of Lawshare

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## Proud Sponsors of the 2025 MALA Ball

St Philips Chambers is delighted to be a lead sponsor at the Annual Midlands Asian Lawyers Association Ball. This event is an important occasion in the Midlands legal calendar, bringing together lawyers from all backgrounds to recognise the achievements of Asian legal professionals and to celebrate the strength that diversity brings to our profession.

We see diversity not as an aspiration but as an essential part of the modern legal world. Events like tonight remind us of the value of community, the power of collaboration and the importance of ensuring that the next generation of lawyers see a profession that reflects them.

**“Consistently operating at the top of the profession. It is diverse and inclusive in all respects.”**

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# LOROS

Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

*Dear MALA member*

*Right now, LOROS should be celebrating its 40th Birthday. Celebrating the many, many people that have been supported through its services. But sadly, with increasing costs, a substantial reduction in legacy income and rising demand from an aging population, the charity is facing a 'perfect storm' which we can no longer cope with.*

*We truly believe that with the right support and thoughtful strategies, LOROS can navigate these challenging times.*

*LOROS is focussing on securing more regular, committed income from supporters. Achieving that goal, when many of the businesses LOROS work with are tightening belts and prioritising their own financial sustainability, requires a deeper level of understanding and mutual respect; a true partnership.*

*As one of Leicestershire's most trusted, recognised and much-loved charities, there is so much to gain when you truly understand what you are able to give (and not just money!). The team at LOROS will prioritise working with you, helping you to achieve your goals while creating real impact in your community.*

*For more information on how your business can get involved and partner with LOROS, please, follow LOROS Hospice on LinkedIn, sign up for the corporate e-newsletter and/or get in touch directly.*

*Together we are stronger so let's do this together for the people of Leicestershire and Rutland who need LOROS right now to provide light in their darkest of days.*

*Thank you,  
The LOROS team*

## LET'S CARE TOGETHER.



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