

Save the date of 1 November 2024 - Inaugural NZ Asian Lawyers Awards

NZ Asian Lawyers and the **NZ Law Society** have partnered to hold the inaugural NZ Asian Lawyers Awards, to be presented by the **Attorney General, the Hon Judith Collins KC**, who will also be speaking at the event.

Russell McVeagh will kindly be hosting the event at the Vero Centre, Level 30, 48 Shortland St, Auckland on 1 November from 5-8pm. Online access will be available as well as physical attendance at the event to allow those outside of Auckland to participate.

 Russell McVeagh

Information about the Awards are set out below and the Judging Panel will be led by former Governor-General, Judge and Ombudsman **Sir Anand Satyanand** and the **President of the NZLS Frazer Barton**.

President of NZ Asian Lawyers Mai Chen who came up with the idea of the Awards will explain why they are needed.

Vice President and secretary of the NZ Asian Lawyers Board **Pam Davidson and Takeshi Ito** will speak about the criteria and nominations process and then Sir Anand Satyanand and Frazer Barton will speak about the judging process and the nominations received and the decision making process.

This event will be free for all NZ Asian Lawyers and Law Society members. There will be a charge of \$25 for non-members of NZ Asian Lawyers or the Law Society.

NZ Asian Lawyer of the Year Award

The 2024 NZ Asian Lawyer of the Year (includes private practice, in-house lawyers, academic lawyers and public servants) may be awarded to a lawyer of Asian descent, practising in New Zealand who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession/organisation they work for. Such contributions include a significant contribution to assist lawyers of Asian descent in New Zealand in a practical / tangible way, significant contribution to issues concerning access to justice and the promotion of justice for Asian or culturally and linguistically diverse parties in the courts. These could include:

- Providing legal services to Asian New Zealanders in a way that is in line with New Zealand Asian Lawyers' Inc. objectives;
- Promoting the rule of law
- Providing a valuable contribution to initiatives that have benefitted the Asian community in New Zealand with legal services or issues.

Young NZ Asian Lawyer of the Year Award

The Young NZ Asian Lawyer of the Year (includes private practice, in-house lawyers, academic lawyers and public servants) may be awarded to a lawyer of Asian descent, practising in New Zealand who is under the age of 30 and employed in practice for less than

5 years as at [date] 2024 who has made an outstanding valuable contribution to the organisation they work for and who have made a significant contribution to assist lawyers of Asian descent in New Zealand in a practical / tangible way. These could include:

- Excellence in the provision of legal services to the Asian community in New Zealand;
- Demonstrated leadership potential to be able to be a leader for Asian lawyers in New Zealand
- Provided a valuable contribution to the legal profession in New Zealand which has benefited their firm / organisation and the wider community.

Award category limits

- Restrictions: nominees need to be current members of New Zealand Asian Lawyers Inc. and hold a current NZLS Practising Certificate which has not lapsed and have no disciplinary charges determined or pending against them;
- A person can be nominated in any one of the individual award categories. Self-nominations will be accepted.
- The judging panel may determine if a nomination received for a person / category falls these criteria. In such event. the judges may disregard, re-categorise or amend the nomination in their sole discretion.
- NZAL Board Members (including the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) cannot be nominated in any individual award categories

Nominations

Nominations (including self-nominations) for both awards are very much encouraged from the wider profession. We are looking for outstanding Asian lawyers in New Zealand who have shown a clear accomplishment in any field of the law including private and in-house practice, teaching, research or community services.

All lawyers of Asian descent and holding a current NZLS practising certificate are eligible for the 2024 Awards. The 2024 award period runs from 1 October 2023 until the closing date for nominations (30 September 2024). Activities started prior to 1 October 2023 can be included in nominations as long they continued into the award period.

While there is no prescribed form for nominations, we would appreciate a detailed submission highlighting the reasons / events why the nominee is suitable for consideration for the award. Supporting information from external sources may be included but should be concise. Nominations should be sent to nz asian.lawyers@gmail.com. There will be an announcement of shortlisted candidates who will then be interviewed to determine the award winners.

All nomination information will be kept confidential and only information about award winners will be disclosed at the awards event. Award winners and their nominators both give consent for New Zealand Asian Lawyers to use (or edit or adapt) and publish the content of the nomination information as part of the awards event.

Hon Judith Collins KC



Judith Collins is the Attorney-General, Minister of Defence, Minister for Digitising Government, Minister Responsible for the GCSB, Minister Responsible for the NZSIS, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Space, and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques. She is the MP for Papakura and was first elected to Parliament to represent the seat of Clevedon in 2002.

Judith held a number of Ministerial Portfolios in the fifth National Government including Police, Justice, Corrections and Revenue. She was leader of the Opposition 2020-21.

Prior to her election to Parliament, Judith was a lawyer and company director. She was Chair of the Casino Control Authority and served as President of the Auckland District Law Society and Vice-President of the New Zealand Law Society.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws with Honours and a Master of Taxation Studies from the University of Auckland.

Sir Anand Satyanand



Sir Anand Satyanand is a New Zealander with family links to Fiji and India, and was the country's 19th Governor-General from 2006 until 2011. His career has involved themes of law, governance and transparency. In August 2019 he was elected to be Chancellor of the University of Waikato for a 4-year term. He was establishing Chair of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, a post he stepped down from in November 2019.

Sir Anand is an appointed member of the International Anti-Corruption Council of Transparency International, having previously served the New Zealand Chapter of TI as a Board member and Patron.

The Commonwealth employed Sir Anand as Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation, the civil society counterpart to the Commonwealth Secretariat, for two 2-year terms from 2013 until 2016. He was Chair of a Commonwealth Observation Group for the 2017 National Elections in Papua New Guinea and on a review of the guidelines for those Commonwealth Election observations which was presented to the April CHOGM.

Prior to being appointed as Governor-General Sir Anand served as a Parliamentary Ombudsmen. He also installed the Pecuniary Interests Disclosure Scheme for New Zealand Parliamentarians in 2005.

Sir Anand was raised in Auckland. He attended the University of Auckland, obtaining a Law Degree in 1970. A dozen years as a practitioner followed, working principally in the Courts. He was appointed a Judge of the District Court in 1982 and worked in a number of places in New Zealand exercising a warrant for conducting criminal jury trials as well as maintaining interests in parole and prison work, law reform and developing continuing professional education programmes.

He was knighted for contributions to public service in New Zealand in 2009. In 2011 Sir Anand received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the President of India. In the same year he was made a Member of the Royal Order of Tonga.

Frazer Barton



Frazer has been President of the New Zealand Law Society since 2022, and before that he served on the Board for two years as South Island Vice President. He has been a partner in the law firm Anderson Lloyd since 1988 and heads their Dunedin litigation team.

Mai Chen



Mai Chen (LLB(Hons) (Otago) LLM (Harvard) CMinstD HonLLD(Otago) is one of NZ's top Barristers specialising in public and administrative law, regulatory defense and human/Treaty rights, and advising Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) parties, and those being used by such parties in the Courts. She chairs the Superdiversity Institute of Law, Policy and Business and is President of NZ Asian Lawyers. She formerly sat on the Bank of New Zealand Board, the NZ Securities Commission, and was adjunct professor at both the Business and Law Schools at the University of Auckland. She was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Otago in December 2023 for her contribution to the law and the legal profession and was named as a Top 50

Diversity Figures in Public Life, Global Diversity List supported by The Economist. She has written extensively on public law and the impact of superdiversity on law and public policy. She was inaugural Chair of Global Women and was a top ten finalist in NZer of the year

twice. Mai was born in Taiwan and immigrated to NZ with her whanau when she was a young girl speaking only Mandarin.

Pam Davidson



Pam is a Malaysian-born barrister of Chinese descent in Lambton Chambers. Her specialist area is in taxation law, but she also practises regulatory and public law, estate and trust law, relationship property, charities law and commercial and company law. She has been a judge's clerk, practised in a large law firm, and spent time in the Treasury and the Inland Revenue Department.

She is currently a member of the Tax Law Committee of the New Zealand Law Society, and on the Board of Trustees of the Todd Foundation. She was the president of the Wellington District Law Society from 2004 to 2006 and has been a Board member of the New Zealand Law Society.

Takeshi Ito



Takeshi is Vice President Legal for two NZX-listed companies (Millennium & Copthorne Hotels New Zealand Limited and CDL Investments New Zealand Limited) and has over twenty five years of diverse in-house and private practice experience. Dunedin-born (but Auckland raised), he graduated from the University of Auckland and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute and Governance New Zealand and is a current Member of the Institute of Directors and has completed the Company Director's Course.

Takeshi has been nominated twice as a finalist in the New Zealand Law Awards and was an integral part of the MCK and Bell Gully teams that won both Capital Markets Deal of the Year and International Deal of the Year for a complex transaction involving MCK and an overseas-listed property development company.