

GURU NANAK SOCIAL MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Announcement

1. Mukhtiar Singh and the Sikh Education Council are delighted to announce the result of the third Guru Nanak Social Mobility Bar Scholarships.

2. The winners are:

First place: Anu Radha Law.

Second place: Michael Abiodun Olatokun.

Third place: Haisheeny Kaur.

3. Although unsuccessful, we were also impressed with the applications of:

Kareena Talwar

Josie Canham-Williams

Petr Sivak

Viman Chander Joshi

4. The aims of the scholarships are:

a. To improve social mobility in professions perceived to be out of reach for those from poorer backgrounds. This will be achieved through financial awards, mentoring and work placements.

b. To encourage a wider understanding of Sikh jurisprudence by considering whether society may learn from Sikhism for the benefit of us all. To achieve this, applicants were asked to write an essay on, "***Compare and contrast the rights to protest in England & Wales with such rights in India***".

5. Whilst no feedback is provided, the best answers engaged with the second aim of the scholarships and demonstrated the requisite skills for becoming barristers (researching; persuasive writing; structured and logical

arguments; and analytical ability). In considering the quality of the essay, we considered the stage of the applicant's studies as well as the obstacles they face. It did not matter if we disagreed with the points made, but it was important that the essay was persuasive and sourced.

6. The standard was extremely high and we are grateful to all those that made genuine applications: Mukhtiar Singh will provide advice on their pupil applications if requested.
7. The winner is **Anu Radha Law**, who is studying the Bar Course at the Inns of Court College of Advocacy. Ms Law impressed with her strong commitment to the Bar despite facing a number of substantial obstacles. Her essay was well-researched; structured and engaging. She demonstrated a strong desire and ability to practise as a barrister. Mukhtiar Singh will provide her with £4,000 to alleviate the financial burden of pursuing a career at the Bar and also mentoring for one year.
8. The second winner is **Michael Abiodun Olatokun**. Mr Olatokun's essay was excellent and we were impressed with his determination to practise coupled with his motivation for social justice. We were delighted to learn that despite considerable obstacles, he has now secured pupillage at a leading human rights Chambers. Mukhtiar Singh will be awarding him with £300.
9. Exceptionally, due to the quality of her application, a further scholarship will be awarded to **Haisheeny Kaur**, a Bar Course student. Her essay and commitment to practise was impressive despite facing obstacles. She will be offered a work placement.
10. All three are congratulated for their impressive applications and essays. All have come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have shown not only do they have the necessary strong commitment to become barristers, but they also have the ability. Each have their own stories of overcoming significant obstacles, which many are privileged not to face. All three are expected to be successful barristers in the future.

11. Those that were not successful and continue to meet the criteria, are encouraged to apply again next year.
12. The essays will be published on the Sikh Education Council website and on Mukhtiar Singh's website.
13. Chambers and firms willing to provide work placements should please contact Mukhtiar Singh at info@singhbarrister.co.uk. Please state whether you are able to pay for reasonable travel expenses.

Next year

14. There will be another Bar Scholarship next year offering financial prizes, mentoring and work placements.
15. It is hoped that the Guru Nanak Social Mobility Scholarships will be available in other professions in the future, for professions deemed out of reach for the working class.
16. Any firm or individual wishing to sponsor a Scholarship in 2022 should please contact Mukhtiar Singh at info@singhbarrister.co.uk.
17. Details about next year's scheme will be published at around early April 2022 on the website (singhbarrister.co.uk) and via LinkedIn.
18. In the spirit of the legal profession, and in the spirit of Sikhism, award winners and runner ups who subsequently secure pupillage through the scheme ("the Scholars") will be expected to (and we are delighted that they do) participate in the scheme in the future including providing mentoring.
19. It is hoped that as the scheme develops, Scholars will lead engagement in state schools with the Sikh Education Council to encourage a career in the Bar, whatever their background.

20. Questions about the Bar Scholarship or the scholarships generally should be directed to Mukhtiar Singh: info@singhbarrister.co.uk

21. Mukhtiar Singh is an Employment and Commercial Barrister at Garden Court Chambers. He has a particular interest in discrimination; whistleblowing; and commercial and business ethics. He is one of the Bar Council's Social Mobility Advocates as part of the #IamtheBar scheme. <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/careers/i-am-the-bar-social-mobility/>

22. The Sikh Education Council provides guidance; engages in research; and teaches about the Sikh way of life. [The Sikh Way | The online home of the Sikh Education Council](#)