

My Lord the President of the Court of Appeal Hon. Justice Arjuna Obeysekera,
Their Ladyships and Lordships of the Court of Appeal,
Honourable Attorney General,
Honourable Judges,
My colleagues at the Bar.

We are assembled this morning to ceremonially welcome His Lordship Justice S.U.B. Karralliyadda, His Lordship Justice Ratnapriya Gurusinghe, His Lordship Justice Dhammika Ganepola, Her Ladyship Justice Khema Swarnadhipathi, His Lordship Justice Mayadune Corea, His Lordship Justice Prabakaran Kumararathnam and His Lordship Justice Neil Iddawela on their appointment as judges of this Honourable Court.

Every appointment to Your Lordships' Court signifies the dedication and discipline throughout the judicial careers of the respective appointees and the recognition of the contribution made to our legal system by each one of Your Lordships. A ceremonial welcome is the moment of pride for the Bench and the Bar and follows a tradition that originated from the time our Courts were established.

The Court of Appeal is the second apex court in our country and was initially established in 1971 under the **Court of Appeal Act No. 44 of 1971**. The structure and the jurisdiction of this court went through certain changes when the 1978 Constitution was enacted.

My Lords, your Lordships and Your Ladyship for whom this ceremonial sitting is conducted today are the first appointees under the 20th Amendment to the Constitution which is focused on enhancing the cadre of this Court to introduce a more meaningful mechanism of efficiently and effectively dealing with the jurisdiction of this Court.

S.U.B. KARRALLIYADDA

Your Lordship Justice S.U.B. Karralliyadda joins this Court, after serving as a career judicial officer since August 1995. Your Lordship had Your Lordship's early education at St. Sylvester's College Kandy, which has made a significant contribution to the field of Law by producing many a student who has excelled and reached eminence in the legal profession.

Only yesterday I had the opportunity of welcoming His Lordship Justice Sampath Abeykoon and His Lordship Justice Sampath Wijerathne both of whom are distinguished members of the Alumni of Your Lordship's Alma Mater.

In fact, the appointment of Your Lordship Hon. Justice Karalliyadde has created history, as this is the first time that three Honourable Judges from the same Alma Mater have been appointed consecutively as Judges of this Court.

During Your Lordship's school career, Your Lordship functioned as a Junior Prefect in the school and was an active member of the athletic team, social services league, the philatelic society and the school chess team. Having joined the Sri Lanka Law College in 1987, Your Lordship was called to the Bar in 1990. At a relatively young age, Your Lordship developed a lucrative civil practice in Kandy despite which Your Lordship desired to pursue a career as a Judicial officer. Your Lordship was appointed as a Magistrate in 1995 and functioned in such capacity and as a District Judge in **Matara, Kegalle, Colombo, Elpitiya, Warakapola, Attanagalle, Mawanella** and **Kandy**. During this period, Your Lordship had the opportunity, to particularly handle many

areas of the civil law, including contracts, land law, personal laws, injunctions and property related laws.

In 2012, Your Lordship was elevated as a Judge of the High Court and immediately assumed duties as a Judge of the Civil Appellate High Court of the Eastern Province Holden at Ampara. From 2012-2021, Your Lordship has served as a Judge of the Civil Appellate High Court in **Ampara, Badulla** and **Kandy**. Your Lordship also functioned as a High Court Judge exercising original criminal jurisdiction at **Kandy, Ratnapura** and **Nuwara Eliya**. During this period, Your Lordship had the opportunity to decide upon original criminal trials as well as appeals, revisions and Writ applications.

Your Lordship's wealth of experience acquired over 25 years as a career Judicial Officer would enrich the judicial pronouncements of this Court. Your Lordship is known as a stern and a disciplined Judge and we have every confidence that Your Lordship Justice Karralliyadda would add to the legal jurisprudence of this country in the years to come.

While warmly welcoming your Lordship Justice S.U.B. Karalliyadde as a member of this Honourable Court, the Bar has no doubt that Your Lordship would be guided by the Latin Maxim **“Fortiter in Re”** which is the motto of your Lordship’s school, and which means to be strong, brave, powerful, mighty, vigorous and firm, in discharging the duties and the functions as a Judge of this Honourable Court.

I take this opportunity to warmly welcome Your Lordship Justice S.U.B. Karalliyadde on behalf of the Bar. May Your Lordship be guided by the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem in the discharge of the functions of this High office. May Your Lordship’s years of learning and experience be of assistance to enrich the quality of the Judicial pronouncements of this Court.

JUSTICE RATNAPRIYA GURUSINGHE

Your Lordship Justice Ratnapriya Gurusinghe, has earned a reputation among the Members of the Bar, especially for Your Lordship’s knowledge of the Civil Law. Your Lordship is also recognized by the Bar as an unassuming and an extremely pleasant Judicial Officer. Your Lordship had Your Lordship’s primary

education at Kahaduwa Mahavidyalaya and completed Your Lordship's education at Ananda Central College Elpitiya. After completing Your Lordship's Advanced Level Examination, Your Lordship joined the Sri Lanka Law College in 1986. Having successfully completed all the examinations, Your Lordship was called to the Bar on the 3rd of November 1989. Consequent to Your Lordship's enrolment, Your Lordship opted to practice Civil Law in the District Court of Galle while being involved in the practice of the Criminal Law in the Magistrate Court of Elpitiya.

Your Lordship was appointed to the Judicial Service on the 3rd of March 1996 and counts 24 years of active Judicial service. During the tenure of Your Lordship's Judicial career, Your Lordship functioned as a Magistrate in **Kandy**, **Nawalapitiya** and **Avissawella** and as a District Judge, Your Lordship served in **Matara**, **Chilaw**, **Matale** and **Kandy**. In 2012, Your Lordship was appointed as a Judge of the High Court and immediately assumed duties as a Civil Appellate High Court Judge of the Eastern Province Holden at Kalmunai. Your Lordship thereafter, served as a Judge of the High Court in **Badulla**, **Kurunegala**, **Colombo** and **Homagama** and from 2018-2020, functioned as a Judge of the Commercial High Court of Colombo. This is indeed a unique

record since Your Lordship Justice Gurusinghe has had the exposure in handling matters falling within all 3 types of High Courts under the present Judicial structure, namely, as a Judge of the Criminal High Court, Civil Appellate High Court and the Commercial High Court.

Your Lordship's long and illustrious judicial career would be of immense benefit to Your Lordship when Your Lordship assumes duties as a Judge of this Honorable Court.

In 2013, Your Lordship was awarded a Master of Laws by the University of Colombo. Your Lordship has also received extensive training on Intellectual property rights in Virginia, USA, "judicial reforms" in Singapore, "Commercial Law" in Malaysia and in special professional development in London.

May I my Lord, on behalf of the Bar warmly welcome Your Lordship Justice Gurusinghe as a Judge of this Honourable Court. I also take this opportunity to wish Your Lordship the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem and wish all the success in the discharge of the functions of a Judge of this Honourable Court.

JUSTICE DHAMMIKA GANEPOLA

Your Lordship Justice Dhammika Ganepola had Your Lordship's early education at **Rajasinghe Maha vidyaleya** at Imbulgoda and proceeded to complete Your Lordship's secondary education at Ananda College Colombo. Having completed Your Lordship's secondary studies, Your Lordship was admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College in 1985. It is my utmost pleasure, honour and privilege to welcome Your Lordship as a Judge of this Honorable Court as a contemporary of Your Lordship at the Sri Lanka Law College.

Your Lordship was enrolled as a Member of the Bar on 3rd November 1989, on the same day as His Lordship Justice Ratnapriya Gurusinghe. Your Lordship served Your Lordship's pupillage in the Chambers of 2 of the most respected Seniors of the Bar. Your Lordship's learning of the Criminal Law was in the Chambers of the late **Mr. Ranjith Abeysooriya, PC** and Your Lordship's initial learning of the Civil Law was in the Chambers of **Mr. Arthur Samarasekera, PC**. Consequent to Your Lordship's enrolment, Your Lordship was attached to the Chambers of **Mr. D. S. D. P. R. Senanayake, PC until 1997**.

Your Lordship received Judicial appointment in 1997 and Your Lordship served as a District Judge in Colombo, **Kandy, Avissawella, Kurunegala, Nugegoda** and **Ratnapura** until October 2012, when Your Lordship was elevated as a Judge of the High Court.

In this capacity, Your Lordship has served in **Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Kegalle** and **Colombo** and during this tenure, Your Lordship had the opportunity to handle matters pertaining to the Criminal jurisdiction vested with the High Court in addition to Revisions, appeals, Writs and Civil Appellate jurisdiction.

Your Lordship functioned as the President of the Judicial Service Association in 2012. In Your Lordship's long and illustrious career as a Judicial Officer, spanning over 23 years, Your Lordship has received training in several areas of the Law. Some of these areas include International Law, judicial ethics, effective Court and case management, civil and family law reforms, judicial administration and trafficking of persons.

Your Lordship's busy schedule as a Judicial Officer did not deter Your Lordship in Your Lordship's pursuit for higher learning in the field of Your Lordship's choice. In 2015, Your Lordship was awarded a Master of Arts degree from the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka and as at to date, Your Lordship has completed the Master of Philosophy and has submitted Your Lordship's thesis on a **“comparative study on Buddhist Vinaya pitaka and contemporary State law”**.

My Lord, the Bar has always considered Your Lordship Justice Ganepola as an extremely honest and a reasonable Judge. The Bar is extremely appreciative of Your Lordship's appointment as a Member of this Honourable Court. Your Lordship's long experience would certainly enrich the quality of the judicial pronouncements that would emanate from this Court in the years to come.

JUSTICE KHEMA SWARNADHIPATHI

My Lords, it is not a surprise to me or to the Bar that Her Ladyship Justice Khema Swarnadhipathi took to the law. Your Ladyship's father was a respected Judge of the High Court and Your Ladyship's brother was a contemporary of

mine at the Sri Lanka Law College. Probably, Your Ladyship would have been influenced to explore the Law by the 2 of them.

After completing Your Ladyship's education at St. Bridget's Convent Colombo, Your Ladyship obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Colombo in Economics, Sociology and Commerce. Parallely, Your Ladyship pursued Your Ladyship's desire to read for Law when Your Ladyship joined the Sri Lanka Law College in 1985 and after the successful completion of the professional course of studies offered by the Law College, Your Ladyship was enrolled and called to the Bar in 1988.

After a period of 6 years, Your Ladyship joined the Judicial service and functioned as the Magistrate and Additional District Judge in **Polonnaruwa, Balapitiya, Negombo, Minuwangoda** and **Gampaha**. During this period, Your Ladyship had the opportunity to deal with various types of areas of the law. In 2015, Your Ladyship was appointed as a Civil Appellate High Court Judge of Anuradhapura and served as a Judge of the High Court in Gampaha and Negombo. Your Ladyship's judicial career included an opportunity where Your

Ladyship had to deal with identified issues in respect of children and for matters dealing with the dispensing with the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Your Ladyship is known for Your Ladyship's unassuming ways and dispensing of justice in accordance with Your Ladyship's conscience. Your Ladyship has a record of concluding more than 400 cases relating to child abuse whilst serving at Anuradhapura and a large number of cases dealing with persons detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Your Ladyship has also contributed to several journals on "child law". Your Ladyship also participated representing Sri Lanka in a conference held by the World Women Judges' Association in Atlanta, USA.

We warmly welcome Your Ladyship Justice Khema Swarnadhipathy on this memorable occasion as a Judge of this Honourable Court. We hope that Your Ladyship will get further opportunities as a Member of this Honourable Court to explore further, the laws relating to child abuse while being involved in the discharge of Your Ladyship's other duties as a Judge of the Court of Appeal.

May God's choicest blessings be with Your Ladyship in the discharge of the onerous duties of this office.

JUSTICE MAYADUNNE COREA

My Lords, I am deeply honoured and privileged to welcome His Lordship Justice Mayadunne Corea as a Judge of this Honorable Court. It is indeed destiny that the task of welcoming Justice Corea has fallen on my shoulders today in my capacity as the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. I believe that only a few people placed in my position as the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka would have the opportunity to welcome as a Judge of this Honorable Court, a Judge who had started his long journey from his own Chambers. His Lordship Justice Corea was attached to my Chambers consequent to his enrolment in 1992. It is with a deep sense of satisfaction, happiness and pride that I rise to welcome Your Lordship Justice Corea.

Your Lordship had Your Lordship's education at St. Annes College Kurunegala. Consequent to the completion of the Advanced Level examination, Your Lordship opted to pursue a career in Law and Your Lordship's decision to do so

does not come as a surprise, as Your Lordship hails from a legal family which has made a significant contribution to the legal profession. Your Lordship's uncles Rex, Derrick and Terrence Gunaratne were leading practitioners in Kegalle and Your Lordship's father was a much respected District Court Judge. Only the other day, I was fortunate to welcome Your Lordship's cousin Honourable Justice Shiran Gunaratne as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

At school, Your Lordship functioned as the Deputy Head Prefect and was the captain of the School Debating Team. Your Lordship also won gold medals at Junior, intermediate and Senior levels for oratory and was the winner of the Selvarajah Memorial Shield for English oratory.

During your studentship at the Law College, Your Lordship was awarded the Challenge Shield for the best impromptu speaker by the Human Rights Society. Your Lordship was enrolled and admitted to the Bar in 1992 and joined the Attorney General's Department as a State Counsel in 1995. Your Lordship's career at the Attorney General's Department was mainly focused in the handling of civil litigation. In 2005, Your Lordship was appointed as Senior

State Counsel and in 2014 as a Deputy Solicitor General and in 2019 as Senior Deputy Solicitor General.

From 2013 – 2015, Your Lordship served as a Judge in Fiji Islands and was also admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in Fiji. Your Lordship's scope of work in the Attorney General's Department included supervision in respect of actions against the State, Universities, UGC, civil appeals, commercial High Court litigation, injunctions, enjoining Orders, land settlement and acquisition, State land recovery of possession and land development. In 2020, Your Lordship was appointed as a Member to consider legal reforms on pre-trial procedures and for reestablishment of the Small claims Court and amending the Civil Procedure Code.

In 2014, Your Lordship Justice Corea was awarded the Master of Laws in International Trade by the University of Wales. As a member of the Attorney General's Department, Your Lordship has received extensive training in a number of areas of the law such as Company Law, International trade and trade negotiations, International Humanitarian Law in New-Delhi, export control and related border security, public private partnerships, Ari Service

Agreements in Mumbai, Development of Financing contracts, managing conflicts and resolution of conflicts in Singapore, International Commercial Arbitration in Malaysia, Asset forfeiture and money laundering in the US.

Your Lordship has also delivered many presentations on Law of Evidence, Commercial Law, Industrial and Labour Law and Mareva injunctions.

Your Lordship Justice Corea adorns this bench with a vast domestic and International exposure and the Bar has no doubt that the learning that Your Lordship has acquired for more than 20 years, would hold Your Lordship in good stead to enrich the legal jurisprudence of this country.

As the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I warmly welcome Your Lordship Justice Mayadunne Corea and offer Your Lordship the best wishes of the Bar to discharge your functions and duties in an independent and impartial manner. May God's blessings be with Your Lordship in the discharge of Your Lordship's functions.

YOUR LORDSHIP JUSTICE PRABAHARAN KUMARARATHNAM

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome His Lordship Justice Kumararathnam as a judge of this honourable Court. Your Lordship had Your Lordship's primary education at Holy Trinity College Pussellawa and Sumana Maha Vidyalaya Thalawakale where Your Lordship's entire career was based as a Sinhala medium student. Having passed Your Lordship's advanced level examination, Your Lordship gained admission to the faculty of law of the University of Colombo where Your Lordship read for the Bachelor of Law degree. Consequent to Your Lordship's enrollment as an Attorney-at-Law, Your Lordship devilled in the chambers of the late **Mr. Mothilal Neru, P.C.**

Your Lordship was appointed as a State Counsel in February 1995 and was promoted as a Senior State Counsel in September 2005. During this period, Your Lordship prosecuted in the High Courts located in 11 judicial zones. One of the most sticking features of Your Lordship's competence is the ability to conduct prosecutions in all 3 languages. Apart from the High Court prosecutions, Your Lordship Justice Kumararathnam was involved in

prosecutions under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations. Your Lordship also had the opportunity of representing the State before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court throughout Your Lordship's career. As a senior officer of the Attorney General's Department, Your Lordship had the opportunity to supervise the work relating to the Motor Traffic Act, Public Petitions and the overall supervision of the Northern and Eastern provinces. Since 2014, when Your Lordship was appointed as a Deputy Solicitor General, Your Lordship was entrusted the task of supervising offences against children. In 2018, Your Lordship Justice Kumararathnam was appointed as a Senior Deputy Solicitor General consequent to which Your Lordship was appointed as the head of the Immigration and Emigration unit and in 2020 as the head of public petition unit of the Attorney General's Department.

Your Lordship Justice Kumararathnam functioned as the special prosecutor in the rape and murder of Vidya Sivaloganathan where the prosecution was conducted before a Trial at Bar. Your Lordship also conducted the prosecution in the case involving the murder of former Member of Parliament T.

Maheswaran and also appeared as junior counsel in the Mailathenna prosecution. From 2012 to 2014 Your Lordship functioned as a High Court judge of the Fiji Islands and towards the latter part of Your Lordship's tenure, functioned as a judge of the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Fiji.

Your Lordship has appeared as counsel assisting several Presidential Commissions of Inquiry. The Peraliya train disaster Commission and the Commission appointed to investigate the alleged attack on LTTE carders in Batticaloa and Ampara are 2 such Commissions of inquiry where Your Lordship's assistance was sought after.

Your Lordship has been a much sought-after resource person and has never been hesitant to share knowledge in a wide range of subjects such as child abuse, child labour, human trafficking, fundamental rights, domestic violence, excise law, sexual exploitation of children, agrarian development, food Act and border surveillance.

Your Lordship also functioned as an examiner attached to the Sri Lanka Law College and as an examiner of the National Police Academy.

Your Lordship has received legal training over the years. Areas of training include internet law and policy issues, international narcotics law enforcement in Thailand, Intellectual Property, human smuggling, international corporation in trafficking of persons in India, economic crimes in England, continuous professional development in Australia, transitional justice and victim & witness protection. Your Lordship has also followed a Diploma course in forensic medicine and science.

The overall exposure that Your Lordship Justice Kumararathnam has acquired by serving the State for almost 25 years would be of immense benefit as Your Lordship assumes this seat in the Court of Appeal. Your Lordship's experience both in Sri Lanka and outside, would undoubtedly be of assistance to Your Lordship to approach any complexed question of law in an extremely simple manner.

The Bar has always regarded Your Lordship Justice Kumararathnam as a reasonable and a fair prosecutor. As Your Lordship's prosecuting days have now come to an end, the Bar would expect the same degree of fairness, impartiality and reasonableness in the discharge of the functions of this high office. Your Lordship's unassuming ways and pleasant personality are 2 striking features throughout Your Lordship's career. On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I warmly welcome Your Lordship Justice Prabakaran Kumararathnam as a judge of this honourable Court and may the forces which rule the world bless and protect Your Lordship to discharge Your Lordship's functions in accordance with the law and in accordance with Your Lordship's conscience.

WIJEYSUNDARA MUDIYANSALAGE NEIL PARAKKRAMA IDDAWELA

An important aspect in every judicial system is the availability of different experiences of the Honourable Judges who adorn the bench. This country which boasts of a very proud legal heritage, has been enriched by the exposure

of many Judges apart from those who have served in the Attorney General's Department and as career judges.

Your Lordship Justice Neil Iddawela had Your Lordship's early education at Maliyadewa College, Kurunegala and was admitted to the Bar in 1991. Your Lordship was attached to the chambers of two eminent civil practitioners in Sri Lanka, namely, **Mr. Ranjan Suwandarathne, P.C** and **Mr. Chandra Jayasekera, PC.**

After a brief period in the Private Bar, Your Lordship joined the judicial service in 1995 and served as a District Judge in **Galle, Avissawella, Maho** and **Kurunegala**. In 2003, Your Lordship was appointed as the Assistant Secretary General of Parliament in which capacity Your Lordship served until 2012. From 2012-2016, Your Lordship functioned as a Deputy Secretary General of Parliament and since 2016, until Your Lordship's appointment as a Judge of this honourable court, Your Lordship served as the chief of staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament.

Your Lordship has received extensive training in parliamentary practice and procedure, during the last one and a half decades. The experience that Your Lordship has received at the House of Commons and the House of Lords in 2005, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Headquarters in 2006 and 2007, the Scottish Parliament in 2008, the EU Parliament in 2013, the US congress in 2005, 2016 and 2017 would be of immense benefit in respect of matters pertaining to public law and constitutional related aspects handled by this court. Your Lordship Justice Iddawela has been a much-sought after resource person and has made several presentations both locally and internationally on a wide range of topics.

Regional issues, Legislative Development in Asia some trends and issues, evolution of Parliamentary democracy in SL, Parliamentary privileges, Parliamentary traditions and ethics, History of legislative reforms in Ceylon and functions of Parliament are some such areas where Your Lordship Justice Iddawela has experience in.

Your Lordship has also been a contributor to “the parliamentarian” magazine published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a frequent

contributor to the Judge's journal and the Galle Bar Association Journal. Your Lordship is also a much sought after a lecturer at the University of Sri Jayawardena Pura, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government and Army Command and Defence College.

I have been fortunate to peruse some of the contributions of Your Lordship Justice Iddawela which clearly demonstrate the well-focused manner and the degree of precision with which such articles have been written.

Your Lordship's extensive knowledge on Constitution law, on Parliamentary systems would add value to this Honourable Court, especially in the exercise of Parliamentary election petitions and related areas.

Your Lordship's judicial experience and the academic exposure would more certainly enhance the quality of judgments which would originate from this Court.

On behalf of the Bar, I warmly welcome your Lordship Justice Neil Iddawela as a judge of this Honourable Court.

A Judge's role is to serve the Community in the pivotal role of administering Justice according to Law. Judicial office gives that opportunity and that is a privilege. Judicial office requires one to serve so and that is a duty. Freedom, peace, order and good governance are essentials of the society that we treasure, and they depend in the ultimate analysis of the faithful performance of Judicial duty. It is only when the people have confidence in the integrity and the capacity of the Judiciary, that the community can be said to be governed by the Rule of Law.

My Lordships and My Ladyship, the Bar warmly welcomes Your Lordships and Your Ladyship, as Judges of this Honourable Court. The Bar has every confidence that Your Lordships and Your Ladyship would act impartially without any fear or favour. We have every Confidence that Your Lordships and Your Ladyship will continue to make an extremely useful contribution to the Legal Jurisprudence of this country. We have every confidence of Your Lordships and Your Ladyship integrity, Judicial Independence and fearlessness. We have every confidence that Your Lordships and Your Ladyship will protect the very concept of the Rule of Law and the Constitutional rights of

the people. We have no doubt that Your Lordships and Your Ladyship will deliver Justice in accordance with the Law and Your Lordships and Your Ladyship conscience.

On behalf of the Bar while welcoming Your Lordships and Your Ladyships, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you good health, strength and courage to discharge your duties. May the Noble Triple Gem bless and protect Your Lordships and Your Ladyships always. May God's choices and blessings be with you.

Your Lordships and Your Ladyships, this is the last ceremonial speech that I would make as the President of the Bar Association since I assumed duties in 2019. During the last two years I was fortunate to welcome, His Lordship the Chief Justice, three Presidents of the Court of Appeal and more than 20 Lordships and Ladyships elevated to the Supreme Court and this Honourable Court. I take this opportunity to thank all Your Lordships and Your Ladyships to the courtesy extended to the Bar during the last two years. May the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem be with you now and always.

