

From an early age, my journey has been shaped by resilience, determination and a deep commitment to making a difference—qualities I will bring to the role of Council Member for the Local Government seat at the Law Society.

Growing up in Slough, as the daughter of Indian immigrants in a working-class family, I faced significant challenges. These experiences instilled in me a drive to succeed and a strong sense of responsibility toward my family and community.

Despite initial setbacks, I qualified as a solicitor in 2001. Over 20+ years, I have gained extensive experience in commercial property law, contracts and procurement and I currently work as a lawyer at Brighton & Hove City Council.

My professional and personal experiences equip me to represent solicitors across diverse backgrounds, particularly those in local government and public service roles. As the first person of colour in the role of President of the Sussex Law Society, since it was founded in 1860, I have championed diversity and inclusion in the profession. I've engaged with colleagues and aspiring solicitors across the South East, speaking at events like the University of Chichester's Law Conference, the Society of Asian Lawyer's International Women's Day event and the Sussex Law Society Dinner, sharing my vision for a more inclusive legal community. Through these efforts, I have highlighted the importance of breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for all.

In addition to my legal expertise, I bring significant leadership and governance experience. My role at Brighton & Hove City Council involves advising on high-value contracts, ensuring compliance with procurement law and aligning with public interest goals. I also serve on the Sussex RFU Disciplinary Panel and the national RFU Disciplinary Panel, where I uphold integrity and fairness.

My presidency at the Sussex Law Society has further allowed me to provide thought leadership, around issues such as access to justice and representation. In 2023, I was a finalist for the Asian Women of Achievement Awards, praised for my "high, unwavering commitment to public service" and for inspiring the next generation of solicitors, particularly those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Horizon scanning is central to my work, anticipating challenges and adapting to change. With the national outcry following the Post Office Scandal, the role of in-house lawyers is being scrutinised and how they balance their duties to their employer with their role as officers of the Court and their ethical duty. My advocacy extends beyond the legal profession to rugby, where I have founded initiatives like British Asian Women in Rugby, amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups and creating platforms to celebrate their achievements. These experiences align with the need to prepare the Law Society for future challenges and opportunities.

Representation matters deeply to me. At Brighton & Hove City Council, I have championed health and wellbeing initiatives, such as serving as a Workplace Health Champion. In rugby, I have led efforts to make the sport more inclusive, founding Hove Girls Rugby for secondary school aged girls and establishing social media platforms to celebrate Asian women in sports.

These efforts reflect my commitment to the Law Society's values of inclusivity and engagement. As a Council Member, I would work to ensure that the voices of solicitors from diverse backgrounds are amplified and their concerns addressed.

If elected, I will advocate for Local Government Solicitors representing the unique challenges and contributions of solicitors in local government. I will promote diversity and Inclusion, championing initiatives that create a more inclusive legal profession. Furthermore, I will provide thought leadership, addressing issues like access to justice and the future of the profession. I am committed to ensuring good governance and support the Law Society's objectives with transparency and accountability. Finally, I will engage with constituents and actively foster a sense of community among solicitors and provide opportunities for dialogue.

My journey, from a young girl inspired to become a solicitor and an advocate for inclusivity, has prepared me to serve as a Council Member. I bring a unique perspective shaped by lived experiences and a career dedicated to public service. I am passionate about representing solicitors, advancing the profession and promoting fairness, equality and integrity.

I look forward to contributing to the Law Society's mission and working collaboratively with colleagues to address the challenges and opportunities ahead.