

Susheel Bellara

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

I have been a practising barrister for over 20 years, specialising principally in immigration, human rights and family law. I was previously a member of 6 King's Bench Walk before establishing 5 Points Chambers in 2011, where I serve as Head of Chambers. Running a chambers has given me a particular understanding of the opportunities and pressures facing smaller and independent practices at the Bar.

I have maintained a strong interest in advocacy and the wider profession throughout my career. As a student, I was President of the Inner Temple Debating Society and represented the Inn at the World Debating Championships in Greece in 1998. I am also a trained mediator and have developed professional links with the legal and mediation communities in India.

More recently, I founded HaqSe, a free legal-awareness platform in India designed to help people understand their legal rights, explore mediation and access practical resources, particularly those who may be vulnerable or unable readily to access legal assistance.

I am also committed to encouraging the next generation of barristers, recently conducting webinars with law students about careers at the Bar.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

Having practised both within an established set of chambers and as a sole practitioner running my own chambers, I understand the different pressures faced across the Bar. I can bring a practical and independent perspective informed by more than two decades in practice, together with experience of managing a chambers and supporting practitioners. I would bring an approachable and constructive voice to the Bar Council, listening to colleagues and ensuring that the concerns of sole practitioners and those in smaller and independent practices are properly heard.

Motivation for Standing

After more than 20 years in practice, I feel the time is right to give something back to the profession and to play a more active role in its future. The Bar is facing significant challenges and continuing change, and I want to contribute positively to how we respond.

I am particularly motivated to ensure that practitioners across different areas and models of practice feel represented and have a voice. I would welcome the opportunity to listen to colleagues, understand the issues affecting them and use my experience to make a practical difference.