

## **Shobana Iyer**

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

### **About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities**

I have a commercial and corporate practice, often involving cross-border issues, with particular interests in intellectual property, technology and data protection. My work covers a range of sectors, including financial services, renewable energy, TMT, sport and the creative industries. I also practise as an arbitrator and mediator.

Since my election to the Bar Council in 2016, I have contributed to its committee and panel work, including numerous guidance and training for practitioners. I serve as Co-Vice Chair of the Legal Services Committee and previously chaired the Remote Civil Hearings Working Group established during the Covid 19 pandemic, to address the practical difficulties of moving to remote and hybrid hearings. I also re-established the Bar Council's appointment scheme, contributing to the rules and procedures for appointing arbitrators, mediators and experts which can generate revenue for the Bar for beneficial services.

My wider professional activities include work with COMBAR, IPBA, the Society for Computers and Law and the Ciarb and arbitral institutions, together with my work on the Civil Justice Council Working Group on AI in court documents. I value the opportunity these roles provide to exchange experience and contribute to the Bar Council.

### **What I Can Offer the Bar Council**

I would bring practical experience, a willingness to listen and a continuing commitment to the work of the Bar Council. In particular, I hope to help colleagues understand and respond to developments in technology and AI, with guidance that is useful in everyday practice. I would also support the Bar's international relationships and opportunities in dispute resolution, and work with others on sustainability, inclusion and access to the profession. I would seek to ensure that this work reflects the needs of practitioners across different areas of practice and types of chambers.

### **Motivation for Standing**

I am seeking re-election because I have valued the opportunity to serve the profession and would welcome the chance to continue. An independent Bar, committed to high professional standards and the rule of law, depends on the contribution of its members.

Through my work on the Bar Council and my altruistic members, I have seen how much can be achieved through patient, collaborative effort. I would like to build on that work, helping the profession adapt to change while remaining attentive to the practical concerns of colleagues. I would be grateful for your support.