

**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF**   
**SRI LANKA**

**CONFERRING THE HONOUR OF SENIOR INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW ACT, No. 26 OF 2023**

**[Certified on 01st of November, 2023]**

*Printed on the Order of Government*

Published as a Supplement to Part II of the **Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** of November 03, 2023

PRINTEDATTHEDEPARTMENTOFGOVERNMENTPRINTING, SRILANKA   
TOBEPURCHASEDATTHEGOVERNMENTPUBLICATIONSBUREAU, COLOMBO5

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| **Price : Rs. 12.00**  *This Act can be downloaded from* www.documents.gov.lk | **Postage : Rs. 150.00** |

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| *Conferring the Honour of Senior Instructing* | 1 |

*Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023*

[Certified on 01st of November, 2023]

L.D.-O. 13/2023

AN ACTTOPROVIDEFORTHE CONFERMENTOFTHE HONOUROF SENIOR INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS-AT-LAWWITHAVIEWTORECOGNIZING ANDAPPRECIATINGTHESERVICERENDEREDBY ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW PRACTICINGAS INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYSWHOHAVEDEMONSTRATED EMINENCEANDHIGHSTANDARDSINTHELEGALPROFESSION; ANDTO

PROVIDEFORMATTERSCONNECTEDTHEREWITHORINCIDENTAL THERETO.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Conferring the Honour of Short title

Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023.

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| **2.** (1) His Exellency the President may, after obtaining observations from the Chief Justice and the Minister assigned the subject of Justice, and having regard to the guidelines made by the Minister assigned the subject of Justice under section 3, confer the honour of Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law on any Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of the | Conferring the honour of  Senior  Instructing  Attorneys-at- Law |

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who-

(*a*) has been in active practice as an Instructing   
 Attorney for a period not less than twenty years as   
 at the date of conferring such honour;

(*b*) has reached eminence in the legal profession and   
 has maintained high standards of conduct and   
 professional rectitude;

(*c*) has not been found guilty of any criminal offence   
 under any written law;

(*d*) has not been found guilty of any professional   
 misconduct under the Supreme Court (Conduct of   
 and Etiquette for Attorneys-at-Law) Rules 1988 and

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*Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023*

the provisions of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978;   
and

(*e*) has been a person of good character and repute.

(2) His Excellency the President shall, upon conferring the honour of Senior Instructing Attorney-at-Law to any Instructing Attorney, hand over a certificate to that effect to such Instructing Attorney.

(3) An Attorney-at-Law to whom a certificate has been handed over under subsection (2), may use the post-nominal title “SIA”.

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| Minister to make guidelines | **3.** (1) The Minister assigned the subject of Justice shall, from time to time, make guidelines relating to the conferment |

of the honour of Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The guidelines made by the Minister under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

Interpretation **4.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

“Instructing Attorney” means an Attorney-at-Law   
whose main practice is to instruct a Counsel   
to appear in court on the instructions of such   
Attorney-at-Law.

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| Sinhala text to  prevail in case  of inconsistency | **5.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. |

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*Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023*

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