



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

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

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

*Printed on the Order of Government*

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*Conferring the Honour of Senior Instructing  
Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023*

[Certified on 01st of November, 2023]

L.D.-O. 13/2023

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONFERMENT OF THE HONOUR OF SENIOR INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW WITH A VIEW TO RECOGNIZING AND APPRECIATING THE SERVICE RENDERED BY ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW PRACTICING AS INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EMINENCE AND HIGH STANDARDS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL 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 Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law Act, No. 26 of 2023.

Short title

**2.** (1) His Excellency 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 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who-

Conferring the  
honour of  
Senior  
Instructing  
Attorneys-at-  
Law

- (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

2        *Conferring the Honour of Senior Instructing  
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”.

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.

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.

