



ADVOCATING GIRLS

Women and the Justice System

Wednesday 15 November 2023
Gray's Inn

Introduction

Welcome to *Advocating Girls*. Thank you so much to everyone for being here. We are so grateful to Lady Justice Geraldine Andrews and to Gray's Inn for their generous and unstinting support of this event, and to our panel of speakers for sharing their time, experience and expertise.

Advocating Girls is two things. It is the name of tonight's event: bringing together 90 students from 6 partner schools and professionals from across the court and justice systems. Tonight is about making connections and sharing perspectives. We're here to celebrate 100 years of women in advocacy, think about issues facing women in the justice system today, and turn our minds to the future - as represented by the young people here tonight. How do we meet the continuing challenges as we strive for fairness and equality both under and within the law?

Tonight sees three pairs of schools coming together in partnership:

- City of London School for Girls and City of London Academy Highgate Hill
- The Abbey School Reading and The Holt School Wokingham
- Wimbledon High School and Harris Academy Wimbledon

All of us are committed to working together to share opportunity and experiences for students in each of our individual schools. We learn best alongside and from each other - and that is how we meet the challenges of the present and the future.

Advocating Girls, though, is also a campaign, for which tonight's event serves as the launch. As Heads we lead a coalition of schools with the rights and interests of girls and women as our core purpose. We need a justice system that understands and defends those interests as part of meaningful equality. Our goal is to bring together school students and professionals to work towards that end.

Women have been permitted to serve as advocates in law for just over a century. As we look to the coming decades, we are united in our desire to support girls as they continue to advocate for justice in their own cause and justice for all.

Will le Fleming

Head, The Abbey School

Jenny Brown

Headmistress, City of London School For Girls

Fionnuala Kennedy

Head, Wimbledon High School GDST



Programme

18:00	Arrivals
18:15	Welcome <i>Students of The Holt and The Abbey</i>
18:20	Address The Right Honourable Lady Justice Geraldine Andrews DBE
18:30	Performance: inspired by Mary Wollstonecraft and Emmeline Pankhurst <i>Students from Harris Academy Wimbledon and Wimbledon High School</i>
18:35	Advocating Girls Panel with Audience Q&A With thanks to our panel guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Right Honourable Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE - Her Honour Judge Anuja Dhir KC - Caroline Carberry KC - Sultana Tafdar KC <i>The panel discussion will be hosted by students from City of London School for Girls</i>
19:05	Performance: inspired by Helena Normanton and Dame Rose Heilbron <i>Students from The Holt & The Abbey</i>
19:10	Performance: inspired by Dame Linda Dobbs and Mrs Justice Bobbie Cheema-Grubb <i>Students of City of London Academy Highgate Hill</i>
19:15	Reflections and Vote of Thanks <i>Students from Harris Academy Wimbledon and Wimbledon High School</i>
19:20	Networking Reception <i>Students and professional guests are cordially invited to continue the conversations over refreshments. There will also be an opportunity to view the '100 Years of Women at the Bar' exhibition, on loan from the Judicial Office</i>
20:00	Departures

Speaker



**The Right Honourable
Lady Justice Geraldine Andrews DBE**

Dame Geraldine was appointed as a High Court Judge in 2013 and elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2020.

In 2025, she will become Treasurer of Gray's Inn, a pivotal role that provides direction on the strategic issues facing students, members and the Bar more widely.

As Lady Justice of Appeal of England and Wales, she sits in both criminal and civil appeals and in the Divisional Court.

Panellists



**The Right Honourable
Baroness Shami Chakrabarti CBE**

Lady Chakrabarti is a human rights lawyer and campaigner, Labour Peer and member of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee in the House of Lords.

She served as Shadow Attorney General for England and Wales (2016 - 2020) and was the Director of Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties (2003 - 2016). Prior to that, Shami was at the bar and then a Home Office lawyer (1996-2001).

She was a panellist on the Leveson Inquiry into media culture, ethics and practice after the phone-hacking scandal.



Her Honour Judge Anuja Dhir KC

Judge Anuja Dhir KC was appointed as a judge at the Old Bailey in 2017, a Circuit Judge in 2012 and a Recorder in 2010.

Anuja was called to the Bar in 1989 and practised as a barrister for 23 years, mainly in crime and as a special advocate in national security cases.

She has been involved in advocacy training in the UK and abroad for over 20 years.

In 2022, Anuja was appointed as a Diversity and Community Relations Judge.



Caroline Carberry KC

Since taking Silk in 2017, Caroline has established herself as a leading barrister in the defence and prosecution of complex and serious cases including homicide, serious sexual offences and infant death.

Caroline made legal history conducting the first-ever successful prosecution in the UK for female genital mutilation (FGM).

She works with both defendants and witnesses of the utmost vulnerability. In 2017, she was appointed a Lead Facilitator of the Advocacy and the Vulnerable National Training Programme.



Sultana Tafdar KC

Sultana is a barrister practising in human rights, international law and criminal justice. She is one of the foremost experts in counter terrorism and national security cases, with a portfolio of over 35 high-profile and landmark cases.

She spent 16 years at the bar, mainly at the Old Bailey or the Royal Courts of Justice and was appointed King's Counsel in 2022.

She has founded the Girls Human Rights Hub, with her daughter Safiyah, to provide a space where girls can learn to harness the tools to become advocates for their own rights.

Our warmest thanks to our speakers, panellists and professional guests for

generously sharing their experiences with future law students during the networking reception

We also extend a warm welcome to practitioners, students and pupils of Gray's Inn

Our guests include:

Suzanne Abraham , Commercial Lawyer at University of Reading
Deborah Bell , Strategic Director of Education and Skills, City of London Corporation
David Boyd , Director of Legal and Risk Assurance, GDST
Marzia Briel , Foreign Qualified Lawyer and Lecturer in Law at University of Reading,
Catherine Brymer , Solicitor and Director at Albin & Co Solicitors
Jo Corrigan JP , Berkshire Bench Chair
Georgie Dibbo , Pupil Barrister at XXIV Old Buildings (alumna of The Abbey)
Caroline Haines , Chair, Educational Board, City of London Corporation
Naznin Islam , Barrister at Pump Court Chambers (alumna of Wimbledon High School)
HHJ Georgina Kent , Circuit Judge
Shaniqua McKezie , Bar Course Student, Gray's Inn
Mark Morgan , HMP Feltham
Sara Nathan OBE , King's Counsel Appointments Panel
Brigid North , Partner at Reed Smith
HHJ Emma Nott , Circuit Judge, Reading Crown and Family Courts
Master Iain Pester , Master of the High Court, Chancery Division
Dr Sally Penni MBE , Barrister at Law, Kenworthy's Chambers. Founder of the Women in Law UK
Adam Tolley KC , Barrister at Fountain Court Chambers
Shrina Tulsiani , Inhouse Lawyer
Elizabeth West , Solicitor
Samantha Woodham , Barrister & Co-Founder of The Divorce Surgery (alumna of The Abbey)

Celebrating a Centenary of Women in Law

Dana Denis-Smith

Extract from a blog about the setting up the First Hundred Years Project

In November 2013, there was a story in the alumni magazine published by Herbert Smith Freehills – I can't remember many details of the story, other than that it was about a male alumnus, but what caught my attention was a group photograph in the corner of the page, taken in 1982 and featuring a big group of lawyers dressed in black tie. There was only one woman in that shot. And I suddenly had a lightbulb moment: in my lifetime, there had been so few women in leading positions within law firms to push for a different narrative.



The Royal Courts of Justice, London

During my research, I came across the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919, which paved the way for women to become lawyers for the first time. I immediately saw that the centenary of this landmark piece of legislation could provide a powerful focal point for giving female lawyers the much-needed context for their professional endeavours and a necessary sense of their own collective history.

One of the things that was therefore very important to me was to create a public story-telling space where it was safe to share the full story of what it's like to be a female lawyer with children, and not just the redacted or sanitised version focusing exclusively on the work side of the equation. And then to connect these unvarnished narratives with what it is like to be a woman, with the legacy and history of women in law and creating something that female lawyers can truly be proud of – because they are standing on the shoulders of giants. It was about establishing a dialogue with a history that had hitherto been missing.

www.first100years.org.uk

www.graysinn.org.uk/news/100-years-of-women-at-grays-inn



**GRAY'S
INN**
—

The Holt
School



 **Harris Academy**
Wimbledon



The Abbey



**WIMBLEDON
HIGH SCHOOL**
EX HUMILIBUS EXCELSA
GDST
GOYD'S DAY SCHOOL TRUST



**Courts and
Tribunals Judiciary**



100 **FIRST
HUNDRED
YEARS**

Thank you

to everyone who has come together to make this evening possible