Chrishmal Warnasuriya

Probationary Tenant

Called: 2025 (England & Wales)
Attorney-at-Law 2000 (Sri Lanka)
Admitted to the List of Counsel at the International Criminal Court (2022)



Profile

Chris Warnasuriya is an international lawyer with over 26 years of post-qualification experience (PQE) in trial and appellate advocacy across Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and international tribunals. His practice primarily centres on public law, civil & commercial litigation, cross-border disputes, constitutional law and international law.

He was called to the Bar in Sri Lanka in the year 2000, in England and Wales (in 2025 - Middle Temple) and listed as Counsel at the International Criminal Court (ICC - in 2022). In addition to his practice in the UK he also leads a multi-disciplinary set of chambers in Sri Lanka. He is vastly experienced in advising legislative committees, public and corporate bodies, serving on regulatory boards and regularly appears on international media.

Expertise & Reported Cases

Chris maintains an extensive practice across constitutional litigation, complex commercial and civil work, public international law and professional disciplinary tribunals:

- Public & Constitutional Law: Impeachment of Chief Justice, Colombo Port City SEZ reference (2021), 22nd Amendment determination (2022), Chief Justice impeachment proceedings (2013), and habeas corpus matters.
- Admiralty & Shipping: Apex litigation involving the MV X-Press Pearl maritime disaster, land valuation challenges, and cross-border commercial disputes.
- International Law & Regulatory Systems: Int. Cricket Council (ICC) defence of past cricketers before the anti-corruption tribunals
  Courts Martial & Civic Rights: Court-martial of Gen. Sarath Fonseka (defeated presidential candidate), Easter Sunday attacks litigation.
- Professional Discipline & Public Interest: Educational accreditation appeals, national medicinal policy references, and landmark litigation establishing Sri Lanka's first female Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police

OUTLINE
CHAMBERS

OUTLINE Chambers 6 Pump Court (First Floor West), Temple, London EC4Y 7AR United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)203 597 7130 24 Hr Emergency number: +44 (0) 7519 722966 Email: clerks@outlinechambers.com

Web: outlinechambers.com

Expertise & Reported Cases Cont'd

- Defamation: Court of Appeal and Supreme Court precedent
- Environmental: Regulations for Wild Life protection (wild elephants), Planning challenges on EPA violations

For a full list of cases please **click here**

Awards

- US State Department IVLP Award for future leaders (2014)
- TOYP Award, Sri Lanka - The Most Outstanding Young Persons (2008)
- Parliamentary Nominee (2015 & 2020)

Education

- LL.M in Public & Commercial Laws, King's College London (Merit)
- Postgraduate Diploma (Hons) & BA, University of Colombo.

Memberships & Key Appointments

- Bar of England & Wales
- ICC, List of Counsel
- Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL)
- Bar Council of Sri Lanka - Delegate & Chair, Overseas Relations Committee
- Association of Sri Lankan Lawyers, UK (ASLLUK) - Executive Committee

Previous & Present Appointments:

- Corporate Governance - Board Director, Peoples' Bank, Sri Lanka;
- Senior Corporate Advisor, Lyca Mobile Group;
- Consultant - Dialog Axiata Group;
- Elected Delegate, Bar Council of Sri Lanka;
- Truth & Reconciliation Committee Member;
- Parliamentary Committee for Legal Reforms (2022).

Languages

- English
- Sinhala (Fluent)