



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE
MIDDLE TEMPLE

CALL TO THE BAR

HILARY CALL

18:00, THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026

MASTER TREASURER

Bernard Richmond KC

MASTER READER

Dame Eleanor Sharpston DCMG KC

SOME HISTORY

The term “barrister” appears to have originated in the Inns of Court in the mid-fifteenth century, when it described the junior members of the Inns who participated in the exercise known, even then, as mooting. At that time instruction was conducted in each of the Inns of Court, under the direction of a Master of the Bench appointed as Reader, during two terms in each year known as Grand Vacations. Instruction was mostly oral and practical. In the mooting exercises the most junior students, who sat in the middle tiers of the benches, were known as Inner Barristers, and carried out the simpler exercises; the more learned sat outer or “utter”-most, and argued the more abstruse points of the law.

Call to the Utter Bar was therefore recognition of a degree of learning and was generally accorded only after a Barrister had been under instruction for five or six years. Moreover, even after being Called, a Barrister in the time of Elizabeth I was not allowed to plead before the high courts for a further five years, though the Justices of Assize might admit him to their courts earlier. Time both as a student and as a pupil therefore seems to have been pretty protracted.

For some decades there was a dispute as to who might authorise Call to the Utter Bar. Readers often assumed, or were given, authority to Call Barristers, but gradually this passed to the Masters of the Bench as a whole; an Order issued by Queen Elizabeth I in 1574 (shortly after this Hall was completed) said that none should be *“Called to the Bar but by the Ordinary Council of the House”*.

The members Called each year were far fewer than in modern times; in the Middle Temple, under 10 a year in the reign of Elizabeth I, gradually rising throughout the next century to nearly 20 in the reign of William and Mary.

TODAY'S CEREMONY

Students who have passed the Bar Course (or have complied with other relevant academic or professional requirements) and have met the regulatory requirements are eligible for Call and have been so authorised by the Masters of the Bench in Parliament. The students are Called in a specific order. This is the order of seniority according to the date of their admission to the Inn. Each wears a wig and gown over a dark suit or dress (the tradition of sobriety in clothing, too, goes back to Elizabeth I's reign).

Master Treasurer accompanied by Master Reader and followed by other Masters of the Bench, will process into Hall and take their places.

Master Reader addresses the students with the words:

“Student members of the Middle Temple being Called to the Degree of the Utter Bar, you have declared that for as long as you remain a barrister you will use your knowledge and skills in keeping with the principles and ethics of the profession, uphold the Rule of Law and in doing so comply with the Code of Conduct and Core Duties of the Bar of England and Wales.

You have also accepted the obligation to follow the regulations of the profession and to undertake continual improvement of your professional knowledge and competence.”

Master Reader addresses Master Treasurer with the words:

“Master Treasurer, it is my duty and privilege as Master Reader to introduce to you those Students of this Honourable and Learned Society whose proposals for Call to the Degree of the Utter Bar have been authorised by Parliament. When they have been Called by you they will, after the ancient manner, enter

their names at the Cupboard in the Book Containing the Roll of the Barristers of this Inn.”

Master Reader then presents each student by name:

“Master Treasurer, I introduce”

Master Treasurer then calls him or her:

“..... in the name of the Masters of the Bench, I Call you to the Degree of the Utter Bar”.

When all have been Called, Master Treasurer gives a speech.

CALL TO THE BAR

The following Members of the House were this day Called to the Degree of the Utter Bar:

Nazia Noreen Malik

Rabin Chandra Paul

Stephen David Burke

Bibi Aisha Kurmaully

Bibi Nadhiira Rummun

Mel-Kem Ugochuku Okochi

Clifford Yong Lik Teoh

Ava Tallulah Chowdhury-Turner

Troy Richard Boatman

William James Morgan

Oh Shi Kai

Daniel Thomas Collins

Abdul Qadir Fardeen Noorbaccus

Kyle Khai Loong Rajalingam

Ng Yen Theng

Bryden Low Juan Yang

Celia Grace Storrie

Govinthiran Gunasekaran

Yi Kiu Bridgit Tai

Rubab Aisha

Wendo Kavinga Rajasinghe Rajasinghe Mudiyanseelage

Anastasia Solopova

Sofiya Yerokhina

Kristin Marie Bennett Blyckert

Gergana Nikolova Khako

Graham Richard Lloyd

Tom Reginald Trim



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