

## NOTIFICATION

### CALLING APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT'S COUNSELS – 2022/2023

Applications are invited to select qualified persons for the appointment of President's Counsels for the years 2022 and 2023 in terms of Article 33 (e) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan citizens with the following qualifications shall apply to be appointed as President's Counsel as per the guidelines published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2255/24 of November 24, 2021.

01. A person who;
  - i. Is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka;
  - ii. Has reached eminence in the legal profession and maintains a high standard of conduct and professional integrity;
  - iii. Has:-
    - (a) Actively contributed by advocacy in any Court of Sri Lanka; or
    - (b) Actively contributed by advocacy for the advancement of the law; or
    - (c) Made a significant and an outstanding contribution as a specialist in law at senior level in the public sector or in an internationally recognized institution in Sri Lanka or abroad, and brought honour to Sri Lanka;
  - iv. Has a good character and reputation;
  - v. Has not violated the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;
  - vi. Has not engaged in any act of undermining or breaching the Rule of Law or the Independence of the Judiciary;
  - vii. Has not been subject to any disciplinary order by the Supreme Court or the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, has not been convicted for professional misconduct or misdeed by a Court, has not been found guilty of contempt of Court, has not been convicted of any offense by a local or overseas Court except a minor offence under the Motor Traffic Act and, is not bankrupt;
  - viii. Has been registered in the Department of Inland Revenue as a tax payer for a minimum period of five years, prior to the submission of the application by him/her for the appointment as a President's Counsel;

02. Publication of books or documents on law and/or the legal system, presentation of papers at national or international conferences, completion further studies in law from nationally or internationally recognized institutions, teaching of the subject of law in recognized higher educational institutions, an up-to-date knowledge in new aspects of law, and training of junior Attorneys-at-Law who contribute to the profession in a meaningful manner, will be considered as additional qualifications for the appointment of President's Counsels.
03. The applicant must have practised as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, for a minimum period of twenty (20) years. [Under exceptional circumstances, Attorneys-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka with fifteen (15) years of service, who have duly fulfilled all other criteria, could also be considered for the appointment as President's Counsels]
04. Working as a Notary Public by the applicant will be considered as a disqualification and influencing the application process or the appointment as a President's Counsel either directly or indirectly, in person or through a third party by the applicant will be considered as a disqualification.
05. If any applicant has furnished false information in the application or submitted forged documents or suppressed information, the said application will *ipso facto* be rejected.

The duly completed written applications adhering to the specimen application provided herewith, along with the certified copies of the relevant documents, shall be sent by Registered Post, addressed to the Secretary to the President, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 01 to reach on or before August 25, 2023. "Appointment of President's Counsels – 2022/2023" should be clearly written on the top left corner of the envelope containing the application.

Applications may also be downloaded via [www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk](http://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk)

**E M S B Ekanayake**  
Secretary to the President

Presidential Secretariat  
Colombo 01.  
August 09, 2023