

I am Samiyyah Ganga, and I am running for the position of Toronto Recent Call Director. I was called to the bar in 2020 and have been practicing as a defence lawyer since then.

I am currently on the women's committee and diversity committee at the CLA. I also frequently volunteer with the Muslim Legal Support Centre.

One of the greatest issues faced by the defence bar, and in particular recent calls, is attrition. Many young lawyers are leaving the defence bar for the Crown's office or to entirely different areas of law. I intend to focus on this issue by providing more support to recent calls in two main ways: (1) mentorship and (2) education.

As someone who was called to the bar during the pandemic, I can see that it is now more difficult to establish strong mentorship relationships. As more people are working from home or doing virtual appearances, it can be difficult to meet and establish relationships with senior members of the bar. I will advance initiatives aimed at bridging this gap and fostering more mentorship for recent calls.

I will also seek to increase education and resources for recent calls, including CPD aimed specifically at recent calls i.e., focused on the more practical aspects of being a defence lawyer and running a practice.

I think the recent call committee has been doing some excellent work in the past few years. I hope to help it continue to do more good work in the future.