



Maryam Syed
Year of Call: 1993

To view Maryam's profile, click [here](#).

What encouraged you to join the Judiciary?

I wanted to fully play a part in all the areas I could in the legal system, so in crime both prosecuting and defending and sitting as a judge. I sit in the Crown Court and General Regulatory Chamber and I believe I am a better lawyer and advocate as I make decisions as a judge and look at things from all perspectives. I also really wanted to represent my heritage and community as a Muslim Pakistani Punjabi Woman on the Bench as I feel I bring a wider experience and voice and my presence I hope is a symbol of increasing judicial diversity.

What have you learnt about yourself recently?

To work harder at savouring each day as it comes. Homeschooling and remote hearings/conferences/paperwork have sured up my time management skills, and patience.

What do you think are the differences/similarities in the skill set required to being a good judge and a good barrister?

Both require acting with fairness, a dedicated work ethic, using sensibly your analytical skills, working independently but also as a team and the ability to engage and be understood by all around you. How are they different? As a Judge I am in charge of the court and I must ensure everyone is treated fairly and with respect, and is allowed to play their proper part. Drafting and delivering a summing up is a separate skill set as is knowing you must decide and rule and impose a sentence. It is a much wider responsibility.

Thank you for listening to Maryam and Vittoria's podcast, if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in further detail please contact Eleanor De on ede@7br.co.uk