

Retired Justice Mr. S. Thurairaja PC

Justice S. Thurairaja PC is a distinguished jurist with nearly four decades of experience in the legal profession, public service, and judicial administration. He retired from the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in March 2026 after serving as one of the country's most senior judges and was the Acting Chief Justice of Sri Lanka in 2025. During his tenure on the Supreme Court, he authored over 200 judgments, including landmark constitutional determinations on matters of national importance.

Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court in 2019, Justice Thurairaja served as a Judge of the Court of Appeal and held several senior positions in the Attorney General's Department over a distinguished 27-year career, culminating in his appointment as Additional Solicitor General. He was conferred the distinction of President's Counsel in 2019, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the law and the administration of justice. He also served as a Puisne Judge of the Republic of Fiji and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Fiji.

Justice Thurairaja held several key leadership positions within the justice sector, including serving as a Member of the Judicial Service Commission of Sri Lanka from September 2025 to March 2026, where he was involved in matters relating to the appointment, promotion, and disciplinary control of the subordinate judiciary and the safeguarding of judicial independence.

He has also played a significant role in public policy, law reform, legal education, and governance. He currently serves as Patron of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and has held numerous national appointments, including as Chair of the Cabinet-appointed Expert Committee on the Reform of the Presidential Pardoning and Remission Procedure, Sri Lanka Representative to the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), and Member of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education.

An accomplished academic, Justice Thurairaja holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. He is presently a Supervisor, Lecturer, and Examiner in the MPhil/PhD Programme of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, and has lectured extensively at the the Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Law College, and other academic institutions in Sri Lanka and abroad.