

News

Three appointed Senior Counsel

K.C. Vijayan

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AFTER his life-long dream to be a fighter pilot was dashed, **Harpreet Singh** Nehal went on to become a top gun lawyer instead, described as 'first rate' in the 2006/07 edition of the Asia Pacific Legal 500 magazine.

Yesterday, he was one of three lawyers appointed Senior Counsel (SC).

According to the Singapore Academy of Law, being appointed Senior Counsel 'is a mark of eminence within the legal profession: an accolade given to those who possess outstanding ability as advocates, extensive knowledge of the law and highest professional standing'.

The three new SCs were chosen by a committee headed by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong and comprising Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin and Justice Andrew Phang.

Mr **Harpreet Singh**, 40, said he was both 'honoured and humbled'.

His legal experience includes a wide range of complex commercial disputes and arbitration matters both in and out of Singapore.

Law Society president Philip Jeyaretnam described him as 'a role model for how to achieve professional success without sacrificing family and personal development'.

'Want to understand the work-life balance? Ask him,' he said.

Like Mr **Harpreet Singh**, newly-appointed Senior Counsel Sant Singh came from humble beginnings to become what Mr Jeyaretnam described as the 'Marlon Brando of the criminal bar, its leading light'.

Mr Sant, 59, has handled major criminal and corporate fraud trials during his 27 years in private practice.

He said: 'With the honour of being an SC comes added responsibility and expectations. You have to strive just as hard, if not harder.'

Leading shipping lawyer Toh Kian Seng, 42, was the third of yesterday's appointees.

Armed with a law degree from the National University of Singapore as well as a first-class honours degree in Civil Law from Oxford University, Mr Toh has also written a book on Admiralty Law & Practice that has been cited by the Singapore Court of Appeal as well as the High Court in New Zealand and Hong Kong.

'My wife is obviously very happy,' he said.

'I have not told my children the good news yet. I expect them to find out when they read The Sunday Times.'

vijayan@sph.com.sg