



Ms. Rasamani Kandiah

(14th July 1945 – 22nd October 2019)

Dr. S. Kandiah and Saraswathy. Kandiah who knew and valued the importance of education, sent their second child to London to commence her legal studies at the Inner Temple, London at the tender age of 18. Two years later, in 1965, Rasamani Kandiah did her parents proud by completing the Bar-at -Law examination. As she was only 20 when she completed her Bar-at -Law examination, she attended further legal studies to mark time to attain the age of 21 before she could be admitted to the Bar of England and Wales. In 1966, she was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales.

Thereafter, Rasamani returned home and proceeded to do her pupillage with Rodyk & Davidson, a prominent legal firm in Singapore. She was admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1967. Though born in Singapore, but her ultimate aim was to be admitted to the Malaysian Bar.

She then went on to do further pupillage with Messrs Rithaudeen & Aziz in Kota Bahru, Kelantan and Messrs Khoo & Sidhu in Kuala Lumpur. Finally, in 1968, she was admitted to the Malaysian Bar. A truly proud moment for Rasamani and her family. She set an impressive benchmark for herself and her siblings.

Rasamani commenced her legal career as a legal assistant with the firm of Messrs Khoo & Sidhu, where she was later made a partner of the firm.

In the early years of her legal career, Rasamani was often chaperoned by her late mother, whenever she travelled outstation to attend hearings.

Many years later she moved on to Messrs Mohd Latip & Associates (Kuala Lumpur & later Banting) and practised as a partner alongside her younger sister, Ms Kunamony Kandiah, until her untimely passing away.

Rasamani is remembered for her kindness, generosity, loyalty, perseverance, commitment and passion to her legal career and clients.

Being the second eldest in a family of eight siblings, Rasamani was an amazing, loving, awesome and responsible sister. Following the demise of both parents in the late seventies, Rasamani easily took charge of the welfare of her younger siblings and all family matters. She took her responsibility seriously and succeeded in educating all her younger siblings. Her siblings relied on her in difficult times and received support for the challenges they faced.

Family bonding was of utmost importance to her and she repeatedly reminded her siblings to maintain their closeness. Rasamani was fondly known to her siblings as "Rasa".

Despite her siblings living all over the globe, they always made a point to meet as often as they could in Petaling Jaya at Rasa's beautiful home. She would often travel to meet her siblings either in Dubai, Spain, the U.K and Netherlands. Last year, she spent a month in the U.K, enjoying the English summer and her rose garden.

The untimely passing away of her only brother in April 2019, her beloved German Shephard dog, Lord Justice King in October 2018, had a tremendous impact on her. She had not gotten over her two major losses and often spoke about her brother and her best friend, Lord Justice King.

For Rasamani, learning had no limits. To further broaden her knowledge, she went on to do a study in Islamic law. She successfully completed a Post Degree Diploma In Islamic Law which was conducted by the International Islamic University Malaysia. Her last progressive education was a Masters course in International Trade.

With more than 5 decades (52 years) of legal career, many of which involved litigation work and charitable causes. Her accomplishments were commendable. She still had so much more to give and to share. She touched many lives, young and old.

For the financially unfortunate, regardless of age, gender or religion, she would represent them in Court personally to ensure they were delivered justice accordingly. Over the years, Rasamani did Pro bono work by taking on Legal Aid files. The numerous wreaths and messages of condolences, love, respect and adoration were testament to this.

She made her sisters proud, leaving several legacies. As an eminent lawyer, she used her legal platform to support the voiceless and the poor. Rasamani was committed to humanity and helping the less fortunate. She was often seen during the Malaysian Bar AGM's to raise matters affecting women and children.

In court, Rasamani was a formidable opponent who never asked for a quarter nor gave one. She fought fiercely for her clients. However, outside court she was kind and compassionate.

Amidst a busy legal practice, she made time. And contributed her time and energy to various causes and held the following positions:

- a) Committee Member of the Selangor Bar.
- b) Founder Member of the Association of Women Lawyers.
- c) Chairperson of the Law Commission for National Council of Women's Organization (NCWO).
- d) Member of The National Advisory Council for Woman and Development. (NACWID)
- e) Committee Member of (EWRF) – Education. Welfare and Research Foundation.
- f) Chairperson of Jaffnese Co-Operative Society.

In addition, Rasamani had presented papers at several International Conferences, in Sri Lanka, China, Japan and Malaysia.

In her younger days, Rasamani was an avid ballroom dancer and had won several awards at her school of dancing. Other than her love for ballroom dancing she was an ardent lover of dogs, a passion she acquired from her late father, Dr. S. Kandiah, a

veterinarian. She had several pets over the years, a German Spitz called Rover, Lord Justice King and Lord Justice Prince, both German shepherds.

Ms. Rasamani Kandiah was an exemplary woman who was held in high esteem by her peers and mentors. Her sudden demise, is a great loss to the family and to the legal fraternity. The bar mourns the loss of one of its able members.

“Tears are sometimes an inappropriate response to death when life has been lived completely honestly, completely successfully or just completely, the correct response to death’s perfect punctuation mark is a smile”. (Julie Burchill)

Written By,

Dato’ Yasmeen Shariff