

**SABA** | South Asian Bar  
Association of Toronto

# RAISING THE BAR

The Impact of South Asian Lawyers on Canada's Legal Landscape

A 40-minute documentary capturing justice, identity, and 20 years of South Asian leadership in Canadian law.



Prepared by  
South Asian Bar Association of Toronto  
SABA Toronto 20th Anniversary Documentary Initiative

# About SABA Toronto

*SABA's mission has always been to uplift South Asian legal professionals, and we will continue to do so through our various initiatives including advocacy, community outreach, continuing professional development, gender diversity initiatives, and mentorship and networking opportunities.*

- Annie Tayyab, Current President

## 01 WHO WE ARE?

SABA Toronto is one of the largest South Asian bar associations in North America, representing lawyers, law students, and legal professionals committed to justice, equity, and community advancement. For 20 years, SABA has championed diversity in the legal profession and advocated for meaningful representation.

## 02 WHAT WE DO

Our work includes mentorship programs, legal advocacy, public education initiatives, and community outreach. We support South Asian legal professionals at every stage of their careers and work to strengthen the presence of South Asian voices in Canadian law.

## 03 WHY IT MATTERS

South Asians play a critical role in Canada's legal landscape, yet their contributions and perspectives have historically been underrepresented. SABA exists to strengthen South Asian leadership and advance meaningful representation within Canada's justice system.

# Why This Moment Matters

At this 20-year milestone, the South Asian Bar Association stands at a rare point of reflection, transition, and institutional maturity.

## From Margins to Institutions

Over two decades, South Asian lawyers have moved from underrepresentation to leadership roles across the judiciary, government, and major firms, a transformation that mirrors broader shifts in Canadian society.

## A Rare Institutional Moment

SABA Toronto's 20th anniversary marks a unique point in its evolution, mature enough to reflect honestly on its origins, growth, and impact, yet close enough to its early history to preserve firsthand memory.

## A Generational Transition

As leadership passes to a new generation, this film captures the voices of founders and early advocates while they are still here to tell their story in their own words, before lived experience gives way to abstraction.

## An Archival Record for the Future

This documentary is not only a celebration, it is a permanent historical record designed to educate, contextualize, and inspire future generations of lawyers, advocates, and community leaders.

# Featured Voices

The documentary features a curated selection of voices shaping the past, present, and future of South Asian representation in Canada's legal system.



**The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree**, Minister of Public Safety of Canada; former Minister of Justice, Attorney General, human rights lawyer and Member of Parliament



**The Honourable Renu Mandhane**, Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, Former Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission; Professor of Law



**Ena Chadha**, Vice-Chair, Ontario Human Rights Tribunal; former Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission

# Featured Voices Continued

Voices from the judiciary, public office, and legal community whose experiences reflect the evolution, impact, and future of South Asian representation in Canada.

## Legal Advocates & Community Leaders

**Shalini Konanur**, Executive Director, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario

**Neha Chugh**, Family law lawyer; represented SABA as intervenor before the Supreme Court of Canada on domestic violence and family law cases

**Jennifer Asnani Jobanputra**, Founder, Women in Law Leadership; lawyer and equity advocate

## Institutional & Professional Voices

**Russell Juriansz**, First South Asian judge on the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and first racialized judge on the Ontario Court of Appeal.

**Ranjan Agarwal**, Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario and former Ontario Bar Association Equality Committee leader

**Raj Anand**, Adjudicator and former Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission; founding Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Legal

# The Documentary

Raising the Bar is a 40-minute documentary exploring the evolution, contributions, and lived experiences of South Asian lawyers in Canada. Through intimate interviews and personal stories, the film uncovers the resilience, culture, and community that shaped a generation

## KEY THEMES

- Identity
- Representation
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Resilience

*SABA Toronto was formed to serve as the voice of the South Asian legal community. We envisioned a place where members would meet, network, exchange ideas, provide mentorship, and contribute towards the betterment of the legal profession while fostering community through the fabric of a shared culture.*

- Ron Choudhury, Miller Thomson LLP,  
Founding Member, SABA Toronto

*I've spent my career telling stories that reveal who we are beneath the surface. This documentary is a tribute to a community whose impact on Canada deserves to be seen, heard, and remembered.*

- Jordan Walker, Director

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:

Award-winning filmmaker Jordan Walker has spent more than two decades bringing deeply human stories to life through feature films, documentaries, and cinematic branded work. His films have screened at major festivals including TIFF, Cannes, and Slamdance, and have been released in more than 35 countries. His most recent feature, James vs. His Future Self, earned Two Thumbs Up from The New York Times and holds a 100 percent Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

For Jordan, Raising the Bar is more than a film. It is a chance to honour the communities that shaped Canada's legal landscape and to spotlight the resilience, identity, and courage of South Asian lawyers whose stories are too often overlooked. From SABA Toronto's unlikely emergence in the aftermath of 9/11 to its leadership on defining issues like Quebec's Bill 21, this film represents a journey of advocacy, belonging, and collective strength.

# The Case for Sponsorship

Raising the Bar is a 40-minute feature documentary created to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto. What began as a short celebratory film quickly evolved into a larger, more powerful story, driven by the depth and urgency of the interviews captured so far. The documentary examines the evolution, impact, and continuing relevance of SABA through the lived experiences of its members, culminating in its leadership role in the Supreme Court challenge to Quebec's Bill 21.

This project offers sponsors a meaningful opportunity to support a historic cultural work that highlights representation, justice, and leadership within the Canadian legal profession. The film will premiere at a gala screening attended by leaders across law, business, government, and media, offering unparalleled visibility and brand alignment with an influential national audience.

## VISIBILITY & REACH

Your brand will appear in a project that speaks to tens of thousands of lawyers, students, judges, and community members across Canada.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

By supporting this documentary, you help strengthen representation in the legal profession and contribute to a project that inspires

## LEGACY & ALIGNMENT

This film becomes part of SABA's 20-year legacy. Sponsorship demonstrates a commitment to diversity, access to justice, and the advance-

*SABA Toronto was founded on the belief that our stories matter. We knew that South Asian lawyers were contributing to Canada in extraordinary ways, yet their journeys were rarely told. Supporting this documentary means preserving a history of resilience, advocacy, and community that continues to shape the legal landscape today.*

- Aaron S. Bains, Partner, Aird & Berlis LLP

# Why This Story Must Be Told

The South Asian community is now one of the most influential and fastest-growing demographics in Canada. Yet the stories of its legal trailblazers, its battles, and its progress remain largely untold.

This documentary captures a pivotal moment in Canadian history. Over the last twenty years, SABA members have shaped major cases, advanced representation at all levels, and strengthened access to justice for countless communities.

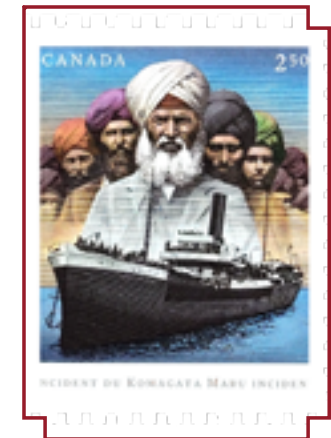
This film preserves that legacy, celebrates the leaders behind it, and shares a powerful message about inclusion, mentorship, and the future of the profession.



# How Sponsorship Funding Will Be Used

Sponsorship funding will directly support the completion and presentation of Raising the Bar, ensuring the documentary meets the highest standards of storytelling, accessibility, and impact. Contributions will be used to finalize post-production, including picture editing, sound design, music, colour correction, and archival clearances, as well as to support outreach efforts such as a gala premiere, community screenings, and educational engagement.

Funding will also help amplify the film's reach through marketing, promotional materials, and digital distribution, allowing the stories and contributions of South Asian legal professionals to be seen, heard, and preserved for future generations.



# Sponsorship Opportunities

The following sponsorship opportunities are designed to reflect a range of partnership levels, allowing organizations to participate in a way that aligns with their priorities and capacity. Sponsors at every level play a vital role in bringing this documentary to life and ensuring its reach, impact, and legacy within Canada's legal community.

## TITLE SPONSOR – \$25,000

---

**Exclusive | 1 available**

As the exclusive Title Sponsor, the Presenting Partner will receive premier recognition and meaningful integration across the documentary, its launch and related engagement activities.

### Recognition & Brand Visibility

- "Presented by" credit in the opening titles of the documentary and across all promotional materials
- Top-tier logo placement on the documentary poster, official website, and gala step-and-repeat
- Logo placement at the beginning of the official trailer
- Logo inclusion in all press releases, interviews, and media coverage related to the film
- Recognition as the exclusive Presenting Partner of the SABA 20th Anniversary Film

### Premiere & Engagement

- Speaking opportunity or pre-recorded video message at the gala premiere
- Private screening event for the sponsor and invited guests (up to 100 attendees)
- 12 VIP tickets to the gala premiere

### Custom Content & Storytelling

- Optional co-branded featurette or behind-the-scenes story, produced by the filmmaking team and distributed through SABA channels, with usage rights for the sponsor's own platforms
- Collaborative social media video created by the filmmaking team highlighting the sponsor's support

### Legacy Partnership

- First right of renewal for future SABA documentary or storytelling initiatives
- 

## FOUNDING SPONSOR – \$10,000

---

**2 available**

### Recognition & Brand Visibility

- "In association with" credit in the documentary title sequence
- Prominent logo placement across documentary marketing materials and the official website
- Mention in select press releases and SABA social media campaigns

### Premiere & Engagement

- Dedicated thank-you slide during the gala premiere screening
- Private screening opportunity for sponsor and guests (up to 75 attendees)
- 10 VIP tickets to the gala premiere

### Content & Acknowledgement

- Inclusion in a post-release Supporter Spotlight video and LinkedIn campaign
  - Collaborative social media video produced by the filmmaking team
  - Logo placement at the beginning of the official trailer support
- 

## PLATINUM SPONSOR – \$7,500

---

**Limited availability (3)**

### Recognition & Brand Visibility

- Prominent logo placement in the documentary end credits and on the documentary poster
- Mention in select press releases and SABA social media campaigns

### Premiere & Engagement

- Recognition during the gala presentation
  - Private screening opportunity for up to 50 guests
  - 6 VIP tickets to the gala premiere
  - **Digital Visibility**
-

## **GOLD SPONSOR – \$5,000**

---

### **Limited availability**

Gold Sponsorship is the entry point for organizations seeking public brand visibility in connection with the documentary.

- Logo placement in the documentary end credits
  - Logo placement on the documentary website and select promotional materials
  - Social media thank-you post with sponsor tag
- 

### **Additional Ways to Support the Film**

The following opportunities are well suited to individuals, small practices, and organizations seeking to support Raising the Bar in a meaningful way, while contributing to the film's completion, launch, and long-term impact.

## **SILVER SUPPORTER – \$2,500**

---

### **Limited availability**

- Name or Logo recognition in the documentary end credits
  - Name or Logo placement on the documentary website
  - 2 VIP tickets to the gala premiere
  - Acknowledgement in the event program and post-event social media roundup
- 

## **BRONZE SUPPORTER – \$1,000**

---

- Name listed in the documentary end credits under "Supporters"
  - 2 tickets to the gala premiere
  - Recognition on the SABA Toronto website
- 

## **COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR - \$500**

---

- Name listed in the documentary end credits under "Community Supporters"
  - 1 tickets to the gala premiere
  - Recognition on the SABA Toronto website
- 

---

## **Thank You**

Thank you for taking the time to review the sponsorship information for Raising the Bar, SABA Toronto's 20th Anniversary documentary. This project reflects both the organization's legacy and a forward-looking commitment to representation, leadership, and access to justice within Canada's legal profession.

Support from the legal and professional community is essential to bringing this documentary to completion and ensuring its meaningful reach and impact. We invite you to consider partnering with SABA Toronto on this landmark initiative.

### **Become a Sponsor**

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss sponsorship opportunities and explore how your organization can be meaningfully involved in this landmark project.

**For sponsorship inquiries, please contact:**

**Monty Dhaliwal**  
Chair, Documentary Funding Committee  
Board Member, SABA Toronto  
Email: [mdhaliwal@pallettvalo.com](mailto:mdhaliwal@pallettvalo.com)  
Phone: 289.805.3921

General inquiries may also be directed to:  
[info@sabatoronto.org](mailto:info@sabatoronto.org)

---