

# Gunapati a/l Suppiah

(24.1.1948 – 13.3.2012)



The late  
Mr Gunapati a/l Suppiah

Gunapati Suppiah aged 64 a former member of the Johore Bar passed away after a brief illness at the Sungai Buloh Hospital in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday the 13day of March 2012. The funeral took place in Kuala Lumpur on the 14th March 2012.

In many ways Gunapati had a remarkable and colourful life. He was a man of varied and extensive interests and a Tamil scholar. Coming from a humble background he started life as a Hospital Assistant/Radiographer in the Sultanah Aminah Hospital Johor Bahru in its X-ray Department. In between work he managed to obtain the requisite qualifications to read law. He then passed and obtained the CLP after which he read in the chambers of Mr N Jagatheeson of M/s John Ang & Jega of Johor Bahru. He was called to the Malaysian Bar on 25th February 1993.

Gunapati was a self-confessed late bloomer and was pregnant with pride when he achieved his life long ambition of being called to the Bar and he practiced in Johor Bahru and also had a branch in Kulai. He was proud of his calling and participated in the activities of the Bar.

Gunapati was involved in the Johor Consumers Association and other social clubs and the Hindu Temples in Johor Bahru. He was also an ardent golfer and participated in the Johore Bench and Bar games. He is on record of having presented a trophy for the golf tournament to the Malaysian Bar.

He leaves behind his wife Madam Kamala and Madam Catherine and 5 children. One of his sons Sri Kumar a/l Gunapati who was called to the Bar on 24.3.2001 is a practicing member of the Bar in Johor Bahru attached to the firm of Sri Kumar Gunapati & Co.

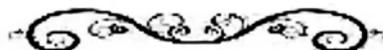
Members of the Johor Bar express their condolences to Sri Kumar and the bereaved family. Shakespeare ("Much Ado About Nothing") said that "every one can master a grief but he that has it." But may the family find solace in the words of the Hindu Scripture The Bhagavad Gita:

**"For one who has taken his birth,  
death is certain; and for one who is dead,  
birth is certain.  
Therefore, in the unavoidable discharge of  
your duty, you should not lament."**

(Bhagavad-Gita, Chap 2,  
Text 27, spoken by Lord Sri Krishna)

May Gunapati Suppiah rest in peace and find Shanti with his Gods.

**S. Balarajah  
Johore Bar  
15th March 2012**



# Bhuvanadas Gopaldas

(6.1.1938 – 4.5.2012)



**The late  
Mr Bhuvanadas Gopaldas**

It is with profound regret we record the passing away of Bhuvanadas Gopaldas (“Das”) aged 74 a senior member of the Johore Bar.

Das passed away peacefully on the morning of the 4th of May 2012 and was cremated after Hindu prayers and ceremonies at 1.00pm on the 5th of May 2012 at the Hindu crematorium Johor Bahru. He leaves behind his beloved wife Meena Ammujashie a/p K N Unni and his 3 daughters Sangeetha, Punitha and Kavitha and their families to mourn his loss.

Small in stature, reticent by nature, Das lived in semi-retirement in the rustic neighborhood of Kota Tinggi carrying on a quiet country practice after having spent years in active practice in the vibrant city of Johor Bahru. He deserted the battle and toil of the urban Bar for the ease and tranquility of the country Bar in the late autumn of his well spent life.

Das was born in Kluang Johor and had his primary education in his father’s native land Trivandrum in Kerala, India and later at the Government English School (GES) Kluang. He did his Higher School Certificate at King George V Institution, Seremban.

It was his childhood ambition to be a lawyer. And so after completing his Higher School Certificate he enrolled himself as an undergraduate in the Law faculty of the University of Singapore. He read law from 1961-1963. It is here that he befriended fellow undergraduates who later became eminent lawyers and Judges like Karpal Singh, Kadir Kassim, Mokhtar Sidin, the late Ariffin Jaka, the late Abdul Razak Bin Ahmad, Ahmad Fairuz Bin Abdul Halim, Azmel Bin Hj Ma’amor, John Ang Soon Ho of the Johore Bar and Hendon Binti Mohammad of the Malaysian Bar fame and many others. But after 3 years in the law faculty Singapore Das took a break and became a temporary teacher in Johor in 1964.

Having a burning desire to better enrich himself, in 1965 he enrolled at the University of Malaya and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (Economics) in 1969 and in 1973 obtained a Diploma in Education. He was in the Ministry of Education as a teacher in various schools from 1974 to 1993 when he retired in Kota Tinggi, his last posting.

In midst of his teaching career Das stealthily pursued his first love, the law, and read for the law and achieved an External Degree in law. He later sat for the Certificate in Legal Practice course and was called to the Malaysian Bar on 11.11.1993. When so many of us members of the Bar contemplate hanging up our faded robes and calling it a day at 55, Das adorned spanking new the robes when he was 55! Perseverance stoicism and tenacity were his triple towers of strength that held him together in the pursuit of his childhood love and ambition of being admitted to the Bar and becoming an Advocate and Solicitor.

Upon his admission to the Bar Das practiced in various firms in Johor Bahru and a few years ago moved to Kota Tinggi to set up Bhuvanadas & Associates to carry on a country retirement practice. It may be said that Das lived a complete life. A good life, well lived. He surpassed the Biblical three score and ten with bonus added. And so we quote Julie Burchill a writer from Bristol England who wrote:

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

May his soul rest in peace and his Gods grant him eternal and everlasting rest.

**S. Balarajah  
Johore Bar  
7/5/2012**



# Brian Komathi

(5.10.1960 – 17.6.2012)



The Late Mr Brian Komathi

Brian Komathi, the sole-proprietor of Brian Komathi and Partners aged 51 and a bachelor passed away in the early hours of Sunday the 17th day of June 2012. It is said he suffered a massive cardiac arrest. The funeral rites according to Hindu customs and religion took place at 6.00pm on Sunday the 17th itself.

Brian who hailed from a rather humble background had his early and tertiary education at the St Joseph's English School Johor Bahru and obtained his Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of London. He then returned to Kuala Lumpur and studied for and obtained the Certificate in Legal Practice. He read in the Chambers of Mr Chandra Sekran a/l Kunjan of M/s Abdullah & Zainuddin, Johor Bahru. Brian was called to the Bar on 17.11.1988 and was a legal assistant in a couple of firms before venturing on his own under the name and style of Brian Komathi & Partners. His area of practice centered around bodily injury claims.

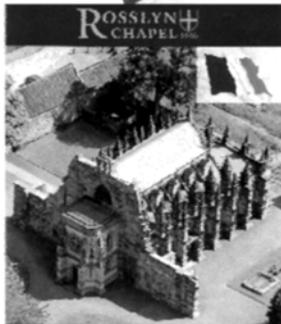
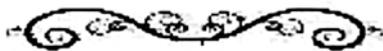
It is on record that Brian served a couple of years from 2007 – 2009 as a member of the Johor Bar Committee under the chairmanship of Mr K. Mohan. He took charge of the House and Library portfolios of the Johore Bar. It can therefore be said that Brian in his own way contributed to his profession and subscribed to the words of Whitney Seymour in the 1968 Benjamin N Cardozo lecture when he said "...the lawyer is not just a journeyman devoted to his own interest but has a duty to his profession which includes the duty to contribute at least some of his talents". Brian had sacrificed some of his time and talents for the betterment of his profession.

It is sad that Brian passed away at a relatively young age of 51. One is mindful of what Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet leader (1874-1971) said : "Life is short. Live it up". But the caveat to this is of course moderation and one should tread with caution and be circumspect in living it up.

On behalf of the Members of the Johor Bar we offer our condolences to the mother siblings and family of the late Brian Komathi.

May his soul rest in peace.

S. Balarajah  
Johore Bar  
18.6.2012



## "DEATH ! GLORIOUS & ETERNAL REST !"

These emblems of mortality remind us that as we are, so once were they; and as they are, so shall we be.

What are all the externals of majesty, the pride of wealth or the charm of beauty? Fix your eyes on the last scene of all, see her there stripped of her ornaments and arrayed in all her natural meanness. You will then be convinced of the futility of these empty delusions. In the grave, all fallacies cease, all ranks are leveled and all distinctions done away with.

When your summons comes to join the innumerable caravan to yonder realms where each shall take his place in the silent halls of death, you go soothed and sustained by an unflinching trust.

(Scottish Wisdom)

