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— Leading on debate, litigation and dispute resolution —

# NLJ PROFILE: Kishan Mangat, Tomorrow's Forum of Insurance Lawyers

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Kishan Mangat, the new president of Tomorrow's Forum of Insurance Lawyers (TFOIL), chose law but could be tempted by a stint on Masterchef

### What was your route into the profession?

After A-levels I completed a degree in English Literature at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Following that, I converted to law by completing the GDL and LPC at the College of Law before securing a training contract at the London office of an international dispute resolution firm.



### What has been your biggest career challenge so far?

Securing a training contract was a big challenge, due to the fierce competition and limited number available (as compared to graduates each year). I worked as a paralegal straight after completing the GDL as well as attending a pro bono law centre, the [Waterloo Legal Advice Service](#). This allowed me to show my commitment to the law and hone my legal proficiency skills. I would highly recommend both to aspiring lawyers as you learn on the job and you expand your network.

### **Which person within the legal profession inspires you most?**

There are quite a few names that spring to mind, such as Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Baroness Helena Kennedy, and Lady Justice Hale to name but a few. I remember I saw Shami Chakrabarti speak a few years ago about her experiences practising law as a woman from an ethnic minority background. She discussed some of the trials and tribulations as a woman trying to progress her career within the law and the lessons that she learnt. Her speech was incredibly powerful and inspiring. For a young female lawyer like myself it was also comforting to know that I was not alone and there were role models such as Shami who were forging the way for women like myself to develop a legal career with the same opportunities as a male counterpart.

### **If you weren't a lawyer, what would you choose as an alternate career?**

I love cooking; I find it very therapeutic and I feel a great sense of reward when people enjoy the food that I have cooked. Therefore, I would definitely say if I was not a lawyer I would have loved to have trained to be a chef.

### **Who is your favourite fictional lawyer?**

I am a big fan of the series *The Good Wife* and I would say that Diane Lockhart is my favourite character from the show. She is very smart, strong and graceful. Her witty retorts reveal an elegance which is great to watch.

### **What change would you make to the profession?**

I would want to see greater equality and diversity within the profession. I would say that this change is starting to take place, albeit at slower than desired pace. Some firms are now recruiting through a blind application process to avoid unconscious bias, thereby selecting candidates based purely on their merits and without knowledge of their gender, background or ethnicity.

### **How do you relax?**

A glass of wine and a good book. I am presently reading Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. It is definitely a thought provoking and powerful read.