

Annex 2 – About Justice Ayesha Malik



Honourable Justice Ayesha Malik
Supreme Court of Pakistan
Jones Day CALS Visiting Professor on The Rule of Law in Asia

Justice Ayesha A. Malik is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. She is the first female judge appointed to the Supreme Court in the country's 75-year history. Prior to that, Justice Malik served for a decade as a judge on the Lahore High Court, in Pakistan's Punjab region. She has served on the board of the Punjab Judicial Academy, which focuses on the development of training programmes for judges, and as Chair of a federal review committee, which addresses matters relating to women in the judiciary. In addition, she has been a member of the National Judicial Automation Committee tasked to ensure the effective harnessing of information technology to ensure speedy dispensation of cases.

As a High Court judge, Malik ruled on the enforcement of international arbitration in Pakistan and sat on the Green Bench, which deals with cases relating to the environment. She has ruled on cases involving constitutional interpretation of the relationship between federal and provincial governments with reference to interprovincial trade, and upheld the constitutionality of policies promoting and facilitating women's employment in Punjab as valid affirmative action. In 2021, prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, she issued a seminal judgment outlawing the use of virginity tests in rape cases, writing that the practice "offends the dignity of the female victim" and discriminates on the basis of gender. In the wake of the ruling, the Punjab and Sindh governments issued orders to stop the use of virginity tests in sexual assault cases in which women are the victims, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan followed suit in a similar case, which became binding precedent on all of Pakistan's high courts.

Prior to entering the judiciary, she practiced corporate law and litigation at two firms and taught banking and mercantile law at the University of the Punjab and the College of Accounting & Management Sciences in Karachi.

Justice Malik attained her B. Com from the Government College of Commerce & Economics, Karachi and her Bachelor of Laws degree from the Pakistan College of Law, Lahore. She has a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School where she was named a Landon H. Gammon Fellow for academic excellence.