



# The Bar Tribunals & Adjudication Service

The Council of the Inns of Court

## Disciplinary Tribunal

### SANJAY NATHAN VISVANATHAN

**Called to the Bar by: Middle Temple, November 2019**

**Type of hearing: 3 Person Tribunal**

**Date of decision: 6 December 2021**

**In breach of:**

Core Duty 5 and Rule rC8 of the Bar Standards Board Handbook.

**Details of offence:**

Sanjay Nathan Visvanathan, an unregistered barrister, behaved in a way which was likely to diminish the trust and confidence which the public places in a barrister or in the profession, in that on 14 February 2020 he submitted a research project to Cardiff University as part of his LLM Bar Professional Training Course in which he declared that the work was his *“own independent work and research”* but which contained substantial amounts of work taken from a paper submitted by another student at Cardiff University in August 2019, shown by a Turnitin Originality Report with a 38 % match to that other paper and an overall Similarity Index of 61%.

Sanjay Nathan Visvanathan, an unregistered barrister, behaved in a way which could reasonably be seen by the public to undermine his honesty and integrity, contrary to rC8 , in that on 14 February 2020 he submitted a research project to Cardiff University as part of his LLM Bar Professional Training Course in which he declared that the work was his *“own independent work and research”* but which contained substantial amounts of work taken from a paper submitted by another student at Cardiff University in August 2019, shown by a Turnitin Originality Report with a 38 % match to that other paper and an overall Similarity Index of 61%.

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**Sanction:** Reprimanded. Mr Visvanathan provided an undertaking not to apply for a Practising Certificate to practise at the Bar of England and Wales for 12 months from the date of the expiry of the appeal period. Costs of £500 to be paid to the Bar Standards Board in 2 instalments. £250 to be paid within 28 days of the hearing and £250 to be paid within 6 months of the hearing [plus VAT if appropriate]. The Tribunal recommend to the BSB that the BSB refer this matter to the appropriate Malaysian legal regulator.

**Status:** Final.