



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

*Sultan  
Azlan Shah*

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*A Tribute*

Visu Sinnadurai

**F**or the past 28 years, distinguished jurists from around the world have come to Malaysia to deliver the annual Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture. Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Lord Chancellor, Masters of the Rolls, Law Lords, former Prime Minister, Justices of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, world renowned academics, leading Queen's Counsel, spouse of a Prime Minister, and Human Rights Advocates have delivered these lectures in honour of a great jurist and a respected Monarch—His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah.

These annual lectures gave enormous joy and pride to His Royal Highness as the speakers spoke on selected topics in areas of law which were not only of great public interest, but which were also close to His Royal Highness' heart. On their part, the speakers expressed immense honour in being invited to deliver the lectures which bear His Royal Highness' name.



The Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture  
is a lecture seen both here  
and in England as of considerable prestige.  
It is not surprising that it should be so  
regarded since the tributes to  
His Royal Highness,  
when an honorary LLD  
was recently conferred on him by  
Her Royal Highness,  
the Princess Royal, as Chancellor  
of the University of London,  
recognised His Royal Highness’  
great contribution to  
the law in Malaysia and  
to the high regard in which  
he is held as a jurist  
here and there.

**Lord Slynn of Hadley**

**Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, House of Lords UK**

*The Impact of Regionalism: The End of the Common Law?*

14th Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture, 1999

The Right Honourable Lord Woolf, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, at the official book launch of *The Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lectures: Judges on the Common Law* said:

These lectures were only possible because the series bear the name of His Royal Highness. The fact that he had himself been Head of State and Chief Justice was important, but what really made the difference was the fact that he had an unrivalled reputation around the free world of being one of the courageous champions of the independence of the judiciary and the Rule of Law.

In his opening remarks at the 20th Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture in 2006, the Right Honourable Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice of the United States Supreme Court said:

The continuance of this lecture series is a tribute to His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah's steadfast commitment to the Rule of Law. The distinguished way you discharged your duties to the judiciary, Your Royal Highness, and the evident purpose in your life and thought to preserve and ennoble the law confirm the resolve of those who still serve on the Bench.

At the 11th Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture in 1996, the Right Honourable Lord Steyn of the House of Lords (now the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom) said:

It is a great honour for me to be invited by His Royal Highness to deliver the eleventh in a series of annual lectures which bear his prestigious name. I am the more honoured since His Royal Highness is both a distinguished jurist and an eminent former



“His Royal Highness  
continued to take  
a keen interest in  
the law in the country  
even as he performed  
the onerous duty of  
ruling the State  
and later the Country.  
His deep-rooted interest  
in the law and his passion  
for seeking the truth,  
and upholding the Rule of Law,  
and the proper administration  
of justice were still  
very much close to his heart.”

**Professor Dato' Seri Visu Sinnadurai**  
Official Book Launch of  
*Constitutional Monarchy, Rule of Law  
and Good Governance: Selected Essays &  
Speeches by HRH Sultan Azlan Shah*  
13 April 2004

judge whose valuable contribution to the law is widely known beyond the frontiers of this country.

The Honourable Baroness Helena Kennedy of The Shaws QC (now Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford University) observed at the 21st Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture in 2007:

The Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lectures is one of the most prestigious lecture series of the common law world.

Over the years, the prestige of the lectures has been attested to by record-breaking attendances for a public lecture in the country, drawn by the majestic presence of His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah.

His Royal Highness' presence will be sadly missed.

An illustrious jurist, a great Monarch who was much loved and held in great admiration by all, His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah was a man of immense wisdom, distinction, and great charisma. He was truly an icon.

The learned judgments that His Royal Highness delivered whilst a judge have stood the test of time and continue to be authoritative. His words of wisdom which he so generously imparted as reflected in the many leading judgments, and in the many speeches which His Royal Highness delivered on Constitutional Monarchy, the Rule of Law, and Good Governance, will continue to provide



“His Royal Highness  
Sultan Azlan Shah  
is both a distinguished  
jurist and a former judge  
whose reputation  
for learning extends  
beyond the confines  
of this country.”

**Lord Oliver of Aylmerton**  
**Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, House of Lords UK**  
*Judicial Legislation: Retreat from Anns*  
3rd Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture, 1988

guidance and inspiration, and will remain etched in our minds.

His Royal Highness' contribution to the development of the law as a judge; the role he played in upholding the Rule of Law, Independence of the Judiciary, and the ethics and principles of Good Governance which he so strongly advocated will live on for generations. Those who knew His Royal Highness will miss the kindness, the warmth and the love he gave so readily. His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah has left an indelible mark in our lives and will always be remembered with respect and affection. 🕌

