



Amardeep Singh, Co-Founder and Director of Programs (National)

Amardeep Singh is the co-founder of the Sikh Coalition, the largest Sikh civil rights organization in the United States. He will be the keynote speaker at SABA GB's Annual Gala on December 1, 2010 at the Taj Boston Hotel.

Amar currently serves as its Director of Programs where he oversees the Coalition's use of litigation, advocacy, community organizing, and strategic communications to advance social justice goals. Amar has represented dozens of Sikh victims of airport profiling, employment discrimination, and hate crimes since the organization's inception after 9/11. Along with Department of Homeland Security officials, he helped to formulate guidelines governing the searches of Sikh passengers in U.S. airports. His work also led to the formulation of a regulation protecting 1.1 million New York City public school students from bias-based harassment in schools. He has represented the Sikh community during meetings with the United States Attorney General, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary of Transportation, and the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He has been quoted speaking on civil rights issues in the New York Times, Washington Post, and CNN during his tenure at the Coalition.

Prior to joining the Coalition, Amar worked as a Researcher in the U.S. Program of Human Rights Watch (HRW). While at HRW, he authored its report, "We Are Not the Enemy: Hate Crimes Against Arabs, Muslims, and Those Perceived to be Arab or Muslim after September 11." Amar was also an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race where he taught a course on the intersection of ethnic identity and the law.

Over the past year, Amar was named by President Barak Obama to sit on his Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He was also named a "Best Lawyer Under 40" this year by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Amar also sits on the advisory committee to Harvard University's Discrimination and National Security Initiative, the Board of Directors of the South Asian Bar Association of New York, and the Board of Trustees of the Hoboken Public Library.