

Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi

Doctor of Civil Law

8 July 2025

Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi was educated in Malaysia and the UK and read Law at Durham, graduating in 1984, before being called to the English Bar in 1985. He is an alumnus of Lincoln's Inn and a member of the Inns of Court of Malaysia.

He began his career in the UK and trained as a Chartered Accountant at Touche Ross & Co before returning to Malaysia in 1993. He joined PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Malaysia and helped set up their Financial Services Audit practice and later became an audit partner in 1996. In 2007 he became leader of the PwC Global Islamic Finance Team and then Executive Chairman of PwC Malaysia in 2012.

He had a number of roles while with PwC Malaysia and led the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and Shariah Investing part of PwC's Malaysia Sustainability and Climate Change practice. He also led a few key projects for the firm such as the restructuring of Malaysia's Flag carrier MAS (Malaysia Airlines) as well as the COVID Vaccination Roll out project. He retired as a partner and the Executive Chairman of PwC Malaysia in June 2023.

Dato' Faiz was appointed as the Executive Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia in June 2024 by the Malaysian Minister of Finance, having previously served on the Securities Commission Board since August 2023. The Securities Commission Malaysia was established in 1993 as a self-funded statutory body which serves as the authority in developing and maintaining a secure, efficient and orderly operation of the capital markets in Malaysia. It is a regulator that also has a developmental mandate in growing the capital markets.

One area Faiz specialised in both as an accountant and now as a regulator is in Islamic Finance. Islamic Finance is a way of managing money and doing business while adhering to the moral principles of Islam. Two thirds of the Malaysian population are Muslim and increasingly they want an alternative option to conventional Finance in their daily life.

Islamic finance is an important and growing sector globally. Recently, the integration of sustainability principles has emerged as a key trend, aligning Islamic finance with the global sustainable finance movement. The Securities Commission is a key advocate of this alignment and published the Maqasid Al Shariah guidance to explain better the sustainability proposition in Islamic Finance terms.

Dato' Faiz has made a huge contribution to the growth, acceptance and mainstream practice of Islamic Finance both in Malaysia and internationally. He is also a passionate advocate on sustainability.

In recognition of his national contributions he was conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Dato' in 2013 by the Sultan of Selangor. This carries the title Dato', and is an honour that is equivalent to a knighthood in Malaysia.

Dato' Faiz also believes in paying it forward. As a past President of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants and Chairman of MyPAC, he has contributed to the education of over a thousand professionally qualified accountants in Malaysia and has given generously of his own time in mentoring and advising students. In 2016 he was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Nottingham, at a ceremony held in Nottingham's Malaysia Campus, which is where I first met him.

Dato' Faiz is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales, and was elected to the ICAEW Council in 2019. Most recently, in November 2024 Dato' Faiz was conferred with an Honorary Chartered Membership of the Chartered Institute of Islamic Finance Professionals (CIIF).

Chancellor, I present to you Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi for the degree of Doctor of Civil Law, *honoris causa*.