



## NEVADA TRAILBLAZERS

# Meet Hardeep Sull:

## Faith Guides Attorney Striving to Uphold Justice for All

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**Seva (selfless service) and striving for justice for the benefit of all are two of primary tenants of Sikhism. Hardeep (Dee) Sull was raised in the Sikh faith, and those tenants always resonated with her. At a young age, she knew she wanted to create a life around them. Now, several decades later, it's clear that's exactly what she's done.**

Sull was born and raised in North Vancouver, Canada. Her parents, originally from India, moved to Canada to create more opportunities for their children. At the time, they did not know that decision would also keep their children out of harm's way. After they left, Sikhs in India were systematically detained, tortured, and murdered. One of Sull's uncles was tortured. Another one was threatened and almost killed by a Delhi mob. More than once, her family only survived due to the life-changing kindness of others. In one instance, a family friend took her uncle's entire family into their home for months to shelter them. Experiencing these events profoundly impacted Sull and changed how she viewed the world. At just 12 years old, she knew the purpose of her life was to use the dual tenants of seva and justice for all to create impactful change in human rights.

Sull credits her humble roots as the foundation of her drive to speak for others. Growing up in Canada, her parents had blue collar jobs; her mom was a janitor, and her father was a truck driver. After saving their wages for years, Sull's parents were able to purchase a small farm. Her parents tended to the farm at night, in addition to their day jobs. As a child, Sull would help on the farm by watching her younger siblings, and picking and selling strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

Sull attended primary and secondary school in Canada. As one of the two non-Caucasian families at the local school, Sull stood out not only for the way she looked, but also for her academic accomplishments and how she treated people. Sull was always the first to help anyone, however she could. Given her family's circumstances, Sull understood the impact that education, empathy, and understanding could have on other people's lives, and she worked diligently to acquire all three.

For college, Sull attended Simon Fraser University in Canada and received her bachelor's in history and political science. During college, her strong interest in human rights work evolved to a passion. She was involved in Amnesty International and was fortunate to attend the United Nations' Second Annual Conference on Human Rights in Austria. While there, she spoke with Ross Miller, who was the president Amnesty International at that time. While speaking with him,

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he acknowledged that while he had never suffered any material adversity, his work at Amnesty International was important to create a better world for his daughters. The experience was validating—human rights work was important to everyone.

After realizing the compounding impact a law degree could create, Sull went to law school in England at the University of East Anglia. While there, she flourished. She interned at The Hague Academy of International Law and was a member of Amnesty International and the Norwich Law Society Officer of International Law Student Association. She also held leadership positions as the Member in Charge of Eastern European Countries for Amnesty International (CANADA) and as the secretary of the Asian Law Society.

After law school, Sull moved back home to Canada to help her family run their farming business. She felt tremendous pride for what her family had accomplished. The farm was no longer just a family farm—it was a business employing close to 100 people. And she was no longer just a daughter who could help pick berries—she was their lawyer. She helped negotiate with governmental entities and local fisheries, and she assisted in licensing. And while Sull was delighted to act as the farm’s lawyer, it is clear Sull also could have acted as the head of marketing: “We provide the best family berries in the Fraser Valley!”

Sull later moved to Las Vegas and opened her own practice, Sull & Associates, PLLC. Her practice includes assisting with immigrant visas, investment visas, permanent residency, temporary visas, citizenship and naturalization, deportation waivers, global relocation work and litigation.

Today, she carries up to a 30 percent pro bono docket. While Sull has always served indigent clients, those in detention have always been a priority for her because of how easily they can be overlooked. Over the past two years, Sull has raised efforts for accountability for the ICE detainees in custody and has highlighted poor conditions and the inhumane treatment detainees suffer. Most recently, she assisted a blind gentleman who was being neglected to stay in the U.S. When asked how she does it all, she modestly remarked, “It’s just a matter of staying true to your values and vision, even when it’s hard. Justice is not blind, but good people make it better.”

Despite her demanding schedule, Sull remains adamant about prioritizing service to the community. She is a current director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, is on the board of directors of the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys, and is an Asian American and Pacific Islander commissioner for the Clark County Commission. She is also a national liaison for the American Immigration Lawyers Associations Customs Border Patrol, on the National Taskforce for Afghan Refugees, and is in charge of all of its advocacy efforts. In that role, she has helped dozens of Afghans with citizenship paperwork and coordinates pro-bono legal efforts for Afghan nationals in Northern Nevada. Sull is also co-chair of Conferences/Webinars and CLE Programs for the ABA Immigration and Nationality Section and is a proud graduate of Emerge, a program that inspires women to serve and run for office.

“Dee is special for so many reasons,” said her friend and fellow attorney Augusta Massey. “She considers it her highest honor and privilege to serve our community. You would never need to ask Sull what she values. You can see it in the way she lives her life every day.”

If Sull isn’t in the courtroom, you can usually find her cheering on her daughter’s basketball team, supporting her son’s science club, or baking for her kids and neighbors. She also loves to entertain, travel, watch the Vegas Golden Knights, and cook. Her specialties include butter chicken, dal makhni, coq au vin, pasta with marinara, chicken curry, and seafood dishes.



Hardeep Sull and her children take a boat ride off the coast of Vancouver, Canada, during a trip home.



Hardeep Sull enjoys a day trip to Vancouver, Canada.



Hardeep Sull grew up on Sull Farms – a farm her family still operates today.