

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF FAREWELL OF
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. S. SODHI

My esteemed colleagues, Mr. Justice B. A. Khan former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Former Judges of this Court, Mr. P. P. Malhotra, Additional Solicitor General, Mr. K. C. Mittal, the President and other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, learned members of the Bar, Special Invitees including family members of Justice R. S. Sodhi & ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to bid farewell to Justice R. S. Sodhi who is laying down office of Judgeship of this Court after an illustrious and satisfying innings.

Justice R. S. Sodhi has been a member of legal fraternity ever since he enrolled himself as an Advocate in 1972. He practised law, particularly in constitutional, civil, and criminal matters in the Supreme Court for about 25 years. His legal acumen and advocacy came to be recognized when he was appointed Additional Advocate General of

Punjab in 1997. He was elevated to the Bench of this Court on 7th July, 1999.

Justice R. S. Sodhi is a man of refined taste with amiable personality. We know him as a sincere, hard-working, God-fearing and a humane Judge – above all a thorough Gentleman but a hard task master. He is well known for his uprightness and fairness. He has always believed in expeditious justice and was instrumental in quick disposal of cases pending in this Court.

I had an opportunity to sit with Justice R. S. Sodhi in a Division Bench dealing with criminal matters. It indeed was a pleasant experience. In him, I found a perfect blend of firmness and compassion. I found him straight-forward in his approach and I believe that the said quality stands out in his case.

As a Judge, Justice R. S. Sodhi has been outstanding and his contribution to cause of administration of justice, particularly in criminal jurisprudence, is immense. In the recent past he has delivered

many landmark judgments strengthening the common man's faith in the judiciary.

Justice R. S. Sodhi is parting company with us but only as a sitting Judge of this Court. He shall always be in our hearts as a member of this large family. I am sure that even after retirement, he would always be available to lend his helping hand whenever this institution requires his services. We wish him good health and happiness throughout his life. We also put on record our deep appreciation and gratitude for his contribution to the cause of justice.

(Mukundakam Sharma)
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