TRIBUTE TO LATE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE T.P.S. CHAWLA, FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF DELHI HIGH COURT-FULL COURT REFERENCE – 19th OCTOBER, 2006.

Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice Vijender Jain, Hon'ble Judges, Mr. Milon Benerjee, Attorney General of India, Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Ramesh Gupta, Chairman, Bar Counsel of Delhi, Mr. A.S. Chandhiok, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Standing Counsels for Govt. of India, Office Bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Associations, respected senior members of the Bar, respected relatives of Late Hon'ble Justice Chawla, my colleagues at the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hon'ble Justice T.P.S. Chawla was a great Jurist. Hon'ble Justice Chawla was born on 16th August, 1925. Hon'ble Justice Chawla got his initial education at Lahore and did his Law from Cambridge (U.K.). His Lordship was enrolled as an Advocate of the East Punjab High Court on 17th August, 1956. His Lordship was appointed Judge of Delhi High Court on 6th January, 1972 and was elevated as Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 20th August, 1986. His Lordship became the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 26th September, 1986.

Hon'ble Justice Chawla was one of the finest Judges of this Hon'ble Court and was well known for his knowledge of law and dispensation of justice. His Lordship was a real Karam Yogi. His Lordship did the job assigned by the Almighty with perfection. His death has caused great loss to the judicial and legal fraternity. By his works and deeds, his Lordship set the highest standard of judicial ethics and conduct. His Lordship's demise has caused a void which is difficult to fill. His Lordship will continue to serve as a role model and he will live in our memories for years to come.

I had few occasions to appear before Hon'ble Justice Mr. Chawla. However, I have one unforgettable incident. In this Court Room, the Pusne Judge enquired from a Lawyer appearing before him what he meant by the phrase, "For this act of kindness, the petitioner shall ever pray" and what would the petitioner pray. When the lawyer did not reply, Hon'ble Justice Chawla answered that the prayer would depend upon the relief the petitioner gets.

On behalf of Govt. of NCT and my colleagues, I pay my tribute to the departed soul and pray that his soul may rest in eternal peace. The remembrance of his good work would always guide us.

J.R.MIDHA STANDING COUNSEL GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI