

FULL COURT REFERENCE

Farewell Address by Justice Chandra Dhari Singh

Hon'ble Chief Justice, my esteemed brother and sister judges,

Mr. Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General

Mr. Rajesh Mishra, Hony. Secretary, Bar Council of Delhi

Mr. N. Hariharan, Sr Adv, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association

Mr. Sachin Puri, Vice President of DHCBA

Mr. Vikram Singh Panwar, Hony. Secretary of DHCBA

Mr. Sameer Vashisth, Standing Counsel for GNCTD

Mr. Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel – Criminal

So many familiar faces here Mr. Mittal, Mr. Phulka, Mr. Tiwari, Mr. Pradeep Roy, Mr. Garg, Senior Advocates, other senior advocates and My dear members of the Bar,

I stand before you today

with a heart full of gratitude and humility,

as I bid farewell to this august institution.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a Judge of this High Court.

I come from a small town (Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh)

And I am a first-generation lawyer.

Looking back at my journey

from those humble beginnings ... to this Bench

I am reminded that nothing comes easy in life.

Every individual has his fair share of struggles,
and indeed “*these challenges... are the beauty of life*”.

I have navigated my share of trials ... with guidance, wishes and the support of many of you present here.

Today, I take this solemn occasion to reflect on the lessons learned
and
the values that guided me,
that have been part of my journey.

Dear Friends,

My career in law has spanned roles as an advocate ...
a government counsel, and finally a judge.

Each role carried its own challenges ...

When I started practice in Delhi after finishing my LLB...

I was, like any young lawyer,
confused, uncertain, yet determined...
to make my mark.

I had the privilege of learning... under remarkable mentors –

I joined the chambers of Justice Sanjay Karol early in my career.

Later on, I joined Senior Advocate Late Anip Sachthey.

Those formative years taught me the nuances of our legal system and the value of integrity and hard work.

After being elevated to the bench in **2017** at the **Allahabad High Court** – coming to **Delhi** in **2021** was like a homecoming for me.

Since then, I have been striving to work for this great institution along with my competent colleagues.

I have tried to resolve disputes with fairness,
to uphold the Rule of Law, and to ensure that
the lamp of justice burns bright for all,
especially the weakest in society.

Dear Friends,

I consider myself truly fortunate to have had colleagues who are like family,
and friends who've walked with me at every stage of this journey.

Chief Justice Upadhyaya's warmth and kindness —

both on the Bench and much before — have always stayed with me.

We share common roots, and that bond has only grown stronger over time.

I carry with me cherished memories from our days in practice,
especially when My Lord served as the Chief Standing Counsel for UP —

those moments of shared learning remain close to my heart.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru has been a constant source of strength —

his wisdom and unwavering support have been invaluable.

Justice Pratibha and Maninder Singh Sr. Adv—

our friendship dates back to our early years of practice.

Your steady support has meant a great deal over the years.

Justice Naveen Chawla — more than a colleague, you've been constant support.

Justice Subramonium Prasad — our time at the Supreme Court brings back some wonderful memories.

Justice Jyoti Singh — always composed, always thoughtful. Speaking with you is always a pleasure — full of clarity and insight.

Justice Jasmeet Singh — approachable, warm, and always with a smile. You bring a sense of comfort wherever you go.

Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav — my friend and now fellow judge. From our courtroom days to your role as Advocate General and before, it's been a joy to share the journey with you.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma — Your ever-positive outlook is something I continue to admire.

Justice Vikas Mahajan — our connection was instant. There's a calmness and simplicity in your approach that's both rare and grounding.

Justice Ajay Digpaul — my classmate from CLC! It's incredibly fulfilling to see you on the Bench.

And to all my other fellow brother and sister Judges,

Thank you for all the Love and support. You have made this journey memorable.

And to my Bench partners —

Justice **Anup Jairam Bhambhani**, Justice **Manoj Jain** and retired Justice **Anoop Kumar Mendiratta**—

the privilege of sitting beside each of you,
exchanging ideas, and sharing the responsibilities of court
has been both an honour and a joy.

Your brilliance and thoughtfulness,
have made this experience deeply meaningful and rewarding

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**To my all friends at the Bar — I must say,
and truly commend you —**

The Delhi High Court Bar stands out as one of the most vibrant and dynamic in the country.

Not only does it consistently assist us
in the pursuit of justice with dedication and skill,
but it also brings everyone together
through thoughtful events and initiatives
that nurture both our physical and mental well-being,
fostering a real sense of a family.

The balance of warmth and professionalism
that I've experienced here is something I will always cherish.
It's been a privilege to witness this standard of practice.

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As I prepare to bid farewell to these halls of Delhi High Court
and to your coveted company,
I am mindful of the weight that a judge's words carry -
both inside and outside the courtroom.

One guiding star for me has been the belief that
judges must remain true to the law
yet sensitive to the lives affected by the law.
Impartiality has been our cardinal virtue –
to decide each case on its merits.

At the same time, **judging is not a mechanical task;**
it demands **empathy and wisdom.**

Indeed, a judge must sometimes harden his heart to do justice,
but he must never become indifferent.

Balancing head and heart are the art of judging.

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I believe in being open to change –
in procedures, in thinking, and in understanding new social realities –
so long as we remain moored to constitutional values.

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Dear friends,

I leave the Delhi High Court today - not with nostalgia alone,
but with **hope and inspiration**.

Hope – because I see in this institution
a continuing commitment to uphold the Constitution and serve the
people.

Inspiration – because the cause of justice is eternal
and there will always be courageous souls in law ready to take up that
cause.

To my young advocate friends, I would recite a poem:

वसुधा का नेता कौन हुआ?
भूखंड-विजेता कौन हुआ?
अतुलित यश-क्रेता कौन हुआ?
नव-धर्म-प्रणेता कौन हुआ?
जिसने न कभी आराम किया,
विघ्नों में रह कर नाम किया।

Keep your enthusiasm high and **never give up**.

Every challenge you face... will shape you.

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Friends,

As said by Rabindranath Tagore: “जोदी तोर डाक सुने के उनाआसे, तोबे
एकला चलो रे!”

Even if nobody stands with you,
and what you stand for is Just and Rightful,
March ahead, even if you are alone.

I invoke all of us ... to remain steadfast in our noble endeavor ... of
serving justice.

I am reminded of a Sanskrit motto I have cherished:...

“चरैवेति, चरैवेति” — meaning “Keep moving forward.”

That spirit has kept me going... each day on the Bench,
and I urge all of you to do the same in your paths.

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Dear friends,

Young advocates battling with the uncertainties of the profession...

to them: I would recite the famous song by Doris Day–

“Que sera, sera...

Whatever will be, will be...

The future's not ours to see...

Que sera sera.”

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Friends,

As I conclude, I once again express my profound gratitude ... to all of
you

– my colleagues on the Bench, whose wisdom and friendship
have made this journey enriching;

- to the lawyers, whose advocacy and assistance
have been the bedrock of our judicial process;

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I also thank my family for standing by me - through the pressures of this demanding life.

My father, had a great impact on my life..

He taught me life's greatest lesson: "No work is ever small; ... when you put in 100% efforts, you will get 100% rewards"

Though he has left us physically ... his teachings continue to guide and inspire me.

My loving mother... who has made me what I am...

who is always concerned and caring

I am profoundly thankful to **my wife**, ...

who stood beside me through every challenge in life ...

despite having her own demanding schedule ...

Your unwavering support and love are my greatest strengths...

My son Aayushman, my daughter Aarushi and son-in-law Aditya fill my heart with immense joy ...

Family indeed is my most treasured earning.

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I also take this opportunity in expressing my heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Kanwaljeet Arora**, the Registrar General and all the other staff in the Registry for their relentless work. I convey my thanks to my staff members for working tirelessly and expediting the judicial work.

I express my thankfulness to **Mr. Praveen Kumar Babbar**, Private Secretary, for his constant assistance. **Ms. Suman Chawla**, the Courtroom Master, who has done her work diligently in managing the Courtroom and the cases, I thank her for that. I would also like to thank my PSOs - **Sudhir and Arjun** for ensuring safety and security of me and my family.

I would also like to thank my stenographers –**Nazir Baitha, Gaurav Sharma, Ravi Tak and Rohit Kumar** for their competent skills. My Usher, **Mr. Ashok Kumar**, for his dedicated service during my time here.

I also express my gratitude to my other staff members –**Ravi Mahalwal**, Assistant Courtroom Master, **Jagat Ram**, Restorer and the Courtroom Assistants - **Manoj, Surjeet, Lal Singh, Vishal**, without whom the everyday courtroom proceedings would have been impossible.

Last but not the least, I thank my beloved Law Researchers – **Rishu, Madhuri, Anant and Kanishk** and the former LR's – **Aditya, Megha,**

Divyanshi, Anshul— who have constantly rendered their assistance in legal research and judgments. I wish all the very best for their future.

Each of you have silently ... **being behind the scenes** ...
tirelessly ensured that... the judicial work goes on ...
smoothly and seamlessly... allowing me to perform effectively.

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I am also thankful to the High Court Registry,
medical and protocol departments ...
from the **brilliant digital and physical infrastructure**
and support system... for your services and cooperation ...
day and night ... round the clock... to each one of us and ...
to keep the High Court ... up and moving in the interest of justice...
Your dedication, hard work, and support ...
have genuinely meant the world to me and are commendable.

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Friends,

I bid farewell not as a goodbye ... but as a reminder

that the ideals we strive for –

justice, equality, and the rule of law –

far outlast our individual tenures.

Thank you all for patiently and cordially bearing with me ...

and for being an unforgettable part of this journey with me.

May this Court and ... all of you continue to prosper and

serve the cause of justice...with passion, wisdom, and courage.

Thank you.