

**FAREWELL REFERENCE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR.
JUSTICE D.K. UPADHYAYA, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF
DELHI ON THE RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE DHARMESH
SHARMA**

Justice Dharmesh Sharma,

Gracious family members of Justice Sharma,

My esteemed sister and brother Judges at the High Court,

Shri Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Shri Sameer Vashishth, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT of Delhi,

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

Shri Sachin Puri, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government,

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Office Bearers of Bar Council of Delhi and other District Bar Associations,

Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to all of you,

Today, we have assembled here to bid farewell to Justice Dharmesh Sharma, who has been serving as a Judge of this Court since 17th May, 2023.

Justice Sharma was born on 9th June, 1963 in Delhi. After finishing his schooling, he completed his graduation in B.Com. (Hons.) from Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi in the year 1984. On completion of graduation, Justice Sharma got enrolled in LL.B. at the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi and earned his law degree in 1987. His inclination towards academics continued beyond that and in 2001, he earned LL.M. degree from the Campus Law Centre. After law, Justice Sharma commenced his practice in Delhi. He practiced mainly on the Civil side and also dealt with various service and labour matters. He was also appointed as the Additional Standing Counsel for the Union of India.

In 1992, Justice Sharma responded to the call of duty and joined the Bench in the cadre of Delhi Judicial Service on 20th October, 1992. He was promoted to the cadre of Delhi Higher Judicial Service on 6th August, 2003 after serving for slightly more than a decade. During his long tenure in the

district judiciary, Justice Sharma handled various jurisdictions such as Metropolitan Magistrate, Extradition Judge, Civil Judge, Rent Controller and Presiding Officer over Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal. He also dealt with various sensitive matters under special enactments such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act & National Investigation Act. Justice Sharma also served as the Special Judge (CBI), Special Judge under POCSO Act, Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act, Securities & Exchange Board of India Act, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and Food Safety and Standards Act besides other subject matters. From 2017 to 2019, he served as the Principal Judge Family Court in Central District. On 1st June, 2019, he was appointed as Principal District & Sessions Judge, West District. Later, he was appointed as Principal District & Sessions Judge, New Delhi District and he continued to serve in that capacity until his elevation to this Court.

In addition to his judicial role, Justice Sharma also took keen interest in various allied activities and also served on deputation in various capacities. He is a trained Mediator and Master Trainer. In 2007, he attended the Master Training Program at the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution, United Kingdom. As a trainer, he visited various parts of the country for imparting mediation training to lawyers, Judges and others members of the society. Justice Sharma also served as Secretary, Delhi

High Court Legal Services Committee from 2007 to 2009, and also as the Member Secretary of Delhi State Legal Services Authority during the period from 2014 to 2017. He was deeply involved in the institutionalization of the legal aid framework, infrastructure development and streamlining of various legal awareness programs across the capital for the fulfilment of the constitutional vision of free legal aid. He also took keen interest in resolving the issues concerning the prison system and juvenile justice delivery system in Delhi. While serving in judicial roles as well, Justice Sharma was always keen to take part in the resolution of administrative issues affecting the district courts. He was deeply involved in the journey of computerization, e-filing, e-courts etc. in the district courts of Delhi. He also served as the Chairman of Central Recruitment Committee of the District Courts from 2017 to 2023.

His experience spanning over three decades was acknowledged when he was elevated on the bench of this Court in 2023. He was administered the oath of office on 17th May, 2023 and ever since, he has been serving this institution. Justice Sharma is known to be a highly patient, pleasant and no non-sense Judge. With his colleagues as well, Justice Sharma always shared an affectionate relationship, both in this Court and also in the district Courts. His keen sense of justice and his ability to swiftly reach to the core of a dispute have enabled him to

adjudicate well over all these years. He is known to be a Judge of great practical wisdom and he always remained oriented to grant relief to the litigants in his Court. In addition to his contributions on the judicial side, Justice Sharma has also contributed immensely on the administrative side of this Court. He was always keen to take part in administrative deliberations on issues of key importance and his vast experience certainly enabled him to bring better inputs on the table.

Justice Sharma has served the judicial system for over 38 years in various roles, including as a lawyer prior to joining the service in 1992. When a seasoned Judge leaves the system, it is always a loss for the system. Having said that, I am sure he would appreciate a little break at this stage of life before he chooses to commence his fresh innings.

On my behalf and on behalf of this Court, I wish you the very best for all your future endeavors. Brother, your contributions shall always be remembered by this institution and by those whose lives were touched by your decisions. We pray for your good health for all times to come.

Thank you and Jai Hind.