

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

Sister Justice Shalinder Kaur,

Gracious family members of Justice Kaur,

My esteemed sister and brother Judges at the High Court,

Shri Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Shri Rajesh Mishra, Honorary Secretary, Bar Council of Delhi,

Shri N. Hariharan, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

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

Shri Vikram Singh Panwar, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi,

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

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 Print and Electronic Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to all of you,

Today, we have assembled here to bid farewell to Justice Shalinder Kaur, who has been serving as a Judge of this Court since 20th October, 2023.

In 1982, Justice Kaur commenced her journey of higher education and enrolled in the B.A. (Hons.) course at Miranda House College, Delhi University. She graduated in 1985 and thereafter, commenced her legal education by getting enrolled in the LL.B. course at the Campus Law Center. On completion of her LL.B. in 1988, she sought enrolment in LL.M. and pursued her masters in law from Kurukshetra University.

Justice Kaur commenced her professional career in 1992 and joined the Delhi Judicial Service. After serving for over a decade, she was promoted to Delhi Higher Judicial Service in the year 2003. During her tenure in the judicial service, Justice Kaur dealt with various Civil and Criminal jurisdictions and handled trials pertaining to matters of Central Bureau of Investigation, sensitive criminal cases, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, matrimonial disputes, child custody petitions, motor accident claims etc. Justice Kaur also served as the Principal District and Sessions Judge in Karkardooma Courts. She also served in the same capacity in South-East and South Districts of Delhi. In addition to her judicial roles, Justice Kaur also served as the Judge In-charge of Delhi Mediation Centre in different jurisdictions of Delhi.

Justice Kaur is a trained Mediator having received 40 hours of extensive learning on Concept & Techniques of Mediation in the year 2005, and is a Master Trainer with Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India. She also attended the Training of Trainers (TOT) program at the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in United Kingdom. It shows her keenness towards the cause of dispute resolution and eagerness to explore the alternate modes of dispute resolution. Today, the alternate modes of dispute resolution have assumed a place of great relevance in the mainstream. In a way, they form an integral part of the judicial process and I have no hesitation in saying that the likes of Justice Kaur have played an instrumental role in this development, as they stepped out of their conventional role of being Judges and participated in the training exercises conducted two decades ago. Justice Kaur is an accredited Mediator from the International Mediation Institute, The Hague, Netherlands, and has conducted mediations in over 10,000 cases pertaining to different classes. As a trainer, she has conducted numerous Training Programs throughout India for judicial officers, advocates, law students etc. She has also been a regular resource person at the Delhi Judicial Academy and has contributed significantly to the continuous judicial education program.

Justice Kaur has served the judicial system for over 33 years and it goes without saying that her vast experience has been highly beneficial for this Court. She is known to be a compassionate Judge with a deep commitment to the rule of law. It was her compassion and sensitivity towards the cause of gender justice at display, when in *Isha v. Union of India*, the bench comprising of Justice Kaur emphatically

observed that pregnancy of a woman is not a disability and it could not be a ground to deny public employment. Undoubtedly, these are some strong words which would resonate in the times to come in different courts and causes of the country, and would ensure greater access to equality. Justice Kaur may have sat on the bench of this Court for a brief period; however, her contributions shall be remembered for a long time to come. As a part of the judiciary for the last 33 years, she has certainly touched a countless number of souls with her decisions and as she leaves the system, she would surely be missed by her colleagues, members of the bar and the general public.

I extend my warmest wishes to the esteemed family members of Justice Kaur who are present amongst us today.

On my behalf and on behalf of this Court, I wish you the very best for all your future endeavors. It is rightly said that when one door closes, another door opens and, therefore, we are confident that Justice Kaur would spend her post-retirement time in the most meaningful way and the society would continue to benefit from her vast experience. We pray for your good health for all times to come.

Thank you and Jai Hind.