

201

**FULL COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF  
SH. R.K. JAIN, SENIOR ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT**

Hon'ble Judges of Delhi High Court, Mr.A.S. Chandhiok, President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. P.P. Malhotra, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. J.P.Sengh, Vice President and other Office Bearers of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr.Ramesh Gupta, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Ms.Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for the Government of NCT of Delhi, Learned Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to mourn the sudden and sad demise of Sh. R.K. Jain, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court who breathed his last on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2006.

Sh. Jain began his legal career from the District Court of Saharanpur in 1969. Being a first generation lawyer, he built up his practice by way of his merit,

202

hard work and dedication. It is not surprising that within a short span of time, he paved his way to the Supreme Court where he was suo moto designated as Senior Advocate in 1986.

As a lawyer, Sh. Jain was known for his courage and conviction. He was systematic and meticulous and always thorough with his brief. His arguments were crisp and well formulated. At the same time, he was polite and courteous with impeccable court manners. The fairness, honesty and integrity of Sh. Jain was appreciated by the Bench and the Bar alike. He gave respect to others and it was returned to him in full measure.

Sh. Jain's contribution to criminal law is significant and noteworthy. He appeared before the Supreme Court in various landmark criminal matters as Counsel as well as Amicus Curiae right from his

203

initial days at the Bar. He championed the cause of abolition of capital punishment. He worked for the development of the law relating to preventive detention and for de-mechanising the process of grant of bail. He has also contributed towards the improvement of the Juvenile Justice System in India.

Sh. Jain was a person with leadership qualities and he carried the Bar with him. His good hearted smile and friendly countenance endeared him to one and all. I am told that he had the ability to remember the names of each and every person who came in contact with him. It was these qualities that saw him elected twice as Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association and its President for a record number of six times. Sh. Jain was also known for his affection for the younger members of the Bar. He

204

helped the needy ones with encouragement and at times means.

Sh. Jain made valuable contribution towards upliftment of the down trodden. The commitment of Sh. Jain to this cause is also reflected in him being one of the founder members of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee. He worked tirelessly through an NGO named "Manavata Abhiyan" for the removal of hunger with his slogan "Each One, Feed One".

With the demise of Sh. Jain, the legal fraternity has lost a stalwart, the near and dear ones, a father figure and the society, a generous and kind hearted man. Sh. Jain is survived by his wife, Smt. Neelam Jain, son, Mr. Sidhartha Jain and daughter, Ms. Shefali Jain, who is an Advocate.

205

We send our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray that the Almighty bestow them with the strength to bear this irretrievable loss.

May I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of late Sh. R.K. Jain.

(MUKUNDAKAM SHARMA)  
CHIEF JUSTICE

(The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by Hon'ble the Chief Justice as under)

"As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the Court work is adjourned for the rest of the day".