

**FAREWELL SPEECH ON THE ELEVATION OF
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE INDIRA BANERJEE
DELIVERED ON 03.04.2017**

**G. ROHINI
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Justice Indira Banerjee,

My esteemed brother and sister colleagues,

Shri Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General,

Shri J.P. Sengh, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Amit Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Shri Rahul Mehra, Senior Standing Counsel, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Other Standing Counsel of the Central and State Government,

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Office-bearers of District Courts Bar Associations,

Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

District & Sessions Judges,

Family members of Justice Indira Banerjee,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Justice Indira Banerjee who joined as the senior most Judge of this Court on 8th August, 2016 upon transfer from Calcutta High Court, will now take over the exalted office of Chief Justice of High Court of Madras, one of the prestigious Courts of the country.

It is a matter of great pride for all of us and let me at the outset congratulate Justice Indira Banerjee for achieving a milestone in her judicial career.

While wishing her all the best for more successful and glorious tenure as Chief Justice of High Court of Madras, I deem it a great privilege to bid farewell to Justice Indira Banerjee on behalf of High Court of Delhi.

Born on 24th September, 1957, Justice Banerjee did her schooling from Calcutta. She graduated in History from the University of Calcutta. After having completed her Masters in International Relations, she decided to pursue her career in law and joined the LL.B Course at College of Law, Calcutta University. Justice Banerjee enrolled as an Advocate on 5th July, 1985 and she practiced both in the Original and Appellate Jurisdictions of the Calcutta High Court.

She also appeared in the Supreme Court and various other High Courts. As a result of her legal acumen and utmost commitment to the profession, Justice Banerjee rose in eminence as a legal luminary and was invited to adorn the Bench of the Calcutta High Court.

Justice Banerjee was appointed as a permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court on 5th February, 2002 at the age of 44 years. She was the sixth woman to be appointed as Judge of Calcutta High Court and was the youngest woman so far to have been elevated to the Bench of the Calcutta High Court.

After her appointment as a Judge of Calcutta High Court, she distinguished herself in a short span of time as an excellent Judge and decided number of cases involving complicated questions of fact and law.

In 2013, Justice Banerjee was nominated by the then Chief Justice of India to lead a team including High Court Judges, Registrars of the Supreme Court and Bureaucrats for training in Judicial Administration at the Civil Services College in Singapore.

Justice Banerjee has been a Resource Person in the West Bengal Judicial Academy and now in Delhi Judicial Academy. She has been the Chairperson of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority. She is also the member of the General Council and the Executive Council of West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.

In the course of her judicial career so far, Justice Banerjee has delivered numerous landmark judgments covering many areas of law.

It is clear from the judgments that Justice Banerjee is cognizant of the social realities of the world and is extremely gifted in the application of law, both in letter and spirit.

Justice Banerjee has presided over the Commercial Appellate Division and dealt with various complicated issues relating to commercial disputes. She also dealt with the matters arising under various other branches of law very efficiently.

She is gifted with extremely good administration skills and I am very thankful to her for the valuable support extended to me on administrative side.

Though she has been here for a short span of 8 months as a Judge of this court, she has left a big impression on all those who interacted with her and made immeasurable contribution for the development of law with her amazing work ethic and dedication to cause of justice.

Simple and unassuming, Justice Banerjee endeared to her colleague judges as well as the members of the Bar and because of her affable manners and affectionate nature, she is loved and respected by the Bar and the Bench alike.

In her, I found a perfect blend of firmness and compassion. I found that Justice Banerjee is very meticulous in discharge of her duties and very straight-forward in her approach. She exhibits a very humane approach to the issues brought before her. Her overall contribution to the cause of administration of justice is immense.

In the short span of time that I have known her, I found that Justice Banerjee has a nobility of classic quality in all that she does.

On behalf of the High Court of Delhi and on my own behalf, I wish Justice Banerjee the best of luck in all her future endeavors. I am sure that she would make a mark in her new assignment and would reach greater heights in her legal career very soon.

May the choicest blessings of the Almighty be showered on her for a successful and glorious tenure as Chief Justice of High Court of Madras.

Thank you.