

**FAREWELL SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON'BLE MR.  
JUSTICE D.MURUGESAN, CHIEF JUSTICE, ON THE  
ELEVATION OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KISHAN  
KAUL AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PUNJAB & HARYANA  
HIGH COURT**

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, my brother and sister colleagues on the Bench, Mr. A.S. Chandhiok, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India and the President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Rajeeve Mehra, learned ASG, High Court of Delhi, Mr. J.P. Sengh, Vice-President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Mohit Mathur, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. R.S. Goswami, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Mr. Murari Tiwari, Secretary, Bar Council of Delhi, Ms.Zubeda Begum, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, learned members of the Bar, family members of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, ladies and gentlemen.

We have gathered here today to bid farewell to Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on the occasion of his elevation as Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. It gives me great pleasure and happiness to offer, on behalf of all those present here, our warmest congratulations.

Born on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1958, Justice Kaul was educated in some of this country's most premier institutions.

After completing his schooling from Modern School, New Delhi, he graduated in Economics (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University in 1979. He obtained an LL.B. Degree from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1982. He joined the Bar in the same year and practiced as an advocate in the High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court.

His practice included a diverse range of litigation in commercial, civil, writ, original and companies jurisdictions of the High Court and the Supreme Court with cases relating to Constitution, Banking, Finance and Insurance, Customs and Excise, MRTP, Real Estate, Administrative, Co-operative, Service, Telecommunications and Anti-Dumping Laws. He also frequently appeared before the MRTP Commission, the Company Law Board, Debt Recovery Tribunal and Arbitrators.

Justice Kaul was Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court from 1987 to 1999 and was designated as Senior Advocate in December, 1999. He had a successful career as an advocate being appointed Senior Counsel for the Delhi High Court and for the Delhi University. He was also in the Senior Panel of Union of India and Additional Senior Standing Counsel for DDA. He was elected treasurer of the Delhi High Court Bar Association in 1985 and held that post for three consecutive years. He was appointed a permanent judge of this Court on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2003.

In the course of his judicial career so far, Justice Kaul has delivered several landmark judgments and decisions in many areas of our substantial and procedural law. Fundamental duty as judges is to not only dispense expeditious justice to disputing parties but also provide them with quality judgments. In this regard he has, without exception, always given priority to this facet of justice delivery. On the Bench, although exacting, Justice Kaul remained courteous and his willingness to listen has gained him admiration and respect from the members of the Bar. Through his industry, patience, his sound knowledge of the law and fairness in conduct of cases, the trust that people repose in our judicial system has been greatly enhanced.

A severe case of docket explosion is currently plaguing courts across India and having regard to this current heavy workload thrust on judges, Justice Kaul has unrelentingly maintained the present momentum to clear the dockets of any backlog. He has always found the energy to take on, in addition to his prescribed duties, responsibilities to make significant contributions for the improvement of administration of this court and growth of the judiciary. He has participated in a number of national and international seminars and workshops as a Chairman or Member of Sessions, presenting a number of papers, which has brought great pride and joy to this court.

The judiciary, the hallmark of civilized society, must operate independently from any unnecessary intervention. As it has often been said, judges must not only be free, but must also be perceived as being free. Till his elevation to the present position, Justice Kaul has constantly upheld the law, in letter and in spirit. I have utmost faith that he shall in the future, too, preserve the sanctity of the judiciary in order to ensure that the judicial decisions are deliberated and dispensed without fear or favour.

Justice Kaul as Senior Vice-President of INSOL India has contributed towards the advancement of law relating to insolvency and related laws. A very active man outside the court room, he is also a member of various prestigious institutions and clubs like India International Centre, India Habitat Centre, Indian Law Institute, Delhi Golf Club, Delhi Gymkhana Club and Roshanara Club. His hectic work schedule has not prevented him from striking a balance with his other interests such as theatre, music, golf and reading on subjects other than law.

It is difficult to precisely capture the true essence of a leader of a court. Leadership manifests itself differently in different people. However, some of the indispensable qualities one must have are singular intellectual rigour, industry, commitment to efficient administration of justice, and reliability in performance of given tasks. Justice Kaul possesses these virtues, and much more.

On my personal note, I may recall that when my name was recommended for the Chief Justice of this Court, he talked to me over phone. He was kind enough to enquire about my requirements at the residence and also said that residence will be ready for occupation the moment I take oath. He saw my family to occupy the residence on the same day I took oath. This shows his concern about his brother Judges. Further Justice Kaul assisted me in most of my administrative works, particularly heading a host of Committees. I personally thank him for his valuable assistance to me. His contribution to this Court will be remembered for ever. I am confident that he will have a successful and happy tenure as Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. As an elder brother I congratulate him on his elevation as Chief Justice. I also wish good health to him and to his family members.

**THANK YOU**