

**SPEECH OF MR. SANJAY JAIN, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR  
GENERAL OF INDIA TO BID FAREWELL TO HON'BLE  
JUSTICE SUDERSHAN KUMAR MISRA**

Justice G. Rohini, Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Delhi, Mr. Rajiv Khosla, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Jatan Singh and Mr. Abhijat, the Vice-President and Hon. Secretary of DHCBA, Mr. Raman Duggal and Mr. Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsels for the Govt. NCT of Delhi, Standing Counsels of Union of India, Hon'ble Senior Members & Members of the Bar, family members of Justice Sudershan Kumar Misra, my colleagues, ladies & gentlemen.

Today, as we assimilate our fond memories of Justice Misra, that as a Lawyer, as a teacher in Delhi Law Faculty, as a Standing Counsel for Central Government, as a Senior Advocate and eventually as a Judge Of this Court, we all are unanimous in one thought i.e. we are bidding farewell to him only from the court rooms, not from the Court, not from the corridors of our hearts, not from the streets, which lead to that last common man, for whom exists our Constitution. So he

remains here with us; with his re-assuring smile; with his subtle but profound sense of humour and above all with his second to none scholarship.

My first introduction to Justice Misra was in the year 1986, when upon joining the profession, I had occasion to visit the Central Government corridor of the Lawyers Chamber Block. There, outside Chamber 460, I noticed a name plate depicting S.K. Misra, Central Government Standing Counsel. Chamber 460 has an interesting history. Besides Justice Misra, two other of its occupants also became High Court Judges. They are my predecessor in that chamber Mr. Neeraj Kishan Kaul and my successor in that chamber Mr. Suresh Kait. Enquiries revealed that the gentleman answering to the name S.K. Misra was the youngest ever Standing Counsel for Central Government in Delhi High Court and had a reputation as a hard task-master with penchant for detailing. Later, two of my friends Mr. Sanjeev Dubey and Mr. Kirti Uppal joined him as juniors. We would all admire this extremely stylish man, an avid reader, a deep thinker and a keen sportsman and a profound nature-lover.

As a Judge, Justice Misra conducted his Court with grace, humility and discipline in the same mould as his father Justice V.D.Misra would do in his times. It has been a sheer pleasure to watch him hold his Court, as he would infuse a great spurt of aura, an aura that some of us have usually associated with this high office during our young impressionable years gathered from some western movies depicting Victorian age court rooms. For our imagination, only things missing in his Lordship's Court were a wig and a hammer.

In his judicial pronouncements, his Lordship developed a unique capacity to blend passion with compassion; to synchronise procedural law with equitable factors; to take into account contemporaneous developments in passing his orders. His enormous knowledge stemming from his reading and experience, were adequately manifested in his judicial opinions. Those, who suffered immensely got relief from his Lordship in\*\*\*1"iproportion.

At this juncture, I stand reminded of what Samuel Johnson said and I quote — "*As a man advances in life, he gets what is better than admiration and that is judgment to estimate things at their true*

*value.*" Justice Misra acquired this art fairly early in his life.

It is this ability, which guided and glided Justice Misra through almost all the rosters that were entrusted to him such as: service, bails and company courts, with equal ease and he left his indelible imprint all over.

Here I am tempted to quote Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He said and I quote — *"People often speak of correcting the judgment of the time by that of posterity. I think it is quite as true, to say that we must correct the judgment of posterity by that of the time."*

Today as Justice Sudershan Misra enters a new phase in his illustrious life, I on my own behalf and on behalf of the Union of India, wish him well. May he be blessed with good health, longevity and peace. May we see him in many more creative and productive pursuits. I would conclude by quoting Greek philosopher Plato, who said and I quote — *"A hero is born among a hundred, a wise man is found among a thousand but an accomplished man might not be found even among a hundred thousand men."*

Sir, you will remain in our judgment a truly accomplished man.

Thank you.