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**OBITUARY REFERENCE BY MS. MUKTA GUPTA,
STANDING COUNSEL (CRL.) GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**

Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Chairman,
Bar Council of Delhi, Ld. Addl. Solicitor General, President, Delhi High
Court Bar Association and esteemed friends.

Hon'ble Ms. Justice
D.P. Wadhwa
Hon'ble Justice
Sudhakar
Former Judge
Delhi High
Court

21.9.2006 saw the sunset of an icon of the legal profession. Death is ultimate and inevitable but the death of Sh. Kundal Lal Arora senior advocate at the age of 94 years has caused a wide spread gloom on the legal fraternity. A saintly bachelor he was a Guru to all the members of the Bar right from District Court to Supreme Court. A respected and beloved lawyer he made everybody realize in the profession, that in this profession sky is the limit of your achievements.

Born in a small town in the district of Lahore in the year 1912 he joined the Bar in 1936 after attaining education from DAV College, Lahore and then from Government Law College. Though he started practising both on civil and criminal side but he ultimately concentrated on the criminal side and earned a name for himself both as a prosecution counsel and a defence lawyer. Needless to say he was one of the most renowned lawyers in the country. He specialized in law relating to commercial fraud and economic offenses and lodged many criminal complaints on tax evasion both under the Income Tax Law and under the Sea Custom Act. Many land marks cases both for the prosecution and the defense are to his credit. He was defense counsel for the accused in the Meerut conspiracy case and Baroda dynamite conspiracy case in which Mr. Arora appeared for Viren Shah till recently Governor of West Bengal, He also defended Mr. Sanjay Gandhi in the ' Kissa Kursi Ka' case and later was the prosecution counsel in the case of assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

After 64 years of effective practice Mr. Arora left active practice in the year 2000 and before leaving he donated his entire Law Library to the Kardardooma Bar Association, a great gesture and a great lesson for all of us to learn. As Standing Counsel Criminal in this court, he set the highest standards.

Mr. Arora enjoyed an impeccable reputation for his honesty, integrity, respectfulness and fairness for which the Judges rightly trusted him. Maintaining the high standards of the profession he was respectful towards the courts, the opposite counsel and the witnesses. Under this Banyan tree grew a good number of professionals who also showed their metal in the profession and attained the greatest heights including adoring the Bench in this High Court and the Supreme Court.

Mr. Arora was deeply religious and attended many courses on spiritual and Yogic activities. He is survived by his two younger sisters and other siblings.

May I request my Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice to convey the heart felt condolence to the bereaved family on behalf of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, on behalf of my colleagues representing Government of Delhi and on my own behalf.

29th September, 2006

(MUKTA GUPTA)
STANDING COUNSEL (CRL.)
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