

My Lords, Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi Mr. Justice Vijender Jain and his Hon'ble companion Judges, Shri A.S. Chandiok, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Members of the Executive Committee of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, Central Government Standing Counsels, Standing Counsels for the Delhi Administration and various other statutory authorities, my brother juniors of Late Shri Kundan Lal Arora, and my esteemed colleagues, Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. Today, we have assembled here to pay homage to late Shri Kundan Lal Arora. He left his mortal body on 21.09.2006 and those of you, who were close to him, knew him well can still see him. He is still with us. His memories are with us. His soul is guiding us and shall continue to guide us.

3. He was very simple, sober, humble, gentle, noble, well mannered, disciplined advocate. He was the same both inside and outside the Court. He had no ego and was always polite and respectful to the Bench, his juniors and colleagues. He was full of affection towards all. Like almighty God gives free air to all men irrespective of their religion, their thoughts and deeds, so was the love and affection and smile distributed by late Shri Kundan Lal Arora towards

all. He was always immaculately dressed. He was an embodiment of a true and a gentleman advocate.

4. Late Shri Kundan Lal Arora was born in 'Pattoki' in a small town in district Lahore (now in Pakistan) on 15.12.1912. He did his graduation and Post Graduation from DAV college, Lahore and L.L.B from Government Law College, Lahore. In 1936, he was enrolled as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court. After partition of the country, he shifted to Delhi where he established his practice, both as civil and criminal lawyer. Later he exclusively worked on criminal side and earned a name for himself both as a prosecution counsel and a defense lawyer.

5. Like many of us he migrated to Delhi after partition of the country. His first fee at Delhi was Rs 2/- only with which he purchased a typewriter and with the next fee he had purchased a cycle.

6. Late Shri Kundan Lal Arora was a leading trial court lawyer. His field was law relating to commercial fraud, economic offences and all kinds of criminal matters. He was the prosecution counsel for various departments including Income tax department, Customs Department. He was Standing Counsel (Criminal) in the Delhi High Court and was designated as a Senior Advocate

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by the Delhi High Court. After 64 years of active practice, Shri Kundan Lal Arora left active practice in the year 2000.

7. In the 60's, Mr. Arora was a defense counsel for the accused in a famous Meerut conspiracy case involving defense personnel. During emergency, he had defended Baroda Dynamite Conspiracy case; he also defended late Mr. Sanjay Gandhi in famous 'Kissa Kursi Ka'. He was prosecution counsel in the case of assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi and defended the conviction of the accused upto Delhi High Court.

8. I have had the good fortune of beginning my career as his junior. Whilst in his chambers, I was deeply impressed by his extra ordinary and pain staking preparation in every case. His absolute mastery of his brief became apparent when I saw that even in the most voluminous briefs he would take the court straight to the relevant pages and paragraphs. He enjoyed so much credibility and standing at the bar that often a statement on the facts of the case was accepted by court without even bothering to verify the same from the record. Since it was known that "Sh. Arora SAHAB" will never make a wrong statement. He was a man of extraordinary professional integrity and competence. He was uninfluenced by any extraneous thought or consideration in the discharge of his duty. He was man pure in body and mind. Many of his

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juniors have blossomed to great heights. Few of them can be named, Mr. H.R.Bhardwaj Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice, Justice D.P.Wadhwa (Retd.), late Justice Charanjeet Talwar, Justice D.K.Jain, late Justice M.K.Chawla, Justice Sat Pal etc.

9. Late Mr. Kundan Lal Arora was well-known to the Bar. He was a friend of the Bar. He had very pleasing personality. He had a smiling face. Meeting him was always a pleasure, he would easily ease the tension in any court and any situation easily by laughing it out and anger was alien to him. He took defeat and victory alike.

10. By his death, the Bar has not only lost an eminent lawyer, but also a noble and pure soul. I feel the best homage to his memory would be to follow his ideals and conduct, by shedding away anger and animosity with anyone and keeping cool and pleasant environment all around. Mr. Kundan Lal Arora's impeccable conduct, his professionalism and devotion to duty will forever remain a sterling example to the legal fraternity.

11. I, on my behalf and on behalf on my colleagues, who are Standing Counsels and Counsels for the Central Government and esteemed Members of

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the Bar pray to the Almighty God to give enough strength and courage to Justice D.P. Wadhwa (Retd.) the bereaved family.

May I request the Hon'ble Chief Justice to convey our condolences and feeling to the bereaved family.

(P.P. Malhotra)
Additional Solicitor General
29.9.2006