

FAREWELL SPEECH

My Lords, Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Shah and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Mr. K. C. Mittal, President, Mr. J. P. Sengh, Vice-President, Mr. D. K. Sharma, Secretary and other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Central Government Standing Counsels, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Criminal), Mr. Najmi Waziri, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Civil) and Counsels for various statutory authorities and other bodies, family members, relatives of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malhotra, my esteemed colleagues at the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

2. Today, we have assembled to bid farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malhotra. From today afternoon the Members of the Bar of this Hon'ble Court will be missing a quiet, sober, serene always smiling and an unruffled Judge, a Judge having an effortless and flawless sense of humour and a judge of accommodating nature.

3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malhotra was born in Kasur now in Pakistan. His Lordship's father Late Sh. K. R. Malhotra was an eminent and leading Advocate of Lahore and who has also been the Chairman of the Lahore Municipal Committee. After partition, the family shifted to Patti a border town near the holy city of Amritsar. His Lordship did his graduation from DAV College, Amritsar and used to commute about 40 Kms. every day to go to college and again 40 Kms. for return to his Village. His Lordship had such a great zest for learning.

4. After graduation from Amritsar, His Lordship completed his Law from Delhi University in 1971. His Lordship entered legal profession immediately. I used to meet Mr. Justice Malhotra when I was practicing at Tiz Hazari Courts and His Lordship had started his practice there. After sometime, His Lordship joined as a Legal Adviser in a well-known Multi-National Company and after working for some time with the Multi-National, His Lordship came back to rejoin the practice. His Lordship had a roaring practice. His Lordship joined the Delhi Higher Judicial Service in November, 1985 as an Additional District Judge.

5. As His Lordship had spent his childhood and youth in the holy city of Amritsar I think it had a great cooling effect on his temperament. His Lordship was always a cool headed Judge. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malhotra has been a simple Judge. His Lordship had never any egos about himself. His Lordship always heard the matters with great patience, a great quality of a Judge.

6. I can say with certainty that Mr. Justice Malhotra had been a jewel of this Court. He was a patient Judge. Merely knowledge of law does not make a Judge as a good Judge, a good Judge has to be a patient Judge and by hearing patiently often many Judges change their views. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malhotra was gifted with this unique quality of being a patient Judge, indeed a good quality of a Judge. By his Lordship's retirement, the Bench would lose one of its good and humorist judge. Some of the Hon'ble Judges call His Lordship as "General Malhotra" and the Bar would certainly lose a patient and a pleasant Judge.

7. I on my own behalf and on behalf of the Central Government Counsels and my esteem colleagues wish Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.R.Malhotra and his family a very healthy and happy retired life.

(P. P. Malhotra)
Additional Solicitor General of India

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