

Farewell Reference Speech

of

Mr. Rajiv Atma Ram (Senior Advocate)

President, Senior Advocate Association ,

Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh

On the transfer of

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul,

Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court

to High Court of Madras

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Hon'ble Retired judges, ladies and gentlemen,

The best tribute that I can give to Chief Justice Kaul is by quoting Chief Justice Murugesan of the Delhi High Court. He says, and I quote, **"through his industry, patience, his sound knowledge of law and fairness in the conduct of cases , the trust that people repose in our judicial system has been greatly enhanced."**

Chief Justice Kaul has built many a bridge for us to walk upon. He has by his endeavor set before us, and for us, a path which shall, in times to come lead us towards better achievement and work satisfaction. the change in the roster with affixing days for the disposal of regular cases has indeed brought to a just end many such cases which are a part of an endless long list . The task before every judge is indeed not an

easy one; yet, having said that, to be able to take forward an entire court towards greater achievement and work satisfaction is no mean achievement.

Chief Justice Kaul is indeed a man of immense vision, who brings about change for the betterment of society while keeping alive Indian traditions and values. Chief Justice Kaul is the author of many landmark judgments, which have forever changed the face of many existing systems for the better - one such judgment being in the petition submitted by the painter Maqbool Fida Hussain ; wherein not only was justice done to an authentic national icon but it also contains observations that are refreshing and true about the role of art in our society. As a judge he balanced therein the individual's right to speech and expression and the frontiers of exercising that right. It is indeed a judgment which is brilliant, being both progressive and conforming at the same time. Citizens

of India concerned about the freedom of expression should indeed applaud the judgment. Another case being of Babita Punia wherein by his judgment Chief Justice Kaul established the rights of women to get permanent commissions in the Indian air force; thereby, ensuring women equal status with their male counterparts.

The designation of a number of lawyers as senior advocates has given a great impetus to the professional lives of many young lawyers. The space created will encourage them to move forward with greater enthusiasm and seriousness. Since its creation this high court has given to society many great lawyers. They have paved the way and taught many of us the nitty gritty of this profession. Being a senior is not just about success; it brings along with it a huge duty towards the court, the society and to oneself. Integrity, honest hard work, and the ability to give

space to those who need it, while showing them a better way is all part and parcel of this one word - senior. The creation of a larger senior advocates bar will, hopefully, make its presence more effective and purposeful in a positive way.

Change, perhaps, is the only constant in life; and when made with direction, conviction, faith, a vision for a greater purpose foreseeing the good of everyone, it brings with it a freshness and a renewed belief in all the excellent values that define our profession. I am grateful to Chief Justice Kaul for having brought just such a breath of fresh air to our court. The short length of the tenure of any public office loses its significance when the achievements are huge; and that is all that we, as a society, tend to remember and continue to reap benefits from. It is easy to be popular but it is much more difficult to remain popular, while, at the same time retaining the respect

of the profession, and that of the public.

It is said that we lead by example and example alone; here before us we have a gentleman judge, during whose tenure we have enjoyed a time where much has been accomplished both in work and in ethics. Justice Kaul has always dispensed justice with a significant degree of humanity, a huge understanding of the human psyche, and the difficulties people experience in life. In his short span Chief Justice Kaul has been incredibly humane and even - handed .His exceptional knowledge of law and his ability to grasp the facts of a case are second to none. It is this; along with his sense of humor that has endeared him to us Chief Justice Kaul embodies every qualification in consonance with the highest judicial ideals. We shall miss his presence hugely in court.

With this I wish you, Chief Justice Kaul, the very

best in life, a glorious future, and great success,
enriched with good health, happiness, and peace.