



Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana

LAW BHAWAN

Dakshin Marg, Sector 37-A, Chandigarh- 160036

Ref No.

Date

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mohunta, Acting Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court,

Hon'ble Judges,

Advocates-General for the States of Punjab and Haryana,

Senior advocates,

My colleagues, distinguished guests,

Just before his elevation as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in July, 2001, a youngster eagerly approached Justice Jasbir Singh. Standing in front of one of the courtrooms, he held out his hand. "Sir, I want to shake hands with you one last time, after this you will be a High Court Judge," he quipped.

Dignified as ever, Justice Jasbir Singh looked at him with solemn eyes and said, "Nothing will change. You see, I believe in the value of relationships".

Thirteen years down the line, nothing really changed, as Justice Jasbir Singh kept his word.

Till this day, the gentleman-Judge remains "one of us".

When it came to Justice Jasbir Singh, there was no reason for the young advocates to hesitate. There was, in fact, no need for them to seek adjournment and a fresh date in the absence of their seniors. Encouraged by his warmth, they would muster up courage, pick up the brief and argue, knowing very well that Justice Jasbir Singh would not hold their inexperience against them.

His Lordship's graciousness was the same, when it came to the seniors. Patience was Justice Jasbir Singh's hallmark. Relief was given in deserving cases; and in non-deserving matters, rejection was always polite.

His stints as the Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court twice saw the initiation of steps to bring down the pendency of cases both in the higher and subordinate judiciary.

His Lordship also delivered historical and constitutional judgments during his tenure. His acumen can be gauged from the fact that these judgments are referred to by the advocates during the course of arguments in an attempt to substantiate their contentions.

His Lordship's presence, outside the court was also always inspiring. At blood donation camps, seminars or any other

function, his Lordship would not hesitate to get up, greet and warmly shake hands with youngsters and elders alike.

Perhaps, his closeness to nature and mother earth during his childhood days made the difference.

His Lordship always remained brilliant in studies and initially started practice at District Courts, Jalandhar. His soft spoken nature and accommodating behaviour made his Lordship a hit among the advocates and judicial officers there.

His popularity and keen interest in the welfare of the advocates made him victorious in the Bar Council elections in 1983.

His Lordship shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1984; and continuously remained Bar Council member before becoming its Chairman from July 1993 to February 1996.

On eve of his retirement, I being the Chairman of Bar Council on behalf of all advocates of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh extends good wishes to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasbir Singh.

We collectively articulate our best wishes to him. Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'J.S.' or similar, written in a cursive style.