

## **Farewell Reference on the Retirement of** **Hon'ble Justice Jasbir Singh**

Justice Jasbir Singh, My brother and sister Judges, sitting and retired; Advocate Generals of two States; Standing Counsel of U.T., Chandigarh and other Law Officers; President and Executive Members of the High Court Bar Association; Chairman and Members of the Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana; Senior Advocates; other members of the Bar; Officers and Staff of the High Court; Ladies and Gentlemen.

In a short span of 10 days, it is for the second time that we have assembled here to bid farewell to yet another colleague of ours on the Bench. This time it is Justice Jasbir Singh, a dignified and outstanding Judge of this court. I consider it a great privilege to be entrusted with the daunting task of speaking about the immense contribution made by Justice Jasbir Singh in the myriad roles he has played both at the Bar and on the Bench.

Born on August 1, 1952, Justice Jasbir Singh did his matriculation from Govt. Model School, Jalandhar; Graduation from Khalsa College, Jalandhar and Post Graduated in Political Science from DAV College, Jalandhar. He did his LL.B Degree from Punjabi University, Patiala. Enrolled as an Advocate on September 8, 1979 and practiced in the District Courts, Jalandhar from 1979 to 1984. Thereafter, he shifted to Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh and did practice in

Revenue, Civil, Criminal and Local Laws. He became Member of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana for the first time in 1983. He again contested for Member, Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana and won over with the highest margin till date. He remained Chairman of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana from 1994-1996.

Justice Jasbir Singh was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 2, 2001 and a permanent Judge on November 9, 2001. Throughout his stint as a Judge of this Court, he remembered the importance of the Oath he took as a Judge that requires a Judge to do his duties without fear or favour. For him, a lowly or mighty were equal. What he knew so well was that law is above all and his duty is to espouse the dignity of law in all circumstances. He always chose the righteous path, and every time he emerged victorious.

Our fundamental duty as a Judge is not only to dispense expeditious justice to the litigants but also to provide them with quality Judgment. Justice Jasbir Singh has always given priority to this facet of justice delivery system and dispensed justice with a significant degree of humanity, a huge understanding of the human psyche. He has always been incredibly humane and even-handed. Here I would like to refer the quote of the great philosopher **Edmund Burke**,

***"It is not, what a lawyer tells me I may do; but what humanity, reason and Justice, tells me I ought to do."***

On the bench, Justice Jasbir Singh remained courteous and his willingness to listen has gained him admiration and respects from the members of bar. The manner in which he conducted himself brought him accolades and laurels. The fragrance emitted by his outstanding work reached everywhere. His ability, sound knowledge of law and fairness in conducting the cases has strengthened the trust of the people in our judicial system.

It is said that a Judge must have the grace to hear patiently, to consider diligently, to understand rightly and to decide justly with a sense of humility. Justice Jasbir Singh more than meets this test.

Justice Jasbir Singh enhanced the image of judiciary by delivering land mark judgments. His contribution towards the development of jurisprudence will be remembered for long. It is not an occasion to recount many important judgments delivered by him, but I would like to refer to few of his momentous judgement, which became helping hand for the other courts in deciding the similar issues. While deciding **Criminal Appeal no. 512-DB-2006 titled Gurmail Singh alias Gela v. State of Punjab**, arising out of a case registered under NDPS Act, He sitting in a Division Bench laid down as to ***how the presence of a banned substance has to be***

***determined in contraband.*** The opinion rendered by him would certainly be followed as guidelines by the other courts.

Similarly, on the civil side while dealing with the cases of Allotment of plots to the lower strata of society residing in a village out of gram Panchayat Land, in **CWP no. 9180 of 2009 titled Rajbir Singh v. State of Haryana and Others**, held that ***the benefit given to members of the weaker section of the society will be helpful in strengthening the social fibre and would be helpful in development of the village.*** Justice Jasbir Singh while appreciating the implementation scheme formulated by Govt. as a step for achieving goal set up for Gram Panchayats under Article 243G of Indian Constitution laid down that 25% of land falling within the definition of Shamlat will not be used for allotment as plots and would be kept reserved for common use of villages. At the same time, he opined that Gram Panchayat has right to use land according to parameters laid down in Punjab Village Common Lands Act.

In **Manjit Singh and Ors. Vs. State of Punjab and Ors. (2011)161PLR656**, held curriculum of Universities should not be sole basis for determining eligibility of candidates and a candidate possessing higher qualification in same line could not be excluded from consideration for selection.

Apart from the contribution he has made while enunciating principles of law in a wide spectrum of cases, his continued involvement with intellectual activities in the

administration of Court has made him a multi-faceted personality. Justice Jasbir Singh has headed a number of Administrative Committees. During his tenure as **Executive Chairman, Punjab Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh,**

- ❖ 22 Secretaries were appointed in the rank of Civil Judge (Senior Division) in the District Legal Services Authorities in the State of Punjab.
- ❖ A Call centre was established in the State Authority to provide the round clock professional service to the people, through the Toll Free Helpline Number 1968. 3 Call centre Executives are working on rotation basis.
- ❖ He Appointed Chairmen in Permanent Lok Adalat (PUS) in 8 Districts.
- ❖ He Appointed 22 members in permanent Lok Adalat for speedy disposal of cases.
- ❖ Laid down Foundation Stone of 9 ADR Centres and inaugurated 8 ADR Centres.
- ❖ 1563 total Lok Adalat were held for early disposal.

All I would say is that he would perhaps be one of the best examples to inspire young generation and first timers in this profession as he is a success story of a person who is a first generation lawyer who by dint of his hard work, dedication, integrity and honesty, attained greatest heights in the legal profession.

Brother, your morals, ethics and advice will always stay with us. Your footprints will always stay here. My Appreciations for being such an inspirational Judge.

We salute you for your devotion towards this sacred institute and we all wish you to have a great future ahead after your retirement!

JAI HIND.

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