



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

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Date: 01.09.2025

To

Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India,
And his Hon'ble Companion Judges of the Collegium.

Subject: Concern regarding frequent transfers of Judges in the
Delhi High Court.

May it please your Lordships,

The Bar has been deeply concerned by the alarming frequency with which transfers of Judges are being affected in the Delhi High Court. Till recently, there were a series of transfers to and from our Capital's hallowed Court involving judges from across the country.

The constitutional framework, along with established conventions, envisages the elevation of practicing advocates to the Hon'ble High Courts. This framework recognizes the Bar as a vital reservoir from which the Bench draws its strength, thereby affirming the Bar's role as an indispensable stakeholder in the process of judicial appointments. Members of our Bar not only practice before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi but also appear before the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as the District Judiciary. This gives them a unique sensitivity to the functioning of the judicial system as a whole. It has long been the tradition of all High Courts, to elevate distinguished members of its Bar to the Bench, reflecting the wisdom of both constitutional principles and longstanding convention.

The transfers of several judges from this court to other jurisdictions have generated unease, not only within the institution but also amongst the members of the bar. Judges who have risen through the ranks of the Bar, carry with them an invaluable understanding of the pulse of the city and its courts, and the recent transfers underscore how essential judicial continuity is, and how deeply the Bar values judges who have journeyed alongside it over the decades.

Unfortunately, today, we are faced with a prevalent perception within the bar that members of the Delhi High Court Bar are



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perhaps, being overlooked for consideration when Judicial appointments are made to the Hon'ble High Court. The recent spate of transfers has further exacerbated the situation where there is a widening gap between the Judges who adorn our bench and the lived experience of litigants in the local context of our city.

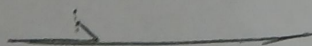
In as much as the Bar welcomes judges who come from other states as they add to the cosmopolitan character of the bench, today, we are faced with a peculiar situation where nearly 1/3rd of its strength comprises of judges from other jurisdictions, while the members of the Bar remain overlooked.

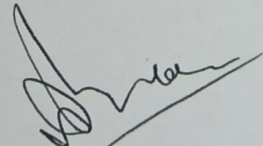
We humbly submit that such perceptions, if left unaddressed, risk eroding the morale of the Bar as well as diminishing faith in the established processes of judicial elevation and transfer. The Delhi High Court, as the custodian of justice in the Capital, requires stability, continuity, and the confidence of both the Bench and the Bar to discharge its duties effectively.

While the Bar recognizes that the power of appointment and transfer vests exclusively with the collegium, it remains a fact that the Bar is an equal stakeholder in the administration of justice. Yet for reasons unknown the Bar is invariably kept in the dark when crucial decisions regarding elevation and transfers of Justices are made.

With utmost respect, it is earnestly submitted that greater transparency and consultation in this process of appointment and transfers would not only strengthen the faith of the legal fraternity but also enhance public faith in the Judiciary.

With Warm Regards


N. Hariharan,
Senior Advocate,
President,
DHCBA


Vikram Singh Panwar
Hony. Secretary,
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