



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110001 (INDIA)

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Mr. Rahul Kaushik (Sr.)
Vice President

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SCBA/CJI.9/2026

Dated 12.02.2026

To

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi

Sub: Request for reconsideration of waiting period prescribed under Paras 21 and 22 of the Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates, 2026

Respected Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,

I am writing on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association to respectfully bring to Your Lordship's kind consideration an issue concerning the Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates, 2026 and the Notice dated 12 February 2026 inviting applications.

It is respectfully submitted that Para 21 of the Guidelines prescribes that Advocates-on-Record and Advocates whose cases have not been considered favourably are required to wait for a period of two years before applying afresh, and Para 22 provides that advocates whose cases have been deferred are required to wait for a period of one year before becoming eligible to apply again. The clauses 21 and 22 from the Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates, 2026 are as follows:

"21. All cases which are not favourably considered by the Full Court shall be reviewed/reconsidered after the expiry of two years from the date of the decision of the Full Court by following the procedure applicable at that time."

22. All cases deferred by the Full Court for being designated as Senior Advocate shall not be considered until the expiry of one year from the date of the decision of the Full Court."

The Association has received representations from several members of the Bar, particularly those whose cases were considered in the previous cycle, stating that the prescribed waiting period in certain situations operates harshly, especially where the non-consideration or deferment was not on account of any disqualification. The similar request was considered by the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates vide notice dated 14th March, 2024 (copy enclosed), which states as follows:



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"The Advocates-On-Record/Advocates whose cases have been deferred by the Full Court may apply afresh ONLINE irrespective of the restriction of period of one year specified in para 20 of the 2023 Guidelines."

The Advocates-On-Record/Advocates whose cases have not been considered favourably would be eligible to apply afresh, on expiry of the period of one year instead of two years specified in para 19 of the 2023 Guidelines."

In these circumstances, the Supreme Court Bar Association most respectfully requests that the Hon'ble Court may consider:

1. Permitting Advocates-on-Record and Advocates whose cases have not been considered favourably to apply afresh upon expiry of a period of one year, instead of two years, as presently specified in Para 21 of the 2026 Guidelines.
2. Permitting advocates whose cases have been deferred by the Full Court to apply afresh online, irrespective of the restriction of the period of one year specified in Para 22 of the 2026 Guidelines; and

Such a relaxation, if considered appropriate, would ensure that deserving and meritorious members of the Bar are not unduly prejudiced by procedural timelines and would further strengthen confidence in the designation process.

The Supreme Court Bar Association remains grateful for the continued efforts of the Hon'ble Court in strengthening institutional processes and recognising excellence at the Bar.

With highest regards,

Yours sincerely,


PRAGYA BAGHEL
Hony. Secretary