

**SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES TO REGULATE CONFERMENT OF
DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES, 2018**

1. These Guidelines shall be called "the Supreme Court Guidelines to Regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates, 2018".
2. All the matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India shall be dealt with by a Permanent Committee to be known as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates".
3. Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates (Committee) shall consist of:
 - (a) Chief Justice of India - Chairperson
 - (b) Two Senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India - Members
 - (c) Attorney General for India - Member
 - (d) A Member of the Bar, as nominated by the Chairperson and Members, as referred to in (a) to (c) above. - Member
4. The Committee shall meet at least twice in a calendar year.
5. The Committee shall have a Permanent Secretariat (Secretariat), the composition of which will be decided by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the other members of the Committee.
6. If the Chief Justice or any other Judge is of the opinion that an Advocate by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law is deserving of such distinction so as to be designated as Senior Advocate, the Chief Justice/the Judge may, in writing, recommend the name of such Advocate for being considered for designation as Senior Advocate. Such recommendation will be submitted to the Secretariat.
7. An Advocate-on-Record/Advocate seeking conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate may submit an application in the prescribed format, to the Secretariat.
8. Each year in the month of January and July, the Secretariat of the Committee shall invite applications from retired Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts and Advocates-on-Record/Advocates seeking conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate.



9. The Notice inviting applications shall be published in the official website of the Supreme Court of India and its information will also be given to the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.
10. At least 15 days' time shall be given to the Advocates to file their applications for conferment of distinction as Senior Advocate.
11. An Advocate shall not be eligible for designation as Senior Advocate unless:
 - (i) he has 10 years' combined standing as an Advocate or a District & Sessions Judge, or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India whose qualification for eligibility for such appointment, is not less than that prescribed for appointment as a District Judge.
 - (ii) he has been a Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court.
12. On receipt of applications received from Advocates-on-Record / Advocates or proposals received from Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court, the Secretariat will compile the relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct, integrity of the advocate(s) concerned including his/her participation in pro bono work, judgments (reported and unreported) in which the advocate(s) concerned had appeared, the number of such judgments for the last five years.
13. The data as referred to in para 12 above will be sought and collected by the Secretariat from the source(s), as may be decided by the Committee.
14. The Secretariat will publish the proposal of designation of a particular Advocate in the official website of the Court inviting the suggestions/views of other stakeholders in the proposed designation.
15. At least 15 days' time shall be given to other stakeholders to give their suggestions/views in the proposed designation.
16. After the database in terms of Para 12 and 14 is compiled by the Secretariat, and all such information as may be specifically directed by the Committee to be obtained in respect of any particular candidate is collected, the Secretariat shall put up the case before the Committee for scrutiny.
17. The Committee will examine each case in the light of the data



provided by the Secretariat, interview / interact the Advocate concerned and make its overall assessment on the basis of a point based format indicated below:

Sl. No.	Matter	Points
1.	Number of years of practice of the applicant advocate from the date of enrolment. [10 points for 10-20 years of practice; 20 points for practice beyond 20 years]	20 points
2.	Judgments (reported and unreported) which indicate the legal formulations advanced by the advocate concerned in the course of the proceedings of the case; pro bono work done by the advocate concerned; domain expertise of the applicant advocate in various branches of law, such as Constitutional law, Inter-State Water Disputes, Criminal law, Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human Rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women, etc.	40 points
3.	Publications by the applicant advocate	15 points
4.	Test of personality and suitability on the basis of interview/interaction	25 points

18. All the names that are listed before the Committee / cleared by the Committee will go to the Full Court.
19. The cases of retired Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts will straightaway go to the Full Court.
20. Voting by Secret Ballot will not normally be resorted to by the Full Court except when unavoidable. In the event of resort to Secret Ballot, decisions will be carried by a majority of the Judges who would choose to exercise their preference / choice.
21. All cases which may not be favourably considered by the Full Court shall be reviewed/reconsidered after expiry of a period of two years following the manner indicated above as if the proposal is being considered afresh.
22. All cases which may be deferred by the Committee for being designated as Senior Advocate shall not be considered until expiry of one year from the date of deferment.
23. Retired Chief Justices/Judges of the High Courts, who have accepted any full time assignment, will not be considered for

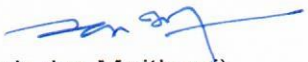
designation as Senior Advocates as long as they hold such assignment.

24. The final decision of the Full Court will be communicated to the applicants, individually.
25. In the event a Senior Advocate is found guilty of conduct which according to the Full Court disentitles the Senior Advocate concerned to continue to be worthy of the designation, the Full Court may review its decision to designate the person concerned and recall the same.


Provided that the Full Court would give an opportunity of hearing to the person concerned before any action is taken against him/her.

26. All the questions relating to interpretation/application of these Guidelines, shall be referred to the Chief Justice, whose decision thereon shall be final.

By Order,


(Ravindra Maithani)
Secretary General

Copy to:-

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1. DRs/ARs-cum-PPS/PS to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court
 2. PS to Shri K.K. Venugopal, Attorney General for India & Member, Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates.
 3. PS to Shri Soli J. Sorabjee, Senior Advocate & Member, Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates.
 4. The Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association
 5. The Secretary, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association
 6. The Secretary, Bar Council of India
 7. The Secretaries of all State Bar Councils
 8. The Registrar Generals of all High Courts.
 9. Notice Board
 10. All concerned.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

NOTICE

F. No.16/CDSA/2018/1

New Delhi,
August 06, 2018

RE: DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES

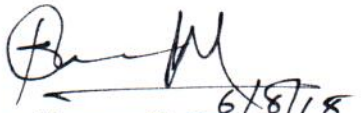
It is notified that in terms of the decision of a three-Judge Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (C) No.454 of 2015 [(2017) 9 SCC 766], Permanent Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India to deal with all matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India. The five-member Committee headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has been designated as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates". The Committee has framed Guidelines to regulate conferment of designation of Senior Advocates. These Guidelines are being published separately on the official website of the Supreme Court.

Applications seeking conferment of designation as Senior Advocates are accordingly invited from retired Chief Justices / Judges of High Courts and Advocates-on-Record / Advocates in the prescribed format. It is clarified that Advocates-on-Record / Advocates who have applied earlier and whose applications are pending consideration in the Registry of this Court should apply afresh in the prescribed format annexed hereto as Annexure-A. It is further clarified that retired Chief Justices / Judges of High Courts who have submitted applications prior to the date of publication of this Notice and the notification of the afore-mentioned Guidelines need not apply afresh. However, in future, retired Chief Justices / Judges of High



Courts should submit applications in the prescribed format annexed hereto as Annexure - 'J'.

Applications in the prescribed format i.e. Annexures - 'A' and 'J', addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, may be submitted in the Secretariat of the Committee latest by 4.30 p.m. on 21st August, 2018.


[Pardeep Kumar Shāarma]
REGISTRAR
COMMITTEE FOR DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association (with a request to place it on the Notice Board of SCBA)
2. The Secretary, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (with a request to place it on the Notice Board of AoR Association)
3. The Secretary, Bar Council of India
4. Notice Board
5. All concerned.

ANNEXURE-A

**APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER
FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE
[FOR ADVOCATES-ON-RECORD / ADVOCATES]**

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Recent Passport size photograph to be pasted here </div>			
1.	Name of the Applicant-Advocate: (Mr./Mrs./Ms.)		
2.	Father's Name		
3.	Date of Birth	Day/Month/Year	
4.	Age (as on 01.07.2018)	___ Years	
5.	Address in full:	(i) Office Address –	
		(ii) Residential Address -	
7.	Contact Details:	(i) Landline No. –	
		(ii) Mobile No. -	
		(iii) Email and social media accounts, if any	
10.	Educational / Professional Qualifications: (Mention award of prize, scholarship, fellowship or any other distinction.)		
11.	Date of Enrolment as Advocate		
12.	Bar Council, where registered		
13.	Standing as an Advocate as on 01.07.2018		
14.	Whether Member of Supreme Court Bar Association		
15.	Place/Courts where practicing: (Court-wise period may be indicated)	Courts	Duration
			From To

20.	Nature of practice – Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Service, etc.	
21.	Field of law in which Applicant has Specialization / Expertise (special knowledge or experience in law)	
22.	Number of Reported Judgments in matters in which appeared (List of citation to be provided)	
23.	Number of Un-reported Judgments in matters in which appeared (List of cases with relevant particulars to be provided)	
24.	Details of Pro bono work during last five years:	
25.	Whether held any position in Bar Council / Bar Association; if so, details thereof	
26.	Whether delivered any Lecture. If so, give details thereof	
27.	Whether the Applicant had applied earlier; if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.	
28.	Whether the Applicant has applied before any other High Court, if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.	
29.	Whether employed at any time either on part- time or full-time basis. If so, give status and period and the reasons for leaving.	
30.	Whether appointed as Receiver/Commissioner/ Observer/ Amicus Curiae in any case. If so, give full particulars thereof.	
31.	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against you; if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.	
32.	Whether party to any civil, criminal or other litigation. If so, the nature of involvement.	
33)	(a) Have you ever been arrested?	
	(b) Have you ever been prosecuted?	
	(c) Have you ever been kept under detention?	
	(d) Have you ever been bound down?	
	(e) Have you ever been fined by a Court of Law?	

	(f) Have you ever been convicted by a court of Law for any Offence?	
	(g) Have you ever been debarred from any examination or rusticated by any authority/institution?	
	(h) Have you ever been debarred / disqualified by any Public Commission/ Authority?	
	(i) Is any case pending against you in any Court of Law at the time of filling up this Form?	
	(ii) If the answer to any of the above-mentioned question is 'Yes' give full particulars of the case / arrest / detention / fine / conviction / sentence / punishment etc. and / or the nature of the case pending in the Court / authority or institution etc. at the time of filling up this form.	
43.	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against you before Bar Council of India or State Bar Council. If so, particulars thereof.	
44.	General state of health.	
45.	Any other information:	
	<p><u>DECLARATION:</u></p> <p>I _____ Advocate-on-Record / Advocate hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit from being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Signature of the Applicant]</p>	

Note: Applicants should read instructions attached herewith while filling up the Application-cum-Consent Letter.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED WHILE FILLING UP “APPLICATION-CUM-
CONSENT LETTER” FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE**

1.	Every Application-cum-Consent Letter, in the prescribed format shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-12) in double spacing on one side of the white paper (A4 Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.
2.	Documents accompanying the Application should be numbered consecutively in the Index, in all sets of Application.
3.	All documents annexed to the Application should be accompanied by an Index containing the details thereof. (The Registry, at any stage, may ask for the supportive documents for verification in the light of the facts mentioned in the Application).
4.	Name of the Applicant should tally with his/her name as mentioned in his/her enrolment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
5.	The Application should be presented in the shape of a Paper Book, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
6.	All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copy of their respective originals.
7.	40 sets of the Application in the form of Paper Book, identical in all respects, should be filed.
8	Passport size photograph (original) should be pasted on each copy of the Application-cum-Consent Letter.
9.	The Application should be accompanied by its soft copy in a searchable PDF format in a pen drive.

**APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER
FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE
[FOR RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICES/JUDGES OF HIGH COURT]**

Recent Passport size photograph to be pasted here		
1.	Name of the Applicant: (Mr./Mrs./Ms. Justice)	
2.	Father's Name	
3.	Date of Birth	Day/Month/Year
4.	Age (as on 01.07.2018)	___ Years
5.	Address in full:	
	(i) Office Address -	
	(ii) Residential Address -	
7.	Contact Details:	
	(i) Landline No. –	
	(ii) Mobile No. -	
	(iii) Email and social media accounts, if any	
10.	Date of Enrolment as Advocate / Resumption of practice	
11.	Bar Council, where registered	
12.	Whether Member of Supreme Court Bar Association	
13.	Field of law in which Applicant has Specialization / Expertise, (special knowledge or experience in law)	
14.	Number of Reported Judgments delivered as Judge/CJ of High Court (List of citation to be provided)	
15.	High Courts where served as Judge / Chief Justice	
16.	Total period served as Judge / Chief Justice of High Court	

17.	Date of elevation as Judge of High Court	
18.	Date of retirement as Judge / Chief Justice of High Court	
19.	Whether held any position ex-officio as sitting Judge of High Court	
20.	Whether held / accepted any post-retirement assignment. If so, give details thereof.	
21.	Whether engaged in any arbitration proceedings. If so, give details thereof.	
22.	Whether delivered any lecture. If so, give details thereof.	
23.	Whether applied for being designated as Senior Advocate earlier before the Supreme Court; if so, the status thereof	
24.	Whether applied for being designated as Senior Advocate before any other High Court. If so, the details thereof.	
25.	Whether party to any civil, criminal or other litigation, at present or in the past. If so, the nature of involvement.	
26.	Any other information:	
	<p><u>DECLARATION:</u></p> <p>I _____ hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p>The information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit from being designated as Senior Advocate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Signature of the Applicant]</p>	

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