



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

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

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Ms. Seema Patnaha
Ms. Nandani Gupta

SCBA/EC.2021-22/

Dated 08.06.2021

Dear Members,

Elevation of the lawyers practicing in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has always been a concern of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). In spite of having vast experience and exposure in dealing with all kinds of issues relating to civil, criminal, constitutional, commercial law, etc., the lawyers practicing in the Supreme Court are rarely considered for elevation by the High Court collegium as they do not regularly practice before the High Court and while being professionally more meritorious than their colleagues at the High Court, lose the opportunity for being considered as such.

In view thereof, on 31.05.2021 the undersigned, on behalf of the Executive Committee of SCBA made a representation to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India (CJI) putting across the concern of the members of SCBA with regard to their elevation to the High Courts in India, and further, suggesting a transparent mechanism in order to institutionalise the said appointment which will also help in filling up of large number of vacancies in the High Courts. It was also emphasized that there are large number of lady advocates practicing in Supreme Court who are to be considered for elevation and the High Courts do not recommend lady advocates on the plea that there are not enough lady lawyers fit for elevation.

The undersigned is pleased to inform you that the Honble CJI has agreed to the request made by SCBA and has requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts to consider lawyers practicing in the Supreme Court for elevation to their High Courts. The Executive Committee of SCBA has constituted a "Search Committee" comprising the undersigned, Vice President and Senior Member Mrs. Mahalakshmi Pavani and four eminent members of the Bar namely Mr. Rakesh Dwivedi, Mr. Shekhar Naphade,



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Mr. Vijay Hansaria and Mr. V Giri to facilitate the process of elevation by identifying deserving and meritorious Supreme Court practitioners. The High Court Collegium may then consider such names alongwith the lawyers from the High Court Bar in order to choose the most deserving candidate amongst those available for elevation.

Friends, I sincerely believe that every lawyer practicing in India is a citizen of India and therefore should be fairly considered for elevation on the basis of merit alone, no matter where he/she practices. We are hopeful that immediate action in view of the large vacancies in the High Courts is taken.

I wish you the best of health and hope for the well-being and safety of your loved ones.

VIKAS SINGH
President