



THE ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION, BENGALURU (Regd.)

VIVEK SUBBA REDDY

President

H. V. PRAVEEN GOWDA

General Secretary

GIRISH KUMAR C. S.

Vice President

SHWETHA RAVISHANKAR

Treasurer

Date . 28-01-2026

To:-

HON'BLE MR JUSTICE VIBHU BAKHRU

The Chief Justice of Karnataka
Bangalore.

Dear sir,

The bar notes with deep anxiety that in the recent proposals of elevation of Judges from Karnataka from the 2/3rd 's bar quota there is no opportunity given to LAWYERS from the other or most educationally, economically and backward classes (OBCs) background captioned as BCM – A. It is seen that Out of proposed 10 appointments not even one is from OBCS / BCM - A.

Representation to all sections of society in appointments both to the bench and other positions is a core and basic virtue under our constitution. Today in Karnataka High court there are only 2 to 3 OBC / BCM -A Judges out of 38 Karnataka judge's strength without taking into account Judges who have been transferred from outside Karnataka. This is about 5 to 7 percent of representation of OBC S IN KARNATAKA JUDICIARY while their population exceeds 25 percent in the state.

One is constrained to ask why the Karnataka High Court collegium has ignored such an important statistical data touching upon the gross under representation of OBC S /

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BCM - A as Judges in Karnataka high court. Under the constitution of India equal representation to OBC S is a non-comprisable mandate under Article 15 and 16.

Any effort to balance this gross under representation of OBC s by bringing Judges from the 1/3rd District Judges quota may not be right as the two are separate and the bar quota operates by equal representation to all sections and District Judges quota operates by seniority being a major consideration. Thus, the two cannot be equated.

We are further hopeful that the collegium of Karnataka High Court consisting of eminent and public-spirited Judges will not allow the under representation to go uncorrected. This said we are also surprised that the collegium could not get two highly competitive candidates from the OBC CATEGORY from amongst the huge talent pool available amongst lawyers in this category. Trying to get this shortfall from the Judges quota will attract the problem of lack of representation and lack of opportunity to most educationally, economically and backward OBC's in the bar quota , that is for OBC lawyers, which is a separate head and entity.

Equal representation to all is not a formulation of recent times. It has become a constitutional guarantee since decades and is enforced by the judiciary without compromise on all institutions of state and centre. But when it comes to itself the collegium system must adopt the same.

One is reminded of an instance in history which emerged in a totally different context but illustrates the enduring commitment to equality. This was when Martin Luther king



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in his famous "I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH" - spoke of the promissory note of equality given by the American constitution and American constitutional cheque of Equality having bounced marked as insufficient funds. Though this is in a different context and we in India are far advanced and protected under our constitution in so far as equality is concerned, thanks to our courts, yet It's a Clarion call that commitment to Equality and freedom under the constitution must be unyielding come what may.

In view of the above We request that the record of under representation of OBC/ BCM - A most backward communities in high court be set right and two additional candidates from OBC S / BCM -A under the Bar quota be recommended in addition to the existing list to bring much needed parity and equality in representation to most educationally, economically and backward classes in the Karnataka judiciary.

THANKING YOU

Vivek Subba Reddy
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