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BAR COUNCIL OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA

Law Bhawan, Dakshin Marg Sec.37-A, Chandigarh Pin.160036

Ref.No./ 2697/2-25

Dated: 08-08-25

To

Sh. Gagandeep Jammu, Honorary Secretary
Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association, Chandigarh

Sub: Copy of order dated 07.08.2025 passed by Privilege Committee of Bar
Council of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh.

Sir,

The matter is pending before the Privilege Committee for enquiry
against these Advocates

1. Sh. J.K.Singla, Advocate,
2. Sh. Sidharth Bhardwaj, Advocate
3. Sh. Aditya Aggarwal, Advocate
4. Sh. Gagandeep Singh, Advocate
5. Sh. Anmol Chandan, Advocate
6. Sh. Baljeet Beniwal, Advocate
7. Sh. Harsh Sharma, Advocate
8. Sh. Sauhard Singh, Advocate
9. Sh. Rupender Singh, Advocate
10. Sh. Ankit Yadav, Advocate
11. Sh. Ashim Singla, Advocate
12. Sh. Aakash Sharma, Advocate
13. Ms. Bindu, Advocate
14. Sh. APS Shergil, Advocate
15. Sh. Rakesh Nehra, Senior Advocate
16. Sh. Puneet Bali, Senior Advocate

and to request you to serve the enclosed notice upon these Advocates, through
the process agency as the Advocates are practicing at Punjab & Haryana High
Court Chandigarh.

The copy of service report may please be sent to this office on or before the
date fixed in the case i.e. on 16.08.2025 at 3:00 PM.

Thanking you.




Additional Secretary



BAR COUNCIL OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA

Law Bhawan, Dakshin Marg Sec.37-A, Chandigarh Pin.160036

Ref.No./

2681 to 2696/2025

Dated: 08-08-2025

To

1. Sh. J.K.Singla, Advocate
2. Sh. Sidharth Bhardwaj, Advocate
3. Sh. Aditya Aggarwal, Advocate
4. Sh. Gagandeep Singh, Advocate
5. Sh. Anmol Chandan, Advocate
6. Sh. Baljeet Beniwal, Advocate
7. Sh. Harsh Sharma, Advocate
8. Sh. Sauhard Singh, Advocate
9. Sh. Rupender Singh, Advocate
10. Sh. Ankit Yadav, Advocate
11. Sh. Ashim Singla, Advocate
12. Sh. Aakash Sharma, Advocate
13. Ms. Bindu, Advocate
14. Sh. APS Shergil, Advocate
15. Sh. Rakesh Nehra, Senior Advocate
16. Sh. Puneet Bali, Senior Advocate

Sub: To appear before the Privilege Committee on 16.08.2025 at 3.00 PM along with reply.

I am sending herewith a copy of order dated 07.08.2025 passed by the Privilege Committee of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana in which you are directed to come present before the committee .

Therefore you are directed Privilege Committee to appear on 16.08.2025 at 3.00 PM alongwith reply in the office of the Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh, failing which appropriate action will be taken as per rules.



Additional Secretary

**BEFORE THE PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE, BAR COUNCIL OF
PUNJAB & HARYANA, CHANDIGARH**

**ORDER
07.08.2025**

The present matter was placed before this Committee following the direction of the Hon'ble Chairman, BCPH, vide order dated 04.08.2025, and further brought before the Chairman of the Committee, Sh. Raj Kumar Chauhan. The matter was accordingly scheduled to be placed before the Committee for today by order dated 04.08.2025 passed by Sh. Raj Kumar Chauhan, Chairman of the Privilege Committee. The matter was taken up today as per the agenda issued at 3:00 PM by the officials of the Bar Council.

The matter has been placed before the Committee along with the relevant records in **CRM-M-19843-2025 titled as Roop Bansal Vs. State of Haryana**, including the order of the Hon'ble High Court and news published in the electronic and print media. The documents placed before us are prima facie pointing towards the attempt to manipulate the Bench Assignment process of the Hon'ble High Court. The sole objective of placing this matter, suo moto, before the Committee is to uphold the dignity of the legal profession, ensure the maintenance of legal ethics, and discharge the responsibilities entrusted under the law.

In the battle of justice and injustice and in between the righteous and wrong, in Mahabharata, the silence of Bhishma and Drona in the Court of Hastinapur, during Daropati's humiliation, reveals a timeless truth—when those trained in law and morality remain silent in the face of injustice, the law itself collapses.

Before passing any order, this Committee is fully conscious of the fact that “the legal profession is not merely a career—it is a calling that demands unshakable integrity, moral courage, and devotion to the cause of justice. A lawyer is not just an advocate for their client, but a guardian of the rule of law and an agent of constitutional morality. The nobility of this profession lies not in its prestige, but in the purity of the purpose it serves.”

As Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most ethical lawyers in history, once said: “A true lawyer is one who places truth and service in the first place and the emoluments in the second.”

The legal profession is founded on honesty, confidentiality, dignity, fairness, and the fearless pursuit of justice. Without these, the law becomes a tool of oppression rather than liberation.



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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, architect of the Indian Constitution and a trained lawyer himself emphasized that "lawyers are not merely professionals; they are custodians of justice. They must be social reformers and moral leaders."

Roscoe Pound, a renowned American jurist, rightly stated: "Law is experience developed by reason and applied continually to further the ends of justice. Lawyers must interpret law not as technicians, but as moral agents who save justice through ethical action."

Upon reviewing the record, the order passed by the Hon'ble High Court, and the contents of the news reports published under headlines such as, in The Indian EXPRESS, written: *"Reassigned Case: Chief Justice Nagu hints at 'Bench Shopping', says Bar being destroyed"*-this Committee observes that a very serious matter has arisen. The Indian Express also reported *"Bench asked builder's team to present advocate who filed the fresh plea in the matter 'just to get the case out of a particular Bench'* which clearly hints at attempts to manipulate the bench assignment process.

These comments from the Hon'ble High Court and related media reports are alarming for the legal profession. They call into question the dignity and ethical standards of our profession. This Committee, recognizing the exceptional nature of this matter, is fully conscious of its duty. *We are reminded of the Mahabharata, where the silence of wise men in Dhuryodhana's court led to the disrobing of Draupati. This serves as a grim reminder that silence and inaction in the face of injustice enable further injustice.*

The Court is treated as the Temple of Justice. Any attempt to subvert it—motivated by greed or manipulation—must be addressed with utmost seriousness. *Echoing Mahatma Gandhi again: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. For a lawyer, the highest form of service is the pursuit of justice with courage, truth, and Dharma."*

This Committee is of the prima facie view that there appears to be foul play on the part of certain advocates who appeared on behalf of Roop Bansal, a prominent real estate builder and it appears, these advocates may have manipulated procedural rules for convenience and gain.

Therefore, while exercising the power under Section 6 (c) & (d) of the Advocates Act, 1961, this Committee directs issuance of notices to the following advocates to appear in person or through counsel to explain their actions and conduct:



• Advocate J.K. Singla

• Advocate Sidharth Bhardwaj

• Advocate Aditya Aggarwal

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- Advocate Gagandeep Singh
- Advocate Anmol Chandan
- Advocate Baljeet Beniwal
- Advocate Harsh Sharma
- Advocate Sauhard Singh
- Advocate Rupender Singh
- Advocate Ankit Yadav
- Advocate Ashim Singla
- Advocate Aakash Sharma
- Advocate Ms. Bindu
- Advocate APS Shergil
- Senior Advocate Rakesh Nehra
- Senior Advocate Puneet Bali

All of whom are said to have appeared or filed petition on behalf of Roop Bansal.

The Committee views with seriousness the allegation that certain lawyers, possibly acting for financial benefit, may have contributed to tarnishing the image of the legal profession. Such conduct amounts to an invasion of the Temple of Justice, reminiscent of historical desecration like the invasions on Somnath Temple in the 11th century.

This Committee, while issuing these notices, acknowledges the complexity of tactics such as Bench Hunting or Bar Hunting or Forum Shopping allegedly adopted by some lawyers and businessmen for ulterior motives. We are not unaware of the heat this may generate, particularly among senior members of the Bar, but for the sake of the dignity of the profession and justice itself, this scrutiny is necessary.

Lord Denning, one of the greatest English Judges, wrote: "A lawyer who knows the law but ignores justice is a menace to society. Ethics must be the soul of advocacy—without it, even a skilled lawyer can become dangerous."

Justice Louis Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court also warned: "The greatest menace to freedom is an inert people; the greatest threat to justice is a

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silent bar.” It is the duty of the legal professionals to speak, resist, and act against every form of injustice.

And Jereim Benthem, Father of legal positivism, warned: “Lawyers are the only persons in whom ignorance of law is not punished,—this power demands responsibility—ethical practice is not optional, it is indispensable.”

There is no doubt that the Indian Judiciary are among the top most judiciary of the world and the judges in India are doing their jobs to uphold the constitutional values and doing their duties without any fear and pressure and the same is here in this case. The judiciary tried their levels best to uphold the dignity and ethics of the Indian Judicial System and also discourage the unethical practice.

But on the other hand, it appears, on the part of the lawyers, some of the lawyers tried their level best to steal the justice and adopted unethical means for getting favorable order.

In India the common people knock the door of the Court with the help of the noble advocates, and here in this matter Roop Bansal tried to break the door of the Court with the help of some ingenious mind advocates, the matter pertaining to the M3M and Roop Bansal need to be watched carefully which are pending before the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court and the Bar Council cannot sit ideal to become a mere spectators and it is the duty of the Bar Council to protect the dignity and ethics, hence, the worthy Chairman took this matter as suo moto and entrusted this matter before this Committee. And it is the duty of the Committee to trace out the rotten apple/apples from the basket, before the all got rotten.

After going through the records, it is very painful and disturbing for the Committee to discuss here that, how tactfully, systematically and in an organized manner, some of the advocates made efforts to hunt the Bench.

From the records, prima facie it appears that Sh. J.K. Singla, Advocate have orchestrated the game plan. But it is highly unbelievable, that this can be done singularly, rather it has been done in an organized manner and there might be some big ingenious mind advocates behind the curtains, which has to be unearthed.

In conclusion, this Committee holds that legal ethics are not optional. They are sacred. Upholding the dignity of this noble profession requires moral courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to truth.

Accordingly, in order to fairly decide whether the above-mentioned advocates have indulged at any stage in Bench Hunting or Forum Shopping, this Committee is of the view that notices be issued to them to appear before the

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Committee in person or through their counsels to explain their acts and conduct on 16.08.2025 at 3:00 PM, so as to enable the Committee to adjudicate the present matter in its entirety. This Committee is also of the considered view that it is necessary at this stage to seek responses from Senior Advocates Sh. Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Sh. Mukul Rohatgi, in order to fairly and comprehensively adjudicate the matter in hand.

The matter be put up before the Committee on 16.08.2025 at 3:00 PM. Let the notices be issued to the following advocates through Sh. Gagandeep Jammu, Honorary Secretary of Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Associations, Chandigarh:

- Advocate J.K. Singla
- Advocate Sidharth Bhardwaj
- Advocate Aditya Aggarwal
- Advocate Gagandeep Singh
- Advocate Anmol Chandan
- Advocate Baljeet Beniwal
- Advocate Harsh Sharma
- Advocate Sauhard Singh
- Advocate Rupender Singh
- Advocate Ankit Yadav
- Advocate Ashim Singla
- Advocate Aakash Sharma
- Advocate Ms. Bindu
- Advocate APS Shergil
- Senior Advocate Rakesh Nehra
- Senior Advocate Puneet Bali

Privilege Committee, BCPH

Dated: 07.08.2025

-Scl-
Chairman

(Raj Kumar Chauhaan)

-Scl-
Member

(Ajay Chaudhary)

-Scl-
Member

(Amit Rana)

-Scl-
Member

(Harpreet Singh Multani)

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Note: This Committee is also of the view that for the fair inquiry and to look into the unethical measures adopted by some of the advocates, let the information/complaints/any kind of material, if any be taken from the advocates and the affected persons, if any. The information be received/called on the e-mail privilegecommitteebcph@gmail.com and on the official WhatsApp Number of BCPH: 77400-03408.

Privilege Committee, BCPH

Dated: 07.08.2025

-Sd-
Chairman

(Raj Kumar Chauhaan)

-Sd-
Member

(Ajay Chaudhary)

-Sd-
Member

(Amit Rana)

-Sd-
Member
(Harpreet Singh Multani)

