



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

SHER SHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003 TELEPHONES : 011-2338-5562, 2338-5943

14.3.2008

REFERENCE

Hon'ble The Chief Justice Dr. M.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Judges, Sh. P.P. Malhotra, ASG, Standing Counsels, Delhi Government & Central Government, Senior Advocates, Sh. D.K. Sharma, Secretary and other members of the executive of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, fellow members, members of the family of Late Sh.Surinder Nath Bhandari, ladies and gentleman.

We have assembled today to mourn the sad demise of Sh.Surinder Nath Bhandari, a Senior Advocate of this Court. He was widely admired in the Bar as an Expert on Labour and Industrial Laws. He was a person with soft and polite temperament. He was always very supportive to the younger members of the Bar who would often consult him in his field of specialization.

He was born and brought up at Patiala in Punjab, where he did his schooling, completed his graduation from Faculty of Arts, Punjab University. He did his LL.B. from University of Delhi in the year 1953, but did not immediately get himself enrolled as an Advocate. He first joined Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, during which period he did a special course on Companies law from Delhi University. However, Labour Laws was the subject closest to his heart. In 1960, he joined "Labour Laws Section" of Punjab and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and dealt with matters relating to Industrial Laws until 1962. Thereafter in 1963, he eventually arrived at a place where he actually belonged by getting enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi and joined the legal profession. He was a man with photographic memory, sharp mind and forensic skills. The legend goes that once he read a judgment, he would remember the entire gist of the judgment by heart. In his preparation of briefs, he was meticulous. He was a person, who maintained moral and professional ethics and etiquettes, which was well reflected from his conduct. Even though, initially, he used to appear on behalf of the workmen, but later on he took a decision to exclusively appear for the management alone, whereafter he stuck to his decision. He used to work 365 days,



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unmindful of the intervening holidays. He had acquired an all India fame in the domain of Industrial Laws and was the Master on the subject and used to appear in his court as also the Supreme Court of India, in matters of interpretation of labour laws. He was proud of the fact that he was designated suo-moto and he took it as a responsibility to vindicate the trust reposed by the Hon'ble Court by such designation. He brought the dignity, honour and grace to the profession, to be quoted and remembered.

In his demise, we not only have suffered loss of a legend in the legal profession but also a loss to the institution as a whole.

He is survived by his wife and two sons. One of his sons is in the legal profession, following his footsteps, while the other is working as a liaison officer.

The greatest tribute that can be paid to him is to follow his footsteps, and work with sincerity and passion. I, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the office bearers and members of Delhi High Court Bar Association express condolence to the bereaved family. We pray to God that his soul rests in peace.

(K.C. Miittal)
President

Dated: