

Hon'ble Justice Sikri, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, my esteemed brother and sister Judges, Mr. A.S. Chandhiok, Additional Solicitor General and President, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Kirti Uppal, Vice-President, Delhi Court Bar Association, Mr. D. K. Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Rakesh Tikku, President, Bar Council of Delhi, Office bearers of the other Bar Associations, Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am indeed touched by the kind words spoken about me. Please accept my gratitude for the same.

I took charge as Civil Judge in December, 1974. From the bottom rung of the judicial hierarchy to being a Judge of Delhi High Court has been a long and eventful journey. Through these 37 years, I have sifted through many jurisdictions. As I demit charge as a Judge of this August Court, I feel humbled by the experience of being a witness to human travails from the High Chair.

Many believe that being a Judge is an easy task – a common misconception. With the Chair, comes a huge

responsibility – responsibility to be fair in your assessment, to be honed in your skills, to be robust in your sense of equity and to be strong enough to find balance between your morals and law. Sometimes you feel adequate to the task. But with every judgment you sign, comes a sliver of doubt – have I been fair? Was I just? Did I do right?

On the eve of my retirement, I once again wonder whether I have been able to discharge my duties as a Judge during all these years successfully and whether I have been able to justify the oath which I took while assuming the responsibility – initially as a Judge of subordinate courts and later as a Judge of High Court of Delhi.

While I believe that I have acted as a Judge without fear or favour, I leave it to the Bar and more importantly to the litigants to judge my performance. If I have failed in any manner, it is because of my own faults. If I have succeeded, then the credit also goes to the able assistance and support of the members of

the Bar, my support staff and the members of the Registry, for which I am extremely thankful.

In the end, I would like to put on record, that through the years I have been the beneficiary of the love, affection and unwavering support of my peers - which love and support I am sure will continue. I thank them once again and wish them all the very best. I would also like to thank my wife and my children, for always believing in me.

Please do not take this as a goodbye from me as I am only demitting the office and not parting company. Thank you all once again.
