

My brother and sister Judges, Mr.P.P.Malhotra, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr.K.C.Mittal, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association, other Office Bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Learned Standing Counsel for the Central Government and NCT of Delhi, Learned Members of the Bar, Mr.Justice N.N.Goswamy, former Judge of this court, Members of the bereaved family, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to pay tribute to late Sh.P.C.Khanna, a senior member of the Bar, who breathed his last on 8<sup>th</sup> of this month.

After standing First in Delhi University in B.Com. from Sri Ram College of Commerce, Sh.P.C.Khanna graduated in law from Delhi University and was enrolled with the Bar in the year 1952. He was not only known for his exceptional qualities as a lawyer but was also known for his integrity, kind heartedness and the pro bono work. His complete dedication to work and zealous (**zel-uhs**) representation of

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his clients within the bounds of ethical rules soon enabled him to carve out a unique place for himself and establish a successful practice within a short span of time. In recognition of his merit, he was designated as a Senior Advocate in the year 1986.

P.C, as he was popularly called by those close to him, had a ready sense of humour and a store-house of anecdotes, jokes and witty quips.

Work was not only worship for him but was his religion and God. He was an avid believer in the philosophy of the Bhagvad Geeta and throughout his life followed the 'karma' theory. Shri Khanna was a great mentor and always guided youngsters to enter the legal profession by saying that "It is a very noble profession". He was very sensitive to the growing needs of the Bar and it was well known that if a younger member of the Bar asked for his opinion on any legal issue, he would go all out to assist him or her.

On account of his very amiable nature and cool temperament in the court, Sh.Khanna was able to command respect of the court. He enjoyed doing pro bono work for the weak and the underprivileged

and was also a crusader of women's rights. He used to encourage women including his daughters to compete in this competitive advanced world by saying "Go for it. You can beat them all."

In his practice, Sh. Khanna also dealt with company matters wherein he contributed in reviving financially sick companies so that not only his clients were benefited but labour, bankers, financial institutions, shareholders, creditors and others interested in these companies could also be benefited. He has put in lot of efforts to ensure that management's internal disputes and bickerings did not result in loss of jobs to the workers or loss of money and life savings to the creditors and shareholders. I must say, that with his death, legal fraternity has lost a great jurist and a humanitarian.

During the course of his career, Shri Khanna made important contributions in the development and interpretation of law and the law reports, particularly 'Company Cases' bear out the testimony of his scholarship and erudition.

Shri Khanna is survived by his wife, two daughters, namely, Justice Reva Khetrapal, a member of this Bench and Mrs. Ruchi Sindhwani, Advocate and also his son Sh. Rajiv Khanna, Advocate,

practicing in New York, who I am sure will do their best to live by his exalted principles. We send our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray that the Almighty bestow them with the strength to bear this irretrievable loss.

May I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of late Sh.P. C. Khanna.

(Mukundakam Sharma)  
Chief Justice

16.1.2008

(The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by Hon'ble the Chief Justice as under)

**“As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the Court is adjourned for the rest of the day”.**