

**OBITUARY REFERENCE BY MS. MUKTA GUPTA,**  
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Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Ld. Addl. Solicitor General, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association and esteemed friends.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Destiny has snatched from us our old guard, a freedom fighter, a messiah of the poor and the down trodden. The great grand father of the legal fraternity Bawa Shiv Charan Singh Ji is no more with us, to guide us and to steer us. A doyen of laws, whether it was commercial, labour, criminal or any branch of civil law, Bawa ji conducted each case with the master acumen he possessed.

Born on 01/01/1918 Bawaji had his education at Lahore and topped in LLB examination in the whole of Punjab University at Lahore in 1940, where after he joined the bar practicing both Civil and Criminal laws in the district court at Lahore. To struggle for the freedom of the country was the goal of his life. As a freedom fighter he actively participated in the freedom movement, which was at its peak in those days. The freedom fighter in him took him to jail and faced solitary confinement in connection with the escape of Netaji Subash Chander Bose from India. Not only did he fight for freedom he also fought for the freedom fighters by defending them in their trials.

A front runner for communal harmony Bawaji organized various peace committees to prevent communal riots then prevalent due to the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the imperialist government. The partition of the country forced Bawaji to migrate to Delhi like millions of other countrymen, where he started afresh the legal profession in the district courts.


Our national leaders Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and Maulana Hafizur Rehman well recognized the caliber of Bawaji and he was engaged as a counsel for Jamiat Ulema Hind. He ably fought the causes for minority. Bawaji has been actively associated with Congress party, Naujawan Bharat Sabha, Communist party of India, besides other social organizations set up for the welfare of the people on progressive thinking.

A pioneer of the free legal aid in the country, Bawaji was appointed as an Amicus Curie in 1951 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to defend those cases where the poor litigants could not engage private counsels. A Senior Advocate of this Hon'ble court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Bawaji conducted cases in all spheres of the civil laws till the 89<sup>th</sup> year of his life actively. The loss of a great man like Bawaji is unbearable and irreparable to the bar and bench.

I pray to the Almighty to bestow enough courage and strength to the bereaved family including his wife Smt Sumitra Bhalla, Advocate to bear the loss.

May I request my Lord Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice to convey the heart felt condolence to the bereaved family on behalf of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, on behalf of my colleagues representing Government of Delhi and on my own behalf.

20<sup>th</sup> April, 2006

  
(MUKTA GUPTA)  
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