



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE BY K.C. MITTAL PRESIDENT HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, DELHI TO PAY HOMAGE TO SH.P.C. KHANNA, SENIOR ADVOCATE.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Dr. M.K. Sharma, Hon'ble Judges, Sh. P.P. Malhotra, Ld. ASG, Senior Advocates, Standing Counsels, Central Government and Delhi Government, family members of Late Sh. P.C. Khanna, fellow members, ladies and gentleman.

We have assembled today to pay our tributes to Sh. P.C. Khanna, a Senior Advocate of this Court, who can aptly be described as a stalwart and pillar of the Bar, who dedicated 55 years of his life to the legal profession till he breathed his last on 8th January, 2008. His death has caused a vacuum, which can never be possibly filled. He would be missed everyday as his word of wisdom and advice to peers and co-professionals would not be available. Sh. P.C. Khanna's contribution to the profession is well known and his affection for and commitment to the profession shall ever remain a learning lesson for all of us.

The words of Sh. Rajeev Khanna, his son, about his father, that he "lived on his own terms and died on his own terms", has a special significance, since Sh. P.C. Khanna desired to breath his last in harness in his chair and chamber, where he devoted his valuable years of practice, rather than in the hospital.

A second generation lawyer hailing from a Zamindar family in West Pakistan, Sh. P.C. Khanna made substantial contributions to the Bar as also the judiciary as an officer of the Court. He not only trained his juniors but took it as his pious obligation.

He was always more than keen in giving a helping hand to the younger members of the Bar. He always believed that the society needs good professionals with right values and right work culture. His acumen and expertise has been well recognized and he created his niche in the High Court, more particularly in company matters. Indeed it would not be exaggeration to say that very few are blessed with such rare versatility as Sh. P.C. Khanna, as the adage goes, he was the chip of the old bloc. His father, Late Sh. A.N. Khanna, too was an advocate. He authored several books and was also the Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Law Reports since its inception till his death in 1979.

Contd.....P/2



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

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

- :: 2 :: -

Interestingly, Sh. P.C. Khanna, who initially took up journalism as a profession, switched over to the legal profession. We are proud of Sh. P.C. Khanna for the reason that jurists like Late Justice M.K. Chawla, Justice S.S. Chadha and Sh. P.N. Lekhi, who are institutions in their own rights, were initially nurtured and trained by him. Sh. P.N. Lekhi describes Sh. P.C. Khanna as a kind-hearted senior and a very humble personality.

His contribution to the Institution would be ever remembered; as an officer of the Court, he brought glories to the profession and to the Bar. One of the sitting Judges of this Court rightly described the Bench and the Bar as the two eyes of a Bride, and for the ultimate growth of the institution, both have to work in tandem with each other. This is also a lesson that we learnt from late Sh. P.C. Khanna.

His principle did not focus the individuals but it reflects the Bar as an Institution, which is also important for the reason that as against the institution, the individuals are not relevant, but it is their collective contribution and performance, which is always recognized and goes a long way in building the institution. Individuals do perish but their contributions are always remembered. They serve as a beacon.

The Delhi High Court has the best of talents on either sides and we strive to make it a role model for the entire nation in matters of speedy disposal for which we all need to work upon.

Sh. P.C. Khanna is survived by his wife, his daughter, Justice Ms. Reva Khetrapal, a Judge of this Court, Son Rajiv Khanna, who is practicing in New York and has been the President of the Indo-U.S. Chamber of Commerce for the last several years, his daughter, Ruchi Sindhwani, who is the Additional Standing Counsel for the GNCT of Delhi, Son-in-law Sanjeev Sindhwani, who is also a practicing lawyer.

The Bar Association shares their grief and our heart-felt condolence goes out to Mrs. P.C. Khanna, as also to the entire bereaved family.

(K.C. Mittal)
President