

FAREWELL REFERENCE ON THE ELEVATION OF
HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SWATANTER KUMAR, AS
CHIEF JUSTICE, BOMBAY HIGH COURT.

Hon'ble Judges of Delhi High Court,
Hon'ble Justice Brother Swatanter Kumar and his
family members, Mr.P.P.Malhotra, Learned
Additional solicitor General of India,
Mr.A.S.Chandhiok, President of the Delhi High
Court Bar Association, learned Members of the Bar
and Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today, we have assembled here to bid
farewell to dear brother Justice Swatanter Kumar
who is proceeding to an exalted position of the
Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. While
the occasion definitely calls for celebration, in
that brother Swatanter Kumar is moving forward in
his judicial career and is being elevated, it is
but natural to be nostalgic about the moments we
have shared together with him during the last
several years.

Justice Swatanter Kumar had joined the Bar at a young age of 23 years. As you all know, his ~~family~~^{former also} belonged to judicial fraternity. He is the son of a former reputed Judge of this High Court, late Justice Om Parkash, who was elevated in May 1967. Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar established a lucrative practice, but chose to join Judicial Service in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The lawyer within him was not satiated. He resigned from the Judicial Service in 1983, and resumed practice in Delhi. As a result of his legal acumen and utmost commitment to the profession, he rose in eminence as a legal luminary. Because of his legal acumen, he was invited to adorn the Bench of the High Court. He became a Judge of this Court in 1994. He was transferred shortly thereafter to Punjab and Haryana High Court but returned to this Court in the year 2004. His tenure as a Judge of the High Court, both at Delhi and Chandigarh, has seen rise from strength to strength. He has acquitted himself as a Judge of sterling qualities, firm yet humane, in his approach. His contribution to the growth and development of law in general and

the Judicial Institution in particular, is immense.

Justice Swatanter Kumar has of late been actively associated with the activities of the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee as its Chairperson. His organizational skills, innovative approach and vision has taken the legal aid mechanism to new heights. With his assistance, we have been able to fine tune the training programme for Judicial Officers, both at the time of induction as well as in service.

His elevation to the exalted position of the Chief Justice of High Court of Bombay is a matter of special pride for us all of us. It is another feather in the cap of the Delhi High Court. He would be joining the select club of Judges from this Court who adorned that high office. We hope and pray that he would be able to carve out a place for himself in Bombay High Court, following the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors.

Though we are parting company for the present, I would like to assure dear brother Justice Swatanter Kumar on behalf of my brother and sister colleagues and on my behalf that he will always remain in our hearts and will be one amongst us. I am sure that in Bombay High Court also he will prove his worth and achieve many a milestone.

Thank you all.

(Mukundakam Sharma)
Chief Justice
28.3.2007