

**FAREWELL REFERENCE ON THE ELEVATION OF
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TIRATH SINGH THAKUR, AS
CHIEF JUSTICE, PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT**

My esteemed colleagues Justice Tirath Singh Thakur and other companion Judges, Mr. P. P. Malhotra, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. K. C. Mittal, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association, learned Members of the Bar, family members of Justice Thakur, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today, we have assembled here to bid farewell to dear brother Justice Tirath Singh Thakur, who will be taking over the high office of Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court.

An ancient Sanskrit Poet has compared human associations with the meetings of logs of wood in the stream of ocean. Logs of wood, says the Poet, meet in the current of the sea, move on together for some time, then separate and depart, each one in its own direction. Philosophically, the comparison may be sound, but,

emotionally, all human parting is essentially sad. As the Chinese proverb puts: "Deep is the water in the peach-blossom stream; deeper still is our hearts' feelings, when good friends are parting". At this hour of parting, our feeling is mixed. We feel sad as our esteemed brother Justice Thakur is leaving this Court but at the same time there is a feeling of joy on his elevation as Chief Justice.

Justice Thakur joined the Bar at the young age of 22 years. As you all know, he comes from a very well known family. His father late Shri D. D. Thakur was a Judge of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Governor of two States and also a leading senior advocate of Supreme Court of India and of this Court. Justice Thakur early in his career established a lucrative practice. He practiced mainly in High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in civil, criminal, constitutional, taxation and service matters. He was standing counsel for Income Tax Department, University of Jammu, Board of School Education and Reserve Bank of

India. He was also a nominated Member of the Law faculty of the University of Jammu. He was elected President of the Bar Association in the year 1986. Prior to his elevation as an additional Judge of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir on 16th February, 1994, in the year 1990 he was designated Senior Advocate. From that High Court, Justice Thakur was transferred to High Court of Karnataka in March 1994 and in September 1995, he was appointed as a permanent Judge. Justice Thakur joined this High Court in July 2004. He also held the office of Acting Chief Justice of this High Court for about a month.

Justice Thakur has also been holding the office of the Executive Chairman, Delhi Legal Services Authority since December, 2006. During his tenure as such he has been actively involved in organizing various legal aid programmes, seminars, workshops and lok adalats in Delhi. Under his able leadership, perceptive

organizational skills, innovative approach and vision the legal aid mechanism in Delhi has touched new heights.

The other thing which I would like to mention about Justice Thakur is that he is an accomplished public speaker not only in English, but in Hindi and Urdu as well. He loves to speak extempore and never makes any notes to serve as its memoire. During this short period, I had the pleasure of hearing him on a couple of occasions and I was immensely impressed by his command over the languages and understanding of the subject.

While the occasion definitely calls for celebration, it is but natural to be nostalgic about the moments we have shared together with him during his tenure as a Judge of this Court.

During the brief period that I have been at this court, I found working with Justice Thakur a pleasure. He exhibits a very humane approach to the issues brought before him. We know Justice Thakur as a man of letters -

suave, courteous, God-fearing and a humane Judge above all, a thorough gentleman.

His elevation to the exalted position of the Chief Justice of High Court of Punjab & Haryana is a matter of pride for all of us. I may add that he would be joining the select club of Judges from this Court who adorned the high office of the Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court. We hope and trust that he would be able to carve out a place for himself in Punjab & Haryana High Court, following the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors.

We heartily congratulate him and his family members on this joyous occasion and wish him all success and glory.

Though we are parting company for the present, I would like to assure dear brother Justice Thakur 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 Punjab & Haryana High

Court also he will prove his worth and achieve many a milestone.

Thank you all.

Chief Justice
08.08.2008

SEQUENCE OF PROGRAMME

1. Farewell address by Hon'ble the Chief Justice
2. Address by Mr. K. C. Mittal, President, DHC Bar Association
3. Address by Mr. P. P. Malhotra, Additional Solicitor General
4. Response of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur

In the end, it will be declared by Hon'ble the Chief

Justice as under:

(I declare the proceedings closed).