

FAREWELL SPEECH ON THE EVE OF RETIREMENT  
OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE V.K. SHALI

G. ROHINI  
CHIEF JUSTICE

Justice V.K. Shali

My esteemed brother and sister Judges,

Shri Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India

Shri K.K. Manan, Member, Special Committee, Bar Council of Delhi

Shri Rajeev Khosla, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Abhijat, Hony. Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsel (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Other Standing Counsels of the Central and State Govt

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association

Office Bearers of other District Bar Associations

Senior Advocates

Members of the Bar

Family members of Justice V.K. Shali

Ladies and Gentlemen

In less than two months, it is the third time that we have assembled here to bid farewell to yet another colleague of ours on the Bench.

Today, we are here to bid farewell to Justice V.K. Shali, a dignified and outstanding Judge of this court, who will be demitting office on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 after rendering distinguished service to this institution for more than eight years.

Born and brought up in Delhi, Justice Shali completed his Graduation and Post Graduation with first class from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi in 1976 and 1981 respectively.

Justice Shali also did various Post-Graduate Diplomas in varied specialised studies including Administrative Law, Constitutional Law and Parliamentary Studies as well as "Parliamentary Institutions and Procedure" with distinction from two of the paramount institutes in the field of Legal Studies - Indian Law Institute and Institute of Constitutional Law & Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi.

He enrolled as an advocate with Bar Council of Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1976 and practiced law. In the year 1979, Justice Shali appeared in the Delhi Judicial Services Examination and topped the exam.

Being in Judicial Service, Justice Shali had the occasion to deal with varied disciplines holding different statures such as Metropolitan Magistrate, Civil Judge, Additional Rent Controller, Deputy Registrar and Joint Registrar at the Central Administrative Tribunal. This period saw him turning into a great thinker capable of understanding and appreciating the finer points of law. During this period, his analytical skills were greatly strengthened and he had mastered the technique of critical analysis and appreciation of the fact situation in each case which later helped him in discharging his functions superbly as the Judge of the High Court.

However, Justice Shali resigned in March, 1991 from Judicial Service and resumed his practice at the Bar. He had extensively practiced in all branches of law. He was designated as Standing Counsel for the Union of India and also the NCT of Delhi and dealt with various matters arising under COFEPOSA, FERA, Customs, Excise etc. He was also the Standing Counsel for Northern Railways from 1993 to 1996. He had also represented various bodies like, DDA, Delhi Vidyut Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Metro Railway Corporation and MSTC. He had also been the Standing Counsel for the Syndicate Bank and Uco Bank.

Hard work, sound knowledge of law and legal acumen possessed by Justice Shali enabled him to develop a large practice.

In the initial years of practice, Justice Shali had also taught as part time Lecturer in Law Centre-II, University of Delhi from September, 1991 to May, 1994. He was also a part-time Law Reporter for the High Court for ILR Delhi series for a period of three years.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, Justice Shali was elevated as Additional Judge of this Court and was administered oath as permanent Judge on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010.

With a fairly long experience of more than three decades in the legal fraternity coupled with his pleasant manners, affability, kind nature and intellect, Justice Shali has immensely contributed to this Court with his unmatched dedication and hard work. He is well-known for the extremely courteous and patient hearing. He favoured none and feared none except his own conscience. What he knew so well is that law is above all and his duty is to uphold the dignity of law in all circumstances.

He evolved and emerged as a complete Judge capable of doing social justice and capable of applying legal principles with pragmatic approach.

The Law Reports bear ample testimony to the high standard of his learning and his keen sense of justice as well as the various types of work handled by him during his distinguished service of more than eight years to this Court. Many well-considered judgements have been rendered by him on various branches of law which profoundly reflect his eminence and excellence.

Judgments of Justice Shali are testimony to the fact that he decides according to law and as a pragmatic Judge and at the same time, adopts liberal attitude in dispensing justice to the underprivileged and vulnerable groups of the society.

Justice Shali has also rendered valuable contribution in the administration of this Court being a Member of the Medical Committee and Chairman of the BMCC, Dwarka Courts.

During my association with Justice Shali for a little more than two years, I found him to be a brilliant and a complete judge, a great visionary and above all, a fine human being.

Through his remarkable stint of eight years, Justice Shali is leaving indelible mark of a hard-working Judge of impeccable character.

I take this opportunity to wish Justice Shali on behalf of all my colleagues and on my behalf a long, happy and fulfilling life beyond Bench.