

Hon'ble the Chief Justice Justice G Rohini,

My brother and sister Judges,

Mr.Rajiv Mehra, Ld.Additional Solicitor General,

Mr.Rajiv Khosla, President, High Court Bar Association,

Mr.Ram Singh Chauhan, Chairman Bar Council of Delhi,

Mr.Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Mr.Abhijat, Secretary;

Other Executive members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,

Ld.District & Sessions Judge,

Standing Counsel of the Government of India and Government of NCT  
of Delhi,

Sr.Advocates,

Office Bearers of other District Bar Association,

Advocates, Law Researchers, ladies and gentlemen.

I am deeply moved by the sentiments and generous words expressed about me. I do not deserve what you have said about me. Please accept my gratitude for the same.

I have so much to say and to thank so many people but I do not know from where to start.

By the grace of god and good wishes of my family and friends I have been lucky to have this opportunity of serving the cause of justice. I believe that I have been able to discharge my duties as a Judge of this High Court and as a District Judge in my own humble way with excellent cooperation and unfailing courtesy of the members of the Bar and the colleagues at the Bench which I appreciate and gratefully acknowledge.

In my entire career as a Judge, I have always tried to give my best, out of my anxiety to ensure that injustice is not done. Every Judge, in my opinion, is accountable to the divine power for what he dispenses as a Judge. It is a sacred obligation and must be discharged with complete devotion and dedication.

The accountability of the judiciary is towards the Constitution and the preservation of the rule of the law, in this endeavour, lawyers and Judges stand together. They have to share the duty equally if the goal of justice has to be achieved.

At this juncture, several reminiscent (stimulating memories) thoughts have converged on.

I was born and brought up at Delhi. I did B.Sc. from Miranda House, Delhi University in the year 1973. Thereafter I did LL.B from Delhi

University. I practised as an Advocate in the Supreme Court/High Court and District Court for about 14 years. I got selected in the Delhi Higher Judicial Service and joined as an Additional District & Sessions Judge in 1992. I had the opportunity to preside over different courts. I was sent on deputation to the Delhi Government as a Law Secretary on 31.7.2003 where I remained for three years. The assignment was a distinctive experience. I had good experience of working there on administrative side. It was a matter of utmost satisfaction that I got cooperation of my colleagues at Delhi Government in making the vision of this court of providing modern facilities at the level of District Judiciary and chambers for lawyers at different District Court Complexes a reality.

I worked as Judge Incharge (Karkardooma Court). I was appointed as a District & Sessions Judge. I completely enjoyed my work wherever I was posted.

The bar of this court has made great contributions to bring fame to it. I am thankful to the entire fraternity of the advocates who always assisted the court in best possible manner. The quality of a judgement depends upon the standard of arguments advanced by the lawyers and specially when they employ their own creative point of view towards interpretation of statutes.

Lawyers and Judges stand together and work for a noble cause and share their duties equally. As a Judge, I tried my best to discharge my functions but it is ultimately for the members of the Bar and public to assess my contribution.

The Bar can rightly be called the real judge of the Judges. It is of utmost importance that a strong bar and bench work in tandem with each other for maintaining the sanctity of law and bringing prosperity to the nation.

Delhi always had a tradition of having extremely learned and efficient Bar. Lawyers of this court work extremely hard. It is this unique quality of our lawyers that has made Delhi High Court one of the premier High Courts in this country. The solidarity amongst the members of this Bar is very unique which I have never seen in any other profession.

I was successful in my endeavours because of constant cooperation and support from the Bar. I express my gratitude to each and every member of the Bar.

This court has been very fortunate to have excellent Chief Justice G Rohini who is a symbol of magnanimity, compassion, humility, firmness and wisdom. I express my gratitude to the Chief Justice.

I consider myself lucky to have been part of this court and having sat with eminent and learned Judges of this court and having heard leading lawyers of the country. I have gained a unique experience of life while remaining as a Judge of this court.

It has been aptly said "Dispensation of justice is an attribute of God, blessed are those on whom this assignment has fallen and even more so are

those who perform the assignment with pride, dignity and honour". The reason I have been able to fulfil my duties which the Almighty has bestowed upon me is because of love, respect and support from you all.

I express my gratitude to my brothers and sister Judges for the wonderful years I have spent with them. We have shared our joys and sorrows as a family. I have got whole-hearted cooperation from them. I will always cherish the time spent with them.

During all this period, my husband, my daughters Raavi and Cauveri have been my pillars of strength and have always supported me in fulfilling my responsibilities. My son-in-law Ajay Sondhi has also been very supportive to me and extends full cooperation to me in all respects. Without their unconditional support and adjustment, I would not have been in a position to discharge my duties effectively. My husband Raj has always guided me. I am also thankful to my other family members for being always with me during this period.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my late mother-in-law and late father in law, a senior IAS officer who encouraged me to continue with this profession after marriage and to go for Judicial service as a career option. I also express my gratitude to my late parents who encouraged me to study law. Without my mother's encouragement, support, guidance and prayers, it would not have been possible. She has not seen me reaching upto High Court. She

would have been the most happiest person had she seen me as a Judge of this court.

I am also thankful to my personal staff. I appreciate the assistance and support extended to me by each and every member of my staff. I am highly indebted to them all. I am also thankful to the officers & officials of Protocol branch, P&P branch and all officers and officials of the Registry of this court for their continued cooperation, honour, support and love.

I have been able to manage both the fronts i.e., home and the court. It was all due to strength given to me by Almighty. I am retiring with utmost satisfaction with no ill will against any one. Please forgive me if I have committed any fault. I wish all of you good health, prosperity in all spheres of life.

At this juncture I would like to say words of a famous writer which are "a smile is the shortest distance between two people", we met with a smile now we must part with a smile.

My sincere thanks to all those who have graced this occasion with their kind presence.

Thank you all.