

## **FAREWELL SPEECH**

Hon'ble Justice Manmohan, Acting Chief Justice, my esteemed brother and sister Judges.

Sh. Chetan Sharma, Ld. Addl. Solicitor General.

Sh. Surya Prakash Khatri, Chairman Bar Council of Delhi.

Sh. Mohit Mathur, President Delhi High Court Bar Association.

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

Sh. Sandeep Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Sh. Sanjay Lao, Ld. Standing Counsel for the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Sh. Santosh Tripathi, Ld. Standing Counsel for the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Office Bearers of other District Courts Bar Associations.

Sr. Advocates.

My Family Members

Other Learned Members of the Bar.

Officers and Staff of this Court

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply touched by the kind words spoken about me today and express my greatest gratitude to all. I am humbled to

see that so many of you are here and have considered my farewell worthy of your time. I have discharged my last day judicial function today which continued over a period of 24 years and now the time has come to take the blessings from all of you present here for myself and my family members.

I have been a practicing lawyer for 13 years, as a judicial officer for 24 years and in this long span of time of all the goodness that this profession has given me, the greatest of all is by far the people I have met along the way and the memories I have created right from my early days as a practicing lawyer to my last day as a Judge of this great institution.

My venture into the field of law was completely accidental as I always wanted to be an engineer but have no hesitation today to say that my entering into the legal profession was one of the most beautiful things to have ever happened to me.

Even after entering the profession, I have never thought or expected to be on this side of the dais but as the destiny would have it I got the opportunity and privilege to become a Judge. I have always had a very good relationship with the bar whether in the District Court or the High Court. The Bar has always supported and assisted me.

I do have the satisfaction that I discharged my duties in fear of God and to the solemn oath I had taken. I managed to do the work to my utmost satisfaction only because of the love and affection shown to me both by Senior Advocates and young members of the Bar who extended their invaluable assistance in the Court. I extend my wholehearted thanks to them.

I thank my family for always having my back. I pay my regards to my parents who have been watching me grow from heaven and have blessed me throughout.

My lovely wife Arti has been a pillar for me. She has always been there for me to comfort me in hard times and celebrate my wins. I am lucky to have Sukriti and Sanyukta as my daughters and Divyadeep as my son-in-law who all have been very supportive throughout.

I thank all my sister and brother judges, members of the Bar, staff of High Court and subordinate Courts for their unflinching support.

It is time to express my gratitude to all those who have assisted me in discharge of judicial function. I would like to thank my entire staff including my Private secretary, Senior Personal Assistants, Court Master, Assistant Court Master, Restorer, Usher,

Court attendants, PSO, Chauffeur and Law Researchers who all, have been very supportive.

I am also thankful to the Registry, Protocol, Accounts and other sections of this Court for their seamless support extended by them. I thank Sh. Kawaljeet Arora, Registrar General and Sh. Pawan Jain Registrar Vigilance. I also thank Sh. Ravinder Pahuja my childhood friend who retired last month as Registrar of this Court. I also thank Sh. Rajiv Taneja, Advocate also my childhood friend whom my grandmother asked to persuade me to join law and he persuaded me well.

MY SPECIAL THANKS TO JUSTICE SIDDARTH MRIDUAL & JUSTICE CHANDER SHEKHAR.

For the Greek philosopher Epicurus life was like a banquet and he maintained that a person who had eaten his fill should not begrudge the end of the meal but graciously push back his chair so that another may take his place at the table. I might yet find some way of sneaking into the kitchen for a midnight snack from the legal fridge, but the time has come for me to push back my judicial chair. I do not know who will take my place but I wish him or her bon appetite.

I am taking with me sweet memories which I shall always cherish.

Thank you all.