

**FULL COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE
OF SHRI K. L. ARORA, ADVOCATE OF THIS COURT**

My Lord Justice D P Wadhwa, My Lord Judges of this Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satpal, Shri P P Malhotra, learned A.S.G., Shri Chandhiok, President, office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Shri Ramesh Gupta, Chairman, Delhi Bar Council, Shri J R Midha, Standing Council of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing council (Criminal), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, members of the Bar, members of the bereaved family and ladies and gentlemen,

We have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Shri K.L. Arora, who breathed his last on 21st September 2006, at the age of over 94 years. I do not want to go into the history of his birth as all the other Speakers have mentioned that he was born on 15.12.1912 in "Pattoki", a small town in District Lahore (Now in Pakistan), how he rose as one of the giants in the legal profession after migrating to Delhi. After partition of the country, he started his career in Tis Hazari Courts and thereafter he became an established lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. Shri Arora practiced initially in almost all sides of law, however, he chose criminal law as his forte and when he chose that, he excelled in that branch of law. Apart from the cases, which have been mentioned, he handled cases of the Customs Department, Income Tax Department or other Departments and what role he played in the famous "Kissa Kursi Ka" case by his personal knowledge as Shri Arora was appearing for Shri Sanjay Gandhi in that matter and I appeared for Shri V C Shukla, other co-accused

in that case. When I was approached by Shri V C Shukla, I went to Shri K L Arora and told him, Sir, that I have not dealt with criminal case and this gentleman wanted me to argue the case on his behalf. It was late Shri Arora who said that as a lawyer you have to face challenges and if a client has got faith in you, then you must discharge your responsibility and if any difficulty you face, you come and seek my help. In my formative years of practice and without knowing him, it was a great gesture on the part of Shri Arora, who was a stalwart on the criminal side, for a member of the Bar, who had not practiced on the criminal side. Later on in the same litigation, Shri H R Bhardwaj was also introduced as a counsel for Shri V C Shukla. Shri Arora had an excellent reputation and was known for his honesty, integrity and fairness. He was always well-prepared with the brief, facts and law. He was a man with cool temperament and was courteous not only to the Courts but also to the opposite counsel. *Justice Vinod Jain*
Anty Chy 3-2

I think no other lawyer has produced legal luminaries as Shri K L Arora had done. We have Justice D.P. Wadhwa, late Justice Charanjit Talwar, Justice D.K. Jain, who is adorning the Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, late Justice M.K. Chawla, Justice Sat Pal, Shri P. P. Malhotra, Shri Kirt Mehta, Shri Harish Gulati, Shri Sunil Mehta, Shri Arvind Nigam, Shri Anil Kher, Shri B.R. Handa and Shri R.D. Jolly.

In the death of Sh. K.L. Arora, we have lost a stalwart and a fatherly figure of the legal fraternity. His death, undoubtedly, is a grievous loss to us all, and, in particular, to

the members of his family. If one word is apt only to describe Shri Arora, he was *humility personified*. He was sincere and the patron of the legal fraternity.

We send our condolences to the members of the bereaved family and wish them strength to bear this irretrievable loss. May God bestow peace to the departed soul.

I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of Shri K.L. Arora.

(VIJENDER JAIN)
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

29th September, 2006

(The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice as under):

"As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the Court is adjourned for the rest of the day."