

**FULL COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF
DR. L.M. SINGHVI, SENIOR ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT**

Hon'ble Judges of Delhi High Court;

Mr.P.P. Malhotra, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India;

Mr.A.S. Chandhiok, President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association; and
other office bearers of the High Court Bar Association;

Mrs. Singhvi, Dr.Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr.Advocate and all other
members of the family of late Dr. L.M. Singhvi;

Learned Members of the Bar including Sr.Advocates present here; and

Ladies & Gentlemen,

We have assembled here today to mourn the sad demise of Dr.L.M. Singhvi, who passed away on 06.10.2007 after a brief period of illness . Dr. Laxmi Mall Singhvi needs no introduction. We have all known him as a multi-faceted personality, an eminent lawyer, jurist, human rights activist, prolific author, statesman, linguist, litterateur and patron of art and culture, who became a legend during his lifetime. Born on 9th November, 1931 and after an excellent academic career, he chose law as his calling.

Dr. Singhvi was a distinguished member of the Bar who mastered the art of advocacy and in the process developed his own eloquent and persuasive style. He was one of the most revered Senior Advocates of the Supreme Court of India. Dr. Singhvi was elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association on more than one occasion and he was the founder President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Trust.

Dr. Singhvi is acknowledged world over as a constitutional law expert. He was associated with and consulted on drafting of the

Constitutions of Bangladesh, Nepal and South Africa. He advised the United Nations Development Programme on the sustaining and strengthening of democracy through rule of Law in the countries of the African Continent.

Dr. Singhvi was a distinguished and highly respected Parliamentarian endowed with skillful, eloquent and persuasive style. He was elected to the third Lok Sabha as an independent Member for 1962 to 1967 and then as a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1998 to 2004. As a Parliamentarian, he held many prominent positions with distinction.

Dr. Singhvi was an expert in public and private international Law. His excellence in the field of law and also as a jurist was recognised and he was honoured by prominent Universities like Harvard, Berkeley, Cambridge and Oxford. He was bestowed the honour of Honorary Law Professor in 1973, by the Calcutta University.

Dr. Singhvi was a firm believer in the independence of the judiciary. From 1979 to 1987, he was the UN Special Rapporteur on the Impartiality and Independence of the Judiciary. As an UN Special Rapporteur he was acknowledged internationally as a campaigner for the issue of independence of judiciary and legal profession. His report on the Independence of Justice and his draft Universal Declaration on the Independence of Justice published in 1987 received worldwide acclaim in the fora of United Nations and in the world of Law. He was the founder of the Centre for Independence of Judges and lawyers.

Dr. Singhvi was a recognised statesman whose services were availed of by the Indian Government when he was appointed the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom from 1991 to 1997. While

-serving as the High Commissioner he was chosen as Rotary International's first recipient of the Ambassador of Excellence award. He was also awarded the U Thant Peace Award. He had the distinction of being India's longest serving High Commissioner to the U.K. His stint as the High Commissioner in retrospect is regarded as the golden phase of Indo-British Relationship.

Dr. Singhvi will also be remembered as a poet, critic and author. His books titled "Freedom on Trial" and "A Tale of Three Cities" have been widely acclaimed.

With the demise of Dr.L.M. Singhvi, we, the legal fraternity have lost a stalwart, an eminent jurist and prominent exponent of human rights.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray that the Almighty bestow them with the strength to bear this irretrievable loss.

May I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of Late Dr.L.M. Singhvi.

(MUKUNDAKAM SHARMA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

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

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