

REFERENCE MADE BY THE HON'BLE SHRI P.D. DESAI,
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY, TO THE LATE
MADHUKAR SHRIPAD APTE, FORMER JUDGE OF THE
HIGH COURT AT BOMBAY ON THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER
1992 AT 11.00 A.M.

Mr. M.A. Rane, on behalf of the Advocate General & Government Pleader, Mr. D.R. Zaiwala on behalf of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. President of the Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. President of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society and Members of the Bar :

We have assembled this morning to make reference to the sad demise of Justice Madhukar Shripad Apte, a Retired Judge of this High Court, who passed away Thursday, 1st October 1992, after a prolonged illness at the age of 76.

Justice Apte was born on 13th July 1916. He had school education at the Shahu High School, Kolhapur, and college education in the Willingdon College, Sangli and Sykes Law College, Kolhapur. He secured the highest marks in Hindu Law in the Bombay University and was awarded the Chandavankar Scholarship. In the erstwhile Deccan States, he stood First Class First in the Law Degree Examination. In 1944, he commenced his professional career in law in the Kolhapur High Court. On 12th November 1951, he was enrolled as Advocate. After merger, he continued to practise in the Kolhapur District Court till 1953. During this period, he was also a Part Time Professor in the Shahji Law College, Kolhapur.

In October 1953, he was appointed as Presidency Magistrate, Bombay. In January 1954, he was appointed as Assistant Judge and was promoted as District Judge on 13th May 1956. He worked as District Judge at various places in the erstwhile Bombay State and in the Maharashtra State. He also functioned as Joint Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra in Law and Judiciary Department from July 1961 to October 1965. On 29th March 1968, he was appointed as Additional Judge of this High Court for one year. He was re-appointed as Additional Judge for two years with effect from 29th March 1969. His appointment as Permanent Judge came on 16th September 1969. He retired on 13th July 1978. After retirement, he presided over the Industrial Tribunal, Maharashtra.

Justice Apte was known for his perception of law and fairness in judgment. Despite holding high positions, he preferred simplicity and avoided all kinds of formality or pretension. He acquired reputation as an honest and independent Judge and earned respect of the Members of the Bar.

Justice Apte's services were not confined to the legal field alone. He was a Member of the Senate of the Pune University and also Member of the Selection Committee constituted by the Bombay University. He was a Member of the Advisory Board of the Bombay Cases Reporter.

Justice Apte is survived by his widow, three sons and three daughters. He was the elder brother of Shri M.V. Paranjape, a Senior Counsel of this Court. In this hour of the family bereavement, my colleagues and I convey to them our sympathies and consolation.

May his soul rest in peace.
