

**ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI DIPANKAR DATTA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE MRS. JUSTICE KATY KEKY BAAM, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 AT 10.30 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY, THROUGH WEBEX/PHYSICAL.**

**My esteemed sisters and brother Judges**

**Shri Anil Singh,  
Additional Solicitor General of India,**

**Shri Rajiv Chavan, Senior Advocate,  
on behalf of Advocate General of Maharashtra.**

**Shri Subhash J. Ghatge, Member and Ex-Chairman,  
of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa.**

**Shri Nitin Thakkar, President, Bombay Bar Association.**

**Mrs. Anjali Helekar, Vice President,  
of Advocates' Association of Western India.**

**Mr. Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President, Bombay Incorporated Law  
Society.**

**Family members of Late Justice K.K. Baam,**

**Learned Senior Advocates and Members of the Bar,**

**Members of the Registry and the staff,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have assembled to pay our respectful homage to late Mrs. Justice Katy Keky Baam, a distinguished former Judge of the Bombay High Court, who left for heavenly abode on March 30, 2021 at the age of 80.

Justice Baam was born on December 15, 1940. After obtaining Master's Degree in Arts and graduating in Law, Justice Baam enrolled herself as an advocate on June 15, 1964. She worked as a trainee with

Barrister Rajni Patel and was associated with him as junior. She practiced in the High Court of Bombay, the City Civil Court, the Small Causes Court, the Metropolitan Magistrates' Court and Labour Courts too independently in different branches of law. Justice Baam was a member of the Indian Federation of Women Lawyers and was also on its Managing Committee. She was also a part-time Lecturer at M.M.K. Law College from 1970 to 1980.

On March 21, 1980, Justice Baam was appointed as Judge of the Bombay City Civil Court and in January 1993, was appointed as Principal Judge of that Court.

Justice Baam was elevated as permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on October 6, 1994 and demitted office on December 15, 2002, after an illustrious innings on the Bench. She happened to be the first Parsee lady Judge of the Bombay High Court.

During her tenure as a Judge, Justice Baam delivered several important judgments in regard to matters concerning the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), the Sick Industrial Companies Act, and Company, Arbitration, Insolvency, Land Acquisition and Constitutional laws.

I am told that Justice Baam was courteous, firm and disciplined, hearing all parties with admirable patience, and was a respected name in the legal fraternity.

I mourn the sad demise of Justice Baam, who is survived by her daughter, son-in-law and grandson. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues as well as on my personal behalf, I extend sincerest condolences to the members of the bereaved family and pray to God that the noble soul of Justice Baam rests in eternal peace.

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**ADDRESS BY MR.ANIL SINGH-ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL :-**

The Hon'ble Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of this Court,

Shri Rajiv Chavan, Former President of AAWI on behalf of the Advocate General of Maharashtra,

Office bearers of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Bombay Bar Association, Advocates' Association of Western India and Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

Family members of late Justice Baam,

Members of the Bar,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We assemble this morning to pay our respectful homage to late Justice K. K. Baam, the second woman to have ever become the Judge of the Bombay High Court. I share the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

After practicing for almost 16 years, Justice Baam was appointed as Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court at Mumbai and thereafter as Judge of the Bombay High Court in the year 1984 and retired in December, 2002.

Justice Baam worked as a Judge for 22 long years.

As a young advocate, Justice Baam practiced on the civil as well as the criminal side of the law. She also had a well-

established practice in the labour law and dealt with many matrimonial cases as well. But most of all, Justice Baam was especially known for her acumen in commercial matters.

As a Judge, Justice Baam was known to be a hardworking, forthcoming, friendly and a humble and kind hearted Judge. Justice Baam always encouraged young juniors and was very generous with her compliments and appreciation towards young advocates of the Bar.

Justice Baam, after her retirement, presided as an Arbitrator over several commercial matters, including money claims and several family disputes as well. Justice Baam has done commendable work as an arbitrator and has presided over several high-stake matters. She continued to act as an arbitrator till a few months before her demise. This shows her dedication and commitment towards the legal profession.

On a personal front, I have always known Justice Baam to be extremely religious. She was lauded for being an individual having equal faith in all religions. She was a woman of strength, integrity and commendable patience.

I pray that her contributions to the legal field continue to guide and support many generations to come.

I express my deepest condolence to the departed soul.

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**ADDRESS BY MR. RAJIV CHAVAN, SENIOR ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF MAHARASHTRA :-**

My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of the High Court,

Other distinguished speakers,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the family of late Justice Baam.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Justice Katy Keky Baam passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Today, I pay my humble respects to her and offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Justice Katy Baam. I take this opportunity to quote from memories of some of those who interacted with her in my homage. Smt. Justice Katy Baam holds a distinct from being second woman to be appointed as permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court after Justice Sujata Manohar way back on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1994. At the time when women were having great trouble in accessing position in higher judiciary Justice Katy Baam walked her way through to sheer tensile and dedication to her law practice and earned her place in the legal field. It all began when she enrolled as an advocate on June 15, 1964. She belonged to the chamber of legendary leader and lawyer Barrister Rajni Patel, known to have widely practiced in various Courts in civil, criminal, labour and matrimonial matters. She had become a seasoned hand in the art of advocacy and practiced right until March 20, 1980. Thereafter, she began her ascendancy and fell into the judiciary and was appointed as a

Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court and later, the Principal Judge of the City Civil Court. She was appointed as a permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on October 6, 1994. Till the time she was elevated to the Bench, she resided at Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari.

I would like to share a memory that learned Advocate Mr. R.M. Makawa related to me. He was once travelling in his car on his way to Andheri and had stopped at a signal incognizant of other cars next to his. Coincidentally, Justice Baam who was in her car suddenly spotted Advocate Makawa sitting in the adjacent car. She drew her car window down and wished the lawyer a very good evening and asked how was he doing. Her simplicity and genuineness touched him. The lawyer recalls that she was fair, reasonable and a patient Judge and it was always the pleasure to argue matters in her Court. She was known to be equally adept sitting as a single Judge or the Division Bench adjudicating matters with maturity and calm. Others who had much to say about her discipline as a Judge a stickler for appropriate Court attire and etiquette, she would insist that lawyers adhered to this, especially woman lawyers appearing in her Court. Advocate Manda Loke recollects a little incident in Justice Baam's Court room while waiting for her matter. Impressed by Advocate Loke's impeccable dress code, Justice Baam told all the other women lawyers in her Court room that they should follow her example and ensure that they draw proper court attire. Another junior lawyer recalled that Justice Baam encouraged juniors to argue matters and showed tremendous patience while they argued in her Court. My Lord, the family Court came to be established in 1989 in Mumbai. Till then the jurisdiction of matrimonial matters

was vested with the Bombay City Civil Court. During her stint as the Judge of the City Civil Court, Justice Baam conducted innumerable matrimonial matters. In fact, she was a matrimonial Judge for years. According to learned Advocate Mr.C.G. Gavnekar, Justice Baam used to sit almost every day after court hours for two to three hours with the parties of matrimonial matters. Her sincere attempt would always be to try and settle thorny issues between warring parties and save their marriages. Advocate Gavnekar informs that she saved a large number of marriages this way. Justice Roshan Dalvi, a former Judge of this Hon'ble High Court recalls; I quote, "her nature made her act as a lawyer and as a lawyer-cum-mediator of the matrimonial Court with a mandate of amicable settlement. She was a friend of all the lawyers, staff and Judges whom she worked with. She was kind, warm hearted and ever helpful to all completely without malice for anyone. We Judges always say she had a golden heart". Justice Baam retired on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Post retirement, she was an Arbitrator largely for commercial causes, money claims, family and testamentary disputes. A disciplined but courteous, sincere Judge with a golden heart is no more among us today.

My Lord the Chief Justice, I, on behalf of the learned Advocate General of Maharashtra, pay my humble respect to Justice Katy Baam and offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and fully associate with the sentiments that have been expressed by Your Lordship and the learned ASG.

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**ADDRESS BY SHRI.SUBHASH J. GHATGE, MEMBER AND EX-CHAIRMAIN OF BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA :-**

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and other Hon'ble Judges of Bombay High Court,

Shri.Anil Singh-Senior Advocate and Additional Solicitor General,  
Shri.Rajiv Chavan-Senior Advocate on behalf of the learned Advocate General of Maharashtra,

Shri.Nitin Thakkar-Senior Advocate and President of Bombay Bar Association,

Mrs.Anjali Helekar – Vice President of Advocates' Association of Western India,

Shri.Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla – President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

The family members of Late Hon'ble Justice Katy K. Baam;  
And Other learned senior advocates and my colleagues,

I, on behalf of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, share the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and other Hon'ble speakers before me.

Justice Baam's name was well known in the legal field and fraternity. After her enrollment on the roll of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in the year 1964, she joined the illustrious Chamber of Barrister Rajni Patel. She was having vast practice in City Civil and Sessions Court, Small Causes Court, Metropolitan Magistrates' Court and in Labour Court. She was specialized in Civil, Criminal, Labour and Matrimonial matters. After having

successful practice in the year 1980, she was appointed as a Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court. At that point of time, there was separate cadre of Judges of City Civil and Sessions Court at Bombay than the rest of the State of Maharashtra. In City Civil Court, she earned respect as upright and straightforward Judge. She was admired by senior and junior advocates for her fairness. She had special affection to junior members of the Bar to whom she always encouraged to make submissions. She was stern but respectful and never spoke a harsh word. She had in depth knowledge of both, Civil and Criminal laws, which was reflected in her judgments and orders.

She used to invite attention of lady lawyers to the dress code, which has been stipulated by Bar Council of India and she used to make an appeal to lady lawyers to strictly follow the dress code.

After her start as a Principal Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court at Bombay, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1994, she was elevated as a permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court. She was the pillar of strength for the first lady Chobdar of Bombay High Court Smt. Anita More, who retired last month. Justice Baam was the second lady, who was appointed as a Judge of this Court and first lady judge elevated from the subordinate judiciary. After retirement, she settled at Bandra and was actively involved in different social activities.

I myself, along with Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and other honourable members on behalf of

1,90,000 lawyers from the States of Maharashtra and Goa, express our deepest condolences to the family members of late Hon'ble Justice K.K.Baam. Though she gave a catena appearance of a strict judge, she had a very kind heart.

May God give strength to her family members to sustain this loss.

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**ADDRESS BY MR. NITIN THAKKER, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION:-**

My Lord the Chief Justice and the other Judges of this Hon'ble court,

Mr.Anil C. Singh, the learned Additional Solicitor General,

Mr.Rajiv Chavan, Senior Advocate on Behalf of the Advocate General of Maharashtra,

Mr.Subhash Ghatge, Member and Former Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa,

Mrs.Anjali Helekar, Vice President, Advocates' Association of Western India,

Mr.Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, the President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society,

The family members of late Justice Mrs.Katy Baam,

Senior Advocates and other Members of the Bar,

Members and Officers of the High Court Registry,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A While ago, we lost Mrs. Justice Katy Baam, 2<sup>nd</sup> lady as Judge and first Parsi lady judge of the Bombay High Court. She was also a member of the Bombay Bar Association while she was practicing at the Bar till her elevation.

Having lost her father when she was 7 months old, she was raised by her mother who was working with ACC Ltd.

She was otherwise self-made person. She was teaching Business Law at Mithibai College while she joined the chambers of Shri Rajani Patel.

She was a great motivator. In her younger days, her aunts did not allow her to swim and later on to drive cars though she was keen to swim and drive cars. Consequently, her daughter was also not keen to swim or drive. But she motivated her to take up swimming and made sure that she learned swimming and she also arranged for driving tuitions so that her daughter would learn driving.

She loved cooking. Her turn at the Judges' lunch was looked upon with anticipation.

Being a family-oriented person, she looked after her family members with lot of love. Even while as a judge she would visit her aunt every day before coming to court and serve the food cooked by her. After court in the evening, she would again visit her. After retirement, her daughter and her grandson Gandhot being an apple of her eye were her support system.

Her love and compassion were not reserved for family members only, but was extended to her staff who she treated like her extended family. She had a driver who was a Muslim and would fast every year during Ramzan. She would bring dates, walnuts and other goodies for him to breakfast. While going home from court she would sit in front seat and feed him when the time came to breakfast. Even the car was stopped to enable him to go to Masjid and say his prayers while she waited outside. Being allotted first female Chobdar – Anita More, employed by High

Court who was also beneficiary of kindness of Justice Baam. Even after her retirement, her staff kept in touch with her and still remember her kindness and gentle treatment they received while they were with her.

She was equally stern and firm about female lawyers following proper attire. She insisted that lady advocates must wear proper collared attire so that white band could be tied around it. She believed that it gave dignified look. She disapproved and reprimanded lady lawyers if they were not properly dressed. She encouraged juniors to argue matters before her.

Her message to her daughter was "to be humble, caring, helpful and not to have any attitude". She also said "You should earn such goodwill that people should respect you not only till you are on the bench but even thereafter". Justice Baam enjoyed tremendous respect and goodwill even after she retired as High Court Judge.

I for myself and on behalf of the Bombay Bar Association fully associate with the sentiments expressed by My Lord the Chief Justice and other speakers before me.

In her passing away, we have lost a kind compassionate and loving soul. We will miss you Katymai.

I pray to the Almighty that her pure soul attains divinity and eternal peace.

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**ADDRESS BY MRS.ANJALI HELEKAR, VIDE PRESIDENT OF  
ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA (AAWI) :-**

Respected Hon'ble the Chief Justice Dipankar Datta, and other  
Hon'ble Judges,

Learned Addl. Solicitor General of India Shri Anil Singh,

Senior Advocate Shri Rajiv Chavan who addressed on behalf of  
Learned Advocate General of Maharashtra,

Advocate Subhash Ghatge, Member and Ex- Chairman of Bar  
Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Shri Nitin Thakkar, The President of Bombay Bar Association,

Shri Kaiwan Kalyaniwalla, President of Bombay Incorporated Law  
Society,

Senior Advocates, my colleagues and the family of Late Hon'ble  
Mrs. Justice Baam,

I am here to pay homage to late Hon'ble Justice K.K. Baam  
on behalf of AAWI.

As stated by the earlier speakers, Hon'ble Justice Baam was  
2<sup>nd</sup> Woman Judge of this Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Her  
Ladyship's first appointment as judge was at the city civil and  
sessions court in Mumbai in March 1980. After being Principal  
Judge of City Civil & Sessions Court in Mumbai, her Ladyship was  
appointed as permanent High Court Judge on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1994.  
Her Ladyship retired on Dec 15, 2002, after tenure of 22 years as  
a judge. After retirement, she was appointed as an arbitrator  
largely for commercial causes, money claims, family &  
testamentary disputes.

While appearing before Her Ladyship as a junior lawyer, I distinctly remember that Her Ladyship was very particular about the dress code of Women Lawyers and for maintaining proper decorum in the Court. I have also been informed by Senior Members of the Bar that Her Ladyship had a very humane approach inspiteof being a very strict Judge. Her Ladyship used to consider sympathetically genuine difficulties of members of Bar, but at the same time did not tolerate dishonesty. I was also told that even while being the Hon'ble Judge of this Hon'ble High Court, her Ladyship lived life on her own terms which included even enjoying eating Pani Puri and chaat items in her favourite roadside places.

I pay my respectful homage to the departed soul. I pray to God to give strength and courage to her family members.

May her soul rest in peace.

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**ADDRESS BY MR. KAIWAN KALYANIWALLA, PRESIDENT,  
BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY:-**

My Lord the Chief Justice,

Hon'ble Judges of the Bombay High Court,

Mr.Singh, Additional Solicitor General,

Mr.Chavan, Senior Advocate representing the Advocate General of Maharashtra,

Mr.Ghatge, Member and Former Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa,

Mr.Thakker, President of the Bombay Bar Association and

Mrs.Helekar, Vice-President of the Advocates' Association of Western India.

Family members of late Justice K. K. Baam,

I address this full Court Reference as President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society on whose behalf I express condolences on the sad demise of Justice Katy Baam. I concur with the sentiments of My Lord the Chief Justice and feelings that have been expressed by my colleagues at Bar. Justice Baam was one of the few lady Advocates practicing before the Bombay High Court and the City Civil Court in 1960. A career as a Judge spent 22 years, she was a Judge of the impeccable integrity, judicial honesty and was forthright in the manner in dealing with members of the Bar. The judgment in testamentary and family matters has many organlitigants. Post her retirement as a Judge, Justice Baam was much sought-after Arbitrator. Her primary goal was to

assist in settling the matters. A heartfelt condolence to members of her family.

May her soul rest in peace.

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