

SPEECH OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHRI DIPANKAR DATTA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

My esteemed Sisters and Brother Judges,

Shri Anil C. Singh, Additional Solicitor General of India,

Shri Ashutosh A. Kumbhakoni, Advocate General for the State of Maharashtra,

Shri Vitthal Konde-Deshmukh, Member and Former Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Shri Nitin Thakkar, President, Bombay Bar Association,

Shri Sanjeev P. Kadam, President, Advocates' Association of Western India, and

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

Respected Senior Advocates and other learned members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Bereaved members of the Bhatia family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Shri Justice Jagmohansingh Hakamsingh Bhatia, a former Judge of the Bombay High Court, departed for his heavenly abode on June 25, 2021, at the age of 71 years, at Hyderabad. We have assembled this morning to condole the sad demise of His Lordship.

Justice Bhatia was born on March 7, 1950. After matriculation from Khalsa High School, Nanded in 1966, His Lordship graduated in Commerce from Peoples' College, Nanded in 1970. After graduating in Law from Law College, Nanded in 1973, His Lordship acquired a post graduate degree in Law from the then Marathwada University, Aurangabad in 1984. His

Lordship stood first in order of merit in the LL.B. First and Second Year examinations and first in order of merit with First Division in the LL.B. Final Year examination, for which His Lordship was awarded the Marathwada Legal Education Society's Award and Sir Chimanlal Setalwad Memorial Award.

After graduating in Law, His Lordship enrolled as a member of the Bar and practised at Nanded from July 1973. His Lordship was an Honorary Lecturer in Law College, Nanded from July 1973 to February 17, 1976. Having elected to join judicial service, His Lordship was appointed as a Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate (First Class) on February 18, 1976 and was thereafter posted at various places in Maharashtra. His Lordship was promoted as Civil Judge (Senior Division) in June, 1985, as Additional District and Sessions Judge in December, 1986 and as District Judge in October, 1992. His Lordship served as Joint District and Sessions Judge at Amaravati and Beed districts and as District and Sessions Judge at Chandrapur and Akola district courts as well as in the Union Territory of Diu and Daman at Silvassa.

Justice Bhatia was part of the High Court Registry. His Lordship served as Additional Registrar (Administration and Inspection). His Lordship was further appointed as the President, Co-operative Appellate Court, Mumbai and also as Principal Secretary and Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Maharashtra.

Justice Bhatia was elevated as an additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on June 22, 2005, and took oath as a permanent Judge on April 29, 2007. After an illustrious career as a Judge of the Bombay High Court for nearly seven years, His Lordship demitted office on March 7, 2012.

I had no opportunity to know Justice Bhatia personally. However, what I have gathered from my colleagues and official records is that, during

his tenure as a Judge of this Hon'ble Court, Justice Bhatia authored several landmark judgments and contributed to several others upon interpretation of diverse enactments. Justice Bhatia is amongst those legal luminaries who spoke in a redoubtable manner through his judgments, which encapsulated the legal position on any point of law with remarkable clarity of thought and expression. During his short but illustrious tenure as a Judge of this Court, Justice Bhatia dealt with more than 4500 cases on the criminal side and nearly 9000 cases on the civil side. That is quite an admirable effort.

Justice Bhatia was appointed as Judicial Member of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Mumbai, for 1 year and 10 months after demitting office of Judge.

Post such assignment, Justice Bhatia was an extremely sought-after arbitrator and was appointed as such in several commercial disputes involving high stakes. Though a man of few words, Justice Bhatia spoke eloquently through his judgments, arbitration awards and legal opinions.

Justice Bhatia has been a respected name in the legal fraternity. He was known for quick grasp and command over the facts and the law. His contribution to jurisprudence will be remembered for long. There are innumerable qualities that a person needs to acquire to live a life that is worth living: humility, patience, kindness, a strong work ethic and the enthusiasm to constantly learn and improve oneself. Most importantly, particularly for a judge, one must be steadfast in holding on to his principles and be fearless in his decisions. It is an important quality for a Judge to withstand all pressures and odds and to stand up bravely against all obstacles. Justice Bhatia was one of such Judges. We have lost a great soul and are left to remember the humane qualities which he possessed. His Lordship's departure is an enormous loss for the society and also an irreplaceable loss for his family. His Lordship is survived by wife Mrs.

Narendra Kaur Bhatia, three sons, daughters-in-law, two grand-sons and one grand-daughter.

No one can prepare you for a loss; it comes like a swift wind. However, take comfort in knowing that he is now resting in the arms of our Lord. My Sister and Brother Judges join me in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. We pray to the Almighty to give strength to the family members to bear such irreparable loss with fortitude. We also pray the Almighty so that the noble soul of Justice Bhatia attains "Sadgati".

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!!!

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SPEECH OF SHRI. ANIL C. SINGH, THE ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

Hon'ble The Chief Justice Shri. Dipankar Datta,

Hon'ble the Judges of the Bombay High Court,

Shri Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, Advocate General for Maharashtra,

Shri. Vitthal Konde-Deshmukh, Member and Former Chairman, Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa,

Shri. Nitin Thakkar, President, Bombay Bar Association,

Shri. Sanjeev P. Kadam, President, Advocates' Association of Western India,

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

Learned Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Members of the bereaved family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We assemble this morning to pay our respectful homage and respect to late Justice Bhatia, who left for his heavenly abode on 25th June, 2021.

There are very few persons, whose reputation preceded his arrival. Justice Bhatia was one such person.

After completing his graduation in commerce, he completed LLB in 1973 from Law College, Nanded.

Justice Bhatia was academically superior and received the Marathwada Legal Education Society Award and Sir Chinmanlal Setalwad Memorial Award for standing First in LLB Final.

Justice Bhatia started his career in Judicial Service as Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class on 18th February 1976. During his career, he was posted at various places in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. Served as Additional District Judge at Nagpur, Wasim and Thane.

While he was posted in Thane between 1990-1993, no Judge was willing to take the Bail assignment as the Courts were flooded with pleas of the underworld dons and gangsters. The Judges were receiving threats apart from all kinds of allegations being levelled against them. At that time, the then PDJ assigned Bail matters to him. On one Sunday, he was sitting in the neighbouring house of one Jt. District and Sessions Judge when the phone rang which Justice Bhatia picked up and he and his family were threatened and asked to recuse himself from Bail assignment. Justice Bhatia informed this fact to the PDJ. The PDJ offered him the change in assignment and police protection which he refused and continued in his fearless manner.

In 1996, Justice Bhatia was promoted as a Principal District and Sessions Judge at Chandrapur and Gadchiroli District which was Naxalite affected area. It was at that time the biggest District in terms of area in the entire Country. During his tenure as PDJ in Chandrapur, he visited most of the Talukas under his charge, which was truly an unprecedented event.

Justice Bhatia was elevated as a High Court Judge on 22nd June 2005 and retired on 7th March 2012.

Justice Bhatia was known to be a fearless and upright Judge. He was capable of dealing with any kind of matters, be it civil or criminal. The host of judgments pronounced by him in various fields of law clearly demonstrates this. Amongst his very famous decisions, one such Judgment was when Justice Bhatia held that the husband cannot be charged with dowry death merely if his wife dies an unnatural death within 7 years of marriage, unless proved.

In another decision, Justice Bhatia held that, adult children need parental permission to continue residing at their parents' parental home. Upon attaining majority children do not have a legal right to reside at their parents' parental home.

In another matter of Steffen Mueller Vs. State of Maharashtra Justice Bhatia held that if the offence is bailable, the accused is entitled to be released on bail and even where he does not make an application for bail, it is the responsibility of the concerned Police Officer, if he has arrested or detained the accused for a bailable offence, to inform him about his right to be released on bail. Similarly, it is also settled position of law that where a person accused of bailable offence appears or is produced before a Magistrate, it is responsibility of such Magistrate to inform him of his right to be released on bail.

He was also a very good administrator. He was also involved in the Lok Adalat's in the State of Maharashtra and conducted various successful Lok Adalats in Chandrapur and Akola Districts.

Justice Bhatia himself speedily disposed of his matters and urged the Judges of the Sessions Court as well to dispose of matters speedily especially matters pertaining to undertrial prisoners.

In fact, Justice Bhatia had, delivered lectures and suggested schemes at various forums for devising a better strategy for speedy disposal of matters.

Justice Bhatia was truly one of the most memorable, upright and fearless Judges that this Court has ever had. I have personally had the good fortune of appearing before him in several matters in Appeal from Orders and other matters on the civil side. Appearing and arguing matters before Justice Bhatia had always been a very fulfilling experience.

Justice Bhatia has left behind him a legacy which will continue to inspire lawyers and Judges alike. The passing away of Justice Bhatia is truly a huge loss to the legal fraternity.

I pray that his soul rest in eternal peace.

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SPEECH OF SHRI ASHUTOSH KUMBHAKONI, ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR MAHARASHTRA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO. 46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Learned Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Members of the bereaved family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have personally enjoyed the pleasure of arguing many matters before Justice Bhatia, which includes the pleasure of even losing very difficult matters. Like me every lawyer would always walk out of his Court room, with full satisfaction that justice has been finally delivered in each and every case, irrespective of whether one has succeeded or not. He was a typical "no nonsense" Judge. As a member of the District Judiciary, he worked at various places through out the State, Thane, Aurangabad, Akola, Nagpur even Chandrapur, to name a few. Thus, he had an enriching and firsthand experience of the overall working of the Judiciary right from its grass root level.

Law reports and Journals speak highly about his legal acumen. In the case of *Karishma Bhatiwala* reported in **2012 (2) Bom C R 568**, Justice Bhatia held that, a tenant of residential flat can maintain a Civil Suit in the City Civil Court for injunction, in order to protect his possession and that in such a matter the Small Causes Court did not have the jurisdiction.

Justice Bhatia partly allowed a criminal appeal, while confirming conviction of an accused under Section 498 A of the IPC, set aside the conviction for the offence under Section 304 B of the IPC, by holding that even though the death of the victim was not natural death and was homicidal one, unless it could be established that the death had occurred on the occasion of or in connection of 'demand of dowry', it cannot be treated as 'a dowry death'.

In the case of *Stiff Muller Vs. State of Maharashtra* decided on 23.06.2010 Justice Bhatia held that offences under Section 20(b) (ii) A and Section 27 of the NDPS Act are not offences mentioned under Section 37 of the NDPS Act and therefore, conditions or limitations imposed by Section 37 (1) (b) cannot be applied to them. Resultantly, he set aside the order of the Special Judge refusing permission to the Petitioner to travel abroad.

In the case of Sitaramdada Sarode, which was a case of acid attack, he dealt with an undertrial prisoner. He directed all Session Judges to see that, cases of under trial prisoners are not delayed and are taken up and disposed of expeditiously.

In a seminar, which was convened to discuss the issue of pendency of huge number of cases in Courts, he reiterated that "justice delayed is justice denied". In this context, he criticized the legislature for not making preparatory provisions for speedy disposal of cases arising out of newly introduced provisions, by citing the example of Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

These and various other Judgements delivered by him are testimony of the fact that Justice Bhatia had mastery over almost every branch of law.

He would never tolerate injustice caused to anybody by anyone. Obviously, he could not suffer injustice himself. I have personally not only appeared and argued many matters "before him" but also have appeared and argued a matter "for him", of course, after he retired as a Judge of this Hon'ble Court and was working as a Judicial Member, of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Mumbai. A person observing high values and principles that he was, he felt aggrieved by the treatment meted out to the Judicial members of the Tribunal and therefore, was his Writ Petition, relating to the enforcement of service conditions of Judicial members of the Tribunal.

While preparing for this case I could spend quality time with him and learn from him not only about various facets of law but about the philosophy of the human life as such.

Justice Bhatia will always be remembered for his impeccable integrity and uncompromising discipline, not only as a judicial officer but also as a humble human being. As a proud father of two nutritionist, one sports and the other clinical, I was very happy to know that Justice Bhatia was extremely passionate about maintaining excellent health.

Though he enjoyed all types of Indian food, fresh fruits and vegetables had to be part of his daily diet. He used to personally visit on weekends, the vegetable market at Vashi for buying fresh vegetables and fruits. Incidentally he was a very good Cook and could all by himself prepare full meal from starters to desert.

Son of Justice Bhatia, Mr. Daljeet a very good upcoming lawyer, who is amongst us today, informed me that, since his childhood he has seen that Justice Bhatia would start his daily routine even before the crack of the dawn. He would

be on his feet having a morning walk before 5.00 a.m., which used to be followed by a yoga session. Even after returning from the Court, he would go for a quick evening walk before his dinner.

He used to often spend time on meditation and reading the holy Gurubani, especially post his retirement. Books were his best friends. Apart from reading the books on law he enjoyed reading books on Indian history, politics, literature, and on Sikhism.

He very much enjoyed old Hindi Film music. Of course, in addition to Mohamad Rafi and Mukesh, Kishor Kumar were his favorite. He was very generous and would donate regularly at Gurudwaras for poor and needy.

He was a passionate traveler. Mountain destinations were his preferred places. Right from his young age he dreamt of visiting Europe which finally happened in the month of May 2019. As the destiny would have, this was his last leisureed trip. He led a satisfying happy and more importantly very healthy life.

In passing away of Justice Bhatia, we have lost a thorough gentleman and I have lost my personal guide and philosopher.

I join in the sentiments expressed by My Lord Hon'ble the Chief Justice and express my deepest condolences to bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace.

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SPEECH OF SHRI. VITTHAL KONDE-DESHMUKH, MEMBER AND FORMER CHAIRMAN, BAR COUNCIL OF MAHARASHTRA & GOA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Learned Senior Advocates,
Members of the Bar,
Members of the Registry and the staff,
Members of the bereaved family,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is utmost grief that we have assembled here today to pay homage to Late Justice Jagmohan Bhatia, former Judge of this Hon'ble Court who left for his heavenly abode on 26th June, 2021 at the age of 71.

I fully endorse the views expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and my colleagues and I beg to add a few words.

Justice Bhatia was born on 7th March, 1950. His Lordship did his schooling from Khalsa High School, Nanded in 1966. His Lordship stood first in the order of merit in all the 3 years of his LL. B degree course. His Lordship completed his education with LL.M. degree from Marathwada University. His

Lordship enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and practiced at Nanded from July 1973. For some time, His Lordship was a lecturer in Law College, Nanded before entering Judiciary. His Lordship was a Judicial Magistrate First Class and Civil Judge Senior Division in 1976. His Lordship worked as a trial Court Judge for almost 25 years. During his tenure as a Judge, His Lordship was involved in various complex civil and criminal matters. His Lordship's first posting as a District and Session Judge was at Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts. Despite it being Naxalite affected area, His Lordship visited almost every taluka under his charge which was unprecedented. His Lordship demitted office on 7th March, 2012 on attaining superannuation. After that he was appointed as Judicial Member of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Mumbai and retired on attaining the age of 65 years on 7th March, 2015. Justice Bhatia was empaneled as an arbitrator of the Bombay High Court, Indian Council of Arbitrators and various other organizations. His Lordship was actively involved as an arbitrator after his retirement and conducted arbitration in a large number of commercial, financial, construction etc. related matters of reputed companies, multinational companies, government departments and government companies.

In 1996-97, then Chief Justice was visiting Chandrapur for inaugurating new Court building. On the instructions of Justice Bhatia (then PDJ), the subordinate judges were making suitable arrangements but the District Collector started interfering and giving instructions to the Judges. He pulled up the Collector in the presence of the Judges, registrars and the staff saying, "Mr. Collector, my judges are not subordinate to you but you are subordinate to me under Section 397 of Cr.P.C. So don't even try to interfere with them". The effect of this was reflected in the speeches of both of them during the function. His Lordship was such a tight spine and upright Judge. He instilled confidence and fearless attitude amongst his judges.

I had the opportunity to appear as an Additional Public Prosecutor before His Lordship in several matters. His Lordship actively participated and delivered lectures in the continuous legal education programme organized by the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa. Justice Bhatia commanded respect from the Bar and the Bench. His Lordship had a very keen understanding of the law. His Lordship delivered many remarkable judgments and will always be remembered for his legal acumen reflecting from his judgments.

We are deeply saddened by the demise of Justice Bhatia. I on behalf of Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa and on my own behalf express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Justice Bhatia and pray that the Almighty bestow upon them the strength to cope with the loss. Om Shanti.

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SPEECH OF SHRI. NITIN THAKKAR, PRESIDENT, BOMBAY BAR ASSOCIATION, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Learned Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Members of the bereaved family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When noble and pious souls leave this world the Mother Earth also sheds tears. Justice J.H. Bhatia was one such noble and pious soul and we have gathered today to pay our respects to him. His father Sardar Hakam Singh during those turbulent times of partition moved to India and in the year, India became republic, Justice Bhatia was born. The family had lost all their materialistic possessions in Pakistan. In early 1950s the family migrated to Nanded-one of the holiest places for Shikhs. Tragedy struck thereafter and his father lost his eyesight in an accident. The entire family pitched in to make two ends meet. His two elder brothers sacrificed their quest for education to support the family. Justice Bhatia from age of 10 did his two bits and funded his own education by taking holy path. He would attend Gurudwara SachkhandHazur Sahib at Nanded and recite

Gurubani at 3.30 a.m. for 2 hours every day. Whatever was received as honourarium was used by him for his education.

When he completed 12th Standard the family was keen that Justice Bhatia would take up some full-time job. He got a call from State Transport for interview for the post of conductor. Shunning the thoughts of taking up a secured Job his intuition and inner strength inspired him to continue on the path of learning and he joined college and completed B.Com. He was again lured to take up job for the sake of family and attended an interview for a private firm at Aurangabad. The providence willed otherwise and as the interview did not commence at the time announced, he walked out and decided to continue education and enrolled in the newly established law college at Nanded where he became one of its first student. He excelled in law studies. In 3 year LL.B. Degree course, he was Gold Medalist in each of the three years. He was made a faculty in law college immediately.

He soon started his practice as a lawyer and at the instance of the then District Judge, Nanded he agreed to enter Judiciary at the lower level. As they say the rest his history.

I need to share one more fact about Justice Bhatia. While being a district Judge he would visit Tapovan-a leper home in District Amravati where people shunned by families due to leprosy or persons affected by leprosy are treated and looked after. He would tend the patients and do seva. This was true work of humanity. What a compassionate person Justice Bhatia was?

I salute pure and pious soul of Justice Bhatia.

In his passing away, we have lost a very fine human being, an honest Judge and a loving and caring family man.

He leaves behind a grieving family which includes his lawyer son Daljit Singh.

I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my lord the Chief Justice and the other speakers.

On behalf of Bombay Bar Association and myself I convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and pray to Wahe Guru to give eternal peace to his noble soul.

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SPEECH OF SHRI. SANJEEV P. KADAM, PRESIDENT, ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN INDIA, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Learned Senior Advocates,

Members of the Bar,

Members of the Registry and the staff,

Members of the bereaved family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I adopt the feelings expressed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other distinguished speakers.

Justice Bhatia was born on 07.03.1950 and completed his schooling from Khalsa High School, Nanded and graduated in commerce from People's college, Nanded and completed his law degree course from Law college, Nanded in 1973. He achieved many meritorious milestones and awards during his education including Sir Chimanlal Setalwar award for standing first in L.L.B. final examination.

Justice Bhatia enrolled as an advocate in July, 1973 and started his practice at Nanded. He also worked as honorary lecturer in law college Nanded from 1973 to February 1976.

On 18th February 1976 Justice Bhatia joined Judicial services of State of Maharashtra as Civil Judge, Junior Division and J.M.F.C. He was promoted as a Civil Judge Senior Division in 1985. While performing his judicial duties he also completed L.L.M. form Marathwada University, Aurangabad in 1984. Justice Bhatia was further posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge in December, 1986 and then as a District Judge in October, 1992.

During the Judicial service Justice Bhatia was posted at various courts including Parbhani, Kaij, Ambejogai, Vashim, Aurangabad, Amravati, Beed, Chandrapur, Akola as well as at Union Territory of Diu and Daman at Silvassa. He also served as Additional Registrar of this Hon'ble Court as well as president of the Co-operative Appellate Court, Mumbai and as Principle Secretary and Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

On 22.06.2005 Justice Bhatia was elevated as a Judge of this Hon'ble Court and he performed his duties in that capacity till his date of retirement.

Justice Bhatia always believed in the principle "justice delayed is justice denied". Justice Bhatia was a soft spoken and a decent personality and always accommodated and encouraged the junior members of the Bar. Justice Bhatia was well versed with the procedure of the lower Court, powers of the magistrates and provisions of evidence act and procedural law due to his vast experience in the lower judiciary. Justice Bhatia was very quick in reaching the crux of the matter and therefore was able to complete the admission board within short time and start with final hearing board. He was party to various judgments on the issues arising out of Negotiable Instruments Act, Revisional Powers of the Court as well as on Rent Act.

Justice Bhatia has left for heavenly abode on June 25th, 2021. It is a loss not only to his family but for the legal fraternity also. For myself and on behalf of Advocates Association of Western India I offer my heartfelt condolences to the members of family and friends of Justice Bhatia including my friend Advocate Daljitsingh Bhatia who is our colleague and Member of AAWI.

I pray that may Justice Bhatia and his soul rest in peace.

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SPEECH OF SHRI. KAIWAN KALYANIWALLA, PRESIDENT OF BOMBAY INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, AT THE FULL COURT REFERENCE IN MEMORY OF LATE SHRI JUSTICE JAGMOHANSINGH HAKAMSINGH BHATIA, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 10.00 A.M. IN ROOM NO.46, CENTRAL COURT HALL, MAIN BUILDING, HIGH COURT, BOMBAY.

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Learned Senior Advocates,

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I concur with the sentiments of my Lord the Chief Justice, and the feelings that have been expressed by my colleagues at the Bar.

Having completed his LL.B. and LL.M with a meritorious first from the Law College, Nanded, Justice Bhatia commenced his legal career at the District Courts in Nanded. Having served the cause of the judiciary with distinction from an early age, Justice J. H. Bhatia held the position of Civil Judge Senior Division, Additional District and Sessions Judge and was promoted as District Judge in 1992. Justice Bhatia sat on the benches at Amravati, Beed, Chandrapur and Akola before being promoted as an Additional Registrar of this Hon'ble High Court. He was appointed as the President of the Cooperative Appellate Court at

Mumbai and as Principal Secretary and Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Maharashtra. Justice Bhatia was elevated as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in 2005 and where he served until his retirement in 2012.

During the tenure of his judicial service, Justice Bhatia delivered several important judgments, both in civil and criminal matters. Post his retirement, Justice Bhatia involved himself in arbitration matters. We will always remember him as a humane judge, kind hearted and with a gentle personality, who dedicated his entire working life to the cause of justice.

On behalf of the Bombay Incorporated law Society, I express condolences on the sad demise of Justice Bhatia. Our heartfelt condolences to the members of his family.

May his soul rest in peace.

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