

**REFERENCE MADE BY THE HON'BLE MR. B.P. SINGH, CHIEF JUSTICE,
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY, TO LATE MR. BAKHTAVAR
B. LENTIN, FORMER JUDGE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT, ON WEDNESDAY,
26TH APRIL 2000.**

My learned brother Justice N.J. Pandya, Mr. Gulam Vahanvati, Advocate-General, Mr. M.S. Sanghavi, President of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. V.A. Gangal, President of Advocates' Association of Western India and also representing the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, Mr. A.S. Bhatt, President of Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have assembled to mourn the sad demise of late Justice Bakhtavar Lentin, who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday, 22nd April 2000.

Justice Lentin was born on 25th July 1927. He had his earlier education in St. Mary's High School and St. Xavier's High School, Bombay, and college education in St. Xavier's College and Government Law College, Bombay. He was called to the Bar (Middle Temple, London) on 26th January 1950, and signed the Roll of Barristers of the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, on 27th January 1950. After completing his education he returned to Bombay and joined the chambers of the renowned criminal lawyer, Mr. K.A. Somjee. He was enrolled as an Advocate on 22nd March 1950 in this High Court, practised in Civil and Criminal matters on the Original Side and Appellate Side of this High Court and the City Civil and Sessions Court, Bombay. Between 1969 and 1970, he was appointed as President of the Town Planning Scheme for Greater Bombay. He was appointed as a Judge of the City Civil & Sessions Court, Bombay, on 22nd March 1965 and as Additional Principal Judge of that Court on 16th April 1970.

Justice Lentin was elevated as an Additional Judge of this Court on 28th March 1973 and as Permanent Judge on 27th March 1975. Justice Lentin retired on 25th July 1989.

Justice Lentin, a very gentle and affectionate person, always maintained cordial relations with his colleagues and members of the Bar. He will be remembered as a fearless, yet kind-hearted judge. He was a source of encouragement and inspiration to the younger members of the Bar appearing before him. During his tenure as a judge, Justice Lentin rendered several landmark judgments, which reflect his deep knowledge of laws and erudition. In January 1986, Justice Lentin was appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to head the One Man Commission of Inquiry into drug related deaths in J.J. Hospital. Justice Lentin had a strong sense of social justice and always went out of his way to help the less privileged.

In October 1986 he represented India at the Forum of Judges at Islamabad and presented a paper on Intellectual Property.

After retirement, Justice Lentin continued his contribution to the legal profession; he had his own Chamber practice, confining himself to holding conferences, giving Opinions and

acting as Arbitrator. Justice Lentin held several important positions and was also recipient of many coveted Awards. Some of them are: (1) Jhulelal Award (International Sindhi Panchayats Federation) "in sincere appreciation and recognition of distinguished service, loyalty and devotion to the country and community; (2) Zoroastrian Unity Worldwide, The World Zoroastrian Organisation, Bombay; (3) "Champion of Human Rights" from Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South (Rotary International) (4) Lifetime Achievement Award "for outstanding contribution to society through vocational excellence in Law and Judiciary" from Rotary Club of Bombay Pier and (5) Citizen of Bombay Award "With sincere and deep appreciation for exceptional and devoted services in upholding the highest principles of justice in the city of Bombay" from Rotary Club of Bombay.

Justice Lentin will be remembered as an outstanding Judge, keen to do justice, conscious of the prevalent social inequities, and above all a gentleman par excellence, ready to extend a helping hand to all who needed his help. Such a person, firm yet kind, learned yet humble, stern yet affectionate, will be missed by all those who came in contact with him. He represented the high values and possessed all the qualities that make an eminent Judge. He is no more with us, but we shall for all times remember him as one who brought glory, admiration and respect to the legal fraternity in general, and the judiciary in particular.

Let us, therefore, pay our respectful homage to the departed soul and pray that his soul may rest in peace.

In this hour of grief, on behalf of my esteemed colleagues, on my own behalf and on behalf of all of you assembled here, I convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and in particular to his wife Dhun, daughter Banoo and his son Jamshed, who is a practising lawyer of this Court. May the Almighty give them strength to bear this great loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.
